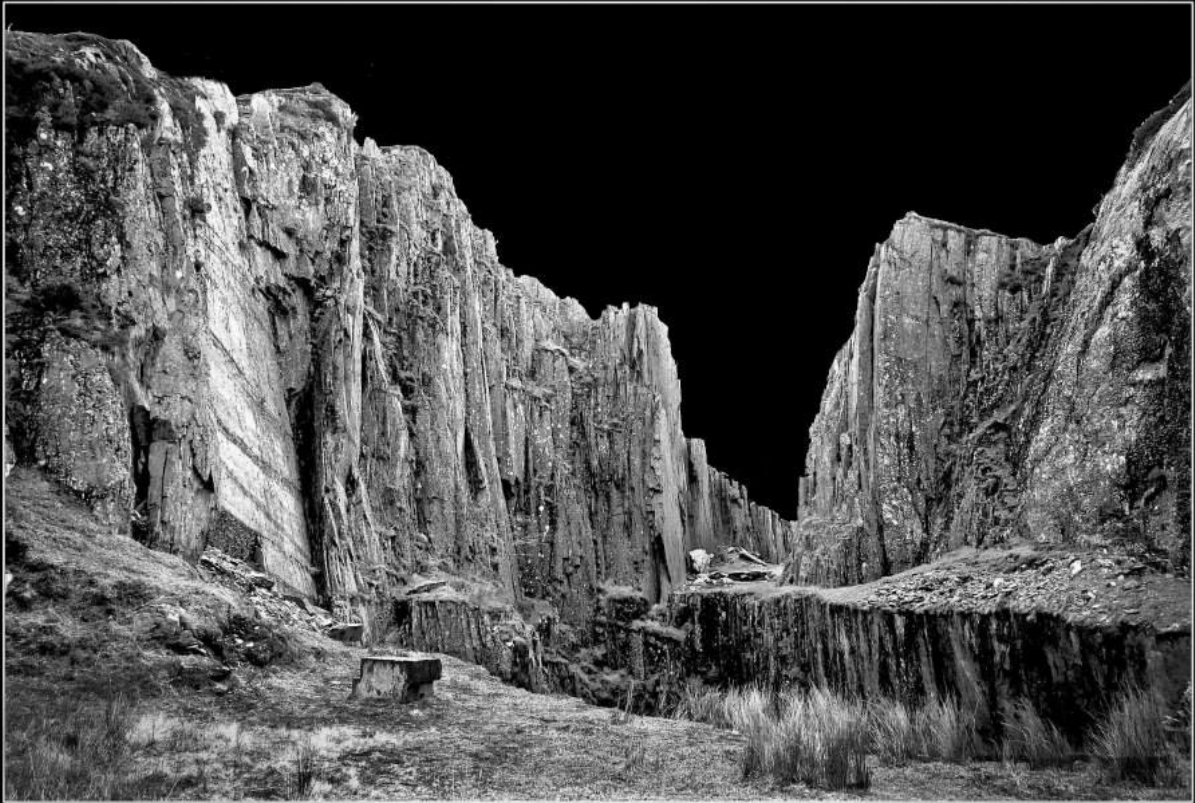




OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

MARCH 2014



Pete Kennington's stunning shot of a disused quarry just above Tan yr Wyddfa on the path to Snowdon shows what magic can be achieved with a camera on even the most apparently unpromising of weekends.

Be there – seize the moment!

Editorial

This month's issue brings you the last of our winter lectures and a trip to Patterdale early this month; something a bit different for the Spring Stride on the Sunday after the AGM, then looks forward to the year ahead with details of Easter, the May Bank Holiday meet to Coniston, and all the information on the summer Alpine meet to Ailefroide. Stories from meets past range from Swanage to the Himalayas via Tan yr Wyddfa and Benidorm so read and enjoy. Oh, and there's the truth about the Bullshitstones in there too plus more memories of Paul Gardner. If you don't read this issue I hope you have at least as good an excuse as the one from my correspondent on page 16.

What's on.

Tuesday 4 March at the Royal Oak Ockbrook 8.00pm Winter Climbing: a view from the middle grades by Jeff Ingman



The show will cover Jeff's experiences of winter climbing in the middle grades, IV to VII. Other forms of climbing will be compared with a focus on relative risk. Weather, rising standards and comparisons between Scottish routes and continental ice climbing, will all be covered along with some of his experiences as a host on four of the BMC international meets. Photos will emphasise Scotland's status as a 'must visit' place for mixed climbers from around the world. Learn more? Text me. Rob Tresidder 07951 625 378

Night Navigation Wednesday 19 March

The Derwent again cordially invite you to blunder around in the dark searching for splendid, large ultra-visible new flags! Details by email nearer the time.

Patterdale 8-9 March Stuart Haywood

In previous years I've stated how difficult it is to add anything new to the Newsletter article regarding this traditional meet. Dependant on weather conditions climbing, scrambling, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing and gear shopping are all available in the immediate vicinity of the hut.

Accordingly the only variable will as usual be the weather, and bearing in mind

last year's experience I certainly can't make any promises on this score. However after the unseasonably mild temperatures over the last few weeks winter could still have a sting in its tail!

