

# Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

**April 2012**



**In the spring an Oread's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of rock.**

(Chris, Snod, Simon and Martin disporting themselves at sunny Birchens.)

## **Editorial.**

Well, this is a scary moment - my first attempt to edit and distribute your newsletter. First of all a huge thank you to John who has made the newsletter into such an attractive, professional and informative magazine over the last four years. If I manage to produce something similar that will be entirely due to John's splendid organisation, the hours he spent preparing to hand it over and the patience with which he showed me exactly how everything is done. Thanks also to everyone who has rallied round and sent me write-ups for this issue, without me even having to nag! Keep up the good work folks.

Meanwhile, Spring has sprung, and how! Was there ever such a week of summer in March? The clocks have gone forward, the light nights are upon us, along with the regular Wednesday meets, see below for next month's dates, and here's hoping for a sunny Easter and lots of good times on the crag.

## **What's on.**

### **Wednesday evenings.**

It's that time of year again:

4 April      Birchens.      Robin Hood.

11 April     Wildcat.          County & Station, Matlock Bath.

18 April Lawrencefield. The Millstone.

25 April Cratcliffe. Miners' Standard, Winster.

## **Easter Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Chris Wilson/Roger Gibbs**

Teams are heading for Fontainebleau and Burgundy in search of sunshine. If you have a last minute urge to get away contact either of the above for details. Otherwise plenty of folk will be enjoying Easter in Derbyshire so no excuse for not hitting the rock somewhere.

## **Yahoo Group arranged Meet 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> April**

Keep an eye on the emails and be part of it!

## **Beginners' Meet: Heathy Lea 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Gill Heys/Sally Dipple**



Two years ago the Club held a highly successful meet at Birchen Crag which provided new members of the club with basic instruction to climbing outdoors and also the opportunity to meet members.

Once again BMC funding has allowed us to book a qualified climbing instructor and to make the meet a success we need established members to join in.

This meet is a two day event, based at Heathy Lea, starting at 10 am both days, with space for 18 at the club hut. £6 per night for non-members.

Please come along – whether as a beginner or as an established member - to make this meet a convivial event.

Contact – Gill Radcliffe on 07816 072138 [gill@farfields.co.uk](mailto:gill@farfields.co.uk) or Sally Dipple on 07764 207992 [sd@uwclub.net](mailto:sd@uwclub.net)

## **Yorkshire Grit Meet 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Chris Wilson**

I'm intending to spend Saturday on Brimham. A myriad of "boulders" to get lost in with some fantastic routes on which to either test or simply enjoy yourself. Sunday's venue will be decided on Saturday night, so if you're only coming for the day, you'll need to phone or text in the morning. Could it be Ilkley, or Almscliff, or somewhere else? They're all good and very different from our usual Peak District haunts.

If you're heading for Steve Bennett's meet in Coniston on the early May Day holiday the following weekend and only come for a day, that will be quite acceptable. It's an easy drive so please come!

The area is well known for its wonderful walking. Should the weather be particularly bad the district is littered with things to do and see, so there appears to be no excuse not to turn up.

I've found a campsite that's reasonably central to everything: Yorkshire Hussar Inn Holiday Caravan Park, Markington, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 3NR. Tel 01765 677327 email [enquiry@yorkshire-hussar-inn.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@yorkshire-hussar-inn.co.uk) and their web site is [www.yorkshire-hussar-inn.co.uk](http://www.yorkshire-hussar-inn.co.uk). Its £16 per night and looks good. They also have caravans at £60 to £80 per night. And there's 2 pubs on the doorstep! Please make your own booking – I've warned them that we're coming.

Chris Wilson, 01283 520911 or 07881 698758, email [c.wilson.48@btinternet.com](mailto:c.wilson.48@btinternet.com)

## **Low House Coniston-May Bank Holiday 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Steve Bennett**

For those who are unfamiliar with Low House the cottage is situated just off the centre of Coniston and only a few minutes' walk from a choice of four pubs and the local shops. We have 14 beds available on a first come first served basis. The hut accommodation is excellent and is in fact pretty much on a par with our own hut Tan yr Wyddfa.

