



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2013



A real Winter?

Jeff Ingman enjoying fantastic winter conditions in the Cairngorms, early December 2012: right exit of Goat Track Gully. Photo by Jon Shields.

Editorial

This newsletter contains the **meets list** for the whole of 2013 – get it all in your diary now! For more about our front page pic read Jeff's article – the first individual story I have received this year. I'm a nice, kind editor, I don't nag and winge at you – much- but it would be good to have more personal stories to amuse and inspire us.

I seem to have become somewhat strident and bossy in this issue, but, if you haven't paid your subs yet, you are giving poor Reuben a hard time when he really doesn't need it, and there are a few other good folk who have given a lot to

the club over many years who would like to hand over their committee jobs to somebody else. Could it be you? I recommend it, more fun than work!

What's on.

Last Year's Lost Curry Meet Resurrected: 2 – 3 February at Tan yr Wyddfa Tony Howard

Still just time to sign up for this meet.

If you would like to come along and if you would be willing to do some cooking, please let me know ASAP.

[P.S. this arrangement does not affect the usual October Curry Meet 2013 which is scheduled into the meets list as well.]

Tony Howard:

Fourth evening meet: Rock Hudson Tuesday, 5 February. 8 p.m. The Royal Oak, Ockbrook

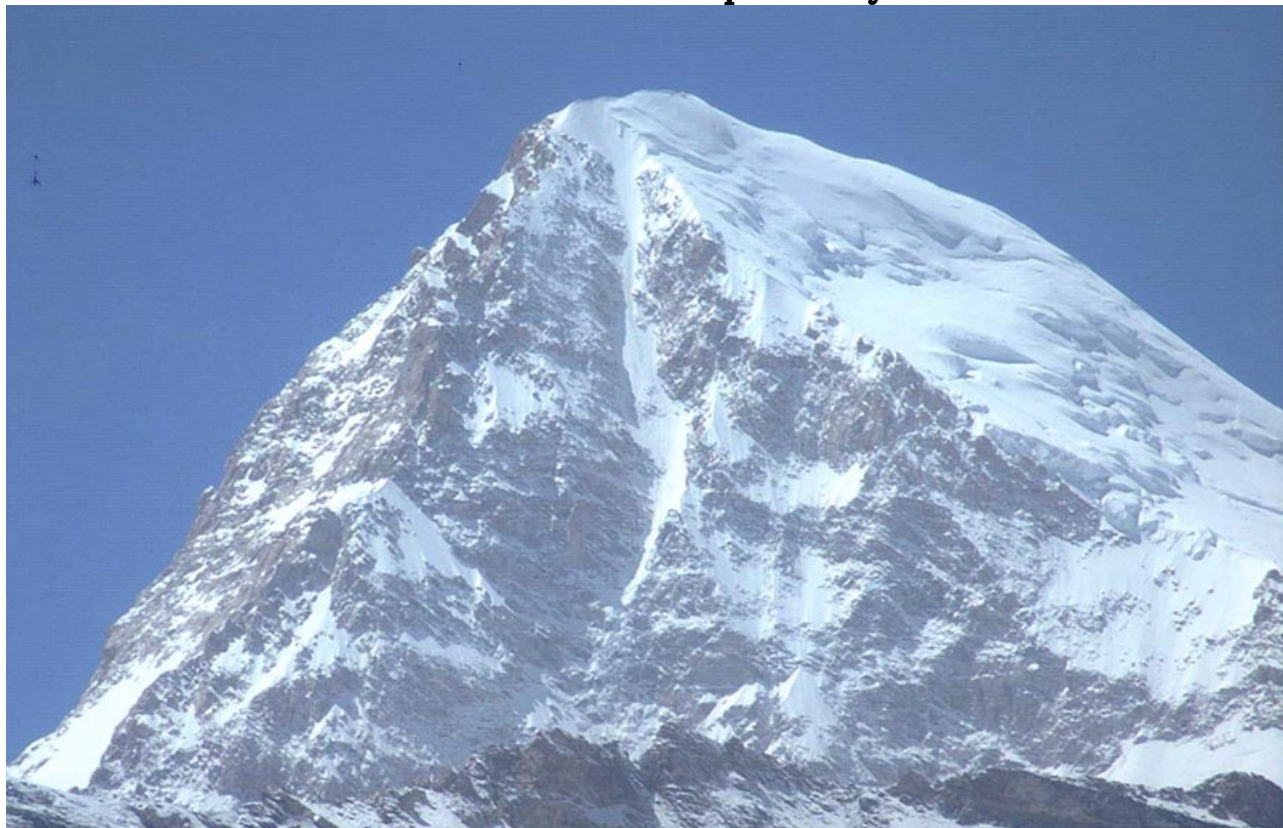
Rock Hudson will talk about two trips to the Himalaya:

Four Go to Baruntse



and

Kamet: In the Footsteps of Smythe



Stair 16 -17 February.

