



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JULY - AUGUST 2019



Kevin Raisin-Moss about to start on Barad E1 on Trwyn Llwyd, St David's Head East. Pembroke. Photo courtesy of Spenser Gray.

Editorial

A two month issue to see us through the summer holidays. Let us hope we will, at last, get some summer weather before we all grow webbed feet and are no longer able to balance on small footholds.

New this month – the Club now has a budget for training individuals and groups – see pages 2 - 3.

For July there's a working party and a barbecue at Tan yr Wyddfa, a couple of Wednesday walks, and a 19 mile expedition in the Forest of Bowland. The Alpine meet is almost upon us – but for those staying home there are trips to Wales, the Yorkshire Dales and Swanage in August.

Write-ups include E-silly at Gogarth, Derbyshire rambles, nailed boots, and the Burton Mail's own take on our Club history – you will learn things you never knew!!!

More photos and tributes to Keith and Roy are included here. Further memories and contributions will be most welcome for the September issue.

2019 Meets List Spenser Gray

Additions and alterations from last month are highlighted in red.
Spenser Gray email: oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com

Forthcoming meets 2019

<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 Calver Peter Amour</i>
	12 th -14	<i>Forest of Bowland Walk Pam Storer</i>
	14th-4 Aug	<i>Alpine meet Otztal Spenser Gray</i>
	24	<i>Wednesday Day Walk Wirksworth</i>
<i>August</i>	2nd- 3	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa joint FRCC meet</i>
	14	<i>Wednesday Walk</i>
	16th-18	<i>Yorkshire Low Stern Emma Hayes</i>
	23rd-26	<i>Bank Holiday Swanage Gill Radcliffe</i>
	28	<i>Wednesday Day Walk Monyash Stuart Firth</i>
<i>September</i>	6th -8th	<i>Gogarth Valley of the Rocks campsite Neil Thompson</i>
	11	<i>Wednesday Walk</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 th - 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 th -16	<i>Bullstones Dave Helliwell</i>
	21 Dec-1 Jan	<i>Christmas/New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson</i>

Training opportunities

The club now has a budget to support members who wish to improve their climbing/mountaineering skills. (A recommendation of the Forward Thinking Group Report.) £500 has been set aside for the current year.

The money is available to:

- subsidise courses to improve members' personal skills eg belaying, trad climbing techniques, self rescue, navigation etc.
- support members who regularly climb with novices by bringing them up to

date with current best practice.

- Set up instruction for groups of members wishing to learn a particular skill (anchor building, leading, safety and best practice etc). The club would engage a suitably qualified individual to provide instruction. This would be subsidised by the club, providing a lower cost to members than booking onto a course as individuals, but would not leave the instructor significantly out of pocket.

If you have identified a course you wish to attend as an individual please tell the Secretary, Simon, brief details for consideration by the committee.

Simon Pape email simon.pape66@gmail.com

If you would like to join a group of members to learn some new skills please contact any member of the committee to discuss the options and register your interest. We will try to group people together and put you in touch with a friendly instructor.

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 walks will take place for the duration of the summer season. (Dates and venues below).

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 group (to send a message email 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.

Wednesday Walks

Here's the latest list for Wednesday Walks.

Those starting at 13:45, are afternoon / evening walks with the possibility of meeting les grimpers at a post-climbing pub.

Those starting at 10:00 are full day walks; see Newsletter for refreshment opportunities. If there is no designated leader, just turn up and decide the route on the day.

Offers to lead "tba" walks will be gratefully received.

