



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**FEBRUARY 2017**



## **Harborough Fireflies: Rob Tresidder and Spenser Gray around the Trident area on the “Black Rocks” night climb.**

“You can see where they got to during 307 seconds of exposure, the mysterious light trace shows only the moments their headtorches faced the camera or illuminated the crag.” Cracking photo – thanks Pete Amour.

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the first issue of 2017.

There are a few things in this issue that everyone should be aware of: a proposed rule change for the AGM on page 5. A change to the coverage of the BMC insurance cover that comes as part of your subscription – this may affect you so please do check this, and an introduction to the Forward Thinking Group – both on page 8.

Meanwhile the forthcoming meets list is filling up nicely, and there are details in this issue of two indoor talks, meets to the Lakes and Scotland and plans further ahead. Plus a new challenge to shake us all out of our winter lethargy and details of a great honour recently bestowed upon one of our oldest members.

Also included here are write ups of the record-breaking Bullstones meet, memories of the original Bullstones Cabin from way back when, and tales of New Year at home and away. Oh – and the truth about that strange puzzle beast – only one man got it right!

And finally - if you haven't done it yet it's high time you paid your subs!!!

# What's On

Date			UK	Abroad	
February	Wed	1	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	2			
	Fri	3			
	Sat	4			
	Sun	5			
	Mon	6	Climbing Unit, Derby		Spain, Benidorm
	Tue	7			Ruth Gordon
	Wed	8	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	9			
	Fri	10			
	Sat	11			
	Sun	12			
	Mon	13	Climbing Unit, Derby		
	Tue	14			
	Wed	15	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	16			
	Fri	17	Scottish Winter Climbing		
	Sat	18	FRCC Hut, Karn House, Aviemore		
	Sun	19	Spenser Gray		
	Mon	20	Climbing Unit, Derby		
	Tue	21			
	Wed	22	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	23			
	Fri	24			
	Sat	25			
	Sun	26			
	Mon	27	Climbing Unit, Derby		
	Tue	28			
March	Wed	1	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	2			
	Fri	3	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale		
	Sat	4	Stuart Haywood		
	Sun	5			
	Mon	6	Climbing Unit, Derby		

- 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.

**Evening meets: every Monday at the Climbing Unit.  
Wednesday at Wirksworth Wall.**

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.

Over the winter there is also a group at Wirksworth from around 7 – 9.30 pm most Wednesdays, then adjourning to the Royal Oak, North Street.

**Tuesday 7 February Indoor Meet 8.00pm at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook Rob Tresidder**

Jane Tresidder will give an illustrated account of her traverse of the Alta Via 2 in the Dolomites. **This talk may move back a week to 31 January.** Check email or contact Rob Tresidder tel. 07951 625378 email [rob61.tresidder@virgin.net](mailto:rob61.tresidder@virgin.net)

**3 - 4 March Patterdale Stuart Haywood**

Shortly before Christmas I was informed by ABMSAC that former members of the TCC (who are now ABMSAC members) intend to hold a 're-union' at GSH during the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> March.

Accordingly this year our bed allocation has been reduced to a maximum of 14. Alternative dates for our Meet have been offered, but unfortunately these either clash with other Meets or are very late in 'the season', i.e. April.

Unfortunately therefore, taking into account the advance bookings I have already received, the Meet is currently fully subscribed. However it is possible further beds will be released a little nearer the time, and of course I may receive cancellations from some of our own members.

Accordingly if anyone wishes to be placed on a 'standby list' please call me on 07774 – 859553 ; 01332 882331 or e-mail [stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk) I will of course reply to all e-mail and voicemail messages to confirm the situation regarding bed availability. Stuart Haywood.

**Tuesday 7 March Indoor Meet 8.00pm at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook Rob Tresidder**

Mark Vallance, former president of the BMC and the man who made Friends, will give an illustrated talk based, broadly, on his recent book, *Wild Country*, which was shortlisted last autumn for the Boardman-Tasker prize.

