



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2002

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

May 4/7 May Day Weekend Cornwall
May 11/12 Forest of Dean
May 15 (Wed) The George Alstonfield
May 31/June 4 Double B/H: Skye

Cornwall May Day: 4 to 7th

For most of you that have been before, it requires no explanation, for those that wish to experience salt, sand, sea air, granite beer and more beer, its the place to be.

The campsite is Trevaylor at Botallack Nr St Just, with the ever-hospitable Pauline & Ron. I have reserved up to 20 places, they usually fill up and has always been a good social event. I intend to travel down on Thursday and return very late Monday; Other Oreads have already confirmed they will be down all week.

You best contacts are mob 07803 010414 or my works email dkirk@regvardy.com

Daryl Kirk

May 11/12th Forest of Dean Colin Hobday

We shall be staying at the lodge adjacent to the Fountain Inn, Parkend, which has all the usual facilities. On the Saturday evening I have booked a meal in the Fountain Inn, so I will be contacting all those going, for any likes or dislikes for the meal. There is plenty of climbing, walking, and biking. I have 5 places left so don't leave it to late to book.
Tel. 01332 551594

Alstonfield May 15 (Wednesday) Rob Tresidder

The main exercise this time will be on the crag since the evenings are now so much longer! I intend to start at Baley Buttress before being seduced (yet again) by the enticing sight of Venery across the water. If wet, then Milldale CP for a gentle pack run.

June 1 - 4 Isle of Skye Michael Hayes

Well I couldn't let a double bank holiday pass without a meet, so as most of us have an extra day, what better destination than the Cuillin of Skye. We will be travelling up on Friday afternoon and plan to stay at the campsite in Glen Brittle. Skye I am sure needs no introduction and will provide ample entertainment for rock climber, mountaineer and walker. We will probably also squeeze the mountain bikes, wet suits, football etc into the van as well. So if you are interested in coming along then give me a call on 07771700913

PAST EVENTS

March 9/10 Tan-Yr-Wyddfa

The weather was not kind to us this weekend. It rained and drizzled on Saturday: most people walked. A group of us plodded from the hut as far as Bwlch Cwm Llan, before high winds persuaded us to retire. A bolder group reached Snowdon summit later in the day. Tim Cairns and Graham Cooper climbed on the Lleyn Peninsula. On Sunday the wind and heavy rain continued, and almost everybody went to 'The Beacon' indoor wall - that is all except Tim & Graham who returned to Dovedale (yes Derbyshire) for bolt swinging!

Given the bad weather, Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend! Curries were provided by Nick Evans, Joan Pike, Graham Cooper and myself. The wine and beer flowed well, and a wide range of party games were enjoyed. I think I might have been forgiven for making disparaging remarks about someone's favourite bitter. Derek and Joan embarrassed their daughter Melanie while attempting to stand together on an upturned pan. The tricks commanding most attention involved contortions. It paid off to be slim and flexible. Although commendable efforts were put in by for example, John Dobson, Chris Seaman, and Chiz Barker, Ellie Roddick had no real competition. Nick Evans did not try to get stuck in a chair again, but Ellie managed to virtually dive straight through it. She had drunk quite a lot by this time. Paul Howe and I were happy to watch!!! There was a game with raw eggs and surprisingly no-body got soiled.

Twenty four people attended the meet: 8 full members, 7 provisional members, and 9 guests. Fifteen people were not at the last eating meet last November, and some of these are now climbing regularly with the club mid-week. I estimate the average age of those attending the meet as 36. The youngest was 23 or less, and the oldest - well, fifty-something (me or Colin Barnard - Pikey's younger even if he doesn't look it!). A very enjoyable weekend! Pity about the weather.

This formula seems to work very well in the winter. However, I am conscious that a collective meal such as this might not work in the summer, when people will often return late from the crags. However, a BBQ in Wales or the Lakes could fit the bill? Those returning late from the crag could cook late while enjoying the company of the drunks who had returned earlier in the evening. I'll try to arrange something if it seems popular.

