

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2015



Rock attempts to walk on water! The return leg of the Bullstones weekend after the torrential rain of Saturday night provided some exciting river crossings! (Photo Chris Wilson.)

Editorial

A very happy new year to everyone from your President, Pam and all the committee. Here's hoping 2015 will be filled with happy times in the mountains and on the crags.

What a wonderful start to the new year to hear the news that Bob Pettigrew has been made a Member of the British Empire in the New Year Honours list. The award was made for his services to mountaineering.. We feel he thoroughly deserves the award and offer him our sincere congratulations.

Bob Pettigrew M.B.E.

Bob says his first mountaineering club was the RAF Mountaineering Association but he soon joined the Oread after meeting Harry Pretty and George Sutton at White Hall Open Country Pursuits Centre, Buxton. He has been a member since 1951 and was our President from 1959-1961.

In his student days, as chairman of the Loughborough University Mountaineering Club, he led a number of British, Irish and European explorations. Although these expeditions were common to a number of universities at the time, Bob's were remarkable in so far as he recorded a number of first ascents in the European Alps, from Lyngen in Arctic Norway to the Central Italian Alps – a notable feat for a student with such limited experience and support. Further afield, Bob is well known for his significant mountain exploration over many seasons in the Kulu region of the Punjab Himalaya of India, including several first ascents of peaks and passes between 16,000ft - 22,000 ft.

Whilst Bob has continued to climb and trek throughout his life, marking his 80th birthday with a return to the Kulu region, he has also devoted a huge amount of time and effort to the service of the mountaineering community – for example:

He was BMC president from 1976 to 1979, helping to establish it in Manchester following its move from London in 1975.

He chaired the CCPR from 1995 to 1998. (This is now called the Sport and Recreation Alliance and is the Standing Forum of 320 Governing bodies of Sport and Recreation (including the British Mountaineering Council).

He founded and chaired the Sport and Recreation Alliance's Access Focus Group which had an important role in defining and protecting the customary rights and freedoms of outdoor recreation during the passage of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2002.

He served on the Mountain Training Board, (the organisation which delivers leadership skills to mountaineers), as its president for more than a decade ensuring that the skills required to climb safely have continued to develop.

Over a sixteen year period, he has also been a member, and chairman, of the Mount Everest Foundation Screening Committee.

He is past-president of the Access and Conservation Commission of the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation, the UIAA (the world body representing mountaineers of 88 federations from 66 nations).

Well done Bob!

Uschi Hobday writes:

“I think it is an honour well deserved for all the International work he has carried out over the years.”

What's on.

Evening Meets at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook

Tuesday 3 February at 8.00pm

Rob Tresidder presents a double bill

Tour du Queyras et du Mont Viso: An account of a circular walking tour in Italy and France through the Queyras and around Monte Viso, once thought to be the highest mountain in the Alps.

A History of Ice Climbing in a Hundred Objects! !

Ice climbing seen through its technology. A journey from the alpenstock all the way through to Nomics and monopoints.



Pembroke Range West Briefings 21 February onward

If you hope to climb on Range West this year you will need to attend a briefing. The information we have received to date is:

The MOD have combined the fishing, surfing and the climbing briefings together and agreed that each recreational user can attend any of them. All briefings will run until the date of the last briefing of the following year. The briefing will include a 40 minute power-point presentation and a questionnaire may be introduced to ensure attendees understand the information being given.

The proposed dates for 2015 are: 21st Feb – 10.00, 26th Feb – 18.00, 19th March – 18.00, 21st March – 10.00, 3rd April – 10.00, 23rd April – 18.00, 21st May – 18.00, 23rd May – 10.00.

Some Oreads who are not going to France at Easter will be camping in Pembroke in order to attend the Good Friday briefing on 3 April.

Peak District Walk Sunday 25 January Keith Gregson

Meet at Brassington's official car park (up the hill past the village hall, turn right)

for a ten-o-clock start.

