

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To: The Editor
Oread Newsletter.

Stone Hall Cottage
Riggs Lane,
Marston Montgomery.

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1963

~~Oread Newsletter of 100~~

Dear Sir, There are 100 or so members in the Oread, who are so because they enjoy mountaineering of varying degrees of activity. It would be unreasonable to expect all 100 to be wildly enthusiastic about the hut at Rhydd-ddu. Some are quite happy to spend their time in the mountains voluntarily improving the hut to a standard well above that which is sufficient for the more active mountaineer who may regard the hut merely as a refuge for the night, i.e. in the Swiss Alpine tradition.

I think it is important for those interested in and responsible for the hut to realise that there is this division, a natural enough one and not a situation which should cause any strife within the club but one which must be accepted by those interested in the club for its own sake.

I have helped finance the hut and despite a lack of enthusiasm for its structure and location I have, in the past, helped to establish it for a hut is a good focal point for a club. On the rare occasions when I can now spare the time from establishing my own home I prefer to go mountaineering.

It is very noticeable that on Saturday evenings the hut is deserted after 8.00pm in favour of the pub and dance hall. The installation of the bath for instance must be regarded in the light of this social, or anti-social, ~~phenomenon~~ phenomenon.

Let not the Oread subscription chain the mountaineer to the hut if he does not wish it.

If Tan-Y-Widdfa burns tonight the Oread should still survive!

Yours etc.

Tom Frost.

Dear sir,

Ban all children from the Club Hut - that's my opinion!

(Name and address not given)

What do you think? - write to the editor

NEW MEMBERS

Chris Culley 8, The Castleway, Willington, Nr Derby.

Guy Lee. 43, Morley Street, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts.

The above were elected full members at a committee meeting held in Derby in July

For Sale Metal Ski sticks and Ski boots size 7, apply Colin Hobday
6 Findern Close, Allestree Derby.

Those Oreads who were able to attend this meet enjoyed a rare thing - they had a group of fine hills and crags almost entirely to themselves for the weekend.

Among the ardent gardening climbers on Craig Cowarch were Derrick Burgess who climbed with friends, Nat Allan and Ray Colledge.

Geoff Hayes, Colin Hobday and Chris Culley lead by Harry Pretty did North Gulley and then walked over the ridges to Dinas Mawddy for tea.

Meanwhile Brian Cooke, Beryl and Roger Turner tried "Buzzards Balcony", Brian Cooke said that he thought the word Buzzard in the Guide Book was a mis-print!

John Fisher and David Penlington had a good weekend. Whatever they did, they did it quietly because we never found out what it was. Barry Williams was there with his cousin John.

Saturday night saw the arrival of Gordon and Doreen Gadsby with Rodney and Paul Cradock. After some climbing at Pontesford Rocks they decided (perhaps wisely) to confine their activities to walking the Arans with Geoff and Co. on the Sunday.

Cooke and the Turners did "Hope Street" climb and felt that as there was little evidence of traffic it might well have been the second ascent.

Meet leaders please note that the above meets report was in my hands only three days after the meet - it can be done! Please send all your contributions to me. Geoff Hayes, 1, Elm Avenue, Beeston, Notts.

MORE OREADS IN SHORTS.

Eric Wallis has now returned from the Alps. He managed to climb most of the peaks in the Saas Fee area at least once and did the First British ascent of the Hornli Ridge of the Matterhorn for this year.

John Welbourne, Laurie Burns and Dave Williams had an excellent time in the Austrian Alps. With three German friends they did six good peaks in ten days.

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Lionel Terray lecture in Birmingham on Monday Sept. 30th. Colin Hobday is returning all unsold tickets in a day or so. A party of Oreads will be going.

Chuck and Margaret Hoolley spent a very good two weeks holiday in Wales based at the club hut. Their wanderings included a midnight walk to the South Snowdon Slate mines (Gadsby's please note!) Is it true that Chuck now has an Aeroplane engine in his van? He was seen leaving the hut armed with spanners etc., and heading for the wreckage of a Lancaster Bomber, which is close to the mines.

Got your Photographic competition slides and prints sorted out yet? It's not so very long to the meet which will be held on October 26th at the Prince of Wales, of course. Entries will be required well before that time. It is to be hoped that more Oreads will enter than last year, when the show was over rather early.

