



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020



Oreads enjoying the fireworks at Chatsworth: photo by Dave Hayden.

Editorial

As usual, this is a double issue to see us through until after the new year so all the forthcoming meets are in for the festive season and beyond: starting with next weekend's stage of the Boundary Walk, the Bullstones and assorted day walks through into February. There's a festive social at Heathy Lea, weekends in Wales and the Lake District, two Scottish winter meets and a hotel holiday in the Costa Blanca sunshine, and, looking ahead, a trip to Lofoten in the summer. Something in there for everyone – get them in your diary now!

Write-ups include lots of soggy walks, a bonfire night extravaganza and even a song for the benefit of those who did not hear it at the Dinner. Sadly we remember two absent friends in this issue who will be greatly missed, Margaret Foster and George Sutton.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and New Year. New Year's Eve parties are planned at both our huts – could it be your New Year's Resolution to become Meets Secretary – your club needs you – oh! and don't forget to pay your subs!

From the Meets Working Group

The Club needs a Meets Secretary! If anyone is interested (or knows someone who is interested but shy) please get in touch with me. It would be good to have somebody willing to take over at the next AGM (28th March 2020). Also if anyone would like to contribute to the meet program or has any views and would be willing to discuss these in a small group please get in touch with me.

However the meets program for 2020 is almost complete. We are still short of some meet leaders, particularly for Pembroke (camping) at Easter and the August Bank Holiday Meet. If you would like to lead one of these meets, or any other, please get in touch.

Nigel Briggs email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com tel. 07939 660369

Forthcoming meets 2019 – 2020

The meets program for the coming year is given here though regular mid-week walking and climbing meets are not included beyond February 2020.

Changes from last month are printed red.

Nigel Briggs. Email for Meets Secretary remains oreadmcmets@gmail.com

<i>November</i>	30	<i>PDBW Dave Helliwell</i>
<i>December</i>	3	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak</i>
	11	<i>Wednesday walk Eyam</i>
	11	<i>Black Rocks/Harborough night climb Rob Tresidder</i>
	13th -16	<i>Bullstones Dave Helliwell</i>
	20 -21st	<i>Heathy Lea Social Ben Wooler</i>
	21 Dec-1 Jan	<i>Christmas/New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson</i>
	26	<i>Boxing Day lunchtime meet at Miners Arms Brassington</i>
	31	<i>New Year's eve at Heathy Lea Dave Hayden</i>
<i>January</i>	1	<i>New Year's Day Walk Clive "Rusty" Russell</i>
	7	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak</i>
	8	<i>Wednesday Walk Rowsley</i>
	11th -13	<i>Kinlochleven Waters Cottage Nigel Briggs</i>
	18	<i>PDBW Hayfield – Glossop Sue Todd</i>
	24 -26	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa</i>
	31 – 2 Feb	<i>Karn House Aviemore Michael Hayes</i>
	3-15th	<i>Benidorm Derek Pike</i>
<i>February</i>	4	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak</i>
	5	<i>Wednesday Walk Eyam</i>
	15-16	<i>PDBW 2 stages with bunkhouse Stuart Firth</i>
	21st-23	<i>Stair Hut Charlie Taylor</i>
<i>March</i>	3	<i>Evening Lecture Royal Oak</i>
	6th -8	<i>Patterdale George Starkey hut Pippa Leach</i>
	14 -15	<i>PDBW 2 stages camping</i>
	20th - 22	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa Neil Weatherstone</i>
	28	<i>AGM</i>
	29	<i>Spring Stride</i>