Date	Time	Leader	Venue	Details
10 Jul	13:45	Peter Amour	Derwentwater Arms, Calver	See Newsletter
24 Jul	10:00	Turn up and plan	Wirksworth Heritage Centre Cafe	31 St John's St Wirksworth DE4 4DS
14 Aug	13:45	tba	Black Swan	Idridgehay see newsletter
28 Aug	10:00	Stuart Firth	Bull's Head Café	Monyash see newsletter
11 Sep	13:45	tba	Hurt Arms	Ambergate
25 Sep	10:00	Derek Pike	tba	tba
09 Oct	13:45	tba	tba	tba
23 Oct	10:00	tba	tba	tba

Stuart Firth: 07977 458048, stuartmfirth@btinternet.com

3-5 July Tan yr Wyddfa working party Snod Helliwell

It's that time of year again! Time to give our hut a bit of TLC and have some fun in the mountains as well. There's cleaning, painting and gardening to be done. Some Health and Safety jobs, the rainwater drainage over the front porch to be improved and the gap between the new cooker and worktop to be filled in. Plus the stair carpet promised for last year.

Hope to see you there. Snod.

Book in with me by email fingertipdave@outlook.com or phone and leave me a message on 01298 812753.

6-7 July Tan -Yr-Wyddfa BBQ Tony Howard

Summer in North Wales: the very phrase brings back memories of hot and sticky days walking the hills or climbing in 'The Pass' or Tremadog, baking at Gogarth, or best of all - pleasant afternoons hiding from the heat on Cynr Las, Cloggy, Craig Yr Ysfa, Llech Ddu, or Lliwedd.

The weather will be brilliant (straight face here) and on Saturday night we will be having a BBQ. You should bring your own food and drink. I will provide some BBQ machines and fuel.

If you want to come along, please let me know ASAP.

Please note that this meet will be immediately preceded by Snod's Working Party Meet from the 3rd to the 5th July. Do both!

Tony Howard email tony.howard46@btinternet.com Tel: Home 01332 273307

Mobile: 07762 268181

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

Saturday 13 July The Wild Walk Challenge - Wolf Fell and Fiendsdale Pam Storer

This is a magnificent walk over wild upland country exploring the bleak fells and deep valleys of the Forest of Bowland.

The plan is for a one day 19 mile challenge for the super fit on the Saturday. We will base ourselves at a camp site a few miles out of Chipping or the motorhome site in Chipping. This will depend on who takes part. If folks would contact me, I am prepared to make the bookings and to organise a back up.

For the more leisurely walkers, the walk could be done over two days if we have enough folks to organise return transport to the campsites. So please get in touch soon if you would like to join us so we can firm up the plans.

Pam Storer tel. 07584 493349 email pam_storer@hotmail.com

14 July – 4 August Alpine Meet Austria Spenser Gray

This year the Oread Mountaineering Club will be visiting the Otztal valley in Austria. 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-](https://www.needlesports.com/2699/products/oetztales-alps.aspx)

[alps.aspx](https://www.needlesports.com/2599/products/stubai-alps-and-south-tirol.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/tztal-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 - 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%FCChrer-%F6tztaler%20alpen-1123.htm> <https://www.rother.de/rother-alpenvereins-%20und%20gebietesf%FCChrer-stubaier%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 **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&z=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&z=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.htm> 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. Spenser Gray: Mobile 07534821500 Email oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com

2-3 August Joint FRCC and Oread Tan yr Wyddfa Spenser Gray

If you are feeling at a loose end, having just got back from the Alpine meet, or are an eager beaver because you didn't get to go away this year come and have fun and meet some new people in our very own hut!
Spenser Gray: Mobile 07534821500 Email oreadmcmeeets@gmail.com

14 August Wednesday Walk

Meet at 13:45 at The Black Swan Idridgehay for a 14:00 departure. As it's school holidays, this might be a good opportunity to introduce your kids / grandkids to the delights of Derbyshire's countryside. Depending on who turns up, we could head for the viewpoint of Alport Height or an ice cream at Carsington. We'll make it up as we go along. The climbers will likely call in for a drink or meal after their vertical exertions. If anyone would like to volunteer to lead, please let me know.
Stuart Firth: 07977 458048, stuartmfirmth@btinternet.com

16-18 August Yorkshire Low Stern Emma Hayes

Lowstern is a spacious and well equipped modern hut in a lovely spot half a mile from Clapham village, North Yorkshire.