We shall walk down to the village, over the hill to Carsington, and so down to Carsington Water. Here we turn left and follow the track alongside the lake to its end where we cross the road to a stile and head North to the top right corner of the field. Cross the stile and head North-West climbing up to the right of the crag. The view from here back over the reservoir is worth a pause. Continue to cross the lane, then downhill followed by a steep pull up to join the road that leads us down to the right and eventually to the Rising Sun.

It being Sunday, a pause for meditation is compulsory here; after which we can stagger, each bearing our respective crosses, up the incline to Middleton top. There follows a gentle stroll back along the High Peak trail, no doubt to the sound of gunfire and, unless you're irresistibly drawn to the crag, a gentle downhill section back to the car park.

For those of us poor enough not to be swanning about in the Med it should be a good day and I look forward to seeing you all.

Keith Gregson tel 01332 792147 email gregson107@btinternet.com

AGM First announcement for action before 21 February.

The 2015 AGM of the club will be held on 21 March.

Under rule 17 of the club's constitution, proposed rule changes must be notified to me by 21 February. Proposals will require a proposer and seconder. I will publish any such proposal(s) before 07 March.

Rob Tresidder Secretary, Oread MC rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net

61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG 07951 625378 (text only — obviously!)

Wednesday 25 February: DMC Winter Lecture

Hagshu - Matterhorn of Zanskar: A lecture by Mick Fowler



Mick first saw Hagshu 21 years ago and due to access difficulties it has taken

that long to finally be able to tackle the unclimbed north face in 2014. Mick promises that there will be plenty of cultural and non-climbing stuff thrown in to entertain us, along with stunning photos.

The Derwent M.C. cordially invite you to the Temple Hotel, Matlock Bath, – 7.30pm for 8pm start. Entry £5.00.

Patterdale – 6-7 March 2015 Stuart Haywood

At the moment George Starkey Hut is booked for the nights of Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March but dependant on weather conditions etc. as usual we have the option of prolonging our stay. I think everyone will be aware of the 'possibilities' this hut offers, and over recent years climbing, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, gear shopping and even fishing have all featured during this traditional Oread Meet.

Over the next few weeks I will endeavour to contact the 'usual suspects' but in the meantime 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.

Easter and beyond

No doubt there will be Oreads heading for Fontainebleau as usual for the Easter holiday. (Details in next month's newsletter.) For those who are not able to do that there will be a camping meet to South Pembroke and a trip to France later in April, probably around 15th - 30th hopefully taking in Orpierre, Beaumes de Venise and Buis les Baronnie.

If you are interested in either option contact Pam Storer for Pembroke pam_storer@hotmail.com or 07584493349 and Ruth Gordon for France in late April alistair.ruth@btinternet.com or 01629 56636.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Climb if you will: Chuck Hooley memorial.

Chuck Hooley's two copies of "Climb if you will," advertised in the November issue, were sold to the highest bidder in the manner described and raised a total of £140. As agreed, half that sum has been forwarded to Chuck Hooley's nephew to be used for Margaret's care home fees and half has been added to the Oread Welsh hut account. This will be added to the money from the funeral collection and used to purchase a memorial bench to Chuck. This will be positioned at Tan yr Wyddfa and a ceremony to scatter Chuck's ashes will be arranged in the spring to which club members will be invited.

