



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018**



**Chloe Brown climbing at Torre Isulidda, San Vito lo Capo. Photo courtesy of Michael Hayes.**

## **Editorial**

This is a double issue to see you through the festive period and on into the new year. There's lots going on – the usual festive get-togethers, a couple of winter climbing meets, the new Peak District Boundary Walk is underway with stage two coming up in January and if the lovely Sicilian sunshine above makes you long for Spring then there's still time to join the Benidorm trip in February.

Those who were not at the dinner will need to know that the new Quad Challenge has already begun – the clock is ticking! Full details on page 8. Write ups of good times past include an explosive bonfire night, an Austrian holiday, some strange activities in Sicily and a very well attended Post Prandial walk.

On a more serious note there is an report on the recent BMC Peak Area Committee at which the BMC Organisational Review was discussed. It is important that you use the opportunity to comment on the Review.

Last, but not least – the Forthcoming Meets calendar for 2018 is looking good with lots coming up to keep us busy in the new year.

# What's On

Date		UK	Abroad	
2017	December	Fri 1	Bullstones	
		Sat 2	Simon Pape	
		Sun 3		
		Mon 4	Climbing Unit, Derby	
		Tue 5	Indoor Meet, Royal Oak, Ockbrook Spenser Gray - A Modern Apprenticeship	
		Wed 6	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	
		Thur 7		
		Fri 8		
		Sat 9		
		Sun 10		
		Mon 11	Climbing Unit, Derby	
		Tue 12		
		Wed 13	Black Rocks/Harborough Night Climb Rob Tresidder	
		Thur 14		
		Fri 15		
		Sat 16		
		Sun 17		
		Mon 18	Climbing Unit, Derby	
		Tue 19		
		Wed 20	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	
		Thur 21		
		Fri 22	Christmas/New Year Meet, Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson	
		Sat 23		
		Sun 24		
		Mon 25		
		Tue 26		
		Wed 27		
		Thur 28		
		Fri 29		
		Sat 30		
		Sun 31		
2018	January	Mon 1	New Years Day Walk Pete Amour	
		Tue 2		
		Wed 3	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	
		Thur 4		
		Fri 5	Scottish Winter Climbing	
		Sat 6	Waters Cottage, Glencoe	
		Sun 7	Spenser Gray	
		Mon 8	Climbing Unit, Derby	
		Tue 9		
		Wed 10	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	

Date	UK	Abroad
Thur 11		
Fri 12		
Sat 13		
Sun 14		
Mon 15	Climbing Unit, Derby	French Ice Climbing Argentiere La Bessee/La Grave Jeff Ingman
Tue 16		
Wed 17	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	
Thur 18		
Fri 19		
Sat 20		
Sun 21	Peak Boundary Walk (stage 2) - Rowsley/Winster Stuart Firth	
Mon 22	Climbing Unit, Derby	
Tue 23		
Wed 24	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	
Thur 25		
Fri 26	Tan yr Wyddfa, Mick Hayes	
Sat 27		
Sun 28		
Mon 29	Climbing Unit, Derby	
Tue 30		
Wed 31	Wirksworth Climbing Wall	

- 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:

It's back to the long dark evenings once more so come along to the evening climbing wall sessions:

**Mondays at the Unit** from 7 – 9.00 pm and after at the Wilmot Arms, Chaddesden. (Often there are people there in the afternoons 1.30 – 4.30 as well.)

**Wednesdays at Wirksworth wall** from 7.00 pm then the Royal Oak on North St.

## Winter 2017/8 Indoor Meets Rob Tresidder

These take place on the first Tuesday of each month, October to March in the Royal Oak, Ockbrook at 8.00 p.m.

**05 December:** Spenser Gray: *A Modern Apprenticeship: Surviving the First 5 Years.*

**02 January:** **Cancelled.** Too close to the New Year so too many Oreads away doing more important things!

**06 February:** Paul Ramsden, multiple Piolet D'Or winner returns to the Oread.

**06 March:** Pete (Spike) Johnston on ski touring in Norway with emphasis on a tour in Tafjordfjella.

Rob Tresidder: email [Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net](mailto:Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net) tel. 07951 625378



## **Tuesday 5 December Lecture, Royal Oak, Rob Tresidder**

The third evening lecture will be held at 8 o'clock at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook on Tuesday, 05 December. Spenser Gray will regale us with "A modern Apprenticeship: Surviving the First 5 Years". An account of his start in climbing - university student, army cadet and Oread.

## **Wednesday 13 December Night Climb Rob Tresidder**

Proceedings usually kick off sixish at Black Rocks though recently there has been leakage to the Dolomites. As yet I have no details about the trad supper because the Rising Sun has closed, reopened, closed and reopened. I shall post on the yahoo groups as soon as I can or if you don't access this send me an email or text

and I'll keep you briefed.

Rob Tresidder email [Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net](mailto:Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net) 07951 625378

## **26 December Boxing Day walk to Brassington**

As is traditional, those who are released from family duties are likely to amble or cycle over to Brassington for a pint or two, or three in the Miners Arms. Sometimes it snows and unwary cyclists find themselves fighting for survival with great snow mushrooms sprouting from their helmets – but usually it isn't too challenging!

