

# Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

September 2012



**Victoria Mawer leading the last pitch of Dream of White Horses.**

## Editorial

So, most of us are back from our summer holidays, hopefully having found a little bit of sun somewhere along the way.

What was the highlight of your summer? Let me have a photo and just a few words to make a scrapbook of good days out for the October issue.

This issue has some good meets coming up, plus entertaining write-ups of the Barbecue Meet, Walking and Climbing the Edges and stirring stuff at Gogarth. Who dropped what in the sea this year? Read on to find out!

Less happily we have a serious problem at Tan yr Wyddfa which has forced the committee to close the hut with immediate effect as Tony explains below.

### **Tan yr Wyddfa temporary closure.**

#### **Tony Howard**

We have had a new outbreak of dry rot at Tan Yr Wyddfa. Fruiting bodies have appeared in the kitchen window and on the first floor lower landing close to the toilet door. Rotten wood has been found in the upstairs toilet and the bedroom above the kitchen.

Dry rot requires a source of moisture to get established and we have found a site of substantial leakage into the walls in this area; that is an extremely poor seal between the lower (extension) roof and the main building wall that it butts up against. The walls in this area & all along the Y Garn side of the extension, including the downstairs toilets are very damp.



Pam Storer & I met a dry rot specialist & a builder at TYW on Wednesday & I am expecting a report from them in the next few days. Once we have this, the main Committee & Hut Sub-Committee will get together in a special meeting to decide how to proceed & how much work we want done. Cost will be a key issue here. I will provide more detail on this later. I have been promised that remediation & building work could

start within about two weeks of receiving our instructions to proceed. The amount of the work required will not be known until all contaminated & damaged areas have been identified. However, initial estimates are that the hut might be back in use within 3 to 4 weeks of the start of the work. Our aim is of course to place contracts for the work as quickly as possible.

**In the meantime, & in Colin's absence, we the committees have decided to close the hut to all but those involved with the repairs. If you have booked places at TYW between now and the end of October please regard them as cancelled. I'm sorry about this, but the conditions in parts of the hut are now unpleasant & could be unsafe. The closure is necessary for the health & safety of the membership & visitors and to minimize further damage to the property or the spread of dry rot spores. If you have a booking after October, please consult Colin for advice nearer the time. We will keep you all informed of developments through all our communication channels, including the Newsletter & the website.**

Ever since I have been an Oread member I have been told that TYW is an old building with rubble walls & no damp course so we must accept that the walls will be damp in places. I no longer believe this & I don't think we can afford to accept this position any longer, given the presence of dry rot spores in the hut. Acceptance of damp walls makes us all complacent when a leak such as the present one first manifests itself. Another couple of incidents like this could bankrupt the Club. The Committees will now consider proactive ways of achieving a drier structure at TYW. A big improvement has already been achieved since the new drain was fitted at the front of the hut. This was achieved because Tony Smedley questioned the conventional Oread view about drainage in this area.

## **What's on.**

### **Wednesday evenings.**

- |          |  |                      |
|----------|--|----------------------|
| 5 Sept.  | Cratcliffe -Miners Standard - if wet   | Wirksworth Wall      |
| 12 Sept. | Coleshill Quarry Cromford - Royal Oak, Wirksworth - if wet                       | Wirksworth Wall      |
| 19 Sept. | End of Wed. night outside climbing, Matlock area followed<br>Matlock Bath Balti. | by an evening in the |

See below for details.

### **Clwyd Limestone. 8-9 September**

#### **Derek Pike**

This meet was originally a one day climbing meet which has now been elevated to weekend status.

I plan to keep it as a climbing meet but as there are other Oreads who may prefer a long walk to a pub or just a wander around the beautiful Dee Valley I am proposing to lead a walk on the Saturday in the fine weather that I have just booked.

Any Oreads who may wish to come just for the day will be made most welcome and they can find out where we will be by phoning or text to my mobile which will be turned on for that weekend.

We shall be camping, caravanning, motor homing, at the Carrog Station Campsite some seven and a half mile west of Llangollen by road just to the north of the A5. [S.J. G.R.116436]. This is a pleasant site with basic facilities i.e. toilets and tap, its own nearby railway station and the Grouse Inn five minutes walk away, where I shall be found on the Friday night testing the beer.

