



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**MAY 2019**



**Sunny Stanga on the New Members' meet. Photo by Ben Wooler.**

## **Editorial**

Lots coming up in this issue: Training opportunities (see page 2) Wednesday walks full and half day, away meets to Wales and the North York Moors, plus of course Skye for the late May Bank Holiday. Heathy Lea hosts a working party for a few last jobs and then the Kids' meet and a barbecue meet in June to enjoy it. Write ups include the AGM and new committee info for those who missed it and Paul Gardiner's lively 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary memories. Plus the last Boundary Walk of the season, the Spring Stride, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Black Rocks meet, the brilliant New Members' meet – complete with gold tights – *I want some!* - and, for something completely different, an account of high altitude trekking in Colombia.

## 2019 Meets List Spenser Gray

Additions and alterations from last month are highlighted in red.  
Spenser Gray email: [oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com](mailto:oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com)

### Forthcoming meets 2019

<i>May</i>	3rd-6	<i>May Bank Holiday Gower Mick Hayes</i>
	10th-11	<i>Heathy Lea Working Party Phil Waterson</i>
	15	<i>Wednesday Walk Jan Wilson</i>
	17th-19-	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa Adhe Koukoui</i>
	24th-2 June	<i>Skye Mike Moss</i>
	29	<i>Wednesday Day walk Heathy Lea, Baslow Stuart Firth co-ordinator</i>
<i>June</i>	7-9 Jun	<i>Children's meet Neil Weatherstone</i>
	12	<i>Wednesday Walk Phil Waterson</i>
	14th-16 Jun	<i>Borrowdale High House - Dave Helliwell</i>
	22	<i>Heathy Lea Barbecue Yvonne Waterson</i>
	26	<i>Wednesday Day walk Outside, Hathersage Stuart Firth co-ordinator</i>
	28th-30 Jun	<i>North York Moors, Bungdale Head Farm Chris Wilson</i>
<i>July</i>	3rd-5	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa working party Dave Helliwell</i>
	5th-7	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa barbecue meet Tony Howard</i>
	10	<i>Wednesday Walk Peter Amour</i>
	12 <sup>th</sup> -14	<i>Forest of Bowland Walk Pam Storer</i>
	14th-4 Aug	<i>Alpine meet Otztal Spenser Gray</i>
<i>August</i>	2nd- 3	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa joint FRCC meet</i>
	16th-18	<i>Yorkshire Low Stern Emma Hayes</i>
	23rd-26	<i>Bank Holiday South Pembrokeshire Gill Radcliffe</i>
<i>September</i>	6th -8th	<i>Gogarth Neil Thompson</i>
	21	<i>PDBW Colin Hobday</i>
	27th-29	<i>Clwyd limestone Derek Pike</i>
<i>October</i>	1	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak?</i>
	12 <sup>th</sup> - 20	<i>Kalymnos Michael Hayes</i>
	18th-20	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa Rob Beck and Lucy Revelo</i>
<i>November</i>	1st-3	<i>Halloween and Bonfire meet meet leader needed</i>
	5	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak?</i>
	9	<i>PDBW Rob Tresidder</i>
	16	<i>Annual Dinner Maynard Arms Grindleford. Adam Casey</i>
	17	<i>Post Prandial walk meet leader needed.</i>
	22-24	<i>High House curry meet Tony Howard</i>
	30	<i>PDBW Dave Helliwell</i>
<i>December</i>	3	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak</i>
	11	<i>Black Rocks/Harborough night climb Rob Tresidder</i>
	13 <sup>th</sup> -16	<i>Bullstones Dave Helliwell</i>
	21 Dec-1 Jan	<i>Christmas/New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson</i>

## Training opportunities

Neil Thompson kindly volunteered to organise an evening for club members to practice self rescue skills. Depending on what members want to cover this would include problem solving techniques, setting up belays for easy escapability, ascending ropes, descending weighted ropes, assisted hoists and tandem (Y-Hang) abseils, a range of skills which are highly useful to the competent leader operating in adventurous locations, particularly if climbing with less experienced partners. One event has taken place; another will be arranged if there is interest.

Furthermore, if you wish to learn some new skills please contact Spenser Gray, he will keep a record of what members are wanting to learn and will assist with either finding someone in the club to teach you or make arrangements with an instructor. This might include rigging of abseils, dynamic belays, first aid skills, crack climbing, anchor building, the applications of double rope technique and navigation amongst many other things.

Contact Neil on 07885 637504 or email [ntntansley@hotmail.com](mailto:ntntansley@hotmail.com) for self rescue and Spenser for anything else.

## Oread Guidebook Library

To help club members research new (to them) destinations, plan trips and learn about the history of mountaineering Spenser Gray has set up a guidebook/ mountaineering literature library. This will also help us to keep track of books owned by the club which are stored in our huts.

If you have guidebooks/ mountaineering literature which you are willing to loan to fellow members please fill in this spreadsheet and save it as a .csv file:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v0\\_m6o2w9T3l\\_SfIF65ZR5kKeCj5Egd9foRIVCQncmM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v0_m6o2w9T3l_SfIF65ZR5kKeCj5Egd9foRIVCQncmM/edit?usp=sharing)

Once filled in if you visit the guidebook library's webpage and click on the "import more rows" button and select the .csv file it will add your books to the library. If you loan a book to someone you can update the record to say who it is on loan to by editing the row (this only works for rows which you have added). If you would like to see what books are available through the library it can be found here:

<https://oread.groups.io/g/main/table?id=11913>

Both of these links can be found on the club's website under the "Books" section.

## Evening meets:

Do come along to the evening climbing wall session:

**Mondays at the Unit** from 7 – 9.00 pm and after at the Smithfield, Meadow Road, Derby.

## Wednesday Activities – Walking and Climbing

Following feedback from members last year about the Wednesday meets program's inflexibility it has been decided to run things differently this year. A series of monthly walks will take place for the duration of the summer season. (Dates below). The pub used post walk/climb will be fixed, however these are planned to be on the way back from a wide range of crags to provide the climbers flexibility in choice of climbing style (sport/ trad/ boulder) and to dodge the rain if the weather proves inclement.