The local attractions are all fairly obvious with climbing, walking and cycling at all standards. Personally I am hoping to climb on Dow and maybe White Ghyll but, as I will be attending the meet in transit from Scotland, I will have my bike available should it be required as a poor weather option.

I am giving early notice for this meet as it is the first one for me at this hut and I want to give members the opportunity to plan ahead. To book your bed and for possible car sharing please give me a call or send an email.

01332 516367 - 07795 511582 - [steve@apexdesigns.biz](mailto:steve@apexdesigns.biz)

## **Cornwall 2-5 June 2012**

**Roy Eyre**

I intend to book the camp site at Botallack again this year so make a note in your diaries for either the long weekend or the full week. Hope to see you there.

**Reiff Sea Cliffs "Rogue" Meet 4th - 8th June, 2012. - Dave and Victoria Mawer.**

Where can you count more stars than the Climbing Works on a wet Sunday afternoon? No, not Mike

Mowbray's operating theatre, it's Reiff. Perched upon the Rubha Mor peninsula overlooking the Summer Isles, they reside in an area of North West Scotland known as Assynt, meaning "rocky place", north of Ullapool.

If climbing classic single pitch routes from VD to E5+ isn't your thing then move on to the next article in the newsletter, but "Do not pass Go" or "Collect £200". Originally our plan was a small family and friends holiday to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, but good secrets never last, word has spread and the throng has grown now warranting "Rogue" meet status.

The majority of routes at Reiff begin from non-tidal platforms; they are 15-25m long on finest Lewisian Granite and require an abseil approach. For those wanting extra adventure the Old Man of Stoer lies 12 miles north as the crow flies and the mountain crags of Stac Pollaidh are 8 miles east if you need to escape from the heat of the seaside. For more info and some inspiring photos see <http://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/page.php?id=2050>

We will be staying at Port A Bhaigh campsite <http://www.portabhaig.co.uk/> in the hamlet of Altandhu, which they describe as having an "open, airy feel", so be prepared! It is a family friendly site next to a small rocky bay, where you can launch small boats/kayaks, so the sea faring folk amongst us will be happy. There is hard standing for 40+ caravans/motorhomes (26 with electric) and space for 50 tents. If you fancy a trip to "Stanage by the Sea" please book the site yourselves and put (Oread) after your surname and the campsite owners will reserve us pitches near to each other.

Email me at [dtmawer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dtmawer@yahoo.co.uk) or phone/text Dave on 07790715520 or Victoria on 07947832986 if you need any other information/inspiration. Our core dates at Reiff will be Monday 4th to Friday 8th, June as we will be pootling up in our ageing campervan. Those with fast cars or more holiday may wish to stay longer.....

## **Alpine Meet: 28 July – 12 August 2012.**

### **Pete Lancaster**

We have chosen Val Ferret as the venue for this year. We had a very enjoyable time here in 2000 and felt that another visit would be good. For those that do not know the place, it is on the south, Italian, side of Monte Bianco. It has all the things that a club alpine meet could want for climbers and their families. There are the big mountain routes, smaller mountain routes, long bolted granite rock routes in a true mountain environment, 'roadside' cragging and excellent walking which could include sections of the Tour de Mont Blanc. I am intending to book the same campsite that we used last time which was comfortable and not too expensive and there is the town of Courmayeur just down the valley for some homely comforts and farther down the valley there is the ancient town of Aosta.

If any of you are intending to attend, even if not yet certain, then please let me know soon. In that way I will be able to make (hopefully) a booking with approximate numbers.

Contact me at: [petel1952@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petel1952@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01142 301136.