FUTURE EVENTS

Alterations to the Meets List

Rob Tresidder

Month	Date	Meet	Leader
May	W 15	The George Alstonfield	R Tresidder
June	1-4	Skye	M Hayes
June	15/16	TYW	D Pike
June	22/23	Ben Nevis (CIC)	S Bennett
June	S 23	Summer Stroll	S Bashforth
July	13-14	Alpine Training	CANCELLED
July/Aug	27- 3	Alpine Meet: Lauterbrunnen	M Hayes/ Lancaster
Sept.	21/22	Golden Oldies	S Wainwright
Oct.	26/27	Heathy Lea	K Gregson
Nov.	16/17	Annual Dinner	S Wainwright
Dec.	7/8	Bullstones	B West

June 21/22 CIC Hut Advance notice *Steve Bennett*

(I understand that Steve still has two places left in the hut, and suggests that camping is available outside. Should you wish to reserve a place please give Steve a call at any time on 07974 413447 or Email steve@ashcroftjoinery.co.uk. Ed.)

Hut Bookings April.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

May 3/4/5 vacant.
 May 10/11 vacant.
 May 17/18 A.B.M.S.A.C. whole hut.
 May 24/25 vacant.
 June 1/4 vacant.

HEATHY LEA

May 2/4 Venture Scouts cottage/barn.
 May 10/11 John Salmon cottage.
 May 17/18 Mr Hodson cottage.
 May 24/25 vacant.
 June 1/4 vacant.

Please note this list is only correct at time of going to press. All members are advised to check availability with the hut booking secretary Colin Hobday before going to either hut.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & SHORT NOTICES

Octogenarians' Do

The following invitation has been received from Digger. 'Mick Moore and myself (Digger) are sharing our 80th this year, and we shall be having a "come as you please" do on the 26th May at the George at Alstonfield. This is a sort of running buffet and simple affair without any razzmatazz. We shall walk to the pub, to get there for about 12:30 / 1.00 pm.'

(Although many of you will see this after the event, I thought I ought to provide the info anyway as it's an important milestone for the club. Digger - Congratulations to you & Mike and your families. I would welcome a write up of the day. Ed. (Tony H))

Digger Williams

Recommended Eating House: Beddgelert.

I've driven past it loads of time, but never been in before. However, the bistro at the 'Beddgelert Antiques and Tea Rooms' is really good. The food was different & very tasty: I had roast wild boar in red wine & peppercorn sauce. The wine was also well chosen. If you haven't been before, I commend it. Tony H.

Lost & Found

On TYW Meet: 9/10 March. Does anyone claim the red Sigg Bottle left in the hut? Has anyone found my Petzl head torch (standard type with most recent - blue/black - headband). Tony H.

MEMBER'S EXPERIENCES

Rock Climbing in Corsica: Easter 2002

The South of France has been a regular venue for Club members at Easter for some years now.

I myself have enjoyed the Calanques, Sainte-Victoire, Buis-Les-Baronnies, and Freyr. However, this year Phil Canning and I determined to try Corsica: further south but with higher altitude than normal venues. We were not sure how this would work out. Would we need ice axes etc. and would the rock be clean and dry. It might it even be warm? The trip gelled when Steve Bennett and Graham Cooper agreed to join us. We flew to Nice on Thursday 28th March, hired a car & journeyed by fast ferry to Corsica the next day. We returned on Sunday 7th April. Our first base was at Corti, from where we ventured into the Restonica Valley. This offered both sport climbing and multi-pitch rock routes with varying degrees of in-situ protection - all on the uniquely weathered Corsican Granite. The best pitch Steve & I did was on the Candella Di L'Oro. It was vertical for a full rope's length, with several moves well out of balance, but with handholds big enough to stand in! Graham & Phil did this route the day before us, and harder stuff besides (more info to follow from them I hope). After three days here, we moved to Bavella. However, rain & snow prevented us from climbing there, so we moved down to Roccapina and Ajaccio. Gozzi at Ajaccio provided numerous multi-pitch routes of 200 m and more. Steve & I did one; the 'A' Team jammed two in, in only 1½ days! On the last day before we left we slab-climbed one/two-pitch sport routes at A Capra. We finished the day and the holiday, enjoying North African cuisine in a restaurant local to our campsite in Ajaccio.

