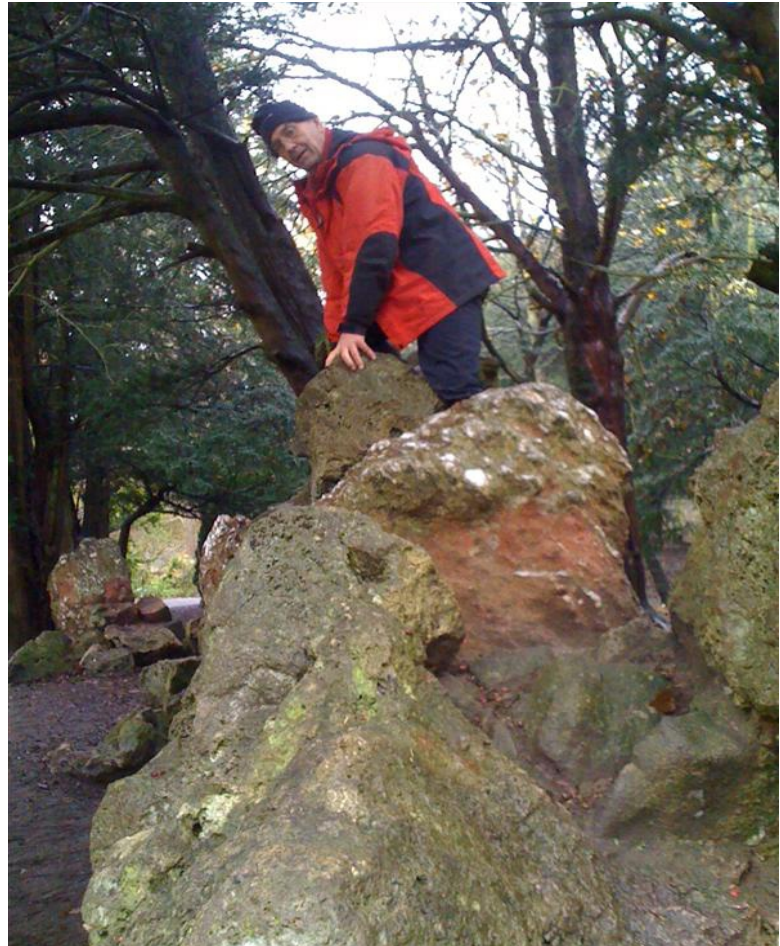




OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2014-JANUARY 2015

On even the dreariest, drizzly November days there is fun to be had. Here, Tim Cairns and his mate Frank (pictured) tackle the mini “Alpine Ridge” in Elvaston Castle Country Park. (Photo Tim Cairns.)



Editorial

A double issue this time taking us through into the new year.

Coming up very soon another inspiring lecture on December 2nd, followed by the Bullstones, Black Rocks by moonlight and more! High

japes to come at Christmas/New Year, both in Wales or the Peak – scuttling along on New Year's Day after Rusty - who has distinguished himself yet again in the Dovedale Dash! How does he do it??

Write ups of recent meets make me sad I missed them, while Dave's V – Day story is pure inspiration!

Speaking of next yearit's **pay up your subs** time again. Please give Keith a break and do it soon while you will still get a discount! Full details at the end of this newsletter. On the subject of paying money – **Concentrate please – no messing about at the back!**

The club is in the process of changing to a cheaper and more convenient bank account so please do not pay any hut fees, subs etc by bank transfer until the Treasurer, Keith Gregson, is in a position to give us the new bank details.

Cheques, on the other hand, or grubby notes passed at lectures, meets etc are eagerly awaited! Hope you all enjoy a lovely festive season and that we'll share some of it at one of the club gatherings.

What's on.

Evening Meets at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook

Tuesday 2 December at 8.00pm

**The road to the Eiger and a rather good year:
James Turnbull**



James will give an illustrated account of alpine trips he has made leading up to his ascent of the 1938 route on the Eiger, this year. He will also talk about the remarkable twelve months on rock that preceded it.