## **24 -31 December Christmas/New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson**

As usual there will be festive fun to be had in Wales, come and go as you please, just book your bed nights with Mick Hayes as normal.

## **1 January New Year's Day Walk by a new old geezer..... Pete Amour**

Several weeks ago I received a 'phone call from Rusty asking if I would be willing to take over the role of leading this almost historic annual fixture, Clive advised me that he had performed the leader role for many years, and felt he would like to "retire from it." Well I think that I speak for all of the Oread that you are owed a

heartfelt thanks for giving us our first meet of the year, over those many years, well done Rusty.

The first outing of 2018 is planned to commence from the High Peak Junction car park, the ticket machine has been out of order for a very long time (vandalised) and I suspect it will be on 01/01/18. My plan is to assemble at 09-45am for a prompt 10-00am start. The initial leg will see us head south on the Cromford Canal and then head uphill towards Lea Hurst, descending Lea Wood and then taking in Bow and Coumbs Woods. A section of Hearthstone Lane will be used before dropping down and taking the footpath loop to the north of Cromford's fine station. A short commitment of road walking will then see us passing under Willesley Crag and finding our way to The Boat Inn in Cromford for beers and nosh. If anyone has the inclination to eat at the pub I advise that they look up the menu and pre-book to avoid any disappointment.

Post lunch my intended line is to take the path opposite Cromford Garage on the Via Gellia, climb past Rose End Meadow and to cross Cromford Hill at Moorside to eventually connect with the lower section of Sheepwash Incline and then the car park.

Alternatives, should anyone be late arriving at High Peak Junction car park, (or hobbling), they could rendezvous with the early risers by the track entrance adjacent to John Smedley's Factory when they (early risers) finish the Lea Hurst Loop, or you can head straight along the canal to Cromford for a short, easier amble. Return leg options are straight back along the canal to the car park or the original plan by Rose End Meadow nature reserve.

I hope to shatter last years attendance record of me and Mr Tresidder (and his umbrella). Seriously, please try and make it, let's blow away the cobwebs.

Festive best wishes to all,

Peter tel 07970 529138 email [peter@amour02.force9.co.uk](mailto:peter@amour02.force9.co.uk)

## **5 -7 January Winter climbing Scotland, Spenser Gray**

The club's first Scottish Winter Meet of the year will be based at the Fell and Rock Climbing Club's Waters Cottage in Kinlochleven. This puts a variety of venues in easy reach including Stob Coire Nan Lochan, Bidean Nam Bian, Aonach Eagach, Aonach Mor and Ben Nevis. Given that this meet is reasonably early in the season lower altitude venues such as Buchaille Etive Mor are not necessarily going to be in condition but, Scottish Winter Climbing Conditions being what they are, it's hard to say what will be in condition this far in advance! There are 6 beds booked for Friday and Saturday nights. This meet is intended for members who are aware of how to use ice axe(s) and crampons in a safe and effective fashion, assess avalanche conditions and navigate in low visibility conditions.

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

## **14-21 January Ecrins Ice Climbing Meet Jeff Ingman**

This trip is organised and booked. For more information contact Jeff Ingman email [jeff.ingman@sky.com](mailto:jeff.ingman@sky.com) or tel. 07891 517101.

## **Sunday 21 January Peak District Boundary Walk – Rowsley to Winster loop 10:00 am start. Stuart Firth**



(Optional Saturday night accommodation: Heathy Lea, Baslow – please make your own arrangements with Michael Hayes)

This will be the second of the series of Oread walks circumnavigating the newly established 190-mile Peak District Boundary Walk.

We will meet at our previous far point of Oread Stage One, at the Italian Café in Rowsley retail park at 10:00. There are two free public car parks off the A6 at GR 258659 and GR 257657 – the third one at the retail park itself has a time limit – beware.

We'll then walk to Winster via the prehistoric Nine Ladies archeological site and back again via a different route. This is part of the official Stage 12.

There will be a lunchtime pub stop at the Miners Arms, Winster and the whole circuit is about 16 km (10 miles in old money).

It will be good to see as broad a spectrum of members as possible. To accommodate different speeds and abilities, we may organize subgroups on the day so offers of encouraging 8-10 participants would be appreciated.

Should you wish to stay in the hut, please reserve your place by directly contacting Michael Hayes.

Useful Info:

Map: OS24 The Peak District - White Peak area

Book: Peak District Boundary Walk; editor Andrew McCloy. Amazon £10

Stages: part 12

Mike Hayes: [hayes\\_michael\\_j@cat.com](mailto:hayes_michael_j@cat.com); 07771 700913

Stuart Firth: [stuartmfirth@btinternet.com](mailto:stuartmfirth@btinternet.com); 07977 458048



## **27-28 January Snowdonia Michael Hayes**

This meet sees us back at our own hut in North Wales. At Tan yr Wyddfa on the southern flank of Snowdon we are ideally placed to react to the unpredictable weather of a North Wales winter and find some adventure in one if not all disciplines of our wonderful

sport.

I will be hoping for ice climbing or at least a bit of winter mountaineering. If it's mild then we might be out rock climbing and if it's wet we'll probably head out to the coast so no excuses.

For those going to Benidorm the following weekend then this is an ideal meet for you to enjoy those cold mountain moments before you all frazzle in the sun.