Rob Tresidder tel. 07951 625378 email [rob61.tresidder@virgin.net](mailto:rob61.tresidder@virgin.net)

## 9-12 March Oread Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven Jeff Ingman



Mega Route X on Ben Nevis was in great condition in early March 2016, so let's hope for something similar in 2017. We'll be based in the West Highlands at Kinlochleven which provides easy access to the climbs around Bridge of Orchy, Glen Coe, Ben Nevis and the Aonachs.

If you have some experience of Scotland in winter then this meet may be for you. The accommodation is limited so contact Jeff Ingman if you are interested at [jeff.ingman@sky.com](mailto:jeff.ingman@sky.com) or 07891 517101. Note that Jeff's email address in the Oread address list is now superseded by the 'sky' address shown above.

### **25 March Annual General Meeting Robin Hood Baslow**

The annual general meeting of the club will take place at 8 p.m. on Saturday 25 March at the Robin Hood PH below Birchen's Edge.

Please send any motions for debate to me by 11 March. These will be included in the agenda. Of course matters may also be raised under AOB.

Proposals for changes to the club's rules **must be submitted by 23 February** so that the proposal can be circulated to the membership before 11 March.

The committee proposes that due to the decreasing attendance at the A.G.M. to alter Rule 17. This is to alter the size of the Quorum from its current one quarter of the membership to a fixed one of a minimum of 25 members attending the A.G.M. (25 is twice the number of the standing committee plus one to ensure that the committee does not have any advantage when it comes to voting).

The current rule 17 reads:

**17** No alteration to these rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting and only if supported by not less than two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote. **One-quarter of the membership of the Club forms a quorum.**

Proposed alterations shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting, and the General Secretary must notify all members of the proposed alterations at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

If an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting is inquorate then the Meeting can request that the General Secretary conduct a postal ballot of the Full Membership of the Club on the resolution. The resolution shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

The new rule 17 to read:

**17** No alteration to these rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting and only if supported by not less than two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote. **Twenty five of the membership of the Club forms a Quorum.**

Proposed alterations shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting, and the General Secretary must notify all members of the proposed alterations at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

If an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting is inquorate then the Meeting can request that the General Secretary conduct a postal ballot of the Full Membership of the Club on the resolution. The resolution shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

**Note:**

Following last year's A.G.M. when the proposal to reduce the Quorum from one quarter to one fifth was abandoned the committee hopes that if the above proposal is accepted the matter may be concluded for the foreseeable future.

Nominations for officers of the club and other (3) members of the committee are very welcome and **must be submitted by 11 March.**

Nigel Briggs, Secretary

41 Belfield Rd., Etwall, Derby DE65 6JN email [nigel.briggs@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel.briggs@btinternet.com)  
tel. 01283 732925

NB The Robin Hood will need to know numbers wanting food before the AGM and have asked for two weeks notice. Please contact them to book in. Tel 01246 583186.

## **31 March-2 April New Members' Meet, Heathy Lea Spenser Gray**

Following the success of September's new member's meet it has been decided to run something with a similar format the weekend of 31 March-2 April (**not** the dates which were mentioned in my previous emails). This time the meet will be based at Heathy Lea due to better availability of single pitch crags for any novices we have come along and also the greater potential for sociable climbing and swapping partners over the course of the day so that the new members can introduce themselves. Food for the Saturday evening will likely be a spaghetti bolognese followed by a cake of some variety. For the purposes of the meet hut fees will be waived. Ideally we will have half new/ prospective members and half existing members.

Spenser Gray email: [spenser.h.gray@googlemail.com](mailto:spenser.h.gray@googlemail.com) tel.07534 821500

## **18 April – 4 May Sun Rock trip to France Ruth Gordon**

A few of us are planning a trip to the sun after Easter, when hopefully it will be a bit less busy. We are thinking of basing ourselves at St Martin de Londres, (near Montpellier) where the club has had some very enjoyable meets in the past. We are open to other ideas though, so if you might be interested let me know and we'll throw the suggested venues into the mix and come up with a firm plan. Ruth Gordon, contact details at the end of the newsletter.

