

JAN 1967

A Happy New Year to all Oreads wherever you are. In looking through the Club Handbook and address list it is obvious that over fifty percent of the club are now literally miles away from the Nottingham - Derby area. But still The Oread is a thriving club and I am sure the year ahead will be just as successful as those gone by.

With the increase in popularity of the sport of mountaineering there is now more than ever a great need for a club such as ours. Certain wilder elements in the climbing world are dragging all of us who are mountaineers and rock climbers into disrespect from the non-climbing world. This is not only true in Britain but also in the Alps. The Alpine Club is particularly concerned with the English Climbers image in the alps and asks all mountaineers whilst on holiday in the Alps to set a good example. This therefore should be the Oreads resolution for the coming year, to improve the mountaineers image both at home and abroad.

gh.

By the time you get this Newsletter the A.G.M. will be almost upon us. Have you thought of a new President and new Committee? Don't forget to let the Sec. know your proposals for new rules and Committee. Also don't forget to roll up on the night to cast your vote and have your say or listen to others.

Oreads In Shorts Etc.....

Insurance. The British Mountaineering Council are working on quotations for accident insurance for mountaineers. It is hoped that eventually membership of a club such as our would include mountain accident insurance.

Access Problems in North Wales

In the Llanberis Pass a suitable route from Nant Peris on to the Mountainside on the North side of the Pass is being negotiated. This will allow access from Ogwen to the pass by way of the Devils Kitchen. It has been advised that as feelings ran so high among the group of farmers in the Rhyd-ddu area (Access to Y. Garn and Craig-y-Bera etc.) who are hostile to climbers, it is better not to attempt to discuss access with them for the time being. The amount of ill-will caused among local farmers might have serious effects if compulsory access orders were sought and imposed on them.

RECENT AND FUTURE CLUB MEETS

The Birchens Barbeque Meet proved to be quite a success despite a very wet start. In fact it was not until the pub had closed that the fire was started and the record player cranked up. The field at Froggatts farm soon began to swing and a good time was had by all. Other members ventured out on the Sunday when the weather was perfect for climbing.

The Photo meet this year was held in the Royal Oak Bakewell. This proved to be a good and popular spot with a large private room and Bar. The competition this year was the usual shambles but never the less everyone seemed to enjoy it. Douglas Milner once again judged the slides with the usual acid comments he did however remark on the high standard of many of the slides. (Yes he had had a drink or two) This year there was no third place in the competition because two lady members tied for second place. Well done Merle Wallis and Pam Weston. Bill Kirk easily managed to keep the girls from scooping the lot with his fine entry of slides. Bill got either a first, second, or third place in every section of the competition and certainly deserved to win. By the way last year Bill Kirk got his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award. He says that the presentation at the Palace was not unlike an Oread meet!

Although there was no pantomime this year there was the traditional "Ilam Dash" which proved popular with Oreads both competing and spectating. Runners recovered in the Pub at Alstonefield whilst spectators did the dale.

The Annual Dinner once again was a great success and had a larger attendance than previous years. After an excellent meal provided at the Green Man at Ashbourn, Pete Janes let us 'Have It' with an excellent presidential address reviewing the club's activities and inactivities during the past year. He remarked that this year had seen a marked increase in the number of Births and expected births and that this was one way to ensure the continued membership of the Oread! Geoff Hayes proposed the toast to the guests in the usual fashion with much animation despite giving one guest the credit of climbing a Himalayan peak which the said guest had never even seen! That old friend of the Club, Dick Brown replied for the guests. Harry Pretty on usual fine foot replied to the toast of the Oread (Building most of his speech around Digger Williams). Trevor Jones gave the speech to the toast of the Oread. The Highlight of the evening was the appearance of three delightful Belly Dancers from Turkey who gave a song and dance act. -Burgess, Handley and Haydon of course!

LADIES MEET OCTOBER 1966

I suppose this meet actually started at about 10.30 pm Friday Sept 30th in some Pub (which I never found the name of) in Carreg Derredion after seeing off the stalwart males on their Welsh Walk the ladies set off for the club hut. It must have looked rather strange, four cars, all more than half empty going by the hitch hikers on the way to the mountains. I bet something unpleasant was uttered as we all passed without stopping. Everyone was glad to get to the hut. Janet and Pat were already installed in the state bedroom when we arrived.

Sunday dawned the usual wet misty morning. Everyone unanimously voted that Caernarvon was to be the order of the day. Nigel Horn was found wandering around in a dazed state, and the sight of so many dazzling females made him beat a hasty retreat in the opposite direction. We had an excellent walk after being fortified by morning coffee! We must have done all of a hard ten miles or more. During the evening a few of the really 'with it' ones went on a spree to Tremadock. I'm still not sure what happened, but there was a lot of muttering about a 'tattooed man'.

