

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JULY – AUGUST 2016



The Watendlath team heading for tea and cakes (how decadent!) on the Sunday of the High House meet.

Editorial

Will it ever stop raining? Let's hope so as there are plenty of meets coming up in this newsletter including the midweek working party at Tan yr Wyddfa for which we could do with sunshine to complete the outdoor jobs – followed by a weekend trip to Anglesey, and then it's summer holiday time and the high mountains call – before a return to the old Oread favourite venue – North Pembroke for August Bank Holiday.

Note several significant changes to the meets later this year – see page 14.

There's a good crop of photos and meets write-ups in this issue recalling sunny Cornwall, soggy Hoy, fun times for the kids at Heathy Lea in spite of the weather and the splendidly well-attended High House meet.

Hope you enjoy this issue and that the sun will shine upon you wherever you go this summer.

What's On

Coming Soon			UK	Abroad
July	Mon	4	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue	5		
	Wed	6	Castle Naze, evening meet	
	Thur	7		
	Fri	8		
	Sat	9		
	Sun	10		
	Mon	11	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue	12	Tan yr Wyddfa	
	Wed	13	Working Party	Ravensdale, evening meet
	Thur	14	Dave (Snod) Helliwell	
	Fri	15	Anglesey	
	Sat	16	Spenser Gray	
	Sun	17		
	Mon	18	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue	19		
	Wed	20	Aldery Cliff, Earl Sterndale, evening	
	Thur	21		
	Fri	22		
	Sat	23		
	Sun	24		Alpine Meet, Argentiere Nigel Briggs
Mon	25	Climbing Unit, Derby		
Tue	26			
Wed	27	Yahoo Group, evening meet		
Thur	28			
Fri	29			
Sat	30			
Sun	31			
August	Mon	1	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue	2		
	Wed	3	Yahoo Group, evening meet	
	Thur	4		
	Fri	5		
	Sat	6		
	Sun	7		
	Mon	8	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue	9		
	Wed	10	Yahoo Group, evening meet	
	Thur	11		
	Fri	12		
	Sat	13		
	Sun	14		
	Mon	15	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue	16		
	Wed	17	Yahoo Group, evening meet	
	Thur	18		
	Fri	19		
	Sat	20		
	Sun	21		

- See below for details of these meets. Use your Yahoo group to see what members are doing on a day to day basis. See the Oread website <http://www.oread.co.uk/> for the full meets calendar.
- Help your club by leading a meet.
- Contact Gil Male - tel. 07958 169389 – email meetsec@oread.co.uk

Wednesday evening outdoor meets.

Volunteers to lead walks on evening meets will be very welcome. Please contact Meets Secretary Gil Male if you would like to lead a walk linked to an evening crag and pub.

6 July	Castle Naze.....	The Beehive
13 July	Ravensdale	The Monsal Head
20 July	Earl Sterndale	The Quiet Woman
Then to be organised by the Yahoo Group until		
7 September	Intake Quarry	The Boat, Cromford
14 September	Colehill Quarry	The Royal Oak
21 September	Matlock Crags	Curry Meet.

If wet it will be Wirksworth wall.

Evening meets every Monday at the Climbing Unit.

A group meets regularly at the Climbing Unit, Derby every Monday evening from 7-9 pm. After the exercise people head for the The Wilmot Arms, Morley Road, Chaddesden for a well – earned pint.

12 – 15 July Midweek working party at Tan yr Wyddfa Snod Helliwell

Calling all lumberjacks! There's lots of wood to be split as well as the usual grass cutting, painting, cleaning and laundry. It would be great if people who are free during the week could come and give us a hand, perhaps before going on to Anglesey for the Gogarth meet.

Please let me know if you are coming: - I have an answer phone so leave a message and I'll get back to you or email dave.helliwell@stirlinglloyd.com.

15 – 17 July Gogarth Camping meet Spenser Gray

The Oread's yearly Gogarth meet is once again going to be based at the Valley of the Rocks Campsite on Anglesey with people staying 15th-17th July following on from the Tan Yr Wyddfa working party during the week.

