



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2012



Jan Wilson enjoying the Traversée des Anges in the Gorges de l'Arc.

Editorial

So, Wednesday nights outdoors ended with some much needed late sunshine at Intake Quarry, High Tor and Wildcat and summer (such as it was) has been ceremoniously laid to rest with an excellent curry night in Matlock Bath (as distinct from the curry meet at Tan yr Wyddfa, which sadly will not take place this year). Never mind for the first of a new season of indoor meets is coming up to enchant and inspire us, and what an amazing speaker Rob has lined up for us on 2 October – Johnny Dawes no less! Other forthcoming attractions include a bonfire night, a meet to Cwm Eigiau and our annual dinner. Hopefully this year your editor will not star in the post-dinner entertainment by providing a First Aid practice opportunity for all!

For the committee and particularly the Tan yr Wyddfa Hut sub committee the last few weeks have been a worrying time and have involved a great deal of hard work. Due to their efforts repair work is about to start and, hopefully our hut should be back in service before too long.

Finally, a big apology to anyone receiving the newsletter by post. September's issue arrived very late: this was unavoidable, due to the move of Noel Baker Community Print to the new school building. Hopefully all will be back to normal this month.

What's on.

Indoor Meets 2012-2013. Rob Tresidder

The first evening meet will be addressed by **Johnny Dawes on 2 October**. See separate notice below.

The November meet will hear Gordon Stainforth. Gordon has talked to us before and had the misfortune to judge one of our photo competitions. Gordon has a new book out — Fiva. An account of youthful daring in Norway which has been short listed for the Boardman Tasker prize.

In December we see the return of Es Tresidder. He's talked to us before about big walls in Yosemite and desperate Scottish winter climbing. This time he will talk about his record run on the Cuillin ridge and a more recent passion — ski mountaineering racing. Fast and furious!

I have as yet no Oreads signed to talk of their climbs and travels. So if you fancy a slot next year, get in touch with me. Or perhaps you'd prefer to slip me the name of a friend!

The club committee has agreed with my suggestion that the entry fee for the evening meets should be pegged to the price of a pint. Your views on this are welcome!

Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net txt: 07951 625 378

JOHNNY DAWES Full Of Myself

Tuesday 2 October 2012 8 p.m. Royal Oak, Ockbrook

Johnny published Full Of Myself last year. He will talk around his book. I feel I can do no better than quote from a couple of the jacket trailers.

“In 1986 Johnny was responsible for the most inspired new route in a generation, Indian Face on Clogwyn d'ur Arddu in Snowdonia. Difficult and tenuous, a fall from its hardest move would most likely be fatal. His rich imagination has left a legacy of outstanding new routes all over the country, not least on the gritstone edges of Derbyshire where his bold and fluid style reached its fullest expression. He's an artist really, a choreographer with a

warrior spirit.” Ed Douglas

“Written with devoted passion and brutal honesty... lays bare Johnny’s bipolar mix of privilege and pain, wizardry and dysfunction. Master of friction and momentum, the living embodiment of poetry in motion turns his hand to the pen with great effect.” Leo Houlding

Entry: £3 (members). £4 (non-members)

Curry Meet at TYW Cancelled

Tony Howard

As you will now know, TYW is currently closed due to building work and dry rot treatment. The hut is unlikely to re-open before our scheduled Curry Meet on 27th/28th October and this meet is therefore cancelled for this year. Sorry about that. I will look forward to one as usual next year.

Bonfire at Heathy Lea 3-4 November

Mike Hayes

We will once again be holding our annual pyromaniacs convention at the Derbyshire hut in celebration of all things rebellious and non conforming!

This annual event is ideal for bringing together the varied membership of the club and usually provides great entertainment for friends and families. On Saturday afternoon we will be building the bonfire and once the sun has gone down we will light the fire, start the Barbeques (Please bring your own food and drink) and set off the fireworks.

Our esteemed President has kindly volunteered to sort out a barrel of the finest local ale for purchase at a very reasonable cost and our Vice Pres. is once again providing the fireworks (but please feel free to bring your own as well).

Saturday and Sunday sporting activities will depend on the weather but there will no doubt be a number of Oread’s wandering over our local crags in addition to a sprinkling of bikers / gear shoppers and tea shop visitors etc. On Sunday morning Steve Bennett will be leading a mountain bike ride starting at the hut at 10.30am.

