



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2013



And now for something completely different: A look back in time to a meet at Alstonefield Youth Hostel in December 2001 - happy days. If you were there please do share your memories of this meet. Photo by Wally Richardson, contributed by Graham Jeffrey.

Editorial

Last call for the annual dinner – still just time to book if you get in touch with Chris **NOW!**

The dark nights are upon us and this issue is full of things to while away the long winter evenings, including a super start to our indoor meets coming up on 5 November. Do have a close look at this month's **What's On** section: as well as official Oread meets, members have let me know about a number of other lectures and events that may be of interest. Meets coming up soon range from the Heathy Lea Bonfire and Dovedale Dash to a trip to Patterdale and, of course, the notorious Bullstones meet. Dare to be there! Hope you like this month's vintage cover photo. I'd love to include more if you have anything suitable.

What's on.

2013-14 WINTER MEETS! ! ! ! ! ! Rob Tresidder

The first evening meet will be addressed by Mike Hutton on 5 November. See below.

The December meet will hear Pete Whittaker. He plans to talk about *Offwidthing* with particular emphasis on Century Crack, Canyonlands.

January and March have yet to be finalised. I have had some tentative volunteers to fill these spots but nothing finalised, so if you can provide something interesting or entertaining get in touch with me. Or perhaps you'd prefer to slip me the name of a friend!

In February we will be visited by Stu Fisher whose son, Jamie, lectured to us a couple of times about fifteen years ago. Stu plans to talk about mountaineering and biology in Africa.

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

Heathy Lea Bonfire Saturday 2 November Mick Hayes

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.

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 come and especially if you are staying the night.

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

Evening Meet Tuesday 5 November

***From the golden granite of Lofoten, to Norway's land of ice.
Mike Hutton***

The first lecture of the winter season will take place at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook at 8 p.m. on 5 November.

Mike Hutton takes us on a tour of his latest climbing, bouldering and ice climbing adventures in some of Scandinavia's most beautiful regions.

Part 1 will cover all the time he has spent rock climbing, bouldering and exploring

Lofoten, including part of his bicycle trip from Bergen to North Cape. Part 2 will be on some of the ice climbing he has done in the Voss, Haemsadael regions of Norway.

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

Club night: 12 November at the Red Lion, Wirksworth

November'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

Dovedale Dash 2013 Rob Tresidder

This year's Dash will start at 11.00 a.m. 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

Lecture at The Temple Hotel, Matlock Bath 13 November 7.30 for 8.00p.m. Adele Pennington Summit or Survive?

The Derwent Mountaineering Club invites you to join them for what promises to be an interesting evening with Adele Pennington. She has made a number of notable first female ascents and will be giving an account of how she started climbing through to being well on the way to making ascents of all the 8000m. summits.

Lecture at Derby Assembly Rooms, Darwin Suite Wednesday 13th November: 7.30 p.m.

Leo Holding: "From the Amazon to Antarctica"

The first Briton to conquer California's notorious El Capitan rock face. He recounts his most recent vertical epics from the lost world of the Amazon to the white desert of Antarctica.

Tickets 15.25 (Concessions available for students and OAPs).

The 64th Annual Dinner Saturday 16 November 2013

Chris Wilson

We are honoured this year to have as our guest founder member, George Sutton.

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). Menu etc in last month's newsletter.

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!

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.

Post Prandial Walk - Sunday 17 November 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 Working Party 20-21 November Dave Helliwell

We hope to get a few essential jobs done, such as clearing leaves from the garden and gutters and painting the new plaster before winter sets in. The date has been picked to coincide with our annual fire and electrical equipment testing. If you can give a day or two, Wednesday to Friday please let me or Ruth know.

Dave Helliwell tel. 01298 812753 email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com

Lecture at Derby Assembly Rooms, Darwin Suite Thursday 21st November 7 p.m.

“First in the Himalaya” with the legendary Kurt Diemberger (two first ascents of 8000m peaks) and Robert Schauer (Gasherbrunn IV West Face) – both are from Austria so quite a privilege to have them speak in Derby. Also part of the lecture is Mick Fowler (Changagang). The evening is being introduced by Doug Scott CBE. Tickets £ 17 – no concessions.

Patterdale 30 November – 1 December 2013 Tony Howard



Last year's happy party on top of Helvellyn

Two years ago it was very wet on this meet. So last year I took the optimistic view that it would be dry, but promised that we would be singing and dancing in the rain if it was not.

The weather was dry, and snowy on the tops for our traverse of Striding Edge and Helvellyn; *on Friday*; a great day out. On Saturday we took the Ferry to Howtown and walked back along the east side of the lake; another pleasant cold day. And on Saturday night *there was* singing and dancing, as I promised! That is at the Patterdale Hotel where we discovered a live performer. Richard Hardwick demonstrated his unmatched knowledge of pop music from the 60's to the present day and a couple of Oreads 'shook it on down'.