### Climbing

The choice of climbing venue for all weeks will be left up to the decision of members to be chosen via the new [groups.io](https://groups.io) group (to send a message email [main@oread.groups.io](mailto:main@oread.groups.io)). A significant complaint about the Wednesday meets program observed during the FTG was the last minute change of choice of crags so please agree on a venue on Tuesday night and try and not wind up spread across too many crags before meeting up in the pub.

### Walking

The new series of Wednesday Walks has proved to be popular and it is proposed to extend the programme by having two, roughly fortnightly, threads. The first will be on the previously published dates and will endeavour to link walkers and climbers by having a common evening pub venue. **This will mean an afternoon or evening start.** There will be a nominated leader.

15 May – Jan Wilson,	[pub Newsroom, Smedley St, Matlock]
12 June – Phil Waterson	[pub The Wheatsheaf, Baslow, Beeley Moor area]
10 July – Pete Amour	[pub Derwentwater Arms, Calver ]
14 August – tba	[pub Black Swan, Idridgehay tbc]
11 September – tba	[pub Hurt Arms, Ambergate tbc]
09 October – tba	[pub tba]

Meet details in the Newsletter.

The second - new - thread will be straightforward **day walks** starting at nominated venues at a specific time (10:00 am for a 10:15 start), finishing late afternoon. These will be two weeks after the dates above.

29 May – Heathy Lea, Baslow
26 June – Outside, Hathersage
24 July – tba
28 August – tba
25 September – tba
23 October – tba

Just turn up, see who's there and make a plan on the day.

Offers of leading for Series One and suggestions for meeting venues for Series Two to be made to me please.

Stuart Firth: 07977 458048, [stuartmfirth@btinternet.com](mailto:stuartmfirth@btinternet.com) for Wednesday walking enquiries

### **3-6 May Bank holiday weekend Gower Michael Hayes**

I have booked the Oread on to Oxwich Camping Park, a quiet campsite on the western end of the superb Oxwich Bay Beach. The campsite allows tents and campervans to be pitched in a group but there is limited electric hook up on site and the standard cost per person is only £10 per night.

Oxwich has its own crag and at the other end of the beach is Three Tors all providing a great range of climbs straight off the beach from Diff to E6 so plenty for everyone to enjoy. For more information and to book onto the meet please contact me. Michael Hayes: Tel. 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913. Email: [michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com)

### **10-11 May Heathy Lea Work Party Phil Waterson**

A Heathy Lea work party is planned for the 10th - 11th of May to complete the renovation work. Internal painting, gardening and cleaning are needed. We very much appreciate there have been several work parties recently at Heathy Lea, but once these last jobs are completed we can have a photoshoot and mount an advertising campaign to maximise the usage and be at our best for the BBQ in June.

Your help would once again be very much appreciated. Tea, coffee and cake will of course be readily available - see you there.

Please contact me to let me know if and when you can help.

Phil Waterson Tel. 07936 712223 or email [philwaterson165w@gmail.com](mailto:philwaterson165w@gmail.com)

### **15 May Wednesday Walk Matlock area Jan Wilson**

Our walk on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May will be an afternoon ramble to include scenery, history and a possible rendezvous with the Wednesday evening climbers. The walk will start from Plantation Lodge in Lumsdale (DE4 5LB) which has parking for several vehicles. Alternative parking is available outside of Highfields School in Upper Lumsdale, a short walk from Plantation Lodge. I am aiming to leave at 2.00PM and follow a route across to Tansley then up through Riber and Bilberry Knoll. We will continue down through Bow Wood to Lea Bridge then through Lea Wood and on up past Lea Gardens into Lea for a drink stop at The Jug and Glass. Our route then takes us via Dethick (possible picnic stop at the lovely little church in the fields) and back to Lumsdale where we will spend some time looking at the Historic Monument if there is an appetite to do a bit of history. On our return I will canvas opinion and we can either have a simple pub meal at the local pub or take in the excellent Wellington St chippy if food is required. Those inclined can then adjourn to the News Room a super new micro pub with a splendid stock of real ales where I hope to rendezvous with any Oreads who have been hitting the local sun kissed rock. This is a short walk from the parking. Please feel free to join me for some or the entire walk etc. It will be particularly wonderful if we can meet any climbers or Oreads who are around in Matlock that evening. If you need any more information you can get me at [jan.wilson.1980@talktalk.net](mailto:jan.wilson.1980@talktalk.net) or on 07769 186041.

## **17 -19 May Tan yr Wyddfa Adhe Koukoui**

Hey fellows!

I've specially ordered a two days sun pack (coming directly from Toulouse) for us to enjoy the outdoor Wales delights. Oh also, because I'm sure we'll need some evening warmth, I'll probably bring all what's needed for a giant RACLETTE and a surprise dessert (the one everybody loves - taking bets?). Cheese aficionados get ready! Come and join us!

\*Note the Raclette is usually quite a carnivorous meal but I'll manage a vegetarian option ???

Oh and to finish: for those who like it I've been told you can hike or climb in the area... Just an option though!

To book your place contact me - Adhe Koukoui: email [a.koukoui@orange.fr](mailto:a.koukoui@orange.fr) tel. 07533 385910.

## **24 May – 2 Jun Skye Mike Moss**



A trip to the awesome Cuillins, on offer is climbing, walking, running, cycling and, for the really brave, swimming. Big ticks are the Ridge, (the photo shows Es Tresidder tackling it at speed) the Cioch and eleven Munros. We will be camping at the Glenbrittle campsite. Booking is not necessary, but please let me know if you plan to come so I can arrange for us to camp near to each other.

Mike Moss email [mamoss@btinternet.com](mailto:mamoss@btinternet.com) tel. 01332 518302

## **Wednesday 29 May Day Walk from Heathy Lea**

Meet at Heathy Lea 10.00 am for a pre walk brew and decide the route. Probably best to bring a packed lunch. No designated leader for this walk, it is a get-together for those able to attend on the day. If you want to discuss, share information contact Stuart Firth ( see page 4.)