To book your place please give me a call on 07771700913 or email:

[hayes\\_michael\\_j@cat.com](mailto:hayes_michael_j@cat.com)

## **2-4 February Stair Hut Little Langdale**

We have the spacious and well-appointed Fylde M.C. Hut at Stair NY23722 21061 on a hut swap basis this weekend so it will only cost you £5 a night for a weekend in the Lakes. How can you resist?

No meet leader as yet so to reserve your place contact Ruth Gordon email

[alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com) tel 01629 56636

## **5 -17 February Benidorm Derek Pike**

There are around 13 members and friends now booked on this meet - there is room for more. We are booked on a Jet 2 package holiday and are staying at the Hotel Benilux Park - five minutes from the beach if you like winter sun bathing. The package is for all flights, transfers, and the accommodation is half board plus i.e. wine with your dinner. This year the food was good and there is more than you can eat. Some are going out on 5th Feb. until the 17th others are going out on various dates in between, also flying from various airports, EM. Birmingham and Manchester.

The cost depends on how long you stay and when you fly: On 5<sup>th</sup> from East Midlands 7 nights around £303p.p. 10 nights £364, 12 nights £418, 14 nights £450.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Derek: Email [derekpike1234@btinternet.com](mailto:derekpike1234@btinternet.com) Tel. 01332 670459

## **9 -11 February Karn House Aviemore Spenser Gray**

The club is going to make a return to Karn House for another bite of the winter climbing cherry over the weekend of 9th-11th February. Last year's meet was somewhat hampered by warm conditions in February, which resulted in certain club members being unable to negotiate an escape from their clothes or indeed ascend the ladder of their bunk beds...

Hopefully this year will see better conditions allowing us to experience the delights of the Northern Corries, Hell's Lum, Shelterstone, Carn Etchachan and Garbh Choire. This meet has 13 beds booked for Friday and Saturday nights.

This meet is intended for members who are aware of how to use ice axe(s) and crampons in a safe and effective fashion, assess avalanche conditions and navigate in low visibility conditions.

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

**Copy deadline for next issue is 20 January.**

# News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

## Oread Quad Challenge 2018 Stuart Firth

In assessing the outcome of the 2017 Oread Quad Challenge, it was clear that climbing Everest was far too easy for some participants. I had obviously underestimated the energy levels of a certain septuagenarian. With this in mind the 2018 Quad Challenge will take a simpler format with a stronger bias towards climbing and less emphasis on swimming and cycling.

So, the **2018 Quadruple Challenge** will have virtual targets as follows:

- Walk Land's End to John O'Groats (1400km)
  - Cycle John O'Groats to Land's End (1400km)
  - Swim Windermere (18.08km)
  - Climb the seven highest continental peaks (43,324m).
- 
- All this to be accomplished between the 2017 and 2018 annual dinners
  - Completions will be entitled to prizes

The rules will be:

1. Land's End to John O'Groats can be walking or running
2. John O'Groats to Land's End cycling can be on or off road but not indoors
3. The Windermere swimming can be done in a pool or open water
4. The continental climbing ascent can be walking, running, cycling or climbing outdoors only
5. Hill walking, for example, counts towards both "LeJog" and "climbing";
6. An "honesty" log is to be presented to demonstrate achievement of the four activities.
7. There will be four categories of entrant:
  - a. Individual – 100 % of all aspects to be completed
  - b. Team of two – minimum of 50% each person for all disciplines
  - c. Team of three – minimum 1/3 each person for all disciplines
  - d. Team of four – minimum of 25% each person for all disciplines
8. The winners will be those who have completed at the earliest date – logs to be submitted 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.

Continent	Summit	Feet	Metres
Asia	Mount Everest	29,035	8,850
South America	Aconagua	22,829	6,962
North America	Denali aka Mount McKinley	20,320	6,194
Africa	Kilimanjaro	19,340	5,895
Europe	Mount Elbrus	18,510	5,642
Antarctica	Mount Vinson	16,067	4,897
Australasia	Carstensz Pyramid aka Puncak Jaya	16,023	4,884
<b>Total</b>		<b>142,124</b>	<b>43,324</b>

1st Ascent	Pat Morrow	1986
2nd Ascent	Reinhold Messner	1986
Guide's fees		\$150,000
Oread fee		Nil

Walk / Run	Land's End to John O'Groats	1400 km
Cycle Outdoors	John O'Groats to Land's End	1400 km
Swim Indoors or Outdoors	Windermere	18.08km
Climb or Walk Outdoors	Continental summits	43,324m
Categories	Solo - minimum 100% all disciplines	
	Duo - minimum 50% each person all disciplines	
	Trio - minimum 1/3 each person all disciplines	
	Quad – minimum ¼ each person all disciplines	

## **The BMC Organisational Review**

**A report from Spenser Gray following the recent Peak Area Committee which was attended by several Oread members and committee members.**

Ok, I get it, politics, corporate language, 40,000 word reports and meetings are all things which we run off to the hills to escape, or at least those of us who have not yet retired, bought a campervan and moved to Matlock...

