

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JULY -AUGUST 2013



**Simon Pape on Smile at
Sharpnose, N. Devon.**

Editorial

Well, it is the time of year for sun and seaside pleasures, so here is our first glimpse of summer at the late May holiday with scary tales of a trip to North Devon: meanwhile Scotland was still in prime winter condition! This newsletter brings details of meets to Borrowdale, South Pembroke and even an autumn curry meet. Wherever you are going this summer, have a great time and if you are staying home, I hope you will have as good a time as I did last year, picking up other home-alone companions via the Yahoo Group and enjoying the surprisingly quiet Peak District crags.

What's on. Wednesday Evenings

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 3 July | Roaches and after at The Rock |
| 10 July | Matlock Crags and after at The Boat, Cromford |
| 17 July | Stanage Popular End and after at The Millstone |

Then meets to be determined via the Yahoo Group until
21 August **Baslow** and after at The Bridge, Calver
28 August **Black Rocks** and after at The Rising Sun Middleton by Wirksworth
4 September **Earl Sterndale** and after at The Quiet Woman



Be warned: you may find strange life forms in the undergrowth on a warm Wednesday night.

Club night: 9 July at the Red Lion, Wirksworth

July's committee meeting will again be held in the Red Lion, Market Place, Wirksworth at 8.30pm following a session at Wirksworth Wall or local crag outdoors. 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

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, lovely situation, with bonfire circle and barbecue to hand. We also have reciprocal rights, bringing the cost down to a fiver a night 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 is high - just the place for Alpine training. Only a few places left so you had better get in quick!

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

Alpine Meet: 21 July – 10 August 2013 Nigel Briggs

This summer's Alpine meet is proving popular; currently there are 38 members down to attend. The meet will be based at Lo Scoiattolo (www.campingloscoiattolo.it). There will be a presence from the 21st July to the 10th August, with most people from 27th July to 9th August.

There is a booking for The Oread and we should be able to camp (or park vans) together. You should have heard from me if you are included in the main booking. If you are intending to go and have not heard get in touch and I can add you to the list.

There area has lots to offer in mountain activities plus a wet weather escape option further down into Italy!

The mountains are there, climbing to be enjoyed, the campsite booked - it's up to us to make the meet a success!

See you in Italy.

Nigel Briggs.

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

South Pembroke Meet August Bank Holiday 23-31 August Graham Weston

I have been on the South Pembroke meet several times over the last few years and I think it is fair to say that I have enjoyed them all. Last year was a little wetter than it might have been but we still managed to climb and play in the beach and eat ice cream.

I have not led a meet for a while and in the past my meets have not been overly popular but it seems a shame to leave South Pembroke leaderless.

I thought it would also be a chance for a slight change. I am proposing a campsite slightly further East than that used of late. I would like to camp at Skrinkle Bay, Manorbier, Pembrokeshire SA70 7TT, Wales. 01834 871005. This is located very close to the Youth Hostel and over looks the beach at Skrinkle Bay.

Review here <http://www.coolcamping.co.uk/campsites/uk/wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/209-skrinkle-bay>

This campsite is less than a mile to walk to Mother Carey's and also gives easy access to the crags on the Penally range. Whilst these are covered in the 1995 CC "Pembroke" guide it is much better depicted in the new 2012 CC "Pembroke Stackpole and Lydstep" guide. (Available at a discount through Chis Radcliffe if you ask nicely).

Obviously the other areas further West are available too.

I shall arrive in the area at some unearthly hour on Saturday morning 24th and will head to the campsite after the day's activities. I am planning on stopping for the week but if you can only make it for the Bank Holiday weekend I am sure it will be a worthwhile trip.

Please can you let me know if you intend to come along as I have told the lady at the campsite I will give her approximate numbers nearer the time.

Graham Weston: Grahamw99@gmail.com
tel. 01943 606896 07790 616334

Matlock Bath Curry Meet – Wednesday 25 September

It will, too soon, be that time of year again, when, to quote the Grumpy Engineer, "the nights are drawing in and we'll soon be able to retreat to the wall for another winter".