New Year Walk 2015 Rusty Russell

This years meet was an altogether more pleasing day than the previous year's event, when heavy rain and an attendance of only one (albeit a good man) made me wonder whether there was still a place in the calendar for this traditional meet. Uschi and Colin, Mike and Helen Hayes, Mike and Sue Wren and Chris and Roy Eyre were at Ilam on a crisp winter's day. The best news is that although Colin cannot yet contemplate a full day walk, he has made a great recovery from his accident and after seeing us off, was able to do a good walk of about three miles on Wetton Hill and then meet us at the Royal Oak. The rest of us, took a scenic walk up to Ilamtops Farm above the Dove, and then skirted the wood above Ilam Rock to Dam Gate and thence to Wetton. The original plan to go via Throwley Hall was modified as the high water levels would have prevented us from crossing the Manifold below Beeston Tor. At the pub we saw Messrs West and Janes with their handlers and entourage, Derrick Burgess and in the middle distance, a greying middle aged looking figure bearing a resemblance to a fellow called Larkham whom we used to know. Doubtless there were others in the crowded room to whom I apologise. After a refreshment, the weaker sex, numbering five, (I am not sure whether I counted myself twice or not at all,) ambled back down the scenic east bank of the Manifold, along the terrace below Ilam Hall and so back to base. Thanks to all who attended.

A Distant Memory of Sunny Times Pam Storer

Twenty three Oreads, plus members of the Nottingham M.C., the Clogwyn, and friends from various clubs from the UK and around the world descended on Kalymnos in October to enjoy the climbing, the sun, the "fun and friendship" (Gil) of this idyllic island. In the words of Neil Gresham " a jewel of rock glistening in the Aegean Sea with giant stalactite- infested caves and sweeping grey walls; arguably Europe's most popular climbing destination". Even for an ancient low grade climber like me there were endless days of idyllic climbing on sunny crags, followed by swimming in the clear, if not a little cold sea, and to finish excellent wine and food. For some, the island also provided challenging walks, sandy beaches, exhilarating scooter journeys and a place to rest. During our two weeks on the island members of the group conquered climbs on most of the islands famous crags and achieved many personal ambitions, mine being to lead. Our photos tell their own story.



The holiday also provided the setting for this year's Bent Screw winning performance.

The Saga of the Bent Screw

It was a beautiful sunny day on Kalymnos and the "A team" were planning a visit to Monastery. Chris and Jan had just left their apartment when Chris realised he had left the keys inside. Undaunted by this problem Jan was gallantly posted through a window to gain entry and retrieve the keys.

The group then set off. Arriving at the parking area for the crag, they were organising their sacs for the walk in - (around 20 mins), when Chris discovered he had forgotten his rock boots. He left the others and drove back to the apartment where, to his horror, no rock boots were to be found. Taking his spare pair he drove post haste to Summertime where they'd been climbing in very crowded conditions the previous afternoon. Nothing at the roadside or various parking areas so he walked up to the crag and searched diligently - but no sign of them there either.

Disconsolate he made his way back to the parking for Monastery. He'd been there before and remembered roughly how to get there, his old guidebook was less than helpful. He followed the right path initially but his memory placed the cliff down near the sea so he was looking for paths leading down and studiously ignored other options. Realising he'd gone too far he started retracing his steps. At some point on the return he heard some distant yawping from a rowdy group of climbers way above him but treated them with the contempt they deserved and found a hopeful looking path leading down. This landed him on a precipice above the sea: - not right - so back up he went, limping on an increasingly painful foot that had been bothering him for a few weeks. Choosing another downward path he set off down again, ending up scrambling down an unpleasant gully towards the sea. At this point his phone rang, and, barely audible in the howling gale rushing up the gully, he established that Simon was telling him the crag was way above him, not below and they'd been watching him, shouting and whistling for hours. He toiled back up the horrid gully to the footpath and eventually found the cairned path up to the crag. The 20 minute walk in had taken over two hours.

As recognition for his appalling start to the day Mr Chris Wilson was awarded the honour of the Bent Screw at our Annual Dinner. (His wife was given the award of "Super Star" for her valiant support not only of him, but her own team of ramblers.)

P.S. The missing rock boots never turned up.

Bullstones 2014 Pam Storer

The Howgills provided the challenge for our 2014 adventure. The Bull Hotel in Sedburgh gave us the "energy "needed to face it.

That night, the bivvy sites were varied. However for those of us senior members who need to respond to the call of nature during the night problems abounded. Icy conditions made it difficult even to get out of the sleeping bag, but for some the hazards of makeshift tents, caused the collapse of a structure and the entombment of a wife. Fortunately this prompted much hilarity!!!



