

Oread Mountaineering Club Newsletter May 2011



*Dave after the 3rd pitch. On Tower Face of the Comb. VI ****

Editorial. (Last Date for June edition 24/05/11)

It's May again, and I think I've been doing the magazine now for three years, doesn't seem five minutes. I thought it would be nice to recall the fantastic snows of last winter before the rainy season starts again, so I've published Dave Mawer's account of an ascent on the Tower Face of the Ben. Hope you like it, I think it's great! Good to know members are out there doing front end stuff still. Gil Male is bringing back the Edges Meet, sounds fun, and we have a new Meets Secretary in Annegret Siebert who can be contacted on 01332 768860 or 07729 844858 – annegret@physics.org if you want to lead any meets next year. This year still needs a leader for the TYW, BBQ on 18/19th June.

Easter in The Verdon -April 22nd-May 2nd 2011.

Simon Pape.

A small group of Oreads are heading out to the Verdon for Easter and the Royal Wedding. We're staying in St Laurent du Verdon. <http://www.provenceweb.fr/e/alaupro/stlauren/stlauren.htm>

If anyone wants to join us, they're welcome to do so, but will have to make their own arrangements. There's two campsites in the village as well as a few holiday rentals.

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

Cadair Idris - Fri 29th April to Mon 2nd May.

Reuben Dakin.



Cwfrwy Arete -Cadair Idris –Sept 1990

Thanks to the royals, this unexpectedly makes May Day a 4 day weekend. Cadair Idris, inconveniently just under 3000 feet, doesn't get the attention it deserves, with its fine outline uninterrupted by satellite peaks, and the superb corrie of Cwm Cau. There are a good variety of approaches to the mountain via ridges and corries, and renowned climbing on dark Craig Cau and more open Cyfrwy. The wild Rhinogs, beautiful Mawddach estuary and town of Dolgellau are all nearby. We'll be staying at the quiet and remote campsite

at Hafod Dywyll, GR 685159, overlooking the mountain. The campsite has simple facilities of toilets and showers, and costs only £4 per person per night.

If you'd like to come, please let me know at least a week before the date. 01332 834543 / reuben@signet-solutions.com

Tan yr Wyddfa Sat 14th Sun 15th May

This is an open meet without a leader. If you would like to come please book with Colin and enjoy your trip.

Wednesday Evening 18th May

We shall be meeting at the Grouse at Froggatt after climbing in the area.

Fairhead Sat 4th – Mon 6th June

Roger Gibbs & Dave Mawer.

Fair Head is the greatest expanse of climbable rock in Britain or Ireland. It's massive, 100m high for much of its length and forms an impressive bulwark above its extensive boulder fields. It is a place of big skies, big walls and columns and has a compelling, somewhat gothic atmosphere. This is softened at either end as the rock sill tapers off into smaller cliffs and the western end, in particular has a friendlier sunnier aspect. If it was on the mainland it would be busy every weekend, instead you can have the whole place to yourself.

The cliff is formed from a sill of dolerite, which was cooled in columnar form to produce characteristic cracks and chimneys, similar to those of the Giants Causeway. The rock is smooth on the hands, offers great friction and is very sound.

The cliff stretches for three miles, sporting some 366 routes. These are the best that traditional climbing has to offer, straight lines, with striking cracks that shoot up all over the place, providing bomber protection, indeed the phrase "protection on demand," sums up Fair Head Climbing. It is the ultimate climbers' playground and the quantity of three star routes is testament to its brilliance. With short walk ins you can be on a route within ten minutes from leaving the car. Beautiful views stretch over Rathlin Island to the North and the Mull of Kintyre to the East, a spectacle to behold from the solitude of the belay.





Fairhead Cliffs and the Coast to the East

Here is a selection of routes from one weekend a few years ago to whet your appetite:

Midnight Cruiser. Apparently first done in the dark, you certainly wouldn't get lost, all the routes seem to follow superb lines.

Fireball. A little tougher but still giving excellent climbing on perfect rock with gear on demand. A superb jamming crack - get used to it!

The Brassier. Belfast slang for a lady of ill repute apparently. Superb jamming, perfect rock, a superb line, gear on demand. It even has a comfy belay! Both pitches are excellent, but the first one is the crux. Just do it!

Jolly Roger. Well it had to be done didn't it! A committing sequence up the thin crack on the first pitch which Squib led, and then steep and sustained on the (long) pitch two. The best route of its grade in the UK?