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To the Editor: ~~Oread Newsletter~~

On the recent Marsden-Rowsley meet, a Magnificent day on the Saturday was followed by a sorry display of decadence when Yorkshire Bridge was reached. Of the ten participants, two were spirited away by their wives on Saturday evening. On the Sunday morning all sorts of specious reasons for not continuing the walk were advanced. The walk down the Edges was contemptuously dismissed as dull and pointless urgent reasons were found for catching early trains to places like Liverpool and Coventry, and, most insidious of all, one member of the party had left his car at Grindleford, with malice afterthought, no doubt. As a result, I was left on my own from Fox House onwards; but cheered on by meeting Laurie Burns in Longshaw Park, and a large Oread climbing party at Froggatt, I eventually reached Baslow under my own steam. Here I succumbed to an unexpected offer of motor transport by two former Oread stalwarts of earlier days, Mike Turner and Ron Dearden.

Looking back, I recalled that something rather similar happened - in 1955, when I started from Colne, and did most of the walk on my own. After 1955, the Marsden - Rowsley meet was rested for a while and was a popular success again when reintroduced a few years later. After this years' performance, may I suggest that it is again dropped for a year or two, and then perhaps, when it does reappear on the meets programme, there may be a party with sufficient enthusiasm to complete it.

Yours Etc.,

Phil Falkner.

P.S. As this was my seventh Marsden-Rowsley (including two years starting from Colne) I ~~am~~ seriously contemplating honourable retirement myself.

SAFETY HELMETS.

For those Oreads who feel that they might feel less idiotic wearing a safety helmet than wearing a hole in the head, Roger Turner will be pleased to supply details of helmets which are made to the highest specification and sell at under thirty shillings.

"When I used to sleep with a woman I used to be tired out in the morning". - Quote from John Welbourne after being disturbed early at the camp site at Froggatts Farm.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Paul Grainger. 41 Hall Drive, Chilwell.Notts.

Proposed by, E. Wallis. Seconded By, G. Hayes.

Celia Berry, 3, Dorchester Road, Leicester.

Proposed by, G. Hayes. Seconded by G. Gadsby.

The above have applied for full membership of the club. Any member wishing to express their opinions as to any candidates suitability for election should write to the Hon. Secretary, Colin Hobday.

Oreads in Shorts.

A paragraph from the L.A.M. Journal - "The highlight of the first part of the year was the lecture by Bob Pettigrew. We just about made a profit on this expensive item and enjoyed a really good lecture into the bargain.

Jim Pershaw is again active with the club fresh from his recent expedition to Iceland (report in the next Journal). Jim's address for the time being is 22, King St., Normanton, Yorkshire. Jim is rather afraid that he has found some work in the London Area so he may be moving down there in December. He joined many of the Older members on the M * R walk and was also at the Photo meet. His one man green hell tent is still going strong with the aide of many patches.

June Walker's new address is: 33, Hall Road, Rolleston On Dove, Derbys.

Eric Byne wants photographs of Gritstone Climbs for the new series of guide books which are to be published very soon.

The latest edition of "Mountaineering" is now on sale and the secretary has a few copies left at the special price of 1/6d

Quote by Brian Cooke at the last committee meeting at his home - "I want this meeting to be over by 9pm". "Why"? "I want to go to bed with my wife.

"My feet are just begining to fit my boots". - Roger Turner.

"You touched me on a very sore point, it cost me plenty". - Jack Ashcroft talking about the photo meet he won

ERIC BYNE WRITES-

On the evening of Saturday June 22nd of this year (during Eric Byne's Anniversary Meet at Birchens) an accident took place between a motor cycle and a pale blue Austin Healey sports car, at the Junction of the Sheffield Road and Clod Hall Lane (about 150 yards from No 1 climb on Gardoms Edge). The accident occurred at 9-50pm and a young man and his fiancée on the motor cycle were both killed. If any Oread climbers of their friends happened to see the accident occur (even from Gardoms Edge) will they please contact Eric Byne as soon as possible.

210 Lickey Road, Rednal, Birmingham.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION - 1963.

There were sixteen entries for the competition this year, and they were judged by John Cleare of the Gamma Group of Photographers and designers.

At the showing on Saturday it was very evident that the judge had a difficult task, John Cleare said himself that the first ten or so in each section were very good indeed.

The Black and White Print Competition was won by Gordon Gadsby with Colin Hobday second and John Welbourne third.

The Colour slide competition was won by Ray Handley with John Fisher second, and Eric Wallis Third.

Prizes of Book Tokens will be sent to all the above. Congratulations!