I am sure that those who have will sympathise with those who haven't; however by people engaging with these things in a mountaineering context through membership of club committees, attendance at club AGMs, BMC area meetings and BMC AGMs it is possible for them to influence the direction of their respective club or of British Mountaineering. It's also a good way of meeting people who have a wider mountaineering background than your own which can facilitate some fine adventures.

The BMC has recently published the interim report of the Organisational Review Group (ORG). This group was set up at the request of National Council, the BMC's current policy making body, to address the wide range of changes which have occurred both within the British and International Mountaineering Communities, within UK law and changed views on good governance procedures for representative and governing bodies for sport within the UK. The review was also somewhat hastened into reality by the Motion of No Confidence which Bob Pettigrew proposed at the BMC AGM earlier on this year. Some of you will remember the survey which was sent out earlier in the year by the BMC, the results from this, a range of focus groups (including one which Pam Storer

attended on behalf of the OMC), research into governance practices and legal advice have all been used to produce the organisational review report which can be found on the BMC web site. There are three versions of the report, the full 80 page beast, a 20 page summary and a 2 page version, they can all be found here:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/whats-the-future-of-the-bmc-report-launch-kendal-mountain-festival>

51 recommendations are made as part of the report, these can be found on pages 12 and 13 of the full report with detailed explanations of what they mean beginning on page 32. It is important to read these explanations if you wish to object to any of the recommendations. Club members had a far lower response rate than individual members in the original survey so it's likely that some of the more vocal members of the club on these subjects are yet to contribute, please do! It is important to note that without some of these changes being implemented there is a significant imbalance in legal responsibility held by members who actively volunteer within the BMC. If the BMC is to continue "doing as it does" with regards access, equipment failure investigations, training and all of the other good stuff it does it needs to keep volunteers involved, these proposed changes will aid the BMC in doing all of this work while also making it more relevant and able to support today's mountaineering community.

A second member's survey is now underway to take feedback on the report(s). **Responses are needed by 22 December.** A revised set of proposals based upon the new feedback will be presented prior to the BMC's AGM 27th-29th April in Kendal where some of the recommendations will be voted on such as changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Those which are not voted on at the AGM will be implemented through other means.

## Our Summer Road Trip Chris Radcliffe



*The Muttekopf Hutte in its spectacular setting.*

As we had other commitments that prevented us from joining the meet to the Picos, Gill and I decided to have a road trip to a variety of rock climbing destinations in Europe. It was also an opportunity to see how we coped with an extended trip in our VW T4 campervan. We wanted the opportunity to do multi-pitch rock climbing in the mountains and ultimately we decided to head for Austria. We both delight in the mountain scenery there and had little prior experience of the summer climbing opportunities. There is a huge amount of

climbing, but we found little information in English that helped us to make a selection of where to go. Since we found out that there is to be a women's international meet in September at Nasserith, just to the west of Innsbruck, we thought this might be a good destination to aim for initially. There is a brilliant website:

[http://www.bergsteigen.com/klettergarten#lat=47.130740655061&lng=11.564926074219&zoom=9&maptype=ts\\_terrain](http://www.bergsteigen.com/klettergarten#lat=47.130740655061&lng=11.564926074219&zoom=9&maptype=ts_terrain)

where you can drill down to get a topo of every crag in Austria, but this takes an enormous amount of time to look at all the possibilities. Regina loaned us an excellent book *Best of genuss* which is a selected guide of multi-pitch climbs. So together with the Jingowobbly guide we felt we had the basis of a plan.

We had hot sunny weather when we set off on 13<sup>th</sup> August, travelling across northern France and our first experience of free campervan aires. Our first destination was *Reussenstein* a crag below a ruined castle and a fine view of the *Schwäbische Alb* in southern Germany. We had a couple of days climbing here and a walk in the tourist spot of *Blauburren* before heading south to *Füssen* where we were happy to cool off swimming in the *Schwansee* and walking near the *Schloss Neuschwanstein* which is the fairy-tale castle that was the template for Disneyworld's castle.

It was a bit damp when we finally reached *Nasserith* but we enjoyed a fine klettersteig, a day on the *Leite* face with multi-pitch climbs and another day sport climbing on *Eis Am Stiel* and *Goldenes Dachl*. We then moved to *Hoch Imst* for our first mountain route – *Engelkarfeiler*, *E Face* above the *Muttekopf Hutte*. There was a spectacular path leading to the hut and a 1 ½ hour walk-in to the route including a horrendous scree approach. It was a V+ route, adequately bolted but there were some sketchier moments which Gill dealt with coolly on lead. The descent with 6 x 25m abseils covered some steep ground and we appreciated the red arrows pointing to the next bolt station in the middle of nowhere. After a fine meal in the hut, we got back to our wild camp in *Hoch Imst* at dusk.

*Enjoying a beer after the route.*



We picked up a topo at the hut to a nearby crag, *Rote Wand*, which doesn't appear in the Jingowobbly guide. This had some fine technical routes and we visited a couple of times. As the weather continued fine, we headed for our next mountain route a little further west, starting from the valley near *Zams*. A steep and narrow gravel trail

with an impressive drop off climbed to a parking area at *Alfazalm*. As we ground our way up in first gear in the campervan, we hoped we wouldn't meet anything coming in the opposite direction. From *Alfazalm* there is a couple of hours approach to the *Steinsehutter* where we stopped for the night, after getting there just before an impressive thunderstorm. It was fine again for the route next morning. We were climbing on the *SW Face of the Parzinnspitze*, but our 7 pitch route "Gusta" was on a SE facing facet, so we benefitted from the sun quickly drying the rock after the previous night's rain. It was another enjoyable V route, marred by a ledge system at 2/3 height. After an initial abseil off the back there was a klettersteig protected descent down a steep gully.