Sunday saw everyone on Snowdon. Ruth, Uschi, and I went up following the Snowdon Ranger track most of the way. The others went by the Llechog Ridge. The weather was a little mixed but we had quite long spells of sunshine. The Hut was looking very neat and tidy, just as one likes to find it, when suddenly utter chaos, the Welsh Walkers were there.

This was an excellent meet and I hope the ladies meet will now become an annual one, to say the least, not necessarily at the Hut though. So how about it?

The ones who helped to make this meet the success it was were - Barbara Janes, Janet Ashcroft, Molly Pretty, Ruth Welbourn, Uschi Hobday, Audry Watson, Pat Moore and Pam Weston.

Pam Weston

Seen the latest copy of Mountaineering? Gordon Gadsby has a fine photograph on one of the middle pages. It was taken at the Roaches and shows Doreen leading 'Black And Tan'.

Proposed Bill Kirk, seconded Dave Williams.
NEW MEMBER. Mick Stone, 42 Clegg Hill Drive Huthwaite, Sutton-in-Ashfield Notts. Elected full member at a recent committee meeting

I should imagine that this was probably the longest ascent of "White Slab" to date, taking us, a party of three, twenty hours approx., from the leader beginning the first pitch to our eventual return to the bottom of the crag. There was Eric, Roger Withers from Leicester and I. We had watched a party of two attempting alternate leads on the first few moves of the climb which incidentally, are possibly some of the hardest moves, involving a horizontal traverse of the 60-70ft., including a precarious bridging move across a bottomless groove. They had eventually decided that they couldn't do it and retreated to something else. We didn't give much thought to the time of day as this was the climb we intended to do anyway, so we started climbing and the men were doing alternate leads of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd pitches, that last being one of the long (120ft) pitches. It probably is one of the best pitches of it's type - delicate with just sufficient small holds for it to go.

Roger had the next pitch in which a little pinnacle had to be lassoed from a small hold on the edge of the slab followed by a hairy rope swing - this was quite a technical problem and a new one for me; anyway, Roger, after many failures to get the rope looped, gave up and let Eric have a go. He did it after about six tries and away he went. When my turn came, I stood on that little ledge and saw - 120ft of slab below me across which I had to swing - and with the rope about 20ft away on the other side and 10ft up which I had to climb. I did not dare to hang about, so across I went, soon over and then I could laugh again. Roger did it with ease and then Eric started on the second 120ft pitch.

We then realised that we had to hurry, it was about 7pm and Roger and I were very relieved when Eric got to the top of that pitch, as our stances were quite exciting - Roger was hanging on his belay with a foot in a sling and I was hanging on to my belay which was tied to a large detached flake. I think I made the fastest time on that next pitch, everything went - sings, and pegs for direct aid as it was quite dark. Roger was more concerned and reasonably so I think, as he couldn't even see the pegs! We made it onto Longlands Climb in the dark and up onto the Cravassed Stance, there we breathed again quite easily for it was a good ledge, room for all of us and all we had to do was spend a long cold night waiting for light in order to do the last 150ft odd. Guy Lee had brought a rope to the top of the crag to try to help us get off, but we had a lot of scrambling and we couldn't hear him neither could he find us.

I watched would be rescuers coming up to the crag (or so I thought). This pilgrimage started about 11.30pm. and went on throughout the night. They were, so we found out later, people climbing Snowdon. Perhaps they were "Free Wales Campaigners" or just plain drunk!

The following morning, feeling cold and stiff, away we went, soon at the top and sooner down to Wendy's for a large welcome cuppa. We had our legs pulled about it of course and we spent a grand day in the sunshine watching other people perform for a change.!

Merle Wallis.

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1967

OREADS IN SHORTS DA CUNHA

John Fisher now on Tristan (has recently been joined by a lady rat catcher a (Miss). Is there any connection?

New Telephone Number of Bill Kirk The Fox and Crown, Skegby is Sutton in Ashfield 3796. Bill is a member of the Oread rescue team so will all members of the team alter their call out cards.

The placings of Oreads in the 'Ilam Dash' on November 5th is as follows
1st G. Rhodes (once again) 16 E. Wallis 36 C. Russell 59. G. Reynolds
66. C. Hobday 71. P. Janes. 78. WhaHaydon and D. Burgess 83. D. Williams.

Hut news. The Leicester Association of Mountaineers have now acquired a hut in Cwm Eigiau and should now be available to Oreads.