Club members are encouraged to bring with them their musical instruments / home brew concoctions etc.

There will be a £2 charge per person to cover the Fireworks and the normal hut fees apply for those staying the night. Please let me know if you are planning to go and especially if you are staying the night.

Michael Hayes Tel: 07771700913 Hayes Michael j@cat.com

Cwm Eigiau Meet 9 -10 November 2012

John Green



Taken from the cottage info:-

“The cottage is situated at the head of Cwm Eigiau on the eastern side of the Carneddau, GR OS115 714638. The magnificent Cwm Eigiau is surrounded by some great hills; on the south side of the Moel Elio, Pen Llithrig y Wrach and Pen-yr-Helig-du, show their finest slopes, whilst Craig yr Ysa and Carnedd Llewellyn frown from the head of the cwm. The northern slopes are vast and set at a more friendly angle, the cottage nestles into these northern slopes at an altitude of 1360 ft, thus making it the highest climbing hut in Snowdonia. The cottage was originally used by shepherds and slate miners. On 12th June 1912 it was opened by the Rucksack Club as the first club hut in Britain. Early visitors were WP Haskett-Smith and SW Jeffcoat.”

The above says much about this great place. Getting there is fun! Leave the Conwy Valley at Tal-y-Bont (on the west bank). Follow the narrow road keeping right, passing gates and cattle grids until you arrive at the road end and a good car park.

Leave the car here and walk along the track to the old dam, cross the stream and follow the path on the left then right to the cottage. About a mile and a half.

Climbing is Craig yr Ysfa. Amphitheatre Buttress, Mur y Niwl, Pinnacle Wall and Great Gully this should keep us going for a while. The walking is magnificent, a cirque of the cwm will be enough for most.

I shall carry in a box of wine to cheer everyone with a drink, bring more of your own if possible. I look forward to another great meet for the start of winter. This was the original date that Reg Squires used to have the meet, when he led it before me, so get your head torches out and let's have a good time.
(See below for last year's fun.)

Book with me on 01332 832101 or green71@btinternet.com



63rd Annual Dinner Saturday 17 November 2012. Richard Hopkinson.

As previewed in September's Newsletter, this year's annual dinner will again be held at The Bluebell Inn, Tissington, on Saturday 17 of November, 6.30 onwards to sit down at 7.30. The cost is £20.00 per person for 3 courses (or add £3.95 if you want a pudding **and** cheese and biscuits).

The menu and other details are included at the end of this Newsletter. Please fill the form in and return it to me. This is one of the main social events of our year. A chance to catch up with people you've not seen recently, as well as reminisce over the year's adventures with people you see regularly. So I look forward to seeing you there. Please don't leave replying to the last minute, and in any case I need to know numbers by **Tuesday the 6th of November at the latest.**

With regard to an after dinner speaker I am again reverting to the successful format of the last two years. Our very own celebrity, Chris Radcliffe, will regale us with reminiscences of the Oread and his 70 years of adolescence.

Re accommodation if anybody wants to stay overnight there is plenty in the area although not at the Bluebell. Camper vans can be parked discreetly overnight in the car park.

Tony Howard has kindly offered to lead a walk on the Sunday. It will start somewhere in the area near the Bluebell, and, I am reliably informed, it will not be too strenuous and include the opportunity of a liquid lunch.

Full details will be in the November newsletter.

If anybody has any questions please don't hesitate to contact me, my home telephone is 01629 823392, I'm also emailable at richard.hop@w3z.co.uk.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Update on TYW Closure and building work Tony Howard

Dear Oreads,

As you will already know, Tan Yr Wyddfa is closed due to another outbreak of dry rot and the need to treat this and repair the hut.

Contracts have now been placed with Peter Cox Limited, the dry rot treatment specialist and Peter Banham the builder to put matters right. They will start work on Monday 1st October. We will not know the full extent of the infestation and damage until all the appropriate beams and roof structures have been exposed. We are also negotiating with them to install improved weather proofing, including a silicone based damp proof course. We expect that this would start before the dry rot work is finished, thus saving time overall and 'killing two birds with one stone' as it were.

It is therefore not clear how long all this will take, but **the hut is unlikely to re-open before the beginning of November** and could take a few weeks longer. We will keep you informed of progress via the usual channels of email, the Newsletter, the website and Facebook. Should you require an update or advice on an existing booking in the meantime please contact Colin or me.