The Bullstones in the Howgills 6-7 December Pam Storer

This year's Bullstones seems to be just what the people want and a very healthy number of Oreads are heading for the Howgills. For any last minute queries please email pam_storer@hotmail.com or call 07584493349.

Wednesday 17 December Black Rocks night climbing Rob Tresidder

Just a reminder that the intrepid, the foolhardy and the fun lovers (don't know about BW's flâneurs... we shall see) will be at the rocks from about 6.30. Please don't shine your shiny new Petzl 150 lumens in my face!
Later at The Rising Sun in Middleton. I've spoken to the pub and they are offering

a pie supper + pint of beer *or* glass of wine for £7.50. **No orders will be accepted after 9 p.m.** Steve and Laura would like some idea of numbers so I have promised to give them something more than an informed guess on the Monday preceding. **Please email me or text me** on 07951 625 378 email Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net

Christmas and New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson

As usual there will be an informal meet over Christmas and New Year. Please book your hut places with Derek Pike. There will again be a New Year's Eve party to see in the New Year starting, weather permitting, with an ascent of Canyon Rib followed by mulled wine and mince pies at teatime (contributions of red wine and mince pies gratefully received) to see us on till it is time for a potluck supper. So we don't end up with ten Christmas pud's and no turkey Ruth will attempt to coordinate the meal so please let her know what you would like to bring.

Rock Hudson: 0115 933 3031

Ruth Gordon: contact details at end of this newsletter.

New Year Walk to Royal Oak, Wetton 1 Jan 2015

C. Russell

Once again, I rack my brains to introduce any variety within the usual constraints, but a few stalwarts seem to enjoy this traditional curtain raiser to the year as it has been in the past. After an unsuccessful feint move from Alsop en le Dale last year, when only Simon Pape was present, I propose to revert to the regular start at Ilam, on the road near the monument. There is really nothing wrong with Ilam and the walk along the terrace by the river, in fact I continue to find that spot delightful, the only problem being long familiarity. We shall, barring rebellion, take the west side of the river this year, and stalk up on our destination via Throwley Hall, crossing the river below Beeston Tor, water levels permitting. The return journey can be relied upon to evolve without any element of control by myself.

As usual, I would like to meet at 10.45 and set off a few minutes after this time.

Again, this will be a social stroll rather than an occasion for serious exertion.

Clive "Rusty" Russell: zrussell2@googlemail.com tel 01335 390369

Costa Blanca late January 2015 Chris Wilson

Quite a few people are interested in a week, maybe longer, in the sunshine. The best week for me is around 19-26 January. I will shortly be looking to see what is available in the way of cheap flights and hotels. If you would like to know where and when we are going so you can join us please let me know and I'll keep you informed. I'm thinking of people booking individually or in small groups but in a co-ordinated way.

Chris Wilson: tel. 07881698758 email c.wilson.48@btinternet.com

Peak District Walk Sunday 25 January Keith Gregson

As Keith is away on holiday he has been unable to let me have the details of his proposed walk in time for this newsletter. Looks as if February's newsletter may have to appear extra early to let you all know in time!

Keith Gregson tel 01332 792147 email gregson107@btinternet.com

Forthcoming meets – 2015 Chris Radcliffe

The provisional meets list for the year ahead is included at the end of this newsletter.

Today it is easy to make climbing arrangements through email and social media and Oread members have a dedicated Yahoo Group that is used to make arrangements to climb at several climbing walls in winter, for evening cragging in the summer months and at weekends where there is no specific meet.

However our Meets List remains an important way of anchoring the club together and providing a social framework for members.

The 2015 meets reflect some long standing traditional meets, including the New Year's Day walk and the Bullstones Meet in December, where a rigorous bivvy on the moors, often when the weather is dire, is de rigueur. We also have our key social meets: the AGM in April and the annual dinner in November. Our Kiddies meet in June will perhaps pass on the traditions of the club to the next generation.