Chris Martin was the Clubs representative at the British Mountaineering Councils Peak Committee on Sat Oct 22.

Because quite a number of climbing areas are only open for climbing to members of clubs belonging to the British Mountaineering Council, and climbers may be asked to prove that they belong to such a club, the Oread has decided to issue membership cards. These cards will be issued to a member only when the years subscription is paid and will act as a receipt. It is hoped that this will also encourage members to pay up earlier in the year. Why not turn up to the A.G. M. and pay your subscription then - many do!

New Address Jim Kershaw has found work! - many condolences Jim.

His new address is 31 Highbury Hill, London N.5.

Clive Webb is now residing at 43 Drew Crescent, Wolescote, Stowerbridge, Worcs.

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1967

A LETTER

The love of wandering in the hills springs from a desire for the serenity and contentment that is the rich treasure found only in the beauty and desolation of ~~the~~ upland country, ~~of the British Isles and elsewhere available to us.~~ Also in some great measure to the individual enjoyment of this, a way of life that requires no organisation of teams, no requirement ~~to~~ ^{for} companions ~~whom~~ ^{you need} to adjust your intentions. Pick up your ruck sac and go - where you please, how you please - alone. To the tree lined rivers and pastures of the valleys, or the windswept desolation of the high moors, or ~~perhaps~~ the more trodden paths ^{of the Peak} ~~to the peaks~~ - (preferably in winter). You carry no number on your back, you report to no check point, nor ~~are~~ ^{and} you directed to go here- or there - ~~and~~ ^{and} you leave behind the decrees and regulations that stifle your life in alleged civilisation.

Those last bastions of solitude and freedom are now being assailed by laws of authority and organisation. We now have the Official rescue teams. The hills are hideous with the shrieks and whistles - the Army - Police - Fire Service - uniforms, and ~~all~~ ^a dressed up in ~~the~~ "little brief authority" with all the ill-considered interference of authority. ~~and~~ To my dismay, this is being introduced with the ^{comivance} ~~convenience~~ of ^{alleged} ~~alleged~~ hill lovers - ^a treachery ~~only~~ condoned by the insidious voice of ~~the~~ ^{those} people who plead safety, in defense of the indefensible, ~~protestations~~ ^{and} who wish to have some measure of control over those who wish to be free. Recently Two arm-banded protectors had to be rescued from the comparative safety of Alport Dale on a mild October night because it had turned dark.

Lawrie Burns

Hut Bookings

The Club Hut is booked on the following dates. . .

Fully Booked Feb 17th & 24th March 3rd on March 10th only four beds are booked. Fully Booked March 17th .April 7th. April 14th (5beds vacant for club members). Fully booked April 21st and June 2nd. The dates are of course for Friday and Saturday evenings. Please note this in your diary.

The Irish Mountaineering Club Huts are available to Members of the Oread. We have Reciprocal Rights. The addresses of the Huts are:- Wicklow Mountains in Glendasan. Kerry Mountains Glencar Hut. Donegal Mountains, there is a barn available. Mourne Mountains. Dunneywater Hut.

Any Oreads interested in visiting Ireland and wish to use the huts can obtain further details from Roni Langworthy.

Dinner Songs - from the Past - 1967

Those members fortunate enough to go to the annual dinner will of course remember the beautiful Belly Dancers (Handley, Burgess and Hayden). Here, for those who did see it and for others less fortunate is a transcript of their songs.

Tune 'Hang down your head Tom Dooley'.

Rescue me Chuck Hooley
For I'm Gonna Scream
Rescue me Chuck Hooley
With the Alpha Alpine Team.

We're stuck up on this mountain
Our lives not worth a cent
Bring up Johnny Cordon
Not your dirty President

It was in the Bell one Tuesday
We met your climbing club
There was Pretty, Janes and Williams
Now we're in the pudding club.

Hurry up Chuck Hooley
We're lying on the scree
Hurry with your coolies
Or there'll soon be six not three.

To the tune of 'Where Have All the Flowers gone'

Where have all the slim birds gone
Nine months passing
Where have all the slim birds gone
four months to go
Where have all the slim birds gone
Freddy Allen's curse is on
When will they ever learn
When will they ever learn.

Sing to the tune of 'Putting on the Agony'

Young man in a hot rod car
driving like he's mad
Up the road to Aviemore
With Harry Pretty Bad
It's Scrubbers Mk. 1 and Mk2
The dirty dogs do seek
But hear them gasping!!
Thank the Lord
It only lasts a week.

