



P1010052.JPG

Crossing the Alport!

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Bullstones 2010 - Simon on the Alport River

Editorial.(Last Date for April edition 27/03/11)

March brings the delight of longer evenings and Spring Flowers. Our first evening meet of 2011 will be at Harborough and we can only hope for an improvement on last year's weather performance! Our **AGM needs members to turn up and help**, without you we cannot have a club, so please come along and let the committee know what you want. Pete Lancaster still has places on his Rescue and First Aid course, if you are going out on the hill its well worth the cost to save someone's life!

With the promise of a number of holidays coming up we have some delights for you that will take us around the mountains of Europe, well Corsica for Easter anyway. Stuart is looking forward to a full house at Patterdale and with a bit of luck we should be on warm sundrenched rock by then, if not, a good walk will be undertaken anyway. See you there.

Winter Lecture Programme 2011

Tony Howard.

I hope you enjoyed Rock's lecture earlier this month. I found it both informative & inspiring: a 34 day trek through Bhutan. It was also a convivial evening, with 33 attendees – who enjoyed plenty of social intercourse at the start & in the beer break. The only 'down side' I suppose was that it finished rather late because of the extended break. If you missed some shut-eye or had to leave before the talk finished – then sorry about that!

Our next lecture, the last but not least in this season's programme will be by **Paul Bingham** & is entitled **'Svalbard, days without nights at the north pole rim'**. This should present some real adventure & superb photography. It will be on Tuesday 1st March – 8pm at the Royal Oak Ockbrook.

I look forward to seeing you on 1st March.

Lakes - Patterdale – Sat 12th Sun 13th March 2011

Stuart Haywood

As I'm sure everyone will appreciate it's very difficult to add anything new to the usual Newsletter article regarding this traditional meet; climbing, scrambling, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing and gear shopping are all available in the immediate vicinity of the hut.

Accordingly the only variable will be the weather, and with the weather pattern we've experienced so far this winter I certainly can't make any promises on this score! In Denby over the last 3 or 4 weeks overnight temperatures have varied in excess of 25 degrees!

Over the next week or so I will endeavour to contact the 'usual suspects' but in the meantime if you want to book a berth please call me on 07836 314403 or 01332 882331 or e-mail stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk I will of course reply to all e-mail and voicemail messages and confirm bookings.

As Andy and I are still 'wage slaves' we will probably arrive mid evening on Friday but others have already indicated that they intend to travel during the day so no doubt we'll all meet during the course of the evening at the usual watering holes!

Heathy Lea - Fell Race - Sunday, March 20th

Chris Radcliffe and James Pike

Having had two years of paired runners with "a reverse handicap" running around the course in opposite directions, we have decided to change the format of the race again this year.

We are keen for everyone to join in – whether you are interested in running, walking or climbing so there will be different course options and handicaps to level out variations of ability. (Inevitably these are wholly subjective, so you can't take it seriously anyway). No problem if you want to pair up for the event.

It would be helpful if you could indicate in advance if you will come along so that we can scheme about the handicaps, but it is still possible to turn up on the day. As we would like to take part, we would appreciate an offer for someone to do the timekeeping duties – for anyone not interested in running.

The course:

Heathy Lea – Chatsworth Park – Baslow – Baslow Edge – Curbar Edge – White Edge – Barbrook Bridge – Birchen Edge – Heathy Lea.

A map will be provided on the day, together with options for walkers and climbers.

Options:

1. Long course – running only
2. Slightly shorter course – climbers to do an easy route (possible in running shoes) on 2 or 3 crags
3. Walkers – same as runners, but taking the logical direct line

Start time:

1. Walkers: 10:30
2. Runners & Climbers: 11:00 – 11:30, depending on handicap

If you have any queries or if there is anyone who wants to stay at Healthy Lea over the weekend, please get in touch.

We can be contacted by email or phone:

chris@farfields.co.uk 01246 569134 (home) 07770 883259 (mobile)

j.pike1@hotmail.co.uk 07941 527712 (mobile)

Evening Meet – Harborough Wed 30th March.

Richard Hopkinson.