We try to ensure that we have away meets in the major climbing venues of the UK – Wales, The Lakes, Scotland – as well as exploring some less frequented areas, such as Northumberland (May) and North Wales Limestone (October). This year we have a major away meet on Lundy (September). We make regular use of our hut bases in Wales at Rhydd-Ddu and in Derbyshire, near Baslow.

We also focus on the wealth of climbing in Europe and we will be meeting in France over the Easter holiday and in the Alps during the traditional summer holidays.

Finally many members enjoy hot-rock trips in winter, spring and autumn and as dates are finalized we will include potential trips to the Costa Blanca (January/February) and Morocco (March/October).

Leaders are required for several meets. Please contact me if you think you can help – it need not be an onerous job and any fresh ideas are welcome.

Chris Radcliffe email chris@farfields.co.uk
tel 01246 569134 (home) 07770 883259 (mobile)

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

The leaving of Bryn-y-Wern: an Apology from the Editor.

In typing the caption for the picture below I stupidly misread Paul's handwriting, mistaking "Pretty" for "Betty." My sincere apologies to both Molly Pretty and Laura.

The caption should have read:

"One of the last gatherings around the dining table that same weekend, featuring Betty Gardiner, Molly and Harry Pretty with their daughter, Laura; Margaret Hooley, June Walker and Janet Ashcroft."

Laura, although aged only around seven at the time, says she clearly recall the events of the weekend.

More about Bryn y Wern in our next issue – watch this space!



Dovedale Dash 2014 Rob Tresidder

Typical Dash weather this year: raining quite hard when I got up, rapidly giving way to sun before the start. A very thin Oread entry this year saw Rusty top our results again – on his 49th appearance. Some very familiar names absent this year!

318 Clive Russell 40:50 3rd 60+

635 Steve Bennett 48:39

716 Rob Tresidder 50:56

and some guest appearances:

006 Es Tresidder

489 Hil Tresidder

The organiser's decision to record times to the nearest second seemed bizarre in the extreme as most runners were overtuned by about a quarter of an hour. My recorded "time" was neither the time I joined the foot of the queue nor the time I passed the timekeepers!

Times above are as claimed by the runners — much the most reliable!

Post Prandial Walk: Sunday 16 November: Tony Howard



We met at 'one of three car parks' in Alstonefield and on the stroke of 10:15 the herd of cats, in true Oread fashion, set off apace in the 'wrong' direction! At least it was not the route scouted out beforehand. However after some quiet persuasion most accepted the benefit of a little beta and followed the walk leader down the gentlest descent of Gypsy Bank to the river Dove.

We proceeded upstream, all 30 of us and soon came across Rusty who had arrived there independently. After a head count – all present and correct – we turned right up Biggin Dale, then left onto Reynards Lane. With the smell of beer in the nostrils the pace quickened. The party moved at the speed of the fastest and the devil was left to take the hindmost or more correctly the President was! Sorry about that! The beerophiles covered the journey of about five miles in less than two and a quarter hours.

We arrived at the Charles Cotton on schedule at about 12:30 and ordered our food and beer. The warm and friendly winter-pub atmosphere was delightful and being a pre-booked large party we were shown into the main dining room where tables were set with cutlery and napkins! It was not what the Oread is normally used to on a walk, but it was most appreciated, as was the excellent food and drink. Shortly after 2 o'clock those still intent on exercise – about 20 of us - set off back to Alstonefield. We went via the shortest route, about 3.5 miles. That is through Beresford Dale and up Narrowdale to join the road half a mile north of our car park, which we reached at about 4 o'clock; well before dark. After some convivial banter we went our separate ways, content with another good day in the Peaks.

Low House Coniston 21 to 23 November. Tony Howard



Sixteen Oreads attended this year's annual November Lakes meet; 17 including Steve's friend Joanne. By 8 o'clock on Friday evening most people had arrived at the MAM hut in Coniston and some of us went down to the Black Bull for dinner and a few beers.

