

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2018



A touch of winter for you! Pete Lancaster and Jeff Ingman enjoying an unforecast blizzard in the northern corries of the Cairngorms. Photo Jeff Ingman.

Editorial

Well, a more wintry winter than we have had for a few years, let us hope it continues and gives us good conditions for the forthcoming meets. There's a trip to Scotland and two to the Lake District plus the Peak District Boundary Walk stage three coming up in March.

Write ups include some anarchistic goings on including mutiny on Stage one of the Boundary Walk, devious antics on a leaderless Bullstones and snowy encounters at Black

Rocks. The New Year's Day walk, by contrast, seems to have been capably led, competently followed and much enjoyed, beginning, lunching and finishing in all its appointed places. Finally a burst of sunshine and scary limestone in Valencia to inspire us for the coming season.

More seriously the formal notice of the AGM is in this issue, and it needs your attention. We need a new **Treasurer** and a new **Hut Custodian for Heathy Lea**. Nobody on the current committees is able to take on these essential roles. See page 2 for more information.

On a sad note this issue records the passing of two long standing members, John Dench and Pam Weston. Memories of both would be most welcome for the next issue.

The Future of Heathy Lea.

The lease on Heathy Lea is due for renewal in March 2018 and the Committee, having taken legal advice, is currently in negotiation with Chatsworth. Although it is very likely that the lease will be renewed on similar terms, with rent increasing only in line with inflation, there will be significant future work and expenditure to bring the hut up to a safe and legal standard.

To achieve this **we need a new Hut Custodian** and at least one more hut sub committee member who must be committed to carrying out or supervising DIY work plus overseeing contractors for the repairs or improvements necessary. Nobody on the current Committee is able to take on this responsibility.

If the Oread wishes to continue with Heathy Lea new volunteers must come forward by the end of March.

If you feel that you might be able to help please contact Derek Pike tel.01332 670459 or email derepike1234@btinternet.com

25 March Annual General Meeting Robin Hood Baslow

The annual general meeting of the club will take place at 8 p.m. on Saturday 24 March at the Robin Hood PH below Birchen's Edge.

Please send any motions for debate to me by 10 March. These will be included in the agenda. Of course matters may also be raised under AOB.

Proposals for changes to the club's rules **must be submitted by 20 February** so that the proposal can be circulated to the membership before 10 March.

Nominations for officers of the club and other (3) members of the committee are very welcome and **must be submitted by 10 March**. Nominations for a new Treasurer and Heathy Lea Hut Custodian are **essential**.

Nigel Briggs, Secretary
41 Belfield Rd., Etwall, Derby DE65 6JN email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com
tel. 01283 732925

NB The Robin Hood will need to know numbers wanting food before the AGM and have asked for two weeks notice. Please contact them to book in. Tel 01246 583186.

What's On

Date		UK	Abroad	Abroad
	<i>Fri</i> 2	<i>Fylde Mountaineering Club hut, Stair</i>		
	<i>Sat</i> 3			
	<i>Sun</i> 4			
	<i>Mon</i> 5	<i>Climbing Unit, Derby</i>		<i>Spain, Benidorm, Derek Pike</i>
	<i>Tue</i> 6	<i>Indoor Meet, Royal Oak, Ockbrook Paul Ramsden, Multiple Piolet D'Or winner</i>		
	<i>Wed</i> 7	<i>Wirksworth Climbing Wall</i>		
	<i>Thur</i> 8			
	<i>Fri</i> 9	<i>Scottish Winter Climbing</i>		
	<i>Sat</i> 10	<i>Karn House, Aviemore</i>		
	<i>Sun</i> 11	<i>Spenser Gray</i>		
	<i>Mon</i> 12	<i>Climbing Unit, Derby</i>		
	<i>Tue</i> 13			
	<i>Wed</i> 14	<i>Wirksworth Climbing Wall</i>		
	<i>Thur</i> 15			
	<i>Fri</i> 16			
	<i>Sat</i> 17			
	<i>Sun</i> 18			
	<i>Mon</i> 19	<i>Climbing Unit, Derby</i>		
	<i>Tue</i> 20			
	<i>Wed</i> 21	<i>Wirksworth Climbing Wall</i>		
	<i>Thur</i> 22			
	<i>Fri</i> 23			
	<i>Sat</i> 24			
	<i>Sun</i> 25			
	<i>Mon</i> 26	<i>Climbing Unit, Derby</i>		
	<i>Tue</i> 27			
	<i>Wed</i> 28	<i>Wirksworth Climbing Wall</i>		
<i>March</i>	<i>Thur</i> 1			
	<i>Fri</i> 2	<i>George Starkey Hut, Patterdale Stuart Haywood</i>		
	<i>Sat</i> 3			
	<i>Sun</i> 4			
	<i>Mon</i> 5	<i>Climbing Unit, Derby</i>		
	<i>Tue</i> 6			
	<i>Wed</i> 7	<i>Yahoo Group (evening)</i>		
	<i>Thur</i> 8			
	<i>Fri</i> 9			
	<i>Sat</i> 10			
	<i>Sun</i> 11			
	<i>Mon</i> 12	<i>Climbing Unit, Derby</i>		
	<i>Tue</i> 13			
	<i>Wed</i> 14	<i>Yahoo Group (evening)</i>		
	<i>Thur</i> 15			
	<i>Fri</i> 16			
	<i>Sat</i> 17	<i>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 3) - Winster/Roystone Grange Gill Radcliffe</i>		