*Left, Gill on the SW face of the Parzinnspitze, and right on the summit of Gusta.*

Travelling to the edge of Innsbruck there is a massive rock feature – the *Martinswand*. We only had a single topo to one area and ended up traversing below the entire feature that obviously had some very long and serious routes, before local climbers helped us find our pimple of a crag. Despite this we had a good day when we finally got going.

We were constantly checking the weather and it seemed that that the whole of the Alps was becoming increasingly unstable, so we decided to head south into the *Friuli* region of Italy, east of the Dolomites. An exciting mountain road over the *Tramonti di Sopra* brought us to *Maniago* where we found a campervan aire to stay at. This area – between the eastern Alps and the Adriatic – has a hybrid climate between continental and Mediterranean climates allowing climbing all year round. We had a day in the steep sided Val Colvara, getting sand bagged on easier routes that obviously have been graded by locals. Appropriately we climbed on *Settore Only Big*. The next day we travelled east over the mountains to *Erto*, a

more amenable crag – *Settore No Big!* That evening we headed south towards *Venice*, but turning east towards *Trieste*, bypassing this, and over the border into Slovenia. Here there is a karst plateau that extends over 150 miles into the interior. The best known climbing is near the village of Osp, with mainly high end climbs, so we headed for a wild camp near *Crni Dal* that has some easier routes. Climbing here next day it was incredibly hot and we wilted mid afternoon, taking time off to visit the village and returning after 6pm to do a final route. Overnight there was a massive thunderstorm and next morning it was overcast and raining. The temperature had plummeted by over 20 degrees.

This effectively ended our climbing trip. It was now 1<sup>st</sup> September and we headed north through Slovenia, stopping off to visit the capital *Ljubljana*. This was a really delightful city with many fine buildings by the *Ljubljanica* river and a vibrant café culture with many young people from the city centre university. We didn't see it at its best in pouring rain. Continuing into Austria we reached *Villach*. Various camp sites around *Faak-Am-See* looked promising but were overrun with bikers attending the European Bike Week. Next day we reached Salzburg and continued back into Germany to visit Regina Schofer in *Berchtesgaden*.



She made us very welcome for the next few days at her apartment with an amazing alpine view over the *Watzman* – the highest mountain wholly in Germany. (*see photo above*)

It was good even in the rainy weather, but when it cleared with snow down to 2000m it was truly impressive. We joined Regina at her local purpose built climbing wall – a very different location to Awesome Walls or the Foundry. The rain cleared away and we had two magnificent days to do two very strenuous and impressive klettersteig – the *Berchtesgadner Hochthronsteig* and the *Grüstein*, a fitting end to our trip.



*The Berchtesgaden Hochthronsteig*



A road trip inevitably means a lot of travelling. We had driven 2660 miles by the time we got home, but the benefit is visiting lots of different areas. We visited five countries, had 8 full travel days and 10 other days that we travelled as well as completing some activity. We had 9 days sport climbing, 3 days on multi-pitch routes, 3 days on klettersteig, 2 days on hut walks and 3 other walking days during which we also fitted in a couple of swims.

*Gill on Fotoquefgang a named, Grade D section of the Berchtesgaden Hochthronsteig*

## **Heathy Lea Bonfire Weekend 3 – 5 November**

### **Neil Weatherstone**

A good sized crowd assembled for this year's annual bonfire and fireworks event at Heathy Lea. Possibly about 50 Oreads and friends in total. It is always great to see this many people at our Derbyshire hut. The bonfire building was made easy

this year as the surrounding woodland was being thinned of conifers and the lumberjacks had kindly piled up lots of brash on the usual bonfire spot for us. Efforts were instead directed to cutting and gathering wood for the hut's stove as suppliers were running low. The weather stayed mostly dry and the bonfire was underway as it got dark.



This year's pyromaniac in charge of the fireworks was Derek Pike. His display was excellent with plenty of large, loud rockets and barrages of box-set fireworks. Plenty of food was shared around and a few BBQs were in action. The barrel of beer went down well. In fact it worked out perfectly for me as there was still a few pints left for me to drink at home on Sunday night! Once it got late and the crowd had thinned out, our President, whose generosity knows no bounds, decided to treat everyone to an impromptu, surprise firework display. He thoughtfully disposed of the spent fireworks by burning them on the bonfire, but they were not completely spent and a few remained lurking in the bottom of their tubes. Suddenly fireworks shot out of the fire, every which way but up. A few were shocked, but no one was hurt. But if you would like to know what it feels like to be hit by a firework, just ask Tom Hayes. Thank you to all those who gathered and chopped wood, got the bonfire started, made food to share, sorted out the

fireworks, provided beer, tidied up, took rubbish home or helped out in some other way to make the weekend run smoothly.