This is a hut swap meet with the Fylde M.C. As there is no leader for this meet anyone who would like to go may obtain the key from Colin. This is a well appointed hut in a quiet and delightful corner of the Lake District and even has an excellent pub within walking distance.

Swanage

This trip, postponed due to the cold weather, may still happen on a weekend in February or March. Contact Derek Pike if you are interested.

Night Nav Round Two: 27 February 2013 Farley Woods

The Derwent MC are again cordially inviting all Oreads foolish enough to join them on a series of three evenings blundering around the moors searching for miniscule flags which may well be in the wrong place. The second event will be on Wednesday 27 February, in Farley Woods above Matlock, starting around 6.30 to 7.00pm. More details by email nearer the time or contact Ruth Gordon.

Patterdale – 9 - 10 March Stuart Haywood

It's obviously very difficult to add anything new to the usual Newsletter article regarding this traditional meet; climbing, scrambling, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing and gear shopping are all available in the immediate vicinity of the hut. Accordingly the only variable will as usual be the weather, and bearing in mind last year's experience I certainly can't make any promises on this score!

Over the next week or so I will endeavour to contact the 'usual suspects' but in the meantime if you want to book a berth please let me know. I will of course reply to all e-mail and voicemail messages to confirm bookings. Also if you are looking for, or can offer lifts, please let me know.

Gower – 24 - 26 May Derek Pike

As the Gower is a very popular spot and being on the doorstep of Swansea this note is given well in advance to enable anyone who wishes to attend ample opportunity to book an expensive pitch. All pitches are expensive in the Gower. There is something for everyone, walking, kite flying, wind surfing, in fact a great holiday destination. Oh! Nearly forgot the climbing. Must be something for everyone from short diffs to E 5 and beyond. Three Tors on the vast expanse of sand which is Oxwich Bay permits climbing straight off the beach, or it does until the tide comes in and makes your feet wet, it offers routes from mainly diff to H.V.S. A little to the south west of Port Eynon the boiler Slab offers more routes from V.D. to E3. As you can see I've already got my eye on a few of the crags with routes that I might be able to climb so those members who wish to climb something much harder will have to consult the guidebook, mine has around two hundred pages devoted just to the Gower. We shall be staying at Bank Farm Leisure, Scurlage, Reynoldston, Swansea SA31BA , 01792 390228 , G.R. 473860. They will try to keep us together if you mention my name when booking.
Booking is advisable within the next month or so if you want a pitch anywhere on the Gower.

Derek Pike

Pembrokeshire 24-26 August.

This meet does not have a leader at the moment and I need to fill my list. So please step forward all you keen climbers out there.

Derek Pike, Meets Sec.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Post Prandial Walk 18th November 2012 Tony Howard

I suggested arrival at the car park in Alstonefield at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. I arrived at about 10:30! Most were waiting. The weather was clear & sunny. The Past President but 5 and the Vicar were parked in front of me also “*nearly late*” & donning their footwear from the back of their brand new though strangely familiar car. Three were AWOL. A message explained that Pam & Nodge were stranded at the Bluebell awaiting divine help to get their van started. Snod was just AWOL.

Nonetheless there were 15 of us who set off north along the road. After a kilometer we veered west on footpaths towards Top of Ecton. On the way a text arrived. The Chemist was Late, because his old motor cycle was being stubborn. It had taken 45 minutes to persuade the old gent to fire up; the vintage Ariel that is, not the Late Chemist. He would see us in the pub.



Just before Top of Ecton we turned SW past the Sugar Loaf to Dale Farm. Two days earlier I had been halted here by a large group of cows & young bulls in a narrow valley. This time I would be brave; I would rely on safety in numbers and like any good general,

lead from the back! Unfortunately those already in front needed direction at the last set of stiles & I found myself in front, but with John Green by my side. As it turned out, the cattle were absent, so we entered the Manifold valley at Wetton Mill without incident.