Tony Howard. TYW Hut Custodian. 18th September 2012

tony.howard46@btinternet.com 0776 226 8181 01332 273307

Alpine Meet: Val Ferret, August 2012 Pete Lancaster

It was twelve years since the club last visited Val Ferret for its summer alpine meet so a return trip to this beautiful valley was due. I was determined not to hassle Sally about booking and might have succeeded had the online booking form performed...however, after only a little pleading, Sally came to the rescue and ended up speaking to the campsite manager to do the deed. Many thanks Sally!

Nigel and Peter Briggs arrived a week before the rest of us, the weather was hot and sunny and they had already checked out some good climbing on the valley crags; these crags are all excellent with lots of shiny new bolts, placed to give encouragement like all sport crags should. Having settled in and limbered up they went up to the Dalmazzi Hut, perched on the edge of a cliff where one can climb straight up from the back door, which they did, followed the next day by an ascent of 'Kermesse Folk', a classic 750m route up immaculate granite on Monts Rouge du Triolet, they were well pleased and the omens were good.

The remainder of the team arrived, Mike and Alison getting there with perfect

synchronisation just minutes before Sue and I, Tony and Mike Jones following shortly after, Chris and Jan arriving the next day after wandering down through France doing some cragging and the exciting Via Ferrata du Roc du Vent above Lac de Roseland, on the way.

After some enjoyable cragging down the valley, Mr. Motivator and myself, with the 'Walker' in mind, decided that some acclimatisation was necessary, so a night at the Torino hut with the Swiss Direct on the Grand Capucin the following day seemed a good sports plan. Nigel and Peter joined us with their eyes on the Pyramid du Tacul. The hut walk to the Torino has to be the best in the business; it must be all of 100m from car park to telepherique, at the top of which you are there! This being so, we were well able to carry extras, like a bottle of excellent red wine from Mike's wine cellar and some bottles of beer – it all helps... The next morning was all too familiar, up at some unearthly hour, traipsing over a glacier trying to digest a breakfast that was eaten because one had to but was far too early to want or enjoy, trying to wake up but wanting to be asleep: you know the thing, I always ask myself, 'why?'. It's strange how it was all such good fun while drinking cold beer afterwards? Our proposed route on the 'Cap' takes you up a couloir on the left as we approached it; what should be a simple plod up the snow on to the route didn't appear like that to us as we watched two parties in front. Pitching slowly up rotten crud, with much evidence of loose rocks, many from above, followed by an extra rope-length of climbing up unpleasant slabs with tottering rubble everywhere, thanks to the massive glacial retreat of the past few decades, did not look like my kind of fun. Imagine my surprise and glee when Mr Motivator voiced the same thoughts! A change of plan directed us towards Pic Adolph Rey. We intended to do the 'Batembourg' route but with the glacier now fifty metres below where it was when the guide book was written (20yrs!), finding the route was difficult and access to where we thought it went was not pretty. While searching for the start we wandered around the base of the buttress and saw Nigel and Peter looking for the way onto their route so carried on across the intervening couloir so that Mike, who had done their route before, could offer advice, duly done, we returned and decided to do the classic 'Voie Salluard' instead.

(Photo by Mike Mowbray shows Pete below the route.)



Gearing up, having been joined by two French lads who had just traversed the same slope, we heard an ominous crashing and rumbling and watched an avalanche of ice blocks flow down over the path where we and the two French guys had been minutes earlier! How lucky were we? Peter and Nigel, on the



other hand, got splattered with ice fragments from the falling seracs and Peter took a direct hit on the head which knocked him off his feet. His helmet saved him and he was not seriously injured fortunately but they lost their appetite for climbing that day and set off back badly shaken. We did our route which was what the books say, steep and strenuous but great climbing, a high-light was the exemplary, altruistic behaviour of Mr Motivator who donated several of his own slings and krabs to secure a fridge-sized rock that was precariously balanced at a notch in the route that would have wiped out anyone below had a butterfly landed on it, let alone a passing climber.

(Photo by Mike Mowbray shows Pete on the strenuous chimney pitch.)

Meanwhile, Chris and Jan were steadily clocking up a tally of excellent routes, especially on the magnificent slabs at the end of the valley, notably: Sensa Nome, La Pina, Spitnik and Ryoby at 205m (later climbed by Tony and Mike Jones), Chris rated it 'the best route on the slabs' and Ligne Blanche with me. These crags are of lovely rough solid granite and perhaps the most satisfying of them was Placche Pre-de-Bard, mostly easy-angled slabs with routes of several pitches and multi-abseil descents.