There's still time for one last trip out to the crags, and to persuade Oreads that it's worth making the effort, I shall be booking a table at the Matlock Bath Balti for 8.00pm on Wednesday 25th. If you want to join me, please let me know by the usual channels.

I assume that the Committee will decide, in their normal manner, which crag we won't be climbing at, (Can I nominate Bauston Tor?) and we'll decide where we're

actually going by email on the day.

Simon. tel 07813 616563 email Simon.pape@eon.com

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Children's Climbing Meet – 1 June Neil Weatherstone



Lucky little Oreads. Perfect weather and an adventurous day out.

Weatherstones, Tubbys and Sawyers assembled at Heathy Lea, then headed for the crag. Past the green rocks, over the rusty river, past Robin Hood's house and up the mountain path to Birchen Edge.

Lots of top ropes were set up as we moved along the crag and plenty of ascents were ticked off. The occasional phantom grab keeping the kids on their toes. A lunchtime picnic followed by clambering on Nelson's ships. Drinks at Robin Hood's house on the way back to Heathy Lea for a BBQ and bonfire.

The little Oreads had a great introduction to climbing and a day out on the hill. A successful meet which will be on next year's meet list. Thanks to all that attended.

Heathy Lea Working Party 15-16 June. Michael Hayes



The rain held off, the turnout was great and after a very busy Saturday we were able to enjoy the climbing at Gardoms on Sunday. Thanks to all those who attended – too many to list but special mention to the Mad Strimmer and his mate who, when asked to tidy up the barn, ripped out all the units! The plumber who managed to put a hole in the water pipe and the soup kitchen for providing a great lunch.



We were slightly down on chain saws this year with only four but the wood store is now full again and the deforestation continues.

Some of the Tasks Completed:

Wood store filled, Grass cut, path cleared and enlarged for parking, Stone walls rebuilt and cleaned, Gutters cleaned, Kitchen units and contents cleaned in cottage, Kitchen units removed from barn, Barn electrics removed, Barn carpet removed, Electric controller for storage heater replaced, Courtyard cleared, Investigation into drains for shower on-going, Air brick installed in washroom wall.



Down in Devon. Roger Gibbs and Dave Mawer

My right hand on an ok crimp/pinch, left hand flitting between an assortment of rubbish holds. My left foot is on a good hold, but everything is conspiring to tip me off balance. All I need to do is get my right foot on the hold. The hold slopes outwards and is about the length of a matchstick and perhaps a little wider. I climb back down to the ledge and breathe again.

I'm impaled on the crux of Eroica, "one of the UK's most illustrious sea-cliff challenges", on Pentire Head's Great Wall. The finest cliff in the West Country, this huge vertical wall, capped by even steeper slim corners, has unrivaled rock quality, climbing and atmosphere. The route follows a spectacular line of flake-cracks up the lower portion of the Great Wall and finishes up the narrow central corner. The second pitch was, for many years, climbed with a peg for aid but this has now gone leaving a pretty hard move and some boldness above.

Below me Dave is cold in the shade, but still encourages me patiently. Up again, crimping for dear life, I lurch onto the foothold and stretch, walking my fingers up to a beckoning good hold. Suddenly I'm past the hardest part but everything slopes alarmingly. Off balance, I gibber upwards, too scared to stop. A cluster of ancient rotting pegs laughs at me. Only one has an eye remaining and it doesn't look like it will take the weight of a krab. Wobbling I gain the traverse and better holds. Two large, bomb-proof wires cold welded into the crack and I breathe

again. The rest of the pitch is superb and well protected, as is the first pitch, but that crux section had been exciting.....

