

Oread Mountaineering Club

July August 2011



The Giant's Causeway – County Antrim

Editorial. (Last Date for Sept edition 25/08/11)

High Summer and some of us will be going to the Alps and climbing great things. We have the Alpine Meet of course and the Pembroke Bank Holiday weekend. Roger and Dave have done a superb write up of their time at Fairhead in Northern Ireland and our main article follows the same theme by Chris Radcliffe about the Mourne Marathon in 2008.

2011-2012 Winter Meets Leader Appeal.

Chris Wilson.

Each month last winter an average of 39 people enjoyed a wonderful indoor meets programme at the Royal Oak in Ockbrook co-ordinated by Tony Howard, who has also taken on the role of Hut Custodian at Tan yr Wyddfa and plays a very active part on the Committee. Understandably Tony has decided to relinquish his role as organiser. Four years ago Tony took over from Tim Cairns who was preceded by Rob Tresidder. For years they have been some of the Oread's best attended meets and for the majority of recent years have also made a profit for the club.

Recent issues of the newsletter have appealed for volunteers to come forward to organise them without avail. Individuals have been contacted, again without success. The Committee is already short of staff and its members feel unable to take on this role in addition to their normal jobs.

Were the indoor meets to cease the Oread would be losing some of the few meets that appeal to, and are attended by, all generations of Oreads. I believe that were they to cease it would represent a very large nail in the Oread coffin. Attendance at these meets is in distinct contrast to, for example, summer Wednesday evenings when we're sometimes lucky to have half a dozen along. Weekend meets are not much better.

So, rather than see their demise, the Committee is making one final appeal. This time we're not asking for someone to do the whole thing, which is understandably a big job especially following on from the last few organisers.

Have you been to one of our indoor winter meets in the last few years? Did you enjoy it? If the answer is 'Yes', are you willing to help organise ONE evening? You don't even need to organise the whole event. Just offer to put the seats out, give a talk, get a speaker, put on a film, organise a skittles evening – JUST ANYTHING.

You can be very sure of one thing – if you don't, no one else will and the Winter meets will have ended forever. I do believe that it will not be long thereafter before Rule 7 (5) is then invoked.

If you are prepared to help do something please contact me or any other Committee member as soon as possible, because we will need to cancel our bookings at the Royal Oak very soon. Chris Wilson, 0788 1698758 or c.wilson.48@btinternet.com

Tan yr Wyddfa Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd July

Tony Howard

Unfortunately this meet is cancelled because there are no Hut Sub-Committee members available to lead the meet. We will try to arrange another date ASAP.

The hut is of course booked for Oread use, so please feel free to go down there for the weekend. Book in with Colin as usual please. Sorry about this,

Tony Howard, Hut Custodian

Summer Alpine Meet in the Bregaglia 23 July to 7 August (+/- a few days)

Chris Wilson

For all of you who are undecided where to spend your summer, there's still time to come and join the fun! If you've been to the Bregaglia before and thought you'd done it all, think again. You'll be surprised how many new pleasures are available.

A read through the guidebooks should whet your appetite, so here's a list of some of them:

Walks in the Engadine, by Kev Reynolds, published by Cicerone (2005). 100 walks and treks in the area from 1 hour to several days.

Via Ferrata Switzerland by Iris Kurschner, Rother Walking Guide (2005). All via ferrata and many secured paths. But only 1 (easy) one near us.

Mello Boulder. Biocchi in Valtellina e Valchiavenna, with English version

Valtellina Valchiavenna Engadina, Falesie e vie sportive; with English version; Edizioni versante sud; Collana Luoghi Verticali (2011). Written by Lisignoli, Pavan and Quintavalla.

Covers the "vast mountainous territory which goes from the Val Chiavenna valley to the Stelvio pass, from the valleys of Valtellina as far as the Swiss valleys of the Bregaglia and Engadine." Does not cover the high areas such as at Albigna. There has been an explosion of newly developed crags and sports routes in recent years. 99 crags are described!! 27 are around Chiavenna, 4 near Sils just up from Vicosoprano and 5 between Pontresina and Cavaglia. Single and multi-pitch valley crags with routes from Easy to unclimbable.