If you want to book a berth please call me on 07774 – 859553 ; 01332 882331 or e-mail stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk I will of course reply to all e-mail and voicemail messages to confirm bookings. Also if you are looking for, or can offer lifts, please let me know. Stuart Haywood.

Oread AGM – Saturday 22 March 2014

The AGM will, as usual, be held at the Robin Hood, Chesterfield Road, Baslow DE45 1PQ at 8.00p.m. on 22 March.

The **Agenda** for the meeting will be:

Apologies for absence.

Minutes of the 2013 AGM held at The Robin Hood, Baslow, on 27th April 2013.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Sub-Committee Report.

Heathy Lea Hut Sub-Committee Report

Election of Officers.

A.O.B.

See last month's newsletter for details of the proposed Officers and Committee members.

Members are reminded that, subject to Rules 8 and 9, the General Secretary must receive any nominations for election of Officers and Committee members at least 14 days before the A.G.M. **Nominations close on 8 March.**

Please send your nominations to the General Secretary, Rob Tresidder, 61 West End Wirksworth DE4 4EG tel. 07951 625 378 email Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net

No changes to the Club Rules are proposed by the Committee.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2014 must be fully paid up before the start of the meeting.

If you are intending to eat at the Robin Hood please let me know so I can give them some idea of numbers to expect.

Heathy Lea is available for those wishing to stay over. Book in as normal.

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

And the very next day you can enjoy:

Spring Stride: Stoops & Stones 23 March Chris Radcliffe

Guide Stoops are part of the rich historical heritage that exists in the Peak moorland areas. They were set up in 1709 or shortly afterwards by local parishes

to help jagers, salters, pedlars and other travellers to find their way across lonely terrain.

A few years ago local artists collaborated to design Companion Stones that are located next to an ancient Guide Stoop. The engraved poems are designed to point, not to a market town, but towards our future. There are twelve Companion Stones and the objective of my walk is to visit eight of these that are in a rough triangle defined by Wellington Monument, Owl Bar and Longshaw. Meet at Heathy Lea at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure.

Easter 2014 part 1 18 -27 April

Roger Gibbs is leading the first part of the extended Easter meet:

We'll head over/under the channel on Friday 18th April and plan to get to Fontainebleau that evening.

Fontainebleau, for those of you who don't know is the world's best bouldering area and just about the most fun you can have with your clothes on. It's very family friendly – imagine a sandy beach in a magical forest with caves, secret tunnels and lots of small rocks to clamber up. Perfect for children of all ages and climbers of all abilities. The patisseries are fabulous, red wine and cheese may also be consumed! For details of web sites etc see last month's newsletter

We will plan to stay on this campsite (we'll be in the van, others will camp):

<http://www.camping-grez-fontainebleau.info/france/caravans/vacations/contact.html>

This will be quite busy over the Easter weekend so you will need to book well in advance. After the bank holiday it usually empties out.

After a few days at Fontainebleau, we plan to head a little further south to find some of the superb cragging around Dijon. The exact departure date will be decided over a cold beer or when the skin is running out!

<http://www.climb-europe.com/RockClimbingFrance/Dijon-and-bourgogne.htm>

All of the crags here are worth a visit and the best are world class. Grades range from easy to "tres dur". Add in peaceful villages, quiet campsites (we won't need to book), excellent cuisine and you have a perfect way to kick start the summer!

We will head home about the 26th or 27th April.

I hope you can join us, please let me know if you can make it!

Rog, Sharon and Ben. Roger Gibbs tel. 07770 237 270 email roger@tilda.com

Some of us will only call briefly at Fontainebleau and will head rapidly to Nolay, in Burgundy. See www.nolay.com

We hope to stop at

CAMPING LA BRUYERE ***

Rue du Moulin Larché - 21340 NOLAY

Tél/fax : 03.80.21.87.59 ou 06.88.16.06.18

but there is another campsite close by if that should be full.

Easter – May Day 2014 29 April – 6 May

Chris Radcliffe is leading the second part of the trip

With a late Easter this year it seemed to me to provide an excellent opportunity for those with the time to have an extended trip to France and progress from Roger's "northern France" meet to a second centre in the south of France. Of course it is perfectly possible for this also to be a single destination trip.

The Ariège is an area of the French Pyrenees, centred on Tarascon-sur-Ariège roughly in the middle of the Pyrenean chain. I travelled through this region during my Raid Pyrenean cycle ride in 2013 and I particularly remember the Route des Corniche as a delightfully quiet and remote section of the ride, as well as the Col de Port, Col de Lers and Col du Chioula all of which feature in the Raid. So it made sense to come back to the area to try the climbing possibilities.

The climbing is very varied featuring limestone, granite and gneiss rock with roadside crags to high-mountain venues. The area is also ideal for other activities, including road biking as already mentioned, also mountain biking, walking and water sports – so something for everyone.

When? This is flexible and can be firmed up with other plans, but I aim to travel south after Roger's Meet taking 2 – 3 days and arriving in the area about April 29th. Then heading north around May 6th to cross back to the UK on May 8th.