## **Wed. 24 – Mon. 29 May Skye, Cuillin area Mike Moss**

This is early notice so the workers can book time off and the retired squeeze this in between other trips. Our aim is the Cuillin Ridge of course. We will be camping, more details to be worked out nearer the date. If you are interested let me know so I can find camping space and help coordinate lifts.

Michael Moss tel. 01332 518302, 07932 420414 email: [mamoss@btinternet.com](mailto:mamoss@btinternet.com)

## **And now for something completely different!**

### **Oread Quad Challenge 2017 Stuart Firth**

Following the 2016 annual dinner, it struck me that the Oread has become hugely eclectic in its tastes for outdoor activities. We are also rapidly approaching the date when New Year resolutions are often broken. I thought therefore it might be fun to recognize this in setting up a competition for all the multi-discipline members of the Club. This will take the form of a Quadruple Challenge with virtual targets as follows:

- Walk Land's End to John O'Groats (1400km)
  - Swim the English Channel (33km)
  - Cycle the Tour de France (3,500km)
  - Climb Everest (8,848m or 29,029ft in old money).
- All this to be accomplished within twelve months starting 1st January 2017
- Completions prior to the 2017 annual dinner will be entitled to prizes, so there is a retrospective element.

The rules will be:

1. Land's End to John O'Groats can be walking or running
2. The "Channel" swimming can be done in a pool or open water
3. The "Tour de France" cycling can be on or off road but not indoors
4. The "Everest" ascent can be walking, running or climbing outdoors only
5. Hill walking, for example, counts towards both "LeJog" and "Everest"; cycling uphill does not count towards "Everest"; swimming uphill might...
6. An "honesty" log is to be presented to demonstrate achievement of the four activities. **See sample below.**
7. There will be three categories of entrant:
  - a. Individual – all aspects to be completed
  - b. Team of two - combined score
  - c. Team of three - combined score
  - d. In a Team, each participant must have done at least 80% of at least one of the activities and 20% of the others.
8. The winners will be those who have completed at the earliest date – logs to be submitted immediately prior to the dinner.
9. The winners will receive a free drink at the dinner, donated by Stuart Firth.
10. The judge's decision will be final.

Date	Swim m	Cycle km	Walk km	Climb m	Comments
01-Jan-17					
02-Jan-17					
03-Jan-17					
04-Jan-17					
05-Jan-17					
06-Jan-17					
07-Jan-17					
08-Jan-17					
09-Jan-17					
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22-Jan-17					
23-Jan-17					
24-Jan-17					
25-Jan-17					
26-Jan-17					
27-Jan-17					
28-Jan-17					
29-Jan-17					
30-Jan-17					
31-Jan-17					
Total					
Average					
Daily Target	90	10	4	24	

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

### **Oread Mountaineering Club – Forward Thinking Group**

The Oread Mountaineering Club has been in existence for over 65 years and during that period there have been many developments in mountaineering and climbing activities. In addition, there have been massive changes in the economic, social and technical environment. The average age of members has increased (albeit at different apparent individual speeds!); it has become increasingly difficult to get people to serve as officers on the committee; and whilst the club is currently solvent, the huts have become relatively more expensive to maintain and dependent on a diminishing number of volunteers. All this is against a contradictory background of outdoor activity in general being more popular than ever. What to do?

At its last meeting, the committee agreed that it would be beneficial to consider what changes, if any, need to be made to ensure the future sustainability of the club. It decided to appoint a “Forward Thinking Group (FTG)” which will review these matters independently of the day-to-day management of the Club.

The FTG is made up of five members tasked with the following terms of reference:

- What should be the Objectives of the Oread Mountaineering Club?
- What should be the Means of achieving these Objectives?