Bregaglia Climbing '08: Sciora Badile. Selected rock climbing guide to the Bondasca valley including the Sciora and Badile. Chris Mellor, Wanton Group (2008). Comes as a download from internet with

79 A4 pages of topos, descriptions and some really good photos.

Bregaglia Climbing: Albigna. A Selected Rock Climbing Guide to the Albigna. Includes Piz Frachiccio, Roda Val della Neve, Al Gal, Vergine, Spazzacaldeira. Chris Mellor, Wanton Group (2007). Comes as a download from internet with 108 A4 pages of topos, descriptions and more good photos.

Bernina and Bregaglia, Selected Climbs, by Linsay Griffin, Alpine Club (1995). Although this is decidedly dated in comparison to the other it does cover the Bernina. (I don't know if there is anything more recent for this area)

Maps, Kompass sheet No. 92. Chiavenna Val Bregaglia. 1:50,000. Takes you as far East as the Forno hut. Sheet 93 then follows eastwards.

Don't forget the mountain biking, white water rafting, windsurfing and relaxing.

The campsite fees quoted in the June newsletter are correct. The campsite has made provisional bookings for us (although most are pretty vague on travel arrangements at the moment). They have reserved a "nice place" for us and it's looking like we'll have quite a sizeable collection of members out there.

I'm setting sail on Thursday 21 July. During a leisurely drive to the mountains the intention is to sample climbing / walking in the Ardennes and also the Vosges and Alsace, reaching Vicosoprano possibly on Sunday 24 July.

Pembroke Meet 27th to 29th August.

Annegret Seibert

This years Pembrokeshire meet is intended to take place at St Davids in Wales. I would be interested in knowing who would like to climb there. The meeting is intended for 26-30 August, with options to extend. There are plenty of things to do, such as cycling, walking and climbing with very nice coastal cliff views.

There are plenty of easy climbs in the area, for those of you who like to check now in the internet, the link is:

<http://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crag.php?id=1265>

More information in St Davids in general can be found in the following website:

<http://www.stdavidsinfo.org.uk/?gclid=COmm8ufBzqkCFQEd4QodPALEMQ>

For cultural interest or rainy days there is a glass studio, and 2 art galleries in St Davids.

For outdoor interests walking on the coastal path can be a nice day out. Cycling should also be possible, and a list of restaurants in the area can be found in the link. A watermill is in the area, and of course plenty of activities involving the beach. Are you ready for a late summer holiday with climbing activities and plenty of interesting alternatives?

Please contact Annegret Siebert – 01332-768860 – for bookings.

Lundy - September 10th to 17th.

Derek Pike.

The Barn has been booked from the 10th Sept. to the 17th Sept. 2011. It accommodates just fourteen people. The club has been here many times before and we have found the climbing superb. Lundy lies off the coast of North Devon, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Bristol Channel with nothing between it and America, a granite outcrop, three and a half miles long and half a mile wide. It is the UK's first Marine Reserve. Some of the climbs are in the league of best in Britain. Albion and Diamond Solitaire being excellent VS routes, with the classic Devil's Slide to keep them company at VDiff. Getting there is by boat, the MS Oldenburg runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Bideford and Ilfracombe.



The Devil's Slide and line of Albion - Lundy

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Fairhead Sat 4th – Mon 6th June

Roger Gibbs & Dave Mawer.

Fairhead is the best crag in the UK. I've thought this since my first visit in 2006 and now I have a few more who agree with me.

With the weather forecast looking a little dicey, a small but intrepid group of Oread's (families Gibbs, Mawer and Mowbray plus Alan Monks (a soon to be prospective member we hope!) and his wife Nicki) assembled at Maguire's Strand Caravan and Camping park. Although on first acquaintance our residence resembled a car park, its proximity to the crag, our own beach and the views of Rathlin Island warmed us to it over the week. As the week progressed, heavy showers gave way to wall to wall sunshine with everyone getting sunburnt and Alison even removed her new duvet jacket!

Everyone managed an adventure or three from surfing to climbing via kiting, sightseeing, some serious sand castles and the odd ice cream, from the single pitch routes of 'The Prow' to the full on multi-pitch adventures the main areas provided. At the risk of appearing snobbish routes with less than 3 stars were ignored, but with so many to go at you would, wouldn't you?