Blade Runner. We had to walk all of 20 yards to find another gob smacking line with brilliant climbing. A couple of stiff moves over the bulge on pitch 1 and some steep jamming on pitch 2. Brilliant again, but a little bit dirty in places and the odd bit of suspect rock. Three stars anywhere else but a mere two here!

Equinox. Steep jamming, bridging and laybacking on the first pitch to a cramped stance. Steep and intimidating moves over a small roof on the second. Another contender for the best route at its grade in the country. A bit like Cenotaph Corner but slightly harder, better and not polished.

Salango. Steep and sustained laybacking/jamming up a brilliant line. I know I'm being repetitive but they are stunning! The top pitch was the crux with proper jamming: both feet and both hands in the crack, a bit like being in the US – solid 5.10!

We had a chat to one of the local pioneers, who put up most of the routes we had done. He is still at it 40 years on! And the Guinness is superb! And the craic is mighty – if you manage to get out of the pubs before dawn it'll be a miracle. Please let me or Dave Mawer know if you want to come. Campsite details to follow.

For ferries it costs around £100 more for the holyhead to Dublin ferry which is effectively 3+3 hrs of driving from Derby to Fairhead vs. The Stranaer to Belfast ferry which is 5+1 hrs of driving.

Maguires Strand Caravan Park.

32, Carrickmore Road,

Ballycastle,

Co Antrim.

BT54 6BH.

It's a small site that takes Caravans, Campervans and tents within spitting distance of Fairhead. Not particularly cheap but it has its own beach and the nearest pub is apparently quite near. There are currently 8 pitches for Caravans/campervans left (plus more for tents) so book soon!

Caravans/Campervans are £20 per night and tents are £15-18 depending on size.

No further charges per person (within reason).

I've booked families Mawer and Gibbs on. Please phone the site direct on 02820763294 to book your places if you're coming for some cracktastic adventure! After 6pm is best and mention Oread when you do. Let me or Rog know if your coming too.

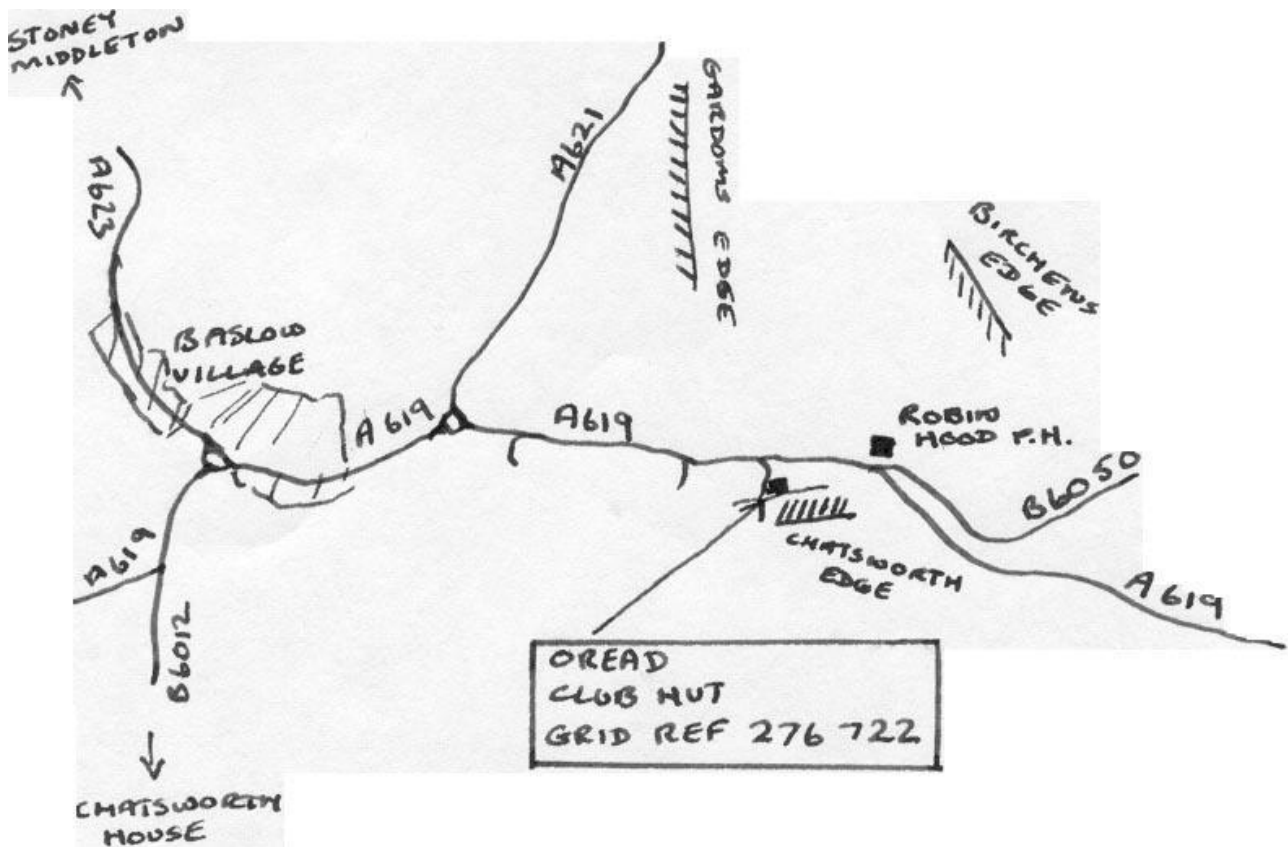
Note from Chris Radcliffe -I noticed in Summit magazine that there is an MCI meet at Fairhead from 3 – 5 June. Last year 150 people turned up at the equivalent meet, so it might be a bit crowded at the end of the week.