This year I expect it to be dry and snowy again. Come and join me at the ABMSAC George Starkey hut in Patterdale. We have 16 beds booked for a weekend of fun walking, climbing and dancing. (I'll tell you anything to get bums on beds.)

If you would like to come along, please let me know ASAP. I'll have some spaces in my car and will be in the White Lion on Friday night.

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

Bullstones Meet 6 - 8 December 2013 Kevin Fidler

Welcome to the Annual Oread Bullstones weekend. Yes, it is that time of year where once again a group of hardy walkers venture out on a Friday night (avoiding high fuel bills by sleeping on damp ground!). We will meet at the Rudyard Hotel near Leek, Staffordshire- Grid Ref: SJ95128-58163. It has a very large car park which we are kindly being allowed to use for the weekend (Please park at back end of car park). If you wish to eat at the Rudyard Hotel please let me know beforehand so that I can give them an idea of numbers. Beer, of course, will be readily available. Then it is out for a nice bivvy around 3 miles away in somebody's field in which, I unfortunately have to report, room service is unavailable.

Saturday morning set off to Shutlingsloe and to Upper Hulme Bunkhouse Grid Ref: SK01296-60973, around 13 miles. The bunkhouse sleeps 42 people and costs £10 per person and 50 pence per shower and is reserved for us (again need to know numbers). If you want, the Rock Inn pub is around the corner for evening meals, (most of you climbers will know this inn). Then on Sunday back to the Rudyard Hotel around 5 miles... but you can extend it if you wish.

If you need any more info contact Kevin on 07807815475 or email thefidler@talk21.com

Cheers and see you soon
Kevin.

Black Rocks night Wednesday 11 December: Rob Tresidder

We usually assemble some time after work and on the rocks. Pie, chips and peas for £6.95 including a pint or a 175ml glass of wine after at the Rising Sun at Middleton Cross.

Don't leave it too late. I have advised the pub that most will arrive between 8 and 9. The space beside the fire has been set aside for us! Some go straight to the pub — often by bike.

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

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. Bookings for New Year's eve are already coming in thick and fast.

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.

Gogarth 2013 Dave Mawer and Roger Gibbs

A small team of Gogarth devotees assembled at the Valley of the Rocks campsite at various times of Friday night. Chris and Gill had come a day early and enjoyed a day on Holyhead mountain in lea of the stiff North easterly wind. With the Peak District under water, Saturday dawned dry, albeit grey. Pete and Kyya headed to the main cliff for Nightride, followed by The Strand where they joined Chris and Gill on the upper tier who climbed Central Park and The Ramp. Meanwhile Victoria and Roger enjoyed the absorbing Mousetrap. Mick, Emma, Graham, Tullan and I climbed on Holyhead Mountain, after which the former three climbed Lighthouse Arete on Castell Helen, whereas I teamed up with Roger to climb The Moon on Yellow Wall. On Saturday night we congregated in the "Paddlers Rest" for a number of pints of Purple Moose beer and their tasty cuisine, being warmed

by the wood burning stove. An adventurous Saturday - in the words of Mr. Gibbs: *"The business of life is the acquisition of memories."* That sounds learned and deep doesn't it? Until you realise I nicked it from Downton Abbey! Carson has come up with a corker though and it's also why trad is better than sport, and a trip to Gogarth is always a good idea.

Famed for its adventurous and occasionally serious climbs, Gogarth definitely suits the competent and experienced; many of the routes are tidal and loose rock is often encountered. On the main crags there is little in the lower grades, and a degree of composure is required to deal with the infamous Gogarth 'grip' factor.

We discussed plans over breakfast. Victoria suggested Mousetrap, a "fascinating, but serious trip on the ultimate adventure crag" according to one guide. I had done it back in 2005 but only had hazy memories. I consulted my guide: "excellent and more solid than you might think" I had written. Sounds like a recommendation – game on. Victoria had been for a recce a couple of weeks previously, so she scampered off to find the start point. A long abseil dropped us onto a sloping slab and we skittered down to the boulder beach. I glanced up at the crazy contortions of the rock leaning over me. Down to business.

There had been plenty of rain in the previous week and the rock was coated in



damp sand. I set off carefully and headed out rightwards across a steep wall to the infamous chimneys. Treating the holds with as much respect as possible, I teetered into the first chimney and a rest. Winding a sling around a jutting knob of quartz, I paused and pondered where I was. The rock had the consistency of cheese for the most part with the odd disappointing outbreak of solidity. I must have been feeling very unimaginative when I wrote "more solid than you might think". More "creative" gear and I squirmed over into the next chimney, more a sandy channel really. Up onto a creased slab and across to the belay.