Jan enjoying Placche Pre-de-Bard, Ryoby. Photo Chris Wilson.

The other crags were steeper but mostly single pitch routes with some fairly stern

stuff to be had but all the routes that we did were good sport. Some of the many other crags down the Aosta valley were sampled too to provide variety and everyone managed some really good walks, getting high with fabulous views.

Mike and Alison timed their weekend trip to watch Murray gain his place in the Olympics final at Wimbledon because we had the only two days of rain then which dumped a lot of fresh snow – not good news for the ‘Walker’. Undeterred, on his return, Mr Motivator and I went round to Chamonix, got the train to Montenvers and had a wonderful view of a white Grandes Jorasses; change of plan saw us at the ‘Envers des Aiguilles’ hut from where we climbed ‘Guy-Anne l’Insomite’ up the Premier Point de Nantillons, 400m of some of the best granite anywhere. The highlight pitch reminded us both of the ‘Strand’ at Gogarth in both style and grade – it doesn’t get much better.



Left: Upper pitches of the Guy Ann TD+. Right Pete approaching the summit. Photos Mike Mowbray.

This is an extremely beautiful valley, the campsite at Tronchey is directly under the south face of the Grandes Jorasses but does not feel hemmed in. The company was excellent and everyone enjoyed themselves and did things including the consumption of large quantities of fine wine, an educational experience, with Mike ‘Mr Motivator’ Mowbray sharing the contents of his ‘cellar’. The bus service was very handy for getting up the valley or down to the fleshpots of Courmayeur and very cheap, although Chris and Jan did use their bikes on several occasions. Happy days!



Pete and Sue enjoying the aforementioned fleshpots.

Les via ferrata du Diable. Chris Wilson

Our cover photo this month shows Jan on a dramatic section of “Les via ferrata du Diable”. Savoie. Haute Maurienne. Aussois. This series of 7 routes, in the Gorges de l’Arc, links the Esseillon forts built between 1830 and 1832, and is the longest via ferrata in France.

Chris writes:

“We followed Les Diablotins (500 m long AD) starting at Fort Victor Emmanuel. This consisted of ledges, small overhangs and suspension bridges below fort wall, easy but exposed in places. Then La Descente aux Enfers et la Montée au Purgatoire (450 m + 350m path, D+ / TD) to the Redoubt Marie Therese. This had a steep section leading to the 20m Passerelle des Enfers suspension bridge over the l’Arc; then steeply up the other side of gorge. La Traversée des Anges (360m AD and D) was particularly exciting! (ask Jan!) and led finally to La Montée au Ciel (450m long D). This covered more steep ground, finishing through a gun port on the Fort (gets the full blast of the sun so was very hot – lovely).

The photo below shows one of the suspension bridges on Les Diablotins.



Commercial Break.

Pureoutdoors Ltd. Offer

This is the company that has provided the instruction/training for the Improvised Rescue weekends last year and this. The company was founded and is managed by a friend of mine and he gave us a 'good deal' on both the weekends and has made an offer to the Oread of a 10% reduction in rates for any other courses that members take up. You can see what they offer on their website:

www.pureoutdoor.co.uk

Pete Lancaster.

TGO Magazine.

Did you know that TGO magazine has an exclusive discount subscription rate for your club's members?

TGO magazine is the essential read for anyone active in The Great Outdoors, packed with award winning features on the places we know and love (and may be some we don't), gear reviews, wild walks, essential hill skills, and much more.

The offer is TGO magazine's lowest rate at only £34.25 for 13 issues. This is a 33% reduction of the news stand price, saving £17.10.

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Information on Member Activities.

Applications for ordinary membership have been received from Lewis Holmes and Teri Horne. Any members with any comments on their applications should please contact the secretary or membership secretary.

Sophie Kenyon has been accepted as a member of the Oread, we wish her well for the future.

Hut Bookings for October.

HEATHY LEA

Oct. 12/13th East Anglia Uni ?
Oct. 19/20th. Southhampton Rats Cottage/barn
Oct. 26/28th. Flyde MC Cottage
Nov. 2/4th. Oread meet

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Closed until further notice.

Will those with outstanding hut fees please pay A.S.A.P.