Where? Camping Le Pré Lombard, Tarascon-sur-Ariège – www.prelombard.com. This is next to the river in the town, close to all the amenities and convenient to head out to the crags. I stayed there with Roger and Clare during the Raid and can confirm its 3* status.

Logistics? Driving: it depends where you are coming from: Tarascon is on the N20 and links in with the autoroute system. Flying: Carcassonne and Toulouse are about 1 hour 15 minutes away, while Perpignan is a little over two hours away.

Guide Book? There is a RockFax guidebook published in 2012. www.rockfax.com

Please let me know if you are interested in joining this meet so I can make booking arrangements with the campsite. Best to use email: chris@farfields.co.uk or try phoning 01246 569134 (home) or 07770 883259 (mob).

For those who don't have unlimited holiday we have another splendid option available much closer to home:

Early May Bank Holiday: Low House, Coniston nights of 2nd, 3rd and 4th May. Steve Bennett

Last year's meet was perfectly splendid with 16 Oreads attending; fortunately two members were able to claim reciprocal rights with the Climbers Club meaning that Rock was allowed a bunk and would not be required to sleep in the coal store after all.

On Saturday everyone hit the hills and trails on a day that was generally unfit for climbing but great for walking and biking.

Sunday dawned even worse with cloud on the tree tops and steady rain; the morning was spent variously depending on levels of exhaustion from the previous day, some caught up on sleep, a general forum on Britain's mediaeval history developed in the dining area and some even braved the rain and actually went out of doors. The afternoon was altogether different with improved weather and a mass traipse to Tarn Hows and back. Prolific use was made of the local hostelries whenever appropriate with the "Sun" becoming the pub of choice.

On Monday we were treated to the warmest day of the year so far with temperatures soaring into the 20's. Most took advantage of this unexpected bliss and descended on Wallowbarrow for a day's climbing before the journey home.

I am already looking forward to this year's meet: Low House is a great hut and Coniston, for me, is "the best bit of the Lakes". For those who are unfamiliar with Low House, the cottage is situated just off the centre of Coniston and only a few minutes walk from a choice of four pubs and the local shops. Apart from the throbbing night life, all other local attractions are fairly obvious with climbing, walking and cycling available at all standards. Family boat trips, canoeing and pony trekking are also available in the local area.

The hut accommodation is excellent and pretty much on a par with our own hut TyW. We have 14 beds available for Oreads on a first come first served basis; members of the MAM, Climbers Club and Fell and Rock will count on top of our quota. To book beds and for possible car sharing please give me a call or send an email.

Steve Bennett tel 01332 516367 or 07795 511582 email steve@apexdesigns.biz

Alpine Meet 19 July – 10 August Pete Lancaster

The venue for this year's meet is '*Camping d'Ailefroide*' in the heart of the *Pays des Ecrins* in an idyllic setting among trees and mountains.

The campsite is big; it spreads through the valley above and below the village but does not appear crowded. One simply finds a spot, either in the trees or somewhere more open, and camps as there are no 'pitches'. There are lots of facilities on the site which are clean and well maintained; the fees are not expensive. There are electricity hook-up points but they are limited, however because we were in the trees, we didn't find it a problem without last year. For more details go on the official website: <http://www.ailefroide.fr/camping/>

The village itself is very pleasant and has two well stocked supermarkets which even sell artisan bread; their produce rivals the bigger supermarkets for price. There are several bars and restaurants, one of which offered a glass of fruit juice, a coffee and a croissant for 2 Euros between 7.00 and 9.00am last summer – excellent value! There are two climbing/walking equipment shops both stocked with everything one might need including guide books. As to the latter, if anyone is familiar with the area and can recommend good guide books, then please let me know and I will pass on the info or post it through the Yahoo group. Within walking distance of the campsite there is world class bouldering and well equipped rock climbs both long and short and, of course, there are stacks of routes in the high mountains ranging from modern rock climbs to traditional alpine trips.

Half an hour's drive will give access to lots of excellent crags down the valley should you want a change. There is also a daily bus service down the valley. This meet is unusual in that one cannot book the site: they do not take bookings. This is not a problem, however, as the site is so big there will be space: we were there during the French holiday month, i.e. after August 1st and the site did not look anywhere near full. Arriving before August 1st however will give you more choices of pitch. Even though I cannot book on your behalf, I would like to know who is going, that way I might be able to help people coordinate their movements and activities.

You can contact me at petel1952@hotmail.co.uk or 0114 2301136. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pete Lancaster

Looking ahead: South Pembroke in August seems a long time away but, if you want to climb on Range West and have not attended one of the official briefings you will need to do so. This years briefings dates are 18th April (Good Friday), 24th May and 26th July. All will start promptly at 9am and will be at the Castlemartin Army Camp as usual.

Message from the Meets Secretary

I am now working on the 2015 Meets List and would welcome any requests, offers to lead meets or opinions on the current Meets programme. Is there a favourite area that you think we should visit? Would you prefer more camping meets or more obscure venues? Any comments would be helpful.