## **7-9 June Children's climbing meet, Heathy Lea**

### **Neil Weatherstone**

The annual meet for small Oreads, so they can have fun climbing together. This meet is also suitable for novice climbers as there will be plenty of top roping opportunities.

Climbing is at Birchen Edge on Saturday. Starting out from Heathy Lea at 10am with a picnic lunch. Some of us will be staying over at Heathy Lea on both Friday and Saturday night, so let me know if you want to stay over. We'll be having a bonfire and BBQ on Saturday evening if the weather allows. If the weather is too wet for climbing on the Saturday, plan B is to set off at 10am for a walk along the edges instead. I'll be climbing and staying over with my children who are now aged 8 and 10.

Neil Weatherstone email [Neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com](mailto:Neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com) tel. 07946825798

## **Wednesday 12 June Walk Beeley Area Phil Waterson**

Meet up at 1.45 at Beeley Lane, Hell Bank Plantation. Map ref 287 681 (where the ice cream van parks) parking free.

The walk will take in a circular route via Carlton Lees, Edensor and Chatsworth Park. Options of a picnic or a meal in the Wheatsheaf Pub Baslow to meet up with members who might be climbing in the Stanage or Birchens area.

Phil Waterson tel. 0793671223 email [philwaterson165w@gmail.com](mailto:philwaterson165w@gmail.com)

## **22 June Climbing day out and Heathy Lea Barbecue Yvonne Waterson and Spenser Gray**

This meet will provide an opportunity to combine a visit to some of the wilder crags of the Peak District (such as Dovestones Tor or the Northern or Southern Edges on Kinder) or a long day on limestone, with a sociable evening of BBQ related fun and food. Everyone welcome whether for a pleasant evening with fellow members, maybe a gentle stroll, a couple of routes on Birchens or go for it and get some pre-Alps meet training on a big day out – your choice – but be there! Please book your bed nights with Mick Hayes as normal. Bring your own food, barbecue provided. Contact Yvonne Waterson for the social info: tel. 07849 686808 or email [yvonne.waterson2312@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.waterson2312@gmail.com) or Spenser for the climbing plan.

## **Wednesday 26 June Day Walk from Outside, Hathersage**

Meet at the cafe above Outside, Hathersage 10.00 am for a pre walk brew/bacon butty and to decide the route. Probably best to bring a packed lunch. No designated leader for this walk, it is a get-together for those able to attend on the day. If you want to discuss, share information contact Stuart Firth ( see page 4.)

## 28-30 June North Yorks Moors Chris Wilson

Some of you might wonder where it is, others if there is anything there worth doing. Those of us who have been before will remember what a wonderful area it is.

For rock climbers it has been described as a backwater lacking renowned national classics. There are, however some fine cliffs and climbs. Scugdale and the Wainstones are probably the best sandstone (much like grit) crags in the area. Both are in magnificent locations and between them offer almost 200 routes mainly up to HVS with a few harder offerings. Raven's Scar, on the edge of the plateau not far from the Wainstones, unfortunately faces north but offers three Top 50 routes (VS, E1 and E2) and several 2 and 3 star outings between Severe and E4. Then there are the limestone crags. Whitestone Cliff is home to one of the best VS's in Britain, Nightwatch. If you haven't done it, you should. The 40m cliff is visible from miles around. It is steep and friable but for experienced climbers well worth a visit. Not far away Peak Scar is more friendly with a very short walk and almost 100 routes. Again it is steep, and some of the rock does look a little dodgy, but the climbs I've done can be very good. So maybe one day on limestone and one on sandstone?

There is also the walking and the National Park has no shortage of superb offerings. We will be organising a suitable walk on at least one of the two days, but you'll have to wait for the details until nearer the date!

In addition to the walking and climbing the area has lots of other attractions, castles, abbeys, pubs, restaurants, steam rallies, shopping and more!

Camping has been arranged near Helmsley and I will be getting there on Friday night.

The campsite is BUNGDALE HEAD FARM CAMPSITE, at Scawton, Nr Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO7 2HH. Tel 01439 770589. It's on the Cleveland Way. It is a small quiet site on a working family farm, in a peaceful location with magnificent views across the countryside. The charge for a motor home/campervan with two adults without hook-up is £15 per night with a reduction for just one adult. For tents the charge is £6.50 per person per night. Electric hook up points are £3.50 per night. Facilities include: level and well drained pitches, electric hook-up points, chemical disposal point, toilet block with h&c water, wash basins, washing up facilities. It is a small camp site that is reluctant to take family groups because of problems with late night noise and drinking by people sitting around in groups late into the night. We have a field to ourselves.

The campsite website, [www.bungdaleheadcamping.co.uk](http://www.bungdaleheadcamping.co.uk) describes all the local attractions such as Rievaulx Abbey and Sutton Bank and the White Horse. There is a pub within walking distance of the campsite, The Hare. And although it is focused on good food (booking required but it sounds really good!), I'm assured that it does have an area set aside for people who just want a drink.

Please make your own booking with the campsite. Address: John & Sheila Foster, Bungdale Head Farm, Scawton, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 2HH, Tel: 01439 770589 or Mobile: 07792 790 434  
Send an email to Sheila Foster stating that you are with the Oread:  
[sm.foster@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sm.foster@hotmail.co.uk)

On the Saturday evening we thought it would be a nice idea to have a communal meal. If the weather is poor we can escape into a “brown hut in the first paddock”. If you are coming and interested, please let me know so that we can sort something out.

Chris Wilson [c.wilson.48@talktalk.net](mailto:c.wilson.48@talktalk.net) 0788 1698758 or 01629 580521



Pink on limestone Peak Scar.



Pink on gritstone Wainstones.

Chris Wilson, Plantation Lodge, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock DE4 5LB.