Let me or Rog know if your coming too. Roger Gibbs - roger@tilda.com - 07770 237270

Walk and Climb the Edges Meet – Sat 21st Sun 22nd May

Gil Male

Remember last month. I'm sure some of you must! April's Newsletter referred to the long awaited return of the Oread Walk & Climb the Edges Meet. So, forget about the price of oil, the troubles in the NHS and what to do with the hamster today. Come on the meet and have fun. All you need to do is turn up at the pubs and be sociable, irritating, boring or all three at the same time. Alternatively, if you feel like a bit of exercise you can walk from the far end of Stanage to Heathy Lea, do a climb on each of the edges (if you wish) or join in at any point. If you want to know more then look at the sheet "Walk & Climb the Edges" attached to this Newsletter.



If you intend doing the edges walk/climb then please let me know by e-mail (gilemale@aol.com) indicating what nights you will be staying in Heathy Lea. This is important so arrangements can be made to get cars back from Stanage far end at the end of the day. If you want to join in at any point during the day the attached sheet gives approximate times when the meet will be at different points in order to ensure successful and timely arrival at the pubs. Look forward to seeing you.

Retired, forgetful & up for it.

p.s. I have included several lists of various grade climbs that to me seem to be of consistent difficulty in the attached "Walk & Climb the Edges Sheet". Feel free to use any one of these lists or make your own up. Just one warning! From past experience it is best to do only one climb on each edge if you are to keep to the times on the sheet and avoid having to run at some stage.

Walk & Climb the Edges

Date: 21 May 2011

Contact: Gil Male

Home : 01695 625647 Mobile : 07960007643

Timetable: Start Stanage far end **08.45hrs**

(approx.) 2 miles Stanage [Congo corner area] 09.15hrs

5 miles	Burbage North	10.30hrs
6 miles	Burbage South	11.30hrs
8.5 miles	GROUSE INN	13.00hrs
9.5 miles	Froggatt Edge	14.30hrs
11 miles	Curbar Edge	15.45hrs
13 miles	Gardoms Edge	17.30hrs
14 miles	Birchens Edge	18.30hrs
14.5 miles	ROBIN HOOD INN	19.00hrs

Maps & : Ordnance survey – Peak District tourist map

Guidebooks : Stanage Edge (Stanage)

: Burbage North & South Edges (Burbage, Millstone & Beyond)

: Froggatt, Gardoms & Birchens Edges (Froggatt to Black Rocks)

Rules : 1) Meet at Oread hut (see map below) before 08.00hrs (or night before)

: 2) Allocate people to cars and go to start (A57 Glossop/Sheffield road)

: 3) Arrive at pub approximately at times given

: 4) Climb, walk & drink as much as you want!

: 5) You may join at any time or part of the day provided you have transport : 6) **Have fun!**

SUGGESTED COMBINATIONS OF ONE-PITCH ROUTES

Note : the routes have been chosen to be reasonably close together on each crag and of similar difficulty.

