



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JUNE 2013



Kyya on Flying Buttress Direct, Stanage in April. Photo Michael Hayes.

Editorial

The rain is still bucketing down diagonally, mixed tastefully with hail and sleet, so it is with some difficulty that I have found you a front cover photo of somebody looking warm and summery – on a sunny April day when over 20 Oreads, friends and family enjoyed Stanage in the spring.

As May eases into June and avalanches sweep the Cairngorms, this issue is still celebrating an extraordinary winter with some stunning photos and great tales. But we battle on!

June brings us the long summer nights to enjoy more distant crags for our evening meets; barbecues, a day out for the family, and a magic weekend in Borrowdale at “the finest hut in the Lake District”. (Oh, and the odd working party too!) The alpine meet promises to be one of the best attended in many a year - be there!

What's on.

Wednesday Evenings

29 May **Stanage** and after at The Millstone
5 June **Stoney Middleton** and after at The Moon
12 June **Froggatt** and after at The Grouse
19 June **Dovedale** and after at The Bluebell
26 June **Castle Naze** and after at The Beehive, Combs.

Children's Climbing Meet – 1 June Neil Weatherstone

The idea is to have a meet for small Oreads so they can have fun climbing together.

Climbing is at Birchen Edge. Starting out from Healthy Lea at 10am with a picnic lunch. Healthy Lea is free on Friday and Saturday nights, so let me know if you want to stay over.

I'll be climbing with my 4 year old girl (who is always pestering to go rock climbing).

Neil Weatherstone Neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com tel. 07946825798

Club night - a new venture: 11 June Red Lion, Wirksworth

As a trial June's committee meeting will be held in the Red Lion, Market Place, Wirksworth at 8.30pm following a session at Wirksworth Wall. The idea is that this could form the basis of a fixed monthly club meeting place where new members can come along to the climbing wall and/or the pub, and be sure of meeting people. It is hoped that existing members, particularly those local to the Wirksworth area, will come along to the Wall and/or the pub at some point on this evening.

Pete Lancaster tel 0114 2301136 or petel1952@hotmail.co.uk

Healthy Lea Working Party and BBQ 15 - 16 June 2013 Michael Hayes

This year's working party will once again be a mixture of cleaning, painting and woodcutting. The Hut is in a good condition and just needs a tidy up see it though the next 12 months.

I would like to encourage as many Oreads as possible to turn up and help, I will be there from 10.00 am on Saturday morning so please come along and give your support - even an hour or two will make a real difference. You do not need to bring any tools as these will be provided with the exception of chain saws which are always welcome to continue the tree clearing and wood cutting duties!

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

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

So please make the effort and come along to help and support (tea making is appreciated as well!)

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

Michael Hayes
Heathy Lea Hut Custodian.

Tan -Yr-Wyddfa BBQ: 22-23 June Tony Howard

Summer in our Green and Pleasant Land: North Wales, the weather could be great. If so all sorts will be done; sunny rock, long and pleasant ridges etc. If it's a bit mixed like last year I'll plan a good walk, like last year and we'll have a thoroughly convivial if not drunken evening and BBQ on Saturday night.

You should bring your own food and drink. I will provide some BBQ machines, fuel and perhaps a little aperitif.

If you want to come along, please let me know ASAP.

Tony Howard
tony.howard46@btinternet.com Tel: Home 01332 273307 Mobile: 07762 268181

High House, Borrowdale 13-14 July Dave Helliwell



High House Seathwaite, Borrowdale: a converted stone built farmhouse in its own grounds, with car access and parking. OS Grid Reference NY235119.

This hut needs no introduction to Oreads - it's probably the best hut in the Lakes. We also have reciprocal rights bringing the cost down a bit for tightwads. The weather has been booked and, coupled with the light nights, it's a perfect opportunity for a mountaineering day out on the high crags. Scawfell and Pillar are in reach as are many excellent lower crags. For the walkers it couldn't be better situated. The hut sleeps 26, and demand will be very high - just the place for Alpine training. I already have several bookings so you had better get in quick!