All in all this was a magical trip - with superlative rock routes, beautiful Corsican mountain and coastal scenery, and sunshine for the most part. I'll be there again at the next opportunity: July. Graham can't wait that long: he's going back in May!

(I hope to append a more detailed description of this trip to the next newsletter). Tony Howard

THANKS TO RICHARD

As you will know by now, I have taken over the editorship of the newsletter from Richard Coghlan, who has been doing the job for the last two years. On the behalf of the Club I would

like to thank Richard for his thorough and consistent efforts over this time. I hope I can do as well.

MY APPROACH

In order to help me prepare the newsletter on time each month with the minimum of effort, I would like to follow Richard's example and encourage members to send me their contributions by email if possible. I would prefer to receive your writing as Word (.doc) documents, or plain text in the email. Floppy discs by post are also fine, as are plain old letters by post, although I may struggle with long handwritten letters – I'm a one-finger typist!

I would also like everyone on email to accept an electronic copy **only**. This will reduce costs for the Club and minimise the time I have to spend preparing paper copies for the post.

I intend to keep the content and the format as before, although I would like to encourage members to send me more contributions in addition to the 'bread & butter' of monthly activity. I would like your thoughts on any aspects of Club life: new ideas, complaints or stories. Most particularly I would like to receive articles on your mountaineering experiences – preferably but not necessarily fairly recent. These could provide other members with inspiration to visit new areas or try routes they have not thought of before. They might be from official Oread meets, private trips or meets with other clubs. Chris' & Gill's experience in Colorado last year (see Website) is a very good example, and I hope some might find my own contribution here on Corsica inspirational. Daryl has promised me something on the Oread trip to Kenya a couple of years back (haven't you Daryl?). A contribution from Graham Weston on his Norwegian skiing trip would also be well received. I will endeavour to include every article you send me into the normal newsletter format. [Ideally a newsletter will be 4 pages long.] However, very long articles may have to be issued separately. These would be as

electronic attachments to the Newsletter, and perhaps (but not necessarily) appended to the postal copies. Graham may also be interested in adding them to the Website? I hope that if I receive enough well written articles, I will be able to compile them into some form of collection, although I have no idea of the eventual format at this stage.

I anticipate continuing with the Brainteasers, and look forward to hearing from Ernie Phillips and anyone else who has sent these in previously, or fancies doing so in the future.

NEXT EDITION

Articles for the June edition should be sent to - Tony Howard - at **BOTH** my email addresses please. This will allow me two chances of picking up your messages in the event of system hiccups, & where necessary enable me to respond quickly, when I'm in the office. Also if I'm out of the office all week, I won't have to go into work at the weekend to work on the newsletter!

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Please ensure that material for the next newsletter reaches me before Sat 25th May. I would like to hear from RICHARD COGHLIN, ROB TRESIDDER (Stroll & Golden Jub climb), DEREK PIKE (TYW) [Derek, what about a BBQ here?? - Ed], STEVE BENNETT (HL BBQ & CIC). An Advance Notice regarding the Alpine Meet from MIKE HAYES / PETE LANCASTER would also be good!



