



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2001

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Apr 4 (Wed) Wirksworth Climbing Wall  
Apr 28/29 Fell Race  
May 5-7 Cader Idris

### FOOT AND MOUTH

Information on the disease and how it affects climbers (oops!) can be found on the BMC's website at [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk). Their information is that there is no climbing in "The Midlands". The ban in the Peak District is a lot less total. Black Rocks and the High Peak Trail are closed. High Tor is open for climbing, but please do not use the Pic Tor Lane approach (do we ever?). Wildcat is open, but the footpath we use for descent from the top of the crag is closed. Please rope off the top. The situation at Willersley seems to be unclear: worth a try! Stoney Middleton is open if you can get through the crowds.

The real treasure that leaps out of the web page is new Mills Tors. If you have felt it hard to justify the long drive, now could be the time. Not long ago this was the most awful tip reminiscent of the Breck in Wallasey. It has now been cleaned up and the spectacular gorge is further enhanced by the much praised stainless steel bridge which ends the Midshires Way (now closed because of FMD). I don't know many Oreads who have been there, but I'm sure Dave Helliwell will have been and I've had an excellent day there with Roger Larkam. It's steep, long, quarried gritstone. The good climbing starts at around HVS.

It would be as well not to rely on updates on FMD in the newsletter. The situation is very fluid. Lochnagar, for example has "re-opened" for business. Basically as the total number of

cases increases and the daily rate of new infections goes up and the government scientists say it is out of control, restrictions are being lifted!

It's a mad mad world.

Keep an eye on the website or contact me.

Rob Tresidder

### *April 4 (Wed) "Harborough Rocks" meet*

This will definitely not be at Harborough! Relocated to Wirksworth Climbing Wall. If you are not already a member and don't wish to join, you can get yourself signed in as a guest by someone who is: let me know. Fee: £4.20.

Rob Tresidder

### *April 22(Sun) Heathy Lea Fell Race Rob Tresidder*

This year's fell race will have hills, but it will be all on tarmac. I have planned a six mile road race with a handicap start and a big hill. The first mile will be on the Wirksworth - Derby road, thereafter on narrow rural lanes. This year's innovations (traditional on HLFRR) will be: 100% tarmac, almost no navigational skills required (just keep turning left!). Starts from 1100 from the car park adjacent to the Wheatsheaf PH in Wirksworth. Coming from Derby, go straight over the new mini roundabout near the centre of town and take the second, oblique, turning on the right. Entrance to the CP (party cards NOT required) is through first opening on the left.

If you know you are going to run, please let me know in advance. If you only make up your mind on Sunday morning - come anyway. No problems!

## FUTURE EVENTS

### *May 4/6 Mid-Wales Helen Griffiths*

At the time of writing (March 19<sup>th</sup>), it looks very unlikely that this meet will be able to take place, because of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. I had planned to camp at Hafod Dywyll farm, which is near Kings Youth Hostel, about 3 miles West of Dolgellau. (GR 684160) This is a small, basic campsite in a strip of woodland, with a stream alongside. Campfires and barbecues are allowed, and it is ideal for children. If it's possible to go, I shall attempt to be in the George III Hotel in Penmaenpool on Friday night.

### *May 11/12 Forest Of Dean Colin Hobday*

The Lodge at the Fountain Inn, Parkend has been booked, 30 beds. The meet will follow the same format as last year, with walking, climbing, cycling. Cost £8 per night, and £8.50 for a three course meal on the Saturday evening. At the time of writing I have 8 places left. All this of course is subject to the Foot and Mouth Restrictions. Bookings or more information contact Colin Hobday, Tel. 01332 551594

### *May 25 Glencoe Steve Bennett*

After speaking to the campsite official and also with a local Scottish Information Bureau I have been assured that access to the hills around Glencoe and Lochaber will be returned well before the date of this meet, however I intend seeking regular updates during the next few weeks.

All being well, camping will be at the National Trust for Scotland campsite in Glencoe. GR112577. This is the best campsite in the area (not at all like the Red Squirrel). Facilities include toilets, free showers, laundry room, cooking shelters for campers, electric hook ups for caravans, a well stocked shop and most important after a day on the hill, a 10pm 'no noise' curfew. Camping costs £3.50 single, £6.00 double and £9.00 per 4 persons sharing one tent.

The attractions of the area are fairly obvious with much walking, mountaineering and cragging available in Glencoe whilst other ranges are close by and an ascent of Tower Ridge is not out of the question.

So with much of England and Wales still likely to have much restricted access, Glencoe must be the place to be. For more information please give me a call on 01332 739343 or at work on 07974 413447

### *Lofoten Meet 2001 Graham Weston*

The 2001 "Alps" meet will take place in the Lofoten Islands which are located just off the NW coast of Norway. I have never been there before but having studied the guidebook, and seen the video I am convinced that there should be plenty to entertain even the most enthusiastic of Oreads.