Climbing highlights included an impressive ascent of a soaking wet E3 called Jolly Roger by Team Gnarl (Mike and Alan); a phenomenal 60m pitch up the main groove of an E2 called Scorpion by Dave and Roger; and a fearsomely overhanging HVS/E5 called Hell's Kitchen by Victoria and Roger (just the best route in the world).

The surfers were content with plenty of emerald waves. There was enough wind for the Mowbray power kite to drag would-be suitors down the beach and for Roger to abandon a beach tent to the sea. The famed Ballycastle ice cream parlours satisfied young and not so young, the fish that got away was gigantic, the Giant's Causeway was fabulous and Mowbray wine tasting evenings were legendary! Oh and did someone mention Guinness?

Team Gnarl headed off for a final blast before heading back to Blighty while the rest of the team managed a few more routes and some ice cream. Mike dropped us a note with their thoughts: "Alan and I did Face Value E4, 6a, 6a. We agreed it was at least the equal best route we have ever done. All very exposed but safe on fabulous rock and interesting sustained climbing." High praise from a couple of climbers with 60+ years of experience all around the world.

Just in case you're not convinced perhaps I should add that we saw three other teams all week on a three mile long crag.

Mourne Mountain Marathon – September 2008

Chris Radcliffe.

Gill had teamed up with a friend from the Totley AC to run the 2-day Mourne Mountain Marathon in mid-September. As I had never been to Northern Ireland I went along as well, both to visit the Mourne's and also to visit Fairhead crag.



Gill & Kate at the start.



The Mourne Wall.

The trip started with a tension filled drive to East Midlands airport as the M1 ground to a halt. However taking an alternative route and putting my foot down a bit got us there in time. From Belfast International airport we had a 1 ½ hour drive to a hostel in Attical, near Newcastle, not far from the border with the Republic on the east coast. Next morning I took Gill and Kate to the start of the race and watched them set off for 2 days of fun navigating across trackless areas of the Mourne Mountains and an overnight camp. They were fortunate to have excellent weather for the event.

I had quite a long drive to Fairhead on the north coast, close to Ballycastle. I had taken climbing gear with me hoping I might find someone to climb with, but despite the fine weather I didn't see any climbers. My plan was to descend Grey Man's Gully at one end of the cliff and traverse under the climbs and emerge out of the Ballycastle Gully descent at the other end. It seemed simple on paper, but I got more of a workout than I bargained for as at beach level it was almost impossible to traverse huge boulders and intermediate vegetation. I opted to climb back up to the cliff which now seemed to be very impressive with a slightly forbidding atmosphere as it faced north. I found it totally desperate to climb up bouldery slabs and dense

vegetation, falling into hidden holes and lacerated by briars. Eventually I escaped lathered in sweat and enjoyed the experience in a perverse kind of way.

I relaxed in Ballycastle before taking in the Giant's Causeway and then the long drive back to Attical. The hostel was closed for Saturday night but the staff had trusted me with the key and allowed me to stay there anyway – I was most impressed by their friendliness.



Overnight Camp.



The Mourne Wall Again

Next morning I went back up to the race base in the Annalong valley (now deserted as the first runners were not expected before midday). In brilliant weather I did my own round of the main mountains: Slieve Binnian – Douglas Crag – Slieveamagan – Cove Mountain – Slieve Commedagh – Slieve Donard – Chimney Rock Mountain – Rocky Mountain. A tiring but great day. One of the impressive features of these hills – not unlike the Lake District in many ways – was the Mourne Wall. This impressive feature follows the main ridges and was built over 25 years in the early part of the 20th century when the area was designated to provide reservoirs to supply Belfast. The wall is up to 15ft high in places and is in good condition. In poor weather it provides a bit of reassurance when navigating on the hills.

I got back to the race start at much the same time as Gill and Kate. There had been quite a few parties in their class that had dropped out or been timed out, so they were really chuffed to complete the course successfully. We returned to the airport in plenty of time for the return flight, only to find it was delayed for 2 hours. Despite this we had all had a memorable weekend.

Heathy Lea Work Party 11th & 12th June.

Mike Hayes.

Saturday morning and I was not the most popular parent, Emma and Tom for some strange unexplained reason don't like being woken up at 7.00am but that only seems to make it more fun for me.