- **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/) <http://www.oread.co.uk/> for the full meets calendar.*

Evening meets:

Do 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.

Tuesday 6 February Lecture, Royal Oak, Rob Tresidder



The fourth evening lecture will be held at 8 o'clock at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook on Tuesday, 06 February. Paul Ramsden, multiple Piolet D'Or winner, returns to the Oread to present an illustrated talk entitled **Axe Tales**: an account of Paul's beginnings in climbing and built around the axes he has used and owned, the first emerging like Excalibur from the deep, and more recently some golden ones! Rob Tresidder: email Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net tel. 07951 625378

2-4 February Stair Hut Little Langdale

We have the spacious and well-appointed Fylde M.C. Hut at Stair in the Newlands Valley (west of Derwentwater) for this weekend. It is a good big hut so still room for more people. Check out www.fyldemountaineeringclub.org/index.php/huts/

for more about the hut and location. Grid Ref NY23722 21061. For Sat navs the Post Code for the nearby Swinside Inn (a short walk down the road) is CA12 5UE. We have the weekend on a hut swap basis so it will only cost you £5 a night for a weekend in the Lakes. How can you resist?

We have a key code to gain access a week and this will be circulated to all who have expressed interest.

To reserve your place, arrange transport etc contact Mick Hayes: email hayes_michael_j@cat.com tel 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913.

9 -11 February Karn House Aviemore Spenser Gray

Over the weekend 9th-11th February I am running a repeat of last year's Aviemore meet, except that hopefully this year we have better conditions and less outrageous behaviour from otherwise respectable members of the club (if you are not aware of what happened last year ask Pete Lancaster about his attempt to undress himself). It is still four weeks in the future when I am writing this, however there appears to be a decent build up of snow and ice in the Northern Corries at present and it is likely that we will be able to experience the joys of sunny Scottish Winter climbing. 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.

Disclaimer: I make no claims that the weather will be as good as it was on my Glencoe meet, it may indeed be blowing a hooley with zero visibility.

Spenser Gray. tel 07534 821500 email spenser.h.gray@googlemail.com

Tuesday 6 March Lecture, Royal Oak, Rob Tresidder

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

Rob Tresidder: email Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net tel. 07951 625378

9 -11 March George Starkey Hut, Patterdale Stuart Haywood

After a brief hiatus the March Patterdale meet returns to the programme, albeit a week later than our normal slot in order to avoid a repeat of last year's unfortunate episode.

Accordingly at the moment ABMSAC George Starkey Hut is booked for the nights of Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March, but dependant on weather conditions etc. as usual we have the option of prolonging our stay. I think everyone will be aware of the possibilities this hut offers and over recent years dependent on the weather, climbing, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, gear shopping and even fishing have all featured during this traditional Oread Meet.

Over the next few weeks I will endeavour to contact the 'usual suspects' but in the meantime if you want to book a berth please call me on 07774 – 859553; 01332 882331 or e-mail stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk I will of course reply to

all e-mail and voicemail messages to confirm bookings. Also if you are looking for, or can offer lifts, please let me know.
Stuart Haywood

17 March Peak District Boundary Walk 3 Gill Radcliffe Winster to Roystone Grange (Gotham car park).



Saturday 17 March 2018 – 10:30 am start.

This will be the third in the series of Oread walks circumnavigating the 190 mile Peak District Boundary Walk. We will meet at Winster market hall (GR SK 242606) at 10:30.

This is a linear route so some car shuffling at the beginning and end of the walk will be necessary. The route is generally easy underfoot and makes use of the Limestone Way and the High Peak Trail. We'll walk to Bonsall village and the hamlets of Ible, Grangemill and Longcliffe covering a distance of about 10 miles / 16 km. We may stop at the Holly Bush Inn in Grangemill if the weather is inclement though it's best to bring a packed lunch with you.

