

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2013



Four Happy Bunnies after completing the Via Gervasutti on the Punta Allievi: Martin Lancaster, Gill and Chris Radcliffe, Ruth Gordon.

Editorial

First, my apologies for the late arrival of last month's printed version, this was due to problems with the printing, hopefully now resolved.

This month we have more stories of the sun-soaked summer in Val di Mello, and a look back to the long cold spring with memories of a cycling challenge beset with floods and late snow.

There are lots of meets to look forward to in October and November. Some good climbing we hope, at Gogarth and Snowdonia if the weather is kind, plus sociable get-togethers involving lots of food with the curry meet, the bonfire night extravaganza, and, of course the annual dinner – Book now! The booking form is at the end of this newsletter - next month will be too late!

What's on.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING EVENING MEETS!

The customary first evening meet in October will **not** take place. My apologies for this! I have failed to secure a speaker and I shall be away anyway. I blame the prolonged summer!

I have a couple of speakers lined up for later in the year but as yet I have no name for our November meeting. Not very many years ago everyone was taking slides and there was no shortage of home grown speakers. Then for a few years photographers seemed to abandon slides in favour of prints, these obviously less easy to display to a large audience. Now that most of us are using digital it ought to have become easier to present... but I am not swamped with offers!

If you have a friend who would like to talk to us, I have a budget for outside speakers or better yet, if you have a story to tell yourself, please step forward! Watch this space for an announcement of November's attraction.

Rob Tresidder Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net tel. 07951 625 378

Club night: 8 October at the Red Lion, Wirksworth

October's committee meeting will again 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

Gogarth Meet 12-13 October 2013 Dave and Victoria Mawer

The cliffs of Gogarth are home to classic single and multi-pitch routes of all grades, but mainly VS plus and not for the faint of heart. (All those seasoned Lundy buccaneers will eat it for Breakfast!) There is the 2008 Gogarth North guide available, but for the first time visitor a North Wales compilation guide will do if you need your appetite wetting. Which ever route you choose you'd better buckle up for an Adventure! Tides are favourable with late morning/midday lows. Once again we will base ourselves at the "Valley of the Rocks" campsite, Portdafrach Rd, Treardurr Bay, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2LL [Tel:01407765787](tel:01407765787). This site is within walking distance to the nearest beach, a 10-15 minute drive to

Gogarth/Rhoscolyn and sports its own public house which will probably see more use this time of year. Let me know if you intend joining us by text 07790715520 or by email dtmawer@yahoo.co.uk

Victoria leading the final pitch of “A Dream of White Horses” on last year's meet.



Curry Meet - Tan Yr Wyddfa: 26 – 27 October Tony Howard

It's autumn and time for another Curry Meet. The hut is now even more comfy cosy and smart than the 'even more comfy cosy and smart' it was before the latest dry rot outbreak, so you should be comfy and cosy. Some of you might even be smart! Regardless of the weather a good time is guaranteed for all – cragging, walking or whatever! I plan to walk or climb depending on conditions; mine as well as the hills'.

We'll have a curry on Saturday night, as usual. The cost for the food will be about £5-6 per person, for **everyone** who signs up. This will be payable on the weekend! I will buy the last of the food on the preceding Thursday or Friday. So if you have signed up and for some reason you cannot make it, please let me know by Wednesday 23rd at the latest, to avoid being charged for the food. An earlier notification would also allow me to offer your place to someone else. Bring your own wine and beer etc.

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

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

Heathy Lea Bonfire Saturday 2 November Mick Hayes



We will once again be holding our annual pyromaniacs convention at the Derbyshire hut in celebration of all things rebellious and non-conforming!

This annual event is ideal for bringing together the varied membership of the club and usually provides great entertainment for friends and families. On Saturday afternoon we will be building the bonfire and once the sun has gone down we will light the fire, start the Barbeques (Please bring your own food and drink) and set off the fireworks.

As in previous years we will have a barrel of local beer for consumption at a very reasonable cost

Saturday and Sunday sporting activities will depend on the weather but there will no doubt be a number of Oread's wandering over our local crags in addition to a sprinkling of bikers / gear shoppers and tea shop visitors etc.

Club members are encouraged to bring with them their musical instruments / home brew concoctions etc.

There will be a £2 charge per person to cover the Fireworks and the normal hut fees apply for those staying the night. Please let me know if you are planning to go and especially if you are staying the night.

Michael Hayes. Tel: 07771700913 email: Hayes_Michael_j@cat.com

Dovedale Dash 2013 Rob Tresidder

This year's Dash will start at 1100 on Sunday, 3rd November. Entry is £5 (under 14s — £3). Car parking at Thorpe Pastures is free but there are often long queues. Leave plenty of time!