Roger – playing in sand and improvising with knobs on Mousetrap.

While Victoria climbs, I peer around at the real lunacy above and below me

(Fowler's Helmet Boiler, E5 5c and Death Trap, E6 5c are both around here somewhere, and no, those grades aren't typos). Victoria appears with a huge grin and we chat for a while.

Pitch two starts steeply and is a bit damp, but, with another odd lump lassoed for a runner, I stride across onto the slab which forms the left side of a huge groove line. Mantrap heads off right here into steeper ground. Another day perhaps? The slab is steady but mostly runnerless and leads without incident to the belay. Well, a sling over a rounded spike and a dodgy wire anyway. A gaggle of tourists point and stare from the path to the lighthouse. Victoria arrives and we contemplate the top pitch. This is steeper but has golden brown rock instead of the yellow dusty gorgonzola we're getting used to. It gives good honest work and a ramble to the flat grassy summit. Securely tied to a giant boulder I wonder what it must have been like to set off up that with no idea what you might find. You would certainly acquire some memories.

After a hurried sandwich it was time for another adventure. The Moon has been described as "a spectacular tip toe through wild, improbable territory". It's a super classic trip squeezed in between huge jutting roofs above and masses of fresh air down to the sea below. Most of the main pitch is severely undercut, so you really don't want to fall off. Ed Drummond, its creator, reckoned it was more serious than Linden, his stern grit test piece on Curbar, "strictly space walking".

Dave set off up a disturbingly steep "easy approach" pitch. The rock over here was more solid than in Mousetrap zawn, which was good because it looked like we were going to have to actually pull on some of these holds. I joined Dave at the belay and gazed out across the traverse line. I start tip toeing and shuffling further around until I'm under a steep wall and suddenly it all got a bit physical on me. A grunt and I'm pulling quite a bit harder than I want to. More tip toeing and more runners, then I start enjoying myself. I've nicked myself on a sharp rock somehow and the blood feels slick between my fingers.



Roger gets physical on the main pitch of The Moon.

More chalk and I teeter sideways on positive crimps and sloping footholds above

the void.

Dave is out of sight now and I am really alone. I round another corner and the belay is in sight. Just a runner-less wall and a down climb to get there. The gear reappears at the top of the groove/crack and I carefully lower myself down to the ledges. The belay is actually pretty good and I start to relax. Dave soon appears, grabs the rack and heads off into the roofs above us. Blimey I thought this was the easy bit. Dave pauses to snap me on the belay below and then cranks up out of sight.

“You’re a crazy man, Mr Mawer”, I bellow as I follow up the overhanging blocks and grooves. Pausing to stare back down to the sea I grin to myself.”

Sunday brought more of the same but with less wind. Kyya and Pete enjoyed a little excitement on Toiler of the Sea in Wen Zawn area. Chris and Gill climbed Blanco and Lighthouse Arete. Mick and Emma saved on diesel by catching a lift home with the RAC and Victoria, Tullan and I went over to Rhoscolyn in search of the delightful Symphony Crack, a VD worth every one of its three stars! During which we spotted a red kite, a grey seal and a couple of billy goats. All in all another successful Gogarth meet clutched from the jaws of the British weather. Same again next year!



Mick, Emma and Graham on Lighthouse Arete.



Dave and Roger over the Moon, the “Best route in the World?”

Tan yr Wyddfa Hut News: Dave Helliwell

The hut has recently undergone a Fire Safety Audit by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The good news is that, while a few helpful suggestions were made to improve safety, we have been informed that the fire prevention systems and equipment in place are very satisfactory. As a result of one recommendation a Carbon Monoxide monitor has been purchased for the living room and will be fitted shortly. The storage heater in the dining room, which has been intermittently faulty for some time, has now been replaced so you should find the dining room and kitchen area much warmer on your next visit.

The Oreads in Summer.



At the Giant Boulder, Val di Mello. (Photo Nick Evans).

An exciting descent on the Sentiero Roma, above Val di Mello. Jan and Chris Wilson, Nigel and Janet Briggs. (Photo Richard Hopkinson).



Relaxing at the Station Bar in El Chorro. October.

Below right:

Much less relaxed – Chris Wilson and Ruth Gordon on the Camino del Rey. El Chorro.

Below left:

Pete Scott shows us his class on the via ferrata de la Roche a Agathe, above Thones, Haute-Savoie, France (All photos Richard Hopkinson).





Pete Lancaster warming up on Diamond Solitaire. Lundy. September.