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets.**

### **The Bullstones Virgin**

#### **Jan Wilson**

Being an experienced Derby Nomad and a veteran of several long distance trails I was confident this Bullstones thing bragged about by the Oread was probably a piece of cake. After all I had completed the Dales Way with detours to ensure lots of upland and I had done several Oread walks which seemed pretty easy to me so it was with an air of cockiness I suggested to he who must be obeyed that it really was bad

form if the President couldn't turn out for the Bullstones meet. He seemed a little reluctant but at the last minute we joined up for Pam's fabulous high level wander in the Dales.

Friday night saw us struggling to find food near Leyburn (the locals don't eat out, being tight Yorkshire men). A great steak followed by vast quantities of alcohol, as directed by Derek Pyke, and we flogged off steeply up hill through beautiful snow to find a bivvy spot. The President had insisted on packing both sacks because he's the experienced mountaineer. No surprise then when there are no tent pegs for the lovely little bivvy tent we borrowed from The Snod. Resourceful as ever we improvised with sticks. Breakfast was a cholesterol treat of bacon brunch which went down a treat and the greatest man in the world (Nodge) took some stuff back to his car to lighten the load.

The walk commenced in earnest!!! Deep drifted snow and temperatures around 1 C made for really heavy conditions with ice underneath adding to the drama. After one hour I realised at the pace we were travelling we were in for around 10 hours of hard work on the leg muscles but hey it would good for the gluteals. The sense of humour waned a little when I dropped through the snow and filled one boot with water, particularly as we had none to drink, so it all seemed somewhat ironic. Lunch break was a ten minute breather at a shooting stand, eating some melted snow and a disgusting healthy bar. The flog continued.

By mid afternoon we reached one of my favourite spots up above Cray and in sight of the White Lion. Tragically, since I had had several brilliant sessions in this establishment and we still had 4 miles to go, we had to continue. By the time we reached the camping barn I was on another plane. Quite which one I am unsure but I do remember sitting staring into space, drinking water, then tea for some time before a semblance of normality returned to my brain. The unbelievable Nodge had carried booze miles to this barn and wine, soup, pasta and cake turned me and a few others from knackered grumps into mellow folk. We had a great evening with tremendous 'crack'. Stories of famous Bullstones adventures, Roy Eyre's cooking prowess in adversity and general 'mick' taking all making for a jolly good time being had by all.

On Sunday morning the world had been transformed overnight with a complete thaw. The return walk was a doddle and we reached the pub by 1pm. What can I say following the experience? Respect to the Oreaders (harder folk than I thought), thanks a million to Pam for organising it and Nodge for the booze and portering. It was a great deal of fun, a wonderful challenge and a brilliant antidote to all that unnecessary Christmas brouhaha that envelopes the nation. To all the attendees mega thanks, I'll treasure the memories. To the rest of you considering 2012 Bullstones adventure - give it a go - you may just find it addictive.

## **John Welbourne**

### **Pete Janes.**

John Welbourne passed away in his sleep, two weeks after his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday in January of this year. It was a peaceful way to end a life that had seen a gradual deterioration in its quality for at least a year.

I will always remember John as he was when I joined the Mercury cycling club with two other friends. We were looking for a star to guide us and John, who was a club senior, seemed to have the right qualifications. He had only recently cycled through the night with Ted Upton to North Wales to spend Easter at "Idwal" youth hostel. They had climbed on Idwal slabs and Tryfan before returning home by the same means. To us lads with our black all steel bikes this was the stuff of legends. The simple message he imparted to us novices and others like us was "if you had a bicycle, a rucksack, a pair of boots and a Y.H.A. card you could embrace the great outdoors and be your own man". We spent many good times with him putting this into practice in Derbyshire.

But John was a man with a mission in a sense we did not fully comprehend at that time. He was a freelance and his motto became "freedom at any price". He was not constrained by any of the preconceived notions of service to the firm, the family or fellow men. He had just had three years of wartime service in the Royal Navy and he obviously felt that he had already met his obligations to save the country.