Over the years some Oreads have turned in outstanding performances. Some are still doing so — in the older age categories. But happily after a gap of many years, younger members have started to take an interest again. But that is all about the front end of the race. Pretty serious up there, but this is also a fun run, I suspect Britain's biggest offroad so even if you walked all the way, you would not disgrace yourself. A great occasion which many use to meet up with folk they haven't seen since way back when... or maybe since last year's Dash.

More details, history and photos here: www.dovedaledash.co.uk

Rob Tresidder; Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net tel. 07951 625 378

The 64th Annual Dinner Saturday 16 November 2013 Chris Wilson

This year's annual dinner will again be held at The Bluebell Inn, Tissington, on Saturday 16 November, 6.30 onwards to sit down at 7.30. The cost is £20.00 per person for 3 courses

(or add £3.95 if you want a pudding and cheese and biscuits)

This is perhaps the Oread's main social event of the year. It's the opportunity to catch up with folks you only see once a year and the chance to reminisce over the year's adventures with people you see regularly. Our President will enthral you with tales of the year's meets, culminating in the award of the fabled Bent Screw (for mountaineering incompetence. If you have a nomination for this, please let Pete have some details by email to petel1952@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 07760 197840. All dirt will be gratefully received!)

The menu and other details are included at the end of this Newsletter.

Please don't leave booking until the last minute (as usual) because I am moving house and don't know where I'll be living or how often I can get email.

I must have numbers by **Monday the 4th of November at the latest.**

If anybody has any questions please don't hesitate to contact me, by phone on 07991 698758 or by email chris.wilson22@yahoo.co.uk.

The Bluebell doesn't offer accommodation but there are a number of hotels not too far away including Bentley Brook Inn, Peveril of the Peak, Dog and Partridge and several in nearby Ashbourne. If anybody wants to stay local, camper vans can be parked discreetly overnight in the car park.

I've been very idle and have not attacked the thorny issue of a speaker yet. If you can help, please, please do so. The Oread (and I) will be really grateful.

Post Prandial Walk - Sunday 17 September 2013

Chris Wilson

After Saturday night's carousing a little exercise would seem appropriate, although nothing too strenuous.

I'm proposing to lead a gentle walk of about 11 miles, starting from the car park near Pikehall at Mouldridge Lane / Parwich Lane (GR 197 582). After visiting Minninglow we'll go via Aldwark to the fleshpots of Winster where refreshments can be had. I'll advise which pub in next month's newsletter after carrying out some research. Suitably warmed, the afternoon sees us visit Elton and return to the start via Gratton Dale.

The route provides ample scope for latecomers to take a short cut and for those wanting to leave early, or those delayed in the pub, to shorten the return leg. Cyclists can plan their own route, as can motorists. Please come along and join us.

Tan yr Wyddfa mid week working party: Dave Helliwell

I hope to hold a mid-week working party in late November to do a few essential jobs before winter sets in. On this occasion it needs to be midweek as the all weekends are already booked by paying guests. Look out for the date and details in next month's newsletter.

Christmas and New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa

Rock Hudson and Ruth Gordon

As usual there will be an informal meet over Xmas New Year – do what you want, bring what you want – As Rock will be away until early December please book with Ruth or via the Hut Bookings Secretary.

This year will feature a grand New Year's Eve party to see the New Year in with style from teatime till crack of dawn - featuring mulled wine, mince pies, a communal meal and novel entertainments!

Book early for 30 Dec -1 Jan to avoid disappointment (eg a Karrimat in the drying room)!

Rock Hudson: 0115 933 3031

Ruth Gordon: contact details at end of this newsletter.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Raid Pyrénéen Touriste. Chris Radcliffe

Since retiring in 2009 I had sought out cycling challenges to bring focus to my regular training sessions on the bike. In 2010 and 2011 I had completed three Étape de Tour events (stages of the Tour de France) in the Pyrénées, the Alps and the Massif Central. In 2012, we had a long summer trip to USA so I completed a couple of cyclo-sportives in the UK. I was looking for something different for 2013

so I jumped at the opportunity when Roger De Faye invited me to join him on the Raid Pyrénéen.

The Raid Pyrénéen is a cycle challenge that traverses the length of the Pyrénées between Hendaye on the Atlantic coast and Cerbère on the Mediterranean. There is a “randonnée” route over 18 cols which is 720km long intended to be completed in 100 hours, but this uses some quite busy main roads and did not appeal to us. The “route touriste” is 790km long over 28 cols and quiet roads intended to be completed in less than 10 days. Roger initially looked at a 6 day schedule, then a more reasonable 7 day schedule, although events would dictate that we took longer than this.

The plan was for Clare to support us by driving their campervan to our destination each day, which was a flexible arrangement that allowed us to adapt to circumstances. I set up my tent each day and our main baggage travelled in the campervan, enabling us to cycle with minimum gear. Roger and Clare travelled on the ferry from Southampton to Bilbao, arriving on June 13th and on the same day I took a Ryanair flight from Stansted to Biarritz where Roger met me and we drove to our first camp site in Hendaye, ready to begin the journey on the following day.