Sunrise, -5am on the Howgills and still smiling. It must be the beer from the night before.

On her early morning walk with the hounds a local lady was astounded to find “people sleeping on the hill”. So much so that she told everyone she met of the strange phenomenon. Sadly her

dogs disturbed the peaceful slumbers of some of our group and prompted an early start on the clear, frosty morning. The skies soon clouded over; by the time I reached the calf, I could see none of the beautiful scenery and the rest of our day was spent in the clag. Hence a certain member of our party on his first attempt missed Green Bell but managed to sort out the problem having found other lost souls to join. Some younger members of our party romped over every summit they could find, leaving the rest plodding along the planned “sensible” route.

Fortunately we all met up at Fell End, including those who were not able to make the walk, with enough energy to enjoy a lively party with a roaring fire, good food, wine and beer thanks to Nick and Kev.

Lunch before the steep climb to Randy Gill Top.

Sunday was clear and drawn by the amazing views offered on the tops, many sought the high level route back to the pub (cars) others enjoyed the beauty of the valley. All returned home safely.

Thanks to all of you who joined in to make this a most memorable weekend for your President.



From the archives

The Oread Gavel: contributed by John Fisher.

The gavel currently used at the A.G.M. and Annual Dinners was owned by Oliver Jones, (1906-1983) noted for his many contributions at these dinners. On his death his relatives gave his piton hammer to John Fisher who cleaned it and decorated the handle with a solid silver plate embossed with a twin peak 18ct

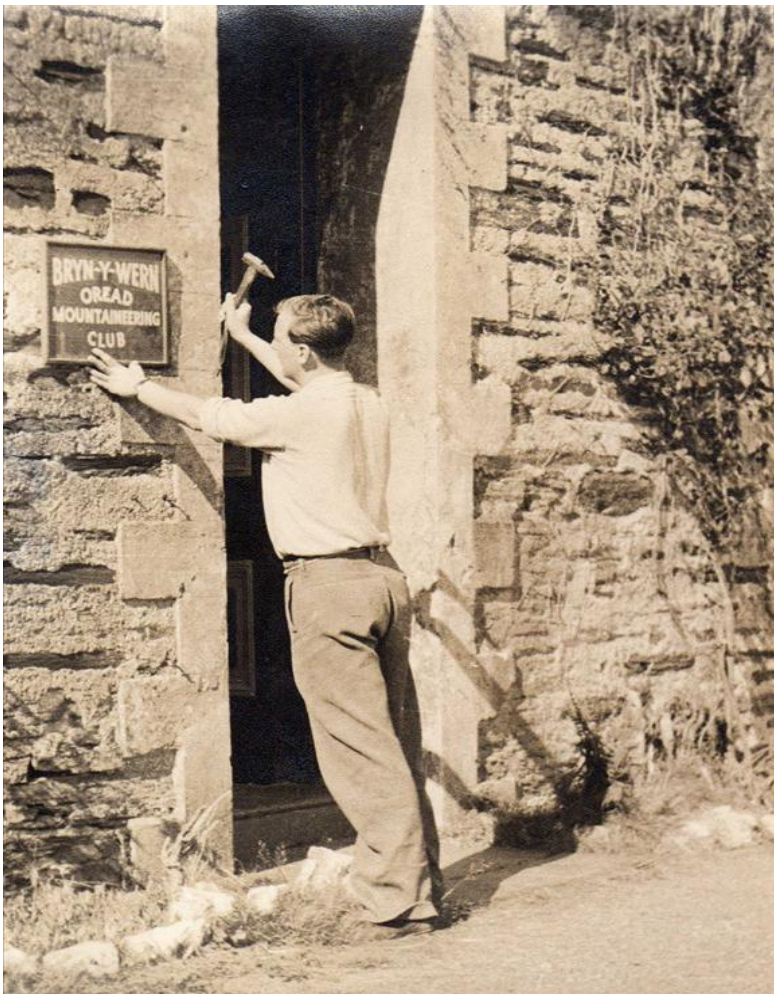
gold mountain and Oliver's details inscribed. This plate is attached by gold rivets in the four corners. Fisher's initials (**FJF**) are discreetly placed on the metalwork. Hallmarking was discussed at the Birmingham Assay Office but the idea was abandoned.