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June 1 - 4 Double B/H: Skye
June 9 (Sun) Esoteric Grit
June 15 - 16 Tan-Yr-Wyddfa
June 22 - 23 Ben Nevis (CIC Hut)
June 23 (Sun) Summer Stroll
June 29 - 30 Heathy Lea BBQ

June 1 - 4 Isle of Skye

Michael Hayes

Well I couldn't let a double bank holiday pass without a meet, so as most of us have an extra day, what better destination than the Cuillin of Skye. We will be travelling up on Friday afternoon and plan to stay at the campsite in Glen Brittle. Skye I am sure needs no introduction and will provide ample entertainment for rock climber, mountaineer and walker. We will probably also squeeze the mountain bikes, wet suits, football etc into the van as well. So if you are interested in coming along then give me a call on 07771700913

June 6?? (Thur) Golden Jubilee Climb

Rob Tresidder

Sorry! I don't know how I can have got the date of this anniversary wrong, but I did. On 6th June 1952, Dave Penlington accompanied by *ie* Marshall and R Hardy made the first ascent of Apple Arete. Three years ago a few friends and I enjoyed an anniversary repeat of Right Unconquerable. Apple Arete at Gardom's is a *** route put up by an Oread so I am hoping that le tout Oread (including flaneurs) will turn out on this great occasion. Let's see how many nymphs we can get up this route. If you really think you cannot manage the arete then consider Dead Tree Wall, an Elliott route which Penlington straightened out on the same

day. Afterwards at the Robin Hood PH. (I have just been informed 4 days late & hours before dispatch that this date has moved & the meet has no leader but is still going ahead - see list below!!! I'm confused. However the write up is good. What ya like Rob! Ring Rob! 01629 823953 Don't shoot the messenger. Ed.)

June 9 (Sun) Esoteric Grit

Richard Coghlan

For this year's esoteric grit meet I have decided to go to Dovestone Tor on Derwent Edge (Grid Ref SK196896). I plan to park somewhere near the Ladybower viaducts at some time after 10.30 am and move off at 11.00 am sharp, starting along the track which leads behind the pub at Grid Ref 205865. In fine weather, this should be a very pleasant walk-in.

As usual, my guidebook shows no shortage of routes from V.Diff to HVS, mostly fairly short (30-40 ft) with the odd one up to 70ft. Notable routes are The Great Buttress VS 5a *** and Route 1 HS 4b **. In the unlikely event that we run out of climbs that take our fancy, there are two more crags further along Derwent edge, Howhaw Tor and Back Tor, which might merit a bit of exploration.

June 15 - 16 Tan-Yr-Wyddfa

Derek Pike

After the success of the Curry meets and following some gentle persuasion I am proposing to have a BBQ on the Saturday evening. Following a hard day out on the hills, rocks or the pub you will be invited to carbonize your steak, sausage etc on the BBQ that I will provide. Be warned, my experience of these events is to expect a rain and midge invested evening. If this has not put you off you can book a place by seeing me down the Smithfield or by phoning on 01332 670459.

June 21/22 CIC Hut
Steve Bennett

The hut key and information sheet should arrive a couple of weeks before the meet so more detailed information will be available then. I am sure that the area and the climbing need no introduction. The hut itself is probably a good 2 hours from the road considering all the necessary weight to be carried. Rob has secured 8 places for the nights of 21 and 22 June. The fees are £5 pppn and bookings will be on a first come first served basis. There are at present two spare places in the hut, but there is of course ample space for those who wish to camp. I am planning to travel up to the area about a week early to make the most of an extended stay and anyone wishing to join me will be most welcome. For beds, lifts or general info. please give me a call at any time on 07974 413447 or Email steve@ashcroftjoinery.co.uk. Any last minute people wishing to camp please feel free to just turn up.

June 23 (Sun) Summer Stroll
Steve Bashforth

I would like to take the Summer stroll from Ashford through Gt. Longstone to Wardlow by paths and lanes and return in a meandering fashion to Ashford by Cressbrook Dale and Monsal Dale; meeting in the car park in Ashford at 9.30 for a departure within 20 mins thereafter would seem appropriate at this range. As this is the first time I've volunteered to lead a stroll I am more than willing to listen to voices of experience and modify (moderate or stiffen) the proposed route.