Day 1: Hendaye to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port – 82km, 1090m ascent.



We cycled from our camp to dip our feet in the Atlantic and an obligatory hand shake before setting off along the coast. This was an easy first day in fine sunny weather, crossing two modest cols: St. Ignace (169m) and Pinodeita (176m) and arriving at the delightful walled medieval village of Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. This was quite busy with walkers following the walking traverse route, the GR10.

Day 2: Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port to Laruns – 118km, 4100m ascent.

This was a much tougher day with a long steady climb of over 20km to Col

Budincuruchéta (1135m) followed by the Col Bargargui (1319m). We climbed into cloud and drizzle and had to be careful on the long descent on wet roads. By the afternoon it had become quite sunny and pleasant as we reached Escot to begin the climb to Col de Marie-Blanche (1035m). I had climbed this on my first Étape in 2010, but today at the end of a strenuous day in the saddle it seemed more formidable as the gradient gradually steepened to around 12%. Clare met us at the col and we had a fine descent to our camp at Laruns. This proved to be the least pleasant yet most expensive of our overnight stopovers.



Day 3: Laruns to Route du Tourmalet – 97km, 4310m ascent.

It was fine sunny and hot for our ascent of some of the most iconic cols in the Pyrenees, that routinely feature in the Tour de France. The scenery was stunning as we crossed the highest section of the Hautes-Pyrenees. First there was a long climb to the Col d'Aubisque (1709m) then a short descent before climbing to the Col du Soulor (1474m) where we posed by the out-sized cycles that have been erected there. The wonderful fast descent of 7km to Arrens-Marrouss was completed in 10 minutes and we found a restaurant to grab a sandwich before a long valley ride to Luz-Saint-Sauveur where the long climb to the Col du Tourmalet begins. It was very hot as we toiled up the climb that I remembered well from my previous ascent in the Étape. We followed the same route as in the Étape, contouring around a side valley to provide a steady gradient. However, this was a mistake as the road had not been cleared and we had to negotiate sections of gravel and some snow banks which forced us to carry our bikes in a few places. It does join a more direct road up the valley, but not far beyond this point the road was completely blocked by snow. A huge snow plough blocked the road between banks of snow, but we were still over 2 km below the col. We walked a little way up the road, but it was clear that we weren't going any further, so we had to turn back and make a fast descent to Luz-Saint-Sauveur. Clare met us here by the side of an impressive fast flowing river swollen by the snow melt. We learned later that the Col de Tourmalet remained closed throughout the season because of the late snow and damage to the road.



Each day Clare would set out on her own cycle route after driving to our destination. Fortunately Roger was able to get a text message to her, so that she could meet us at Luz-Saint-Sauveur and take us round to our route on the other side of the Tourmalet. Here we found a really pleasant camp site at Ste-Marie-de-Campan. Despite the problem of not being able to cross the Tourmalet, we had still had quite a hard yet memorable day in the saddle.

Day 4: Ste Marie-de-Campan to Saint B at – 97km, 3265m ascent.

Before setting off on this trip, I had confidence that I would be fit enough for the climbs, based on my previous experience on the  tape de Tour, but I didn't know how I would perform with day-after-day of sustained cycling. In fact we took each day as it came, with caf  stops, pauses for photographs and to enjoy the splendid scenery as it unfolded. The routine was to set off around 9am after breakfast and aim to finish around 5pm to allow us plenty of time to enjoy a beer and snacks, before an evening meal and time to recover for the next day.

After three days on the road, this was to be quite a testing day with three significant climbs and deteriorating weather at the end of the day. We began with a climb of the Col d'Aspin (1489m) followed by a long and fast descent. We had a coffee stop before we tackled the Col de Peyresourde (1569m). The Tour de France stage that includes the Tourmalet, Aubisque, Aspin and Peyresourde cols is colourfully known as "the circle of death". We had cycled these, but not continuously, nevertheless the day so far had felt quite hard. It was misty on top of the Peyresourde and it started raining during the descent. We stopped for lunch at a caf  in the main square in Luchon before the final climb of the day to Col de Portillon (1293m). It was now raining steadily and we had to descend carefully on wet roads, briefly crossing into Spain. We joined a main road in the valley that led over the border again back into France. We were following the river Gironde which was in spate and at one point a barrage was open with a hugely impressive plume of water. When we reached our destination at Saint B at we

found all the camp sites were closed, as the river was almost bursting its banks and they were about to be flooded. When Clare reached us, we had to relocate to a camp in Cierp-Gaud about 5km away. It was a wet and miserable evening and we turned in soon after our evening meal.