[A]

[B]

Stanage Morrison's Redoubt

Stanage Congo Corner

Burbage North Long Tall Sally

Burbage North Knight's Move

Burbage Quarry Bursola

Burbage South Byne's Crack

Froggatt Chequer's Buttress

Froggatt Sundowner

Curbar Peapod

Curbar Avalanche Wall

Gardoms Eye of Faith

Gardoms Finale Groove

Birchens Topsail

Birchens Camperdown Crawl

[C]

[D]

Stanage Mississippi Buttress Direct

Stanage Martello Buttress

Burbage North Mutiny Crack

Burbage North Amazon Crack

Burbage Quarry Fox House Flake

Burbage South The Drainpipe

Froggatt Sunset Crack

Froggatt Green Gut

Curbar PMC 1

Curbar Brindle Crack

Gardoms Velvet Cracks

Gardoms Flake Wall

Birchens Sail Buttress

Birchens Trafalgar Wall

Heathy Lea Working Party & BBQ 11th- 12th June

Mike Hayes

This year's working party will once again be a mixture of cleaning, painting and woodcutting. The Hut is in a good condition and by the time the working party comes around we should even have a new washroom. I would like to encourage as many Oreads to turn up and help, I plan to be there all weekend but even an hour or two will make a real difference. You do not need to bring any tools as these will be provided. If you have a chain saw, then please bring it along.

The weather will of course be good so I plan on having the usual large bonfire on the Saturday evening to get rid of the rubbish. Bring your BBQ and Liquid refreshment and join in the party.

As usual it will also be a good occasion to grab a few hours out on our local crags over the course of the weekend.

So please make the effort and come along to help and support (tea making is appreciated as well!) The Hut is seeing increasing usage and even made a profit last year so we need to make sure we don't let it slip back into disrepair.

If you need more information then please give me a call on 07771700913.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Fun and Games on Tower Face of the Comb.

Dave Mawer.

The alarm goes off at 4.45am. Ouch this hurts. The long drive up with Weston's Deluxe Travel Company resulted in getting to bed at 1.30am. But I mustn't complain about being chauffeured and the tea is nice. By 5.30am we're away treading a familiar yet brutal Achintee path towards Ben Nevis. The seed planted within Roger's mind a week ago is now in full bloom. Enthusiasm hastens our pace as we pass a couple of weary looking climbers and stretch out a lead on Kyya and Graham. But they soon get the better of us when we meet again as we wander around in the clag and snow flurries trying to find the start of our chosen climb.

Finally we find it but we've been piped to the start, so we treat ourselves to a second breakfast and await our turn. They don't take long and Roger is soon on the heels of another Roger (this could be fun) as he leads rightwards out of Comb Gully up a tricky little stepped corner. He disappears from view and I'm left to my thoughts paying out the rope. A shout of safe and it's my turn. I flap my arms in a bid to relieve myself from the cold. The clag is now lifting and the snow has stopped. Hints of blue sky above lift my spirits as the ropes go tight. "That's me" I shout and "climb when ready" comes from above (text book stuff, eh!). The first corner is steeper than expected but has some helpful hooks and I'm soon at the ledge. 10 ft right and I spy the other Roger on the crux groove above which looks quite exciting. But first I have to overcome a short wall split by a thin crack. Blimey this is steep, torquing then a hook, feet skating on bare rock and then a high axe placement in firm nevé, a couple of turfy steps and I join our Roger at his belay.





Roger on the tricky starting groove.

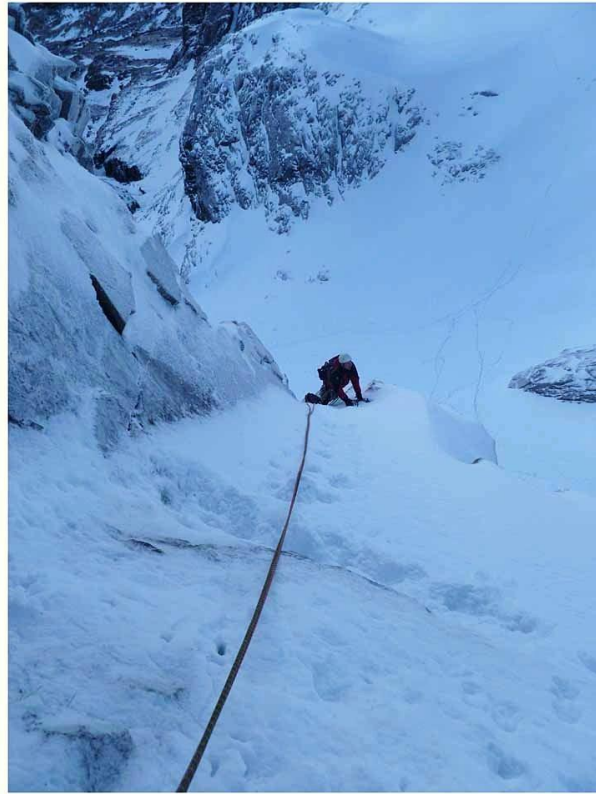
Roger belayed after the 1st pitch.