<i>April</i>	<i>10th - 13</i>	<i>Easter Pembroke camping</i>
	<i>24 - 26</i>	<i>New Members' meet Heathy Lea Ben Wooler</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>8th - 10</i>	<i>Bank Holiday on 8th. Dartmoor camping</i>
	<i>15-16</i>	<i>Ogwen Glan Dena Charlie Taylor</i>
	<i>23rd -31</i>	<i>Bank Holiday week. Kinlochewe Torridon camping Spenser Gray</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>6th-7</i>	<i>Heathy Lea Children's meet Neil Weatherstone</i>
	<i>6th- 7</i>	<i>High Moss Duddon Valley (awaiting confirmation)</i>
	<i>26-28</i>	<i>North Downs Way Pam Storer</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>7th -9</i>	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa working party Dave Helliwell</i>
	<i>10th -12</i>	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa barbecue meet Tony Howard</i>
	<i>25 -8 August</i>	<i>Alpine meet/Lofoten</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>1st - 8</i>	<i>Alpine meet</i>
	<i>14- 16</i>	<i>Wye Valley camping</i>
	<i>28-31</i>	<i>Bank Holiday weekend</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>11th - 13</i>	<i>Yorkshire Grit Manor House Farm camping</i>
	<i>20</i>	<i>PDBW</i>
	<i>25- 27</i>	<i>Little Langdale Fylde Hut Dave "Snod" Helliwell</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>2-4th</i>	<i>High House Borrowdale</i>
	<i>16th- 18</i>	<i>Cwm Eigeau Janet Briggs</i>
	<i>6</i>	<i>Evening meet Royal Oak</i>
	<i>10</i>	<i>PDBW</i>
	<i>30-31</i>	<i>Patterdale Bethan Cottage Meet leader needed</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Evening meet Royal Oak</i>
	<i>7</i>	<i>Bonfire meet Heathy Lea</i>
	<i>8</i>	<i>PDBW Chris Radcliffe</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Annual Dinner</i>
	<i>22</i>	<i>Post Prandial walk</i>
	<i>27th -29</i>	<i>Curry Meet Venue tba Tony Howard</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>Evening meet Royal Oak</i>
	<i>6</i>	<i>PDBW Paul Gardiner</i>
	<i>9</i>	<i>Black Rocks/Harborough night climbing</i>
	<i>11-13th</i>	<i>Bullstones</i>
<i>24-31</i>	<i>Christmas and New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa</i>	

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. Over the winter there is also a group at Wirksworth wall from 7-9.30 pm on Wednesdays, then adjourning to the Royal Oak, North St.

30 November Peak District Boundary Walk Peak Forest – Hayfield Dave “Snod” Helliwell

This section of the walk starts at Peak Forest. Turn right at the traffic lights on the A623, (travelling north) and park on the roadside near the old chapel - grid reference SK115 796. Daylight will be in short supply at this time of year so I

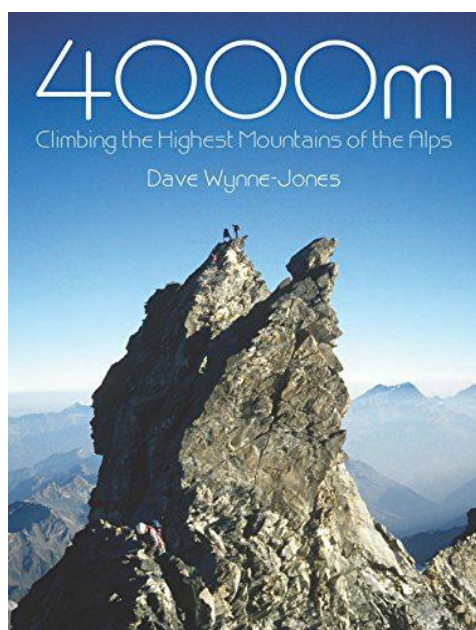
propose to set off at 10.15 am. The distance is just under 10 miles but there's quite a lot of up and down – 1326 feet of ascent, some of it very steep! It is a walk of contrasts – the first half – to Chapel en le Frith - is mainly on limestone farmland and is not well walked. When we approach Chapel I propose a slight deviation from the route as printed because there is an extremely boggy and unpleasant section to reach the A625. Instead I intend to divert into Chapel where we can buy hot bacon/sausage cobs and the like from our local grocer and have a brief pub stop. I shall be taking orders for cobs at the start and phoning the shop so they will be prepared for us. A short walk back to the A 625 will put us back on track for the second, contrasting half of the walk on the gritstone through fields and lanes to join the Pennine Bridleway, up over the moors via South Head and down into Hayfield.

We will have pre-placed cars in Hayfield to ferry drivers back, but there's plenty of pubs in Hayfield if people have to wait to be collected!

Any queries email me or phone and leave me a message, I'll get back to you.

Snod Helliwell tel 01298 812753 email fingertipdave@outlook.com

Tuesday 3 December 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



Dave Wynne -Jones will explain his quest to climb the 4000 m mountains of the Alps.