Day 5: Saint Béat to Castillon-en-Couserens – 55km, 1795m ascent

The rain continued all night and at 6am we were woken by a village official urging us to evacuate the camp site, as the river, a subsidiary flowing into the Gironde, was about to flood. We were invited to move into the Maire where they very kindly provided us with coffee and had we wanted to extend our visit, we were welcome to stay there. Of course we needed to continue our journey and Clare transported us back to Saint Béat, or as close to it as we could since the village was now flooded. It was impossible to reach the road that would lead to the Col de Menté, so we had to modify our plans and follow the “randonnée” route over the Col des Ares (797m) and Col de Buret (602m) before it joined the “touriste” route and the main climb of Col de Portet d’Aspet (1069m). Because of all the shenanigans in the village in the morning, we didn’t get going until midday and effectively only had a half day of cycling. Clare had located a rather soggy camp site in Castillon-en-Couserens but it had a decent shower so after this and a good meal we felt a lot better. The rain had gradually eased off, but it was another rather damp evening.

Day 6: Castillon-en-Couserens to Tarascon-sur-Ariège – 98km, 4070m ascent.

After a damp start we enjoyed better weather today and put in a long ride crossing four major cols: Col de la Core (1395m), Col de la Trappe (1111m), Col d’Agnes (1570m) and Port de Lers (1570m). All the cols were in mist, but it didn’t rain and we descended to a 3 star camp site in Tarascon feeling quite tired but satisfied that after the interruption caused by the flooding of the Gironde we had

put ourselves back on track, although we had now lost a day on our original schedule.

Day 7: Tarascon-sur-Ariège to Quérigut – 82km, 3665m ascent.

There was more rain overnight but it brightened up later, although again cold and foggy on our last col of the day. A steady climb from our camp brought us to the “Route de Corniche” a delightful undulating and very quiet road eventually leading to the Col de Mamares (1361m) and only 3km further on, the Col de Chioula (1431m). It was relatively easy cycling with remote hilltop villages and a constantly changing vista, perhaps one of the most enjoyable sections of our trip. After descending to Ascou we began the climb to Col de Pailheres (2001m). We cycled through a dreadful section of road with loose chippings and melting tar. We know that several other riders broke their rear mech as a consequence of this and although I avoided that fate, I did puncture after about 7km. I botched the repair and ruined both spare inner tubes that I was carrying. I had little alternative to start walking; fortunately I was able to contact Roger who came back to help after waiting in vain for me to arrive at the col. Finally I was able to start cycling again on the last 5km of the climb – for Roger this was his second ascent of this section, so a lot of extra effort for him. Overall we lost two hours in the incident and by the time we reached the col it was now in dense fog and we had a 17km descent in cold and wet conditions to our camp in Quérigut. This was a bit off our route, but camp sites in this area were hard to find. It was a bit basic, but pleasant enough and near a fine medieval village.

Day 8: Quérigut to Saint-Jean-de-Corts – 127km, 4370m ascent

More rain fell over night and it was quite cold, as we were camped at 1000m, but fine and clear in the morning and we enjoyed warm and sunny conditions until mid-afternoon when the rain set in again. We had a steep descent to start the day before climbing pleasantly to Col de Moulis (1099m) with fine views back to the Col de Pailheres that we had climbed yesterday – actually, at 2001m, the highest point on our trip, since we hadn’t made the summit of the Tourmalet because of the late snow. We continued to the Col de Garabel (1267m) and then the 11km and 500m ascent to the Col de Jau. (1513m). We were now back in the mist, but this was the last of the high cols of the Raid and as we crossed into the Département des Pyrenées Orientales we sensed we were now relatively close to the Mediterranean. We made a long and interesting descent through superb medieval villages and we had an extended lunch at Caylar before descending to a point only 260m above sea level near Prades. We still had some significant climbing to come as we steadily cycled up the valley of La Fargue just as the weather deteriorated again. It was raining steadily as we reached Valmanya and we were soaked by the time we reached the Col de Palomere (1036m). There was a long descent during which we crossed three small cols – Col Xatard (752m), Col Fourtou (646m) and Col Llauro (380m) and we caught a glimpse of the Mediterranean as we descended. The roads were quite poor and in our soaked condition we became rather cold by the time we reached the main valley. We had put in our longest day of the trip – both in length and ascent, as well as a total descent of 5,500m. After a hot shower at the camp site we warmed up and our

moral was high as we knew that we had now cracked the route. Tomorrow we had a much easier day to reach our final destination.

Day 9: Saint Jean-de-Court to Cèrbieres – 59km, 1250m ascent.