Tel 0788 1698758 or email [c.wilson.48@talktalk.net](mailto:c.wilson.48@talktalk.net)

## **10 July Walk around Calver Pete Amour**

Meet up at 1-45pm for a 2-00pm commencement from outside the Derwentwater Arms, Calver. I advise drivers find local parking within the village. People have options of taking a packed tea with them or food at the Derwentwater Arms on completion of the walk which will go anti clockwise starting along the River Derwent.

Pete Amour tel. 01773 826219 email [peter@amour02.force9.co.uk](mailto:peter@amour02.force9.co.uk)

## 14 July – 4 August Alpine Meet Otztal, Austria Spenser Gray

This year the Oread Mountaineering Club will be visiting the Otztal valley in Austria. Some of the mountains were featured in Chris Radcliffe's evening lecture back at the start of October. For those who were unable to attend it looks like a stunning area with a choice of snowy alpinism, rocky alpine ridge scrambles, bolted multipitch rock routes in the Stubai Alps, a range of Via Ferratas and a huge number of single pitch crags. For those who are less vertically inclined there are a number of valley walks and mountain bike rides which can be undertaken either directly from the campsite or with a short drive. As ever with the alps there are also some sizeable climbs for the road cyclists to undertake.

We will be staying at Otztal Camping Arena in the village of Umhausen, this is located at the heart of the valley. Camping will cost around 12 euros per person per night (depending on size of tent). This is one of the cheaper campsites in the area and appears to have excellent facilities (although I am yet to figure out what an Adventure Shower is...):<https://oetztalescamping.com/>

There are several guidebooks which cover the area:

### **Alpine Guides:**

<https://www.needlesports.com/2699/products/oetztales-alps.aspx>

<https://www.needlesports.com/2599/products/stubai-alps-and-south-tirol.aspx>

These are both quite old, I would advise checking online for more recent beta on routes, particularly snowy ones and routes with fixed gear:

<https://www.climbers-paradise.com/en/>- This provides info about climbing across the Austrian Tirol.

<https://www.summitpost.org/otztal-alps/153953>- Otztal only, good for planning a day out but useless for use on a route.

<https://www.summitpost.org/stubai-alps/155126>- Stubai, again good for planning, but not much use on a route.

[www.bergsteigen.com](http://www.bergsteigen.com)- Details a limited number of routes in the area, print outs may be useful for planning a route.

<https://www.stubai.at/en/activities/climbing/>- Bit like climbers paradise but for the Stubai Alps.

More recent German Language guidebooks seem to be these:

<https://www.rother.de/rother-alpenvereinsf%FChrer-%F6tztaler%20alpen-1123.htm>

<https://www.rother.de/rother-alpenvereins-%20und%20gebietstf%FCChrerstubaier%20alpen-1271.htm>

### **Walking:**

<https://www.needlesports.com/4358/products/walking-in-austria.aspx>

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Innsbruck-Mountain-Adventures-multi-activity-Austrias/dp/1852849584/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543359107&sr=8-1&keywords=innsbruck+mountain+adventures](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Innsbruck-Mountain-Adventures-multi-activity-Austrias/dp/1852849584/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1543359107&sr=8-1&keywords=innsbruck+mountain+adventures)

### **Sport Climbing:**

Single Pitch: <https://bit.ly/2P7h9oT>

Multipitch and Single Pitch (Innsbruck area): <https://amzn.to/2P3QJo8>

<https://amzn.to/2BBP2L7>

### **Mountain Biking:**

[https://www.oetztal.com/summer/biking-cycling/bike-routes/mountainbike-tours.html#area=1027337&cat=Mountainbike%20Routes&ov=mtb&wt=Oetztal%20\(Geographic%20region\)%0A1027337&zc=9,10.9474,47.02007](https://www.oetztal.com/summer/biking-cycling/bike-routes/mountainbike-tours.html#area=1027337&cat=Mountainbike%20Routes&ov=mtb&wt=Oetztal%20(Geographic%20region)%0A1027337&zc=9,10.9474,47.02007)

Mapping is provided by the DAV (Alpenvereinskarte) or by Kompass. I have heard good things about the Alpenvereinskarte and have previously been disappointed by Kompass maps. Alpenvereinskarte numbers 31/1, 31/2, 30/5 and 30/6.

There is a useful app which you can use to see which lifts are open on any given day for the Otztal:

<https://www.oetztal.com/summer/services/mobile-apps.html>

Some standout routes seem to be the North Ridges of Wildespitze, Weisskogel and Hinterer Brochkogel, Mischbachgrat (Habicht), East Ridge (Zuckerhutl), East Ridge (Wilde Leck), NE Face (Schrankogel), NW Ridge (Ruderhofspitze), N Face (Ruderhofspitze), NE Ridge (Maningkogel), Luftballonweg (Maningkogel)

I aim to leave the UK on 14th July and return on the 28th, other people will likely be travelling out the weekend after and many of the retired members will use the trip to facilitate a leisurely tour around the crags and vineyards of Europe on the way home (at least they will if previous years are anything to go by). Spenser Gray: Mobile Number 07534821500 Email [oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com](mailto:oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com)

## 10 – 21 October Kalymnos Michael Hayes



Kalymnos is a Greek Island situated close to the Turkish coast and is one of the most enjoyable sports climbing venues in the world. The climbing scene is perfect with over 60 crags and hundreds of routes at all grades. My 2016 guide has over 400 pages.

Most people get to the island via a flight to Kos with Jet 2 from East Mids / Birmingham or Manchester and then a boat to Kalymnos main harbour. Taxis, Bike and Car hire are plentiful, and most climbers stay around the town of Masouri which has loads of low cost accommodation and excellent bars and restaurants.

The dates are flexible as many stay longer than one week but our plan is to fly out from Birmingham on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and book

into a hotel at Mastichari on Kos as it arrives quite late. The following morning we will take the boat to Kalymnos, pick up a hire car and drive the short distance to Masouri where there is loads of accommodation if you book early! We are booked into the Louis Apartment 6 with Airbnb from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Come and join us for a fantastic holiday.

For more information and to book onto the meet please contact me.