He describes his climbing and travelling amongst the Alps with stunning photography and action shots of climbing and informs us on the practicalities and distinctive features of alpine climbing. Copies of Dave's book, shown here, will be offered for sale on the night.
Rob Tresidder – text 07951 625378

Wednesday Walk 11 December

Meet Eyam Tea Room, The Square, Eyam S32 5RB. 10:00 for coffee, 10:30 departure. Lunch - Outside Cafe, Hathersage.

Wednesday 11 December Night Climbing Meet Rob Tresidder

The traditional Wednesday before Wednesday before Christmas meet will take place on 11 December. Many know the format but for those that don't we

traditionally gather after work at Black Rocks. Queen's Parlour chimney was for many years the route required to gain entry to the pub but the North face of the rocks has become so slimy (I blame the increase in atmospheric CO2) that many shift round to the West face and some creep off to Harborough and give Black Rocks a miss altogether!

Doubtless the walkers and cyclists will please themselves where and when they go. As I am not fit to climb or walk, I shan't be doing those bits but perhaps some strider will step forward on the emailing and suggest something.

After the walking and climbing I have arranged for us to be welcomed again by the Malt Shovel Inn, top o' Wirksworth: same team, same format. Be there before 8.00 pm if you want to eat.

Rob Tresidder – text 07951 625378

13-15 December Bullstones Snod Helliwell

This year's Bullstones is close to home and will take advantage of the newly refurbished Heathy Lea.

We will be meeting and eating in the Devonshire Arms at Peak Forest. Cars can be left on the lane to the right at the traffic lights on the A623, (travelling north) and near the old chapel - grid reference SK115 796. Last food at 21:00 hrs.

Closes at 23.00.

We will then set off up Perry Dale to bivvy in Eldon Hill Quarry with the farmer's permission. **Two important points:**

there is no water supply. Bring your own for a morning brew.

it is a quarry and there are steep drops. Plenty of flat camping space but don't step off into oblivion when you go out for a nocturnal pee!

Next morning Ruth's car will be available for dumping Bivvy gear and the route I have in mind is through Little Hucklow, Great Hucklow, Foolow to Eyam where lunch can be taken. From there round the back of Stoney to Calver and then along the river path to Baslow and Heathy Lea. Of course serious Bullstoners may think this a little tame and may want to go over Abney, down into Grindleford and along the river from there. If that's too easy up to Froggatt edge and along the edges back to Heathy Lea. Or go for it – over Mam Tor, follow the ridge to Ladybower and down all the edges! Sadly Ruth and I will not be able to join you as we need to light the fire at Heathy Lea and take cars to return the lame and infirm on Sunday!

Saturday night we will eat in the Robin Hood. I have 19 people booked. If you aren't among them you will have to try to book yourself in later or cook at the hut.

Sunday's return can be eased by a Hulleys bus from Baslow to Bakewell and, for those fit enough, along the Monsal trail. A nice return would be to get the Transpeak from Bakewell to The Waterloo at Taddington, down into Millers Dale then up Monks Dale, Peter Dale, Hay Dale and Dam Dale back to Peak Forest. Don't forget your bus passes. We will have two cars available to convey those on the injured list. They do a very good Sunday lunch at the Devonshire apparently!

Snod Helliwell email fingertipdave@outlook.com or phone and leave a message on 01298 812753.

Friday 20 December – Saturday 21 December Heathy Lea Xmas Social Ben Wooler

The first (and festive) monthly social meet at Heathy Lea. Meet at the hut on the Friday evening for festivities, beers, games, snacks, fire etc. then out on Saturday somewhere. Saturday's activity to be determined on the Friday night, hopefully it'll be dry and we can go tick off a few routes but if not we can always head inside somewhere (or find a pub?).

Feel free to make/bake something festive and don your most garish xmas attire, bonus points if you climb in it on Saturday...

Ben Wooler email benjaminwooler@gmail.com tel. 07929 528499

21 December – 1 January Christmas/New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson

Another year gone, so it's the last meet of the year. It's a very informal gathering so just turn up when it suits you, though most arrive after Boxing Day.

Don't expect good weather - just cold, damp, dull and wet conditions! However there's always a great social atmosphere - and hey - sometimes the sun has been known to shine upon sparkling snow! Ascents of Snowdon perhaps or slimy assaults on Christmas Curry or Canyon Rib are par for the course.