It is a great area with something for everyone – climbing, hill walking, mountain biking and caving. I'm hoping to get onto some of the sport climbing at Malham, Gordale, Thieves Buttress etc. Plus there are many trad limestone outcrops in easy reach eg Crummackdale and Twistleton Scars. The energetic can tackle the classic Three Peaks walk - 24 miles, three peaks, and 12 hours to complete the circuit of Pen-y-ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside.

Grid reference 736691. Lowstern is on the B6480 Clapham to Bentham road, a quarter of a mile from the junction with the A65 (Clapham bypass). The cottage is in a small plantation on the south side of the road and is approached through double gates and up a short track.

<http://www.yrc.org.uk/yrcweb/index.php/huts/lowstern>

To book your place contact Emma Hayes Tel. 07879 446441 email emma.hayes06@gmail.com

23-26 August Bank Holiday weekend to Swanage

Gill Radcliffe

I have booked Acton Field campsite in Langton Matravers, near Swanage (BH19 3BN) for the August bank holiday weekend. We have the option of arriving earlier and leaving later as well. The site caters for tents, campervans and motorhomes and we can pitch as a group. I will be arriving on Thursday to secure an area for the Oread. The tides are favourable over the BH weekend; some of the climbing is within walking distance of the site and the village pub is just down the road.

Please let me know if you intend to come so I can secure enough pitches on the site. Gill Radcliffe Tel: 07816 072138 Email: gill@farfields.co.uk

28 August Wednesday Walk Stuart Firth

Meet at 10:00 at the cafe in Monyash - next to The Bulls Head. Excellent bacon butties and apple cake... I plan to walk along Lathkill Dale and then across to Sheldon where there is an excellent pub - the Cock and Pullett. (No sniggers at the back of the class please). It's then just a short stagger back to Monyash where we could finish with a pint or a cuppa.

Stuart Firth: 07977 458048, stuartmfirth@btinternet.com

6-8 September Gogarth Neil Thompson

If you are inspired by Roger's tale of derring do in this month's issue then this could be the meet for you! Plenty of less ambitious routes are also available on the sea cliffs and inland on Holyhead Mountain. We will be camping again at the delightful Valley of the Rocks campsite, Portdafarch Road, Trearddur Bay, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2LL. Tel: 01407765787. Booking isn't really necessary unless

you need electric hook up for which space is limited. Excellent food and beer is to be had on site at the Paddler's Return. More details next issue.
Neil Thompson Tel 07885 637504 email ntntansley@hotmail.com

27-29 September Clwyd Limestone Derek Pike

I have been fortunate with the weather for the last few occasions that I have run this meet so I am hoping that the weather gods will not desert me. This is basically a climbing meet but as there are Oreads who may prefer a long walk to a pub or just a wander around the beautiful Dee Valley you will be made very welcome.

We shall be camping, caravanning or motor homing at the Carrog Station campsite some seven and a half miles west of Llangollen just off the A5. [S.J. G.R. 116436]. This site has all the usual facilities plus its own railway station and the Grouse Inn is five minutes walk away where I shall be found on the Friday evening sampling the beer.

You will need to book your own pitch direct with the site, I have told them we are coming, mention Oread or my name so that we may all be together. Their large rally field will not be available this summer so space may be at a premium, so if you wish to come I was advised by the owners to book as soon as possible.

Carrog Station Campsite- enquiries@stationcampsite.com
01490 430347 mobile 07977211046

Post Code LL219BD

The current climbing guide to the area is the Rockfax 2015 Clwyd Limestone by Mark Glaister and Lee Proctor.

Hope to see you all there.

For any more info you can e-mail me: derepike1234@btinternet.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 10th 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 11th to the 21st

Come and join us for a fantastic holiday.
 For more information and to book onto the meet please contact me.

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

Copy deadline for next issue is 22 August.

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!