To the tune of 'Its Foolish but it's fun'

I love to go in ~~his~~ car
and drive round to some shady bar
And slap him when he goes to far
Its foolish but its fun

I love to go out for a ski
And wrap my boards around a tree
Then Dennis Davies rescues me
It's foolish but it's fun
With Trevor Jones out on the rocks
My sweaty hands upon his chocks
Jamming his nuts behind the blocks
It's foolish but it's fun.

Janes's

Sung by!
Handley
Burgess
Hayden

Well done Girls!!

A HOLIDAY IN THE KARWENDEL AND KAISERGERBIRGE
SUMMER 1966

C HOBDAV

The weather in the Alps this summer was very poor and that during our holiday was no exception. We left Munchen on a Friday morning after several days waiting for the rain to stop, heading for the Dolomites - the Langkofel Group - by way of Innsbruck. The Brenner Pass had only just been opened after waterfalls and land slides blocked the whole pass. We got over the Brennerpass alright but unfortunately being stopped in Bornio, on the other side of the pass, by the Italian Gendarmerie. With a lot of hand signs and gestures they tried to explain that every ^{road} in Italy was blocked by floods but we told them we only wanted to go to the next village, so they let us pass. We drove around all day trying to find an open valley, but it was impossible. We gave up and drove back to Innsbruck. As we had only prepared ourselves for the Dolomites we were without maps or guides for the Karwendel. Dashing into a Book shop just before closing time to get a map and by just after 6pm we were on our way to the Pfeiss Hutte which is situated on the Nordkette of the Karwendel. We had to catch a cable car for part of the way to the hut, otherwise it would have taken over 5 hours. Also the last cable car left at 6pm, and owing to the speed in which we sorted out our gear made us leave the most important thing, the torch. This made things rather difficult in the dark trying to find the path. The last half hour of the way a drizzle started making the rocks very slippery. With visions of sleeping out we arrived at the hut at 9pm and managed to finish the day off with a good meal.

The following was fine so we set out and climbed the Rumer Spitze 2453 meters by the west ridge which presented no difficulty and descended on the Eastridge as quick as possible, as a thunderstorm was brewing up and our hair was standing upright on the summit. We got back to the Hut for Mid-day in the pouring rain and it rained non-stop until the next Mid-day. At the first break in the rain we took our rucksacks which were packed hours before and decided to cross over a high col to the Bettelwurfhutte, but within the an hour of leaving the Pfeissshutte it was raining again and by the time we reached the next Hut we were both soaked to the skin.

Next morning saw us up early and after a quick breakfast we set of to do the Bettelwurfspitze. This offered interesting scrambling on rocks similar to the N. Ridge of Tryfan, but the rock was very loose in places. In 2 1/2 hours we reached the summit only to find the clouds already building up, so there was little chance of a good view. Back to the Hut again in pouring rain. So we descended to Solbad Hall and from there by bus back to Innsbruck, with everyone staring at us as we were again soaked to the skin. Being so fed up with the rain and having no dry clothes we decided to turn our back on the mountains for a few days to let the weather settle.

After four days the weather did improve so once again we drove to the mountains, this time to the Kaiser Gebirge, leaving the car at the village of Ellmau. The path (four hours to the hut) winds it's way up through the woods, with always the whole mountain range in front, then scree and finally a rocky bluff and finally the Gruttenhütte is reached. This is a first class hut, almost as comfortable as a hotel but it's for really hard rock climbers.

By 7.00 am the following morning we had left the hut taking our rucksacks as we wanted to spend the next night elsewhere. We left the sacks on a high col from where we climbed the Ellmauer Halt, the highest peak of that area. 2344 meters.

SUMMER HOLIDAY 1966 by G. Hobday. continued.....

We set out across the face, a long traverse, very exposed but parts are secured by steel ropes. Once again we got no views from the summit. Clouds drifted continuously round the summit and it never cleared, so we made our way back to our sacks and carried on over the Kopftürl and down the other side into the Kaiser valley. The path was interesting with fixed ropes and included a traverse between two large pinnacles of rock before descending a very steep scree. All that was done in pouring rain and we arrived in the late afternoon, in the usual wet condition at the overcrowded Hut. The night was spent most uncomfortably surrounded by wet clothes which we tried to dry for the next day. In the morning the first people we talked to were a group of English living on porridge. During the morning the rain eased off and we decided to return to the car by way of the Stripsenjoch (Col) the path led up over steep glaciated slabs with fixed steel rungs. We obtained wonderful views of the Fleischbank and the Totenkirchel (Chapel of the deaths) the hardest climbing peaks in the range. From the top of the col we could see our car right down in the village of Ellmau and we made a quick descent to the valley to dryer and warmer weather. The following morning the peaks were covered in new snow which would have made hard climbs more or less impossible.