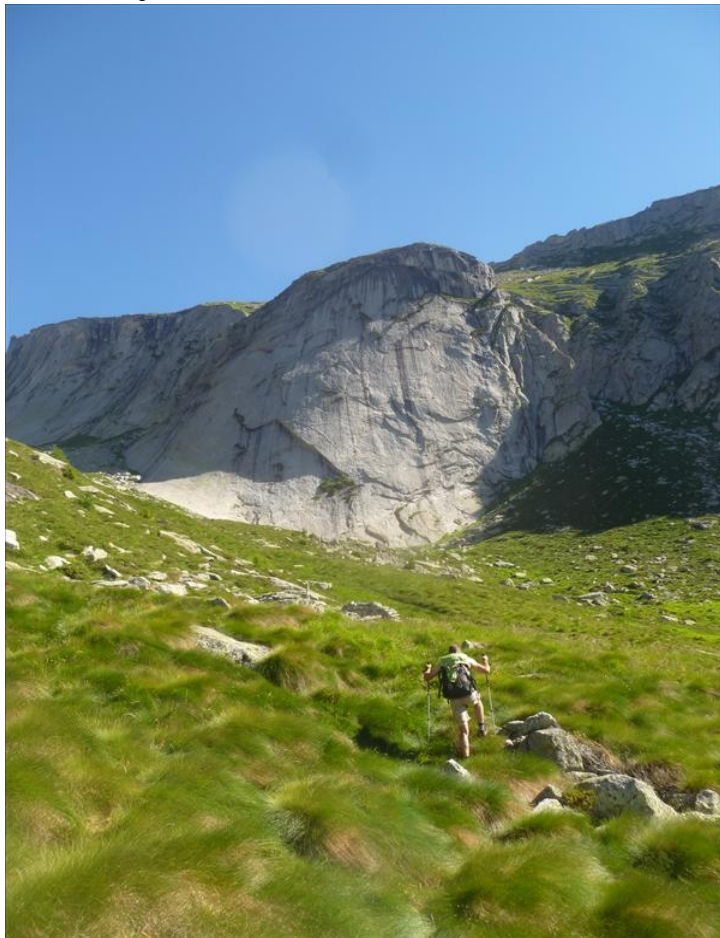
It was fine and sunny for our last day. To avoid a main road we followed bike paths, but these were hard to follow at junctions so we turned inland to take minor roads through villages to reach the outskirts of Collioure, now almost at the Mediterranean. The prescribed route required us to go south along the coast to Cèrbieres which is virtually on the border with Spain. Again the route was hard to follow as all the signage led to the autoroute, so from Angelée-sur-Mer we opted to put in an extra climb to 330m which then led to the Col de Mollo (231m) and a rough descent to Port Vendres. The undulating coast road led us finally to our destination, Cèrbieres. My Garmin stats showed that in total since setting off from Hendaye we had cycled 815km with a total ascent and descent of 28,500m. With the interruption of the floods we had extended our journey into a ninth day, but essentially we had followed an eight day schedule. It was a hugely satisfying experience that had taken us through great mountain scenery, quiet wild areas and up some of the finest climbs open to cyclists.



Clare had been an indispensable part of the team allowing us to cycle with minimal gear each day and to sort out the camp sites that fitted in with our actual schedule. She met us close to the finish and took our photos as we dipped our toes into the Mediterranean and shook hands on completing a memorable journey.

Val di Mello days. Roger Gibbs and Dave Mawer

“Dave, where’s the belay?” There were some ruder words in there too. I could hear the tension crackling in my voice. An inaudible reply. I scowled back at the pristine quartz vein crossing a blank slab. My last runner was out of sight, hidden by the curve of the slab, at least 20 metres away. This was serious.



The day had started well with a hurried breakfast and tea. We had jumped on our bikes and pedalled the 20 minutes from our campsite into the Val di Mello. The walk in had been hard graft but the sun hadn’t reached us yet. The huge granite wall of Monte Qualido appeared from behind the trees and we paused to consult the topo. Minutes passed. I was quite glad of the rest. More minutes went by as we tried to make the crag fit the topo. Finally we concluded that the football pitch sized rock scar was where our route used to be. Time for plan B. The rest of the routes on the main wall were 750m monsters with very hard climbing linking tenuous features. Eventually Dave spotted a fabulous looking feature on a crag higher still up the valley, Aguas Calientes. We toiled on.