The first Wednesday after the clocks change will as usual find us at Harboro, although I expect some may wander over to Brassington Rocks. Taking advantage of the pre nettle situation here. I suggest we then retire to the Gate at Brassington. If it's fine I'm sure some of us will be there early.

If it's not fit to climb outdoors the Wirksworth Wall is suggested as the alternative venue. In which case I suspect the lure of a possible dripping booty at the Royal Oak (North End Wirksworth) will prove irresistible.

See you there.

Tan yr Wyddfa Sat 2nd Sun 3rd April.

John Green.

I shall be going up to our Welsh Hut on the Friday morning, so anyone without a key will be able to get in. Please come along and support us. I shall be going for a mountain walk if the conditions are Ok and will probably look at catching the bus into Beddgelert at 09.06 arriving at 09.15 then traversing the Moel Hebog ridge back to the hut. If there is interest I may drop into Cwm Pennant and find the original Oread Hut! Hope to see you on Friday 1st. (Yes, I know its April Fools Day)

Easter 2011 -April 22nd-May 2nd 2011.

Simon Pape.

Thanks to our wonderful government, this period now includes 4 public holidays (for those of us at work anyway). My plan is to head south for some warm rock, probably flying and booking a gite/apartments. The Committee has suggested Corsica as a possible destination, but I'm open to other suggestions. If you're interested, please get in touch so I have some idea of numbers.

Simon.pape@eon.com 07813 616465/01629 822450

Oread AGM - 26th March 2011.

Robin Hood, Chesterfield Road, Baslow

The 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Oread Mountaineering Club will be held at The Robin Hood Inn, Chesterfield Road, Baslow DE45 1PQ at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 26 March 2011

The Agenda for the meeting will be:

Apologies for absence.

Minutes of the 2010 AGM held at The Robin Hood, Baslow, on 27 March 2010.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Appointment of Auditor

Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Sub-Committee Report.

Heathy Lea Hut Sub-Committee Report

Election of Officers.

A.O.B.

2011 – 2012 Committee

The Committee propose the following nominations for Officers and Committee members:

i. President Chris Wilson

Vice-President Pete Lancaster

General Secretary Dave Roscoe

Assistant General Secretary Reuben Dakin

A. Treasurer Michael Bate

Meets Secretary Nomination Required

Newsletter Editor John Green.

Hut Custodian, Tan yr Wyddfa Tony Howard

Hut Custodian, Heathy Lea Mike Hayes

Huts Booking Secretary Colin Hobday

Committee Members Richard Hopkinson and 2 Nominations Required

Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Sub Committee:

Tony Howard (Hut Custodian), Graham Foster, Keith Gregson, Colin Hobday, Chuck Hooley, Mick Keeling, Pam Storer

Heathy Lea Hut Sub Committee:

Mike Hayes (Hut Custodian), Nick Evans, Dave Helliwell, Steve McDonagh and Pam Storer

No nomination has been received for the position of Meets Secretary and nominations for 2 Committee Members are also needed.

Members are reminded that, subject to Rules 8 and 9, the General Secretary must receive any nominations for election of Officers and Committee members at least 14 days before the A.G.M. Nominations close on 12 March.

Please send your nominations to the General Secretary, Dave Roscoe, 11 Glover Road, Totley, Sheffield, S17 4HN, email D.Roscoe@sheffield.ac.uk or telephone 0114 222 3791

Members are reminded that any proposal for a change to Club Rules must be lodged with the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the meeting (Rule 17). No changes to the Club Rules are proposed by the Committee.

Spring Stride Sun 27th March

Chris Wilson.

Chris has offered to lead this meet but was too late to do a write up. He will let us know where he is taking us at the AGM, so surprise all round, bring your boots and snap for a good days walking with our President.

Rescue & First Aid Weekend Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April 2011 at Heathy Lea

Pete - Lancaster.