Please contact me if you intend to come along as this will help to finalise car sharing. Gill Radcliffe: gill@farfields.co.uk Phone: 01246 569134 or 07816 072138.

Map: OL 24 Peak District

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

25 March Annual General Meeting Robin Hood Baslow

See page 2.

25 March Spring Stride C. Russell

Once again I am proposing to tour the less frequented western part of the Peak National Park. As always, we need to consider the availability of car parking and so we shall meet at Wetton at 10 30. There is a reasonable sized car park, and if this is full there are plenty of places at the road side where vehicles can be left, so we shall actually assemble, on foot, at the green opposite the Royal Oak. After a circuitous route round Wetton and Ecton Hills we shall drop down into the Manifold Valley and we may have light refreshment at Wetton Mill. There is some scrambling and light amusement to be had on the rocky bluff around the cave behind the tea room, and this will be opportune if we arrive there fairly early in the day. Afterwards we shall ascend the slopes west of the river and amble in a generally downstream direction before re crossing the river in the neighbourhood of Thor's Cave and returning to Wetton.

Contact Clive (Rusty) Russell for further information on 01335 390369 or email zrussell2@googlemail.com or just turn up on the day.

30 March – 2 April Easter in Cornwall Derek Pike

More information available soon.

5 - 7 May Bank Holiday North Pembroke Michael Hayes

More information coming soon.

21 July to 5 August Bregaglia and Bernina Alpine Meet Michael Hayes

We will once again be staying at the fantastic campsite Mulina in Vicosoprano close to the Swiss Italian border; surrounded by the superb Granite climbing of the Bregaglia and within an easy drive of the snowy mountains of the Bernina. From single pitch sport routes in the valley to 20+ pitches on the Piz Badile or the stunning Biancograt on the Bernina, there is something for everyone.

If you want to join us then please let me know.

Michael Hayes: email hayes_michael_j@cat.com Tel 07771 700913

Copy deadline for next issue is 20 February.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

The Sellears Stroll Tim Sellears

Oreads,

To mark my forthcoming 50th birthday in April I've planned the "*Sellears Stroll*" which will take in 50 Wainwrights in 50 hours covering over 50 miles. My attempt will take place in a consecutive 50 hours over 25th-27th April and finish at either the New Dungeon Ghyll hotel or The Wainwright pub in Great Langdale. I plan to walk most of it although may be tempted to jog the odd flat bit if I find any. Whilst I realise the serious athletes and fell runners among you may regard this as a simple outing, I fear for one who enjoys cask ale, good wine and single malt whisky it won't be ! So the purpose of this letter is to ask those who have completed a similar challenge to offer tips and suggestions on anything relevant including:

- Clothing layers (makes and models)
- Running shoes or lightweight boots and Gore-Tex or not
- Lightweight full shell or just wind-proof (makes and models)
- Rucksack or waist pack (makes and models)
- Food and drink en-route (what and how often)
- Food and drink at the rest stops (what and how long to rest for)
- Training (other than just walking)

If you can give me any tips please email me tim.sellears@ntlworld.com or phone 07719 277631

And then there were four...

Peak District Boundary Walk 1 Stuart Firth



It all started so well – and finished likewise. If ever there was a meet with the highest percentage of candidates for the Bent Screw award this was it. Twenty-five of us - (Snod was late and so missed the photo opportunity) – plus one dog – set out in good order but, within an hour, the meet leader's party had been reduced to four. Poor leadership and poor followership were the root cause. Twenty-one folk failed to wait for the leader at a key junction and were then led astray by two senior members who had proposed the route variation in the first place but did not then stick to it. Of the four who followed the correct route, the leader cannot be held entirely blameless; another lost contact with his minder; and a third allowed his lunch to disappear with his erstwhile companion. Only Sue Todd followed instructions to the letter. By doing so, she not only broke the habit of a lifetime but also demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of the Oread ethos. She therefore contributed to the 100% tally. Just as the entire island of Malta was awarded the George Cross in WW2, maybe PDBW 1 is a strong claimant for a collective Bent Screw?

Nonetheless - and despite the rather muddy conditions - a good time was had by all and mission accomplished. The weather was surprisingly kind and entertainment continued to the end as Chatsworth staff endeavoured to release cars from their Christmas Quagmire. Francesco was the youngest participant and Paul Gardiner the oldest so spanning seven decades. Jan Wilson was universally deemed to have sported the silliest hat. Spenser nobly did his homework rather than the walk but then demonstrated his skill at devouring prodigious quantities of cream tea scones. Many thanks to Uschi for providing homemade soup and introducing us to lacing it with vinegar – a first for me and delicious too. Thanks also to Jan for mashing infinite cups of tea and coffee and providing supplementary cakes; and Pam for collecting fees and dealing with the aftermath in the hut.

