



April 2007 Newsletter

Editorial

The recent warm weather and lighter evenings have seen Oreads leaping to the crags on any and nearly every weekday evening. Though there has been much talk about a lack of socialising down the pub, it seems that the purpose of being an Oread – getting out to the crags with fellow Oreads to enjoy the sport of rock-climbing is thriving. Communication is always important – whether the chat in the pub, the text message or email, or the traditional call and response of “climb when ready” / “Climbing”, which to me is one of the best sounds to be heard on a weekday evening on a local crag.

I am grateful for all the recent contributions of articles and photos – especially those from Norway. The AGM was sufficiently well attended to be quorate and to pass the deletion of rule 12.

Forthcoming meets

April	6th - 9th	Easter - Swanage and Portland	Sharon Fletcher & Roger Gibbs	01246 238039
	Tues 10th	Committee meeting - Smithfield		
	24th - 26th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa mid-week meet	John Green	01332 832101
	Wed 25th	Evening meet		
May	5th - 12th	JMCS Hut Coriusk, Skye	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	Tues 8th	C'ttee meeting, The Smithfield		
	12 th & 13 th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa WParty	Hut Sub-C'ttee	
Whitsun	26 th - 28 th	Cornwall	Roy Eyre	01623-469658
June	Tues 12 th	C'ttee Meeting - Smithfield		
	16 th & 17 th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	Wed 20 th	Summer Solstice esoteric grit	Neil Weatherstone	
	23 rd & 24 th	Summer Stroll		
	30 th & 1 st	Heath Lea WParty	Hut Sub-C'ttee	

Wednesday evening climbing

Spring is now here and the clocks have gone forward. Now is the time to go out climbing in the evenings. For a couple of years many of us have organised venues and partners by e-mail. We have a dedicated e-mail group; if you would like to join the group just let me know. The e-mail group has a website too - you can use this if you don't wish to receive the e-mails.

If you're not on e-mail, feel free to give me a ring to find out what's happening - of course you probably won't get a say in where we go!

Simon Pape

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Meets Secretary Message

The 2008 meets list is provisionally published. There are opportunities to lead currently planned meets, and to arrange with Neil to lead meets to the location of your choice. Whichever you choose, just volunteer.

Winter Lecture Indoor meets

After 4 years of organising the winter slide evenings I am pleased to hand on the task to Tony Howard. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with this job from Steve Bashforth who has supplied slide projectors, the various people who have supplied the digital equipment, the speakers and of course, the people who have supported these evenings.

I took over the job as I feel that this is the most important social event during the winter months for the club in which all members can take part. Please support these very important events and give Tony the same support as I have received to ensure more successful winter slide seasons.

Tim

Skye (Coruisk) 5th – 11th May 2007

Rob Tresidder

All nine hut places on this meet have now been taken. Currently there are no names on the waiting list. Please contact me ASAP if you would like the chance of visiting Skye in May. The JMCS DO permit camping adjacent to the hut, so this may be of interest to some. Again, let me know.

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even more time to spend in hostelry en route!

RobTresidder@virgin.net txt: 07951 625 378

Tan-yr-Wyddfa Meet 24th – 26th April (Mid week meet)

This is a new venture for the Oread. We are trying to stir into action the many retired and semi retired members with an attractive package of an official meet during the week in our superb accommodation in Wales. There will be no charge for beds, so please, let us have as many as possible out there doing something. I have no fixed agenda for the meet only that we try to keep up the main reasons for being a mountaineering club, i.e. mountaineering, climbing, walking and mountain biking. I think it would be helpful in these days of global warming to car share as much as possible, so let me know and I will try to organise transport. April is one of the best months for wildlife, so even if you cannot get about as much as you used to, please still come and have a look for something special, remember there are Ospreys in Wales as

well as Scotland and Rutland. Sylvia will be doing this, I am sure, so lets have a good turnout with hopefully a return meet in the Lakes later in the year. John Green. 01332 832101.

May Day Weekend - May 4th to 7th

Simon Pape

I know Rob's got a splendid meet to Skye, but since I'm neither retired nor taking a year off, I find I haven't got the spare holiday to go. So I'm offering to lead a meet for similarly disadvantaged Oreads to somewhere closer to home. I was thinking of heading to South Wales, either to the Gower or to South Pembroke. If you're interested in coming along, let me know which you prefer.