And then it rained:

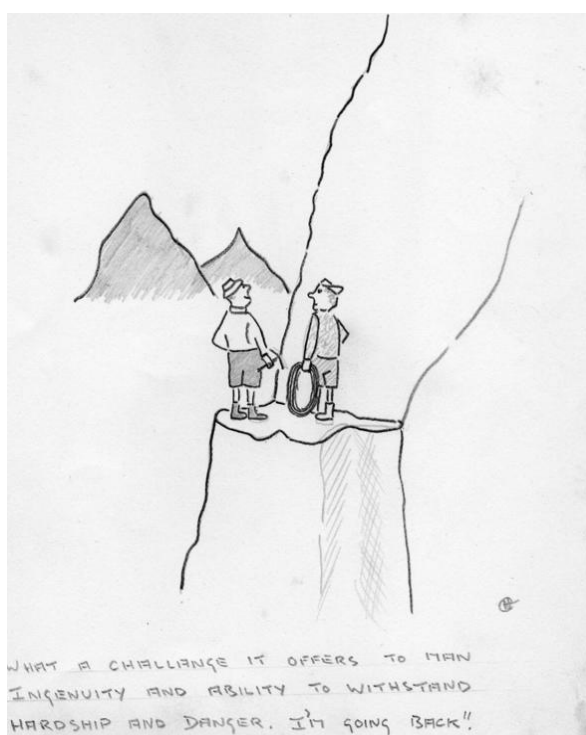
Your honoured President captured in a rare sulky moment after an unexpectedly challenging ascent of Shamrock, a mere 3 pitch V.S. conducted in a deluge. While Simon remains cheerful. Snod's reaction is mercifully obscured by water on the lens.



Information on member activities.

As we prepare to welcome one of our founder members, 90 year old George Sutton, to the Annual Dinner I have received information that another redoubtable nonagenarian, Digger Williams, is still enjoying the hills in no uncertain terms. Last November he made an ascent of Snowdon, via Snowdon Ranger, to celebrate a friend's 90th birthday. "Digger made the summit in his 91st year with relative ease". More recently Digger, at the age of 92, walked from the Welsh Hut, over Aran col and down into the Gwynnant. An inspiration to us all.

Hobday's humour:



Hut Bookings for November onward.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

30-31 October	Wigan Youth Zone. Sole Occupancy.
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
13-14 December	Milton Keynes M.C.

HEATHY LEA

2 November . O.M.C. Bonfire meet
8-9 November University of East Anglia
15-16 November Reading M.C.
22-23 November Plymouth University M.C.

“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. John's Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD

Tel. 01332 670459 Email: derepike1234@btinternet.com

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

The elusive sea stack: all is revealed.

The correct map ref is NG 310306 (Talisker Bay, Skye).

Messrs Snod, Jack Ashcroft, Chris Wilson and Martin Lancaster all submitted answers in squares SM, SR or SS being the Bristol Channel area, Lundy or Pembroke. Since these involve a small Northing error of circa 600 km it is clearly inappropriate to perform detailed calculations to rank these replies. Pete Lancaster is reported as stating "it looks more like Scotland to me" and so, as befits the status of the Presidency, ran out as a clear winner - in the correct country. It is interesting to note that only the seventh series OS maps shows a diagram of the ordnance survey squares. Ashcroft at any rate, would clearly have purchased his maps in this pre-metrication era. The navigational skills on display appear to follow on from those on view when an early Bullstones party blundered over Kinder in darkness, to the tune of bagpipes, and finished up at Kinder reservoir en route to the Snake road.

Now for an easy one!



Most of you will know this scene, and Chris Wilson and Pete Lancaster are now very well aware that this particular venue is **not** a public house (as they believed

it to be) on the fateful day they decided not to bring sandwiches on a long winter's walk. The answer to this month's puzzle would have been of some interest to them as they went hungry and thirsty, watching the others devour their picnics that day:

The question is:

"What is the name of the pub, in the general locality of this scene, which is less than one mile from the highest point in the County in which it resides".

Replies, as usual, to the Hon. Ed. in whatever format suits you.

Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

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.	

2014

January			
1st	Peak District	New Year's Day Walk	Rusty Russell
18 th -19 th	Swanage (tbc)	Climbing Meet	
February			
8 th - 9 th .	Rhydd-Ddu	Tan-y-Wyddfa	Gill Radcliffe
22 nd -23 rd .	Scottish Meet, Glen Etive	Inbhirfhaolain Hut (Grampian M.C.)	Rob Tresidder

Appeal for the homeless.



It will no doubt be a matter of shock and concern to many of you that our esteemed ex-president has nowhere to lay his head at nights but a public bath where he lies at the mercy of unscrupulous paparazzi.

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