Michael Hayes: Tel. 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913. Email: michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

**Copy deadline for next issue is 21 May.**

## Members' Corner

Here's the regular spot to share info, ask for hints and tips, put your For Sale and Wanted ads, write open letters to the committee and generally make your voice heard. All non-libellous contributions welcome!

### Gear for sale.



I have some climbing gear for sale which belongs to our Son-in-Law. He hasn't been able to climb for a while due to his job:

"For Sale due to work commitments - selection of climbing gear not used for some time but some items new and unused. Guaranteed no falls. Price on asking.

Contact Phil Waterson on behalf of the seller: tel. 07936712223 email philwaterson165w@gmail.com"

### A new Oread T Shirt?

Some of our newer members have suggested we have an Oread T shirt. It's years since we had one and it would be both a great help to newcomers in identifying us at the climbing wall or on the crag and a lovely way to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We've had one design suggestion so far – which links with the crossword inspired design of the last one.

The font and styling will need more expertise than your Hon Ed. is capable of...

R P

**OREAD**

C A R

K K E

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M

S

Ideas please to Spenser or your Hon. Ed. Ruth. (Contact details at end of newsletter.)

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets.**

### **P. D. B. W. - Bollington to Whaley Bridge 17 March Chris Wilson**

The omens were not good. Forecasts of gales, wintery showers, hail and heavy rain combined with a lengthy drive from the usual Sunday haunts on St Patrick's Day suggested that few Oreads would venture forth to the start of the walk from Bollington. How wrong that proved to be. As the clock ticked down towards the 10.15 kick-off about 24 of us milled about trying not to freeze.

Once underway we soon warmed up ascending out of the town to Sowcar where we left the road and crossed fields to Hedgerow, an ancient drovers track leading through the Harrop Valley towards Kettlehulme, providing access to a few farms. In days gone by it was also home to the Cheshire Hunt Inn which, before the late 1800s, was known as the Quiet Woman and had a picture showing the head of a woman inside bird cage. The woman was portrayed with a very large tongue hanging from her mouth trapped with a large mouse trap!

Crossing Harrop Brook into Berristall Dale we began a long uphill slog up Gausie Brow where the Gritstone Trail was briefly joined. As the angle eased we made a short photo stop with the assembled crowd taking in the view over Manchester whilst being blasted face on by the rain!



From Andrew's Knob we lost much of the height gained, crossed the road near

the old 19 century Bakestonedale brickworks and had a coffee break. Refreshed it was uphill again to the moor where concrete obelisks mark deep mineshafts capped in the 1970's. After passing the Birchencliff farm buildings, the (unfortunately closed) Tin Hut Coffee Tavern and a stud farm at Harrop Brow we crossed the canal and the former Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway which carried cotton, silk, coal and passengers, but closed in 1970 and became the Middlewood Way. Lunch was had at the nearby Miners Arms in Wood Lane North.



Refreshed and in better weather we followed the Macclesfield canal tow path northwards for almost a mile before turning uphill and west towards Lyme Hall. This sports a medieval deer park, gardens and pleasure grounds dating back to the 1720's. There was a house at Lyme by 1465 with the core of today's structure built in the 16 century. The Hall and 17 acres are now National Trust. After a brief stop by the mill pond we moved on uphill past Lantern Wood towards Black Hill and Derbyshire. A lovely flat traverse through moorland brought us to the Dipping Stone, the remains of an early medieval wayside cross which also functioned as a boundary marker. It is a boulder which has had two rectangular sockets cut into it. The cross apparently fell victim of 16th century iconoclasts. The stone has since been used for baptisms and also during times of plague.

We ignored the standing stone at nearby Hawkhurst Head and went downhill towards Toddbrook reservoir as the odd squall passed over and on to the station in Whaley Bridge. An adequate supply of transport enabled all to continue either home or back to the start in Bollington, where several participants rounded off the day with a visit to a local hostelry.

It had been a great day out with wonderful company, a fitting finale to the winter's boundary walks. Many thanks to the too many to name who came along

and hopefully we'll all meet up for the next stage in the autumn.

## **70th Anniversary Meet Report Spenser Gray**



The 70th Anniversary of the club had been bandied about as something which needed celebrating for some time within the committee when it occurred to me that perhaps we should experience some of the routes which would have been climbed by our predecessors on the day of the first club meet (although this was approximately two weeks before the formation of the club. A quick perusal of the 50th Anniversary Journal identified that our first meet was at Black Rocks. "Not ideal" if the first thought which comes to mind, especially not at the end of March! Anyway, in the absence of any other ideas it seems to become part of the plan.

Fast forward nine months and somewhat amazingly there are somewhere around 25 members of the club either climbing or milling around the bottom of the crag (some of whom have doubtless been lured out by the idea of home made welsh cakes). Mike Mowbray and Neil Thompson decided to attempt to climb all of the starred VSs on the crag. Several members wandered round to the greener side of the crag, did a route and then promptly decided not to return! I foolishly agreed to retrieve some gear for Colin Hobday from a route, on finding out what the route was (Fatman's Chimney) I somewhat regretted this decision! Some classic Black Rocks shuffling followed, I found that no limbs were required to hold me in

place if I breathed out at the narrowest point and then suddenly the chimney widened out. I breathed a sigh of relief that Nigel Berry wouldn't be required to lubricate me out from the depths of the crag with olive oil in his role as a member of Derby Mountain Rescue Team and topped out to be greeted by some of the local yoofs asking all sorts of curious questions about trad climbing. Not too many metres away Mike Mowbray was busy engaging with the greenness on Sand Buttress when he was suddenly greeted by a half full can of lager flying past, unfortunately the locals weren't willing to provide a full one for him to have a drink after he finished the route! All in all the day gave members an opportunity to experience some of the routes climbed by our predecessors, eat some tasty cake and and engage with the local wildlife (purporting to be human teenagers)!

This was nicely rounded off by a fantastic talk from Paul Gardiner (page 24) and a rather peaceful AGM.