## **5 November The Dovedale Dash Rob Tresidder**

"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--  
Of cabbages--and kings--  
And why the sea is boiling hot--  
And whether pigs have wings."

"But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,  
"Before we have our chat;  
For some of us are out of breath,  
And all of us are fat!"  
"No hurry!" said the Carpenter.  
They thanked him much for that.

And so it came to pass, that, as I feared, my time slipped over the hour. Others were more effective:

45	Dave Mawer	33:28	
296	Gwen Tresidder (former Oread)	42:24	
519	Clive (Rusty) Russell	47:47	
1146	Rob Tresidder (the Carpenter)	1:04:35	

out of 1528 finishers.

A storming performance again from Dave Mawer and Rusty, as ever, very high in his age group. Sadly they do not list a separate O70 category.

## **The Post prandial Walk 19 November Ruth Gordon**



I kept trying to count but they wouldn't stay still long enough.....we had a couple of collie dogs in the party but even they struggled to gather all the party for a group photo before we left the car park at 10.30 on a glorious autumn morning. Gil and Andrea arrived as we left and neglected to note which way we turned - Stuart and Radders eventually rounded them up and herded them in the right direction. Colin reassured me that a 10% loss is quite normal - but how many had I started with - and did Gil and Andrea sneak in at the back before or after I counted 37 and 5 dogs? By some miracle, in spite of diversions to admire black hairy pigs, retrieve dogs from mud baths, wait for stragglers and those whose bladders demand frequent recourse to tree trunks and walls we actually made it, across the moor and down through Halldale woods, splendidly coloured in the low sunshine, to the Plough at Two Dales pretty much spot on time. Many people told me that at least part of the walk was new to them so that was good. We'd pre-ordered 26 pork cobs - they bought 36 just to be on the safe side - and every last one of them went! Another six Oreads and friends joined us at the pub so that was at least 43 of us - Uschi thought we might have broken the record? As ever it was a somewhat reduced party that set out on the return leg - cars had been cunningly pre-placed for sharp exits stage right when Uschi began marshalling my troops for me. Even so it was a large merry party that I led mildly astray in Ladygrove - blame the Plough's excellent Landlord bitter for that - but we popped out of the woods unscathed at Tax Farm for a last lap through Matlock Forest. Back above Lumsdale, to my surprise most of the party opted to walk the last couple of miles in the gathering gloom rather than take advantage of the ferry shuttle on offer. I decided wise Generals lead from the rear - pointed out the shortest way and scuttled off home - to the delights of tea and cake chez Wilson - thanks Natalie and Jan for the scrumptious cakes. Thanks to everyone who turned out for the day, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

*This was, of course Day One of the new Quad Challenge and the official statistics for the whole walk (courtesy of Radders) are 19.36 km (12 miles) and 410 m ascent. Knock off 3.2 km (2 miles) and 80 m ascent if, like me you returned straight to Lumsdale.*

## **Sicily Ruth Gordon, Mick Hayes**

Sixteen Oreads and friends had a brilliant twelve days at San Vito lo Capo. As the party got bigger it became impossible to find a single villa to accommodate us all so we ended up in two, some distance apart, but met up on the crag most days and in the Climbing House, (an idiosyncratic cross between a gear shop, a mountain bike garage, YMCA and bar) for a beer or two afterwards.

It was true, as we'd been told last year, that the temperature in November is much more conducive to climbing than the baking days we experienced last October - unfortunately they hadn't mentioned the rain! The forecast looked dire after the first couple of days but in fact it mostly rained overnight and each morning was bright and sunny again, leaving us no excuse for not climbing. It was also much less busy than last year and we seldom had to wait for a route to come free.

There was one really poor day when someone had the bright idea of a tourist trip to Palermo. Why didn't anyone read the Rough Guide before we went? "Nobody" it says, "in their right mind would consider driving into Palermo!"

We did, and we survived unscathed – in spite of the total lack of road markings/lane discipline/signposts – an interesting experience for the drivers – particularly Spenser who was driving on the wrong side of the road for the first time! However by the following evening he'd got over the trauma and, as it was Mick's birthday he conjured up a fabulous feast for all 16 of us – a daunting task considering the vegetarians/vegans/cooked cheese-o-phobes etc etc amongst us – not sure which was the greater challenge – given the choice perhaps I'd have gone for driving into Palermo. It was a hilarious night – particularly when the table collapsed, depositing a glass of red wine in my lap - why did I choose to wear those pale pink trousers? The conversation ranged from budgies to ping-pong via motorbikes and jazz (with yet another virtuoso performance of “Zambesi, Zambesi” by Bott). I've still got that wretched song etched on my brain.

Mostly we climbed on juggy, unpolished and well bolted limestone above a sparkling sea – pure heaven - but there was some sight-seeing too – the fabulous temple and amphitheatre at Segesta, the fortified hilltop town of Erice, icecreams were eaten and some brave souls even ventured into the sea with snorkels – very cold apparently – I took their word for it. Perhaps that is why they tried snorkling above water? Sometimes it's best not to ask.



It was a great trip, thanks to everyone who came and made it such fun.