It was dull and raining on Saturday morning and most people went for a low level walk round Tarn Hows area. We set off later,

when the weather had improved, Steve, Richard, Joanne and me, and climbed the Old Man via Low Water. It started raining near the summit, where we met Nigel and Chris descending. Our descent took us south east on an indistinct path to the Walna Scar Road and The Sun Inn by 4:30. Three beers later we returned to the MAM hut for some tea before going to the Black Bull again for dinner and more beer. I love the atmosphere in these pubs in winter.

Sunday's weather was better and most people ventured high. Angela, Roland, Richard and I walked up Wetherlam via Tilberthwaite Quarry and Birk Fell (as illustrated). It was cold and windy high up, but the visibility was fine; very fine. Our descent took via Crook Beck, bringing us to the car park at maybe 3pm. We went back to the hut to collect Steve before setting off on the long journey home, well contented with an enjoyable weekend.



V – day: Dave Mawer

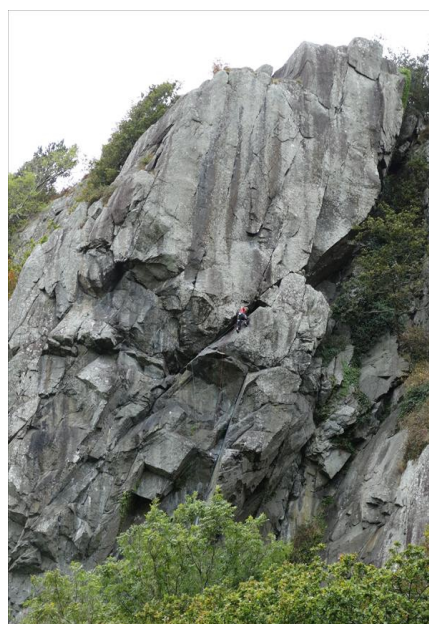
I like a challenge now and again and what better way to celebrate your fortieth birthday than to spend it climbing with friends, some of whom I've known for nearly half that time. Victoria had suggested "V-day" having read an article about it in a recent issue of Climb magazine, a stupendous escapade climbing Tremadog's starred extreme graded climbs beginning with the letter 'V' in one

day. It involves nearly 1200ft of climbing, 19 E-points, 14 stars and 17 pitches. How hard could it be?

0645hrs – We leave Tan-y-Wyddfra in the dank gloom of a September Saturday morning. I try to support my spirits at knee level as the wiper blades clear drizzle from the windscreen obscuring my view of low cloud shrouding the nearby mountains as we wind our way towards Beddgelert. There is little improvement in both weather and mood as my chauffer recounts Goat abduction stories from the 1970's. As we drive beneath the crag and pull into Eric's we were greeted by more swathes of drizzle and the dark clouds rolling off the sea are all too evident. Darn it. After a couple of light raps on his campervan door, Roger, the first of my V-day partners, pokes his head into the moisture laden air. "What's all this then?" he says, followed by a small voice from within "Who's that Daddy?" After a cup of tea and making several decisions either way we decide to wander along the crag to establish conditions as the rain redoubled its efforts. Still hopeful, we peer up at a dry Ochre slab and then the clouds part to reveal a patch of brightness. We dash back to the car park. Mr. Gibbs, the game is afoot!

0800 hours – I gingerly begin the damp first pitch of Vector until I meet dry rock and turn on the gas, methodically placing gear, passing the spike belay and launch up towards the crux hanging slab. After a tricky reach and side step the difficulties ease and I swing along to the belay. Roger soon joins me, a rack sort and he's away and out of sight with shouts of "watch me" as he encounters damp rock once more. The ropes go tight and I soon join him on top of the crag.