Black Sail Meet – July 6th and 7th 2007

It is a long while since the Oread had a meet for climbing and walking in the upper Ennerdale area. It is ideal for the classic routes on Pillar and Engineers Slabs on Gable. The classic walk is the Ennerdale Horseshoe, an ideal shortened version of which can be done from here. The hostel does meals if you require them and has showers and most conveniences. It is the nearest thing we have to an alpine hut in England. I think that alcoholic beverage is also available if required. (The nearest pub is rather a long way off!!)

I have booked 8 beds for this meet at the Black Sail Youth Hostel. Non members are welcome but have to pay a supplement of £3 per night. For 2006 members pay £10.95 per night. If you would like to go please let me know ASAP. I have already had 4 bookings and if the demand is there I will try to book a further 4 beds if possible. Please let me know if you are interested. It will be on a strictly first come first served basis. A deposit of £8 per person would be appreciated.

John Green. Telephone 01332 832101

Dolomites - July 21st - August 4th

Many Oreads will be familiar with the Dolomites. There is a wide range of multi-pitch rock climbing, single pitch sports routes, via ferrata scrambling and loads of mountain walking. If that's not enough, they're also in Italy, home of pizza, pasta and ice creams. The wine is cheap too!

We're going to base ourselves in the Cortina area. I imagine most Oreads will want to camp and we're looking into booking a campsite. We're also investigating apartments or static caravans for anyone who doesn't want to camp.

Interested? Please get in touch with me or my linguistic specialist Sally Dipple, who is sorting out the accommodation.

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Sally Dipple sdipple@bonarfloors.com
07764 207992

LUNDY September 15th- 22nd. 2007

Only fifty yards from the Marisco Tavern, the Barn will be our home for a week of climbing, walking [though not far as Lundy is only three miles long], idling, snorkelling, seal watching, feeding the ducks or just exploring. The Barn accommodates just fourteen people so this early notice will enable you to book your holiday early and get your name down on my list before the rush starts. The cost of the accommodation and the boat to get you there and back will be around £95.00. More details on this nearer the time, so hurry up and give me a ring on 01332 670459 or e-mail derek.pike1234@virgin.net to book your place. Derek.

Hut Bookings March 2007

Heathy Lea - April 2007

EASTER - the whole hut is vacant

April 13/14 - D. Helliwell cottage and barn

April 20/21st - Oread Meet

Tan-yr-Wyddfa - April 2007

Easter - 2 beds booked

April 10,11,12 - 4 beds

April 13/14/15 - Aylesbury C.C. - 16 beds

April 20/21st - Whole hut booked for Rod Axton's family.

April 24/26 - John Green - Mid Week Oread Meet

April 27/28/29 - Gordon Gadsby - whole Hut

May Day Bank Holiday - Vacant

Reports from past meets

Report from the March Committee meeting

The Hut sub-committee has written to the Chatsworth Estate for the second time about the ingress of damp in Heathy Lea but still has had no reply. R.Tresidder is to contact the Estate directly after consulting C.Hooley.

Reuben reported that only four Members have not yet paid their subs, but unfortunately Beryl Strike has resigned her membership of the Club for personal reasons. R.Tresidder has written to Beryl thanking her for her company and for her efforts on

behalf of the Club.

Huts: The refuse removal fees for T.Y.W. are to be paid by Direct Debit as agreed with the Treasurer. There will be a working party at Heathy Lea on the 28th March as the place is looking a bit grim. The total bed nights for the membership for a whole year amounts to only fifty.

Stephen,

A day in the peak by Roger Gibbs

I had a day in the Peak being coached with Adrian Berry on Saturday. It was a cracking day and I wondered if you might like my write up for the newsletter. Feel free to hack it if it's too long.

"Finally the weather looked vaguely o.k. after weeks of delays. So the big day was here and it was off to Stoney (gulp!) to meet Adrian Berry (gulp! gulp!) for some coaching and some terror. He was very relaxed and it seemed a lot like going climbing with a mate, but I was paying for the privilege!