We continued on past Thor's Cave, to arrive at the Royal Oak in Wetton at 1 pm. The Late Chemist and the errant old Ariel were waiting for us, as was the Past President but 8 and his push bike plus a few more. Pam & Nodge arrived on foot shortly after us.

The food & beer were grand, but after an hour and a quarter we returned to the fray. Once again there were 15 of us who set off in soft winter sunshine to return to Alstonefield by the shortest route. We reached our vehicles shortly after 3pm, with more than an hour's daylight left. We'd had a nice day out; a gentle stroll in beautiful weather & a good pub to refresh us on the way. What a treat!

The Nearly Late Chemist.



New Year Walk 2013 Clive (Rusty) Russell

A stroll through the Lower British Limestone Peak presents no athletic or technical challenge, but is to be enjoyed for the pleasing landscape of which I never tire, and also the normally eccentric participants. When messrs and mesdames Simon Pape, Ruth Gordon, Chris and Gill Radcliffe, Tony Howard, Richard H and Christine, Snod, Joan and Derek Pike, Chris and Jan Wilson, Stuart Firth and Sue presented themselves, I was disoriented, as the anticipated aged strollers had been replaced by mountaineers of noted accomplishment, excepting myself. The discussion was however of a high order of intellect. Snod confessed to keeping a selection of Panthers (those with a proper knowledge of both biology and mechanics will comprehend).

Stuart questioned me about my bodily preparation for heavy exertion and, influenced by his old mentor J. Fisher, my views on forthcoming fiscal and political trends. The pièce de resistance however was the attire and equipment of noted alpinist CJR whose footgear would have passed muster visually at either Badminton Horse Trials or a Scottish grouse shoot, but cunningly incorporated crampon spikes or tricounis, we know not which. He was also equipped with two state of the art electronic navigation devices, which were considered necessary to locate the Royal Oak with a proper degree of celerity.

At the pub peeping out from behind Uschi, I spotted Digger, the Janes Clan,

Derek Burgess, Gil Male, Pete Hassel, June Telfer, Brian West and doubtless others were seen. On the walk back down the scenic East bank of the Manifold, via Castern, 67% of the party were cajoled back to the start, a better than normal ratio. The others will doubtless be located in due time.



Most of the team pause for Rusty's history lesson at St. Bertram's Well.

Mixing it up. Jeff Ingman

I usually try to get at least one early trip up to Scotland sorted out at the start of each winter, just to get myself back into the swing of things and to set me up for an enjoyable Christmas. It's well known in our family that I can get a bit grumpy at Christmas if I haven't already had my crampons on.

Jon Shields agreed to the plan and we set off with a cold weather forecast in our ears and a car full of climbing gear. The beginning of December is usually too early in the winter for significant ice build up, but we didn't mind, we wanted mixed climbing using axes and crampons on snowed up rock. We were heading for the mixed routes of the Cairngorms, a first for Jon, the hope was for easy walk-ins, technical climbing and frosty rock.

It was late when we arrived in Aviemore, and we'd been driving through falling snow for a couple of hours. Jon's Audi was slipping on the relatively flat roads around Loch Morlich so we opted for a road side bivi at Glenmore rather than try to get up any snow covered steep roads that night. Once we parked up, Jon quickly converted the car into a five star doss and we settled in for the night.



Hotel D'Audi – One of the features that 'Top Gear' often overlook in their car reviews is the 'bivi experience'. The A4 is very comfy!

When the morning came it was obvious that the snowy road up to the Cairngorm ski centre was going to be a challenge. We brewed up and got ready, and were pleased to see the snow plough head off up the road followed by a few cars. The ski centre was about to open for the first time this winter so we knew that the road would get some attention. We quickly followed and the snow got thicker as we headed up towards the car park at about 600m elevation, there was little evidence of any serious work by the snow plough or any gritting. The Audi eventually refused on the steep road near the sugar bowl car park so we reversed back and then descended to Glenmore for another brew. A few more passes by the snow plough and we were through.