There are still a few omissions from the 2014 list: **I need a leader for the Hut Swop meet at the Fylde Hut in Little Langdale, April 5th – 6th. Also, any ideas for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend May 24th – 26th.** Please get in touch if you think you can help.

chris@farfields.co.uk

01246 569134 (home)

07770 883259 (mobile)

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Himalayan Connections: Bob Pettigrew



Last month, at the superb Mick Fowler lecture on the Kishtwar Kailash in the Punjab Himalaya of India, not many of the Oread members present seemed to know of the strong Oread connections with the Punjab Himalaya in at least three or even four generations so to rectify it I thought it would be useful to remind the Club of some of its meritorious Himalayan expedition history featuring a number of senior members who are still active in trekking the Himalaya today.

Therefore accompanying this newsletter you will receive a scan of my article on the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition of 1961 with a cast of members well known

at senior level in the Oread, and internationally, such as Dennis Gray. Nearer to home you will see mention of Derrick Burgess, Steve Read, Jack Ashcroft, the late Ray Handley and others. It was that expedition that first located and identified the magnificent aiguille of Ali Ratni Tibba, 18,000 ft, which towered above the DHE '61 base camp, and which was eventually scaled by the next Oread generation of Chris Radcliffe with the late Fred Harper of Glenmore Lodge. The photograph shows Steve Read and Ladakhi Chosfel on the summit of Deo Tibba. The peak in the background is Indrasan. More photos on page 20. The original article was published in the British Mountaineering Council magazine of 1961.

Swanage 18-20 January Snod Helliwell

Despite the doom and gloom of the weather forecasters nine Oreads took the chance on Swanage turning up trumps once again. We had booked some holiday apartments right in the centre which turned out to be convenient and good value. Saturday dawned cold and grey. We climbed at Dancing Ledge where the bolted routes sported exotic names like Transparent Birthday Suit and Date with a Frog. Everything felt hard and intimidating so we moved to Henbury, hoping to warm up on the walk. It was a bit more sheltered there so a few more routes were done before we headed home for tea and cakes followed by an excellent meal in the Red Lion. Sunday dawned bright and sunny. Mike, Simon and Roger went to Windspit where they had a good day. The rest of us were heading for Cormorant Ledges when we encountered a fierce hail storm that soaked everything. We retreated for a coffee till it cleared up and we were able to enjoy a lovely, warm, sunny afternoon at Subluminal. It appears that the Windspit team

were spared the hail shower but they had to set off home – shame about having to work!

Roger in action at Windspit, Simon belaying.

The rest of us woke to a beautiful, warm morning. Unfortunately we decided to go to Slippery Ledge which appeared to have a good range of Severe to V.S. routes. We reached it via the muddiest, slippiest path we had ever walked to find a suicidal descent down a 75 degree grass slope with no anchors and no sign of anyone having climbed there in years. We retreated to the closest alternative crag, Windspit, but that lacked appeal so we ended up back at Subluminal for another magic, sunny afternoon on the crag, then, sadly, it was time to go home. All in all a good weekend, one of the few in a dire winter on the South coast.

Team was Roger Gibbs, Ruth Gordon, Mike Hayes, Snod Helliewell, Simon Pape, Derek and Joan Pike, Chris and Jan Wilson.



TYW Weekend 8-9 February. Chris Radcliffe.

The forecast was dire and it did not let us down. Yet sometimes when the weather is truly awful there is satisfaction to be gained from confronting the elements , then returning to a warm and dry hut to enjoy the camaraderie of others equally drawn to the wild conditions. This was the pattern of the weekend which, despite the conditions can be rated a success.



Ali on Bwlch Cwm Llan gazing at Lliwedd, wondering whether to climb Snowdon or Yr Aran. (Photo Pete Kennington)

Pam and Nick had arrived a couple of days earlier, successful geological explorations completed. Pete and Ali had also arrived earlier and made an ascent of Yr Aran in reasonable conditions. Hence the hut was already warm and cosy, the fire well banked up, when Gill and I arrived on Friday evening, together with Rock, Pam and Nodge. Sustained rain and gale force winds started over night and continued throughout Saturday. Most of the team headed for the Anglesea coast line to experience dramatic sea conditions.



Ali and Pam struggling to stay upright in the gale. (Photo Pete Kennington)

Gill and I set out over the bwlch and down Cwm Pennant. We were walking head on into the southerly gale but at least it was downhill. As we turned up Cwm Llefrith we even had some wind assistance, but at Bwlch Meillionen it was totally ferocious and we had to crawl over the stile to avoid being blown over.

Any thoughts of a summit were quickly dispelled and we descended into Beddgelert Forest, sheltered from the gale, and back to the hut on the low level path.



Gill descending into Beddgelert Forest.

We had a convivial evening enjoying the comforts of the hut with the treats and mulled wine providing a pleasurable contrast to rain and gales. Sunday remained cloudy but the wind wasn't as strong and it was mainly dry. Most headed for low level objectives. Gill and I decided to walk up Snowdon on the Llechog path. Despite the previous day's rain there was still significant snow above 800 metres and, having left my crampons behind, we decided to turn back at 1000 metres so on this occasion the summit eluded us.



