

# December 2007- January 2008



# Newsletter

## Editorial

A happy Christmas to all of you. Last month I thought Tony was keeping us in the dark about indoor meets – I was wrong, I received a note from Tony and lost it in cyberspace. So, apologies to Tony and Oreads. This newsletter has the meets list from Tony.

This is a bumper issue, with many contributions. During the year you will have read many good articles from Roger Gibbs, to whom I express heartfelt thanks – his contributions have been greatly appreciated for their humour, colour and variety. The debate on Heathy Lea is in full swing, two letters have been received that characterise the debate, so the discussions at our AGM are set to be informed and interesting.

The next Newsletter will be the February newsletter, with its need to present any Motions to be debated in the AGM and the list of candidates for committee positions. Please volunteer – we need you to run the club.

## Forthcoming meets

December	Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Indoor Meet - Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Tony Howard	01332 - 273307
	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bullstones	John Green	01332 - 832101
	Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Black Rocks	Rob Tresidder	01629 - 823953
	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wirksworth Evening Meet	Wall and Royal Oak Pub	
	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas / New Year at T-y-W		
January	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day	Clive Russel	01335 - 390369
	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Glenmoren / Cairngorms	James Tubby	01332 736737
	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	Indoor Meet - Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Tony Howard	01332 - 273307
	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wirksworth Evening Meet	Wall and Royal Oak Pub	
	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Alpine Ice Climbing	Simon Pape	01629 - 822450
February	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	T-y-W	Gill Hays	01246 - 569134
	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Indoor Meet - Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Tony Howard	01332 - 273307
	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ballachulish (Scottish Winter Meet)	Neil Weatherstone	01332 - 726116
	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wirksworth Evening Meet	Wall and Royal Oak Pub	

## Meets Secretary Message

You will find the 2008 Meets List included with this newsletter. I'm now compiling the 2009 meets list, so if you have a regular meet that you enjoy leading or any new ideas please contact me.

## Bullstones Meet 2007

This year's Bullstones will be centred on, what I believe is, new ground for the Oread, the **Black Mountains** of Wales. We shall meet at the National Trust site of **Llanthony Priory** (Landranger 161 GR288278) where there is a free car park. The bar is in the old crypt and does real ales etc. As usual after a few pints, at around 23.00, we shall walk from the car park up onto the ridge and out to the trig point (height 610 m) where we shall (try to) find a comfortable hollow for accommodation. On Saturday we will traverse the ridge to Hay Bluff and the Gospel Pass. Then out over Lord Hereford's Knob!!! (No I haven't been drinking) and onto Waun Fach (height 811 m) and so along the ridge and down to our comfortable accommodation at Perth-y-Pia farmhouse. The cost is £10 each for the night. There is a good pub for refreshment called the Red Lion in the village of Llanbedr about a kilometre away (downhill). They do food if we want, but they have asked if I could let them know how many we will be. The bunkhouse has cooking facilities for those not wanting to walk into the village. Sunday will see us walking back up on Crug Mawr (height to 550 m) and then down to the road before a final flog up to the ridge and a drop down to the cars in the Vale of Ewyas. Hopefully it will be a beautiful weekend with plenty of good views. I hope to see all the usual Bullstoners and some new faces there. Contact me on 01332 832101 for your place.

J.Green

## **BLACK ROCKS**      **Rob Tresidder**

### **Wednesday 12 December**

It looks as though Black Rocks promises to be wetter, darker and dankler than ever this year. Perfect conditions for this most traditional of Oread meets. In the recent past activity has been observed all over the crag with some attempting the Vss on Birch Tree Wall while most manage to climb Queen's Parlour Gully. I may be too fat this year to succeed on Fat man's Chimney. Afterwards at The Rising Sun in Middleton, where the new landlord expects us for pie and peas. It is my turn to present the book at my reading group the same evening so

I shall be very late getting to the crag but I hope to see you all for pie and peas and christmas craic in the pub afterwards.

Rob Tresidder

Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net

## **Boxing Day December 26th.**

In line with our tradition of a lunchtime gathering on this festive day, it is suggested that Oreads assemble with the Derwent Climbing Club and friends at the Miner's arms, Brassington. Some of you will incorporate this gathering into a walk whilst others will just drive to the pub. However you get there the gathering promises to be a good social occasion. Please join in.

## **1st Jan 2008 New Year's Day Walk**

### **C. Russell**

Once again I invite Oreads of all ages and persuasions to join me in a stroll up from Ilam, via Bunster, Cave Dale and Hopedale, to Alstonfield. There will also be the traditional, slightly fragmented, return party via Milldale and the path beside the Dove to Dovedale car park, where I suggest vehicles could be left before the walk.