(Participants: Paul and Jean Bingham, Paul Gardiner, Colin and Uschi (50%))

Hobday, Tony Howard, Stuart Firth, Sue Todd, Angela Milne, Chris and Gill Radcliffe, (Spenser Gray), Michael Hayes, Pam Storer, Nick Evans, Peter Amour, Francesco Comin– all the way from Italy, Rory, Margaret Mills, John Green, Dave (Snod) Helliwell, Ruth Gordon, Chris and Jan Wilson, Chloe, Simmus, Lance and a dog.)

The Bullstones unleashed 1-3 December

A leaderless Bullstones opened up the opportunity for even more anarchy than usual. A large jolly party foregathered in the Buck's Head, Church Stretton to be greeted with the news that our noble leader had been struck down with the 'flu and was too ill to attend. Perhaps he had seen the forecast?

The Buck's Head staff made us most welcome and the food was excellent though bloodshed was narrowly avoided when the late arrivals discovered that all the liver and onions had been devoured by their esteemed fellow Bullstoners.

Most of the expected team appeared – except Mick Hayes and party who failed to

find safe parking for their pantechnicon and headed straight off to the designated bivvy spot. Spenser was last to arrive, coughing and spluttering, muttering something about kill or cure. The odds seemed to be on the former.



We set off into the bright cold night amid the first murmurings of diversion from the designated route. Pam and Derek had found a handy, flattish bivvy spot above the top car park in Carding Mill valley. This had the wondrous appeal of allowing us to dump the bivvy gear in Derek's van before setting off in the morning. Most were tempted and fell. Well – we didn't see the sign till the morning did we?

The more virtuous made best use of the fine night, kept walking and kipped an hour further on at Thresholds. (see next page for the culprits greeting the morn in their boutique hotel).

In the morning the damp mist enfolded us. Mick arrived, having walked over from the approved bivvy spot near the reservoir as most of us struggled into action. Spenser emerged from his tent, a pallid, greyish shadow of his normal self. Said even thinking about going uphill made him feel faint. He headed off down in search of breakfast and home. The rest of us set off into the low clag and soft drizzle.



We never caught the advance party. After their long walk on Friday night Helen, Spike and Pam Norris were at the designated lunchtime watering hole at Habberley by 10.00am. Unsurprisingly it was not open for business.

The main party plodded on through worsening weather and decided to deviate from the designated route and forego the pub stop in the interests of getting to the Bridges in something like daylight. This led to a fun-packed lunch under dripping trees in heavy drizzle. One or two brave souls brewed up, the rest munched soggy sandwiches and failed to provide



photographic evidence of what fun we were having.

From there we plodded up and over the Stiperstones where the views are magnificent - or so I am assured. The terrain underfoot was a nightmare of sharply pointed slippery stones - but that didn't stop many of the party completing the traverse of the skyline ridge. Finally we dropped down to Bridges and gratefully into the pub, its bunkhouse and the Youth Hostel where we were most splendidly accommodated. Tales were told, pints were quaffed, whisky was tasted and



all was well with the world.

Sunday was a much better day and the return to Church Stretton gave us a taste of what a very beautiful area this is. Thanks to Simon Pape and Pam Storer for organising a splendid event attended by almost 30 people – although not all of them ever quite managed to be in one place at the same time!



Having fun on the Stiperstones.

Photos courtesy of Pete Amour, Spike Johnston and Ruth Gordon.

Black Rocks Night.

The Black Rocks meet had a good turnout at the new venue - The Malt Shovel above Wirksworth – the pub was warm and welcoming, and the food good. The night was anything but warm and welcoming. Snod, Tony Fidler, Rusty, Derek and Ruth went to Harborough, paddling through icy puddles and sheets of melting snow. Snod and Tony managed one route, the rest patted the rock with frozen fingers and refused to leave the ground. It was snowing before we left. Meanwhile at Black Rocks Spenser, Chris Hartshorne and Charlie Taylor were having an exciting time on Sand Gully.

There was a large jolly party in the pub when we arrived – some had walked there, others had come by car. A few never arrived at all as Derby was gridlocked after a bad road accident. Spenser finally made it to the pub for 9pm, his companions had left for home at once, concerned about the weather. So we looked out of the window and we were concerned about the weather too. By 9.20, when Helen, Spike and Brian arrived, on foot, covered in snow, everyone else had decided it was time to leave. Roger Larkam, arriving shortly after, found only the three of them and Sally Tresidder still there. We had made a wise decision - the return to Cromford Hill via the top road was an exciting drive with a couple of inches of fluffy snow concealing a fine coating of black ice. Thanks to Rob for once again organising a grand night out.