Arriving at the hut at 9.00 we set about preparing the list of jobs and sorting the tools. It was as usual a quiet start but eventually others started to arrive and were set to work. The noise levels increased significantly mid morning when Snod arrived for a guest appearance and by the afternoon work was in full swing with door painting, roof and gutter cleaning, grass cutting, wood collecting and cutting, fire alarm fitting the highlights of a busy day.

The evening BBQ was a great success with the younger generation building it and the older generation sitting round it until the early hours of the morning.

Sunday started early with clear sky's, a few jobs were finished off and several parties scurried off to Birchens only to be met by the rain that had been predicted. The rest of the team did some tidying up and then re-painted the kitchen floor and put up a notice of No entry on pain of death!

A very successful meet and thanks to all those who attended



Dave Mawer clearing moss off the roof and filling the gutters I had just cleaned !!!

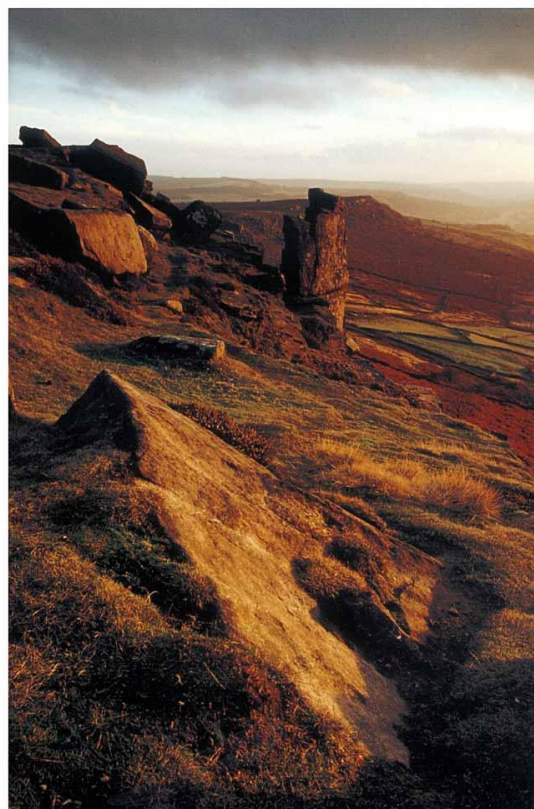
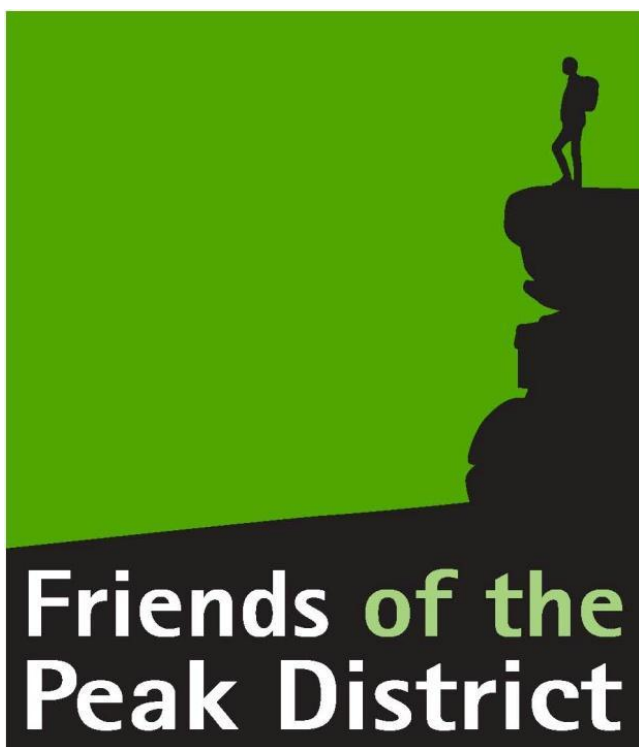
The Workers: Pete and Ali Kennington, Chris Wilson, Gil Male, Richard Hopkinson, Snod, Dave and Tullan Mawer, Graham Weston, Michael, Emma and Tom Hayes.

The BBQ party animals: Sharon, Rog and Ben Gibbs, Alison, Nea and Lyra Weston.

Friends of the Peak District

Friends of the Peak District is the only charity that protects the landscapes of Britain's first national park. For nearly 90 years, the charity has had an impressive history of safeguarding the Peak District's awe-inspiring edges, hills and crags for people to enjoy.