0930hrs – The drizzle has returned, un-deterred I'm off again carefully negotiating the wet start until I reach the Ochre slab once more. Same gear, same moves and I'm at the belay again. But this time I don't stop, instead traversing right, fighting rope drag, to the stance beneath Void's crux pitch. I'm greeted by a solid belay and distracted by shouts from the road as the Mawer's and Weston's campervans arrive. Roger is soon tied off at my spacious stance and sorting the rack. The drizzle is still with us and my partner is less than happy, but he's made of stern stuff as many of you know! I'm enthralled at a spectacular display of powerful finger jamming, thrutching and "deft foot-work" that allows him to gain the flaky jug above the pod. Looking no happier, Roger embarks on the steep crux moves of Void in persistent drizzle and is soon out of sight. The weather brightens a little and I continue to pay out rope until he bellows "safe!". With the security of a rope from above I soon join him at the top of the crag once more.



1130hrs – Fresh meat by the name of Rich greets me at the bottom of Valour, along with Victoria and Tullan. Ropes splayed as I arrive, he's soon off up the initially slimy first pitch until he enters the sunshine above the tree tops.

Out of sight I pay out reams of rope until they go tight and I'm away. Slabby moves gain the overhang followed by a traverse right and up to the junction with Valerie's Rib occupied by a guided team. Moves up an open slab allow access to some heathery pulls and Rich's oak tree stance. After a gear sort it's now my turn on the top pitch. A scramble rightwards to gain rock and a layback flake. With my partner out of sight I feel alone as I climb towards the crux, but sound gear placements boost confidence followed by a tricky reach into solid jams. With an inspiring cam clipped I yomp up the crack, followed by an open groove and the top. Half way!



1400hrs - The crux I'd been worrying about. Vulture, dubbed "a bit of a man-eater" after a certain guide book picture. Now joined by Graham fully employed in team logistics he busies himself with ferrying our rucksacks this way and that. Now my turn on something steep, I turn my attention to the hanging ramp above. Up the groove of Merlin first, then up right and out I'm in full attack mode. Gear, move, gear, move, shake out, try not to freak out, more gear, arms now grumbling, gear at my feet I eye the crux moves into the niche to reach the undercut. Arms now screaming I scrabble downwards to get nearer to gear and fall off. Ah well. After a rest on the rope I have another go and manage to wedge myself in the niche, post crux, undercut in hand and more gear, then wobble past it to join Giereagle. After a couple of moments of extremis I'm beyond its reachy crux and after a bit of a blind alley going right I reach out left onto a slab and I'm free of the difficulties and romp to the top. It doesn't take long for Rich to join me on top. Next time I'll poke him up it.



Photo right: Valor, overleaf, Vulture.



1600hrs – Leaving Rich to sort his rack I jog along to the bottom of Venom. With fresh meat once again, now in the form of Graham with typical efficiency he hands me his ropes to belay and launches towards the holdless crux groove. After a few tries he's hanging on the peg. A cruel warm up! Thinking of the bigger picture he pulls on a wire to pass the difficulties then steadily climbs out of sight. My ropes go tight once more and now my turn to grapple with the groove. Without a clue what to hold or what to do I too utilise the wire and continue to join Graham at his tree belay. I soon dispatch the stout top pitch shared with Pretzl Logic and enjoy a view of climbers on Vector as I take in Graham's ropes.

Photo right: Venom

1800hrs – After a brisk walk along the road and a rocky scramble we're roping up beneath the classic open corner of Vulcan! I'm to start, leaving the main pitch for Graham as I won the toss last time we stood in the same spot together several years earlier, although I am definitely in no fit state to lead it today. He soon joins me at the stance and ever aware of the fading light he dallies not and commences the difficulties. A steady fight ensues and after a moment of disorder pre crux he finds a better position to re-cooper-ate. A distant clock chimes 7 times shortly followed by a shout signalling his safety. Not quite dark enough for a head torch and trying really, really hard I manage to scrape my way to the



top in near darkness. What a day! With torches now illuminating our world we abseil back into the tree line, sort gear and steadily rock hop to the road with only one minor skirmish with a bramble briar.



2030 hrs – Beer, curry, medals, speeches, prezzies and friends. What better way to end an amazing day! 12 hours, 1200ft, 19 E-points, 17 pitches and 14 stars. Thanks to all who came and to those three stout men who made my V-day challenge a success!

