



Oread Mountaineering Club

Newsletter

May 2006

Editorial

This is my first Newsletter; I face this task like a climber facing the first pitch of a route on an unfamiliar crag, well aware that others have gone before, vacillating between confidence gained from past endeavours and fear and trepidation at the task ahead and knowledge that the previous ascensionists have been men of valour. I hope you will guide my efforts and provide your articles and letters as without your input this newsletter will be the poorer.

Our newsletter has been a monochrome epistle to date, would you appreciate colour? Or photos? Your comments would be most welcome.

Forthcoming events

April / May	29 th April – 1 st May	Cadair Idris	Nick Evans	01332 774221
May	13 th – 14 th	Appletreewick	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	20 th – 21 st	Tan-yr-Wyddfa Working Party	Chuck Hooley	01335-370463
June	3 rd – 4 th	Cornwall	Roy Eyre	01623 469658
	10 th – 11 th	Forest of Dean	Colin Hobday	01332 273307
	17 th – 18 th	Heathy Lea Barbeque	Tony Howard	01332 273 307
	24 th – 25 th	Borrowdale	Roger Larkam	01773 820620

Cadair Idris 29th & 30th April and 1st May (Nick Evans)

The meet's base is the Cae Du campsite at Rhosllfain, Tywyn SH568060. The entrance to the site is on the steep bend and is easily missed! Our camping will be in the field on the left after

the farm, near the cliffs. The campsite is on the coast with fantastic views, and a small climbing crag on the beach. We hope to have a campfire and barbeque on the beach if it's not snowing. The site is within easy reach of Bird Rock with it's "dragons" and both sides of Cadair. Sand castle building and dolphin watching are available for family entertainment.

Oread Mountaineering Club Newsletter

Appletreewick 13th and 14th May (Derek Pike)

This area of Yorkshire does not seem to be visited by the Oread very often, so here is your chance to walk the moors, cycle, or climb on some of those well known, and not so well known gritstone and limestone crags. For the tourists amongst us there are the well known hotspots of Malham, and its Tarn, Bolton Abbey and, for those who have tasted steam on the Welsh Highland Light Railway and want more, there is the Embsay Steam Railway. I hope to climb – probably at Crookrise (gritstone) if I can get off the ground! A box to stand on at the start could be a help to getting up the crag.

Camping. Campervanning or caravanning will be at Masons' Camping Site in Appletreewick grid reference SD047602.

The village boasts two pubs: the New Inn, and the Craven Arms, which is only a few minutes walk to the East of the campsite, where we shall be on Friday evening. I hope you will join us there. This is a very popular area, and consequently the number of campsite places we wish need to be confirmed and booked two to three weeks in advance. Please would you give me a ring on 01332 670459 or e-mail Derek.pike1234@virgin.net to book your place before 24th April.

Spring Bank Holiday

May 27th onwards (Roy Eyre)

We are booked in again at Trevaylor campsite which is between St. Just & Botallock – so come along for the Bank Holiday or longer. We will be in the second field as before. There is plenty of climbing, walking, cream teas, beer and hopefully plenty of sun. I will be arriving sometime during the previous week and staying until the following weekend. Please ring me on 01623 469658 so I can have some idea of numbers. I will be away from May 13th – 20th.

Forest of Dean

9th to 11th June (Colin Hobday)

By popular request we have resurrected the Forest of Dean Meet. As in the past we have booked the Lodge which adjoins the Fountain Inn at Park End. Since our last stay, sadly there has been an increase

in the price of the accommodation, which is now £11.00 per person per night. We are hoping to organise a three-course evening meal at the Fountain Inn. The cost will be approx. £10.00; details nearer the date.

The Forest of Dean should be at its best this time of the year and offers climbing (Wintor's Leap), walking, cycling, and canoeing. For those intending on climbing, please check restrictions due to nesting season. I have already had quite a few advance bookings so don't leave it to the last minute if you want to go. First come, first serve.

Any more information or bookings, ring C. Hobday - 01332-551594.

Reports from last month's meets

St. Martin-de-Londres 8th to 21st April. (Chris Radcliffe)

A total of twenty friends from the Oread and DMC attended the meet to help Gill celebrate her "significant" birthday on Saturday 15th April. After several sunny days it dawned cloudy and damp and many opted to visit Montpellier. Together with Roger, Gill and I chose to visit the spectacular cave, "Grotte des Demoiselles" a few miles to the north of St. Martin. Later we toured the surrounding countryside of Languedoc and viewed from a distance the massive overhanging crag of Hortus. Everyone gathered in Pete and Jude's mobile home to present Gill with a suitably inscribed cake from the village and a prezzie – a genuine surprise and well appreciated. We then walked to the local restaurant and enjoyed a great birthday meal with a lot of wine being drunk. The restaurateur was a suitably Gallic figure, slightly scruffy with an ever present cigar, but he entered into the spirit of the occasion by providing a free glass of the local firewater for everyone and presenting Gill with a full bottle to take home.

The early arrivals over the first weekend had fine and sunny weather – Roy and Chris arriving from the Camargue. We then had a couple of damp days, but enjoyed fine walks through the "Ravine des Arcs" on one day and the "Gorge de la Bueges"

Oread Mountaineering Club Newsletter

the next day – truly great countryside. When the weather became sunny we returned to climb at “St. Jean-de-Bueges” – an unspoiled crag with some reasonable routes in spectacular position above the valley and the 12th Century village. We enjoyed this so much we came back again later in the week to climb 3 pitch routes on the “Pilier du Chateau” on the same crag. Afterwards we gathered in the village square to enjoy a couple of beers in a relaxed ambience.