On New Year's Eve an informal "pot-luck" buffet supper is produced by all present. It has been deemed equally delicious and much better value than a £50 hotel job! We have a big cheesecake promised - bring what you fancy - somehow it always works out fine! Ask Ruth if you want to fine-tune the menu.

There may be indoor games - skittles, jenga and the like, and hours - or even days - may be spent in placing the last piece of a 10,000 piece jigsaw entitled "A Black Cat in an Unlit Cellar".

Book your bed nights with Michael Hayes as normal and let me or Ruth know if you are coming.

Rock tel. 0115 93330 or Ruth at alistair.ruth@btinternet.com Tel 01629 56636

26 December Boxing Day, Miners Arms Brassington

As is traditional, people will walk, cycle, run or stagger by their own preferred route to escape the family and meet up with friends for a convivial lunchtime/afternoon. They assure me they will be serving meals and sandwiches as well as beer and we will be very welcome.

31 December New Year's Eve at Heathy Lea Dave Hayden

Short of time - want to celebrate? A few of us 'young-ens' will be at Heathy Lea over new year. All welcome. If anybody else wants to drop in or stay over let me know so I can keep an eye on beds :)

Dave: email david.martin.hayden@gmail.com

1 January New Year's Day Walk Rusty Russell

On the rare occasions when I look in a mirror I neither look nor feel irreplaceable but it seems that no one else is available to put in place the minimal arrangements necessary for a New Year Walk. Accordingly I shall follow last year's plan and meet at Milldale (outside the cafe) for a fairly short walk to the Royal Oak at Wetton. Those who wish to do a little more than this minimal distance can then extend the route as they wish and meander round Wetton before entering the pub. Please arrive a few minutes before 11am so that we can actually start at 11, daylight being in short supply at this time of year. (The three dimensional geometry of the Earth's orbit which of course regulates light and dark was included in the conversation at the last walk, but no firm conclusions were recorded.) Rusty: email zrussell2@googlemail.com tel. 07895 761615

Tuesday 7 January 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Spenser Gray will present an illustrated account of last summer's alpine meet in the Ötztal range in Austria. So if you have not yet given him your pics, please do so asap.

8 January Wednesday Walk

Meet at Massarella's, Peak Village, Rowsley 10.00am for coffee. 10.30 departure.

10 -12 January Waters Cottage Kinlochleven Nigel Briggs

This is the first Scottish Winter meet of the year, based at Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven. The hut is ideally situated to allow access to the hills around Glencoe, the Ben or Aonach Mor as conditions allow. If all else fails the Ice Factor is close by, so something can be done whatever the conditions!

We have 8 beds booked at a cost of £12 per night (we may be able to secure more if these fill up). To guarantee your place prepayment of the hut fee is required (£24 pp for the weekend). Currently 6 beds have been taken, however we may be able to book more, so book your place quickly.

Nigel Briggs: email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com tel. 07939 660369

Saturday 18 January PDBW - Hayfield to Old Glossop Sue Todd

The walk starts at Hayfield bus station, Chapel Road, A624, (GR SK 036869) and finishes in Old Glossop at the Wheatsheaf Pub on Well Gate (GR SK 041948)

Distance - 9miles (14.5K) Ascent - 1,432' / 436m

We are now in the Dark Peak area and it is a hilly stage with some sharp slopes and long pulls, but, weather permitting, the effort will be rewarded with some stunning views from Lantern Pike, Cown Edge and Whiteley Nab. The end of the stage finds us walking through Manor Park into historic Old Glossop, with its lovely Parish church, quaint houses and three pubs!

The walk will start at 10.30 at Hayfield bus station where all-day parking costs £4.80. (Toilets available). Free roadside parking may be found in Hayfield Village on Market Street or on Church Street past the Packhorse Inn. Millie's Tea Room will be open before the start for a quick cuppa and cake. Open 9:00 -4.30. Alternatively, one can park at the end of the walk in Glossop and catch the 10:00 No 61 bus from Henry Street to Hayfield arriving 10:14 - at the start point of the walk. Convenient free parking is available at Corn Mill in Manor Park at the end of the stage – 10 minutes walk into Glossop. Access by leaving Glossop on the A57 along High Street East. Take the second exit at the five-way roundabout - along Corn Street.