*Above: Chris and Spenser in action – below Simmus and Chloe go to the seaside.  
Photos courtesy of Michael Hayes.*



## **Hut Bookings.**

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

1-2 Dec	Wrekin M.C.
8-10 Dec	Rock & Heather
22-31 Dec	Oread Christmas/New Year
12-13 Jan	Gentian MC
19-20 Jan	S Gordon Southern Trekking
26-27 Jan	Oread Meet
2-3 Feb	Fylde MC hut swap
9-11 Feb	Avon MC

### **HEATHY LEA**

2-3 Dec	Steve Baxter
2-4 Feb	Leicester Uni MC

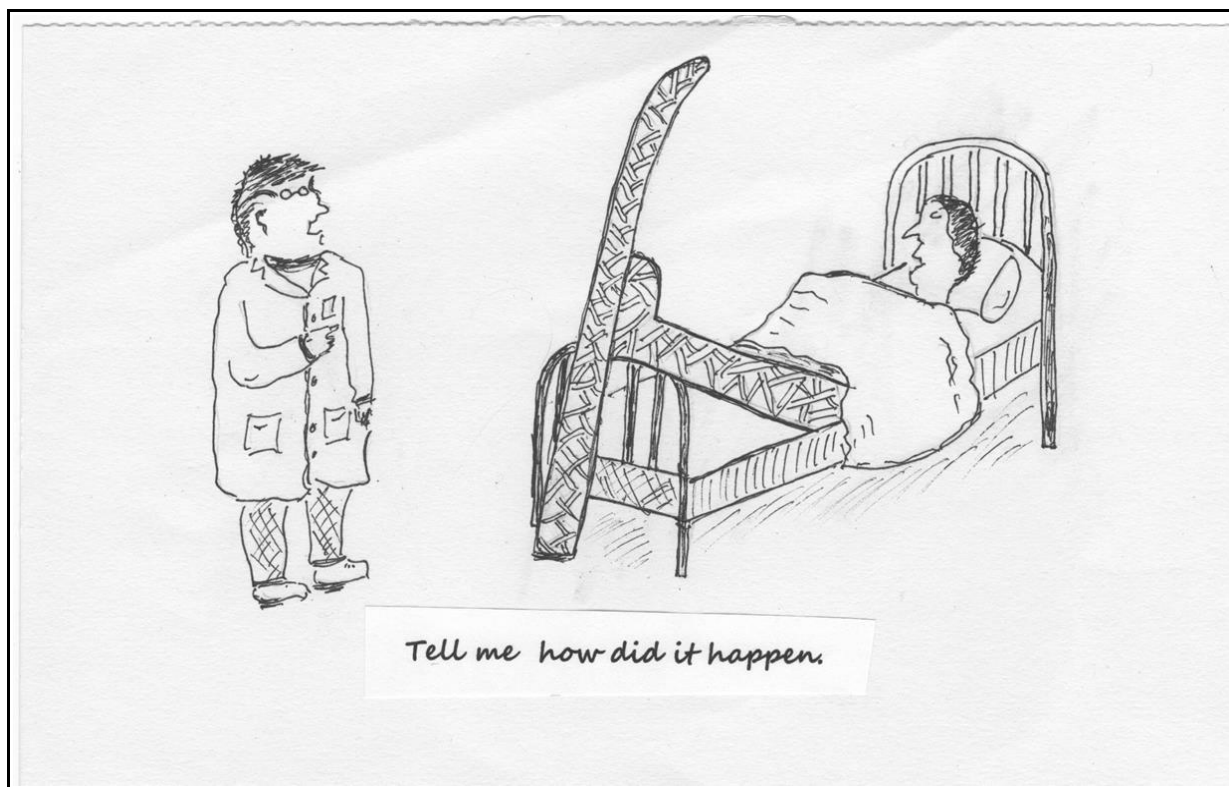
“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

“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 You must put your name **and either TYW or HL as a reference**. Otherwise Joan cannot allocate the payment to the right hut.  
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.

## Hobday's Humour



## Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new Provisional member, Charlie Taylor.  
Applications for full membership have been received from Lance Baker, Janet Briggs, Tom Hayes, Phil and Yvonne Waterson. If you would like to comment on any of these applications please contact a member of the committee. These applications will be considered at the December committee meeting.

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

### Last month's puzzle solution:

The question to be addressed to either of the two nomads was "which side of the scree would your companion say was the safe route for ascent?". (Addressing

this question to either of them would result in an incorrect answer which merely needs to be reversed). The eye (sic) added to both was in fact the letter "i" added to the names. Removing this letter leaves an easily soluble anagram. Those old enough to be interested in my puzzles will have done Latin at school, the rest will have mental powers undiminished by age and will not need this background information.

### **This month's puzzle.**

A few snippets to test recollections of bygone newsletters and activities.



1) Where was this picture of the Wren family, with Mike looking his debonair best, taken, and in which year did it appear in the Oread Newsletter. The scene bears approximately 340 degrees from Heathy Lea.

On which occasion and during which year did a party of Oreads last cross that bridge over the River Dove which lies nearest to the source of the River. (Rock was present on both occasions referred to above). Prior to this, a large party passed this way on one of Harry Pretty's Summer Strolls, and then proceeded to the neighbourhood of Axe Edge near a section of the watershed of England, also the subject of an earlier puzzle. (Harry's walk probably took place in the 1990's).