The five FTG members are Chris Radcliffe, Pam Storer, Spenser Gray, Pete Scott, and Stuart Firth (Chair).

The Group will determine its programme of work, a crucial part of which will be consultation with members. The exact form this will take has yet to be decided but is likely to involve 1-1 discussions with as many representative members as is practical.

The Group will offer options for the committee to consider and it will then be up to the committee to decide how best to proceed. The aim is to issue a final report to the committee within twelve months.

So, please give some thought as to what you would like the club to be like in the future – and watch this space for further news...

Stuart Firth

### **Important information regarding the BMC insurance provided as part of your club subscription.**

The BMC has written to the club as follows:

“Under the newly enacted Insurance Act 2015, the BMC is required to provide insurers with a fair presentation of our risk. In order to comply, we are asking all clubs to disclose to us if you are aware of any activities carried out by your club that would be considered outside of the “usual activities” for a climbing,

mountaineering or hill walking club. Details of what are considered “usual activities” can be found at <http://www.bmc-insurance-centre.co.uk/clubs>.” If you rely **only** upon the third party insurance provided by the BMC as part of your subscription you should check the information on their web site as some “secondary activities” such as canoeing, kayaking, cycling and mountain biking are covered if you do them as part of a club meet but **not** when you are doing them independently. If this affects you then you may wish to consider purchasing additional insurance.

## Bullstones 2016 Pam Norris

26 people on the Bullstones, 28 sleeping in Mungrisdale Village Hall, 30 eating on Saturday evening – is this a record? And why oh why do so many people wish to avoid sleeping in a bed?!?\*

The first challenge of the weekend was which of the excellent locally brewed six real ales on offer in the Old Crown should one drink? Not a problem says Tim, I’ll try them all! The evening was also enlivened by the nose masks that Tim had brought along (many of which bestowed upon the wearer a striking resemblance



to one Rock Hudson),



*Guess Who?*

The assembled party left the pub in dribs and drabs, and before midnight all were found trudging up the hill, somewhat bewildered by the wet stuff falling from the sky (the Met Office said NO RAIN!!). Luckily the rain soon gave up and after an hour or so of walking a small village of assorted tents & bivvibags sprang up in Potts Gill where a comfortable night was spent. (A keen advance party walked on for a further hour to sleep in Lingy Hut and thus reaped the benefit of more drinking time when they arrived at Mungrisdale on Saturday).



*The Bivvi site at Potts Gill Saturday morning.*

Saturday was dry with grey skies, but mostly clear summits and a pleasant flog 'up t'hill and down't dale' over the 'Back 'o Skiddaw Hills' was the order of the day, arriving at Mungrisdale just before dark.



*Summit of High Pike.*



*Lunch at Skiddaw House, only one more hill to go!*

Clearly the route wasn't quite exciting enough for one Dave Helliwell who decided to test the structural integrity of the mud cornice left behind by Storm Desmond in 2015 – this resulted in a three metre head-first dive into the six foot deep Glenderamakin River and an early evening trip to Penrith A&E but fortunately no serious damage ensued. A convivial evening was spent in the Hall and in the Mill, with Pete and Ali Kennington joining the team (and providing very welcome snacks and beverages) and the pub team were also joined for their meal by John Gresty and Martina Longworth.



On Sunday most people elected to make the most of the glorious weather (blue skies, sunshine and a heavy frost) and made their way back to Hesket Newmarket via the summit of Carrock Fell (where the usual bog leading to High Pike was fortunately nicely frozen).



*Back on High Pike (we've been here before!)*

On arriving back at the Old Crown a final surprise was in store – on Friday evening it appears that some (unidentified) person had ordered soup and sandwiches for 20 people for Sunday lunch, these were enjoyed by the assembled company who then headed for the M.ways and home.

My thanks to all who took part and also to the Weather Gods for their kind contribution, the previous weekend had seen the fells calf-deep in snow and the following weekend was wall to wall rain and wind so we were very lucky!