2018 New Year - New Venue - A Not So New Leader Peter Amour



A fresh start to a new year, one member for each calendar month (including the meet leader tastefully hidden behind the camera). Mr Tresidder confirms his resolution to always polish his boots and keep to Jane's standards.

First of January 2018, "I must not fraternise with snotty nosed meet leaders" was the resolution chosen by my "companions" for this, the initial meet of the year. With a head count of a round dozen we commenced the day with a southerly compass taking us down the Cromford Canal to then head east over the top of Gregory tunnel and making for the famed Nightingale family home of Lea Hurst. Very wet conditions were recently found on the footpath here so I decided a diversion was in order using the pavements from Holloway down to Lea Bridge.

In passing Smedley's works it was noted that no rendezvous point (later starters) characters were to be seen, so the club travelled on, gaining height through Bow and Coumbs Woods' muddy terrain before descending and skirting Cromford's Victorian station. In brighter conditions we passed under Willersley Crag and on to the Boat Inn, Cromford where Spike and Helen arrived by velos, and Colin and Uschi greeted us with tales of flashing dashboard signals, multiple journey starts, eventual car abandonment and swap. Several members including Paul Gardiner (founding member) bade farewell to us at lunch to take a steadier route back - thanks for attending Paul, you are pleasure to see out and an inspiration to us all.

Within the pub we had the cheerful experience of seeing Liz and Brian West, Tony Smedley and non members but familiar faces of Hank (Thursday Group) and June and John from the RR Hucknall Group. Following the social get together six of us left the comfort of the pub, crossed the Via Gellia to climb steeply and then



traverse Rose End Meadows. Clipping the edge of Cromford Hill Quarry we ascended the footway of Cromford Hill before heading on footpaths to access a showery Sheepwash Incline and descend to cross the canal and back to our vehicles in the High Peak Junction car park. Thanks all for attending, whether booted, biking, or boozing. Hopefully I recall correctly, Simon Pape, Rob & Jane Tresidder, Stuart Firth & Sue, Roy & Chris Eyre, Sue & Mike Wren, Paul Gardiner, John Green, Helen Griffiths & Spike Johnston, Colin & Uschi Hobday, Tony Smedley, Liz & Brian West and last and least me, Thanks for sharing an enjoyable first of January.

Soaking up the sunshine, post lunch participants Colin, Uschi, Stuart and Sue enjoy Rose End Meadow nature reserve above Cromford

Chulilla – climbing heaven – Roger Gibbs

The previous day, squeaking my boots under a hard (for me, not actually hard) route.

“This is perfect,” I said. “It’s like Scotland New Zealand. No pressure, just give it a lash.” Blimey, I got up it. And it was absolutely superb climbing. Does that mean the Kiwis are going down at Murrayfield? Well, no as it turns out. But I’d better try something a bit harder.

This is the big one. I spend a little time scoping the first few moves. They look crimpy and hard. The opening twenty feet looks like something that would be more at home, well, at home, on UK limestone. After that it blossoms into a leaning tufa pipe before more blankness, then a shield of drooling tufa. It’s an arm withering 40 metres to the belay.

“Well, if yesterday was Scotland New Zealand, this must be Chesterfield Panthers Under 8s against the All Blacks.”



He points out all the angles.

“You don’t want to be slapping for that. Scramble up onto that platform and get a good look. Is there anything on the right side of that tufa?”

We’re at the sport climbing mega-venue of Chulilla. It’s November but we’re still hiding in the shade at an area called Chorreros. It means you need some decent warm kit to belay but climbing conditions in a tee shirt are ideal. The wall of perfect rock on the other side of the gorge glows in the sun. There’s hardly a breath of wind, let’s go.

The first moves are predictably stiff. I step back to the ground. Breathe. Some sharp finger edges and some polished slopey footholds. A high step and a stretch to a tufa blob. Into an undercut and step up into balance. Shuffle right into a semi rest, wait, drop that hip and it’s a hands off. A curious fellow peers up and across at me and smiles his encouragement. He insists on another minute’s rest after I announce I’m ready to go again.

The character of the route changes totally as I launch up the tufa pipe. Long moves and stretching left to clip the bolts. I’m only a few moves from the cave and another rest but I’m hugging the column pretty hard now, arms laybacking, legs hugging and the holds I need are a long way out left.

“Venga, venga,” high pitched and urgent comes from a Spanish team off to my left.

“Right with you Rog,” cool and calm from below.

I try to bounce my left hand up and left into the bottom of the cave and sway alarmingly. Deep breath. Laying away rightwards, I cross through awkwardly with my right and hit a bucket. Resisting the urge to whoop, I match it and yard up into the circular cave for a breather.