## **The 70th Annual General Meeting - 30 March 2019**

There was some speculation as to whether this was the 69<sup>th</sup> or 70<sup>th</sup> AGM. According to Climb if You Will “the Second AGM (ie after the club had been in existence for one year) was held at the Robin Hood Baslow” in 1950. So, presumably the meeting at which the club was formed in 1949 was considered to be the first AGM. This is supported by the photo on page 275 of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal captioned “50th AGM Meet at Heathy Lea, April 1999.” So the 70<sup>th</sup> AGM it was.

47 full members gathered for this year’s AGM at The Robin Hood, Baslow. Apologies were received from a further 18.

2019 is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Oread. To celebrate this the meeting was opened by one of our founder members, Paul Gardiner, giving a short address. (See page 24.) He spoke about the formation and early days of the club and the special place The Robin Hood holds in the history of the club.

The meeting had to conduct the usual business of hearing reports and approving the accounts etc. Compared to recent General Meetings the bulk of the meeting was covering routine matters. The one exception was the adoption of a new Constitution. Over the last year the old ‘rules’ had been written into a more comprehensive Constitution.

The President, Snod (Dave Helliwell), took the chair and oversaw proceedings. The minutes of the last AGM and the SGM held in September were accepted. The President, Treasurer and Hut Custodians gave their reports and answered any questions. The Committee and the two Hut Committees were elected.

### **The Committee**

President  
Vice President

D. Helliwell  
N. Briggs

Secretary	S.Pape
Membership Secretary	M.Hayes
Treasurer	J.Briggs
Hut Bookings Secretary	M.Hayes
Hut Custodian – Heathy Lea	P.&Y.Watson
Hut Custodian- Tan yr Wyddfa	D.Helliwell
Meets Secretary	S.Gray
Newsletter Editor	R.Gordon
Additional Committee Members	P.Lancaster, C.Wilson, B.Wooler

## Hut Committees

Heathy Lea – P.Watson Y. Watson, M.Hayes, S.McDonagh, and P.Storer.

Tan yr Wyddfa – D.Helliwell, C.Eyre, R.Eyre, R.Gordon, A.Howard, P.Storer.

The new Constitution was adopted and the Health & Safety and Privacy Policies endorsed. Finally the progress made in working through the recommendations made by the Forward Thinking Group was given.

This wrapped up the business of the meeting; the rest of the evening was spent chatting with friends.

Thanks to all who turned out and supported the meeting.

Nigel Briggs – Retiring Secretary.

## The Spring Stride 31 March Dave “Snod” Helliwell

I was **not** late. I arrived at the appointed meeting place in Peak Forest exactly on time – it's just everyone else that was early. We set off **on time** – 13 of us – but we were not unlucky at all. The weather was kind and gave us the beautiful clear views I'd rashly promised in my write up for the meet. Not that we had much time to enjoy them – Rusty and Pete Lancaster set off at a furious pace. Cunningly I'd not revealed too much about my chosen route so they kept having to wait for the rest of us mere mortals. When we dropped down to Mam Nick they were all for taking in a detour over Mam Tor – but luckily they were out-voted and we made our way up Rushup Edge where we sat, tucked down out of the chill wind, and had drinks and snacks while enjoying the fabulous views over the vale of Edale. Then we dropped down to the road and made our way over the fields to Sparrowpit. And I didn't get lost! Not even where I got lost when I'd pre-walked the route. Phew!

I'd told them at the Wanted Inn we'd be there about three – I'd planned a leisurely outing, not a fell race - but with our pace-makers hurrying us along we arrived an hour early - to be greeted by cries of “What are you doing here? You're too early!” They were ever so friendly and found us a couple of tables so we could all sit together and enjoy an excellent lunch. After an hour or so we set off again across Perrydale and back to Peak Forest without losing anyone down the impressive lead rake in the woods.

There was much debate among the owners of fancy distance-measuring contraptions as to how far we had gone. They couldn't agree at all so you'll

have to accept the evidence of my piece of string on the map that it was about 10 miles. Thanks to everyone who came. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

## **New Members Meet 5-7 April Ben Wooler.**



The club once again descended upon Heathy Lea for another new members meet following on from the success of Spenser's previous weekends. With the forecast in the prior week being largely cold, cloudy and potentially wet it wasn't exactly shaping up to be a great grit introduction for new climbers.

As expected, it was a rather damp and chilly start on the Friday morning for the eager ones amongst us at Birchen, however the weather soon picked up and with it the numbers with between ten and fifteen Oreads old and new dotted along the crag by late afternoon. After a few swift beers in the Robin Hood the group made their way back to the hut to join the throng and discover the meet leader had lost his keys to his van and had to climb in through the roof, a good start to the weekend... Saturday morning saw an estimated thirty plus Oreads swarm over Stanage Plantation to bask in the sunshine and the resulting glow from the rather choice legwear supplied kindly by Adhe (see photo). He says he purchased them specifically for the weekend but we aren't so



sure... although they seemed to do the trick as he bagged his first E1!  
After a start at the Paradise Wall section the club dispersed along the crag in both directions with some of those tending right taking on both Unconquerables (see photo below) after some epic struggles, and those heading left frankly unknown as the meet leader wasn't there...

After a sun kissed day the group headed back to Heathy Lea for yet another meal of epic (pro)portions provided by Spenser Grey and Michael Percival followed by many desserts, more beer and a bonfire with giant marshmallows. There were over twenty Oreads sleeping in the hut/barn/vans on the Saturday night and a good time seemed to be had by all.



Sunday was a slightly less than fantastic day with a damp start and many participants making their way home early following on from their exploits the previous day/night. Enthusiasm was low and around fifteen made it back to Birchen to discover that a damp morning would turn into a lovely sunny afternoon and the perfect end to the weekend.

In total there were fourteen potential new members out with the club over Saturday and Sunday and many were very grateful to those

members who showed them the ropes across the weekend.  
Some have joined as a result:

-  
*"Thank you very much for the hospitality - it was very nice meeting such good people."*

*"After such a good experience, I would like to be part of the club, so could you send me all the information about becoming a member?"*

The meet wouldn't have been such a success without the support from the wider club and all that turned up to join in have the thanks of the meet leader.