There is a mix of single pitch climbing on Holyhead mountain at all grades between VD and E4 and more adventurous routes on the Roscolyn/ Gogarth sea cliffs ranging from VS to E silly. The tides are booked with low tides shortly after lunchtime and for those wanting to avoid the sea there are non tidal crags situated away from the sea.

The general plan is to go climbing on the saturday, come back to the campsite, exchange tales of derring do from the day's adventures, enjoy the delights of a BBQ and a couple of drinks with more adventures on the sunday before the drive home.

The details of the campsite are as follows:

Valley of the Rocks Camp site, Portdafarch Road, Trearddur Bay, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2LL. Tel: 01407765787. Booking isn't really necessary unless you need electric hook up for which space is limited. Apparently the post code will lead you astray if you use Satnav (although perhaps not quite as far as the wrong Seathwaite!) *See page 9 for the low down on this comment.* The best approach is to follow signs for south stack but then follow the coast road at its turning, then look out for Portdafarch

Road on the left just before a small bay at the bottom of a hill. The campsite is about 1km on the right. Most importantly to note is that accessible from the campsite is the Paddler's Return; a purveyor of fine beers and cuisine. If there is sufficient time prior to the meet there may even be tasty cake.

Please contact me to book your place on the meet, if you want I will also assist in coordinating lifts.

Spenser Gray tel. 07534 821500 email spenser.h.gray@gmail.com

Pembroke Range West Briefing Dates

If you hope to climb on Range West this year you must attend a briefing session. There should be many Oreads in Pembroke around the August Bank Holiday – so think ahead!

Final briefing this year is on 23 July at 10.00 a.m.

Oread Summer Alpine Trip Nigel Briggs

We will be camping at <http://www.campingchamonix.com> in Argentiere. The site does not take advance bookings, but I have been led to believe that getting on should not be a problem. There are 17 people confirmed to be coming out and a few more hoping to make it. The first are planning to arrive on the 21st July and the current last to leave on the 13th August (or until the Sun stops shining) most people present for the 2nd week.

The area needs no introduction from me with stacks of things to do and enjoy that suit all tastes. I can't guarantee the conditions, but if they are good you are in the right place to have a great time.

If you want to come along just let me know or if you want any further information get in touch

See you in the Alps.

Cheers,

Nigel.

Nigel Briggs tel. 01283 732925 email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com

Pembroke August Bank Holiday Pam Storer

Just a quick reminder about the Bank Holiday meet. From 25th- 29th August at least, one group of Oreads will be at Rhosson Ganol campsite in St Davids- SA62

6PY. Sadly no hook-ups but free showers and £7 a night per person. I have spoken to Henry and there is no need to book but I have agreed to let him know of approximate numbers so do let me know if you are coming. Other groups will probably be in South Pembroke.

Pam Storer: email pam_storer@hotmail.com Tel. 01623 795758 07584 493349

19 -20 November Self Rescue & modern rope techniques

This two day course is definitely going ahead, I already have enough names down to book one instructor. If I get more takers I will book a second – the maximum is six people per instructor. There will be a charge, not yet finalised but based on the cost of hiring instructors at £250 a day. Places will be limited so, to avoid disappointment, if you are interested get in touch for more info, put the date in your diary and **let me know now.**

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

News, Articles and Reports from Meets. Bank Holiday in Cornwall

The team had an unbelievable run of fantastic weather – eight days of wall to wall sunshine so a great time was had by all. These photos show Derek on Staircase and Tony on Left Banana Flake at Sennen.



But far away in the North the Gods were angry.....

The Norse Saga of Petre Lancastere*

**In common with most of the Norse sagas, the identity of the author is unknown however most scholars agree that it can be attributed with some confidence to the Fair and Learned Lady Janhild, companion of the dark lord Christopher, who, from another extant account of the events described, is known to have been present on the voyage.*

In the year of Pike, Laird of the Oread, did Petre Lancaster, son of Bernard, lead a daring raid on the Land of The Old Man of Hoy. Sailing from the Ness Peninsula he did put up camp at the lonely and desolate Rackwick Bay. In Stromness many songs were sung and cups drunk in celebration with people from every nation and diverse musical instruments delighted the assembled company. The band of warriors gathered from the lands of the North. Lord Roland of Crich with the fair Lady Angela, Maid of the South. Simon of Cromford with the Lady Margaret and Christopher of the Lums, a swarthy devil whom the Gods exiled to the Dark Continent after his birth for two score years to earn his battle scars.