The rock of the area is limestone typical of the south of France, but we also took a journey of a couple of hours to visit the “Gorge d’Heric” to the west of the area. This delightful valley has many granite crags and pinnacles and has been compared to Borrowdale. It seemed more compact than the Lakeland valley to me, but certainly had a huge amount of rock. Climbing with Anthony and Regina, Gill and I climbed the modestly graded “Le Rocher Marre”. Although I managed to go off route in search of unnecessary difficulty it was a fine route with a beautiful crux pitch involving exposed climbing high above the valley.

The most extensive climbing within easy reach of the camp site was the “Falaise du Thourac” and we went there twice. First on the “Secteur Grotte” close to the show cave with mainly single pitch climbs, and also “Secteur Benje” which had some longer routes.

Several people brought bikes and the area is ideal for mountain biking as well as walking. We felt we had only scratched the surface of possibilities. The camp site was very pleasant and run in a laid back style by Patrick and Brigitte. On Easter Sunday they invited the whole campsite to enjoy aperitifs and nibbles and Patrick introduced us to a hilarious competitive game that had us all, but Pete Scott in particular, reeling across the Boules court in total disorientation.

Gill and I had to return home immediately after the holiday weekend, but leaving most people to enjoy more activities in this delightful part of France. I’m certainly looking forward to returning there again soon.

Thanks to all who came on the meet: Roy & Chris; Anthony & Regina; Mike & Sue; Pete & Jude; Richard; Alan & Gill; Roger & Claire; Alistair & Ruth; Chiz & Rue; George & Mike.

Wednesday evening climbing

Many of us have been active on the climbing walls over the winter looking forward to some spring evenings on the rock. As is our tradition, we ventured to Harborough for the first Wednesday evening outing of the Spring on the first Wednesday after the clocks moved to BST. The weather was initially damp with an air of uncertainty – shall we climb or retire to the Wirksworth climbing wall? John Gresty led the way walking up to the crag and soloing the first of many routes; our courage (or was it shame?) grew, and we strolled up to the crag and enjoyed cool rock and a fresh breeze until the grey clouds increased and the daylight decreased to a tipping point – the point at which the call of the pub drowned out the “call of the wild” (the urge to climb).

Wildcat has often been a natural second Wednesday of Spring venue, and so it was this year. The adhesion and camaraderie of the Oread is such that one can turn up the base of a familiar crag and often find someone to climb with and an enjoyable evening’s climbing without a lot of pre-planning, and so it was. I climbed with Sally and on the way up our first route we gained Nigel. The three of us enjoyed two routes before decreasing light turned us homeward.

Oread Mountaineering Club Newsletter

Hut Bookings

Tan-yr-Wyddfa

May 5/6	K- Fellfarers	(16 Beds)
May 12/13	Scunthorpe M.C.	(16 Beds)
May 19/20	Oread Workparty	
May 26/29	Spring Bank Holiday	Vacant
June 2/3	C. Hobday	(whole hut)

Heathy Lea

May 12th/13th	Lincoln M.C.	cottage and barn.
---------------	--------------	-------------------

From the committee meeting

Membership

Francis Curran has become a prospective member
Sally Dibble has applied for membership – due to Secretary's absence her application form could not be read out. ACTION next committee meeting.

Treasurer's report

Accounts for February and March presented to meeting. Winter meets made a small loss, which was accepted. Patterdale and Leyburn meets made small losses.

Hut Bookings

T-y-W use slightly down; H-L has few bookings – but nothing unusual.

Tony Howard to activate the joint meet with Lancashire club.

Huts Sub-committee

Next Sub-committee meeting due Wed 12 April in preparation for H-L working party. The work on H-L will be mainly painting. Treasurer observed that Hut-Sub-committee has adequate funds.

Annual Dinner

Tracy and Neil Wetherspoon volunteered to take on organising the annual dinner.

Longstone Edge Update

The Peak District National Park Authority have issued a temporary stop notice which means quarry operator MMC Mineral Processing Ltd must cease quarrying at Backdale on Longstone Edge. This comes following the cancellation of a public inquiry into quarrying at Backdale after the Authority's previous enforcement action was declared null by the Government. The temporary stop notice came into effect on 7 April and will run for 28 days, during which time the Authority will carefully consider its next course of action.

Congratulations

Daryl Kirk and Jackie were married on the 22nd April at Llansantffraid Church; The Toast "To friends and adventure" was most fitting.
[Surely not another tankard ! Ed.]

New Arrivals

Chris & Heather Seaman are proud to announce the safe arrival of Isabel Louise at 61bs in the QMC on Easter Monday. All three are well and Heather and Isabel are now at home. Chris is already planning her first climbing trip!

"Close Publication" and "Go to Press" dates

In general I shall plan to *Go to Press on the last Tuesday of the Month*, so that I can collect print on the subsequent Saturday and post out so members should receive print copies by the first Tuesday of the month and so be reminded in a timely manner of our Winter Indoor Meets as appropriate. This means I shall *Close for Publication* the month's Newsletter *on the preceding Saturday*. I plan to circulate Newsletters by e-mail on the last Tuesday of the month.

For next month's Newsletter

The June Newsletter will close for publication on Saturday 24th June, and Go to Press on Tuesday 27 June.

I would like to publish reports from: Nick Evans on his Cadair Idris meet; Derek Pike on his Appletreewick meet; and have a report from Chuck Hooley on the Tan-yr-Wyddfa Working Party.