(Left: Chris on Camino Leche F7a+)

Soon it’s time to go again and I pull over steeply but on good holds to a relative wobble over easier ground. I reckon I’m about half way. I’ve done ok I reckon. It wouldn’t matter too much if I blow it now.

Silencing the treacherous voices in my head, I start up the steep wall and don’t stop. Long moves on positive holds but not much respite. I’m in the flow, pausing

only to clip. I can see the drools of tufa not far above me now. Hoping for some bigger holds, I'm a little disappointed. The only option is to keep on trucking and ignore the rising pump. At last a wedged semi rest as the tufa widens enough to let me grovel inside. It all feels very much like that first VS thrutch. Desperate for the tick I stretch and clip the chains at the very limit of my span. Then of course I step up into perfect balance, with my back against the tufa and I can sort the lower off easily and in comfort.

"Take there." I can hear the grin in my words. Get in! Not bad for an old punter. I'm lowered to warm congratulations and a celebratory fist bump (because we're down with the kids.)

There's no question for me, this is amongst the very best sport climbing destinations in Europe. It has routes at all grades, most people will find an almost endless supply of quality routes, with tufas, pockets and crimping wall climbs in a gorgeous setting littering both sides of this peaceful gorge. Chulilla sits just an hour away from the Spanish city of Valencia and its airport. It's not a new climbing destination but its popularity has increased in recent years. The rock is generally excellent and the bolting is very friendly. Throw in holiday grades (apparently), a cool climbers' bar and a very nice restaurant and you have it all. It's an on sight crag - a bit of stamina definitely helps. There was some sieging going on, but if you're close on the first go you've probably just on sighted 38m of the 40m route. And who can remember beta for routes that long? There's a weird trad feel to the climbing too, I'm not sure if these Spanish superstars can thrutch!

More details and enticing photos here:

<https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/page.php?id=6242>

Further inspiration and pub debate fodder for all matters climbing related at:

<http://www.niallgrimes.com/jam-crack-podcast/>

Check it out or Grimer will crawl down my broadband cable and biff me*.

(* I've only met him about twice and he almost certainly wouldn't know me from Adam. And I don't think he'd fit, but have a listen anyway, it's excellent.)

John Dench and Pam Weston

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of two long-standing members. John Dench and Pam Weston.

John Dench died quietly in his home on 15th December.

John's introduction to the club, as recorded in "Climb if you will.", was via a course at Ilkeston College of Further Education: "Rock Climbing and Mountaineering for Beginners" taught by Geoff Hayes. Following on from the course he joined the club in 1967.

John had not been well for some time before his death and unfortunately was not able to take full advantage of his and Lesley's move to Church Stretton, the Mynd and surrounding hills which he so loved in the winter. Older members may remember him as the mysterious Tricouni, who wrote a series of 'tongue in cheek' articles in the Oread Newsletter. Although unable to participate in Oread activities for many years, he continued to follow with interest the club's news. See below for some colourful memories of John. Further contributions would be most welcome.

Pam Weston passed away peacefully in her sleep at Derby Royal Hospital on 5 January 2018. Her funeral will be held at Derby Crematorium at 11:20 am on Thursday 1st February
A tribute to Pam will appear in a future issue.

John Dench: recollections from Reg Squires

Although we have had very little contact for a long time, I was sorry to hear that John had passed away. For a relatively short period of years, together with Robin Reeves, Simon Crosse and Ann, we climbed, walked, went cross country running to Scotland, Wales, the Lakes and the Alps.

Determined to be different, JD decided that tents were unnecessary and a plastic bag quite adequate for a weekend in the Lakes. Of course it rained heavily and the plastic bag filled with water. We were amused.

As an architect, John was a creative fellow hence the narrative poem.....
“ This wet green hell,
This place men call Glencoe.”
and the Rock Climber song which appeared in a recent newsletter (*after its performance at the 2015 dinner*) but I can say this was a slightly Bowdlerised version - I have the original words given to me by the writer at the time!

An inspirational character, JD decided that organised camp sites were old hat. Thus we tramped up Sour Milk Ghyll at midnight in pouring rain and pitched on a 45 degree slope. No sleep. The attempt on Bowfell Buttress next day ended at a steep wall, smooth holds running with water. At this point we abseiled off on somebody's bootlaces. (Nothing else would fit).

A last recollection, JD had a reasonable command of German, thus was a linguist(!) Returning nigh – on penniless from the Alps, we arrived hungry in Dunkirk. I ordered the cheapest meal – moules marinière. “Ah!” said the Dench, “Mutton casserole!” We all said nothing!
All a long time ago. Good memories, farewell!

Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

26-27 Jan	Oread Meet
2-3 Feb	Fylde MC hut swap
9-11 Feb	Avon MC
16-17 Feb	Scunthorpe MC 10 beds Surbiton/Kingston MC 12 beds
24-25 Feb	Orpheus MC
2-3 March	Emma Howard Whole hut

HEATHY LEA

26-27 Jan	ICAS CC
2-4 Feb	Leicester Uni MC

23-24 Feb Katy Lovell
23-24 March Oread AGM

“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

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.

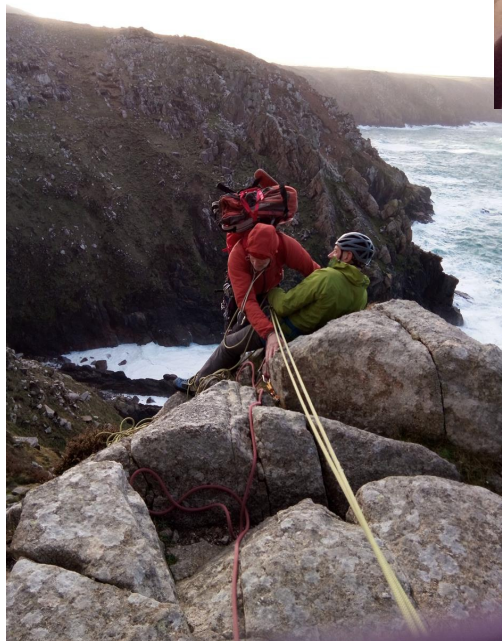
Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread MC, to the above address.

Hobday's Humour has been hi-jacked

This month's contribution, (the photographer may prefer to remain anonymous), reveals our revered President in his true colours:

Heil Hitler!

Apparently Derek was “cleaning the fireplace” at Heathy Lea – hopefully this is not a euphemism for sweeping the chimney - an activity from which he has been banned subsequent to the shenanigans at the Tan yr Wyddfa working party 2016 – so what was he really up to???



Close Encounter on Alison Rib

Chris Wilson and Pete Lancaster locked in a New Year's Day embrace on Bosigran. As to why Pete was climbing in a howling gale with all his winter gear in his sac, plus Chris's sac tied on top of it, we can but speculate.

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new Provisional members, Adam Casey, Francesco Comin, Kirst Elton, Matthew Heath, Duncan Hollick-Cooper, Richard Marriott, Ellie Rickman, Emmanuel Savy and Charlie Taylor and Full Members Lance Baker, Janet Briggs, Tom Hayes, Phil and Yvonne Waterson. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from Michael Percival and Christine Renouf. If you would like to comment on these applications please contact a member of the committee. These applications will be considered at the committee meeting on 20 February.

Congratulations to Gil Male and Andrea Doyle on their recent marriage.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:



The photograph, showing Mike Wren at his debonair best, was taken at first light in summer 1990, after a bivouac on Bleaklow, following one of Peter Amour's strange ideas, and the most vociferous warnings of impending doom from Rock. He, Mike and Simon Wren, myself and possibly other odd bods whom I have forgotten or failed to recognise by the light of my dim and ageing head torch, were present after shambling along in a generally northerly direction from Yorkshire Bridge Inn where we were probably intoxicated being unused to the liquor so close to the alien land of Yorkshire.

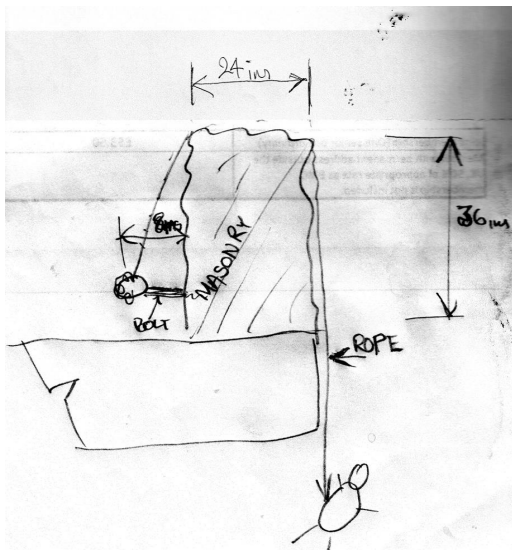
Subsequently, this image appeared in some fairly light hearted context in the newsletter in the year 2013, this being the date when my laptop tells me it was last accessed. The bridge over the Dove is near Brandside just

below Dove Head Spring. We crossed this bridge during the 2014 post AGM walk after lunching at Flash Bar (see photo taken later the same day at Wash Gate.)

This month's puzzle.