Snod. Tel. 01298 812753 email [dave.helliwell @ stirlinglloyd.com](mailto:dave.helliwell@stirlinglloyd.com)

Alpine Meet: 20 July – 10 August 2013 Nigel Briggs

This summer's Alpine meet will be in the Val di Mello, Italy. The area has been described as 'the Yosemite of Europe'. It features high quality rock routes, both short valley cragging to long mountain and 'plaisir' routes. The area is world famous for its bouldering. It also gives the opportunity to explore the Italian side of the Bregalia Peaks. The area is rich in alpine walking, both amongst the peaks or in the valley. For those interested in the higher snowy mountains the Bernina peaks are only a couple of hours' drive away.

If the mountain weather is poor the area allows rapid escape to the Italian Lakes!

If you are thinking of coming along please can you let me know numbers, accommodation (tent or van) and dates so I can get bookings made and keep everyone informed.



Contact me at : nigel.briggs@btinternet.com or on 01203 732925

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

The Spring Stride: C. Russell

The walk duly took place after a postponement due to the truly exceptional weather conditions which had previously scuppered all local activity, including our own AGM. It is a recurring theme that no Peak District walk can be other than modest exercise against the background of present achievement and exploration of the great ranges, which has expanded beyond belief since I first went out with the Oread in 1959. The objective however was to introduce people to new territory, and sure enough those present were generally not familiar with the upper valleys of the Dove and the Manifold possibly because they can only be considered as rough walking, as distinct from any element of technical mountaineering. The solitude and isolation however must surely warrant a visit. Pete Lancaster and Sue, Chris and Jan Wilson, Mike Hayes, Pam Storer and Nick Evans, Tony Howard, Rock and myself duly stormed up the west side of the Manifold valley and the moor at its head, to the Hostelry at Axe Edge. This establishment had not only changed its name, but was so packed with tourists as to deny entry to the hardened drinkers of the party. Someone was trying to tell us something. After a hot drink at Flash Bar Stores, we therefore retreated, guided by Rock's exceptional esprit de corps and survival instincts, to the lee of a nearby clapboard shack where, disregarding the wind and drizzle, we solved the nation's fiscal and power generation problems while consuming our dubious repast (horse was definitely on the menu). (A stiff letter will be sent to the authorities later).

We then returned down the East side of the valleys, passing below Dove Head Spring. Pam, Nick and Tony, who were pressed for time, dropped off down Hollinsclough Rake whilst the rest of us (seen at Washgate Bridge) returned down

the Dove and over Hollins Hill, from where Margaret and my little dog escorted us back to base. It was encouraging to have the support of six presidents, past, present and earmarked for the future, in the party.



My Winter! Chris Radcliffe

In my youth the climbing year had a certain rhythm. As spring arrived we enthusiastically hit the crags at every opportunity after little real rock climbing over the winter. A fine weekend or a particularly on-form moment might see a hard route climbed on Cloggy or similar classic venue. By the end of June, focus shifted to getting fit for the Alps. For me this was the highlight of the year and I enjoyed several good seasons in the late 'sixties and 'seventies. A fine autumn back home would ensure more rock climbing, but as the winter approached it was time for the “social season” and often several climbing club dinners – the Oread Dinner at the Green Man, Ashbourne had a considerable reputation. Finally at the turn of the year we could look forward to a season of winter climbing; I had several mid-week trips to the CIC hut and was usually in Scotland at Easter. For several years there were Oread ski trips to the Cairngorms as well, before realizing that package holidays to the Alps were more cost effective. Ice climbing in Snowdonia was often reliable for regular weekends. We certainly had many miserable days, yet I never seemed frustrated by the cold and damp days, always enjoying the good conditions when they arrived.