More recently, Friends of the Peak District was part of the National Trust and RSPB's bid to manage the Eastern Moors estate near Sheffield. This area includes the popular and high quality crags at Froggat, Curbar and Birchen Edge. We want to see the land being managed in a way that has a strong balance of both recreation and conservation. We're currently keeping an eye on what's happening over at the Roaches, which the Peak District National Park Authority is offering for sale or lease. Again we think it's crucial to ensure that this internationally important site is protected - and that the needs of climbers, walkers and visitors who value this iconic landscape are taken into account too.



Curbar Edge – Sheila Curzon

Friends of the Peak District members are people who love the landscapes of the Peak District and want to it safeguarded for future generations. We do regular conservation volunteering and in the past we've worked with BMC to maintain the popular climbing venue at Horseshoe Quarry. It is easy to join, and costs less than £3 a month. There are more details at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk

If you want to meet us face to face, there are a couple of great events coming up. Our annual Love the Peak Week is 27 August to 4 September and includes:

Peak Pub Challenge, Saturday 3 September Join us to celebrate the Peak District's 60th birthday with a tour of some of the National Park's most beloved pubs.

Peak Birthday Bike Ride, Sunday 28 August Saddle up with Racing TNT (the largest Triathlon team in the region) and cycle through the Peak District to raise funds and awareness of the charity.

There's information about our other events (including a brewery tour and landscape photography workshop) at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk. And if you're in or around Sheffield on 2 or 3 July, then we're sharing a stand with Alpkit at this year's Cliffhanger. Do come along and say hello!

To find out more, give us a ring on 0114 266 5822 or email danny@friendsofthepeak.org.uk

Handbook for 2011

Tony Howard

The Handbook for 2011 is attached with this Newsletter. You will note that the Climbers Club has now been omitted from the list of clubs with whom we have Reciprocal Rights. This is because the CC does not recognize any such arrangement with us. It would appear that they have not done so for years, but we had not picked up on it. Chris Radcliffe has a reference to a possible arrangement within Oread documents back in the 1970's, but we have found nothing more recent. In fact I personally cannot see much benefit to the CC in such a scheme, because our two huts are in the same areas as theirs – so if we did have an arrangement in the past I would not expect them to want to renew it. On the other hand, the clubs with whom we do have Reciprocal Rights have huts in locations that complement ours very well and are used by Oread members.

Hut Bookings for July/August.

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

Please note that I will be away between July 2nd - July 28th. hut bookings, enquires to Chuck Hooley please.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

HEATHY LEA

July 1/2nd M. Keeling 3 beds.

July 1/2nd S. Christian cottage/barn.

July 8th. Skyline MC 16 beds.

August 5/6th. Tuesday C C cottage.

July 11-13th G. Davies 6 beds.

July 12-14th. P. Norris 5 beds.

July 22nd - August 31st school holidays, reserved for members and guest.(no bookings.)

August 17th-21st mini work party, Tony Howard.

New Members

We have a new prospective member who has joined us, Robin Vaughan-Williams. He can be contacted on 07888 834110 or by email on robinrvw@gmail.com We wish him many enjoyable climbs with us and look forward to seeing him on weekend meets.

We would also like to welcome John Ingmanto full membership as from the last committee meeting. Contact details as previous.

Forthcoming Meets

July	Sat 2 nd Sun 3 rd	Tan yr Wyddfa	Colin Hobday	01332 551594
	Tues 12 th	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Wed 20 th	Evening Meet & The Moon Pub.		
	Sat 23 rd July Sun 7 th Aug	Vicosprano, Bregaglia, Switzerland	Chris Wilson	01283 520911
August	Wed 17 th	Evening Meet & The Monsal Head Pub.		
	Sat 27 th to Mon 29 th	Summer Bank Holiday in Pembroke.	Annegret Seibert	01332 768860
September	Tues 13 th	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 10 th to Sat 17 th	Lundy	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	Wed 21 st	Last Evening Meet & Balti	Simon Pape	01629 822450
October	Tues 4 th	Evening Meet at Royal Oak Ockbrook	No Leader	
	Tues 11 th	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 8 th Sun 9 th	Little Langdale	John Green	01332 832101
	Sat 29 th Sun 30 th	Curry Meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	Tony Howard	01332 273307

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