Having never been to Norway before I intend to take 2-3 days to drive to the Lofoten and arrive at the campsite around the 2nd or 3rd of August. There is a free campsite that has toilets and water at Kalle, (grid VR 725-646) which is about halfway between Kabelvag and Henningsvaer on the Island of Austvagoya.

This is the island that seems to have most of the documented climbing along with a "climbers cafe" and therefore seems to be the logical place to start. If the free campsite is not up to much it may be that we move to a paying site, (of which the guide says there are plenty) but that will have to be decided whilst there.

The guidebook for the area is: -

Climbing in the Magic Islands

Ed Webster (1994)

Nord Norsk Klätreskole, N-8330, Henningsvaer, Norway.

ISBN: 82-9931990-0-0

I got a copy from Outside but I think it should be widely available.

The maps of the area were obtained from: -

Mountain & Wildlife Ventures

Brow Foot

High Wray

Ambleside

Cumbria

LA22 OJE  
015394 33285  
<http://www.mountain-and-wildlife.co.uk/>  
[Enquiries@mountain-and-wildlife.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@mountain-and-wildlife.co.uk)

The chap there was very helpful and knowledgeable. He supplied me with 2 maps: - Vagan Kommune, 1:50,000 of Austvagoya. Lofoten (tourist map) 1:150,000 of all the islands (no grid).

If anybody would like more information please feel free to contact me.

Graham Weston,  
01943 603896  
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☺ of the above along with some nice pics of the  
☺ is available at  
<http://www.crosswinds.net/~oread/lofoten>

### *Hut bookings for April*

Having put out an E-mail note a couple of weeks ago saying that both huts are closed until further notice, the committee would like to clarify and moderate the instructions regarding huts.

**The huts are closed for mountaineering purposes and access to the hills, but are available for maintenance and social purposes, provided that everyone stays within the confines of the hut grounds.**

Both the Snowdonia National Park and the Chatsworth Estate have closed all footpaths and asked everyone to stay away.

The Snowdonia National Park Authority have notified the main car park next to Tan-Yr-Wyddfa ☺ access to the hut through the car park is closed.

The committee would ask everyone to note that Heathy Lea has been seeing a lot more usage by other clubs recently (since it was advertised on the website). When the restrictions are lifted, please be mindful that other clubs may have booked the whole hut and please check availability with Colin Hobday before going.

## SHORT NOTICES

### *Clive Russell's Appendix*

Members will be devastated to learn of the sad recent demise of Clive Russell. This Tiger of the Craggs has been reduced to a gibbering wreck recently. On Friday morning 16th, March he succumbed to pain and admitted to needing the vet. Following a poor night's sleep, he was rushed to hospital by dog-cart taxi (It's all they have in Parwich) where his Vermiform Appendix (having burst) were removed under an emergency operation.

The surgeon (ex.Dewhurst butchers) said in a recent statement "The Appendix is doing well but Mr. Russell is suffering from clinical depression following his rejection by this insignificant and unspectacular appendage". Rusty has been visited by colleagues from the office but has asked for no further visits on grounds of acute embarrassment. The effects of drugs have been his regular requests from nurses for a kiss. These have all been turned down despite his protestations. One actually admitted that she was not even supposed to be in bed with him.

He returns home to the bosom of his extensive family Thursday 20th. March. As a temporary stop gap, Margaret has been looking after the stock, which has expressed its appreciation. No flowers please, but be prepared to welcome him back in the vanguard rather than the mudguard of the climbing world, once his body has recovered and the current restrictions are lifted. Phone calls and letters of a derisory nature would be received with great glee - at least by me.

Ian Frearson

### *Oread Website*

The Oread website has been moved to  
<http://www.oread.co.uk>  
We are grateful to Graham Weston who has updated the website and it is worth another look if you have not been in to it recently.

## NEXT EDITION

In spite of the current problems, I will try to put out some form of newsletter next month, even if it is merely a vehicle for scurrilous gossip. For the May edition it is essential that all material reaches me by **SAT April 27th**. (but the earlier the better) I look forward to hearing anyone with a sense of humour.

Articles in the form of Word (.doc) attachments to E-mails are preferred, but floppy discs sent through the post are also welcome.

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### *Photo opportunity*

It shows that even in this rather cold winter, it has been possible, on at least one weekend, to climb at Stanage in shorts. More specifically, it shows that it has been possible to fall off while wearing shorts.

The route is Mississippi buttress variation at Stanage, HVS in the old guide and E1 in the newer one. My belief was that, upon finding myself unable to reach the crucial sloping break by any static move that seemed to stand any chance of working, I would be able to reach it by a big slap up, sadly proved incorrect. Luckily the gear was good. Went a bit further than I expected, mind you. Such is life!

Dave Jones