My first winter route was climbed 50 years ago – the Aonach Eagach ridge in Glencoe – on a weekend bus trip from Leeds with the University climbing club. 1963 was a year with hard winter conditions, although I was too inexperienced to recognize this and I didn't do any other winter routes that year. One day I attempted to go rock climbing at Widdop using the local bus service, but never even got close due to atrocious road conditions. That day Graham West and two other climbers were killed in an avalanche in the Wilderness Gully area in Chew Valley.

How different it is today. We can keep strong for rock climbing by going to the climbing wall several times a week; it's still a long drive to Scotland but many do go for the weekend and of course there are all the hot rock destinations. After several years of believing winter climbing in Wales was a thing of the past, there have been excellent conditions for the last two years. Despite all the opportunities, I have to admit that the ageing process means that the cold grey days are more keenly felt and fuels the desire to escape to a warmer climate. On the other hand I don't want to miss out on some winter climbing, so the challenge is to do it all!

For the week before Christmas, Gill and I took advantage of a cut-price offer to join a chalet group at Les Arcs 2000 for some downhill skiing. We went high in case conditions were marginal; in fact over the first couple of days there was a big dump of snow which restricted the number of pistes that were open because of avalanche risk. For the rest of the week conditions were brilliant and we enjoyed great skiing as well as having the luxury of a good chalet with super keen hosts trying their best with their first guests of the season.

Back home we had the usual damp chilly conditions of a typical British winter. Visiting the climbing wall twice a week, local fell runs and several bike rides on wet roads kept me in shape; brighter days even allowed us a couple of short

climbing days at local crags – Birchen and Curbar. But my focus was on an ice climbing trip to Argentière-la-Besse in the Ecrins. Just as the temperature dropped at home with a modest snow fall, I set off from Birmingham airport with Jeff Ingman, his friend Paul and Jon Shields from the D.M.C. Conditions in Grenoble were dire – continuous heavy rain – with snow at higher elevations that had closed the Col de Lauteret. We travelled via Gap and, with the snow building up on the road, we barely made it to Argentière, finally abandoning the car just 100m from our gîte at midnight.

Next morning we met the rest of the team who had travelled from Geneva: Dick Turnbull, Pete Holden and his friends Dave and Ben from the N.E. We all enjoyed the excellent hospitality of Benedicte, returning from the climbs to her friendly gîte and fantastic provincial cooking. The dump of snow was ideal for skiing, but not for ice climbing – it limits access to the higher valleys and creates avalanche prone conditions. Our first morning was one of low cloud and limited visibility. Despite this all eight of us made the best of it by climbing the *Torrent de Queyrieres*, a long snow filled gully with a few ice pitches. Because of the snow we never made it to the prime climbing area of the Fressinieres valley, but still had a great week of ice climbing with two visits to Ceillac, where we climbed *La Forme du Chaos*, a 300m route with amazing formations, as suggested by the route name. (See photo in Jeff's contribution below.) We also made two visits to the Fournel Valley, climbing *La Vision de Marco*, and ended the trip with an ascent of *Hiroshima*, a classic V with an impressive “cigar” high on the route. (The photos below show Jeff on pitch 2 of *Hiroshima*, left, and Chris on pitch 3 right.)



Altogether we climbed seven routes over the six days of the trip and enjoyed some beautiful fine, sunny and cold days in the magnificent mountains of the Ecrins.

Back home it was mild and the remnants of snow were melting fast. Depressions crossed the country bringing more rain, cloud and gloom – time to head for some sun! As Gill had packed in teaching, there was nothing to stop us from heading for Spain and making use of our apartment in Calp where we planned to base ourselves for the next two months. Over the years we had made many visits to the Costa Blanca, but there were still areas we had not visited, innumerable climbs still to do and we had hardly started on the classic walks of the region. Hence our objectives were to seek out new crags, try not to repeat climbs already ticked, crank up our climbing standard and get out into the hills. I also planned to keep up my cycling fitness with regular rides in the area, much used for winter training by professional cycling teams. We knew that several friends and acquaintances would be staying out there for the winter, or making short trips while we were out, so we had the opportunity to meet up and enjoy trips together. We also planned to broaden our scope by taking side trips to other areas during our stay – further south in the Murcia area and to the north around Tarragona.