### **Hobday's Humour**



## **A New Year's Day Brolly Outing Peter Amour**

My New Year's Day excursion began on the last day of 2016 when Oread cornerstone, Mr Russell, made a telephone call to me stating that he was laid low with a heavy cold, (had this come from anybody else I would have said that he'd seen the report from the Met. Office). Never one to leave a commitment hanging loose, and on the basis that he'd heard from a "reliable" source that I was going to turn out I was requested to lead the masses from Ilam to the Wetton watering hole.

I must have anticipated the situation as I'd already left a voice mail message offering a lift to a hardy soul called Tresidder. The following morning I collected Mr T from his abode and completed the journey to the starting point under leaden skies, the type that warranted my companion to go into imitation mode of a certain Nick Crane by sporting an umbrella.

With no more than a few minutes spent in the rain, and passing the 11-00am start time we realised that we were to be a lonesome pair, (this was to be an upgrade for Mr T who remarked on a certain Bull Stones meet), and commenced the annual pilgrimage to find a pre-chosen pub. Following a modified route to that indicated by Rusty we skirted the west flank of Bunster Hill to the ridge of Dove Dale Wood. During this phase Mr T commented on the history of his interest in an umbrella.

It had started at some fine gentleman's supplier of umbrellas in some posh part of London, a place that referred to potential customers as "Sir" or "Madam" and where even a socialist received polite treatment. Mr T had shown great interest in the bespoke "Crane" model, specifically designed for the "discerning" until advised that one could acquire such an item for a mere £159-00, which brings us to the £4-00 see-through perspex semi hemispherical jobby that Mr T was sporting. The qualifying factor being that this was a "prototype under appraisal".

Back to the walk, we descended the dale side to Ilam Rock, during which I started showing off with the art of rapid sitting down. The remainder of the sludgy walk took us up Hall Dale, through Stanshope and onto the slippery meadows heading for the Wetton watering hole. At this point, and without warning Mr T had exceeded my poor attempt at a date with the ground by doing a very good impression of a mudskipper while letting his precious four pounds worth become airborne, (it was fortuitous that there was a meet leader on hand to retrieve it, as the field trials were incomplete).

The remaining part of the outward journey was drama free, and we were greeted by the Eyres, Hobdays, Wests, R Larkham, Keelings and associating non Oreads at the Royal Oak.

The return leg took us in much drier conditions back to Ilam via Castern Hall in altogether more pleasant, hazard free conditions.

And regarding the umbrella appraisal? I can only comment that it was "accidentally" left in my car boot after saying farewell to Mr and Mrs Tresidder....

## Meanwhile it's Happy New Year from Tan yr Wyddfa----



A large jolly party saw in the new year, and enjoyed/endured all kinds of weather.

John Fisher, after Christmas at the hut, headed home for new year in the clearest light conditions he ever recalls with stunning views out into mid Wales.

Later arrivals suffered a foggy, drizzly new year's eve: Derek, Teresa and the Kenningtons spent a

day navigating in the mist, exploring the complex quarries and hills above Croesor. Snod, Ruth and Spenser got geared up to climb at Tremadoc – and it promptly started to rain, By late afternoon it cleared enough for a last minute dash up Y Garn.



A grand feast was prepared and devoured. Much dangerous Jenga was jousted and the hut was first-footed by Spenser on the grounds that he was acceptably tall, male, the only one with any hair that was not white ----and then again – he did have some whisky!

New Year's day was bright, Snowdon well coated in white powder icing, but a bitter wind sent Snod and Ruth scurrying to the coast for shelter and sunshine. Tuesday was like spring, warm, sunny, windless. Pete and Ali set off up Snowdon: “a cracking day and should have had our crampons! Anyhow we made the summit via Bwlch Main and came down to the Aran Col to finish up.”