In 1947 he migrated to Norway and he stayed there for at least five years working on the Norwegian railways. He learned to speak Norwegian and became a competitive cross country skier. His attraction to Norway stayed with him all his life. On his return, in 1952, he joined the Oread Mountaineering Club and was a member for 60 years. He was made an honorary member in 1984. Also on his return he was asked by Showell Styles to join the 1952 British Lyngen expedition to northern Norway as a climber and interpreter. In his book "Mountains of the Midnight Sun" Styles observed that John was tall and lean with blue eyes and black hair. He was obviously going to be a successful interpreter, particularly when information was sought from a local woman. Also his cheerfulness and endurance proved to be limitless. John returned to Lyngen the following year, climbing a new mountain peak which he named Ruthtind in honour of the young woman, Ruth, who was about to become his wife.

In 1955 John and I spent a lot of time in each other's company, walking and climbing in Derbyshire and Wales. He was a good partner to have on the rope but the fact that he was very tall and able to reach half way up the next pitch gave me some problems when he was leading. Most of these weekends were spent under canvas and the camp rules which he employed were heavy with regulations. One untenable rule was that the primus and its use was not allowed inside the tent. This led to some difficulty when it was pouring with rain. Also his six-foot-and-counting body filled more than half the tent; part of the remaining floor space was always taken up with four very large sandwich parcels packed up by his mum for her undernourished boy. They were marked with the day of consumption and the relevant meal. In the limited space and darkness there was a real danger that I could use them as a pillow. On one occasion I asked his mother why his weight did not increase with so much carbohydrate and she said "unfortunately he's putting the food into a poor skin".

In 1956 he married Ruth and became a father of two daughters, Lisa and Helga, born in 1962 and 1964 respectively. In 1966 he took a post at Wrexham Technical College as lecturer in engineering welding. As a result the family moved to Bangor-is-y-coed. I believe the years that followed his marriage were some of the happiest of his life. He very obviously had abandoned his motto of "freedom at any price" and replaced it with the mantra "Ruth and family come before all". Ruth was a very strong minded lady with good organisational skills which she applied to some of their subsequent long distance mountain expeditions. After John's retirement in 1988, they travelled extensively to distant mountain ranges in New Zealand, South Africa, Iceland, Greenland and of course, Norway.

Sadly, after Ruth's death in 1997, John's drive seemed to leave him but he joined the Oread 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary visit to the Himalayas led by Bob Pettigrew. He was to return on two further occasions, the last time at the age of 79 when he made a triumphant descent from the mountain on the back of a yak.

John Welbourne has left us with a wealth of memories of those occasions and experiences which we shared with him. I believe the greatest contribution he made to those with whom he came into contact was that he was a force for good; a teacher in all the essential elements of the good life. I was proud to be his friend.

### **Bill Kenyon**

This appreciation has very kindly been supplied by Geoffrey R Barker,

President: Derby Nomad Ramblers

**WILLIAM KENYON 28<sup>th</sup> February 1932 - 7th February 2012**

**Cyclist - Rambler - Fell Runner - Mountaineer - Leader - Yorkshireman**

Bill was a born of coal-mining stock in Doncaster but became a railwayman and served his time in Doncaster Works followed by National Service in the Army. Later, Bill extended his horizons by pursuing a

year's Educational Training at Huddersfield Polytechnic before arriving in Derby in 1958 to work at Normanton Road College of Technology as a Welding Tutor.

Coming to Derbyshire was to be a turning-point and triggered a whole new way of life .... Bill met and married Ann in 1960 and between them produced John and Carol. He joined Derby Nomad Ramblers, becoming a leading light and served the Club as Treasurer and Chairman - he was bestowed Honorary Membership for his loyal contribution in 2004. Bill's enthusiasm for cycling continued and he developed as an accomplished Fell-Runner. His membership of the Clogwyn Mountaineering Club as well as the Oread Mountaineering Club provided further to quench a thirst for high mountain trekking which included the Himalaya, Australia and North America.

Bill was an Assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and through his work at Wilmorton College he encouraged many young people to embrace outdoor pursuits and to take an interest in nature which Bill also gloried in.