So how did it all pan out? The weather in February and March was not as settled or as warm as it had been in December and January when temperatures up to 25 c. had been enjoyed in Calp. The southerly location of the jet stream that ensured colder weather in the UK brought more unsettled weather to Spain. Having said that, we only had three days that were a complete write off for activities – on one of these we were driving from Tarbenna to Castel-de-Castels and were confronted with a snow plough, surely an unusual sight in the Costa Blanca. Some days were cloudy and cool or truncated by rain moving in, but we still got stuff done. Since we had decided to drive to Spain, we had a total of seven days devoted solely to travelling and I won't choose to do that again. We had no problems, but the cost of autoroute tolls, fuel and overnight accommodation made it almost as expensive as flying and hiring a rental car for two months and the tedium of the journey was tiresome. Of the remaining 45 days of our trip, I was out on the bike for 5 days; 7 days were spent on walking trips and 33 days rock climbing.

Having had many trips to Calp over the years, the drive out through the Mascarat Gorge is now as familiar as driving over Curbar Gap to get to a Peak District location. Most locations – say to Puig Campana, Val de Guadar (Echo Valley) or the Xalon Valley can be reached within the hour and some crags are much closer. I enjoy the proximity of so much climbing. We found new locations that we hadn't visited before: Aventador, Castellet, Murla, Marin, Reconco, Sax and even on the more familiar venues such as Alcalali, Pena Roja and Toix TV we made the effort to try routes we hadn't done before. Despite that we weren't so successful in cranking up our grade. We almost always had the crags virtually to ourselves and we enjoyed some supremely sunny and warm days. In the nature of sport climbing it is hard to single out stand-out routes, but up there must be *Magical Mystery Tour* on Toix, Raco del Corv, with the sun beating down on us across an azure sea; *Tupungato* a superb 2 pitch route at Sax and the incredibly steep route *La Libertine* at Pena Roja with huge holds.



Gill on Magical Mystery Tour.

We had taken out a full rack to tackle some of the excellent trad routes in the Costa Blanca, but with more limited success. Our first attempt at *Espelon de Finestrat* on the Puig Campana, resulted in climbing a neighbouring and very inferior route; we completed the correct route, a fine 7 pitch outing, the next day with low cloud obscuring the upper part of the mountain. On Aran de Batistot, Val de Guadar (formerly known to Brits as Echo 2) we climbed *Via de Polop*, a 5 pitch route, with the crag to ourselves. Much further to the right on the same massive crag is the sector Placa Inmaculada. Here we climbed *Espelon Encantada*, but with some dubious rock, awkward protection and vegetation on the upper pitch, which we finished in rain, it wasn't such an enjoyable experience. All these routes get a HVS trad grade. We were probably most impressed with Guadalest. There are about 200 routes listed in the latest RockFax guide, many of high quality and the crags are in a superb location. We visited here four times during our trip, first with Roger and Clare de Faye, just as they were finishing their trip. A few days later we were back with the Oread team – Chris, Snod, Simon, Martin, Ruth and “Bott” and we tackled some excellent routes, such as the 2 pitch *La Luna de Saint Joan*. On another visit we tackled the even longer 3 pitch route, *L'Espill o Llibre*, which reaches the highest point of the crag, although we struggled on the 6a+ crux.

Every Tuesday I assigned to cycling and, through my friend John Robinson, I was introduced to an ex-pat group of Brits who assembled at Café Pau in Gata-de-Gorgos. Most were retired senior citizens, but as they get out on the bikes up to four times a week, they were pretty fit and it was a new experience for me to cycle in a peloton. The weather was often not ideal and we had some dangerously strong wind gusts on one occasion; on another, light rain made the road very slick and I went for a painful slide across the tarmac. However, I cycled some fine

routes and enjoyed sharing the mandatory mid-ride café stop.