You will need to book your own pitch direct to site, I have told them we are coming.

Carrog Station Campsite- [enquiries@stationcampsite.com](mailto:enquiries@stationcampsite.com)

Telephone 01490 430347 mobile 07977211046 office hours 9-20.00

Post Code LL219BD

Hope to see you all there. Any more info required phone 01332 670459 my mobile number for the weekend is 07876238312.

## **Rescue weekend 15-16 September**

**Pete Lancaster**

An extended 'improvised rescue' weekend with the first day covering the basics and the second dealing with more elaborate situations. There is still one space on the course. If you are interested or want to know more please contact me straight away. Contact details: [petel1952@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petel1952@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 0114 2301136

## **End of Summer Curry Meet - Wednesday 19 September Simon Pape**

You know the drill by now. To celebrate the end of summer, such as it's been, we go out climbing and then go for a curry in Matlock Bath. I've had teams out checking the quality of the crags and they're up to their normal high standard. Pic Tor and the left wing of High Tor have been cleaned specially, if you fancy somewhere slightly different. Maggie and I have checked regularly that standards haven't slipped at the curry house in the past year (the things we do for the Oread!). I couldn't get a table until 9, so we might just have to meet in the County and Station beforehand.

Let me know if you're coming.

Simon tel. 01629 822450/07813 616563 [simon.pape@eon.com](mailto:simon.pape@eon.com)

## **TYW Work Meet 22-23 September 2012**

## **Tony Howard**

A small working meet will still take place, in spite of the problems at the hut, as some work will be needed to prepare for the builders coming in.

Tony Howard.

Email: [tony.howard46@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.howard46@btinternet.com) tel. 0776 226 8181 01332 273 307

### **63rd Annual Dinner – Preliminary Notice.**

**Saturday 17 November 2012. Richard Hopkinson.**

**Please make sure you've got this date in your diary.**

This year's annual dinner will again be held at The Bluebell Inn, Tissington, on Saturday 17th of November, 6.30 onwards to sit down at 7.30. The cost is £20.00 per person or £15.00 per child, for 3 courses. Sorry about the increase, all due to the Bluebell putting up their prices. The menu and other details will be published with the October Newsletter.

At present we do not have a guest speaker. I have been given a couple of ideas, if anyone else has any please get in touch. However, should these not materialise, the format of the last two years, where an "elder" of the Club gives a short talk, has been well received. So I may well revert to this format, providing I can find a volunteer! Any offers would be gratefully received.

Re accommodation if anybody wants to stay overnight there is plenty in the area although not at the Bluebell, and there wasn't any problem last year with parking camper vans in the car park.

There will be a walk on the Sunday.

If anybody has any questions please don't hesitate to contact me, my home telephone is 01629 823392, I'm also emailable at [richard.hop@w3z.co.uk](mailto:richard.hop@w3z.co.uk) .

### **Draft Meets List for 2013**

Dear Oreads,

Below is a rough draft for next year's meets. It is not set in gritstone or limestone and will be amended as necessary as all the volunteers amongst you fill in the **Leader Required** spaces. There are a lot of gaps so if you have a meet to offer please let me know. I will try to spread the meets evenly so that two away meets do not occur on consecutive weekends. Also a number will be Yahoo group, arranged short notice, meets i.e. winter climbing.

Derek Pike. Meets Secretary. Tel 01332 670459. [derepike1234@btinternet.com](mailto:derepike1234@btinternet.com)

### Draft Meets List 2013.

January.	New Years Day Walk.		Rusty?
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> .			
12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> .			
19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> .	Swanage.		Derek Pike.
26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> .			
February.			
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> .	T.Y.W.		Leader?
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> .			
16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> .	Stair. Fylde		Leader?
23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> .			
March.			
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> .			
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> .	Patterdale.		Stuart Haywood.
16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> .			
23 <sup>rd</sup> .	A.G.M.	Heathy Lea.	Dave Roscoe.
24 <sup>th</sup> .	Spring Stride.		Leader?
27 <sup>th</sup> .	First Wed Outside		Leader?
29 <sup>th</sup> -1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter.		Leader?
April.			
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> .			
13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> .	Heathy Lea		Leader?
20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> .	T.Y.W.		Leader?
27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> .			
May.			
4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> . B.H.	Low House.	Coniston.	Steve Bennett.
11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> .			
18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> .			
25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> B.H.	Gower?	Tides favourable	Derek Pike
June.			
1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> .			
8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> .			