Or free unrestricted street parking is available on the **west-bound** part of High Street West opposite Argos – 5 minute walk to the bus stop. (Be careful to park on the correct side of this busy road.)

For the return to Hayfield at the end of the day, at least one car will be available to ferry drivers. Alternatively, there is a No 61 bus at 17:00.

There is just one pub en route - The Little Mill Inn in Rowarth - a third of the way along. Soup and bread £4.95, posh bacon butty £8.95. Sheltered outdoor seating if you buy a drink... Could be a useful stop if the weather is inclement but a packed lunch is suggested.

The walk will take place in January and is mainly on exposed hills, so warm clothing, full waterproofs and stout footwear is essential. Remember bus passes. Hope to see you all on my inaugural meet!

Sue Todd email: sueltodd@hotmail.com tel.07931 609278

24 – 26 January Tan Yr Wyddfa

A mid January weekend at Tan Yr Wyddfa! You know what to expect – it could be mild with climbing at Tremadog or it could be full on Arctic conditions with the mountains in full winter condition or, more likely, somewhere in between! I can't guarantee anything about the conditions or weather, other than there will be some! What I can guarantee is a cracking weekend at our own hut with good company!

If you want to attend book your place with the Hut Bookings Secretary Michael Hayes. email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

31 January – 2 February Karn House Aviemore Michael Hayes

Taking advantage of our reciprocal rights with the FRCC we will once again be based at Karn House, the superb Fell and Rock Hut in Aviemore where we have 10 bed spaces booked so if you do want to join us then please let me know as soon as possible before they all go!

The weekend's activities will be guided by the weather and hopefully we will once again get some fantastic Scottish winter climbing and mountaineering done.



M. Hayes leading North Gulley Right Branch February 2019

Last year's trip was a typical Scottish weekend with Saturday restricted by high winds and deep snow but those same winds made Sunday's adventure on Lurchers a great day out with a wind-blasted face clear of powder and hard ice to play on.

If you need more information about the weekend / lift sharing etc or want to book onto the meet then please contact me. Michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

5 February Wednesday walk

Meet at the Village Green Cafe, The Square, Eyam S32 5RB 10.00am for coffee. 10.30 departure.

3-15 February Benidorm Derek Pike

This venue appears to be quite popular with the members of the Oread as the place offers something for everyone from dipping toes in the Med. to long days in the hills. We shall be staying at the Benilux Park Hotel [what again? you may ask]. It is on the list of package holidays offered by Jet2 which flies from East Midlands, Birmingham and Manchester to Alicante where you may pick up your hire car or take advantage of a coach transfer straight to the hotel.

I have already booked from the 3th February for 12 nights the cost of which was £820 for two in a twin bedroom, half board. Half board is breakfast and evening meal plus a bottle of wine, nobody has as yet gone hungry.

You do not have to come on these exact dates as Oreads come and go to suit themselves some staying for only a week others ten days.

If you want any more info my email is derekpike1234@btinternet .com or you may phone 01332 670459.

14 -16 February Peak District Boundary Walk Stuart Firth

Saturday – Old Glossop to Greenfield: Distance 10 miles (16k); Ascent 1576ft (480m)

Sunday – Greenfield to Marsden: Distance 10.6 miles (17k); Ascent 1959 ft (597m)

Overnight Bunkhouse Accommodation available Friday and Saturday nights.

We are now over halfway through the Peak District Boundary Walk but it is certainly not “downhill all the way to the finish”. Being in the Dark Peak and further away from home, this double section passes through some spectacular high moorland scenery and includes sections of the Pennine Bridleway and the Pennine Way.

To reduce travel time from home base, convenient overnight bunkhouse accommodation has been booked at the Boarshurst Centre, Boarshurst Lane, Greenfield, Oldham OL3 7EA. (www.boarshurstcentre.org) There are options to stay Friday night, Saturday night, both or neither. Those wishing to do only one stage are welcome and a DIY communal meal will be organised for Saturday night. Other meals – bring your own or there are local pubs that do evening meals.

The start of Saturday’s stage will be at 10:30 am from the free car park at Corn Mill in Manor Park, Glossop SK13 7SH. Access by leaving Glossop on the A57 along High Street East. Take the second exit at the five-way roundabout - along Corn Street.