I suggested Mani and Padme as suitable warm ups but that wall was very wet so we walked further along and I got on Little Capucin, HVS 5a. This turned out to be really good climbing. It had some small loose bits but absolutely no polish. (The dramatic comments on Rockfax are completely unfounded). I thought it was hard for the grade, especially the lower wall but a good sideways wire protects. I felt I was climbing o.k. and Adrian said little apart from commenting that the route was good and hard for the grade – certainly E1 and borderline E2. It was nice to have my feelings confirmed – I needed all the confidence I could get for the day ahead! We discussed tactics and pointers on gear while abbing off – it's remarkable what you can learn even after years in the game. The sun was drying the crag nicely now so we headed up to Windy Ledge for Scoop Wall. This is very top end E2 in my opinion (I had seconded a strong climber who had struggled to lead it a couple of years earlier). It also sported some worrying wet patches but the gear was good and Adrian oozed confidence. The first half went fine with encouragement (and some tips on ropework) from below. I had to grit my teeth and hang in there a bit at the top where some seepage meant I had to do some harder moves to stay dry. This was a big confidence boost but I could feel I'd been working. Coach reckoned I'd had been cruising so far, so he needed to push me to reveal some weaknesses

(there are plenty after all!) He suggested Pickpocket mentioning long reaches and good gear – he was talking my language! The start was a shock – low wires and a poor cam. I was not happy. Using my newly learnt tactics I reversed to the ground and tested the gear. With the cam back on my harness and a bigger scowl on my face I set off again. I got the bomber wire in – relief! But I was soon back on the ground with my arms pumped solid. Third or fourth go saw me crack the crux and onto more amenable ground on the ramp. More gear and pulpy forearms. Some familiar faces appeared with encouraging words but my fingers uncurled (really? Or just in my mind?) I was off. It felt like I was failing.

Adrian was priceless at this point. Full of confidence, full of motivation – do you really want to do all this work and still not get the route? He was my conscience – “You’ve fallen off but you can still get it as clean as possible.” More tactical discussion and a break. I was shocked at how late in the day it was and frankly I was knackered.

I set off again with some wise words in my head – “Keep your eyes on the prize – you’ve really got to want it”. The crux felt easy. The pump was pressing but I knew I could do this. Into the steepest section and through to better holds. Runner on. One move to easy ground. Breath. Feet! Feet! A ledge you could camp on. Congratulations float up from the ground. “You made that look easy.”

“How does that feel?” Only the best feeling in the world. I have been climbing on and off for twenty years but I think I learnt more in one day than in the previous twenty years. Insights into climbing physiology and training, tips on tactics and technique, pointers on gear and a boat load of motivation. Bring on the summer!

It might not be everybody’s cup of tea, being pushed this hard, but if you want to improve I can’t think of a better way.

A word of warning – I have never been so physically and mentally spanked as after this day out on the rock!

Costs: £125 for a day in the Peak for up to two people.”

I have spoken to Adrian and he is quite happy for this to be published.

Roger Gibbs
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Club representation at BMC Area Meetings.

Since the BMC’s Memorandum & Articles of Association were amended at the 2006 AGM, several clubs have asked for clarification on the relationship between clubs and the BMC. A specific query has revolved around whether or not clubs can send official club representatives to BMC Area Meetings. I can confirm that this was discussed by the BMC National Council on 10 March and that there was a unanimous view that all BMC members are welcome to attend BMC Area Meetings and that clubs are very welcome to send official representatives if they wish.

Attendances at Area Meetings are on the up (20-25 people at the recent Lakes, North West and South Wales meetings and 30-40 people in North Wales and the Peak) and I would encourage your club to send a representative to your relevant BMC Area. A schedule of forthcoming meetings is attached below.

BMC Area	Next Meeting	Future Meeting
Lake District	Friday 8 June	Fri 7 Sept.
London & S.E.	Tues 12 June	Tues 11 Sept. Park Crescent Conference Centre 19.00
Midlands	Thurs 7 June	Thurs 6 Sept.
North East	Mon 11 June	Mon 3 Sept.
North West	Mon 4 June Black Dog Inn, Belmont 19.30	Mon 3 Sept. Black Dog Inn, Belmont 19.30
Peak District	Thurs 19 April Devonshire Arms, Pilsley 19.15	Thurs 14 June Devonshire Arms, Pilsley 19.15
South West & Southern	Sun 15 April Miners’ Arms time tbd	Sat 9 June
Wales	Tues 10 April The Vaynol Arms, Nant Peris	Tues 12 June
Yorkshire	Mon 11 June The New Inn, Keithley 19.30	Mon 10 Sept. The New Inn, Keithley 19.30

Future newsletters - call for reports and notices of meets

Please send me all articles, notices of future meets and reports of past meets by *24 April 2007*.