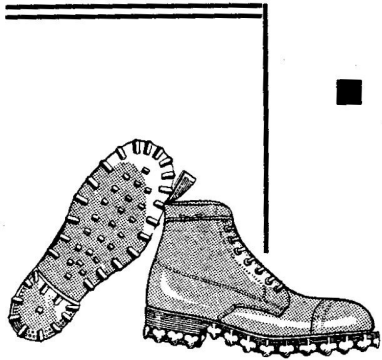
Paul Gardiner writes:

There have been a number of pictures recently showing people in nailed boots. Researching something recently I came across this advice in my 1950 Brassington Guide.

No two climbers agree as to the relative merits and difficulties of a climb. The gradings given in this Guide may be thought to be a little higher than the climb warrants, in some cases; but on magnesian limestone the breakage of a hold quickly alters the nature of a route, and the majority of the climbs are steadily becoming harder as time goes on.

All the gradings are given for a climber using nailed boots. Rubbers simplify a good many of the routes, but all have been done in nails. Two of the routes, in fact, have not yet yielded to rubbers so far as is known. Tricouni-nailed boots give an admirable grip, but are damaging to the routes. It is recommended that, for the future, the use of boots should be as far as possible avoided. Only thus will the fragile holds be preserved.

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News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Oread 70th Anniversary



This article appeared in the Burton Mail on 20th May and is reprinted here with their kind permission. Thanks to Dave Wright for sending a copy for the newsletter.

Wednesday Day Walk 29th May Peter Amour

Mr Firth had gone north to seek sea kayaking around Cape Wrath abandoning the booted to their own fate. I arrived at Heathy Lea early, gave it quick look over, and was impressed at the hut's new facilities. After a short wait I walked to the roadside to aid newcomer Tom Wheildon in finding the place. Soon a new face was pulling alongside me and smiling, which was more than I was doing as three cars and an HGV were on target to help Tom park..... with some prompt hand signals all was OK.

Within minutes two became five when Phil and Yvonne Waterson and John Gwyther arrived.

I threw a suggestion into the pot, and with no opposition or alternatives we were on towards The Robin Hood to then make our way down and across the Sheffield Road and climb to meet the Baslow Edge track that comes up from the village. By way of a change the Edge was avoided and our route took us steadily descending to Calver Village with all of us noticing the unusual small stone cottage with its round corbelled stone roof. Nosh was taken on the village green by the Bridge Inn with free entertainment provided by a young woman demonstrating the finer points of robustly shunting the vehicle behind when pulling out of her spot. The entertainment was all ours, especially when we insisted she left a note on the victim's car screen.

We had choices with regard to the return leg, go via a ridge track toward Hassop and then cut back to Baslow, however as rain was forecast later in the day we followed the Derwent Valley to Bubnell. In Baslow an unnamed hut custodian took us on a route (sign said "Walkers no through route"), through a caravan park in the village. Once well committed and with things looking hopeless we found a locked boundary wall door into Chatsworth's grounds, at the same instant as we tried the secured latch the sound of a key turning was heard and hey presto! someone by pure chance was using the opening from the other side - you're a jammy devil Mr Waterson! As the trek ended the sensation of rain spots were being felt, so all's well that ends well eh?

Oread Plaques

Derek Pike has recently completed making these magnificent plaques to adorn our huts.



Derek writes:

“The idea for the plaques came, if I remember correctly, from a casual conversation with our President and Ruth.

Ruth provided a digital copy of the Oread badge on which the plaques are based. The plaques are gravity cast aluminium 10"x7" (multiply by 25.4 for those of a metric persuasion).

A wooden pattern was made from 3/16" thick plywood glued together with PVA. The rope surround was made from 5/16" diameter polypropylene rope glued on by epoxy resin. The first pattern used a rope that proved to be too soft and hairy so was scrapped.

Many thanks to Manor Foundry of Ilkeston for turning out such a good job.”