We eventually left the car park at 9am and walked into Coire an Sneachda (pronounced 'Trech' apparently) in thick mist and with poor snow conditions under foot. Any step away from existing footprints resulted in wading through snow that varied between shin and thigh deep – a struggle. The biggest problem was the mist. All the climbers in the corrie were struggling to identify routes in the greyness above, and procrastination was taking over. We knew generally where we were so we headed for a gully line above us and built a belay. Conditions were far from ideal. The hoar frost on exposed rock was six to ten inches thick and had to be cleared by the leader (Jon) to reveal the placements and hooks, and to get runners during the ascent. Jon made short work of it and I

quickly followed. As I got to the belay a clearing in the weather showed that we were on Goat Track Gully, normally a lowly grade 2 but interesting in the conditions that we found. I made an icy exit up to the right and Jon then pushed on to the top.

Conditions on the Cairngorm plateau were hostile as usual so we descended quickly down to the base of the crag avoiding some significant accumulations of windslab on the descent.

The weather cleared on the way out and gave Jon his first full view of the northern corries in full winter conditions. We'd done our first winter route together so we decided to celebrate with a pint and some food at Glenmore Lodge, and watched the end of the 'Scottish tooling series', a climbing competition for those with Winter on their minds.

The forecast for the Sunday was fantastic but we were a little slow getting away from the comfy B&B where we had spent the night. There were plenty of climbers ahead of us as we headed up towards the 'Mess of Pottage', again poor visibility in the morning mist made it difficult to short cut past the climbers in front. We tried anyway and ended up slogging

through deep snow – exhausting work for Jon who ploughed the furrow out in front. As we approached our route, Honey Pot, the weather cleared to reveal four other climbers heading in the same direction and they arrived just before us to stake their claim. We had to come up with a plan B which was not easy on the now busy crag. We decided to head for the mixed route 'Hidden Chimney', and set to.



Hidden Chimney – Jeff starting out on the second pitch.

Jon lead up the 'Slant' towards the base of the chimney and found a great belay. I followed quickly and then headed upwards to a good stance.

Nice balancy moves and good hooks for the tools allowed rapid progress and I soon belayed below the final steepening. Jon quickly swarmed up the chimney and took the rack for the final pitch. Good moves, icy cracks, solid runners, a blue sky and no wind – it was great and unlike any other day that I'd been out in the 'Gorms.

It was busy on the plateau in the sunshine, with walkers and skiers enjoying the good weather.



Good weather at the top of Hidden Chimney, with Loch Morlich, Glenmore and Point 1131 behind.

The busy top of Cairngorm was just behind us, a major Munro that Jon had not yet summited. We had a brief chat about whether we should walk over there and bag it, I'd been up there several times so it was really Jon's call. For the record we decided against. *(All photos courtesy of Jon Shields.)*

Well would you believe it?

No sooner do I get one article about an individual's adventures than, like buses, (or allegedly, men) a second one appears! To read all about Simon's attempts to achieve his New Year's resolutions you will have to wait for our March issue, but, while the year is still quite new you may like to follow his example and create your own hit list for 2013?

2012 – My Climbing Year Simon Pape

All the books suggest that setting objectives is a good thing to do to guide one's climbing (or any other) activity. I'd done it once or twice before, and it does seem to help. It's also recommended that if you tell others about your objectives you are more likely to attain them, so I emailed most of my regular climbing partners

my objectives in early January.

The objective that seemed to capture most peoples' attention was the list of trad routes. 50 routes to be attempted on the lead, a mixture of routes from VS to E2. 15 Peak gritstone, 15 Peak limestone and 20 routes from other parts of the country – these last 20 could be changed for similar routes, depending on where I went and what the weather was like when I got there. The routes were a mixture of routes I'd failed on in the past, routes I really wanted to do and routes on crags I'd never visited, but felt I should.

*Simon at Intake Quarry.
Photo Chris Wilson.*



The Oread Committee needs you! I mean You – yes You – right now.

Committee for proposal at the A.G.M. on 23 March 2013

Several of the committee members have decided that, after many years of faithful service to the club, it is time for someone else to take over and so we require people to step in.

Colin Hobday has been the **hut-booking secretary** for something like a quarter of a century and rightly feels he is due for a rest; he has certainly earned it and his contributions have been major, not just in taking the bookings but in his

insightful contributions to committee meetings and general administration. He will be missed...

Reuben Dakin has been **assistant secretary in charge of club membership** for a good few years now but his work commitments are now too great so he is stepping down.