We wait for the A-team to stretch out a lead after a gear swap and some jelly babies. Now my turn to take the helm I step left from the belay and am suddenly alarmed by the steepness of the groove above. A good nut boosts my resolve and I put my trust in some thin nevé as I heave myself higher. I place a small wire and back it up with a half knocked in peg. Now the groove looks very steep, confirmed by a screaming pair of forearms. Leashless axes allow an easy shake out and I recover a little.

With doubts creeping into my mind I have to raise my mettle. I embark up a flaky right slanting crack with a hook placement here and there, which lands me without a proper foot ledge at the base of a wide crack. Knowing I haven't gear big enough to fit I spy a jammed ping-pong size stone as the crack closes some 2ft higher. With front points precariously biting in thin nevé and axes now at thigh level I manage to thread the stone, with this clipped and my body threatening to shake me off with fatigue I do what everybody does after a moment of extremis. I take my blinkers off, stand up, find a much better axe placement and an easy to place bomber nut. Arrrgh! After a hook over a jutting block which I adorn with a long sling, I then grapple it with both hands, sit on it and then stand on it. A short groove and I'm confronted with a spike of rock as tall as me. I wriggle behind it and stand on its tip aided by thin ice up the open corner behind it. An iced up crack splits the left hand wall into which I hammer in a couple of medium nuts. Then the way is all too obvious, I have to leave my spike and commit myself to the thinly iced corner. After a brief attempt at time wasting there's nothing else to do but go for it. 5ft above the gear I haul on the inch thick ice, 10ft much of the same, 15ft no change. A step left gains steep nevé which sprouts the occasional tuft of turf. Now 60ft out from my last runner, with eyes on stalks I reach a belay a little higher than the A-team's Roger after accepting a kind offer of clipping into his first. And relax.....



Dave starting the crux pitch.



Roger exiting the crux pitch.

I begin to unwind as I take in Roger's rope and take in views of teams on Tower Ridge and Glover's Chimney, the sky now completely blue and the snow reflecting the bright sunshine. The A-team now asserts their prowess as they establish a firm lead. Roger joins me at my belay and we swap gear, his turn once more. The next pitch snaked left, up then right and left again up thinly poorly protected vegetated slabs and grooves. After a wobble or two Roger relaxes in the haven of his belay and his smile returns once more. As I scrape my way to join him I remove the uninspiring gear glad of the rope above.

With time marching on we swap gear once more and I set off. A traverse on snowed ledges, a peg at the base of a groove, help hooks to an impasse. What a sight, I'm on my knees nearly horizontal staring at my rope clipped via a long sling to the peg at the base of the groove 10ft below. The ropes then make an abrupt change in direction back left to Roger. Why am I here? With the only downward option to fall off and the only upward option to keep wriggling horizontally rightward, I wriggle! With knees sliding and axes ripping through soft snow my crampons flap uselessly in thin air. I make an ungainly shuffle and somehow manage to stand up. I place welcome gear and re-gain my composure. When my breathing returns to normal I walk rightward and make a belay over a large spike and prepare myself for a display of mountaineering competence. After a giggle or two for me and much huffing and puffing from Roger he regains his upright stature and walked across to join me. Looking up we have one hard pitch to go to easy ground. The daylight is fading and time is against us. With our way home barred by a frighteningly steep wall I accept my duty (as it was my silly idea) and lead off. Some torquing, a nut, hooks along a flake, a footless swing followed by a hand jam and a heel hook (what?), a wriggle and a helmet jam. I make it to the niche place two cams and flit rightwards across a wall putting all faith in unseen nevé far above. I whoop down to Roger, drape a sling around a block, knock in a large hex higher up and continue to belay on the crest above. I sit, at peace in the gathering gloom with a smile from ear to ear. Some hysterical screaming from a second on Tower Ridge breaks the silence and I'm soon joined by Roger at my belay. Jelly babies in, head torches on, then we run out a full rope length each over a rocky step and we're on the top looking down at the lights of Fort William.

We revel in our success, pack gear; text loved ones and begin the trudge back to civilisation. An hour or two later we're greeted by Graham, a slightly tipsy Kyya, a pint of beer and a plate full of pie and chips each. A perfect end to a perfect day!

Fell Race – Heathy Lea Sunday, March 20th 2011



Team in Chatsworth Park.