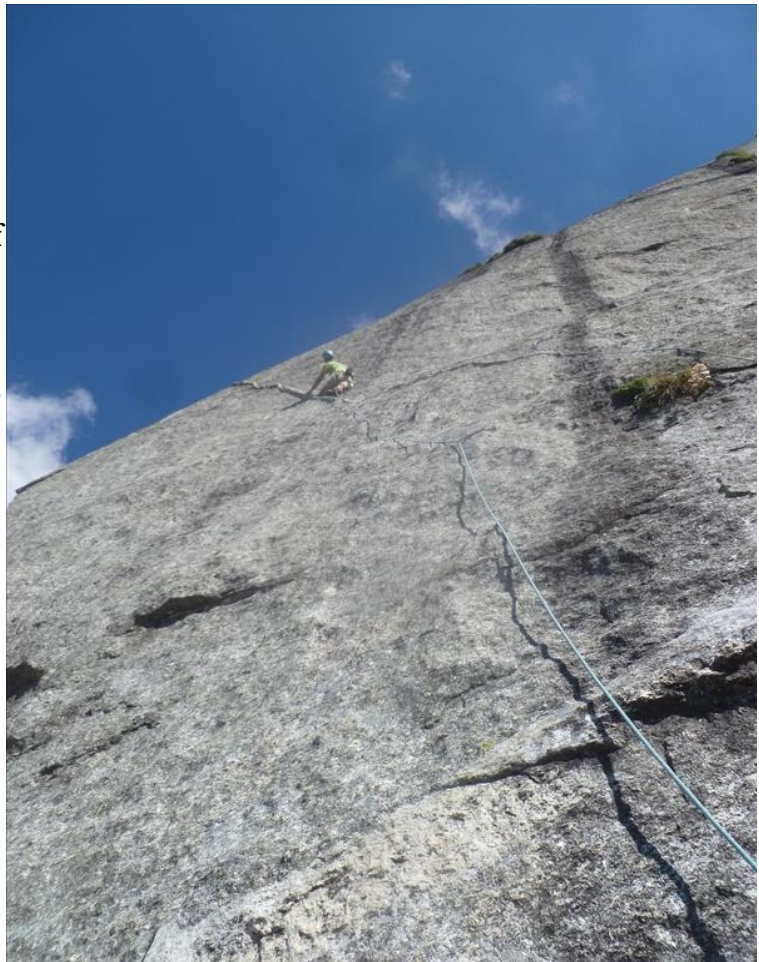
The walk in – Val di Mello.

The quartz vein slashing across the crag above a huge roof was visible from miles down the valley. Wow! We had to climb that! I won the toss for the main pitch, so Dave geared up and headed off up pitch one. It was a bit bold but at a fairly amenable angle. He belayed and brought me up. I could see a lot of blank granite above. I smeared up and clipped the first bolts. OK breathe. A tiny cam and more padding. Now I had my left hand pinching the vein as it angled up across the slab. With my right hand flat on the slab, I tiptoed along the quartz. After 5m, another bolt appeared. Clip and breathe. I was starting to enjoy myself.

The vein got a little more positive and the slab leaned back. I paused for a rest. Speckled black butterflies landed on me for a taste of salt. Off to my right and miles above another bolt glinted. Blimey, I’m glad I don’t have to go up there! I tiptoed further along the vein on positive holds now but with no runners. Finally, miles out from the last gear, I spotted a ledge. Happy now. Then the dawning realisation that there was no belay. I had gone too far. I was going to have to reverse all that tiptoeing.

Well no one is going to bale you out of this one. Firmly blocking out any thoughts of massive pendulums, I started gingerly reversing. Finally I reckoned I was close enough to the bolt that I might still have some skin left if I fell off. I looked up at the next bolt. It was the one I'd been delighted not to have to go anywhere near some time earlier. Not daring to breathe, I crept upwards. Clip. Suddenly the tenuous smears felt a little more certain. The belay was just above. We baled after that, muttering about crazy Italians. Welcome to the Val di Mello. At least the alpine meadow was beautiful and we'd have some good stories.

Right: Roger getting into “hot water” on Aguas Calientes.



Back in the valley, the sun shone. We swam in the river (invigorating let's say), rode our bikes, went cragging in the valley, admired the glorious scenery, drank beer and ate ice cream. Somehow a stunning alpine valley with gobsmacking huge granite walls is world famous for its bouldering and some of the team indulged. I just looked at the pictures in Bar Monica, they looked pretty hard, but the beer and delicious nibbles more than made up for it.

Eventually we were forced to get up early and head up on the big walls again. This time the walk in was shorter but more complex with fixed ropes and alarming exposure. We managed not to get bitten by the giant snake. Finally we got to the bottom of Oceano Irrazionale and it seemed to be still standing – bonus. I squirmed up behind a giant flake for thirty runnerless feet. Eventually gear and holds appeared, leading to a bomber belay. Hey this is easy. Dave's first pitch had thin smearing and a bit of grass. He belayed and brought me across. I looked up at my pitch. You know how people describe soaring lines? A perfect granite crack blasted up in an unbroken line to the crux roof. It looked like a big pitch except the topo showed three 50m pitches. It soared alright.

Butch jamming and laybacking with lots of runners eventually got me to a comfy belay. Dave had more of the same and soon it was my turn again. Giant stacked blocks in the back of the crack/groove gave steep climbing, where it was probably best not to pull too hard, or think too hard about what was holding the blocks together. I tried not to think about dominoes or Kerplunk. Soon Dave was setting out on the crux pitch. Technical crimping led up to the massive flake line. “Ride

‘em cowboy!’ I bellowed as Dave crammed legs and arms behind the overhanging flakes. The reply was stony silence. He edged out of view. When it was my turn I realised why he wasn’t whooping back – the last few metres to the belay were strenuous and unprotected unless you take your giant cams. We’d got ours safely back in the van. There was more butchness to escape the roof.