Runners up who submitted very good entries were, Doreen Gadsby, Beryl Turner, Laurie Burns, D. Burgess, Geoff Hayes, and Chris Martin, and we hope that they and all others who entered are encouraged to enter again next year.

Although not included as part of the competition proper, one or two members had a private battle with Black and white slides and the judge decided that the best shown were those of Geoff Hayes.

It was rather a coincidence that copies of "Mountaineering" were being sold by the secretary on the night. This edition contained many pictures taken by John Cleare and even more of a coincidence (more observant members would have noticed), the model for the front page picture of "Mountaineering" was seen climbing on Birchens on the Sunday!

My grateful thanks for the success of the competition are due to John Cleare for providing some helpful comment on the entries as well as judging them - to the president for judging the Club interest sections, to Geoff Hayes for his helpful consultations, to those Oreads who entered the competition and to those Oreads who came to watch and some of whom we hope will be encouraged to reveal their hidden talents to us in the next competition.

ROGER TURNER

SOME RECENT AND FUTURE MEETS.

The Yorkshire Meet. Up to now I have heard no report of the meet which should have taken place on Sept. 28th, so it looks as though no one from the Derby/Wotts area attended. This must be very discouraging for Stan Coates who very often makes an effort to attend meets in the Peak district although his home is in Leeds.

The Marsden-Rowsley 'bash' had no real leader (I should have lead it but was out of the country at the time) but about ten hard men started from Marsden on the Friday night - none finished at Rowsley! This meet according to Welbourne was "closed shop" as letters of invitation were only sent out to the older members asking them to attend for old times sake. It's a pity that the member who sent these letters could not rouse more enthusiasm and get his men to the finish - as in days of old. Perhaps we will get the full story in a later edition of Newsletter, at least I think these people are still able to write.

The Photographic Meet was a great success, more members and friends saw the slides and Prints on the Saturday evening than for many a year.

RECENT AND FUTURE MEETS CONTINUED.....

The tea room at Baslow was very full and few viewers had seats. Perhaps the time has come to look around for a better room for the photo competition. Any ideas for a cheap room which would fill the bill, in the Peak District of course? The camp site was the scene of some wild celebrations on the Saturday evening, was this because Gordon had got a cup again or perhaps the fact that women outnumbered the men! Walbourne's quote will sum up the night. "When I slept with a woman in a tent I used to wake up exhausted!"

Although very few members realised it there was a clean up Birchens campaign. Once again a few people did not mind giving up an hours climbing so the result was a very large pile of litter awaiting collection on the main road. I estimated about 15 large bags full. From reports there were many fine routes climbed on Gardoms and Birchens was crowded by Oreads and friends most of the day.

Dinner meet Nov 16th. Again held at the Green Man Ashbourne the highlight of the Oread year will soon be here. Raith Jones and Chris Bonnington will be chief guests and Burgess and Jack Longland are to speak for the club. The Secretary reports that tickets are almost all gone, this is the first time for many years that there has been such an early demand, (is this because of the keenness of the younger members who are all taking friends?). So if you want to get in at the dinner get your 17/6d off now!

Christmas at the Club Hut.

The Hut is fully booked and there is a waiting list of at least 8. Wally Smith can put you at the end of the list if you wish!

Geoff Hayes.

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"What is happening to the "Oread", is it just becoming a pile of dead wood waiting for someone to put the final match to it and destroy it for ever? Over the past year the members seem to show less and less interest in the club and if it was not for a few active members, most of whom come from Nottingham, the Oread would fade away. This I'm sure the members would not want to happen. It's my opinion that if it was't for a few hard working Committee members who give up hours of their spare time each week to keep the wheel of the club turning, without the support from the members. After all why not change the Tuesday evening meets in the "Bell" to Nottingham where the most active section is at the moment. It you go to the Bell it's a waste of time, It's impossible to make arrangements for the weekend and those that do go out seem to have their own private meets!

I know it's difficult for people who live away from the area to take an active interest, but it would be nice to see and hear a bit more of them, than their names just being a list in the handbook. Well, I have had a moan, so lets have a bit more enthusasimn for club activities, maybe some of you will agree others not, so why not write to the Newsletter and express your views. But let us remain a club and not become an association, which I think we are fast becoming.

-AN ACTIVE MEMBER.

I must admit that I agree with much that is in the above letter about the "Bell", if people get ther much later on Tuesdays it will be drinking up time before I see anyone. However I believe that the club has been never more active on meets, although those attending are mostly from my way. -Editor.