Track up to Baslow Edge.

Conditions were cloudy with occasional sunny intervals, the ground generally dry, so excellent conditions for a fell race. However, as only 6 members turned up with 3 at least minded to walk rather than run, it is clear that there is no longer any appetite for this meet on the Oread Meets calendar.



Traditional belay and rope work

on PMC 1, Curbar Edge.



White Edge trig point.

We opted to walk the “climbers option” of the proposed fell race route and enjoyed an excellent 8.3 mile round of the local moors, with climbing on Baslow, Curbar and Birchen Edges. Walking into Chatsworth Park from Heathy Lea, we passed through Baslow and up to the “Gullies Wall” area on the Edge where half-a-dozen routes were soloed. Continuing to Curbar Edge there was a traditionally roped ascent of PMC 1 and a solitary solo of Calver Chimney before Derek took us on a direct line to White Edge trig point. Then down to Barbrook Bridge and directly up to the Birchen Edge trig point, where a couple of “Emma’s” were climbed before the pull of the Robin Hood pub became overwhelming and we celebrated a good day in a time honoured manner.

Thanks to Derek, Joan, James, Mick and Gill for supporting me on the meet.

Tan Yr Wyddfa 2nd/3rd April

John Green

Friday afternoon saw Sylvia and I arrive at the hut just as the rains started. A fire was built and some jobs done before going down to the Cwellyn for a pint. James Pike, his children Teresa and Jacob and Annegret Sieberg had arrived when I returned.

Saturday saw Annegret and myself finding an interesting way up the South Buttress of Moel Hebog in glorious sunshine! The rest of the traverse followed and a trek through the forest brought us back to the hut for dinner. James and family had been down to the seaside at Blackrock Sands and done some “climbing”. Sylvia just enjoyed a relaxing day in the village. Sunday was back to normal with heavy showers, so it was a trip to Bodnant Gardens for Annegret and the Greens while the Pikes went on a train journey in Betws-y-Coed. A very poorly attended meet, shame really as Saturday’s weather was great. Many Thanks to those who came, your company was much appreciated.



P1010446.JPG Crossing the terrace Saturday, April 02, 2011



P1010448.JPG Summit of Moel Hebog 782m Saturday, April 02, 2011

Annegret on the Traverse

Summit - Moel Hebog

Note from Dave Appleby

Apparently this is a standard procedure all paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone.

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As

cell(mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE.'

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1,ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference!

Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today! ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.

Notes from Reuben.

Application for Membership

The committee have received an application for membership from Jeff Ingman. It is proposed to accept his application unless any objection is received from the membership.

Winter Evening Lectures Leader Needed

Tony Howard has made a great success of these over the last few years, but calls on his time dictate that there's the opportunity for new blood this year. Please contact the president if you're interested.

Committee Members Needed

There are also vacancies for two committee members "without portfolio" - if you can spare a couple of hours once a month to help with the running of the club, your input will be much appreciated.

New Members.

A warm welcome to Angus O'Connor who has joined us as a prospective member. I hope he enjoys getting out and meeting everyone. He can be contacted by email on angusroconnor@yahoo.com

Hut Bookings for March

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

HEATHY LEA

May 20/21st. Chris Wilson/Gill Male cottage/barn

June 3/4th. D, Thornton cottage/barn

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

May 6/7th J. Linney 3 beds

May 13/15th Oread meet.

May 20/21st. Pennine Club 16 beds

May 27/30th. Spring B.H. vacant

June 3/4th.

Vacant

PLEASE NOTE THAT I WILL BE AWAY FROM MAY 6-13th.

last minute bookings to Chuck Hooley.

Forthcoming Meets

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 21 st Sun 22 nd	Derbyshire Edges Walk & Climb	Gil Male	01695 625647
	Sat 28 th Mon 30 th	Fairhead NI.	Roger Gibbs	01246 238039
June	Sat 11 th Sun 12 th	Heathy Lea Work Party	Mike Hayes	01530 231401
	Tues 14 th	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 18 th Sun 19 th	Tan yr Wyddfa BBQ	No Leader	
	Wed 22 nd	Longest(Wednes)day	Steve Christian	01629 825292 07824 623945
	Sat 25 th Sun 26 th	Gogarth	Dave Mawer	01332 512459
July	Sat 2 nd Sun 3 rd	TYD Work Party	Tony Howard	01332 273307
	Tues 12 th	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 23 rd Sun 7 th Aug	Vicosprano, Bregaglia, Switzerland	No Leader	

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