Great storms blew out of the North East and they were sore afraid they had angered the great God Wodin. Our brave band eventually decided to try a sortie and descended to the Old Man's Foot where they did join forces with three other raiders but seeing this the Old Man did call down the wrath of the Norse Gods and a great storm blew up lashing them with rain. The Nazgulls (fulmars) descended on the ledges, full with rotten fish, ready to spew out vengeance on such daring raiders. Our intrepid band covered in the lea of the Old Man and there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Alas they were made to retreat in haste but in the evening when many cups were drunk and past sagas of daring recounted, our band agreed to retreat with the dawn and return again to subdue the Old Man. In the morning the storm still blew as our team broke camp. The Lord Simon of Cromford valiantly broke the trail followed by the swarthy Christopher . As they left there was a surge from the steed of Petre, a noble effort, but sadly the great beast which carried him and the good Lady Susan found the effort too onerous. With a sigh it fell and breathed no more.

Christopher turned and rallied to the aid of Petre and by diverse means the folk of Hoy and the Orkney Mainland did manage to get the great Lancaster steed from the Bay of Rackwick by a tow rope, two ferries and numerous transporters to the Lord's lands in Sheffield. His fair Lady did find rescue by a small boat from the Land of Moaness via Stromness where she did rendezvous with her noble lord for the journey South. To compound the vile fate of our team Lord Roland and Lady Angela's carriage ran out of energy and was pushed by our intrepid band until it regained energy and dashed for the ferry. The path for the rest of the band was a greater trial. They descended from the North seeking out Gold in the Rivers of Caithness. The swarthy devil Christopher found solace on the West Coast of Scotland where he did drink strong ale and eat fine fish pulled from the Loch Fyne.



The Lancastre steed with one of its many rescuers.

The group learned the lesson of many great warriors and vowed to return when they had placated their Gods and repaired their chariots. One day the Old Man will succumb to the might of the noble Northern Lords.

The Children's Meet. Neil Weatherstone



A very showery weekend hampered efforts to get climbing, but there are plenty of things to do in the Peaks on a wet day. The already damp rock and forecast for heavy afternoon showers pushed the small Oreads underground. A trip was planned for a walk around the Castleton area ending in a subterranean visit to one of the show caves. The walk climbed up through Cavedale and down Winnats Pass before descending deep into Speedwell Cavern. Those Oreads that feared the claustrophobic boat trip crammed themselves in Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Inn and awaited the rain.

Fay and Bea outside Speedwell Cavern.

Back at the hut, more Oreads had arrived for the evening having been out and about during the afternoon. The rain arrived right on cue as it was time to get the

BBQ started. Joe came to the rescue and a tarp was quickly rigged outside the hut and the BBQ was able to go ahead as planned, but not the bonfire. Once the food was out of the way, more fun was had in the hut with some guitar playing, singing and few hilarious games such as 'Don't Show us your Teeth Keith'. It was at this point that an archaic Oread rule was enacted when Fay lost a wobbly tooth. Ye Olde Oread Tooth Tax was invoked, which dictates that when a small Oread loses a tooth, all adult Oreads in attendance must pay a £1 tax in addition to any monies from the Tooth Fairy that the small Oread may receive.

