



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**JUNE 2014**



**Tony Howard, Dave Helliwell, Chris and Jan Wilson in action on one of the brand new via ferratas on Rocher St Julien, Buis les Baronnies.**

## **Editorial**

Another month has gone by and one well spent for many Oreads with lots of climbing over the Easter holiday, some of us lucky enough to extend the fun right through to the early May bank holiday. A few photos and memories from these trips are included in this issue. Coming up very soon is the Children's meet that was a great success last year, followed by a camping trip to the North York Moors, a lovely area that the club has not visited for many years. Sadly the Malham meet, planned for the first weekend in July, will not now take place although it is hoped it will be possible to rearrange it for later in the year. The next issue will be a double issue for July and August so don't forget to let me have your news, photos and meets reports in good time for publication (by 23 June).

## What's on.

### Wednesday evening meets

Here are the crags and alehouses we will frequent if the weather gods are kind. If not it will be Wirksworth Wall and the Royal Oak as usual.

28 May	Stanage Popular	The Millstone
4 June	Dovedale	The Watts Russell
11 June	Roaches	The Rock
18 June	Froggatt	The Grouse
25 June	Windgather	The Swan
2 July	Stoney Middleton/Horseshoe	The Moon

### Children's Climbing Meet 7 June Neil Weatherstone

The idea is to have a meet for small Oreads so they can have fun climbing together. Climbing is at Birchen Edge. Starting out from Healthy Lea at 10am with a picnic lunch. Healthy Lea is free on Saturday night, so let me know if you want to stay over (cottage is already full). We'll be having a bonfire and BBQ in the evening. I'll be climbing and staying over with my kids, 3 and 5 years old.

Neil Weatherstone. Email [Neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com](mailto:Neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com) Tel 07946825798

### North Yorkshire Moors 13-15 June Chris Wilson



*View from the Wainstones towards Roseberry Topping.*

Early last summer Jan and I walked the Coast to Coast route with Pete and Sue Lancaster. After leaving Richmond 24 miles behind we arrived at Osmotherly on

a scorchingly hot day a little tired. A super meal in The Golden Lion washed down with a suitable volume of good beer and wine went a long way to revive us. We stayed at Cote Ghyll hostel about 15 minutes walk from the village centre and were full of praise for the place. Next day we walked in perfect weather along the North York Moors to Clay Bank and the Wainstones. This was my first and only visit to the area, and I loved it! The idea of an Oread meet was born and this is it:

The dates are Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June. (The original date was a couple of weeks later.)

We are staying at Cote Ghyll Caravan & Camping Park, Osmotherley, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AH. Telephone: 01609 883425, email: [hills@coteghyll.com](mailto:hills@coteghyll.com) and web site: [www.coteghyll.com](http://www.coteghyll.com).

The campsite is posh and is divided by terraces and areas of woodland. There are 2 luxury shower blocks, electric hook-up points available to all pitches and a shop.

The campsite is not keen on, and do not usually take, group bookings. I have managed to book 6 places but all but one of these (a tent spot) has already been snapped up. The site does not anticipate a problem accommodating us all, but please can you book direct with them, rather than through me. If you want the tent spot, get in touch with me and the first person can have it. If you mention the Oread when you book we might manage to get reasonably close to each other.

An alternative is to stay in the adjacent hostel, Cote Ghyll Mill. This can be booked through the YHA or direct. It has 72 beds in 12 bedrooms. All beds are bunk beds. The en-suite rooms have double beds. All bed linen is supplied. It also has a bar and restaurant.

So what is on offer in the area?

There appears to be an endless list of crags, rock types and styles of climbing to choose from. I'm told that there is a limestone route on Whitestone Cliff that is not to be missed - The Night Watch (VS 4b). The crag is described as loose on both a small and a large scale, with several routes depending on pegs that are no longer in place! We shall see.

There is the Wainstones, hard sandstone with almost 150 routes up to E7 (but lots of lower grade offerings). Sphinx Nose Traverse at Severe 4a sounds outstanding. The 180 routes on nearby 10 metre high Scugdale must be worth a visit.

Can there be better walking country than this? At least one walk is being organised to sample it.