June 29 (Sat) Heathy Lea Barbecue
Steve Bennett

The annual barbecue is always a well-attended occasion and this year's event should be made even more frivolous with the presence of a barrel of real ale. Can we once again muster the massed ranks of the Oread band, a free pint to anyone strumming a chord or two I say. The hard work begins mid to late morning with the clearing of the area and collection of

firewood, I often find myself undermanned at this stage and any help would be very much appreciated. Then it's off to the crag for some afternoon exercise before the main event kicks off at sometime after 7pm. It would be a good idea to bring along some change for the purchase of beer and of course your own barbecue, those without usually manage to find some dying embers on which to cook their food. For more information or to book a bed call anytime on 07974 413447 or steve@ashcroftjoinery.co.uk. See you there.

July 27 Aug 11 Alpine Meet
Campsites don't accept bookings. 1st person there to book site & advise others. (Use mob phones). See M Hayes for more info. (Ed.)

PAST EVENTS

Working Party Tan -Yr-Wyfd
April 19/20th.

What was going to be a WeekEnd work party turned out into a six-day event with people coming and going. We had mixed weather but it did not prevent us getting all the jobs done. George and Janet Reynolds arrived with a carpet for the lounge, which was fitted with the help of Tony Smedley and Keith Gregson. A new hand rail was fitted on the stairs; Chuck Hooley took control of the wheelie bins, while Margaret made the tea. Roy Sawyer, John Shreeve and John (p.m.) investigated the problem of damp in the bay window of the dining room, which we hope has now been cured.

Outside Shirley Wainwright cut the grass, while Colin Hobday ,Malcolm Padley repaired the woodstore roof and the coalbunker. Keith Gregson, John Welbourne cut and collected wood with the complements of the W.H.R. Nic Evans cleaned out all the guttering and replaced some slates on the roof.

Inside Derek Pike did an excellent job painting in the dining room and lounge, while the ladies team (Pam Storer, Joan Pike, April Sawyer, Uschi Hobday) gave the hut a good Spring clean.

One of the highlights of the weekend was John Welbourne being observed putting kindling wood on the fire for lighting and then smuggling a firefighter in as well, needless to say the fire

went out. Many thanks to all who came and helped including the voice of wisdom Ernie Phillips, sorry if I have missed any one out. Colin Hobday.

FUTURE EVENTS

Revised Alterations to the Meets List

Rob Tresidder

Month	Date	Meet	Leader
June	1-4	Skye	M Hayes
June	15/16	TYW	D Pike
June	22/23	Ben Nevis (CIC)	S Bennett
June	S 23	Summer Stroll	S Bashforth
July	13/14	Alpine Training	CANCELLED
July	<u>20</u>	Golden Jubilee Climb	No leader [New date]
July/Aug	27- 11	Alpine Meet: Lauterbrunnen	M Hayes/ P Lancaster
Oct.	26/27	Heathy Lea	K Gregson
Nov.	<u>9th</u>	Annual Dinner	S Wainwright [New date]
Dec.	7/8	Bullstones	B West

Annual Dinner – Advance Notice & Change of Date

To enable the Annual Dinner to be held in 'The Green Man' Ashbourne, it has been necessary to change the date. The date now for the Annual Dinner will be Saturday November 16th 2002.

'The Green Man' has also a new management team, but I have been assured that the quality of the fare should remain the same. I shall keep you all informed of details throughout the year. So keep reading your newsletter. Shirley Wainwright

Hut Bookings June.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

June 8/14th	Paul Howe	11 Beds.
June 8/9th	Peter Goodwin	4 Beds.
June 14/15th	Oread Meet	D. Pike
June 21/22nd	Clitheroe M. C.	16 Beds.
June 28/29th	Vacant.	

HEATHY LEA

June 14/15th K Fellfarers Cottage.
 June 21/22nd Midland Ski Club Cottage/Barn.
 June 28/29th Oread Meet.