Snod and Ruth did Christmas Curry, rock was dry, warm to the touch and delightful in the sun. Back in the car, heading home, it was snowing as they drove through Capel! Thanks to all who made it a fun celebration: John F. Rock,



Kev and Margaret Sarson, Pete and Ali Kennington, Derek and Joan Pike, Pippa and Carol Leach, Spenser Gray, Teresa Waldron, Paula Twell, Snod and Ruth.

## **Reminiscences of the Bullstones Cabin Roger Chapman**

The lovely photo, taken at the entrance to the Bullstones Cabin, in the last issue awoke memories.....Roger writes:

“The photo in front of the Bullstones in 1964 brought back memories of my own from my Mountain Club days which may (or may not) be of some interest to Oread members. At the time I was a student apprentice with English Electric at Stafford.

From a letter to my parents dated 19/2/64:

“We were quite lucky with the hut we stayed in. Two Huge holes in the walls where the windows should have been, a door (which actually closed), a leaky roof (luckily it didn't rain), and a huge fireplace.

Luckily there was some wood scattered around so we got a roaring fire going and sat around it cooking and singing folk songs until about midnight”.

The overnight hut was one of the cabins below Bullstones commonly referred to as the Bullstones Cabin (apparently at GR 172963). Shortly after this meet it was razed to the ground and all that can be found there now is the remains of the floor. Incidentally the “leaky roof” referred to in the letter was actually mostly missing but it does not do much good unnecessarily alarming ones folks. :-)

Looking back it must have been rather a fraught time for my parents. Within a few weeks of receiving this letter the deaths of four scouts in the same area made National headlines and shortly afterwards I was in hospital after a serious car accident after driving back from the Nevis Meet.”

## **Hut Bookings.**

### **TAN-YR-WYDDFA**

27-28 January	Oread Meet
10-11 February	Orpheus MC 16 places
18-19 February	MMC S Glover
24-26 February	Yorkshire Ramblers
3-4 March	Mercian M.C.
10-11 March	Cambridge Uni Hillwalking Club <b>Whole Hut</b>
17-18 March	Oread Meet
24-26 March	Hertfordshire M.C.

### **HEATHY LEA**

25 March	Oread A.G.M.
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“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](mailto: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.

## **Letter from a Visitor**

It is pleasing to hear how much some of our paying guests appreciate our huts: This letter was received after a group stayed at Tan yr Wyddfa the first weekend in December.

“We had an absolutely fantastic weekend, thank you very much. Everyone loved the hut and I hope you are happy that the hut is in as good a condition as we found it.

Here is my favourite photo from the weekend...



Again, many thanks for letting us rent your beautiful hut, it is a special place. We hope to visit again in the future.

Sam Cooper

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

### This month's puzzle:

A hirsute old Oread was compelled to miss the Dovedale Dash due to a seasonal affliction, and decided to make amends by running in the National Cross Country Championship at Wollaton Park, along with his son and another young friend. Unfortunately our man was struggling in this very high class field, and did not manage to make the first 2000. He took some consolation however from the performances of the two young men who were both in the first hundred.

Discussing the race afterwards, he (partly through a desire to distract attention from his own performance and partly through a liking of number puzzles), held the finishing tickets of the two younger men together to make a four digit number and remarked that this four digit number was his own finishing position, and also the square of the sum of other two positions. (he held the tickets with the more highly placed position on the left and the other on the right). Where did our hero and his two young friends finish?

(Any resemblance to a living person is purely coincidental in this work of fiction)

For those who prefer letters to numbers:

Which crag, the name of which has an identical consonant as its first and third letters, has become visually prominent in the management of the Oread?

### Last month's puzzle solution:



### Of what species is this mountain dwelling beast?

Well, I concealed the fact that it was not Rusty but your Hon. Ed. who set this puzzle – I thought my recent travels would provide too great a clue as to its likely homeland. This is none other than the **National Animal of Bhutan**.

Snod thinks it has a face like a reindeer and must be of Scandinavian origin.

Roger Chapman says “It looks rather like an African buffalo so it is presumably a mountain buffalo but I haven’t managed to track down a photo to do a comparison.”