Gill on Snowdon above Bwlch Main.

Despite the conditions we had had a good couple of days on the hill. Thanks to all who made the effort to join the meet and make it an enjoyable weekend.

Benidorm 4-14 February

Nine Oreads and friends serendipitously chose the worst week of the winter to head for warmer parts. As the UK cowered in the gales, floods and pestilence we basked on sun-soaked crags. Well, O.K. Not every day was perfect – there were a couple of cold and blustery ones but generally it was pretty good and we climbed every day. Even if the weather wasn't perfect there was always something to amuse and entertain us – such as “*Hunt the Panda*” (eventually discovered in the Police pound, having been towed away for illegal parking on market day.)(Never mind, Gil, over time you will come to terms with the 100 euro fine plus the 10 euro taxi ride. Counselling may help.....)

Mostly it was single pitch bolted crags - remembering how to do it and then starting to push ourselves again - but we had some memorable trad days out too. Most of us had a long day on the stunning El Reallets ridge on Les Castelets,



and some long-cherished ambitions were achieved – Rock Dancer in Echo Valley; Eldorado and Parle on the Toix sea cliffs.

Chris and Snod found the latter **“very exciting!”** Just beaten to the abseil point by a Finnish team they looked together down the huge gaping void – a 65 m free abseil. The Finnish team looked nervously at their 60m 9mm half rope before accepting the use of Chris's 70m sports rope with alacrity.

Above: the sea cave of

Parle. Below: Gil and Chris on the El Reallets ridge.



A great trip: we all ate too much, wore the skin off our fingers, enjoyed, challenged, pushed ourselves, but the ballroom dancing was a step too far for most.....

Bullshitstones: - the truth revealed.

The only fully truthful story from the Bullshitstones weekend is the story regarding a mole surfacing under a sleeping Oread during the night. Rubbish I hear you say, such bizarre things just don't happen, but photographic evidence is below. By A Bullshitstoner.



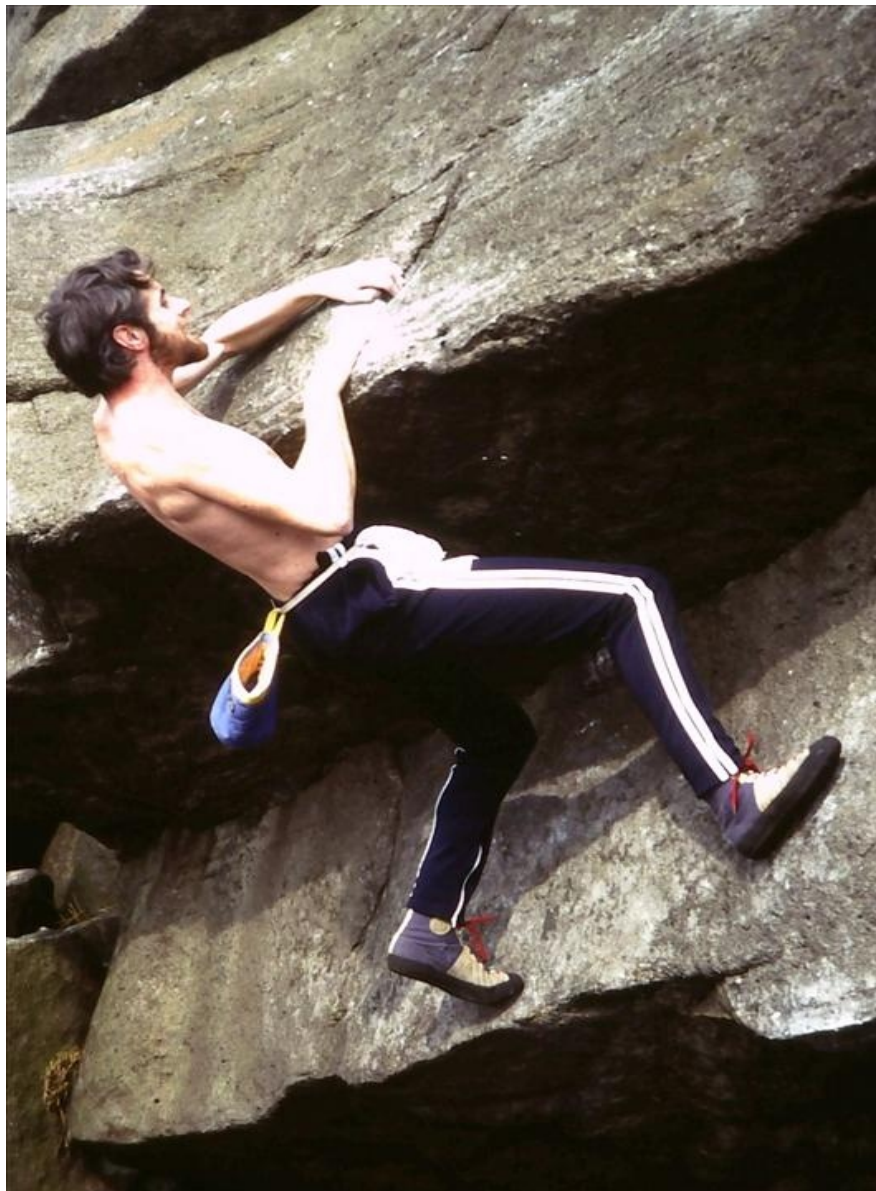
Information on member activities

An application for ordinary membership has been received from Nicola Bishop. Any members with any comments on her application should please contact a member of the committee.