In particular I would like to receive a report from Roger & Sharon on their Easter meet.

UNDERSTANDING THE BMC Friday 8 June 2007

A practical session for club officials and representatives

Outline Programme:

	Time:
Introductions, aims & objectives	12.00 – 12.15
Round table feedback session to raise issues & queries	12.15 – 1.00
Lunch (provided by the BMC)	1.00 – 1.30
Opportunity for one-to-one discussions with BMC staff	1.30 – 2.30
Discussion & clarification of issues raised in Item	2.30 – 4.00
Conclusions, action points & follow-ups	4.00 – 4.30

Northern Scotland and Orkney: Oreads on bikes (2006)

Gordon Gadsby

Sixteen Oreads and friends arrived at Carbisdale Castle Youth Hostel on Saturday 9 Sept to start a 2 week tour of Scotland and the Orkney Islands. This Youth Hostel is one of Scotland's finest with marble statues, stained glass and works of art. Sunday's journey was to Durness Youth Hostel where Winston Churchill spent a few nights during the second world war. The warden was a jolly chap who indulged in flags, and within an hour of our arrival the Union flag, Welsh flag and the flag of Bavaria (for Uschi) were flying from their poles. We had hoped to take the ferry across the Kyle of Durness to allow us to cycle to Cape Wrath, but the ferry man said "No way, the Army and Airforce are having a bombing exercise across the route – so it's closed for the day".

Monday's planned activities were exchanged for Plan B, a drive to Kinlochverbie and a short (4.5 miles) walk to enjoy the sights of the bay. We looked on at Am Buachaille the stack first climbed by Tom Patey and Ian Clough in 1967, some of us swam in the fresh (cold) waters whilst others just enjoyed the pure white sands. On Tuesday we used the ferry and did a 15 mile ride between Cape Wrath and Loch Eriboll. After exploring dramatic cliffs and taking in superb views we cycled back to the hostel and got caught in a downpour 10 mins before reaching shelter.

On Wednesday 13th Sept we took in Castle Mey, one of the oldest castles in Scotland. After a day around John O'Groats we sailed from Scrabster to Orkney passing the Old Man of Hoy with the first direct ascent of this old stack made in 1970 by Edward Drummond. Some of our time on Orkney was spent seeing Skara Brae, an archeological site with a 5000 year old history, and the Stones of Stennes.

A week into the tour Sunday 17th was a brilliantly

sunny day just right for visiting Maes Howe to absorb its Viking history. On Monday 18th we utilised the Churchill barriers to visit four other islands and St Magnus' Cathedral build of red sandstone by the Vikings. Tuesday was filled with a tour of Shapinsay, and then the agenda was a steady return journey of Kirkwall to Stromness on Wednesday, sightseeing on Thursday and finally Stromness to Achmelvich Bay on Friday 22 Sept.

Peregrines in Derby

Two Oreads, Nick Moyes and Nick Evans, have been involved in a project with Peregrine falcons. Nick Moyes in his role within the Derby City Council's Museum Service has worked closely with the project's other partners - Derby Cathedral, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to bring live pictures of the Peregrine Falcons during 2007. Nick Evans constructed the nesting box and the two Nicks, using their well honed abseiling skills mounted the box on the cathedral. Two cameras and a microphone were installed in mid-February, and recording equipment was installed by the BBC "East Midlands Today" team in early March. The project expected to be live on the internet by late March, but this has now been delayed until Monday 16th April. Of course, the birds can now be seen on most days from the rear of the Cathedral at Cathedral Green by Full Street. The first egg was laid on Tuesday 3rd April at 5.46am. There will be at least two Peregrine Watch weeks on Derby's Cathedral Green during 2007, organised by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Telescopes and binoculars will be available for everyone to use, with helpers on hand to talk to you about why the world's fastest animal lives in Derby. Visit the link to the Project Diary at <http://www.derby.gov.uk/LeisureCulture/MuseumsGalleries/EnvironmentalProjects/PeregrineProject.htm> for more news and photos. Video clips will be coming soon!