We shall meet on the road in Ilam Village, opposite the cross, in time to move off at 10.45. I usually have difficulty in restraining those would-be drinkers who are punctual, if there are late-comers reportedly on the way, so please spare me this dilemma. It is perhaps a good idea to leave cars in Dovedale car park and walk to Ilam before the start, rather than doing the equivalent distance at the end of the day, when the legs may be a little fatigued. In the past I have started this walk from various locations, but Ilam seems to be preferred, and to introduce variety, the route will be slightly to the East of the one taken last year.

This will be a social walk requiring no serious exertion, and should be an opportunity for the different generations to strengthen their ties. (I shall issue writs against anyone defaming me by suggesting that an unseemly element of speed or competition will be introduced).

## **Cairngorms 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

At this time of year it can be hard to look beyond the Christmas festivities, however now is the time to start planning for the New Year. The first

Scottish winter meet of the new season will take place on the first weekend of the New Year, 4-6 Jan in the Cairngorms. This meet is the perfect opportunity to get over those post-Christmas blues and start to work off the excesses of the festive period.

Once again we will be staying at Caringorm Lodge (Loch Morlich) Youth Hostel at Glenmore. Its location, only 5 minutes drive from the ski area car park, means that you can lie in 'till 6:30 a.m. and still begin your walk in as day breaks. It is also handily only 5 minutes walk from Glenmore Lodge and its bar, where meals and fine Scottish beers are served.

Over the last few years there have been mixed conditions on this meet, with some trips giving good climbing and others lacking in any real snow or ice. If conditions allow, then there is plenty of climbing at the popular Coire-an-t-sneachda with routes of all standards. More remote crags such as Hell's Lum offer the possibility of climbing in quieter venues. The presence of many Munroes give plenty of winter walking options for all weather conditions.

Depending on demand and weather forecasts I may book the hostel before Christmas or I might leave it late to try to avoid paying a deposit (the hostel has never been busy at this time of year). Therefore you can either book directly with the youth hostel on 0870 0041137 (or online) or contact me and I'll let you know whether I have made a group booking. There is a campsite over the road for anyone inclined to camp.

To contact me regarding accommodation, or make transport arrangements nearer the time I can be reached on 01283 736737 or [jamestubby@hotmail.com](mailto:jamestubby@hotmail.com)

### **Ballachulish 15-17th Feb 2008**

I have booked the Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut (NN 044612, OS41) and have room for 18 people, the cost is £5.50 each per night. This location will provide a good launch point for both Glen Coe and the Nevis area and there is a pub close by. Please contact me to book your place.

Neil Weatherstone

### **Indoor Meets Programme to End of Winter Season 2007-2008**

The next indoor meet will take place at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook at 8:00 pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

December. The speaker will be Steve Christian, whose topic will be: 'Mount Cook and the Southern Alps of New Zealand'. This should be very interesting – as few of us have been to this part of the world!

The first talk of the New Year will take place on the **second Tuesday of the month**: 8<sup>th</sup> January also at the same time and place, and will be entitled 'New Routes in Patagonia' by Ben Bransby. This is our second professional talk of the season, and will include new routes in the Fitz Roy area and a repeat of the Whillans route on Cerro Poincenot, among others. The remaining lectures are:

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December – Steve Christian Mount Cook and The Southern Alps of New Zealand
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Ben Bransby New Routes in Patagonia</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February John Hudson – title to be announced
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March – Chris Radcliffe Highlights of 2007 featuring the High Sierras

### **Heathy Lea**

The lease on Heathy Lea comes up for renewal in 2009. The use of the hut by Oreads has been very slight for several years. Heathy Lea is heavily subsidised from club subscriptions. In the light of all this it seems sensible that the club should seriously consider the future of the hut.

The following two articles have been received which put different views forward in their own way.

[1] Dear Editor

I sense there is a lot of nonsense floating around, so far, in the unprinted debate about the future of Heathy Lea. Some people, maybe newcomers to our club, are pressing for non-renewal of our lease. These "cousins of Clarkson" in their fast expensive motors would far rather spend Saturday night in some seedy disco in Derby and then tear up to the Peak District on Sunday morning, than live their life at a gentler pace enjoying a little gentle warm up in the evening followed by a nice lie-in on Sunday before venturing forth to savour the delights of Chatsworth, Gardoms and Birchens from the doorstep of their accommodation. And where, oh where, is their sense of history? The hut

and the barn are memorials to two great Oreads of the club's early days: Eric Byne and Geoff Hayes. We cannot allow this precious resource to slip through our hands. Mark my words petrolheads, when the oil runs out you'll regret getting shot of this lovely home from home.