A large party of Oreads and friends set off for the North Devon coast for the May Bank Holiday week with at least the promise of some good weather for the weekend, and excellent company throughout. The traffic was kind and we assembled at various times and places on Friday night or Saturday morning. With rain forecast for Monday and a changeable forecast for the rest of the week, everyone was keen to grab as many routes as possible over the weekend. First destination was Lower Sharpnose, with some of the best single pitch sea cliff climbs in Britain. The rock formations are unique and spectacular, consisting of three huge fins of rock thrusting out into the ocean and only a few metres thick for most of their length. Just walking around the base of the fins is inspiring enough but once on the routes you will be absorbed by some superb, intricate and sustained climbing, mainly in the middle and higher grades. The rock is weird bubbly grey stuff (it is actually sandstone but describing it as such might give people the wrong impression since it isn't like any other sandstone you will have seen). The faces are crossed by some attractive quartz bands which offer some respite in the form of more positive holds, and many deep breaks which offer the sanctuary of gear. Leaving a break to gain the next one is often the basis of the crux section. Several of the routes use the breaks to gain distant sections of the face and there are, of course, a few classic traverse lines.

Both hands in a juggy rail, I'm trying to twist my hips in to get a decent rest. Above me is the crux of Wraith at Sharpnose, anointed as one the 50 best routes in Cornwall by Rockfax. I can see some holds but every attempt to reach them results in me scuttling back down to not rest. Finally I spot a tiny cornflake crimp, almost hidden in some hairy rock off to the left. A fierce pull gains the decent holds I spied earlier but not much for the feet. Oh dear, the clock is ticking. I'm glad of the small wire I found to back up the elderly peg. I rock up gently onto the cornflake. GO! The top is positive and I haul over onto the top of the fin with a grin a mile wide.

Another fabulous memory is sitting above the fins of Sharpnose on the Monday shooting the breeze with Mike. We were waiting for the tide to go out, with a wary eye on the rain clouds building up on the horizon. Was that water below going to go away in time to let us climb the route before the other water from above arrived? It did, but only just, allowing us to snatch Crooked Mile from the weather.

Other venues visited included Compass Point, Vicarage Cliff and Haytor. The overlapping, high-angled slabs that dominate the jutting prow of Compass Point have been climbed on since the early days of exploration on the Culm Coast. The cliff's close proximity to the large beach at Bude, the quality of its routes and the quick-drying nature of the rock mean that Compass Point is one of the coast's most popular venues. All of the climbs are on the friendly side of vertical, very sustained, and on Compass Point's best rock, which, although generally solid, does need some care as the very top of the ridge is approached. The ridge on which the climbs finish has seen periods of instability over the years but less so in recent times. The starts of the landward routes are only briefly underwater at high tide in calm conditions, and dry very quickly, making Compass Point one of

the Culm Coast's most accessible venues.



Beth Cooper, Victoria and Graham Weston enjoying the delights of Vicarage Cliff.

Vicarage Cliff is one of the most pleasant and least serious of the Culm Coast's crags. Its relatively straightforward approach, superb rock and climbing are equally matched by its tremendous location both next to the sea and near the Rectory Tearooms.

Haytor is one of Devon's most popular tourist attractions and rightly so. The climbing is uniformly pleasurable and views from the summit are impressive and offer sufficient compensation if the crowds of visitors become a little off-putting. The West Face of Low Man is one of Dartmoor's finest faces and, at a height of around 30m, one of its biggest. Here is the super classic of Aviation, perhaps the best route of its grade on granite. The style of climbing is quite forceful but well protected and reminiscent of grit although a bit longer. As with many rock domes, the upper sections of the routes tend to go on for ages as the angle slabs-out. The sanctuary of the belay is often welcome since the slabby angle is also accompanied by a reduction in the size of the holds. There is also more climbing on High Man: Haggis and the classic Letterbox Wall / Hangover combination are well worth seeking out.

Meanwhile, back on Pentire Head: the Dark Powers are exerting their Black Magic on Dave:

"Strung out 6m above a Rock 1 and an RP 5, when a hold broke off in my hand, was not a fun place to be. I let out a terrified yelp but somehow my other three limbs managed to stay in contact with the rock....."