Another member, Pete O'Neill, made a handsome baize lined mahogany box for the article.

One hopes that this gavel will be used as long as the Oread exists and later!

Bryn-y-Wern.



This picture, kindly contributed by Dave Penlington, shows Ernie Marshall at the informal opening of Bryn y Wern, fastening the name plate to the front door.

Hobday's humour:



Hut Bookings January - February.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

30 Jan – 1 Feb Croydon MC
6 – 7 February Orpheus MC
13 – 14 February Buxton MC
20 – 21 February Scunthorpe MC
27 – 28 February Skyline MC
13 – 14 March Southern Trekking MC

HEATHY LEA

13 – 14 February University of E. Anglia
21 March Oread AGM

“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

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle



The occasion was the 1969 after dinner walk. Those present (right to left), Anne Squires, Shelagh Bridges and offspring, Uschi Hobday, Clare Clark (partly hidden, probably Colin

Hobday with his back to the camera, Trevor Bridges, Rob Clark, two figures just right of the tree who I cannot identify, possibly Chris Radcliffe just left of tree (I remember him arriving spectacularly in a beat up Austin 1100 with the wheels locked, digging up the Peveril car park) and then myself. My late wife, Jean took the photo.

This month's puzzle:

Searching through my Book of Quotations for Blacksmiths and Artisans, the sonnet

“For me, fair friend, you never can be old
For as you were when first your eye, I
eyed

Such seems your beauty still.”
seemed appropriate to mark a second
appearance

of the fair Uschi in successive newsletters. As she is seen, descending a rocky slope towards a causeway between two lakes, which lakes are they? As she faces, Galt yr Ogof is approximately 5.4 miles ahead, and the Ruminant (sic) Hotel bears 204 degrees true (magnetic variation may be assumed 8deg West). The occasion (last century) was a Golden Oldies meet at TYW, which sets a limit to the radius from HQ of even such an exceptional mountain traveller.



The Cuillins, Ronald McDonald and all that: Rusty replies.

Following the letter from David Penlington to the editor, re the above, and in answer to the imperious summons “answer that Rusty”, I plead as follows: The matters queried were whether Ronald’s residence was on Skye or the mainland, the clue to the whereabouts of the photograph being based on the former presumption, and whether or not the trig point in the picture was the only one on the Cuillin Ridge.

Dave has clearly researched the antecedents of the boatman more thoroughly than myself, and I accept that he lived at Mallaig and Bruailialer In defence though, an internet search on "Walkhighlands" creates the presumption of a strong link between Ronald and boating from Glenbrittle Post Office which is from where I knew him. I previously consulted another club member on the matter of the trig points, and have again searched the maps with a magnifying glass, but whereas the Landranger map does not show any trig point other than Bruach na Frithe, there is in fact a second trig point marked on the 1:25000 series map, on Gars Bheinn. Dave, not I, mentioned Alasdair. I have been on Alasdair more recently than on Bruach na Frithe where the photograph was taken but I have no recollection of a trig point on the former. Clearly I did not achieve the overall standard of accuracy which would be required in a more serious quiz, and I eat the necessary humble pie. More importantly, though, we should all celebrate the magnificence of these hills. I was fortunate to do the main ridge in the company of a great mountaineer, sadly no longer with us. This was one of the greatest days of my life, and I consider the views over the sea and the islands from the South end of the ridge at daybreak to be totally without peer. In a recent television program, Loch Coruisk failed to win the accolade as Britain's finest view. My letters to the Director General of the BBC, the Pope, and the House of Lords have failed so far to have this matter corrected. Broadening the discussion to the other side of Glen Sligachan, the late Brian Cooke attempted a new route on Marsco but had to retreat by abseil. Later, in 1971, Geoff Hayes returned with Brian to complete the ascent, finding the abseil point from the earlier time intact. It would be interesting to hear whether Dave Penlington was present on the earlier occasion or whether he has any information on the attempt.