# Membership Renewals for 2018

Although it's time to renew your annual subs we have once again managed to hold the cost for another year and absorb the £1.00 BMC increase. So please renew early to take full advantage of it.

The subscription includes the BMC fee of £14.25 giving you all the benefits of individual club membership and in particular the BMC third party insurance.

**How to pay:** 1 of 2 ways

- 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.
- 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.

***No, this is not a picture of Michael, this is a mate of Chris and Gill's from Austria. He has been employed by the committee to connect horns to backside and butt you off the path if you don't pay up forthwith. That's Larkam just gone down.....Next?***



<b>Oread Mountaineering Club Membership Renewal and Contact List Update</b>		
<b>Name</b>		
<b>Second Name (Joint Membership)</b>		
<b>Address</b>		
<b>Telephone Number</b>		
<b>Telephone Number Work</b>		
<b>Telephone Number Mobile</b>		
<b>Email Address</b>		
<b>Secondary Email Address</b>		
<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>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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senior Member	£25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prospective Member	£25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Two people at the same address)	£65.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Joint Membership	£42.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (One senior one ordinary)	£53.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member with permanent address outside the UK. 50% of appropriate rate as BMC membership is not included.		<input type="checkbox"/>

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

## Forthcoming Meets 2017/2018

This is a work in progress – several more meets are at the planning stage.  
**Please support your club.** More meet leaders are required for 2018 and 2019 (UK and abroad). If you fancy leading a meet please contact Gil Male to discuss ideas or for more information- email [meetsec@oread.co.uk](mailto:meetsec@oread.co.uk)

<i>December</i>	<i>1-3</i>	<b>Bullstones</b> <i>Simon Pape</i>
	<i>13</i>	<b>Black Rocks, Night Climb</b> <i>Rob Tresidder</i>
	<i>22 Dec -1 Jan</i>	<b>Christmas/New Year Meet, Tan yr Wyddfa</b> <i>Rock Hudson</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>1 Jan</i>	<b>New Years Day Walk</b> <i>Pete Amour</i>
	<i>5-7</i>	<b>Scottish Winter Climbing, Glencoe</b> <i>Spenser Gray</i>
	<i>14-21</i>	<b>French Ice Climbing, Argentiere la Bessee/La Grave</b> <i>Jeff Ingman</i>
	<i>21</i>	<b>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 2) – Rowsley/Winster</b> <i>Stuart Firth</i>
	<i>26-28</i>	<b>Tan yr Wyddfa</b> <i>Mike Hayes</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<b>Fylde Mountaineering Club Hut, Stair</b>
	<i>5-17</i>	<b>Spain, Benidorm</b> <i>Derek Pike</i>
	<i>9-11</i>	<b>Scottish Winter Climbing, Aviemore</b> <i>Spenser Gray</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>9-11</i>	<b>George Starkey Hut, Patterdale</b> <i>Stuart Haywood</i>
	<i>17</i>	<b>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 3) – Winster/Roystone Grange</b> <i>Gill Radcliffe</i>
	<i>24</i>	<b>Oread AGM, Robin Hood, Baslow</b>
	<i>25</i>	<b>Spring Stride</b> <i>Rusty Russell</i>
	<i>30 Mar – 2 Apr</i>	<b>Easter Weekend – meet leader required</b>
<i>April</i>	<i>20-21</i>	<b>New Members Meet, Heathy Lea</b> <i>Spenser Gray</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>5-7</i>	<b>Early May Bank Holiday – meet leader required</b>
	<i>26-28</i>	<b>Spring Bank Holiday – meet leader required</b>
<i>June</i>	<i>8-10</i>	<b>Kids Meet, Heathy Lea</b> <i>Neil Weatherstone</i>
	<i>8-10</i>	<b>Joint Meet, Midland Association of Mountaineers (MAM)</b> <i>Chris Radcliffe</i>
	<i>15-17</i>	<b>Fylde Mountaineering Hut, Little Langdale</b> <i>Dave (Snod) Helliwell</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>5-6</i>	<b>Tan yr Wyddfa Working Party</b> <i>Dave (Snod) Helliwell</i>
	<i>7-8</i>	<b>Welsh 3000s Walk</b> <i>Derek Pike</i>
	<i>21 Jul – 5 Aug</i>	<b>Alpine Meet</b>
<i>August</i>	<i>17-19</i>	<b>Galloway</b> <i>Spenser Gray</i>
	<i>31 Aug – 2 Sep</i>	<b>Walk &amp; Climb the Edges</b> <i>Gil Male</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>6</i>	<b>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 4)</b> <i>Chris Radcliffe</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>3</i>	<b>Oread Bonfire Meet, Heathy Lea</b> - TBA
	<i>11</i>	<b>FRCC Remembrance Meet</b>
	<i>17</i>	<b>Oread Annual Dinner</b>
	<i>18</i>	<b>Post Prandial Walk</b>
<i>December</i>	<i>7-9</i>	<b>Bullstones</b> - TBA
	<i>12</i>	<b>Black Rocks Night Climb</b>
	<i>22 Dec – 1 Jan</i>	<b>Christmas/New Year Meet</b> <i>Rock Hudson</i>