It was good to meet up with the Oread team and we shared several days at the crag, including a visit to Sax when snow showers came from nowhere and we had to abort the climbs. We also met up with Pete and Ali Kennington during their trip to Spain. We joined them on a rather blustery day for a fine walk up Penja Riog from El Campbell with an extension along the Cavall Vera.



Ali, Pete and Gill on top of the Penja Riog.

Gill also joined them for a walk on the Serra de Serella on another day when I was out on the bike. Other walks that we completed included Montgo from Plana de Justa near Javea; 10,000 steps, Val de Laguart; Castellet de la Solana, from Lliber; and the Baranco de Malafi, from Tollos. All were walks characteristic of the inland mountains of the Costa Blanca with rugged limestone trails and ancient terraces on steep hillsides.

Towards the end of February we travelled south to the Murcia area and based ourselves for five days at a delightful village - El Berro in Sierra Espuna National Park. The winds were really strong when we arrived, but although it became sunny it was very cold as the climbing on Leyva is close to 1500m. Despite this we did a brilliant five pitch route on the main face, *Carilla-Cantabella* as well as some sport routes on a lower crag, La Pecera. It was much warmer for a visit to Mula, but then the weather broke and we had an abortive visit to Orihuela and we finally managed a circular walk from El Berro before more rain set in and we returned to Calp.

We had more settled weather for our other side trip to the Tarragona area, which we fitted in on our way home. Travelling about 5 hours north from Calp, we arrived at the delightful village of Campanella de Montsant with a beautiful view of Siurana Mountain. We found self-catering accommodation and our host was really friendly and helpful, storing our spare kit and my bike as well as providing us with a bottle of wine from his own vineyard. We had four great days climbing in fine and sunny conditions. There are a huge number of crags in the area and

we had a terrific day on L'Herbolari, climbing several 30m routes on generally crimpy rock. We finished the day watching the sun set from the hill top village of Siurana, a perfect location. Next day Grau del Masets provided more fine climbs in a tranquil setting, quite different from the Costa Blanca crags. It was a bit more cloudy and chilly for a visit to La Mussara. We had the crag to ourselves, but, as the guide book says, it is not a crag to massage your ego – we found it rather thin with very spaced bolts. Finally we had a bright and breezy day for a visit to Margalef. Here we took a look at Chris Sharma's *Domencia Senil*, F9a+, really quite impossible to imagine climbing such an extensive overhanging roof. But we had our own challenges even at our modest climbing standard. The rock is a conglomerate so provides quite a different style of climbing; we struggled on the steep starts of the routes on Can Llepafls, but finished with two fine steep lines on Can Torxa. This was our last climbing day of our trip to Spain and even if we had not pushed our grade, we certainly had climbed a lot of routes – a solid foundation for the season ahead.

Once we were back in the UK at the Easter weekend it was hard to imagine rock climbing on our local crags. There was a blanket of snow over the garden and the fields beyond and we were intrigued walking in the Peak with snow banks blocking the lanes and half way up Stanage – on a walk up Long Causeway we crossed avalanche debris and watched with amazement as a walker failed to kick steps up steep snow onto the edge and promptly fell about 30 metres, fortunately with no ill effects. It was a huge contrast with rock climbing in sunny Spain.

Since the weather was stable Gill and I decided to take advantage of the conditions and headed up to Scotland, staying at Waters Cottage, the FRCC hut in Kinlochleven. We had four superb days with immaculate conditions and magical views from the top of the Buchaille and Ben Nevis. Our key routes were Green Gully on the Ben and No. 6 Gully on Aonach Dubh, (*photo of Chris in action on the latter - right*) both classic routes in fine condition.

Getting up early four days in a row with a strenuous walk in to the climbs was enough, but we felt fortunate to have taken advantage of the fine weather and it was a great conclusion to our winter campaign.



My Winter: Jeff Ingman

I was really impressed with Dave Mawer's winter climbing article in the last Oread newsletter and thought about penning something myself. It's been such a fabulous winter that I don't really now where to start, it's still blowing a blizzard on Ben Nevis today! (14 May.)