Mike Wren and Rusty are both convinced it is a water buffalo as they were well acquainted with “the specimen that used to haunt the swamp opposite the rugby pitch on the East side of Darley Abbey Mills”.

Only one person got it right:

“This beast is a TAKIN and is native to a small area of Bhutan/China/Assam.

It appears to be a cross between a cow and a goat. (*There is a Bhutan legend of its creation on this theme. Ed.*) It is a bovine animal related to the musk-ox of the Arctic and lives on rhododendron thickets.”

**Chris Martin.** Bexhill on Sea. This photograph (above) was taken by me in Bhutan in 2006.

There are a few in a reserve in Thimpu where Chris and I took the photos ten years apart. I was told that most of the beasts in the zoo were released into the wild, at the King's command, some years ago. Apparently the Takin did not know what to do and just hung around Thimpu looking unhappy. They were eventually re-housed into a large, wooded field enclosure where I had the privilege of meeting them.



Charming creatures with rough hairy coats and a curious dew claw at the

back of their cloven front hooves. Quite big and bulky, almost four feet at the shoulder. Sadly I did not see them in the wild, although we trekked through their summer pastures, as they are sensible creatures and migrate down to warmer valleys for the winter.

### **Wanted: storage for 35mm slides.**

I've nearly used up my supplies to store 35mm slides. New supplies are no longer easily available. I use plastic sheets holding 4x5 or 3x5 slides. They have either 2 or 4 holes to fit into standard ring binders. In the past I've also used boxes holding 200 or more. Many members have digitised their slides and no longer have need for the above.

I would be very grateful if any members, or any of their friends, who have any of the above would contact either myself, Rock Hudson tel. 0115 9333031, or a member of the committee.

### **Information on Member Activities**

A warm welcome to new members Peter (Spike) Johnston, Mark Steel and Teresa Waldron. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

A membership application has been received from Pippa Leach. If you would like to comment on her application please contact a member of the committee.

#### **New Contact information: Roland Smith.**

Roland has a new email address: [rolandmartinsmith@gmail.com](mailto:rolandmartinsmith@gmail.com)

## Mike Moore (1951)

Dear Editor,

I think the Club ought to know that one of our oldest members, Mike Moore, now 94, was recently awarded the **Légion d'honneur**. This award is given by the French authorities in recognition of service to France and is highly regarded.

The citation, written by the French Ambassador, reads as follows:

"I have the pleasure of informing you that the President of the Republic has appointed you to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur. I offer you my warmest congratulations on this high honour in recognition of your acknowledged military engagement and your steadfast involvement in the liberation of France during the Second World War."



As to detail, Mike, then in a R.A.F. wireless telecommunications unit, arrived on day one of the Normandy landings (6 June 1944) alongside the American troops with the intention of relaying information on German military aircraft to Allied fighters defending the invasion beaches.

Omaha, of all the beachheads was physically difficult, well defended by enemy guns and casualties were very high, indeed much higher than on any other American, Canadian or British beaches.

As a minor postscript, Mike, when asked about his experiences, modestly replies in the idiom of the time that he was an extremely lucky chap.

*The photograph shows Mike Moore (centre) with O.M.C. companions probably on Kirkfell one Easter in the early 1950s.*

Yours sincerely,  
John Fisher.

## Membership Renewals for 2016

Although it's time to renew your annual subs we have once again managed to hold the cost for another year. **Subs must be renewed before the AGM.**

The subscription includes the BMC fee of £13.25 giving you all the benefits of individual club membership and in particular the BMC third party insurance.

### How to pay: 1 of 2 ways

- 1 Please complete the form below and send it with a cheque made payable to the Oread Mountaineering Club, posted to Michael Hayes, 32 Hawthorne Drive, Thornton, Leicester, LE67 1AW.
- 2 You can pay by bank transfer Sort Code 05-04-07, Account Number 45028744 with (Subs and your name in the reference field). Once the money has been transferred please email [hayes\\_michael\\_j@cat.com](mailto:hayes_michael_j@cat.com) confirmation and a copy of the form below.