Michael Bate has been **treasurer** for several years and he too needs a change.

All these people have been essential in running the club, therefore we need people to step in and take over. We are asking for volunteers. There are lots of members who haven't done a stint on the committee that have the skills to fill these rolls and hopefully some who would quite like to get involved. If you are one of them then please contact me.

We have room for **two 'ordinary' members of the committee** i.e. without portfolio; it would be wonderful if some of the younger members should fancy a spell as we would welcome their input so that we can provide what the membership needs better. We also require **two members to work on the Heathy Lea hut sub-committee**; these are suited to people with a practical leaning. Again, if you want to volunteer please contact me as above.

As a new member of the committee, your **Hon. Ed.** was recruited reluctantly a year ago, I can truthfully say it has been lots of fun, got me onto meets I would have been sorry to have missed, and there has never been so much work it's stopped me doing something I wanted to do more. I'm so glad I let myself be talked into it!

Membership Renewals for 2013 **Have you done it yet???**

The winter season unfortunately means that I need to ask for your subs for 2013. The good news is that we are able to keep the rates the same as last year:

I must apologise that pressure of work has taken my eye from the ball this year, and accordingly I will be passing on this role to the next "eager volunteer" (this could be you!) at the AGM. My thanks to all who have helped me with kind words and prompt payments in the past.

Ordinary Member	£40.00
Senior* Member	£25.00*
Prospective# Member	£25.00 for first 2 years #, then £40.00
Joint§ (Family) Membership	£65.00 per couple
Senior* Joint§ (Family) Membership	£42.00 per couple
Family§: one senior*, one youthful	£53.50 per couple

* You are eligible for **senior membership** if you will have reached "state pension

age” on 1 January 2013. This applies to:

- Ladies born on or before 5 August 1951
- Gents born on or before 1 January 1948

§ Two ordinary or senior members living at the same address are eligible for **joint (family) membership**.

Prospective members who have been in the club since January 2011 will discover that your subs for 2012 becomes the same as the ordinary members’ rate, so you might as well get on with applying for full membership now. If you live at the same address as another ordinary member, you will be eligible for joint membership, which will cost you no more anyway.

All of the above rates include £11.75 (also unchanged from 2012) in respect of your BMC club membership. You cannot opt-out of this arrangement, but you can get a refund from the BMC if you are paying through another affiliated club. If your permanent address is outside the UK you are not a BMC club member and your subs will be 50% of the standard rate set out above.

How to pay:

- Cheque, payable to Oread Mountaineering Club, posted to me at 14 New Street, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5AF
- Bank transfer: sort code ####, account number ####. Please let me know if you pay by bank transfer.

You need to pay before:

- 31 December to ensure that your BMC 3rd party insurance remains current
- 31 January to maintain your Oread membership

Receiving your payment promptly helps me immensely.

If you have any queries regarding your renewal, please contact me.

Many thanks. Reuben Dakin Assistant (Membership) Secretary

Hut Bookings for February.

HEATHY LEA

Feb. 1-3rd Rob Tressider cottage.

March 1-3rd S. Cooper cottage.

TAN- TR- WYDDFA

Feb. 1 - 3rd Oread Meet.

Feb, 8 - 10th Orpheus CC. 16 beds.

Feb. 15 - 17th Flyde MC hut swap.

Feb. 22 - 24th Vacant.

March 1 - 3rd Vacant.

THERE ARE STILL SOME OUTSTANDING HUT FEES NOT PAID

PLEASE PAY NOW.

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

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room! Please note that both huts are now partially available for booking by other clubs during the summer holidays.

Thanks, Colin Hobday.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ed.

I have to admit to being so far out of touch with club activities that I do not know who the Meets Sec is. Why does their name not appear in your esteemed journal?

I notice, that for the second year running, the Dovedale Dash is not featured in the meets list. I realise that current Oread interest in running is at a low level but the outing does still attract a few stalwarts and I see no reason why this may not increase in the future. The Oread has been involved in this event from the very beginning and over the years the event has witnessed some outstanding runs from the likes of Rusty Russell, Chris Radcliffe, Richard Hopkinson, Robin Beadle, Es Tresidder and Tim Barnett. Sorry if I have left anyone's name out!