"Not now" I thought. I had tried so hard to get here, overcoming the protectionless

start to progress up the discontinuous cracks that led to the airy traverse into a rest on Darkinbad the Brightdayler. The 48m first pitch of Black Magic has to be the most absorbing pitch I have ever done. After exchanging pleasantries with Graham Cooper higher on Darkinbad and accepting his offer of clipping some of his gear I contemplate the upper half. Now, slightly off vertical, I embark on engrossing sequences between spaced gear. Scraping the barrel for suitable wires, I place a reasonable looking Rock 1 and a blind RP5, the previous solid gear much lower than I want it. 6m higher I begin to fret, a step left to reach a tiny crimp and rock up, or a step right on smears using a small, but good looking flake. I smear rightward. Shit! The flake comes away. My upward progress falters and I'm threatened with flight, but I haven't flown. Think again. With arms near to useless and mouth like a desert, survival mode kicks in. I grasp the tiny crimp and rock for glory: wide-eyed I climb ever upward following a line of edges to land on a lichen-covered sloping ledge. 12m out I fill a newly discovered crack with all it will take and, with adrenalin almost bursting out of my body, I take a breather before padding up slabby lichen to reach the security of the belay corner. Now firmly connected, I relax as Roger, who is out of sight, steadily climbs towards me. Looking up, I consider the next pitch, a very steep overhanging corner. I hope Roger is up to the challenge as I am mentally exhausted from my pitch. To my delight he appears beaming and my doubts about his moral fibre are unfounded as without question he takes the helm. What looks like a bridging nightmare turns into a steep flake/jug fest on the right wall hidden from the belay and he soon disappears from view as I pay out metres of rope. Then it's my turn once again, I dismantle the belay and haul for glory. As I emerge into the sunlight from the shade of Pentire, euphoria engulfs me."

Other members of the team ticked more classics including The Smile, Crimtyphon, Darkinbad the Brightdayler, Black Magic (my nod for the best wall climb in the country), Dry Stone Wall, Pacemaker, Diamond Smiles, Misery Goat, Last Laugh, Sugar Magnolia, Tydomin, Heart By-pass, Borderline, the South Ridge of Compass Point, Westerlation and lots more that I've forgotten.

We fed the wild ponies on Dartmoor, ate ice cream and cream teas, told tall tales and smiled. The kids went a bit feral and the sun shone. A fabulous week, when are we going again?

Information on member activities.

Heather Seaman has been accepted as a member of the Oread, we wish her well for the future.

Applications for full membership have been received from Rhiannon Hollick-Cooper, Tim Sellears and Jan Wilson. Would anyone who has an objection to any of these applications being approved please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Welcome to new prospective members Olivia Kenyon, Scott Edwards and Jade

Slater. We look forward to seeing you on club meets and progressing to full membership.

Freda Raphael has informed us that she has reluctantly decided not to renew her membership after many years as an active member.

Merle Gartside 1941 – 2012: an appreciation.

It really is a pleasure to receive the newsletter and to read of the doings of old friends and the tribute to the memory of Merle the Pearl.

I did some routes with Merle at Stoney Middleton when I lived in Derby in the early 1960's, and I do remember a gripping ascent in her company on Mam Tor in winter. She was happily enthusiastic and good to be with.

In later years I sometimes dropped in on her and Bob in Llanberis. They were always welcoming and happy to swap stories of times past and absent friends. So we who were her friends will miss her dearly.

Dennis Gray

Hut Bookings for July and August.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

The hut is available for members to use throughout July and August.

July no bookings.

23 August N. Playdon 8 beds.

6 Sept SPINZ 16 beds.

HEATHY LEA

July no bookings.