15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> .	Heathy Lea W.P?	Barbecue?	
22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> .	T.Y.W.		Leader?
29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> .			
July.			
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> .			
13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> .	High House.	K. Fellfarers.	Leader?
20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> .			
27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> .	Alpine Meet.		Leader?
August.			
3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> .	Alpine Meet.		
10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> .	Alpine Meet.		
17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> .			
24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> . B.H	Pembrokeshire?		Leader?
September.			
31 <sup>st</sup> Aug. -1 <sup>st</sup> .			
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> .			
14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> .	Lundy.		Derek Pike.
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> .	Lundy.		
28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> .	Heathy Lea.		Leader?
October.			
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> .			
12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> .			
19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> .			
26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> .	T.Y.W.	Curry Meet.	Tony Howard.
November.			
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> .	Heathy Lea.	Bonfire Meet.	Leader?
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> .			
16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> .			
23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> .			
December.			
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov-1 <sup>st</sup> .	Patterdale.	G. Starkey.	Tony Howard.
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> .	Bullstones.		Leader?
11 <sup>th</sup> .	Black Rocks.		Rob. Tresidder?
14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> .			
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> .	Xmas at T.Y.W.		Leader?
28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> .			

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

**Tan yr Wyddfa BBQ 23 - 24 June 2012**

**Tony Howard**

We had a full complement and two on a waiting list on Wednesday. But the weather omens looked bad and the rats scattered for shelter in all directions. Nonetheless 13 Oreads and friends braved possible cold, wet and perhaps even a fate worse than a fate worse than death, to arrive at TYW by midnight on Friday.

After a showery night Saturday morning presented wet ground but no rain. It was dull with low cloud on the higher hills; some of it as ominous as the forecast predicted. Prospective Members Tom and Jacqui Knox set off for some real climbing: Slanting Buttress on Lliwedd. We later discovered that they achieved this comfortably in showery and damp conditions; a good effort.

After the usual Oread deliberation; enough of it for Pam and Nodge to cut the grass, the rest of us opted for a low level walk taking in the Nanmor valley from Beddgelert.

We left the car park in Beddgelert at about 11 am and walked in a roughly north easterly direction to the edge of Lyn Dinas, from where we turned eastwards over the low hills. The high point in every sense was Hafod Owen, a lonely white cottage from where we could see both the Snowdon group & Cnicht. Here Chris had a déjà vu moment. It was, he thought, a cottage he visited as a schoolboy. The image of Chris in smartly pressed grey shorts, school tie and cap in the company of others similarly attired, was irresistible! Ok I didn't think of it at the time but it makes me smile now! We pressed on, reaching the Nanmore valley and lunch at the road bridge by about 1 pm. We had donned waterproofs several times by this stage but each downpour proved to be all bark and no bite.

It brightened up after lunch, I think? Or was that just me seeing things more cheerfully after eating? We continued our stroll round the circuit till we reached a farm on a hill at 'Carnedd' from where we got a view across towards Aberglaslyn Hall. The return stage saw us admiring a chunky steam loco near Nantmor and the river Glaslyn in spate from the Fisherman's path. A visit to the ice cream shop in Beddgelert was unavoidable.

After a leisurely start, the bar-B-Q eventually began in a leeward position and the usual array of beefy and veggie things were heated and consumed. Free G&T's were offered and accepted by most – though some, or should I say one, drank more than others! Mike and Helen drove the long but brief journey back to Leicestershire.

Sunday dawned with Saturday's face. Pam and Nodge had disappeared on a pre-planned Geology field trip. Tom and Jacqui went mountain biking in the Clwydian hills. Angus, Annegret and Paulo set off for the Glyders. Chris and Gill chose Mynydd Mawr. It was a weekend of exercise, fun and good humour, despite the weather. Thanks to all who braved the elements to make it another gud'un!