Letters.

A large proportion of the active climbing members of the Oread regularly enjoy climbing on bolted limestone. The existence of bolted climbing areas in the peak is almost entirely due to the work of Gary Gibson who has, over the years, spent thousands of pounds of his own money creating these climbs, with a single bolt costing around £4.00! So the committee decided that it would be appropriate to make a contribution to his bolting fund. Pete Lancaster posted a donation to him at the end of last year, plus a separate cheque which was the proceeds of the sale of unclaimed gear abandoned at Heathy Lea by visiting clubs. He has received the following reply.

Hi Pete,

I have just walked in from work to find an envelope on my mattress containing two cheques to the sum of £150 from the Oread club, care of yourself. May I say this was a very welcome surprise and much appreciated.

Interestingly I have just rebolted the Long Wall at Harpur Hill over the past few weeks, which has cost me something in the region of £350: this will go towards that and my next efforts – I have a number of new crags proposed for this year. Can I personally thank both yourself and your club for this significant contribution.

Gary Gibson

Young Writer's Award

Calling all young Oreads and friends (under 25).

The Boardman/Tasker literary award now has a Young Writer's Award, besides the main book one. Details on the web site. www.boardmantasker.com

A prize of 250 pounds is awarded to the winner and publication in Summit magazine.

Dennis Gray: Trustee Boardman/Tasker Award.

Christmas and new year at Tan yr Wyddfa



A grand time was had by all with some amazingly varied weather permitting sunny walking over crisp snowy summits followed by an ascent of Christmas Curry in dry, sunny and almost warm conditions. An ascent of Canyon Rib followed on New Year's Eve in wet and increasingly unpleasant conditions. New Year's Day was memorably wet even by Welsh standards so the team walked from Beddgelert down the alarmingly swollen river to Nantmor where we caught the train back. A circuit of Cwm Idwal in the dry but with a bitter wind completed the trip. The New Year's eve feast was delicious, thanks to all the cooks and contributors. Thanks to the Weatherstones for re-stocking the hut in advance of our visit, to Rock for leading the meet and a special thank you to Alan and Fay Weatherstone for the delightful Christmas decorations.

Membership Renewals for 2015

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. Derby 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

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	
Senior Member £30.00 (Ladies born on or before 5 August 1952; Gents born on or before 1 January 1950)	
Prospective Member £30.00 for 2 yrs, then £45.00	
Joint Membership £70.00 (two people at same address.)	
Senior Joint Membership £47.00 two senior people at same address.	
Joint: one senior, one youthful £58.50 two people at same address.	
Member with permanent address outside the UK. 50% of the appropriate rate (BMC membership not included).	

Copyright – Oread Mountaineering Club.

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

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

Forthcoming Meets:

Note there are some changes from the draft list published last month.

2015

January			
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 – 30 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
8 th	Heathy Lea	Working party & barbecue	Mick Hayes
16 th – 17 th	Northumberland	Joiners Shop, Alnwick	Dave Helliwell
23 rd – 25 th	Camping Meet	Bank Holiday TBA	Leader required
June			
6 th – 7 th	Kiddies Meet	Heathy Lea	Neil Weatherstone
13 th -14 th	Thirlmere	Smithy Hut	Chris Radcliffe
July			
7 th - 10 th	Tan yr Wyddfa	Working party	Dave Helliwell
11 th – 12 th	Gogarth	Camping	Dave Mawer
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	Derek Pike
23 rd (eve.)	Curry Meet	Matlock	Simon Pape
26 th – Oct 3	Lundy	The Barn	Derek Pike
October			
TBA	Morocco	Taфраoute	TBA
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