Sunday morning started dry but cloudy, so once ready the party headed to Birchen Edge with a hope of finding dry rock and getting a few easy routes in. But as they neared the rocks it started to rain. The party huddled in a cave at the bottom of Trafalgar Crack eating a whole water melon and enduring the midges until the rain eased off. The rock was now very wet so climbing wasn't feasible. Jan had the idea of looking for the Neolithic rock art at the top of



Gardom's Edge and she motivate the small Oreads by kindly offering a finder's-fee of £5. The rock art took some considerable effort to find as no one in the party had seen it for quite a few years. Eventually it was found and the kids all had a good look at it and tried to understand how old it was. The next stage of the day took us to the Robin Hood for refreshments, which was a timely stop as the sole of the meet leader's old walking boots fell off. It was superglued back on at the pub so no need to hop back to the hut. Despite the weather all those who came along had a great time and a lot of fun and laughter. Thanks to all that came and made it a great weekend. Same again next year, with hopefully better weather.

High House 17-19 June Ruth Gordon

I suppose it was too much to hope for a repeat of last time's fabulous weather but it was forecast to be fine, if grey, on Friday so I was a bit peeved when a determined shower soaked me as I followed Snod up the bizarre top pitch of Crescendo at Shepherd's. It is a starred HS which neither of us had done – some good climbing in between the vegetation but the final pitch involves climbing

down, having already reached the top of the crag, to traverse out and back up again! We made our soggy way back to the car to find Chris and Jan had just arrived. On our way to High House we found ourselves being followed by Pam and Nodge and arrived to be blinded by a pair of stunningly white legs! Tim had turned up early and amused himself by going for a run over Catbells. Everyone else arrived as the evening wore on – including Tony Chris R and Pete L with the vital supplies – a polypin of Kelham Island bitter -well done Pete! Well not quite everyone- where are Spenser and KAsia? Mick knew they had left at the same time as him – what could have happened? Derek even had a walk down to the farm to see if they had arrived but failed to find the hut in the dark. No sign.

In the morning I walked into the kitchen to see Spenser.

“What time did you get here?”

“Half past three. Would you like some blueberry cake?”



Chris enjoying Little Chamonix and right, Spenser reaching the top of Eagle Front.

A walking team comprising Pete and Ali, Pam and Nodge, Janice Coleyshaw, Pete Wragg and Laura Booth went up Sour Milk Ghyll, scrambled up Gillercombe, over Grey Knotts, Brandreth, Green Gable, Great Gable and back round by the climbers' path. Pam wore her shorts all day but admitted she'd had a hat and gloves on at times.

The truth came out – they had been to the wrong Seathwaite – the one away down the end of the Duddon Valley! That's sat navs for you.

Saturday wasn't a bad day at all, dry and sunnier than forecast and everyone seemed to have had a good day. Chris R and Tony went to Shepherd's where Donkey's Ears was, according to Tony, “at first horrible then briefly desperate - but Little Cham was lovely”.





It wasn't that warm higher up – Roger accompanied Spenser and Tim to Eagle Front but thought better of it and retreated after one pitch - “I couldn't feel my right hand no matter how hard I looked at it – but the smoked mackerel sarni was excellent!” Spenser and Tim were made of sterner stuff and completed the route in style. It was warm enough at Black Crag where Simon, with Pete L, augmented his E points score with Raindrop (left) while Snod and I found The Mortician distinctly tough and Chris took Jan on her first ascent of Troutdale Pinnacle (below). Then we all did versions of the Direct or Super Direct to round off the day. The day nearly rounded me off when a flying mobile phone from a party above whistled past my cheek – but all was well – though probably not for the mobile phone!

Meanwhile a mass ascent of Gillercombe Buttress was taking place: Mick, Helen, Mike Moss and KAsia. Helen particularly enjoyed it - “I wept twice, I shouted twice – the divorce is ON!”

Douglas and William Gardiner went up to Sprinkling Tarn, Great End, Broad Crag, Scafell Pike and back via the Corridor Route while Derek and Joan had the civilised notion of catching the bus to the top of the Honister pass and wandering back via Green Gable, Gillercombe and Sour Milk Ghyll.

The evening was whiled away in drinking Pete's beer and devouring Spenser's cake while thinking of ever more inventive ways of tormenting him over his navigational misfortunes. As Pete said “It's good because it diverts attention from my visit to the wrong Cortina!”