There were two occasions this summer in which Oreads were involved in incidents where someone had been injured and in one of these the injured party was an Oread. Would you know what to do if you were involved, or present, in an accident? If the person in trouble was your partner and he or she was on the end of a rope up a cliff or down a crevasse, could you escape the rope system and get them to safety and maybe administer first aid? Perhaps we owe it to our climbing partners to have these skills. This weekend is an opportunity to get those skills. It is being run by Rick Cotgreave who is an MIA qualified climbing instructor and a qualified first aid instructor and assessor: he has considerable teaching skill and experience. The cost will be divided by those attending to a maximum of 12 people, and should be £45 for the weekend course. First Aid on Saturday and Rescue on Sunday. Accommodation at Heathy Lea will be extra. As we are restricted to 12, could we ask that those wishing to come get in touch with Pete Lancaster as soon as possible to reserve a place.

The outline of the weekend course is as follows:

Saturday

A First Aid course designed to provide a system for dealing with common emergency situations.

This will be a practical hands-on training day with a specific focus on providing first aid assistance in the outdoor environment.

The course will cover treatment for collapse, bleeding and injury and will explore the added complexities of first aid in remote areas.

The course includes a training manual and First Aid certificate, valid for 3 years.

Sunday

A Self-Rescue course designed for climbers.

To get the most out of this day it is recommended that participants have experience of multi-pitch climbing at a minimum grade of VS.

This will be a practical course looking to provide you with a tool-kit to prevent and cure some of the common rescue scenarios that climbers may face whilst in the mountains or on sea cliffs.

The course will include a training manual to remind you of the techniques covered during the day. Please bring your normal climbing kit (harness, belay device, helmet, rack for rigging belays)

01142 301136 or pete@54brooklands.freeserve.co.uk.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Not the Bullstones Meet - Dec 11th - 12th 2010

Simon Pape

I have a confession to make. I didn't go on this year's* Bullstones. I wanted to. Honestly, I did. I didn't mind the train journey. I wasn't too worried about going to New Mills on a Friday night. To tell the truth, I wasn't too keen on the second bivi, in the middle of the Dark Peak, miles from the nearest pub. I'm sure I would have survived somehow.

For those who are unaware of how it works (especially Mr T), plans for the Bullstones usually come together on the preceding Tuesday, which as luck would have it coincided with an evening lecture. I headed down to the Royal Oak, through the snow and the ice. Most of the usual suspects were there.



P1010039.JPG

Setting off!

Saturday, December 11, 2010



P1010063.JPG

Kinder River in winter

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Pike, Hayes, Green, Eyre. But there was no-one to give us moral guidance and we all began to waver. An alternative plan was formed. One that had a pub on the Saturday night. One that only had one bivi - I could spend Friday night in my own bed. All I had to do was get up on Saturday morning and I would be whisked to Edale in a speeding BMW! I weakened.

Saturday morning came and the speeding BMW materialised as promised. An urgent phone call from Colin diverted us to Heathy Lea. A party staying there had complained it was all frozen up and that there was no

water. They were going home in such of warmth. How would the Bullstoners have coped in such bitter cold? As it was, the cottage was fine. The healing hands of Pike soon restored the water flow to the kitchen. They couldn't quench the burst pipe in the loo though - that required retired reinforcements on Monday.

We arrived in Edale and weakened still further, parking directly in front of the Nag's Head. The rest of the party had weakened to, they were sitting in the station cafe eating bacon butties. I hadn't been in there for a year or two - it's changed a little. They serve a mighty fine coffee and if it's a bit chilly, there is a nice warm wood burning stove. However, all good things come to an end, so we eventually dragged ourselves out and headed down the valley. Nothing too arduous, a quick pause at Jagger's Clough - the Editor hoping for a picture of someone getting wet - and a gentle stroll up to Hope Cross and down to Hagg Farm. A leisurely lunch at Lockerbrook, the sun was out and there was no West to hurry us to the pub. The stroll continued past Alport Castles and down to cross the River Alport, nicely in spite after all the snow melt. More sport for the Editor's camera. Then a steep pull up out of the valley and things turned nasty. The Bullstones spirit kicked in and in was every Oread for him (or her) self. If you didn't know where Oyster Clough was, tough! We all managed to get there though, just as the light faded.