Please note that hut fees should always be paid to me and no one else.
"Whole Hut" includes the Oread room!

Thanks, Colin Hobday.

Forthcoming Meets

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| October | Tues. 9 Sept. | Committee meets Royal Oak Ockbrook | | |
| | Sat 27 Sun 28 | TyW Curry Meet Cancelled | Tony Howard | 01332 273307 |
| November | Sat 3 Sun 4 | Heathy Lea Bonfire | Mike Hayes | 01530 231401 |
| | Sat 10 Sun 11 | Cwm Eigiau | John Green | 01332 832101 |
| | Tues 13 | Committee meets Royal Oak Ockbrook | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Sat 17 – Sun 18th | Annual dinner and walk | Richard Hopkinson | 01629 823392 |
| December | Sat 1 – Sun 2 | Patterdale | Tony Howarth | 01332 273307 |
| | Sat 8 – Sun 9 | Bullstones | Derek Pike | 01332 670459 |
| | Tues 11 | Committee meets Royal Oak Ockbrook | | |
| | Wed 12 | Black Rocks | Rob Tresidder | 01629 823953 |
| | 22-30 | Xmas at Tan yr Wyddfa | | |

In need of inspiration for the dark days to come?



The ubiquitous Brian West esq. braving the elements on a stormy day on Hevellyn. As usual, he refused to use any obvious or comfortable paths. Photo: Clive (Rusty) Russell.

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The Oread M.C 63rd Annual Dinner

You are cordially invited to the 63rd Annual Dinner to be held at The Bluebell Inn,
Tissington
on Saturday 17th November at 7.30 p.m.
(Arrive 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.)

MENU

Please choose 1 Starter, 1 main Course and 1 Sweet. (Cheese and Biscuits is available "instead of a sweet" or as an extra in addition to a sweet at £3.95).

Starters

Broccoli & Stilton Soup (V)

Wild Boar Pate served on a Bed of Fresh Salad Leaves with Cranberry Sauce.

Derbyshire Oatcake Stuffed with Creamed Mushrooms. (V)

Main Course

Roast Beef served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes & Red Wine Gravy.

Salmon Fillet Stuffed with Spinach & Cream Cheese topped with Parmesan Crumb.

Squash, Mushroom & Red Pepper Tartlet served with Homemade Chips & a Side Salad. (V)

Desserts

Raspberry & White Chocolate Mousse Topped with Cream & Served with a Wafer (V)

Fresh Fruit Pavlova (V)

Apple Berry Crumble Served with Custard. (V)

Cheese and Biscuits (V)

(Dessert & Cheese & Biscuits Add £3.95).

Fresh Coffee Served with Mints.

(V)Suitable for vegetarians

Bluebell Inn, Buxton Road, Tissington, Derbyshire, DE6 1NH
Tel: 01335 350317 Email: enquiries@bluebelltissington.co.uk

Oread M.C Annual Dinner Order Form

The cost of the dinner is £20.00 per person (If you want cheese and biscuits as well as a pudding add £3.95)

Please write your name and the name of your guest(s) in the top boxes and tick one item per course per person.

Send your completed form along with your cheque made payable to the O.M.C to:
Richard Hopkinson.

43 Summer Lane, Wirksworth, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 4EB

Phone 01629 823392

Completed forms to arrive no later than Tuesday 6th November 2012

(v) = Suitable for vegetarians

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Name | | | | |
| Starter | | | | |
| Broccoli & Stilton Soup Soup (v) | | | | |
| Wild Boar Pate | | | | |
| Derby's Oatcake with mushrooms(v) | | | | |
| Main Course | | | | |
| Roast Beef & York's pudding | | | | |
| Fillet of Salmon | | | | |
| Squash etc tartlets, chips & salad(v) | | | | |
| Sweets | | | | |
| Apple berry crumble (v) | | | | |
| Fruit pavlova(v) | | | | |
| Raspberry & white choc mousse(v) | | | | |
| Cheese and biscuits (v) | | | | |
| Cheese & Biscuits in Addition to Sweet (Add £3.95) | | | | |
| Cheese and biscuits (v) | | | | |

If you have any special dietary requirements please state them below (e.g.gluten/wheat/vegan)
The Bluebell have indicated they can cater for special dietary requirements, I suggest you contact them direct to be certain they can cater for you, and for your peace of mind.

If you have a strong preference to be seated next to others please state below and we will do our best to accommodate you.