Bill's competitive edge meant that he liked to be in front - he was a 'one-off' and a character who will be missed by all who were inspired by his leadership qualities and navigational skills.. He would always respond to a challenge.....

In retirement, he became a leader for Waymark, Ramblers, and HF Holidays taking walking parties to the mountain regions of Europe and New Zealand. Bill maintained a prime level of physical fitness but very sadly, succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease.

### **REST IN PEACE**

Our sincere condolences go to Ann, John and Carol, and to his devoted grand-children Sophie, Libby, Enan, Clementine and Violet.

Oread members particularly recall Bill as "a lovely man, always kind, friendly and helpful". "Bill, with a smile on his face, always so keen to know where I'd been cycling. He described the places he'd been so vividly".

His fitness was legendary, he scored a first for the Oread when he completed the 211 mile John Muir Trail from Yosemite to Mt Whitney with Ann in the 1980s. Chris Radcliffe recalls competing with him in the Langdale Fell Race "when I had just turned 50 and hoped I could do well in my new age group. I was simply not fit enough and Bill passed me with the usual words of encouragement, although he was over 60 at the time".

In 1992 Bill climbed Mt Kenya (and paid for the rope!) In 1994, following in the footsteps of Dennis Davies, he climbed the Nepalese peak of Parchamo, over 6,000m. to place the Austrian Alpine Club flag on the summit. In 1998 he completed the Annapurna Circuit, and as a result decided to pay for a Nepalese man to go to climbing school. His generosity also led him to raise money for the families deprived of their fathers in the Rob Hall ascent of Everest so that the eldest sons could be taught a trade. Bill shared his experiences of some of these expeditions at Oread winter lectures. It is less well known that Bill turned some of his experiences into vivid poems: one of these will appear in the next issue.

### **Information on Member Activities.**

Reuben will be producing a new membership list next month so make sure he knows of any recent changes to your contact details.

## **Alleged Criminal Activity.**

### **Rob Tresidder**

It has been suggested to me that I have been somewhat coy about my involvement with UKUncut. Just to say that I was arrested on a demonstration in March last year. I was acquitted of the charge of aggravated trespass last week. I have no wish to abuse the pages of the newsletter, just a desire to forestall any alarmist rumours!

## **Hut Bookings for April.**

*Please note that hut fees should always be paid to me and no one else. "Whole Hut" includes the Oread room! Thanks, Colin Hobday.*

### **TAN-YR-WYDDFA**

**APRIL 6/7th.            Easter                    2 places booked**

**APRIL 13/14th        K. Fellfarers            Whole hut.**

**APRIL 20/21st.        Bewdley MC            16 beds.**

**APRIL 23/27th.        Friends T. Smedley    5 beds.**

**APRIL 27/30th.        Gordon Gadsby        whole hut.**

**MAY 4/7th            May Day                vacant.**

### **HEATHY LEA**

**APRIL 13/14th        D. Helliwell            cottage/barn.**

**APRIL 20/21st        Oread meet**

**APRIL 27/28th D. Stapleton (youth group) cottage/barn.**

**MAY 4/7th. May Day vacant.**

**Please note that I will be away until April 15th. Hut enquiries to Chuck Hooley please.**

## **Forthcoming Meets**

<b>April</b>	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Easter in France	Roger Gibbs/Chris Wilson	01246 238039/01283 520911
	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Yahoo Group arranged meet	Yahoo Group	
	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Beginners Meet, Heathy Lea	Gill Heys	07816 072138
<b>May</b>	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Yorkshire Grit	Chris Wilson	01283 520911
	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Low House Coniston	Steve Bennett	01332 516367
	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
<b>June</b>	Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Northumberland	Dave Helliwell	012980812753
	Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Cornwall	Roy Eyre	01623 469658
	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Heathy Lea Working Party/BBQ	Mike Hayes	01530 231401
	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tan yr Wyddfa BBQ	Tony Howard	01332 273307
	Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Yahoo Group arranged meet	Yahoo Group	

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