Epilogue-

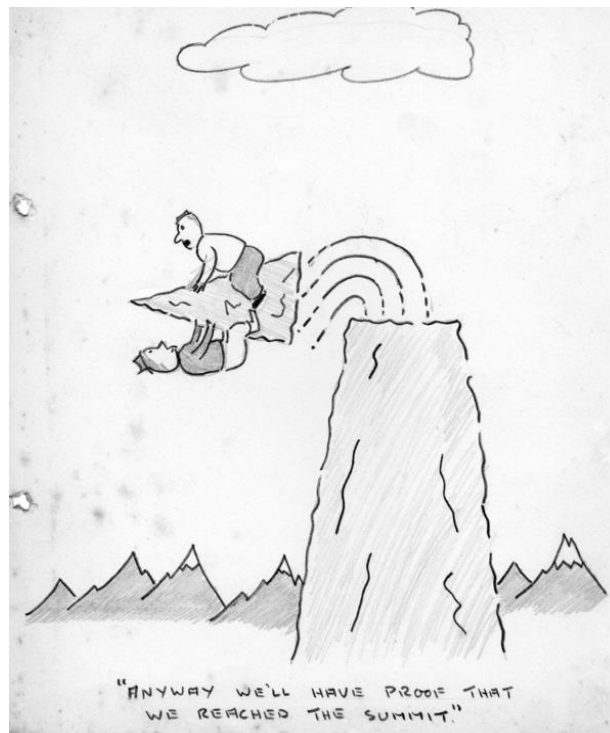
Sunday 1030hrs – According to my 11 year-old son Tullan I wasn't man enough to complete the full V-day challenge. Did somebody move the goal posts? I tie on, harness full of gear and climb an open groove to the crux traverse of Valerie's Rib. Mindful of the party I clip both ropes on separate extenders to each piece of gear. Belayed on a fine stance on the nose I take in ropes attached to Tullan, Dave and

Isabelle. Without too much ado they join me on my airy perch. Gear sort and ropes ready I'm off again up fine slabs and grooves to a familiar oak tree belay. It doesn't take Tullan long to sprint up and join me shortly followed by Dave and Isabelle. After a brief re-fuel and water I follow the vegetated upper pitch and gain the top of Tremadog once more shortly followed by three happy climbers. The V-day and a bit is complete.



One route too many!

Hobday's humour:



Hut Bookings December - January.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

December 5-6 Bewdley M.C.
December 12-13 Wrekin M.C.
Dec 23-1 Jan. Oread M.C.
January 9-10 Nuneaton M.C.

HEATHY LEA

No bookings.

“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: derekpike1234@btinternet.com

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle

The November puzzle was capable of being identified as being in the Cuillins, partly from my known habits, and partly by the speil about Ronald MacDonald who was the postmaster at Glenbrittle in the 60's and 70's. A terrible drunkard, he was rumoured to have sunk his boat with an axe in Mallaig harbour in order to save the engine when it caught fire during an especially boisterous celebration. Once in the Cuillins, we know that the only trig point on the ridge is on Bruach na Frithe where of course the photo was taken. It is also one of the few summits easy enough to be ascended by a humble pedestrian like myself.

This month's puzzle:



The December puzzle (see photo) is at the start of an after dinner walk. There is more of an element of historic interest than aggressive competition in this, but those with time on their hands might like to hazard a guess at the year (chrome hub caps on the vehicles and the youthful appearance of my old sparring partner) and also to identify the less obvious of those present.

Stop Press!

Letter received as the newsletter was about to go out:

Hello Ruth.

Re Rusty's puzzle:

The "unique feature" is yet another red herring! The trig point on Alasdair is not the only one in this range of hills. Also Ronald, who lived most of his life in Bualialar, also lived in Mallaig for some time with other hills on his doorstep.

An Cruachan could be a contender also – less than one hour away from Bualialar.

Kind Regards,

Dave Penlington.

Answer that Rusty!