**Walk and Climb the Edges Meet – 7 July 2012.**

## Gil Male

The latest Oread Walk and Climb the Edges meet. Another triumph of personal skill, endeavour, eloquence and fashion or something like that. A total of 12 Oread, 2 Derwent (DMC) and 1 Nottingham Climbers Club (NCC) members turned up and walked from Stanage High Neb to Birchen's Edge and onwards to the Robin Hood pub. At various points en route an additional 7 Oread's were met and involved themselves in the proceedings (i.e. walking, climbing, story telling and pubs). Jolly good eh! Now we're cooking on gas.



Unlike last year everything went boringly to plan until a very heavy spell of rain hit us on Froggatt edge. This meant we all got wet, very wet, in a very short period of time. But a little precipitation doesn't dampen the hearts of determined, committed and optimistic souls. No, no, quite the opposite. Onwards we go! The need to move on quickly was particularly strong amongst those who bumped into Sally Dipple and Tim Cairns wearing a pair of Primark, ladies section, fluorescent yellow, saggly tights on top of Sunset Slab. Yes, it was Tim wearing them!

Good to see that Oread individuality, dress sense and financial acumen remain despite the marketing efforts of Berghaus, Rab, Mountain Equipment and the like. He was adamant they were a good fit and excellent value. However, they were a strain on the eyes and I don't blame those who felt the need to move on quickly. Nevertheless, it takes a brave person to be a style setter. Good on yer, Tim.

Despite the midday rain and sight of Tim's tights the meet was a success. Teams walked from High Neb to the Robin Hood, climbed on all seven crags (Stanage, Burbage North & South, Froggatt, Curbar, Gardoms and Birchens) and visited both pubs (Grouse & Robin Hood). Occasional sightings were made of the Roscoe/Mowbray team as we all followed their dust cloud from the start and more frequent sightings were

made of the Snod/ex Pres Wilson team who stolidly fought their way up some particularly soggy routes in the afternoon session before emerging triumphant at the Robin Hood. Good efforts.

Thanks to David (Snod) Helliwell, Richard Hopkinson, Jeff Ingham, Pete (el Pres) Lancaster, Mike Mowbray, Simon Pape, Angela Pingram, Chris Radcliffe, Dave Roscoe, Roland Smith, Chris (ex Pres) Wilson, Martin Lancaster & Christine (DMC) and Phil Brown (NCC) who went from High Neb to the Robin Hood. Also, to Rob & Jane Tressider, Sue Lancaster, Reuben & Chiz Dakin, Tim Cairns and Sally Dipple who appeared en route.

Many said they were looking forward to next year's Climb the Edges Meet. Excellent! May the tradition of exploration, tales of daring do and never letting the truth stand in the way of a good story continue. I'm up for it!

Photo by Richard Hopkinson (Thanks)

## **Gogarth 14-15 July 2012**

### **Dave Mawer**

Stop the press! The Met Office **can** forecast weather. Similar to last year's meet, heavy rain through Friday night was followed by Saturday dawning bright and clear – and, not surprisingly, damp. We assembled within the campsite bar on Friday night and following a sterling effort (particularly from Mike Mowbray) the draught beer ran out.

Roger, Sharon, Ben and Nana showed their mettle by arriving later on Saturday morning non-stop from the Picos de Europa. Dave Roscoe managed to scratch his new caravan in a manoeuvring mistake, but undeterred by this expense, he later jettisoned part of his rack into the Irish sea. Oooops!



On Saturday morning Simon, Martin, Roland and Angela visited Wen Zawn area. All climbed Britomatis and Toiler of the sea in various forms. Victoria and I went to the Main Cliff to do Stimulator and The Eternal Optimist after Bran Flake on Holyhead Mountain. Castell Helen entertained the remainder of the team with both Pete, Dave, Roger and Mike making ascents of True Moments/Freebird and fortunately for Sharon, Roger's "travel hysteria" was remedied with a dose of adventure on Kalahari.

To round off a splendid day copious amounts of wine, beer and vodka plus a large cheese board were devoured well into Saturday night.

Sunday brought more good weather but with the addition of a stiff breeze. Simon and Martin plumped for the Main Cliff and climbed Gogarth before heading back to Castell Helen for Northwest Passage. Angela and Roland plumped for Resolution direct followed by some moth spotting with a local expert. Mike, Pete and Dave climbed the Ramp and the Gauntlet on the right hand Main Cliff.