The Oread heard about the Orpheus Caving Club who had adopted, near to their hut, a bridge over the Tissington Trail, in order to practice abseiling, and decided to do the same thing. A stainless steel ring bolt was fastened through the masonry parapet so that a rope could be thrown over in order to abseil down to the trail below. The bolt was however left projecting 8 inches inward from the parapet face, and one of the trustees,

concerned about liability, as is the modern style, was concerned lest the projecting bolt would bring about an overturning effect, so stipulated that the system should be reviewed and a safe load calculated before use. (The actual tension in an abseil rope is of course considerably more than the weight of the person owing to the "bounce" effect).



The height of the parapet was 36 ins, thickness 24 ins and the weight of the masonry block deemed to act as a single stabilising block was 2400 lbs. (see sketch).

What was the maximum working load which could be applied to the rope before the masonry block would topple over?

The printed newsletter.

After many years of providing an excellent service for all our printing requirements the Noel Baker School has decided to close its community printing operations "to concentrate on core activities". This is a sad loss – but the good news is that our printing will now be done by a very worthwhile charity - The Greenaway Workshop based in Darley Dale. They have been able to match the school on price, plus giving us colour printing, and we hope this will be the start of a long and happy working relationship.

"Greenaway Workshop is a Matlock based charity helping people with long term health issues caused through illness or injury. Attendees of the Workshop take part in occupational therapy by restoring rush or cane chairs, helping on their allotment or in their small print shop. They handle large and small jobs from invoices to wedding invitations, raffle tickets to parish magazines, scanning in and copying your photos to create personalised greeting cards etc. The Workshop provides a safe, caring environment where each person learns new skills, resulting in a sense of self belief as once again they feel valued through what they can achieve. They also gain a lot from the social aspect of attending the Workshop and the improvement to their health and well being is clear to see." See the Website for more information: www.greenawayworkshop.org

Renewals for 2018 Membership

If you have not yet renewed your annual subs you **must** do so before the AGM to retain your membership and right to vote at the AGM. Please refer to recent newsletters for the form and price information or contact Michael Hayes, 32 Hawthorne Drive, Thornton, Leicester, LE67 1AW. Email hayes_michael_j@cat.com tel 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913.

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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

<i>February</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>Fylde Mountaineering Club Hut, Stair</i>
	<i>5-17</i>	<i>Spain, Benidorm Derek Pike</i>
	<i>9-11</i>	<i>Scottish Winter Climbing, Aviemore Spenser Gray</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>9-11</i>	<i>George Starkey Hut, Patterdale Stuart Haywood</i>
	<i>17</i>	<i>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 3) – Winster/Roystone Grange Gill Radcliffe</i>
	<i>24</i>	<i>Oread AGM, Robin Hood, Baslow</i>
	<i>25</i>	<i>Spring Stride Rusty Russell</i>
	<i>30 Mar – 2 Apr</i>	<i>Easter Weekend – Cornwall Derek Pike</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>20-21</i>	<i>New Members Meet, Heathy Lea Spenser Gray</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>5-7</i>	<i>Early May Bank Holiday – N. Pembroke Michael Hayes</i>
	<i>26-28</i>	<i>Spring Bank Holiday – Mid Wales? Spenser Gray</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>8-10</i>	<i>Kids Meet, Heathy Lea Neil Weatherstone</i>
	<i>8-10</i>	<i>Joint Meet, Midland Association of Mountaineers (MAM) Chris Radcliffe</i>
	<i>15-17</i>	<i>Fylde Mountaineering Hut, Little Langdale Dave (Snod) Helliwell</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>5-6</i>	<i>Tan yr Wydffa Working Party Dave (Snod) Helliwell</i>
	<i>7-8</i>	<i>Welsh 3000s Walk Derek Pike</i>
	<i>21 Jul – 5 Aug</i>	<i>Alpine Meet Michael Hayes</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>17-19</i>	<i>Galloway Spenser Gray</i>
	<i>31 Aug – 2 Sep</i>	<i>Walk & Climb the Edges Gil Male</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 4) Chris Radcliffe</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Oread Bonfire Meet, Heathy Lea Neil Weatherstone</i>
	<i>4</i>	<i>Peak Boundary Walk (stage 5) Pete Amour</i>
	<i>11</i>	<i>FRCC Remembrance Meet</i>
	<i>17</i>	<i>Oread Annual Dinner</i>
	<i>18</i>	<i>Post Prandial Walk</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>7-9</i>	<i>Bullstones - TBA</i>
	<i>12</i>	<i>Black Rocks Night Climb</i>
	<i>22 Dec – 1 Jan</i>	<i>Christmas/New Year Meet Rock Hudson</i>