Forthcoming Meets:

December			
6 th – 7 th	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	Pam Storer
17 th	Black Rocks	Night Climbing	Rob Tresidder
23 Dec – 1 Jan	Christmas- New Year at TyW		Rock Hudson/ Dave Helliwell

2015

January			
1st	Peak District	NY Day Walk	Rusty Russell
25 th	Peak District	Local Walk	Keith Gregson
February			
Any	Scottish Ice	Informally organised	
March			
7 th – 8 th	Patterdale	George Starkey Hut	Stuart Haywood
21 st	AGM	Robin Hood Pub	Committee
22 nd	Spring Stride		Rusty Russell
April			
3 rd – 6 th	Easter in France	Font/Dijon/Provence	Leader required
18 th – 19 th	Little Langdale	Fylde Hut	Tony Howard
May			
2 nd – 4 th	Sea Cliff crags	Swanage/Portland	Simon Pape
16 th – 17 th	Northumberland		Dave Helliwell
23 rd – 25 th	Camping Meet		Leader required
June			
6 th – 7 th	Kiddies Meet	Heathy Lea	Neil Weatherstone
13 th -14 th	Lake District	Hut Meet	Leader required
July			
4 th – 5 th	Cloggy: pre-Alps	Tan-y-Wyddfa	Leader required
18 th -Aug 9	Alpine Meet		Leader required
August			
29 th – 31 st	S Pembroke	Camping	Pam Storer
September			
12 th – 13 th	Wye Valley	Camping	Leader required
23 rd (eve.)	Curry Meet	Matlock	Simon Pape
26 th – Oct 3	Lundy	The Barn	Derek Pike
October			
10th – 11th	North Wales	Limestone	Leader required
November			
1 st	Dovedale Dash	Heathy Lea	Rob Tresidder
7 th	Bonfire Night	Fell Race	Mike Hayes
14 th	Annual Dinner		Leader required
21 st – 22 nd	Coniston	MAM Hut	Steve Bennett
December			
5 th – 6 th	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	Leader required
16 th (eve.)	Black Rocks	Night cragging	Rob Tresidder
25 th – Jan 1	Christmas/NY	Tan-y-Wyddfa	Leader required

Membership Renewals for 2015

It's that time of year again!

The good news is that you will again get a discount by paying promptly! This will also get you onto the B.M.C. list for third party insurance so please do it now!

All of the subscription rates include £11.75 in respect of your BMC club membership. You cannot opt-out of this arrangement, but you can get a refund from the BMC if you are also paying through another affiliated club.

How to pay:

Please complete the form below and send it with a cheque or postal order, payable to Oread Mountaineering Club, posted to the Treasurer, Keith Gregson, 4 Clarkes Lane, Aston on Trent. Derbys DE72 2AB

As the club is in the process of changing bank accounts the committee regrets that, for this year only, payment **cannot** be made by bank transfer.

If you have any queries or problems regarding your renewal please contact Keith by **this new email address** gregson107@btinternet.com or phone 01332 792147

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Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. **Email** alistair.ruth@btinternet.com

Oread Mountaineering Club Membership Renewal and update of contact details 2014

Name	
Second Name (Joint membership	
Address	
Telephone number.	
Telephone number work	
Telephone number(s) mobile	
Main email address	
Secondary email address	
Data Protection: I agree to my contact details being held by the Oread M.C. shared with other paid -up members and passed to the BMC to gain my third party insurance.	Sign here.
Membership Type: Please tick relevant box	
Ordinary Member £45.00 (£40.00 before 31 December 2014)	
Senior Member £30.00 (£25.00) (Ladies born on or before 5 August 1952; Gents born on or before 1 January 1950)	
Prospective Member £30.00 (£25.00) for 2 yrs, then £45.00	
Joint Membership £70.00 (£65.00) (two people at same address.)	
Senior Joint Membership £47.00 (£42.00) two senior people at same address.	
Joint: one senior, one youthful £58.50 (£53.50) two people at same address.	
Member with permanent address outside the UK. 50% of the appropriate rate (BMC membership not included).	