And Osmotherly itself - not to be missed with its old stone buildings, three pubs, a fish and chip shop and a general store. The ruins of Mount Grace Priory are nearby.

I'm hoping that lots of you will help me explore and enjoy this veritable feast. The sun will shine, the beer and wine will flow and we will all have fun.

Chris Wilson, Natdale, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock DE4 5LB.

Tel 0788 1698758 or email [c.wilson.48@btinternet.com](mailto:c.wilson.48@btinternet.com)

## **Malham Cove 5-6 July Michael Bate**

**This meet will not take place at this time because it clashes with the Tour de France opening in Yorkshire, resulting, no doubt, in loads of people visiting the area and creating traffic chaos. I hope to rearrange the meet for later in the year.**

Michael Bate tel 07414661668 email [mjbate@gmail.com](mailto:mjbate@gmail.com)

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> and the site did not look anywhere near full. Arriving before August 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:petel1952@hotmail.co.uk) or 0114 2301136. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pete Lancaster

## **South Pembroke August Bank Holiday. Pam Storer**



*Stunning rock architecture at Arch Zawn, Range West. Photo Mike Wren.*

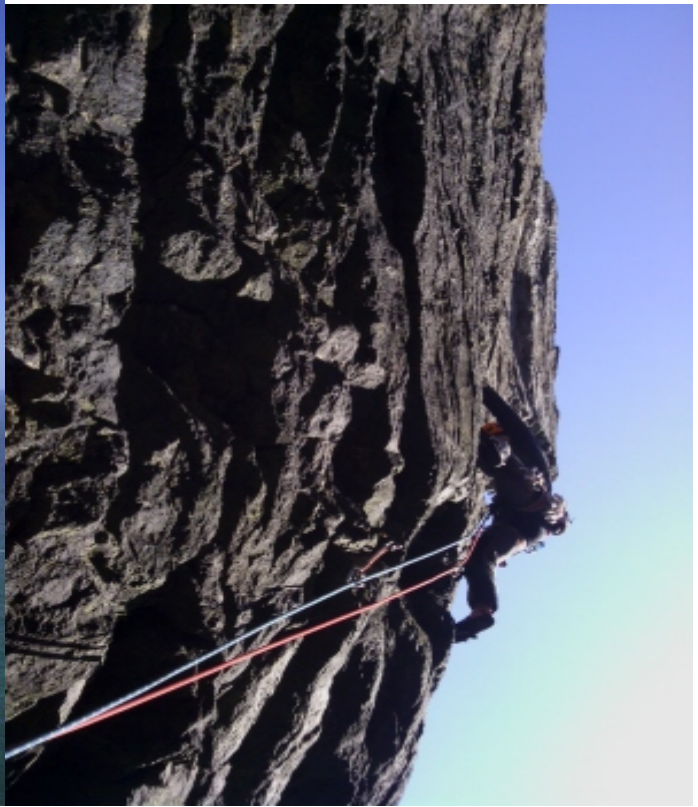
More details of this meet in next month's issue but if you want to climb on Range West and have not attended one of the official briefings you will need to do so. This year's final briefing date is 26th July. It will start promptly at 9am and will be at the Castlemartin Army Camp as usual.

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets.**

### **Easter**

Lots of Oreads had a great time over Easter and the early May Bank Holiday at home and abroad. The weather was generally kind and even those who couldn't get away enjoyed some sunshine at Stanage. (photo Mick Hayes.)





Meanwhile seven Oreads went to Pembroke, Pam Storer, Nick Evans, Steve Bennett, Simon and Maggie Pape, Mike and Sue Wren. We all went to the briefing on Friday, and all save Sue and Maggie climbed on both the Friday and Saturday in good weather. The St Govan's Inn was well patronised. On Sunday the weather broke so all went home, except Nick and Pam, who walked eleven miles in the rain to get to a pub, which was NOT OPEN.

The photos show Simon thinking "Will I really need all these?" at the top of 40 foot wall at Mount Sion East, and right leading "Don't Climb 'til You See the Whites of Their Eyes" E1 5b, Arch Zawn, Range West. (Photos and info Mike Wren.)