We paused for a drink and a snack. It was getting hot. The climbing eased but there was a sting in the tail. Dave copped for a giant pitch of terrifying padding with no worthwhile protection. He just got to the belay on rope stretch. I was gripped just following. Did I mention bonkers Italians? We were out of water now and at least one of the party was ready for a nice cup of tea and a lie down. Oh yes and then there was the descent. In the interest of our sanity I will draw a veil over it, but let’s just say that there were some rather exciting abseils off what could best be described as disappointing belays. Dave claims to have done the whole thing with his eyes shut. The water in the stream at the base tasted as sweet as any I’ve ever tasted.

Left: **Oceano Irrazionale**

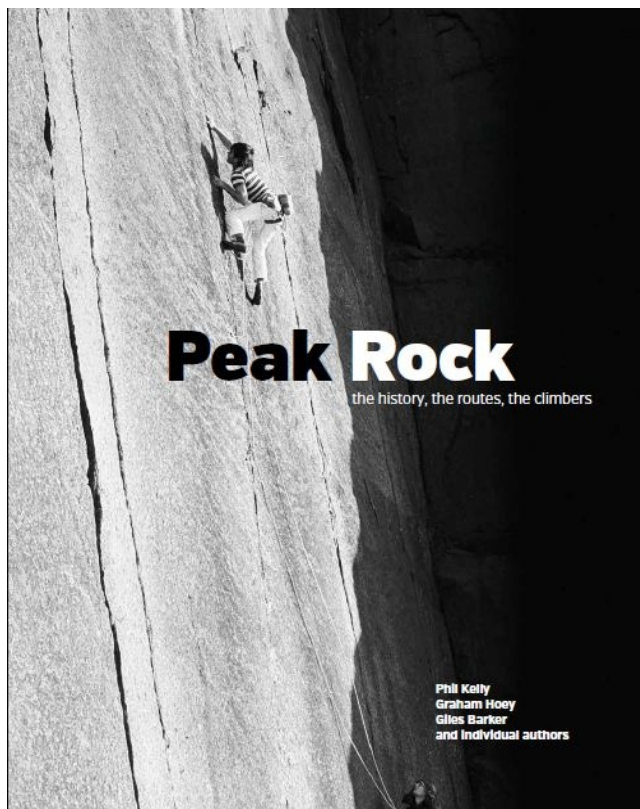
Back in the valley we sampled more ice cream, more biking, more swimming and more cragging. The Dovedale-like spa at the top of the valley road provided a fantastic lunch and stunning views. Later I managed to squeeze in perhaps my best big adventure of the trip on Luna Nascente with Victoria. Ignore the boulder problem start and you get another stunning line of butch cracks soaring (yes again) for pitch after pitch, up to an impasse. Up steeply again to a traverse line across a giant hollow flake. Exposed doesn’t even begin to cover it. At the end of the traverse you pull into a crack far too wide for jams or gear. A fall off this and you’d probably swing into Switzerland. “Probably the best VS you’re ever going to do,” I bellowed down to Victoria with delight, and maybe just a bit of understatement. The top pitch gave the obligatory gearless, run out slab. Nutter Italians. What a trip.

Hobday's humour:



The new book on Peak rock climbing proves interesting...

A new book, due to be published on 25 November.



Peak Rock is a celebration of significant developments at the cutting edge of rock climbing in the Peak District, from the day that James W Puttrell first set foot on rock at Wharncliffe in the late nineteenth century, through to modern day ascents on the area's gritstone and limestone crags.

(Cover photo by Bernard Newman.)

Meticulously researched and written by a team of local authors, this is the story of the sharp end of Peak District climbing as told through the words of many of the Peak's — and the world's — top climbers, including: James W Puttrell, Jack Longland, Joe Brown, Don Whillans, Ed Drummond, Tom Proctor, John Allen, Ron Fawcett, Andy Pollitt, Jerry Moffatt, Johnny Dawes, Ben Moon, Miles Gibson, Pete

Whittaker, Steve McClure, Ryan Pasquill and many more.

The late Giles Barker (CC member) first started work on *Peak Rock* — then titled *Peak Performance* — in the early 1980s, before progress was halted by his

premature death in 1992. It was almost twenty years before Phil Kelly picked up where Giles left off, pulling together Giles' original research and interviews, which were stored at the Mountain Heritage Trust. Phil enlisted Graham Hoey (CC and FRCC) to work on the book, updating the manuscript with their own interview material and other primary source information, writing a number of missing chapters and also adding a number of chapters, including the significant developments of the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

Phil and Graham brought in a team of experienced Peak District climbers drawing on their knowledge of specific developments — trad climbing, sport climbing, bouldering, gritstone, limestone — and worked with them to develop individual chapters. This resulting book on the history of Peak District climbing is the most comprehensive to be published since Eric Byne and Geoff Sutton's *High Peak* in 1966.