Positron E5 Gogarth Roger Gibbs



The best day weather wise was forecast to be Tuesday, so the boys scored a full day pass. There had been lots of rain overnight, and it was a cold, overcast morning. We cycled from the campsite and locked the bikes up at South Stack car park. There was no hurry as we walked in, the crag is notorious for early morning grease. When Main Wall hove into view, the yellow limestone looked disturbingly dark. Was it wet? We scrambled up the rocks above the gearing up spot to check. It felt ok. Could we make out our route? It seemed to be obscured by the pinnacle and the angle of the crag, but some of the headwall around that sector looked wet. We dithered, then finally decided to go for it. A ritual first: paper, scissors, stone for the big pitch. Round one was a tie, but I went stone round two and my fist was swallowed up by Chris' paper. I didn't know whether to be hacked off or relieved.

We geared up and scrambled down to the sea level traverse. We had enough clothes for mid-winter, not the late May bank holiday, the wind whistled around us and the sea was lively.

Down at sea level, we were a little more sheltered, but we kept the belay jacket. Off across the traverse to the pinnacle, where the wave washed footholds were still being wave washed. Had we got the tide times wrong?

Up close, it was clear that some of the crag was definitely wet. Was it time for plan B? Chris decided to nip around for a look while I pondered other options. Shedding harness, rack and rope, he timed his dash in order to stay dry. A few minutes later he returned with a grin – we were on! Peering anxiously at the waves, I tried to time my dash with a period of calm and managed to get around to the high platform without getting wet. Above me a deceptively benign looking, grey slabby wall reared up, before the view of the rest of the route was blocked by overhangs. At least if all looked dry. Now for that favourite Gogarth pastime of trying to work out exactly where the line went. A couple of seals bobbed up to have a look, but despite being locals they weren't much help.

Chris set off, got a couple of runners on and came down for a rest. It was steeper than it looked. Back on and a little shuffle right got him on to the right line and then across steeply to the arête. He contorted his frame around, filling every available runner slot and then launched up and over the overlap before belaying. My turn, and it's immediately clear why Chris had stepped back down for a breather – everything slopes and it is steep! I burl up past the flake and over to the arête non-rest, flipping out the gear. Perched on the "ramp" I get increasingly pumped, battling to extract the remaining runners. Finally they relent and I can contemplate the stiff pull to get up to the belay. Chris points out the good hold and I launch upwards. Phew. That was the easy pitch.

We sort the (massive) rack and I contemplate the next overlap. This is supposed to be the technical crux and I'm not without those butterflies. A few abortive up and down manoeuvres pass by, climbing back down to pant on the belay each time. The sun comes out. Chris suggests a right hand guppy, instead of the left, patiently explaining why it will work better. I try it. It works. Shit, now I'm committed. With rubbish flared jams for my hands, I try to relax on my feet and calm my breathing down a bit. The promised good runners are an age coming. Right, now for the awkward traverse. I peer down and left. Peering some more, footholds appear. Only mildly terrified, I teeter across. A long stretch with my left lands me on an ok side pull but not the stonking jam I was hoping for. More teetering on small footholds. A little voice inside my head tells me I had better not drop this now. The good runners are out of sight around the arête. Gently, I ease further left into the groove of Alien. I'm in balance but surrounded by rubbish rock. Runners and some gentle handling of the rock in the groove see me up to a more comfortable bridged position. I tie off a rotting peg. One more move, real runners and easy moves to a comfortable stance. Just the big pitch to go then, and Chris will take care of that.

A little later, a pair of bulging eyeballs appear.

"Exciting," I observe, trying my best to be laconic.

"Blimey, I'm glad you got that pitch." Chris says, generously.

In no time, Chris has the rack, vaults over to the spike, grins and vanishes from sight. Later he told me he'd looked up at the main pitch, seen a vertical wall covered in big holds and thought it was going to be easy. The ropes ran out from my belay like they were attached to a mechanical hoist. In no time it was my turn. Chris had put a couple of runners in at the base of the wall and seemingly run it out most of the way to the roof. Bloody hell this is steep. I pant and gurn