P1010057.JPG Lovely Fire Saturday, December 11, 2010



P1010058.JPG Oyster Clough Cabin Sunday, December 12, 2010

Sleeping bags and mats were quickly thrown on the floor, avoiding the snow patch where someone had left the door open, and we all headed down to the Snake. Beer was purchased and we all stood in front of the fire. Ignoring the notice saying "Please don't stand in front of the fire". We soon tired of standing in front of the fire, so chairs were pulled up and we sat in front of it. We figured we weren't blocking the heat from the rest of the clientele, as we were the clientele. More beer, food, more beer. So it continued until we had drunk enough and burnt all their wood. Back up onto the moor and a warmer cosy night in Oyster Clough Cabin. So much more civilised than Grinnah Stones.

Sunday dawned sunny and frosty - fairly normal for a Bullstones. Too nice a day for a quick hop over to Edale, so we headed up Ashop Clough, straight into the sun, and kicked steps up the remaining snow onto Kinder plateau.

By the time we reached the Downfall, the sun had disappeared and we'd had the best of the day. The Downfall was flowing nicely and the ice on Kinder River creaked ominously. We took the prudent course and sent Pike first!

Grindsbrook was disappointingly free of ice and we soon found ourselves in the Nag's, eating lunch and waiting for the real Bullstoners. They were a hardy bunch and we weakened before they arrived - or at least the speeding BMW driver weakened and I wanted a lift! So I can't tell you about the Bullstones meet - I'm sure Rob will be providing a write-up though.

* OK, so it's last year's Bullstones now. I really must write promised newsletter articles before the last minute.

High House Borrowdale. 5th & 6th February 2011

Peter Amour.

Mid-afternoon Friday and John Green's just arrived following some house maintenance issues, the weather forecast shows a significant low and so do the bookings. A prompt transfer of gear into my works van and we're under way with a guarded optimism of a good weekend. Following a north-easterly route we descended onto a sombre grey Cheshire plain and took a fairly uneventful course along the M6 to the Lakes. Our progress was now and again rocked a little by the occasional windy gusts. As we turned towards Keswick it had the atmosphere of the Lakes, that's to say it was blowing a gale and tipping down. The last couple of miles to Seathwaite were completed on submerged roads.

On arriving High House was opened up to show it's rustic character. The first task's to get the stove going, a quick check and it looks ok, there's no ash in the bottom, and there's cinders on the grid. I get the blow torch from the van and play the flames directly under the grid onto the cinders (plan A). After 10 minutes and no success Plan B comes into play, get a dust pan of coke and place blow torch onto coke -foolproof, drop hot coke cinders into stove and voila! Plan C involved rolling up newspapers to make paper sticks- learnt that one in the scouts. Light said paper and simply place coal/coke on top. (By this time Pam & Nodge have made it ashore to study my efforts, Greeny is now muttering "Last of the Summer Wine" like comments such as "He's a service engineer you know")

Plan D was to check that Plan A had been done properly, investigation shows that the previous users had a left a solid crust of foundry slag in the stove bottom. Nodge embarks on Plan A+, finds dry kindling in the main dorm, and also nonchalantly opens the the flue damper, (stove lights). If the pub

had been nearer I'd have gone out!



P1010194.JPG

Starting the High House Fire!

Friday, February 04, 2011



P1010201.JPG

If only!!

Saturday, February 05, 2011

Saturday morning was arid compared with the previous 12 hours, it was now only drizzling and the trees were no longer horizontal. The view was slowly improving with Sour Milk Gill displaying a continuous white torrent at all points and Pam was inspiring John and myself to go and ascend the gorge onto Bessyboot (Nodge inspired himself into a good novel). So with atmospheric improvements and a dearth of viable excuses we took the water sodden track along the valley side to meet the Keswick road, passing a flock of Herdwicks which would perhaps have been more enthusiastic as lamb shanks.

After a short spell on tarmac we turned to the footpaths to exit Borrowdale and enter Langstrath and go straight by the Langstrath Country Inn (made of stern stuff, us lot) As had been the case with Sour Milk, so it was with Stanger Gill, a continuous plummeting line of foaming white. The party departed from the openness of Langstrath to follow this gem of a route up the gorge by the gill. The track which is well maintained, possibly due to Wainwrights writings on the area making it popular. With increasing precipitation and the gorge offering a little shelter, we grabbed a lunch and photo stop below the crag of

Hanging Haystack (anyone would think this was a pleasure trip). On contemplating what a nice spring day would be like at this impressive viewpoint and we left the gorge. The ground above Stanger Gill is as interesting as it's complex and with a couple of references to Pam's map and JG's GPS Bessyboot was ticked off. Our descent took us down towards Comb Gill and an iffy crossing of pretty powerful water flows to access the still sodden track back to High House.