*Previous page shows some of the Font team raring to go and left, Gill Radcliffe in action. (photos Chris Radcliffe.)* Meanwhile Fontainebleau attracted a very good turnout and much fun was had by all. Wild rumours abound of the young team sporting mankinis and posing as “Calendar Boys,” decency preserved only by strategically placed chalk bags. You will no doubt be relieved to know that I have not received any such photographs for publication. Later some of the team moved on to Surgy in northern Burgundy which proved excellent if somewhat polished. Some went home from there, but Richard Hopkinson, Roland Smith, Angela Pegram, Chris and Gill Radcliffe, tempted by a better forecast further south, travelled down to Beaumes de Venise and joined the peripatetic Burgundy team. *Below left: Team in action at Surgy. Right: Cormot, Snod on Opposition 4c, the equally good Exterieur 5a beyond.*



We, that is Derek and Joan Pike, Tony Howard, Chris and Jan Wilson, Snod Helliwell and myself, started at Nolay in Burgundy where we revisited the superb nearby crag at Cormot plus several new-to-us crags in the area. A delightful walk and a spot of wine-tasting completed our stay and we then moved south to Buis les Baronnie. We all arrived there safe and sound but Tony's car was making an agonised squealing noise which he felt merited investigation. The outcome was that a breakdown truck arrived and hauled it off to Gap and that was the last he saw of it for the rest of his holiday! We were thankful that it was only the car this time, not Tony himself, as happened on our previous trip to Nolay when we all got to know Beaune hospital far better than any of us wished!

At Buis les Baronnie we climbed on some fine crags all developed since my last visit, Baumes Rousses and Baume Noir were particularly good. We also had a spectacular afternoon on one of the new via ferratas that have been constructed on the north side of Rocher St Julien. They had only been open a couple of weeks and made amazing use of the crag, including a very fast zip wire that narrowly missed zipping Chris's finger off. Then it was on again to Beaumes de Venise where we did some excellent multi-pitch routes, Egoine, Vistemours and Blocus

on the Chaîne de Clapis were particularly memorable. Chris and Jan went even further south, spending a couple of days in the Alpilles before we started the long trek home. A very enjoyable trip.



*Above left, Tony in the lead at Baume Noir . Right your Hon Ed. being hauled up the reachy overhang on Blocus (which my leader, I discovered later, had cunningly avoided on the right. (Photo Richard Hopkinson.) Below, the team at the delightful mini crag of Chambolles-Musigny, Burgundy. .*



## Dryad sub-section scales new heights.

Is the Dryad sub-section making a bid to take over the lead in adventure and innovation? I write as the Heathy Lea working party has just completed a monumental wood chopping extravaganza and plans to demolish the sycamores around Tan yr Wyddfa are mooted. The Dryads, as befits their nature, do not seek to destroy but to transform their wooden selves not only into firewood but to seek new pinnacles of achievement.....witness the changing skyline of Fulwood.....



*Pete, our noble Vice-President, demonstrates his leadership skills up the ladder, supported by team of Chris, Snod and Gil (H. & S. Consultant- pictured here with safety rope in hand) The Dryads bid to create Sheffield's tallest ever all-wooden structure.*

*Comments:*

*"Most impressive." (Stunned Neighbour.)*

*"What have they got in their pocketses?" (Gollum.)*

*"How many men does it take to erect a wooden shack?" (Hon. Ed.)*

## Information on member activities

Heidi Mephram and Richard Hardwick have been accepted as members of the Oread, we wish them well for the future.

Welcome back to former prospective member, Jim Pike. Jim has been working away but is now back in the area, has rejoined and is looking forward to getting out on the grit. Tel. 07751108812.

Best wishes to Derek and Joan Pike on their retirement, hope we will have lots of good times together now that you have more free time to enjoy it.

## **Betty Gardiner**

It is with sadness that I report the death of Betty Gardiner, she passed away peacefully, after a long illness on 31 March. Our sympathies go to her husband, Paul. It is hoped to publish an appreciation in a future issue.