I have decided just to send you a few photos with captions:

Left: Jeff Ingman above the crux overhang on Minus One Gully, Ben Nevis.

Right: Chris Radcliffe approaching the chaos pitch on "Forms du Chaou, Ecrins.



Previous page: The second pitch of Point Five Gully, fat ice all the way.



Left: Alpine Scotland at its best - approaching Crowberry Gully in fine conditions.

Right: The infamous Man Trap on the North East buttress of Ben Nevis is absolutely desperate, and was first climbed about 120 yrs ago by men in tweed.

Information on member activities.

Heather Seaman has applied for full membership of the Oread. Would anyone who has an objection to this being approved please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Merle Gartside 1941 – 2012: an appreciation.

(Collated by Nikki Wallis; submitted by Gordon Gadsby)

Merle was born in Chilwell, Notts and was educated at Brincliffe Grammar School for Girls where she gained a number of qualifications before going on to the Nottingham Technical College where she was taught typing, shorthand, and about the “British Constitution”.

Merle was a champion ballroom dancer, winning bronze, silver and gold bar medals as a result. Her deft footwork placed her well when she decided to take up climbing solely because her optician had “advised her to get out more”.



Merle’s first rock climbs were at Froggatt where she led, seconded and soloed a number of routes on the gritstone including the well known Black Slab on Stanage. Merle met the Oread whilst out climbing with Paul Grainger at Stoney Middleton. It was through the Oread that Merle met Eric Wallis whom she later married and had two children, Craig and Nikki.

Merle was a confident, prominent female climber and joined the Geneva section of the Ladies Swiss Alpine Club after falling in love with the Swiss mountains after climbing the Matterhorn. Numerous classic routes were accomplished in Wales including an unplanned bivouac on White Slab (E2 5c) on Clogwyn Du’r Arddu, as the spike (allegedly!) took longer to lasso than intended.

Merle and the family spent the next summers in Zermatt whilst Eric balanced his mountain guiding, expeditions and civil

engineering work, and over the next four years they did some major ascents in Switzerland and France plus lots of walking and climbing at home. They moved to Wales in 1968 and continued climbing and mountaineering with their young family and she accomplished some very good leads and all women ascents of many rock climbs in North Wales. Merle led an all female ascent of Ivy Sepulchre (E1 5b) on Dinas Cromlech with Collette. UIAGM Guide Terry Taylor remembers an impressive ascent of Grasper E2 5c in Tremadog which they “climbed in the wet!”

The family emigrated to South Africa with Eric’s work during the early 1970’s. There they met up with members of the South African Mountaineering Club and had good weekends climbing in the Drakensbergs.

Craig and Nikki in their early years completed numerous mountains including Sentinel Peak in the Drakensbergs and Thabana Ntlyana in Lesotho, peaks both above 3000m.

Eric and Merle separated in the late 1970’s and Merle became single parent for Craig and Nikki. Merle continued to keep her mountain fitness during the early 1980’s by fell running the Welsh mountains for as long as her health and time allowed. She knew that she was doing this on borrowed time during this period as her hands and feet were becoming very weak and painful. She first really noticed how bad her hands were whilst she was leading through on Wen and Scavenger on Gogarth, both HVA 5a. This was the era of the “Llanberis Alpine Group and the Slateheads”, and, in between Rheumatoid Arthritis flare ups, she

led through on Cemetary Gates on Dinas Cromlech and the girdle traverse on Carreg Hyllidrem.

Various new ascents were done such as FEU-123 on Gogarth named after her Raleigh Elf car, plus the friable mini alpine sea stack "Aiguille de Merlet" off the Lleyn Peninsula, a terrifying crumbling group ascent consisting of Ray Kay, 'Pidge', Cliff Philips, and John Tombs. The team topped out on the climb and had a glass or two of her renowned alcoholic homemade elderflower wine to celebrate, the route being written in the guidebooks as "Aiguille de Merlot" something to do with the amount of wine that was consumed after they all topped out!