Sunday dawned grey and spitting rain. Most people decided on a walk. Nodge led a large party on a delightful round trip to the cafe at Watendlath but a few were set upon higher endeavours. As Spenser gets ready to stomp off up the hill Chris

asks, looking pointedly at his watch,

“Are you working Monday?”

“Yes, why?”

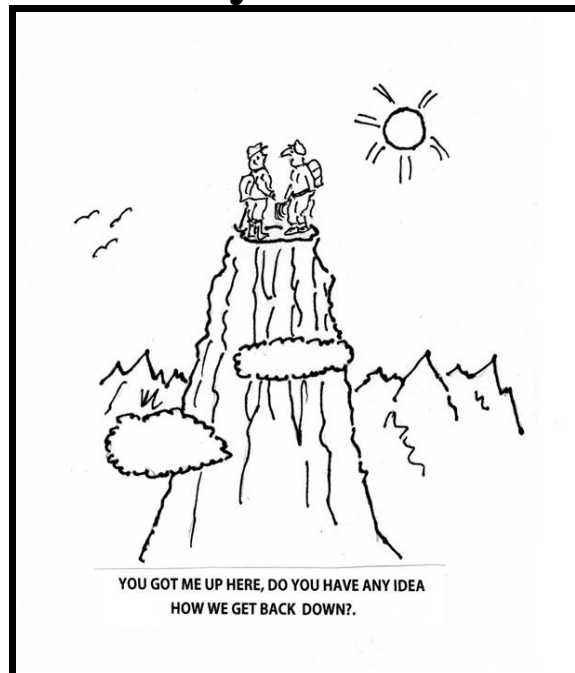
“Just considering your departure time!”

The Watendlath party had gentle rain for the return half of the outing, but the high altitude teams returned looking like drowned rats – particularly Kasia who claimed she had never walked in Britain in bad weather and appeared to have no waterproofs. She seemed remarkably cheerful for one so wet!



It was a great weekend. Thanks to everyone who came and made the meet such a success – hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Hobday's humour:



Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

3 - 11 July	K Sarson 2 beds
12 -15 July	Mid week working party
30 July – 6 Aug	C Hobday 10 beds
10 – 13 August	Dave Hicks, Fylde M.C. 4 beds. I & P Norris 7 beds
20 -21 August	N.M.C. (Spenser Gray) 10 beds
2 – 3 September	Sphinx MC
10-11 September	Oread Beginners meet.

HEATHY LEA

8-10 July	Phil Deakin Meetup UK
5-6 August	Southampton CC
21 September	P. Scott (daytime use only).

“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 Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 32 Hawthorne Drive, Thornton, Leicester, LE67 1AW. Tel. 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913. Email: hayes_michael_j@cat.com

Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer - Sort Code 05-04-07 Account number 45028744 With your name as a reference.

Please follow up with an email to Michael to let him know that you have made a payment and what it was for.

Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread MC, to the above address.

Wes Hayden

Long-standing Oread member, Wes Hayden has died after a long illness. He first joined the club in 1959. It is hoped to provide a fuller appreciation of his life in a future issue.

Meanwhile this tribute comes from Dennis Gray.

I am sad at the news of the death of Wes Hayden.

I first met him in the very early 1960s at the Bell pub, where the Oread used to gather in Derby, as a very young tyro, along with Dez Hadlum and Doug Scott.

Nat Allen referred to them as Wuff, Snuff and Tough!

They were all from Nottingham, and had arrived in Derby to make a contact with the Oread, then the best known climbing club in the region.

I eventually climbed regularly with them and Wes was someone who was always good humoured and humorous.

He could have become a national 'name' in the climbing world, like his other two friends, but Wes always had lots of other interests and direction outside of our sport.

But he was always someone it was 'good' to meet, either out on the hill or in the pub.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

A number of the Oread's leading lights decided that the night navigation exercise was a bit tame, and decided to organize a more stringent test in serious expedition territory, with the normal problems and objective dangers. The exercise was to consist of two journeys on successive days, appraised separately for the purposes of the competition. State of the art surveillance equipment was in use so that a full record of each participant's movements would be on record. Rock, eschewing modern technology, stared grimly at his old Silva compass, obtained from Wakefield's Army Stores and stuck to the tried and tested navigation techniques of yore.