Paul Gardner 1945-2013: memories from Robin Sedgwick

Paul and I climbed together regularly during the late 70s and early 80s. During this time our personal climbing objectives were very different: Mine lay in the Alps and on Scottish ice whereas Paul's were firmly on rock. Nevertheless we formed an effective, if somewhat ability-imbalanced, team. Paul, I seem to recall, had visited the Alps on a less than successful venture that had terminated with a lucky escape involving a failed abseil anchor. Thereafter his direction lay towards British rock, not least because of his commitments outside climbing. During our active years together we both worked in education, but whereas I viewed my teaching post as a job that allowed me lots of time to climb, Paul was more career focussed, occupying a position as a primary school deputy-head which, typically for him, was in one of the more "difficult and challenging" areas of Derby. This commitment, along with that to a young family, limited the time he could commit to the rock but also ensured that the time he did have was invested as effectively as possible. A day or weekend cragging with Paul always had precise objectives; a particular crag with a specific route, or routes, to be climbed. Should inclement weather intervene there was always a plan-B to make full use of the day as Paul dipped into his reserve of "routes that stay dry in the rain".

Paul operated comfortably at E1/E2 level with occasional carefully selected forays into E3. I was happy to second him (with varying amounts of tension!) content to be experiencing moves and situations I wouldn't have approached on lead. Nevertheless this increase in difficulty certainly raised my game and it was gratifying to be able to capitalise on this and later return to some routes on the sharp end of the rope.



Paul wasn't one of those technicians who seem to effortlessly flow up rock, yet he never appeared *in extremis*. Progress was always without drama; thoughtful and controlled with protection skilfully and soundly arranged. In particular he had the ability to fully evaluate a move, or sequence of moves, before committing himself, the subsequent execution thus appearing to be much easier than it actually was.

Unfortunately this quality was not always appreciated by his second! Although time clouds the memory, I cannot remember any failures. It was as if, having done his homework, Paul had decided a particular route lay within his level of ability and thus the ascent was achievable, with failure not a

considered option. There was a very strong, yet understated, determination underlying his climbing; a strength well illustrated on a weekend on Anglesey when Paul had, uncharacteristically, forgotten his asthma inhaler. An early Saturday morning visit to the Holyhead pharmacy sourced a replacement, although by this time he was clearly suffering with effects that were to continue for the rest of the weekend. Nevertheless, despite wheezing like a steam train, there was no dilution of objectives and the weekend's declared targets of Big Groove and Rat Race were duly ticked.

As befitted someone in his professional position Paul had a sharp intellect and also possessed an in depth knowledge of, and keen interest in, current affairs.

Driving to and from the crag invariably involved discussion and debate of the issues of the day, frequently with reference to our mutual interest in education matters but also into wider contexts. I continue to treasure a wry comment made by Paul at the height of the 1982 Falklands conflict: He had calculated the cost of the ordnance discharged by a Harrier jet on a 20 second strafing run and observed that it exceeded the entire annual resources budget for his school! On the educational front I recall a reminiscence concerning a school visit to the Peaks. Escorting a group of Derby city kids up Millers Dale Paul had, as one does when out, acknowledged walkers coming in the opposite direction. After several instances of this one little lad was heard to comment “blimey sir....you don’t ‘arf know a lot of people!”

The late 1970s were a time of rapid evolution in British rock climbing: technical standards were rising, new forms of protection were becoming available and E-grades were in their infancy. And then there was chalk! There were very few Oreads operating at Paul’s level and it was inevitable that he was among the first to utilise the controversial white stuff. (Members of an historical bent may care to refer, at this point, to the light-hearted exposé in the 1979 club journal which gives a contemporary perspective on this issue!) His early adoption of chalk and the new camming protection devices was indicative of Paul’s receptiveness to new ideas. In June 1978 he was the driving force behind a *100 Routes in a Day* attempt by a handful of Oreads. Paul, being Paul, successfully and comfortably, completed the itinerary by mid afternoon, although the day is probably most remembered for the unfortunate post-lunch-time-pub, Gordon Wright / Ground interface which produced the celebrated BBC Radio Sheffield headline “*Old Man Falls Off Stanage*”

Although British cragging was Paul’s focus, rock of a high enough quality could entice him to foreign climes, if you’ll excuse the pun. He had visited Yosemite before I knew him, although I am unaware of what he accomplished. At Easter ’81 he accompanied Mike Wynne, Jon Blackledge and myself to the Verdon Gorge in Provence, where, at Paul’s instigation, targeting as always, quality and difficulty, we notched up the ascent of the 320 metre TD+ *La Demande*, described by the guidebook as *certainement la voie plus plus classique et l’une de plus élégantes du Verdon*, Paul, with his customary dry sense of humour, wrote it up for the 1981-1982 journal as *International Rock Athletes, Youth*, parodying the title of the then recently broadcast Sid Perou TV series.