So we finished our mixed holiday in mixed areas. This was our first visit to the Kaiser and I think that all Oreads who enjoy rock climbing of all standards especially pegging, should put this area on their list for a future holiday and also order some good weather at the same time!

LANGDALE MEET

JOHN CORDEN
(ALIAS PETER JANES)

This meet was as usual held at the Fell and Rock Hut Rawhead. Present Paul Craddock, Chris Brady, David Brady, Margaret Hodge, Rusty and Jean Russell, John and Ron Corden. (Lloyd and Mary Carris and Son on Saturday evening. With us in spirit, Janes, Fisher Hodge. The two latter named set out in Fisher Ancient V.W. this gave up the ghost at Preston, so that was the end of their weekend!

Although the numbers attending the meet weren't great the facilities at Rawhead were more acceptable. In fact the place took on a new face and a thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had by all. The Hut key being kept in the Dungeon Gyll enables the leader to have a pint or two on the pretence of fetching the key, as was the case this week end.

Saturday. Saw all the team except the leader on Bowfell. I was down in the "Britania" in Elterwater, whilst a worried wife was frantically phoning Derby to see what had happened to Ken Hodge and John Fisher. It is strongly rumoured that John's V.W. is an original Hitler Job! The evening was spent in Elterwater where we were joined by Lloyd Carris for a pint or two.

Sunday. The weather was still fine so we went off up the Band and onto Bowfell, round to Angle tarn and so back to Rawhead to tidy the place up before leaving for home. The traffic was hell, all the "Seventh day adventurists" were out for the first time since last summer driving the usual distance from the curb. Thank God for the Motorway!

Present. Pete Janes, Ray Handley, Dave Williams, Dave Weston, Howard Johnson, Ray Squires, Ron Grant, Murray Dunman, Dick Burgess, Gordon and Doreen Gadsby, Colin and Ursula Hobday, Dave and Judith Appleby, John and Veronica Corden, Chris Taylor and John Dench and Bill Cooper.

The above braved the hut!!

Geoff, Anne and Michael Hayes (camping in the Hayes tin tent)
Bill Kirk, Pam, Stewart Bramwell, Paul Craddock and Chris and David Brady
(all camping)

First the hut or Doss House was a bit spartan but it made everyone think more about our own hut at Rhyd-ddu. It must have been rough because even the 'Soda Pop' team ventured out to the 'boozer!'

Saturday morning saw the usual I want to go somewhere different team deciding that the Carneddu weren't for them, so they went to Tryfan. Janes, Handley, Burgess, Corden's, Johnson, Squires and Williams went onto Craig-yr-ysfa. Hayes team on Craig Llower. The weather had clamped down as Janes, Burgess and Handley set off to 'do' a route. The rest of us ascended Carneddu Llewlyn and then back over to the Mountain Hut on Foel Fras for dinner where we were caught up with the usual Williams panic, he was heard to cry, when opening his sack "I've got a broken egg" and then proceeded to extract the remains from the bottom of his sack and eat it, not his sac, his egg.

We were joined by the perpetually invalid Appleby, whose convalescence took a backward step after the weekend.

Sunday The hut slightly improved as the Loughborough Mob cleaned up a bit and then a repeat performance was held by the 'Lets go somewhere else team'. I think they eventually went to Capel Curig and crossed swords with a farmer until Gadsby whipped out his out of date Snowdonia Park Warden card, on production of this the farmer simmered down a bit. All the other team were last seen heading up Tryfan into a boiling mist. The Bill Kirk Party managed the ordinary route on the slabs in the rain.

On reflection the weekend was quite well attended and the Hut wasn't as bad as all that, in fact the trouble was that everyone judged it on our hut and you just can't compare it with many others we are allowed in.

Future Meets.....

February 25th Club Hut.

March 11th A.G.M. Bakewell.

March 25th Easter Meet in Scotland. Geoff Hayes is enquiring from members who will be moving North for the Scottish Easter meet which would be the most popular choice this year. At the moment the choice is between Glencoe, Glen Nevis, Cairngorms North and South and Glen Shee. If you are thinking of going on this meet please contact Geoff Hayes now and let your choice be known. He must decide soon to include details in the next Meets Circular.

Have you considered leading a meet? Any ideas and suggestions to the Committee please. The new meets list must be published before Easter.

ALPINE MEET.....STOP PRESS!!!!AOSTA VALLEY NORTH ITALY

Date July 22 to Aug 5th 1967. Camp site not yet fixed but may be at Cogne, Aosta or Courmayeur. This should be a good 'Family' Alpine meet. Further details from Welbourn or Hayes (phone Nottm 255920) Some Oreads will be there for longer.