Bob Pettigrew responded:

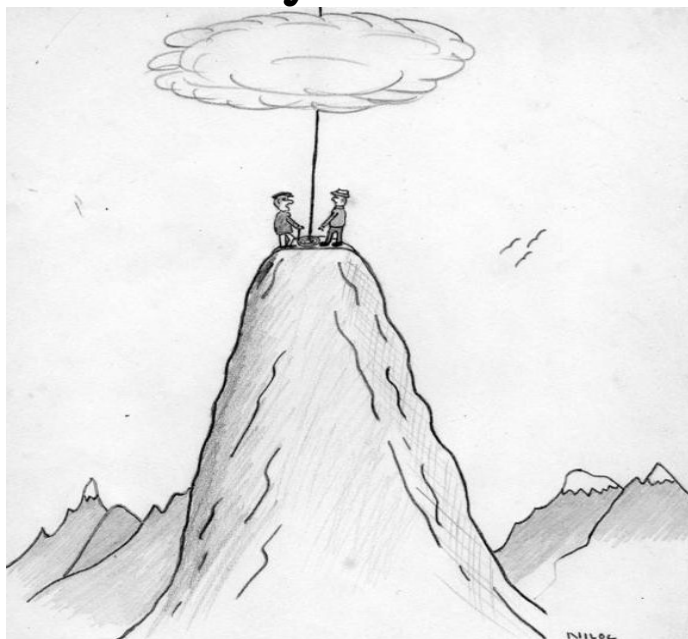
“Now in Bombay where I received the sad news about the death of Betty Gardiner, a lovely lady of the old school. I do not have Paul's email so would be obliged if you would kindly pass on to him my condolences.”

## **Ray Colledge**

I am sad to report that Ray died suddenly on April 10th. His funeral on 12 May was very well attended by his many friends and fellow climbers. It is hoped to publish an appreciation in a future issue.

Memories and photographs of these two much-loved club members would be very welcome from anyone who wishes to contribute. Copy deadline for the next issue is 23 June.

## **Hobday's humour:**



**I know it's all wood, and ever so environmentally friendly, but are you really, really sure we don't need planning permission for this, Pete?**

## Hut Bookings May-July.

### TAN-YR-WYDDFA

May 23-31            Kev and Margaret Sarson +1.  
June 13-14            AMBSAC  
June 20-21            Harriet Josephine plus group  
July 11-12            Oread M.C.

### HEATHY LEA

May 27-29            John Mountain plus 4.  
May 30-1 June        Simon Wren  
June 6-7              Oread M.C. Childrens' Meet

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

“Sole use – children present” means you may not stay overnight, even in 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](mailto:derepike1234@btinternet.com)

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

### Last month's puzzle.

Your Hon. Ed. guessed incorrectly, in sequence, Lud's Church, Bertram's Chimney at Beeston Tor and “The Chimney” Manifold Valley. All wrong but at least I was in the right neck of the woods. The correct answer, supplied by Snod, is West Window, Thor's Cave.

### This month's puzzle:

On a wild, wet day in the Lakes you may find yourself wandering, lonely as the near-sea-level cloud, around many a cheerless reservoir. Which one is this, and what fine hills are hidden above and beyond the clag?



# Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

2014

<b>June</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Kiddies Meet	Heathy Lea	Neil Weatherstone
14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	North Yorkshire	Osmotherley	Chris Wilson
<b>July</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	Malham Cove	Camping	Michael Bate
12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cloggy: pre-Alps	Tan-y-Wyddfa	Chris Radcliffe
19 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 10	Alpine Meet	Ecrins	Pete Lancaster
<b>August</b>			
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	S Pembroke	Camping	
<b>September</b>			
13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Clwyd	Limestone cragging	Derek Pike
20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Joint with DMC	Heathy Lea	Ed James
<b>October</b>			
4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Gogarth	Valley of the Rocks	Dave Mawer
14 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Kalymnos	Hot Rock	Pam Storer
<b>November</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bonfire Night	Heathy Lea	Mike Hayes
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dovedale Dash	Fell Race	Rob Tresidder
15 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Dinner		
22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Coniston	MAM Hut	Tony Howard
<b>December</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	Pam Storer
10 <sup>th</sup>	Black Rocks	Night Climbing	Rob Tresidder

## 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.

Chris Radcliffe.

Email [chris@farfields.co.uk](mailto:chris@farfields.co.uk) tel 01246 569134 (home) 07770 883259 (mobile)

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Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB

**Tel.** 01629 56636 07999 857 922. **Email** [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com)