Our climbing partnership gradually came to an end, although through the haze of 30 years I am uncertain why. Certainly my motivation levels fell post 1983 and Paul’s technical standards continued to rise. Although I had not seen Paul for many years before his untimely death I have clear and fond memories of the times we had together both on and off the rock, many of my most memorable rock climbs being achieved in his company. In the years that we associated he was always comfortable, stimulating company; was steady, safe and inspirational on the crags and displayed an astounding degree of tolerance towards my not-infrequent bouts of technical ineptitude (“5c? – you’ll have to keep it really tight on this, Paul”). He never ceased to impress me with his ability to balance a challenging and worthwhile career, a family and high standard climbing. He was a fine climber but first and foremost a grand human being.

Excuses – excuses.....

Dear Editor,

Unfortunately I cannot access the February newsletter. I am staying in a village in NE China where it is cold! Minus twenty at night.....minus ten during the day.

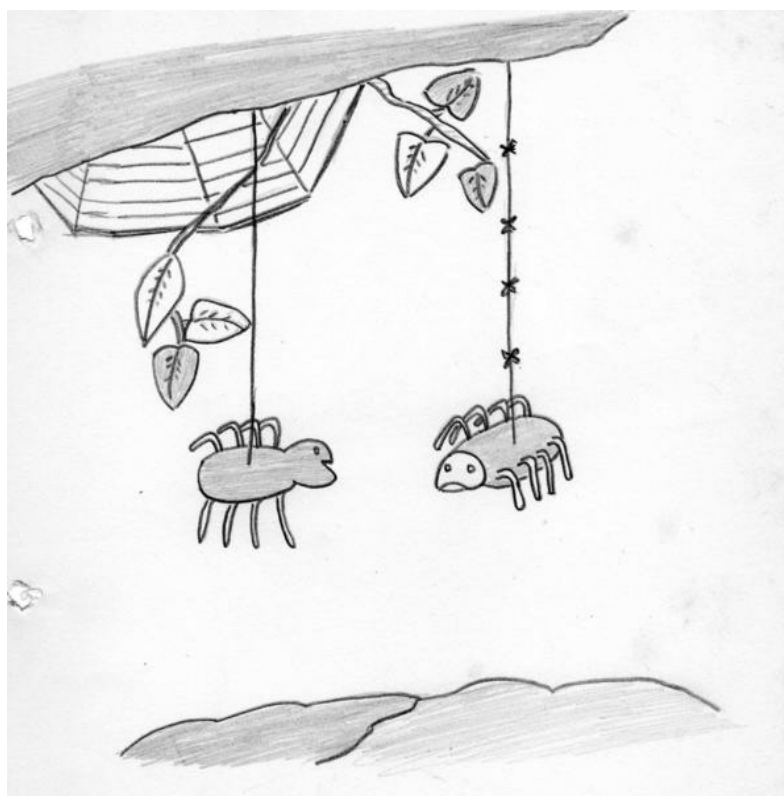
I came into a local town Misham to access my e-mails, a two hour white knuckle ride with a suicidal mini-bus driver through ice and snow. Misham is an important trading town just north of the Russian/North Korea border. I will try to access this when I get back to Beijing in the middle of next month.

I am sure it will be a good read!

Best wishes,

Dennis Gray

Hobday's humour:



The Finns take expert advice from Chris and Snod before embarking on the free abseil into the sea cave of Parle. (See Benidorm trip report)

Hut Bookings for March onward.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

March 7-8 John Fisher +1
March 14-15 Lanchester M.C.
March 21-22 TSB walking Group
March 28-29 Shrewsbury Womens hiking group.
March 31-April 4 [leaving Fri morning] Hurstpierpoint College. Sole use children present.
April 4 -5 Oread Fylde Hut Swap
April 11-12 K. Fellfarers.

HEATHY LEA

28 Feb – 1 March Univ. of E. Anglia
March 7 – 9 Salford Univ.
March 14 – 15 Liverpool Univ.
March 21-22 OMC
March 28-29 Coventry Uni.
April 4-5 Panthers Owners Club.

“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: derekpike1234@btinternet.com

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle.

The answer to last month's puzzle question, “As one admires this view, which pigmented obelisk lies an hour or so’s walk behind?” Rusty tells me, is Bloody 'Stone at the foot of Harta Corrie (behind as one admires the Sligachan Hotel) He says it was fairly easy but nobody got it.

Answer to puzzle Dec. 2013-Jan. 2014

Jack Ashcroft writes: Rusty is in someway correct. 'The who' is Gordon Gadsby (who could mistake the stance). The photograph was taken in 1981 of the NW face of Mt. Blanc de Cheilon from the Glacier de la Luette in the Swiss Alps.