2 August Tuesday C.C. 6 beds.

23 August Swindon M.C. Cottage and barn.

28-31 August P. Storer. Cottage

6 September Derwent M.C. Cottage and barn.

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

All queries, payments and bookings should be addressed to Derek Pike, the Hut Bookings Secretary:

Derek Pike, 19 St. Johns Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD

Tel. 01332 670459 Email: derepike1234@btinternet.com

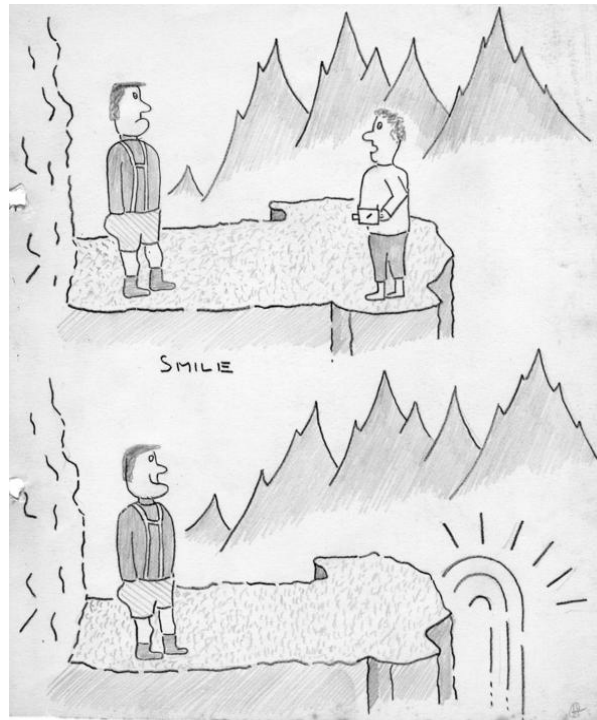
The Oreads in Summer



Tom Hayes at Gardoms on the Working Party weekend. Below a hot Sunday at Stanage with parties on Pulse and Electron.



Hobday's humour:



Takes time to adjust to the concept of "The Cheery Engineer."

Huts available for individual and small group use.

With the summer holidays looming up, some folk will be off to far-flung places – but for many others holiday time and funds are limited so it seems a good time for a reminder that our own huts are completely empty during July and bookings are sparse in August, even at weekends. If you fancy a few days away, climbing or just with the family, the huts are there for us all to use.

Our huts also give us reciprocal rights to use a number of other huts, as individuals or small groups, subject to availability. For those who can get away mid week there is a very good chance of getting a space. Four of us recently had a splendid three days climbing in the Lake District, based at High House, Borrowdale. We arranged



this at very short notice, making a detour en route to pick up the key. We snatched a route on Raven's Crag that afternoon; then a grand mountain day, walking over to the Napes via Styhead Tarn (photo shows Richard Hopkinson on Eagle's Nest Ridge Direct) and back over Green Gable. For our last day we sunned ourselves on Quayfoot Buttress doing the excellent Mandrake HVS and Quayfoot Buttress.

These are the clubs and huts for which the Oread has Reciprocal Rights:

Edinburgh JMCS

- The Smiddy (Dundonnell near Ullapool beneath An' Teallach):
Hut Custodian: Helen G. S. Forde, 30 Reid Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 5JH
Tel. 0131 332 0071. huts@edinburghjmcs.org.uk.
- The Cabin (Balgowan, near Newtonmore):
Hut Custodian: Ali Borthwick, 2 Aytoun Grove, Dunfermline KY12 9YA
Tel 01383 732 232
Website: www.edinburghjmcs.org.uk/huts/huts.php

Fylde Mountaineering Club

- Newhouses Little Langdale, (GR NY 31575 03014)
 - Stair, nr, Keswick. (GR NY 23722 21065)
- www.fyldemountaineeringclub.org
Booking Sec. Andy Hird
Tel 01772 769337 (key from Derek Pike)

K Fellfarers.

- Hill House, Seathwaite, Borrowdale, Cumbria. (GR NY 235 119)
www.kfellfarers.co.uk
Booking Sec. Hugh Taylor, Briarcliffe, Carrbank Rd, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7LE.
Tel 01524 762 067. jhugh.taylor@btinternet.com

Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club

- Tranearth, Torver, Coniston, Cumbria. (GR SD 281 957)
 - Tanygrisiau, Blaenau, Ffestiniog, Wales. (GR SH 684 454)
- www.lccc.org.uk
Booking Sec. Phil Tucker, 49 Fisherfield Drive, Warrington, WA3 6TX
Tel .01925 822128 or 07815 544070

Swiss Alpine Club (ABMSAC)

- George Starkey Hut, Patterdale, Cumbria.
www.abmsac.org.uk
Booking Sec. Mike Pinney 4 Arnewood Gardens, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2LQ
Tel 01935 428131 or hutbookings@abmsac.org.uk.