If you have any questions then please contact me. Michael Hayes.

<b>Oread Mountaineering Club Membership Renewal and Contact List Update</b>		
Name		
Second Name (Joint Membership)		
Address		
Telephone Number		
Telephone Number Work		
Telephone Number Mobile		
Email Address		
Secondary Email Address		
<b>Data Protection:</b> I agree to my contact details being held by the Oread MC, shared with other paid up members and passed to the BMC to gain my third party insurance		
<b>Membership Type: Please tick relevant box</b>		
Ordinary Member	£40.00	
Senior Member	£25.00	
Prospective Member	£25.00	
Joint Membership (Two people at the same address)	£65.00	
Senior Joint Membership	£42.00	
Joint Membership (One senior one ordinary)	£53.50	
Member with permanent address outside the UK. 50% of appropriate rate as BMC membership is not included.		

# Forthcoming Meets 2017

This is a work in progress – more meets will be added as arranged.

**Please support your club.** More meet leaders are required for 2017 (UK and abroad). If you intend leading a meet please contact Gil Male tel 07958 169389 email [gilemale@gmail.com](mailto:gilemale@gmail.com) who will enter details in the Meets List Calendar 2017.

<i>January</i>		
	<i>27-29</i>	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa</i> Mike Hayes
<i>February</i>	<i>6-15</i>	<i>Spain, Benidorm</i> Ruth Gordon
	<i>17-19</i>	<i>Scottish Winter Climbing, Aviemore</i> Spenser Gray
<i>March</i>	<i>3-5</i>	<i>George Starkey Hut, Patterdale</i> Stuart Haywood
	<i>9-12</i>	<i>Scottish Winter Climbing, Kinlochleven</i> Jeff Ingman
	<i>17-19</i>	<i>Club meet, Tan yr Wyddfa</i> Dave (Snod) Helliwell
	<i>25</i>	<i>Annual General Meeting, Robin Hood, Baslow</i>
	<i>26</i>	<i>Spring Stride</i> Rusty Russell
	<i>31 Mar – 2 Apr</i>	<i>New Member's Meet, Heathy Lea</i> Spenser Gray
<i>April</i>	<i>14-16</i>	<i>Pembroke provisional</i>
	<i>18 Apr – 2 May</i>	<i>France, Bolt Climbing, St Martin de Londres (provisional)</i> Ruth Gordon
<i>May</i>	<i>6-7</i>	<i>BBQ &amp; Working Party, Heathy Lea, Pam Storer</i>
	<i>24-29</i>	<i>Isle of Skye Meet, Scotland, Mike Moss</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>9-11</i>	<i>Kids Meet, Heathy Lea</i> Neil Weatherstone
	<i>16-18</i>	<i>Fylde Hut, Little Langdale</i> Dave (Snod) Helliwell
	<i>30 Jun – 2 July</i>	<i>Baggy Point, Devon</i> Chris Wilson
<i>July</i>	<i>22 Jul – 5 Aug</i>	<i>Alpine Meet</i> Mike Mowbray
<i>August</i>		
<i>September</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>Lakes, Wasdale, FRCC Hut</i> Chris Radcliffe
<i>October</i>	<i>13-15</i>	<i>Gogarth, Anglesey</i> Dave Mawer
<i>November</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Bonfire Meet, Heathy Lea</i> Neil Weatherstone
	<i>5</i>	<i>Dovedale Dash</i> Rob Tresidder
	<i>18</i>	<i>Annual Dinner, Matlock Golf Club</i>
	<i>19</i>	<i>Post Prandial Walk</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>1-3</i>	<i>Bullstones, Simon Pape</i>
	<i>13</i>	<i>Black Rocks, Night Climb</i> Rob Tresidder
	<i>22 Dec – 1 Jan</i>	<i>Christmas/New Year Meet, Tan yr Wyddfa</i> Rock Hudson

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