Yours sincerely, BirchenBoy

[2]Editor,

I gather we are supposed to be expressing our views about what to do about this wretched millstone (nowhere near — geddit?) of a hut around our necks. This tumbledown edifice is costing the club an arm and a leg to keep open. What's more it's only used by a tiny minority of members and a few (very few) visiting clubs. This is a mountaineering club we are members of not some cheap doss house. And think of the poor old huts committee. They can never get anybody to turn out to do maintenance. Maintenance for what I say. Personally I never use the place. If I have a weekend free to climb I'd much rather go further afield and if I want a day's climbing in the Peak, I'd much rather stay at home on Saturday night than spend the evening in some foul Baslow hostelry followed by a night spent fighting damp, chill and mice in that old ruin. I hear the old eco-bores are saying that when they ban cars in the Peak District, we'll be glad of a base there. Aw, c'mon! When are they going to do that? And anyway if they do, is anyone really going to want to hump their food and sleeping bag and stuff up there on a bus? We can catch the bus in the morning. The same "eco-warriors" tell us there'll be loads more buses. Climb hard, drive hard I say. Cheers, Grease Monkey (geddit?)

### Hut Bookings for December 2007 and January 2008

HEATHY LEA

Dec. 14/15th Pam Storer.  
Jan. No Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Dec 7/8th. Derwent M.C. Whole Hut.  
Dec. 14/15th. S.M.O.G. 16 beds.  
Jan. 4/5th. Kinder M.R. 16 beds.  
Jan.11/12th. Southern Trekking 16 beds.  
Jan.18/19th. Southampton Rats 16 beds.  
Oread room Full.  
Jan .25/26 Orpheus C.C. 16 beds.  
Feb. 1/2nd. Oread meet.

Anyone owing Hut Fees please pay Colin Hobday before year end.

### Reports from past meets

### Oread Annual Dinner 2007 – Neil Weatherstone

This years Oread Annual Dinner was attended by 65 members. Our guest speaker Andy Kirkpatrick was very funny and entertaining with his own unique style. If you weren't able to make it this year please do attend next year's frivolities. Tracey and I enjoyed organising this year's dinner and shall be organising the event again next year. Thanks to all who attended.

### 2007 Dovedale Dash

Conditions underfoot this year were excellent, as was the atmosphere. A field of 1192 runners started this year's Dovedale Dash; a few more than last year. Well done James for topping the Oread rankings yet again. He is creeping up the field as years go by. Congratulations too to Rusty on winning the over 60 prize for the third time in six years.

87 James Tubby  
126 John O'Reilly  
129 Clive Russell (1st over 60)  
269 Simon Pape  
370 Robin Sedgwick  
580 Tony Fidler  
711 Jenny Raphael  
712 Tony Raphael  
753 Claire O'Reilly  
775 Neil Weatherstone  
1092 Lizzie O'Reilly

This was my first non-start in thirty years. A great disappointment to me but a chance to spectate which I enjoyed almost as much as I would have running!  
RT

### Tufa wrestling and feta cheese

Sharon's birthday rolled around again this October so to celebrate a party of 13 Oreads, partners and hangers on headed for sunny Kalymnos. The transport was slightly more complex than some bolt clipping destinations, but the extra effort was well worth it. Angela kindly did all the booking so I for one simply turned up at East Midlands clutching quickdraws, a rope and not a lot else.

The small island is situated just North of the popular tourist island of Kos. We flew to Kos and stayed overnight before most of the team dragged themselves up in time for the first ferry over. Most felt a bit snoozy after the late night travelling, but still managed to get some fine routes in, including a visit to the stunning natural cathedral of La Grand

Grotta. The rock architecture here is truly unique with giant tufa stalactites leering down from the roof like overhanging tree routes. The moves are easy once you get your head around the angle, but boy are they sustained! Most of the routes overhang a very long way, and there is usually someone on the ground to snap the classic shot of the leader lowering off as the sun sets behind her.

There are plenty of classics which don't require a neck support for the second with lots of superb slab climbing, particularly at Belgian Chocolates wall. Many of the easier angled routes feature interesting climbing and a happy balance between not being too sharp on the fingers and not yet becoming too polished.