The end of Saturday’s stage and the start of Sunday’s (10:00am) will be at the Boarshurst Centre.

The end of Sunday’s stage will be near the Riverhead Brewery Tap in Marsden. Good café and ice cream parlour nearby. The hourly Transpennine Express train service will return us to Greenfield in 7 minutes! (16:39 or 17:39) Or No 84 bus at 15:06 taking 27 minutes.

Facilities at the Centre are excellent. Pillows and pillow cases are provided; bring your own bedding and a mattress cover – sheet or blanket.

I need to confirm numbers to the Boarshurst Centre so please let me (or Janet Briggs) have a £10 deposit by the end of January. There are 32 bed-spaces available so this is a great opportunity to introduce friends to the joys of the Oread. I also need to organise the communal meal so please let me know if you would like to contribute some culinary expertise and any dietary requirements. Bring your own booze and packed lunches.

The walks are on exposed hills so warm clothing, full waterproofs and stout footwear are essential. Maps OL1 Dark Peak and OL21 South Pennines; Peak District Boundary Walk publisher Friends of the Peak District.

Stuart Firth: email stuartmfirth@btinternet.com tel.07977 458048

21 -23 February Stair Hut Lake District Charlie Taylor

The Club's first Lake District meet of the year sees a return to the spacious and modern Fylde M.C. Hut at Stair near Keswick. This is on a Hut swap basis, so at £5 a night for a weekend in the Lakes how can you resist? The hut is ideally located for Catbells, Dale Head and Borrowdale and the Western fells. A wealth of walking and climbing is available on the doorstep. For those wishing to travel a short distance Buttermere is just a few miles up the road.

To book a place, please e-mail charlie.taylor30@gmail.com or call/text me on 07879 523522.

Lofoten July 2020 Derek Pike

Since the last note to go out there have been some positive signs, at least two parties in campervans are definitely going around the second half of July, with two others intending to go in their vans, these are parties where time is not an issue. Anyone intending to fly, we have two members interested, will have to camp [note weather can be variable] or, a better option, book some accommodation. **This will need to be booked, the sooner the better, preferably before Christmas.** For those who fly there is a weight limit of 15kg, so I am prepared to carry out some of the heavier climbing gear; another option is by rail. As this is a trad climbing venue with long multi pitch routes you may need a lot of gear; details can be found in the Rockfax guide to the islands. There is also some bolt clipping I believe and some nice little peaks to walk up apart from the beautiful scenery.

If you are interested please contact me at derepike1234@btinternet.com or 07876 238312

Copy deadline for next issue is 20 January.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

A Midweek Monsal Dale Meander 23rd October Peter Amour

In misty conditions the Wednesday Wander saw Stuart Firth, John Gwyther, John Green and myself assemble at Monsal Head. Booted and 'sacked we dropped down to the footbridge in the dale below and followed the brisk flow of the Wye's waters. As the sound of the A6 became audible the course turned sharp right to climb through coppiced woodland towards Brushfield using a combination of bridle and footpaths. A coffee stop was demanded at the pocketed old mine workings of High Field before making for lower terrain, and the historic, disreputable Litton Mill, now converted to apartments. With the Wye's swollen waters swirling by we made our way though Water Cum Jolly Dale and took refreshments by Cressbrook Mill in bright conditions. A northerly course then took to tarmac before branching off to enter the wooded southern section of Cressbrook Dale which was showing it's autumn tones.

Climbing out the dale heading for Wardlow, Stuart called a meeting of the assembled to consider possibilities and options for future Wednesday meets - should the bi monthly programme continue or be a single monthly occurrence? Should the afternoon/evening trek idea be abandoned as the aim of meeting with the club's climbers post activity had for various factors had been difficult to achieve? Views were given that split the group on the frequency question by 50/50, and that the afternoon/evening walk/pub meet up had been rather unsuccessful and may be discontinued. It was agreed that further consideration be given to the subject.

On resuming mobility we passed through Wardlow and crossed its main road to take to the zig-zagging tracks over Longstone Moor, and finally onto pasture to Little Longstone and Monsal Head.

Thanks everybody for joining me over a rewarding part of the national park in nice conditions, cheers Peter.