but somehow stay attached. There's a stuck wire miles off to the right (in Skinhead Moonstomp). I pull up and stretch to the absolute limit to unclip the quickdraw. With so much blood in my brain it takes me a minute to realise that I haven't just dropped Chris' wire in the sea, it's still in situ. Big holds and wild moves lead across to under the famous overhang. I whip the gear out and stretch over for big holds. The pump is pressing. Finally I get stood up over the roof and breathe. A few more long moves and I can hug the spike in the groove of Dinosaur. I gaze back down the pitch. Maybe it's a bit shorter than the legends would say, but it's a stonker. Being gentle, so I don't lever off the spike, I make my way up to the belay. I've been staring at the picture in Extreme Rock of a youthful Basher Atkinson nonchalantly pulling around that overhang for about 30 years. I never really thought I'd be good enough. Shame I lost the toss, but give it a few years to forget the terror and maybe I'll be back. Maybe.

I had a good, long, sit down rest on the belay ledge. Chris offered to do the top pitch, but surely I could manage this?

"It's only about 4b, isn't it?" he asked.

"Erm, no it's 5c," I replied. I wondered what "maintains interest" was going to mean.

I set off. My arms were tired and the steep, black wall was as advertised, fortunately it was also well protected and short. I stepped right into a steep groove system. Peering up, the rock ran out and the grass took over. Damn, I was too far right. Nervously, I welded a good runner or two in to the back of the groove and stepped down. Up again, into the correct groove this time, my arms were complaining loudly. A runner. Lots of rope drag. Chris suggested going back to remove the runners in the wrong groove. No chance. Making three moves up and two back down to rest I battled on. I could have killed for the spare cams I'd left in my sack. A crack smiled for a bomber rock 4. I began to think I might survive this after all. A move that should be easy felt desperately pumpy. Back down for a rest. I plotted the moves to get stood up on decent feet with a fat undercut for balance. Another runner. Finally the groove relented. I was up. We had done Positron.

Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

3-5 July	Oread Working Party D Helliwell
5-6 July	Oread Barbecue meet Tony Howard
18-21 July	J Vivian whole hut
2-4 August	FRCC joint meet
9-10 August	Fylde MC
13-14 September	Scunthorpe MC 9 beds

HEATHY LEA

12-13 July	Bedford MC
26-27 July	Vertigirls
9-10 August	Scunthorpe 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: **179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA**
Mobile 07771 700913. Email: 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

Michael and Helen Hayes have a new address: 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA.

Welcome to new full members Ellie Rickman, Michael Goold and Daljit Bhogal. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

An application for full membership has been received from Chris Haines. If you would like to comment on this application please contact a member of the committee.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Tony Howard with his knee injury and James Clarke who has broken his foot on the High House meet. Hope you will soon both be back in action.

Keith Gregson: a myriad recollections 1967-2019 Rock Hudson

Within months of meeting, Keith and I found ourselves compatible, in all aspects of mountaineering, lifestyle, interests – to name but a few. Over the years we did routes from the South West of England all the way to the North West Highlands, on our own or with the club, in all weathers – watching the sun sink in the west, fighting a blizzard on Tower Face. Keith never struggled on V.S. routes but was not motivated to up his grade. After the Wednesday evening meet fish and chips were obligatory. Two fish and chips were ordered, and duly appeared. “What the hell is **that??**” he said when they appeared in polystyrene trays. In strong words he informed the staff that he expected them wrapped in newspaper – the Yorkshire Post!

Keith attended the Alpine meet for years during which he climbed in most of the ranges from Mont Blanc to the Bregaglia. Chamonix Aiguille, Brenva Face of

Mont Blanc, North Face of the Gran Paradiso and Piz Roseg, Right hand Pillar of the Piz Palu, long high altitude traverses on mixed terrain. Pitch after pitch on the Badile passed in a blur. The descent was slower, after meeting two lost climbers, helping them – and in return several bottles of “fine” wine were drunk. All these routes were done with “flexi” crampons, non technical axes and no ice pegs. Keith had a good eye for route-finding so no need for a bivvy on any route! A year in Oregon (U.S.A.) provided the opportunity for climbing and visits to the local mountains – and over the years to other locations.



Left: Keith on the Badilekante. Right: East Pillar of the Piz Palu. August 1975.