Postponing the inevitable of her rheumatoid arthritis, living on numerous steroid injections and striving to achieve as much as she could in a typically "carpe diem" attitude, Merle took off on numerous trips and expeditions across UK and Europe.

One of the memorable trips took Merle and Cliff climbing through the UK, down to Cornwall, Belgium, France, Switzerland, and down to the Verdon and Buoux back via Fontainebleau. They climbed many memorable peaks in Aiguille Rouge including a ridge Grade V behind L'Aiguille du Midi which almost, once again, had them benighted on the way down. Cliff and Merle climbed Cosmiques Arête on the Aiguille du Midi, Aiguille La Brioche, and "R Merles Route" – a very apt route for her to do and camped at the then Pierre Orthaz campsite.

After meeting and marrying Bob Gartside in the early 1990's, she became an active fundraiser for the Welsh Highland Railway and various national pharmaceutical initiatives. Introducing Bob to mountain circles, she also became Warden for the Oread Club Hut in Rhyd Ddu, ensuring that she continued her friendships as much as possible, despite not being able to actively get into the mountains. Her adventure-seeking spirit continued and both Merle and Bob had thrillingly chilling accounts of their descent of the Zambesi River and the subsequent ascent of the gorge back to base, minus sandals and spectacles, which had been lost in the 'washing machine'.

Many Oreads will remember Merle as a stylish, dedicated climber, always cheerful, and a true lover of the mountains. In the 60's and 70's with Eric she attended many Oread Meets. Her favourite crag in Derbyshire was Stoney Middleton. In later years she was obviously in great pain but I never heard her complain. I did ask once how she was: - she said that she had just had a fourth new knee and was off to Australia to see Craig, his wife Karen and their three daughters.

Annual trips became increasingly difficult for both Bob and her due to their health. Despite this she accompanied Nikki as much as she could with her "Diabetes and Mountaineering" awards and lectures, and supported her during her expeditions to Broad Peak and Pik Lenin. Merle did her last route, a new route at that, up near Inverness on her 70th birthday.

Over one hundred people have written little memories via facebook, and the prominent feature in all of the tributes, were her lovely smile, her warmth and welcoming which continued until the end.

Hut Bookings for June.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

May B.H. vacant
May 31/June 2nd Keith Daws 10 beds.
7th June A.B.S.A.C.
10th-14th June Mr. Davies.
21st June O.M.C. Barbecue

HEATHY LEA

May 31-June 2nd N. Weatherstone Childrens' meet
7th June Southampton Rats.
15th June Working Party.
21st June Solihull M.C.

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

Now that Colin is taking a well deserved rest after so many years as Hut Bookings Secretary all queries, payments and bookings should be addressed to Derek Pike, the new Hut Bookings Secretary:

Derek Pike, 19 St. Johns Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD
Tel. 01332 670459 Email: derepike1234@btinternet.com

Hobday's humour:



The Hon. Sec. is returned from Horseshoe Quarry to the bosom of his loving family.

Letter to the Editor:

re: current problems in recruiting a new Treasurer:

Dear Ruth,

I thought a picture of Laurie Burns, a great Oread stalwart of the past, might still be of interest.

In these days when it is difficult to get people to run the club, we should be grateful that we had the likes of Laurie, who was treasurer, in his own inimitable way for over 30 years, and was seldom absent from a Welsh Hut working party.

Kind regards,

“Rusty” Russell.



Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Nobody responded to last month's photo which was of course Rainster East Hill from the South West. This one should be easier?



Any memories you may care to add to your answer will be published in the next issue along with the names of all correct guessers. Particularly entertaining answers may win a pint. Answers to alistair.ruth@btinternet.com or by telephone or post, as suits you best.

Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

June 1 st -2 nd .	Kiddies meet	Heathy Lea	Neil Weatherstone	
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.		



“And it's Goodbye from him and Goodbye from me”:

Gill and Chris on the summit of Buchaille Etive Mhor on a sunny day in March.

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