On our return to the hut we found Angela & Roland, they had been booked into High House for the previous night but informed us that they could not find the hut in the storm- anything to save money, must have Yorkshire ancestry.



P1010203.JPG

Stanger Gill woods

Saturday, February 05, 2011



P1010215.JPG

Combe Gill crossing

Saturday, February 05, 2011

Sunday saw a repeat of Friday evenings gloomy winds & rain, but undeterred, and wanting to get their money's worth (all that cost for one bed night) Angela & Roland headed up the dale to close in on Sty Head Pass, and when fully saturated came back, good on 'em. The rest headed for home having still enjoyed the weekend in a good hut, in a fine location and having I hope enjoyed each other's company, I know I certainly did!

Climbing the Needle

Gordon Gadsby.

It was a warm sun dappled day in the mountains of central Lakeland with great fleecy white clouds drifting slowly above the towering rock spires of Great Gable. With Colin Hobday and George Reynolds I was climbing Napes Needle, the most famous rock pinnacle in England.

Although less than 100 feet high, the ascent is difficult and exposed as the needle holds a commanding position over one thousand feet above the valley floor. The rough rock was cold to the touch as I climbed in shadow up the prominent crack on the west wall of the pinnacle. Olin carefully paid out the rope as I inched my way up the steep forty foot high wall.

Ten minutes later I stepped carefully around a rock spike and into sunshine on the airy south face of the needle. In that clear space below my feet I could see the great sweep of rock, scree and jumbled boulders right down as far as the sparkling waters of the Lingmell Beck in the valley bottom. Far beyond the river I could see the neat fields and farms around Wasdale Head leading down to the placid surface of Wastwater, Cumbria's deepest lake.



Napes Needle circa 1960

Above me a slab rose up to the neck of the needle, the holds were good and soon I was anchored on that narrow perch below the spectacular summit block. Fifteen minutes later Colin and George had joined me on the stance.

George was keen to lead the final pitch which, on close inspection, seemed devoid of holds and, at least, severe in grade. However it held no fears for George; he climbed the vertical edge then traversed on a tiny sloping ledge to the front of the overhanging block. He grinned down to us between his boots. "It's a bit thin here mate" he called. "You'll love it". So saying he made a strenuous upward movement and mantelshelved cleanly up the smooth wall and onto the top. Soon we were together on that much coveted rock steeple – the view was great – the situation fantastic.

Later that day we ascended Arrowhead Ridge which, although 250' higher, seemed easy by comparison to the Needle. From the Ridge Top we scrambled to the summit of Great Gable at 2949'. The view was magnificent; in the south Scafell dominated the scene, craggy ramparts stark against the evening sky. In the south east beyond the long ridge of Glaramara the Langdale Pikes were bathed in sunlight; southwest was Wastwater and the sea.

We descended quickly by the way we came, anxious to be back at the tents before dark. When we reached the vicinity of Arrowhead Ridge, we followed the popular climber's track that scrambles down between the rock ridges, taking great care as the rock in places is reputed to be loose. Colin and I were in front and had just negotiated the last rock band in the gully. Soon we would reach easier ground, then a quick scree run down to the river and a pleasant three miles walk back to camp.

Suddenly a loud cry “Look out below” came from George. We looked behind us. He was part way down the rock band. Beneath his feet the wall was breaking up! Great blocks as big as oil drums trundled slowly towards us, lurching this way and that between the narrow walls, smaller rocks and stones whined and ricocheted above us. There was no way out – Colin and I pressed ourselves flat against the gully sides as the blocks crashed and splintered around our heads and bodies. The air was full of choking yellow dust and the frightening smell of sulphur, every second we thought would be our last. Miraculously thirty seconds later we emerged, dishevelled, cut and bruised, but without serious injury. Above us George was hanging from his finger tips above a gulf of air and was quickly rescued.