Keith was a true Yorkshireman, born and bred, which gave rise to idiosyncratic beliefs. The only real beer was brewed in Yorkshire while lager could not be classed as a beer. No coffee was drunk -it being foreign, tea coming from the County. Rhubarb was a native plant, hence the extensive forests in his native county. A firm believer that Yorkshire was God's Own Country and even that it is the centre of the universe. Perhaps his PhD proved this?!

Keith's mountaineering activities were curtailed due to illness but not his longing to be in the mountains, on the crag, or out with the Oreads, holding a pint and planning further adventures. Even walks became strolls, more local, a halt in the pub more welcome and recollections more vivid. For company he joined a choir and took up painting. His mental faculties were not impaired, working his way

through Sir Isaac Newton's Principia Mathematica (to Keith maths was just the language of numbers). He even proved to himself Albert Einstein's work on Relativity.

On our last meeting, only a short time before his death, how he so enjoyed being led up the Long Climb on Rainster Crag.

To Oreads, may the following bring back memories of Keith while carrying out any activities.

“Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints on snow.”



Keith on the North Face of the Piz Roseg in 1979 - only another 650 m. to the ridge!

Roy Sawyer 1945 – 2019: an appreciation by Ron Chambers

I first met Roy in 1960 at the then Derby Tech. where we were both First Year Apprentice Plumbers. We found we had a common interest in "the great outdoors" and started going out into the Peak District hill walking and camping. At first we had to use public transport but eventually passed our driving tests and chipped in together to buy a very old ex-plumber's van for £15. This enabled us to venture further afield, visiting places like North Wales and the Lake District.



Roy and I eventually started rock climbing around 1966 with little idea and no guidebook! Eventually the inevitable happened and Roy fell off the Crow's Nest at Birchen's Edge (we had no idea it was V.S.) and ended up in Chesterfield Hospital with a fractured pelvis. A little later I also fell off in a quarry close to where he and April lived in Little Eaton and escaped with a slightly damaged vertebra.

Fortunately, around this time I had got to know Nat Allen who worked at Ford & Weston Ltd where I was an apprentice. Upon hearing of our escapades he took us to meet the Oread M.C. where he said we would be "shown the ropes" by experienced climbers. We both joined the Club in March 1967.

Roy loved the mountains and in the 1970s, along with his wife, April, became a regular attendee on many of the club meets both in this country and abroad. I remember he turned up to one Alpine meet on a scooter with April on the back!! He also owned a yacht at one time and sailed around North West Scotland but I never went with him so don't know much about these trips. Perhaps other Oread members may have stories about these adventures?

In latter years he started going out with the Oread Old Lads Thursday (some say Thirsty!!) walking team where he soon proved to be a popular addition to the group, entertaining everyone with his one-liners and a "joke for every occasion."



Roy was one of those larger than life characters that you rarely meet these days and will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege to call him a friend.

This photo from 1968 shows Derrick Burgess, Tom Green, Roy Sawyer and Dave Weston in snowy action. This, and the portrait above, were taken by Gordon Gadsby.

A tribute to Roy Sawyer. Digger Williams

Roy Sawyer was a fine man, generous to a degree and the life and soul of the party. He liked a get-together and would entertain us with his stories. He was a master of friendly kidology and good fun – and he had a very persuasive manner – good for getting things done.

He and Ron Chambers were plumbers by trade and did much work on the club huts – Tan yr Wyddfa and Heathy Lea too – to the benefit of Oread members over the years.

Roy joined the Oread in the 1960s and climbed with Ron Chambers and other Oreads to a high standard. I was with him when he climbed Mont Blanc in 1971 and on his last ascent of Y Garn in 2002.

After working at the LMS Derby Works for many years he was assigned to the assessment team of redundant railway property following the (dastardly) Beeching Report, and finally, after leaving, formed his family plumbing business. He was a welcomed member of the Thursday Walking Group. Also he bought a boat and loved sailing it around the sea lochs in Scottish waters. Being a landlubber I was not aboard but learned of the hilarious trips with many Oread friends.