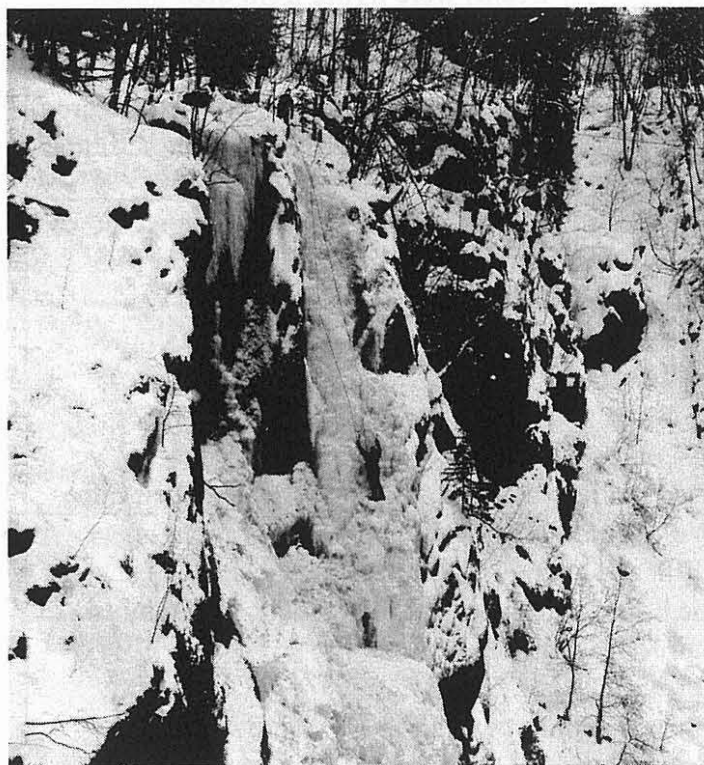
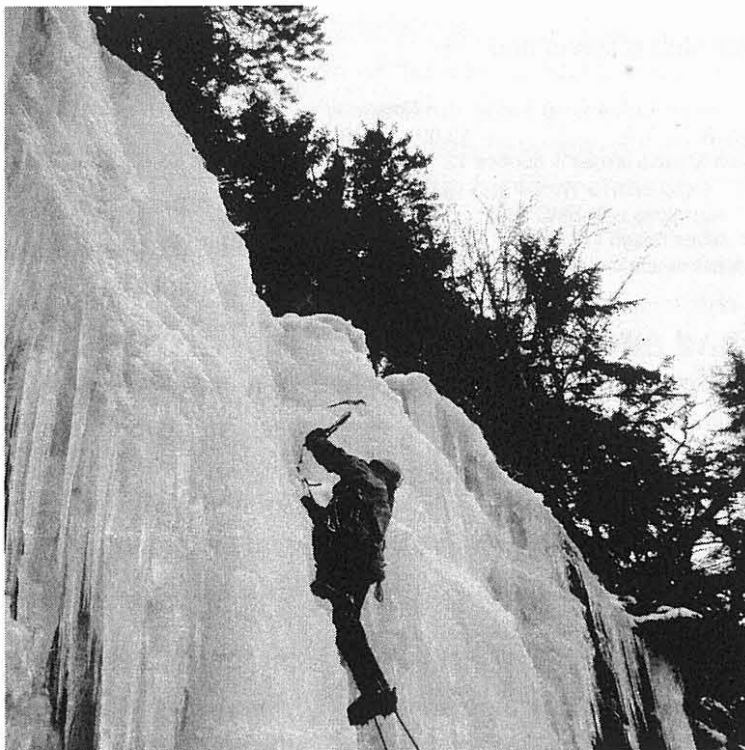
Oreads in Norway

A team of Oreads - and a significant fraction of the committee went to the Rjukan area of Norway to enjoy some winter ice climbing. Rjukan is located 175 km west of Oslo, 370 km east of Stavanger, 290 km east of Haugesund and 175 km from Larvik. Rjukan is considered one of Europe's best areas for ice climbing. Over 140 ice 'waterfalls' and an especially long and stable winter season makes for very attractive conditions for climbers from around the world.

In December 2005 a new guide to the Rjukan area

"Heavy Water" was published by Rockfax written by Jon Haukåsveen and Tom Atle Bordevik and describes 171 icefalls and mixed routes using plenty of colour photographs. This guide is recommended as the perfect companion when visiting the area.

The Editor received these pictures, but no accompanying script recounting the delights and epic events of the meet. I'm sure there is a story to be told. Pictures without words is much like a silent movie - one needs to read the image and stare at the captured action, and apply imagination to get the story - or quiz the participants when you next see them!



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