## Sight Seeing and Trekking in Colombia with Kagumu Adventures - Pete Scott



*View of the high mountains while trekking through the Paramo.*

Lord Hunt, leader of the successful 1953 Everest expedition, called his autobiography 'Life is Meeting'. It was a chance meeting with Simon that set us off on the trip of a life time. Simon lives in Colombia and was here in Derbyshire visiting his family and out walking with his dad and the Derbyshire Dales Ramblers. "I've set up a trekking company called Kagama Adventures but don't have many punters," he told me as we waded through mud and rain one January. "Oh, I'm sure I can provide some" I replied glibly. One year later and after several emails exchanged we were off. Our trip was tailor made. Simon sent us a very good itinerary but it was much altered by Judy and myself who, having read the Lonely Planet Guide, wanted more and different places to walk and explore. Eight of us met up in Bogota to start a 23 day holiday, 18 of which would be with our excellent English guide, Simon, and equally expert guide and mountaineer, Mateo. Bogota at 3,640m altitude allowed us a little acclimatisation by hiking up the city's iconic mountain peak, Monserrate. Later in the trip we discovered more of the interesting aspects of Bogata; its Gold Museum, Galleries and world renowned Graffiti. We used a minibus to travel around. Our first stop was the attractive town of Villa de Leyva, where we enjoyed time to explore the cobbled streets and architecture. Then came our first encounter with the spectacular scenery.



Cows and coffee lower down, next cloud forest, then the \*\*\*paramo which is an elevated alpine tundra ecosystem formed by glaciers most of which is in Colombia. (It occurs at an altitude between 3000m and 4000m and has a lot of alien like vegetation including frailjones which grow only a cm. a year, some were 5m and 6m tall. It covers 3% of the surface of Colombia but supplies 70% of its water). Lastly were glaciers and high peaks, some over 5000m. Our



highest point was 4750m. The photo above shows one of these giants viewed

from our high point.

Days were generally long between six and ten hours. So we were glad to eat and then hit the sack, be it in colonial hotels, mountain lodges, all together in the bunkroom of a small, rustic farmstead or one night in a smart ECO hotel. Left is Salento, a lovely colonial village where we spent a very pleasant rest day.



During our time in the mountains exploring four different National Parks, a specialised guide was provided so with three guides we could all walk at our own pace and, with the help of their knowledge and experience, understand the flora, fauna, geology and history appreciating what an interesting and varied country Colombia is. Simon and Mateo had researched our trip well, were superbly organised and perfectly caring in the

way they looked after us. We all felt we'd had wonderful value for money, £2099 for 18 days inclusive of everything plus two internal flights, but not our international ones.

KAGAMU Adventures [www.kagamuadventures.com](http://www.kagamuadventures.com)  
[kagamuadventures@gmail.com](mailto:kagamuadventures@gmail.com)

Having said goodbye to the mountains we flew to the historic, walled town of Cartagena on the Caribbean coast. This was five days of sun, sea, sight seeing and chilling. An ideal way to finish our wonderful trip.

\*\*\*If you ramble in a Paramo Jacket you may be interested to go to [paramoclothing.com](http://paramoclothing.com) and go to OUR ETHICS. Very interesting when one discovers that 80% of paramo production occurs at the Miquelina foundation in Bogota which provides valuable opportunities for vulnerable people.

## Oread 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Musings Paul Gardiner

For those who missed the AGM here is the text of Paul's entertaining and interesting reminiscences.

There are times in life when you think "What am I doing here?" Tonight my thoughts centre on "What am I **still** doing here?" Let's take that a bit further – what are we all doing here? I know we are here for a meeting at which important things will be discussed, votes will be cast – but why in this room? Well, it is the room next to the one where the club – and I do mean The Club – because there were only ten or twelve of us, would meet. It was a little dark room, lit by one oil lamp. We'd be sitting round a table, sometimes being counselled by the great Eric Byne about production of the first gritstone guides whilst the Licensee, Gladys Olivant, went down the stone steps into the cellar to draw the beer and bring the jugs up. The first Oread AGM, after one year, was held here so this place is part of Oread tradition and it is entirely appropriate that we should be here at the Robin Hood on this occasion.

But why am I standing here? Well, I'll tell you. A couple of weeks ago I was walking down the Lathkill – which was in spate. As I wandered down, climbing up the bank now and again to keep my boots out of the water and thinking "this ain't a bad way to spend my birthday" I became aware of a voice raised behind me saying something like "Paul, I think you are going to be asked to speak at the AGM." Well – I was enjoying my birthday up till then! I thought they'd perhaps forget it – but no, the screw was turned by receipt of a letter from the President asking me to speak. A proper, hand-written letter, delivered through the post. Now, a letter from the President of the Oread is not to be taken lightly, believe me!

Speak about the early days – well, there is no way I could do it as well as the article George Sutton wrote at the start of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal, followed by the one from Dave Penlington. Those articles describe beautifully where we were at. I recommend a read – or a re-read. However there are personal memories. What had we got in 1949? Ex servicemen, George, our founding father, he'd done a bit, got boots and a rope; Harry Pretty, back from crashing a few planes with the Fleet Air Arm, along with Molly of course; and Keith Axon – I can see Keith now in his long parachuting jacket, rolling a fag. Ex servicemen, looking perhaps for a bit of excitement and the camaraderie they'd known in the forces. And then of course there was Nan Smith, with her beautiful blond hair, later to marry Keith, she was a breath of fresh air. And then there were the Youths, the Apprentices – Dave Penlington, Roy Edwards, Ed Say, Joe Moore, one or two others who didn't stay the course, and me. These lads didn't quite fit the mould of the time – football, cricket, the pictures on a Saturday night. No, these youths had already been out on their bikes to explore the far reaches of the county – remote spots like Brassington, Ilam, Hartington, freewheeling all the way down the Via Gellia into Cromford. While the oldies met in a cafe to make plans the lads met in the Students' Union at Burton Technical College after classes to discuss important things like what was new in the window of our Mecca – the Army Stores. This is where we went to get kitted out – it was a time of austerity.