Roy was very much a family man and good husband of his lovely wife, April, who was also a member of the O.M.C.

Unfortunately he became seriously ill in 2018 and was bedridden for several weeks. After chemotherapy treatment he made a very good recovery, nearly back to his old self. We all hoped this would have lasted but sadly his illness returned and he died in hospital. Throughout his illness he never lost his humour and humanity and his resolve to be once again walking with the lads.

Roy, we shall remember you with affection and respect.

Roy Sawyer: a personal memory. Jan Wilson

Unlike many of you my principle encounters with Roy were relatively recent and involved much fun and games with very young potential Oreads. The first time we met I arrived for a kids' weekend at Heathy Lea with my young niece and nephews on an adventure. We arrived to find Roy in residence with the charming little Bea, his granddaughter, who must have been around four years old. He was quite apologetic about being there as he had turned up on spec not realising about my booking. Needless to say the charm of the man and little Bea meant we hit it off straight away and he proceeded to make a most memorable adventure for all four children. We scrambled, walked and played some fantastic games Roy just pulled from his extensive memory bank of what hits the funny bone for young children. It was clear he was totally brilliant with youngsters combining fun with the ability to keep control whilst allowing them to try new skills. The evening continued with an eclectic meal we put together followed by more silly games. I believe it rained but we didn't really notice.

After such a smashing introduction it was agreed we do Neil's Oread kids meet which we attended for a few years. The mayhem evolved with a most memorable improvised jamming session led by Roy and his son where the kids had to compose the words moving around the room from one to the next. The lyrics were insane. Games, climbing, walking, barbeques with various Oreads and friends in attendance where always Roy was at the centre of creating much hilarity for all of us. My particular favourite was a game where the you had to speak without showing your teeth called "Show us your teeth Keith". Give it a try talking without showing your teeth and I promise it will bring a smile to your face while you think of Roy's more mad cap inventions.

Roy also had his serious side and it was clear from our conversations he was a man of utter integrity. He cared passionately about his family and wanted to give his grandchildren the experiences money can't buy. He loved the outdoors, was kind and generous and believed in doing his bit for others. He gave time and expertise to the Oread through his work at Heathy Lea. He gave my niece and nephews (and I'm sure many other children) a priceless introduction to climbing and outdoor activities which they will remember throughout their lives.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:

The answer to the puzzle was the Lyke Wake Walk. The features in mind when the clues were formulated were Fylingdales, Robin Hood's Bay and Heartbeat, Correct replies were received (in chronological order) from your editor Ruth, regular correspondent Roger Chapman and Uschi. President Snod whose appellation I occasionally confuse with Vlad (the impaler) clearly had a good geographical grasp of the clue solutions, but tendered the coast to coast walk which is inadmissible as it has never been done as an Oread meet. Founder member Paul Gardiner was present at the first walk (the Oread did it twice) I do not recollect any others but my memory is fallible these days. Snod, on his blue tanked Panther, was clearly distracted by some weighty mental process when he

nearly collided with me just outside Longnor last Sunday afternoon.

This month's puzzle.



My friend Uschi, whom one dare not disobey, has expressed a preference for puzzles of a non-mathematical type, but I feel a certain loyalty to Digger, Roger and others with the contrary view so I am offering a two part puzzle this month.

Part 1 is to some extent a test of memory, and guesswork based on my perceived preferences. The image has I think appeared in the newsletter in the past. Where is the scene with its rocky protrudence situated? According to Google maps it is 467 road miles from Baslow, and 140 from Aviemore.

Part 2

The Oread's excellent hut renovation team had been sub contracted elsewhere to install some roof beams which were 15ft long and 4ins wide (I know some of

you cling doggedly to rods poles and perches but so be it). These beams were being moved to site on two trolleys and so had to travel horizontally. The approach route inside the building was along a corridor in which there was a right angled corner. It proved only just possible to negotiate this corner. What, to the nearest inch, was the width of the corridor?

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