Meanwhile Victoria and I kept Roger and Sharon company on Wen as we climbed A Dream of White Horses. A fine weekend was had by all, but unfortunately Alison Mowbray can confirm there is only 1 puffin left in North Wales.

*Roger and Sharon on Wen.*

## **Information on Member Activities.**

An application for ordinary membership has been received from Angus O'Connor. Any members with any comments on his application should please contact the secretary or membership secretary.

Welcome to new prospective members Jacqui Knox, Tom Hawkins, Robert Barton & John Ritchie. We look forward to seeing you on club meets and progressing to full membership.

## **Ernie Phillips.**

A couple of appreciations of Ernie Phillips, relating to his generous bequest of around £190,000 to the Climbers Club to be spent on the Count House, Bosigran, have appeared in a recent Climbers Club journal. For copyright reasons I have not reprinted them in our newsletter but please let me know if you would like to see them.

## **Via ferrata sets: Edelrid issue safety recall**

On the 5th August, a fatal fall occurred on the Ottenalm-Klettersteig (difficulty C/D). A modern Klettersteig Set from the EDELRID company, (model Cable Lite - year of construction 2011) didn't withstand the burden of the fall - both load arms tore apart! Michael Larcher was called in as expert by the public prosecutor's office Innsbruck. In close cooperation with the alpine police and the expert of the EDELRID company, the cause of the accident is now being intensively researched. All that can be said at present: An application mistake by the 17-year old casualty (first supposition) can be excluded.

Moreover, extensive tests with used sets of this construction (from other distribution places) so far indicate a hidden defect in the particular band construction of the elastic karabiner branches. Sets of this construction age especially quickly! This means that the shear/tear strength of the ribbons clearly already lies below the demanded normal values after relatively short use.

Edelrid recently made the following statement:

"I am contacting you today to make you aware of a precautionary product recall of EDELRID Via Ferrata sets following a fatal accident on 5 August 2012. This recall effects the following models manufactured during the seasons 2010, 2011, 2012:

Cable Lite. Cable Comfort. Brenta Comfort. Cable Lite 2.0. Cable Comfort 2.0  
Cable Kit 4.0. Xtra-Light Schuster

It has been found that, in certain cases the webbing of the elasticated webbing branches, after increased use, may no longer meet the relevant safety standards. Thus the protective requirements of a Via Ferrata Set are no longer met or can only be met in part, which in the case of a fall could result in serious injury or death. With this in mind we are advising all end users to **DISCONTINUE USE OF THESE SETS IMMEDIATELY**. We are advising all parties to visit: <http://www.edelrid.de/en/recall/> to obtain further information as to the effected sets and details of the returns procedure.

# Hut Bookings for September.

## HEATHY LEA

Sept. 14/15th. Oread meet

Sept. 21/22nd York Alpine Club cottage

## TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Closed until further notice.

Will those with outstanding hut fees please pay A.S.A.P.

Please note that I will be away from Sept. 4 - 18th. any hut enquiries to Chuck Hooley

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

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

Thanks, Colin Hobday.

## Forthcoming Meets

### August

Sat 25 Mon 27	South Pembroke	Mike Mowbray	01636 815382
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### September

Sat 1 Sun 2	Yahoo Group		
Sat 8 Sun 9	Clwyd Limestone	Derek Pike	01332 670459
Tues. 11 Sept	Committee meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		

<b>October</b>	Sat 15 Sun 16	Advanced Rescue Techniques. Heathy Lea.	Pete Lancaster	0114 2301136
	Sat 22 Sun 23	TyW Working Party	Tony Howard	01332 273307
	Sat 29 Sun 30	Yahoo Group		
	Sat 6 Sun 7	Dartmoor	Steve Bennett	01332 516367
	Tues. 9 Sept.	Committee meets Royal Oak Ockbrook		
	Sat 27 Sun 28	TyW Curry Meet	Tony Howard	01332 273307

**Finally, a little inspiration for us all to make the most of every opportunity:**



**our noble leader bouldering on Arran!**

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Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB

**Tel.** 01629 56636 07999 857 922

**Email** – [alister.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alister.ruth@btinternet.com)