Ruth, who had been to bed for a number of nights previously with a book entitled "Remedial Mathematics for Arts Graduates", was armed with a GPS and a pocket computer, and furiously calculated the varying headings of a great circle route. Surprisingly, on day 1 Ruth and Rock covered virtually the same distance. On day 2 however, Ruth's actual distance travelled was shorter, 14 miles versus 14.5. What may we deduce about: a) the manner in which the prescribed routes on the two days might have differed, and b) the general location where the exercise took place?

(Needless to say we have Rusty to thank for this one! Ed.)

Last month's puzzle solution:

At first described as an "unjustifiable lead", later "a test piece" and still giving "remarkable food for thought" can you name this Derbyshire climb?

The answer, correctly guessed by both Rusty and Rob Tresidder, is Stonnis Crack at Black Rocks or, as Rusty's predictive text christened it, the "Astonishing Crack"! First led by Puttrell in 1900, it had previously been top roped as it was considered an unjustifiable lead.

The origin of the thrilling route description baffled both of them however.

Their first guess was on very similar lines:

Rusty:

"The prose has a ring to it which reminds me of the style of the early Climbers Club Guides to Snowdonia, a possible link between these and Derbyshire is the involvement of Peter Harding."

Rob:

"Mmmm... I think probably the Moulam/Harding guide of 1949. Sad to see the current neglect of Black Rocks. This crag has hosted the "hardest route on grit" more than once: Stonnis Crack, Birch Tree Wall, that E5 that Bobby Gilbert soloed... (name escapes me, a Harding route), Gaia, Meshuga."

Later guesses were Showell Styles and "not Jim Ballard surely."

Surely it was not – but a much earlier gritstone enthusiast, Ernest Baker, writing in that delightful account of grand days out in the Peak "Moors Craggs and Caves of the High Peak" – first published in 1903!

Forthcoming Meets 2016

Note: this is a work in progress, more meets will be added as arranged. Contact the Meets Secretary Gil Male tel 07958 169389 email meetsec@oread.co.uk.

Check the meets calendar on the Oread web site for the most recent additions.

Note there is no longer a Lake District meet in November but there is a beginners meet to Tan yr Wyddfa in September (if we get some take-up) and a sun rock trip to Sicily in October – would be great if more people can join us there.

When	Meet	Where	Leader
	6	Castle Naze	Derbyshire Evening meet
	13	Ravensdale	Derbyshire Evening meet
	12-15	Working Party	Tan yr Wydffa Dave (Snod) Helliwell
	16-17	Anglesey	Wales Spenser Gray
	20	Earl Sterndale	Derby Evening meet
	24Jul - 7Aug	Alpine Meet	Argentiere Nigel Briggs
Aug	27-29	North Pembroke	Wales Pam Storer
Sep	7	Intake Quarry	Derbyshire Evening meet
	10-11	Beginners meet (provisional)	Tan yr Wydffa Spenser Gray
	14	Colehill Quarry	Derbyshire Evening meet
	17-18	Clwyd Limestone	Wales Derek Pike
	21	Matlock Craggs	Matlock Bath Curry meet
Oct	8	Derbyshire Dales Walk	 Jack Ashcroft
	8-17	Sicily	San Vito lo Capo Ruth Gordon (self-booking)
Nov	5	Bonfire Night	Heathy Lea Neil Weatherstone
	6	Dovedale Dash	 Rob Tressider
	12	Club Dinner	Matlock Golf Club Tony Howard
	13	Post Prandial Walk	
	19-20	Self Rescue Course	Heathy Lea Pete Lancaster
Dec	2-4	Bullstones	 Pam Norris
	14	Black Rocks Night Climb	Cromford Rob Tressider
	23 - 1Jan	Christmas/New Year	Tan yr Wydffa Rock Hudson



Tony Howard relishing Little Chamonix at Shepherd's Crag, Borrowdale. Photo courtesy of Chris Radcliffe.

Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. **Email** alistair.ruth@btinternet.com