This month's puzzle:



Rusty is having a rest so here's one from me. Should be easy – who and what route?

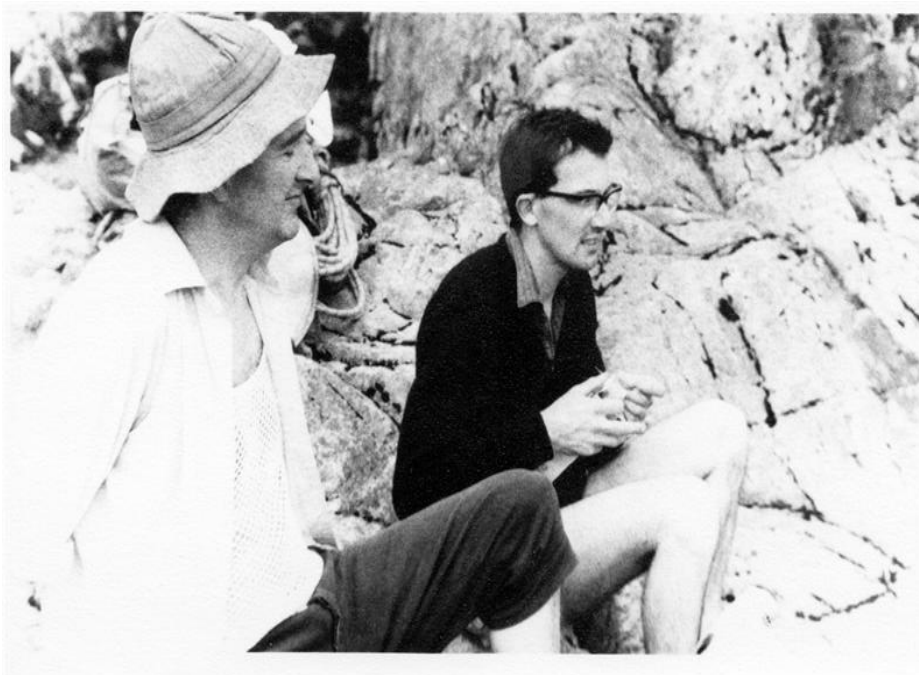
Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

2014

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| March | | | |
| 8 th – 9 th | Patterdale | George Starkey Hut | Stuart Haywood |
| 22 nd | AGM | Robin Hood Pub | Committee |
| 23 rd | Spring Stride | Stoops & Stones | Chris Radcliffe |
| April | | | |
| 5 th – 6 th | Little Langdale | Fylde MC Hut | Hut Swop |
| 18 th – 26 th | French Meet (1) | Fontainbleau/Dijon | Roger Gibbs |
| 27 th –May 8 | French Meet (2) | Ariège | Chris Radcliffe |
| May | | | |
| 2 nd -4 th | Coniston | Low House (MAM) | Steve Bennett |
| 17 th – 18 th | B.B.Q. | Heathy Lea | Mike Hayes |
| 24 th – 26 th | Bank Holiday meet | ? | ? |
| June | | | |
| 7 th – 8 th | Kiddies Meet | Heathy Lea | Neil Weatherstone |
| 7 th – 8 th | Rhydd-Ddu | Tan-y-Wyddfa | |
| 14 th – 15 th | North Yorkshire | Osmotherley | Chris Wilson |
| July | | | |
| 5 th -6 th | Malham Cove | Camping | Michael Bate |
| 12 th – 13 th | Cloggy: pre-Alps | Tan-y-Wyddfa | Chris Radcliffe |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 19 th -Aug 10 | Alpine Meet | Ecrins | Pete Lancaster |
| August | | | |
| 23 rd - 25 th | S Pembroke | Camping | |
| September | | | |
| 13 th - 14 th | Clwyd | Limestone cragging | Derek Pike |
| 20 th - 21 st | Joint with DMC | Heathy Lea | Ed James |
| October | | | |
| 4 th - 5 th | Gogarth | Valley of the Rocks | Dave Mawer |
| 14 th - 28 th | Kalymnos | Hot Rock | Pam Storer |
| November | | | |
| 1 st | Bonfire Night | Heathy Lea | Mike Hayes |
| 2 nd | Dovedale Dash | Fell Race | Rob Tresidder |
| 15 th | Annual Dinner | | |
| 22 nd -23 rd | Coniston | MAM Hut | Tony Howard |
| December | | | |
| 6 th - 7 th | Bullstones Meet | Long Walk | Pam Storer |
| 10 th | Black Rocks | Night Climbing | Rob Tresidder |

From the archives



This photo, supplied by Rusty Russell, shows the late Brian Cook and the late Geoff Hayes, having just ascended Great Eastern on Esk Butress. This was during one of the Eskdale meets of the late 60's



These photographs should wet your appetite for the article on the 1961 expedition which, due to the limitations of your editor's skills and software, follows as a separate supplement.

Above: Indrasan and Deo Tibba viewed from the Chandra Khanni Pass.

Below: The Great Himalayan Divide from the Pass of Animals. Papsura on the left, White Sail on the right. Both photos courtesy of Bob Pettigrew.



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