Yorkshire Ramblers Club

- Low Hall Garth, Little Langdale (GR NY 309029)
www.apcx18.dsl.pipex.com/yrcl
Booking Sec. Richard Josephy, 135 Divinity Road, Oxford, OX4 1LW.

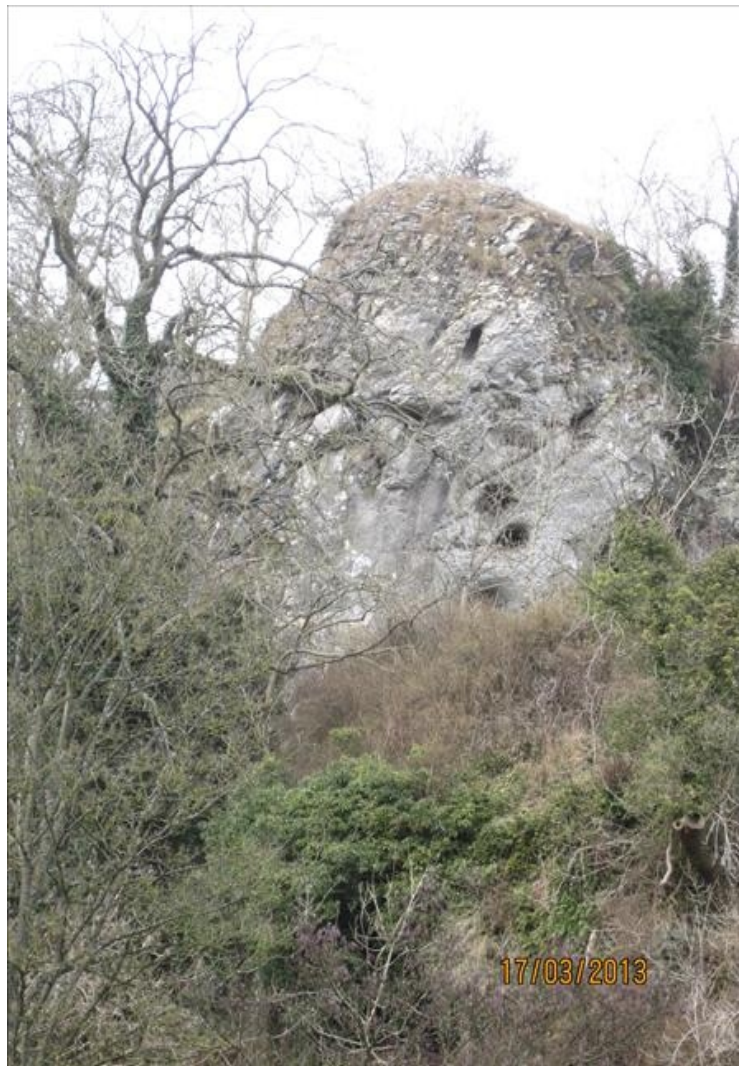
Tel 01865 723630

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Congratulations to Jack Ashcroft who again was first with the correct answer: he writes:

The photograph was taken from Hitter Hill, looking North West over Glutton Dale to Parkhouse Hill and Chrome Hill. The group ambling on the right of the photo are in line, arguably, for the lock-up – off the public right of way! As regards the photographer - “Phew – not me me Lud!”

Here is this month's puzzle picture: Do you take sugar in your tea, Rusty?



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

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	South Pembroke		Graham Weston	
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.		



A good turnout on an amazingly hot Sunday at Stanage. (Photo Chris Radcliffe.)

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