Please note this list is only correct at time of going to press. All members are advised to check availability with the hut booking secretary Colin Hobday before going to either hut. Also note that hut booking dates refer to nights (e.g. Fri/Sat for a weekend) whereas meet dates cited usually refer to the days e.g. Sat/Sun).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & SHORT NOTICES

Meets List 2003

The 2003 meets list is beginning to take shape. If you would like to lead a meet, please let me know soon where and when. I would prefer to have some discussion, if possible, before anyone books a hut so that I can prevent clashes. If you haven't thought of leading a meet next year, perhaps you should. Consider a place you know well that is not traditional for the Oread or a traditional meet that you have enjoyed in the past that you might wish to repeat as leader. Remember no meets, no club.

I'm sure you will all agree with me that after four years of organising the indoor meets it is time I stepped aside for someone else. So come on guys make it a bit easy for me. Rob Tresidder

Submission of claims against club funds -including travel costs associated with hut working parties.

To ensure the club's records meet the standards for audit please will all future claims for travel expenses include the following information: dates of travel, mileage, description of journey and purpose, and fuel used. Claims for costs incurred on the club's behalf for other items should include a valid VAT receipt. Thank you. Treasurer.

Change of Phone Number: Gill Heys

Her new mobile number is: 07976 246855 (She says her Dad has the old one, so if you use the old number don't assume that Gill has been taking testosterone or anabolic steroids.)

Apologies: Ed.

In the last newsletter I quoted the date of Digger's & Mick Moore's 'do' as 26th May – which was correct. However, I then stupidly went on to imply that it was in April!! I hope that this did not cause anyone to miss the event. Apologies to Digger & Mick. Two people (at least) spotted my error immediately. Both readily accepted my excuse of idiot status, with an ease that implied that it was only to be expected. Alternatively – they were just being gracious. Digger, what about a few words about the day?

Application for Full Club Membership.

An application has been received by the Committee from Phil Canning. Anyone who has any views on his application should express these in writing to the Secretary, Derek Pike, before the next Committee Meeting on 11th June.

MEMBER'S EXPERIENCES

I have received two excellent articles, which – as promised - appear as electronic attachments to this newsletter. They will also appear on the club website – courtesy of Graham. The first is by Graham himself on 'Skiing in the Hardangervidda' with Alison and Mike Jones who you may remember as one of the 'Beards' from last year's Lofoten trip. The second article is by Chris Radcliffe on his Easter climbing in Calpe with Gill, and Gil and Gail Male (try saying that bit quickly). I thoroughly enjoyed reading both of these tales. Thanks go to Graham and Chris. I'm afraid my own full article on Corsica is in its infancy, or adolescence, & will have come later – sorry.

My ideas on these articles are beginning to crystallise now. Each one is about 1500 words long, which I think is about right, in order to do justice to the events. However, as anticipated they are too long for inclusion in the normal newsletters. If you would like to have a précis of your tale in the Newsletter itself, this should be about 200 – 300 words long. I intend to try to keep the Newsletter to 4 pages long if possible.

I expect to gather together all the articles I receive throughout the year, for issue in paper form, with the December Newsletter: a Christmas treat for those who will not have read them. If we can keep this going for a while, these writings could form part of another 'book', - perhaps to celebrate another club anniversary or something. The articles will of course appear on the website as they are submitted. The length of around 1500 words is about right, although longer articles will of course be well received.

NEXT EDITION

Articles for the July/August edition should be sent to me - Tony Howard- at BOTH my email addresses please. This will allow me two chances of picking up your messages in the event of system hiccups, & where necessary enable me to respond quickly, when I'm in the office. Also if I'm out of the office all week, I won't have to go into work at the weekend to work on the newsletter!

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Please ensure that material for the next newsletter reaches me before Sat 22nd June. I would like to hear from **MIKE HAYES / PETE LANCASTER** (Alpine Meet)!