Later as we walked back along the valley track with other Oreads, Ray College told us that the rock fall was as big as any he had seen in the Alps and showed us where the rocks had come to rest a thousand feet below in the middle of Lingmell River. It was a sobering sight; I thought of the words of the Chinese Philosopher, Confucius, “Absence of body is better than presence of mind” – somehow we seemed to have been blessed with both that day. (circa 1960’s)

New Members.

We would like to welcome Heidi Mephram as a new prospective member of the club. I hope she enjoys it as much as I have over the years.

Letters to the Editor.

Rosset House, Cowley Lane, Holmesfield, Dronfield.

Dear John,

It was interesting to see Dave Appleby took the trouble to send you a write up on the Thursday group walk up Snowdon in October. It was of course pleasing to Digger Williams who is in his 89th year. I would add that his time – which seems to be gaining significance nowadays would have been much improved if he hadn’t stopped every couple of hundred metres, fascinated with taking photographs with his new camera! I enclose one which he took coming down the Llechog Ridge. No criticism of the focus: the composition captures the atmosphere of the moment as the clouds broke away following the snow flurry.

As to the other photos I’ve enclosed, sorting through the many photographs collected, with the facility of digital cameras, I thought this collection may be of interest. They were taken at the Bulls Head, Foolow on the Spring Stride after the 2008 AGM. As I recall only four did the planned route and they varied it accidentally coming over Offerton and Abney Moors when they intended to come up Bretton Clough only. They were late arrivals at Foolow! The routes to Foolow that day were as varied as the characters portrayed: by bike, car and bus. Janet and I took a direct walk from Calver Sough up over the fields, via Eyam and return.

I recall you asked for some early Newsletters. I’ve got most going back to 1953.

Wait to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Ashcroft.

(Hopefully publish photos next month Ed.)

Hut Bookings for March

Please note that hut fees should always be paid to me and no one else. Colin Hobday.

HEATHY LEA

Steve Christian March 4/5th Cottage.

Saltley H.W.C. March 11/12th. Cottage.

Oread Meet March 18/19th.

Oread A.G.M. March 25/26th.

A. Rockhoppers April 1/2nd. Cottage/barn

Wirral College April 5th/8th. Cottage.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Bassetlaw H.W.C. March 4/5th. 16 beds.

Bewdley MC March 18/19th 12 beds.

Oread meet April 1/2nd.

Forthcoming Meets

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| March | Tues 1st | Royal Oak Ockbrook | Tony Howard | 01332 273307 |
| | Tues 8 th | Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook | | |
| | Sat 12 th Sun 13 th | Patterdale | Stuart Haywood | 01332 882331 |
| | Sat 19 th Sun 20 th | Heathy Lea - Fell Race | Chris Radcliffe & James Pike | 07770 883259 07941 527712 |
| | Sat 26 th | Annual AGM Robin Hood Inn. | Chris Wilson | 01283 520911 |
| | Sun 27 th | Spring Stride | Chris Wilson | 01283 520911 |
| | Wed 30 th | First Evening Outdoor Meet Harborough Rocks | Steve Christian | 01629 825292 |
| | Any March Weekend | Scottish Winter Climbing Meet | Steve Christian | 01629 825292 07824 623945 |
| April | Sat 2 nd Sun 3 rd | Tan yr Wyddfa | John Green | 01332 832101 |
| | Sat 9 th Sun 10 th | Heathy Lea – Rescue & First Aid Weekend | Pete Lancaster | 01142 301136 |
| | Tues 12 th | Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook | | |
| | Fri 22 nd Mon 25 th | Corsica | Simon Pape | 01629 822450 |
| May | Sat 30 th Mon 2 nd | Cadair Idris | Reuben Dakin | 01332 834543 |
| | Tues 10 th | Committee Meets Royal Oak | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|-----------|--|
| | | Ockbrook | | |
| | Sat 14 th Sun 15 th | Tan yr Wyddfa | No Leader | |
| | Sat 28 th Mon 30 th | Fairhead NI. | No Leader | |

Copyright – Oread Mountaineering Club.

Editor: John Green, Ivy Cottage, Church Lane, Morley Derbys. 01332 832101

Email – green71@btinternet.com