This book has been written on a non-commercial basis, with proceeds being paid to the Mountain Heritage Trust and the family of Giles Barker. Its publication has been made possible with the help and support of the British Mountaineering Council.

Hut Bookings for October onward.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 4-6 October. | Mercian M.C. |
| 7-10 October. | Dave Weston 8 beds. |
| 11-13 October. | Derby M.C. |
| 18-20 October. | Oliver Sawyer 6 beds. |
| 25-27 October. | O.M.C. Curry meet. |
| 2-9 November. | Colin Hobday 6 beds. |
| 15-17 November. | Innominata M.C. |
| 22-24 November. | Scunthorpe M.C. |
| 29 Nov-1 Dec. | Rock & Heather. Whole hut. |
| 6-8 December. | Southampton Rats |

HEATHY LEA

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 4-6 October. | Fell & Rock |
| 11-13 October. | Croyden M.C. |
| 2 November. | O.M.C. Bonfire meet |

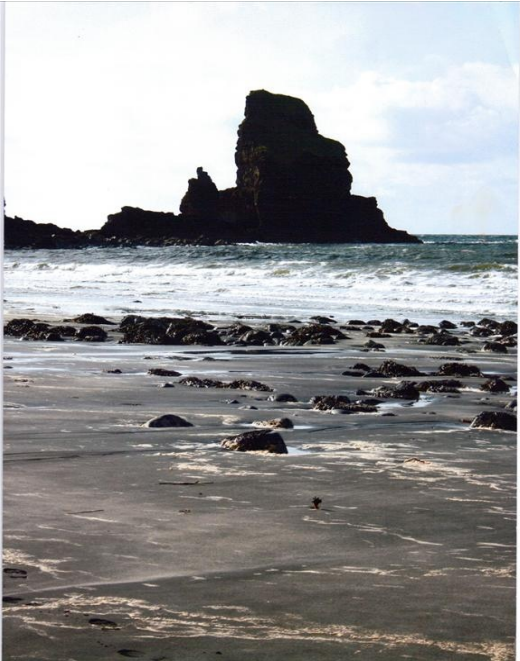
“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

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

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

As few people have responded to Rusty's challenge yet I am leaving this one in for another month. Now the long dark evenings are upon us you will have time to puzzle over this one. Did we see it on Lundy?



Rusty suggests that, if you are not intimately familiar with this landmark, for a little entertainment, you should submit your "best guess" map reference (six digits plus the two letters, SK if it were in Derbyshire). He will then do a little pythagorus on any replies and calculate who is closest on a straight line basis!

Answers to alistair.ruth@btinternet.com or by telephone or post, as suits you best.

Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|
| 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. | | |

Fashion Notes: the new season's look.



Will you be Pretty in Pink or Barnacle Bill the Sailor?

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Oread M.C Annual Dinner Order Form

The cost of the dinner is £20.00 per person. Tea or coffee with a mince pie is included in the price. Cheese and biscuits is available for an **additional £4.00** per person.

Please write your name and the name of your guest(s) in the top boxes and tick one item per course per person.

Post your completed form to: Chris Wilson, 10a Beacon Road, Rolleston on Dove, DE13 9EF
Or **Email** your completed form to: chris.wilson22@yahoo.co.uk

The **preferred method for payment** is by bank transfer:

Bank: Yorkshire Bank Sort Code: **05-04-07** Account Number: **45028744**

Please **add a reference** such as: *Dinner+name* **and** let me know you have paid by this method.

Alternatively post your cheque, made payable to the Oread Mountaineering Club, with the booking form

I MUST have the completed forms BEFORE Monday 4th November 2013.

(v) = Suitable for vegetarians

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Name: | | | | |
| Starter | | | | |
| Broccoli & Stilton Soup (v) | | | | |
| Wild Boar Pate | | | | |
| Derby's Oatcake with mushrooms (v) | | | | |
| Main Course | | | | |
| Beef Bourguignon cooked in Red Wine with Mushrooms and Onions | | | | |
| Roast Lamb with Herb Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Red Wine Gravy | | | | |
| Squash, Mushroom and Red Pepper Tartlet with Chips and a Side Salad (v) | | | | |
| Desserts | | | | |
| Homemade sherry trifle | | | | |
| Fresh fruit pavlova | | | | |
| Sticky toffee Sponge with ice cream | | | | |
| Extras (Add £4.00) | | | | |
| Cheese and biscuits (v) | | | | |

If you have any **special dietary requirements** please state them below (e.g. gluten/wheat/vegan)
The Bluebell have indicated they can cater for special dietary requirements, I suggest you contact them direct to be certain they can cater for you, and for your peace of mind.

If you have a strong preference to be seated next to others please state below and we will do our best to accommodate you.