Secondly, there is quite properly a question mark next to my leadership of the Black Rocks night meet. I have liaised with the pub and encouraged the troops for a number of years now and certainly the pub part at least continues to be popular. But I feel the "formula" is looking a little tired! I'd hate to see a move away from Black Rocks but surely there is an Oread willing to take this from me and inject a little sparkle.

I remain, Madam, your obedient servant &c

Rob Tresidder

Response from the Editor

Had my esteemed correspondent read his September newsletter with due attention he would have noted both the name of the Meets Secretary, (the Hon. Derek Pike) and heeded his plea for additions to the draft meets list and for meet leaders. As Derek's plaintive cries for help remained unanswered the list was finalised as it stood.

However the esteemed Mr Tresidder has raised an important issue and the Dash has been restored to its proper place in the meets list. It is hoped also that, following the undoubted success of the Black Rocks meet 2012, one of the best attended meets of the year, he will be induced to agree to the removal of the question mark over his leadership of the 2013 event?

This year I intend to leave the meets list for the entire year ahead in the newsletter, any alterations being highlighted in red.

Hon. Ed.

Forthcoming Meets: Derek Pike

February.				
2 nd -3 rd .	T.Y.W.	Curry Meet.	Tony Howard.	
9 th -10 th .		Yahoo Group.		
16 th -17 th .	Stair. Fylde	Hut Swap T.Y.W.	D. Pike.	

23rd-24 th .		Yahoo Group.	T.Y.W. vacant.	
March.				
2 nd -3 rd .	Film Night		Pete Scott	
9 th -10 th .	Patterdale.		Stuart Haywood.	
16 th -17 th .	Winter Climbing.	Yahoo Group.		
23 rd	A.G.M.	Heathy Lea.	Dave Roscoe.	
24 th .	Spring Stride.		Leader Required.	
27 th .	First Wed Outside		"	
29 th -1 st April	Easter.		"	
April.				
6 th -7 th .	Easter.			
13 th -14 th .	Heathy Lea.		Leader Required.	
20 th -21 st .	T.Y.W.		"	
27 th -28 th .		Yahoo Group.		
May.				
4 th -5 th -6 th . B.H.	Low House.	Coniston.	Steve Bennett.	
11 th -12 th .				
18 th -19 th .		Yahoo Group.		
25 th -27 th B.H.	Gower	Tides favourable	Derek Pike	
June.				
1 st -2 nd .				
8 th -9 th .		Yahoo Group.		
15 th -16 th .	Heathy Lea W.P?	Barbecue?		
22 nd -23 rd .	T.Y.W.	Barbecue.	Tony Howard.	
29 th -30 th .		Yahoo Group.		
July.				
6 th -7 th .		Yahoo Group.		
13 th -14 th .	High House.	K. Fellfarers.	Dave Helliwell.	
20 th -21 st .		Yahoo Group.		
27 th -28 th .	Alpine Meet.	Val de Mello	Nigel Briggs	
August.				
3 rd -4 th .	Alpine Meet.	"	"	
10 th -11 th .	Alpine Meet.	"	"	
17 th -18 th .				
24 th -25 th -26 th . B.H	Pembroke?		Leader Required.	
September.				
31 st Aug. -1 st .	"			

7 th -8 th .		Yahoo Group.		
14 th -22 nd .	Lundy.		Derek Pike.	
28 th -29 th .		Yahoo Group.		
October.				
5 th -6 th .		Yahoo Group.		
12 th -13 th .	Gogarth.		Dave Mawer.	
26 th -27 th .	T.Y.W.	Curry Meet.	Tony Howard.	
November.				
2 nd -3 rd .	Heathy Lea.	Bonfire Meet.	Mike Hayes.	
3 rd		Dovedale Dash	Rob Tresidder?	
9 th -10 th .		Yahoo Group		
16 th	Annual Dinner	Bluebell Inn	Leader Required.	
17 th .	Post Prandial Walk		Leader Required.	
23 rd -24 th .		Yahoo Group.		
December.				
30 th Nov- 1 st Dec.	Patterdale.	G. Starkey.	Tony Howard.	
7 th -8 th .	Bullstones.		Kev Fidler	
11 th .	Black Rocks.		Rob. Tresidder?	
14 th -15 th .		Yahoo Group.		
21 st -22 nd .		"		
25 th - 1 st . Jan	Christmas	T.Y.W.		

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