I will remember that one night we had got hold of a typewritten stock list from

Ellis Brigham – I 'll share this with you as you put on your harness with all the ironmongery dangling down and go up and put your runners in.... The list had on it, among other strange things SNAP OVAL KARABINERS - and we looked at each other and said “I wonder what they are for?” Yes, we've come on a bit in 70 years.

On a personal note, I came by a pair of boots, they probably cost me three or four weeks wages. I took them to the local cobbler, plonked them on his counter together with a bag of nails – tricouni 7s, triple hobs and clinkers and told him how they should be fitted. Certainly a first for him. There were waterproof sleeping bag covers, stitched from the fabric panels of barrage balloons – stuff was hard to come by - but enough of that. We did get out – sometimes we'd share a coach with another club - it cost us ten shillings – that's 50p for the weekend! I well remember the Cwm Sylin trip when the bus got wedged fast between the walls of the narrow lane.....

You may wonder why the Oread survived. There were a number of local clubs starting up – the Valkyrie, the Stonnis and so on. Clubs that sprang up, hit the climbing headlines for a month or two and just as quickly disappeared, some of their members ending up in the Oread. Well, the club gradually expanded, gathering members from Derby and further afield, meeting in the Bell on Sadlergate on Tuesday nights to plan the weekend. We kept gathering characters who could laugh and didn't take themselves too seriously, full of a ribald type of humour which continues.

Over the years we've been thrilled by the expeditions, the first ascents, the climbs in far-flung places of the world. Long may it continue. Just remember as we celebrate the first, so called “meet” at Black Rocks on 20 March 1949, the club did not exist. Neither did it two weeks later when we went back again. The meeting to inaugurate the club took place on 21 April. You will see that this year 21 April will be Easter Sunday. What better day to launch into the next 70 years?

And so, as we celebrate, how do we assess the passage of time? In 1949 the only official piece of paper we had was a Trent bus timetable to get us out of Burton to Derby and onward. We've picked up a lot of baggage since then – property, insurance, and now we have this: - The new Constitution. It shows how we have had to embrace Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities and so on. I salute the members who have put it together. It's very good, read it, you may need it, then put it away in a drawer and, sometimes, as you get out into the hills, just recall the words the Constitution used to begin with:

**“Mountaineering Regardless.”**

## **Hut Bookings.**

### **TAN-YR-WYDDFA**

10-11 May	Michael Jones Whole hut
17-18 May	Oread Meet Whole hut
20-23 May	Paul Howe 3 beds + Leicester College 10 beds
14-16 June	Simon Raine 3 beds
17-20 June	Snod Helliwell 3 beds

28-29 June	ABAMSAC whole hut
3-5 July	Oread Working Party D Helliwell
5-6 July	Oread Barbecue meet Tony Howard

### **HEATHY LEA**

3-5 May	Southampton CC cottage only
10-11 May	Hut working party
7-8 June	Children's meet Neil Weatherstone
14-15 June	Barrow M&SC Cottage only
17-20 June	HTC Leicester
22 June	Oread Barbecue
12-13 July	Bedford MC

“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: [michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com)

Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer to our account with Lloyds - Sort Code **30-98-97**. Account number **62584068**. You must put your name **and either TYW or HL as a reference**. Otherwise the treasurer 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.

## **Information on Member Activities**

Welcome to new members Ed Day, Adhe Koukoui and Edd Mowbray and to new Provisional members, James Clarke, John Coller and David Uribe. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

New applications for full membership have been received from Ellie Rickman, Michael Goold and Daljit Bhogal. The applications published last month of Nigel Berry, William Clarke, Francesco Comin, Mike and Sue French and Emily Major will be decided at the May committee meeting. If you would like to comment on any of these applications please contact a member of the committee.

## Nan Axon



Thom Axon writes: for those that knew Nan Axon, yesterday evening (24 April) she passed away.

An early member of Oread, she always spoke so fondly of the club and held it very close to her heart. Right to the end.

Memories of Nan would be most welcome for the next issue.

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

### **Last month's puzzle solution:**

The common factor requested by the puzzle is the climber John Streetly of Cambridge University who was the first climber outside the Rock and Ice to match the quantum leap in climbing standards during the Brown Whillans era with his first ascent of Bloody Slab on the west buttress of Cloggy (I hope in Caernarvonshire?). Subsequently he returned to his native Trinidad. He was supposed to have then withdrawn from the scene but by coincidence, after submitting the puzzle, I saw a reference to him on a major expedition in Bonnington's Book "I Chose To Climb".

No less a judge than Don Whillans described him as the best climber he had ever known, with the possible exception of Joe.

### **This month's puzzle.**

The Roches were a hive of activity on a fine Bank Holiday, even more so because the cash crazed local authority, revelling in rural parking revenue, were rumoured to be issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone standing still, this being deemed to be obstruction. A pair of climbers, unable to find a recognised route free, attempted an improbable traverse. The leader, who weighed 180lbs with his equipment, moved across for 45 ft. and then inserted his ultra expensive hi tech belaying device (rumoured by its detractors to be virtually irrecoverable). After a further 45ft. of horizontal progress the predictable fall took place. Fortunately, the leader, with space below him, was arrested by the rope and running belay before hitting either the ground or an obstruction. What was the highest instantaneous force to which the running belay was subjected? (The rope, for the purposes of this puzzle only, may be assumed to have a 4000lb. breaking load at 45 percent extension).

### **Membership List 2019**

With this newsletter you will receive the current membership list. Please note that the list is confidential, it should be used only for the purpose of contacting fellow members and should never be passed on to anyone else. All previous versions should be deleted/destroyed.

Please check your own contact information to ensure it is correct. If you wish to amend it in any way, remove it from the list, or have any other concerns about the use of your data please contact the Membership Secretary, Michael Hayes. 32 Hawthorne Drive, Thornton, Leicester, LE67 1AW. Tel. 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913. Email [michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com)

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