The bolting in Kalymnos is very friendly, with run outs being very rare so it is an ideal place to push the boat out a bit. Many Oread and guests did just that and lots of people recorded personal bests as their just rewards. Plenty logged a little airtime too, as is usually the way – if you're not flying, you're not trying!

The island is rightly famous for its tufa climbing and the best routes in this style really are some of the best climbing I've ever done anywhere in the world. Wide pinches and weird rests abound, but it's usually best to keep going before the pump starts to press. A bit of cunning can be very handy and some times the older, weaker members of the team managed to style their way past the beefy boys and girls. The character of the tufa columns can sometimes be strangely reminiscent of gritstone. Overhanging gritstone. With bolts. And sunshine.

The food was superb too with, unsurprisingly, quite a few Greek salads. Most restaurants extend their opening beyond the traditional tourist season to cater for the climbers and they show their gratitude with huge portions and cheap beer. There is lots of seafood of course, and fine meaty stews, plus plenty of vegetarian options, including the famous Kalymnian vegetarian octopus. Accommodation is cheap and plentiful, even if Nick the Greek can sometimes get a bit carried away with selling his "large, sea view" apartments. A few of the team relocated down the road to cheaper, bigger apartments but Nick didn't seem to mind too much! There are plenty of crags within 30-45 minutes walk of the main climbing centre, but keen climbers can hire scooters or cars to visit more far flung crags. Dmitri the rental guy is pretty laid

back, so it's probably best to wait until he's had his coffee in the morning before hassling him too much. You can keep an eye on his caffeine intake and judge when to strike while sitting in Happy Steve's café. I had no complaints about the food or the service here, but Steve's constant laughing and joking did become a bit wearing. Still the "humour" had the added benefit of keeping the Yanks away.

Rest days can be spent chilling and eating in the little port of Pothia or on the beach. This was another tremendous trip, and it was only dampened a little bit by the England team not quite managing a third miracle on the way home. Still, at least we had a week of teasing the visiting Aussie and French climbers! Swing Low!

### **Future newsletters - call for reports and notices of meets**

The next newsletter will be the February Newsletter, so please send me all articles, notices of future meets relevant through to end of March 2008 and reports of past meets by **22 January 2008**. In particular I would like to receive reports from: Rob on the Black Rocks meet; James, on his Caingorm meet; and, Simon, on his Alpine (winter climbing) meet.

The debate on Heathy Lea is important - please send me your thoughts and ideas, the more we can publishing the more open and balanced the debate will be. We all want a fair and democratic decision to be made.

## 2008 Meets List

Note: weekend dates are listed for the Sat and Sun only, not the adjoining Fri.

Month	Day	Meet	Meet Leader	Contact
Jan	Tu 1	New Year's Day	Rusty Russel	01335 390369
	5 & 6	Glenmore or Nevis	James Tubby	01332 736737
	19 20	Alpine Ice Climbing	Simon Pape	01629 822450
Feb	2 3	TYW	Gill Hays	01246 569134
	16 17	Ballachulish	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116
Mar	15	AGM	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	16	Spring Stride	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	21 24	Easter		
	29 30	Patterdale	Stuart Haywood	01332-834449
Apr	2	First Evening Outdoor Meet		
	5 6	Heathy Lea		
	19 20	TYW		
May	3 5	Early May BH		
	17 18	TYW WP	Hut Sub-committee	
	24 26	Spring BH - Cornwall	Roy Eyre	01623 469658
Jun	7 8	Borrowdale/Lakes	Roger Larkam	01773-820260
	W 18	Longest (Wednes)Day - esoteric grit		
	21 22	Summer Stroll		
	28 29	HL WP	Hut Sub-committee	
Jul	5 6	Cwm Eigiau	John Green	01332-832101
	26 27	Derbyshire schools holidays start (23rd)		
Aug	23 25	Summer BH - North Pembrokeshire	Derek Pike	01332 670459
Sep	13 14	Heathy Lea BBQ/Bonfire/Beer	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116
	W 17	Last Evening Meet & Curry	Simon Pape	01629 822450
	27 28	TYW		
Oct	11 12	Heathy Lea	Colin Hobday	01332 551594
	25 26	TYW Curry Meet	Tony Howard	01332 273307
Nov	Su 2	Dovedale Dash	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	Sa 15	Annual Dinner	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116
	Su 16	Post-prandial		
	29 30	Coniston	Tony Howard	01332 273307
Dec	We 10	Black Rocks	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	13 14	Bullstones	James Tubby	01283 736737
	24 31	Christmas & New Year at TYW		

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