Bonfire Night Heathy Lea 2 November led by Dave Hayden



Oh how it rained! Never would a bonfire light! With sinking hearts your Hon. Ed. and Snod set out for Heathy Lea to find a roomful of Oreads and friends huddled round the log burner which was reluctant to burn! But soon it was coaxed into life and wondrous smells began to waft from the kitchen as Doug produced bowl after bowl of delicious soup.

Thus fortified we all set out to walk over the fields to Chatsworth. The going was soft to say the least but the rain had stopped and it was a pleasant night.



To my surprise there were no security guards stopping people getting into the park and quite a crowd was gathering to enjoy the fireworks for free from an excellent viewpoint on the bridge. Sadly there wasn't a breath of wind so the smoke didn't disperse, leaving the big rockets to emerge atmospherically from the clouds. Once the show was over we headed back, we oldies being wimps and returning by road rather than face the soggy fields again.

Back at the hut Dave H made a heroic attempt to get the bonfire lit. Petrol and firefighters failed to persuade it to burn – but did dry the wood out a bit and the second fire, aided by more petrol and a shovelful of burning coals from the stove, took hold and yes! We have a bonfire! We retreated to the hut and ate a superb chilli provided by James and Nigel proved himself to be the "Gannet of the Oread" by eating

three helpings.

Then it was time to get round the fire, now blazing merrily. Dave M and Lianne carried up two great trays of the stickiest toffiest pudding I have ever tasted - of which Nigel had at least four helpings. Snod couldn't bear to miss out on the chance of doing something dangerous so he let off the "President's Treat" (Aldi's best) fireworks at very close quarters, bouncing them off the trees at daring angles in the time-honoured fashion. Then it was time to get the marshmallows and the chestnuts roastingat which point we realised it was midnight and did a Cinderella, departing for home before the Panda turned into a pumpkin, leaving the young team to party on into the small hours.

What a fun and different celebration - congratulations to all the chefs and to Dave for organising such a great night. Writ by your Roving Reporter, Ruth.

Winding Up, Down and Around The Wye. Led by Stuart Firth Wednesday, 13th November

Communications had been ongoing for the 24 hours that preceded the walk about the validity of flood warnings in and around the intended Ashford In The Water rendezvous point. Ultimately, having seen from his hilltop above the town, Matlock flooded and four hundred and twenty roly-poly straw bales floating in not-so-stately succession down the river...Stuart's words were "Go to Monsal Head to avoid problems".



Wye Valley vista overlooking Ashford. Photo Chris Radcliffe.

The meet leader and Sue Todd were met by myself, John Gwyther and the now celebrated in song Chris Radcliffe. (See page 17.) On departing the cars Stuart urged us to meet on the viaduct as he had left his poles in the car. Being competent navigators we promptly got lost in the 300 metres between the Hotel and the viaduct to meet an on location Stuart smirking at our bumbling incompetence!

From thereon our guide took us up and over to Brushfield via slithery mud coated surfaces before an equally slippery descent down to a very active submerged stepping stone stream crossing, prior to entering Deep Dale. The commencement of the dale saw us performing some more deft footwork to avoid immersion in the rapid waters of a normally sleepy stream, before making our way to the upper reaches of the valley and then ascending the steep pasture to break out onto easier turf and into Sheldon.

A satisfying meal and a pint was taken in the Cock and Pullet before acquainting ourselves with the boots and 'sacs.

Stuart's take on this part of the day reads somewhat differently:

“As a direct consequence of the messing about, Pete Amour, who invariably brings a huge flask of what appears to be cold sick for his lunch, had forgotten it and opted for a pub lunch. Radders who had originally been really looking forward to a pub lunch had brought his own food...”



Stuart then picked up the footpaths that gave excellent northerly views prior to leading us down to cross the A6 and the threatening but more swirling than substance River Wye at Ashford, pictured above. From the village our route gained height along the walled green lane of Pennyunk before we broke out to have the reward of seeing Monsal Dale's meandering line and the cars. Thanks Stuart for an excellent alternative to the original route, Chris Radcliffe for the photos and to all who shared the day with me. Peter Amour. (with additions by Stuart Firth. Your Hon. Ed. is not often lucky enough to get two write ups for a meet – and this month it has happened twice!)

Oread Post-Prandial Walk 17 November Stuart Firth

The Oread 70th Anniversary Dinner was generally deemed to be especially enjoyable as it was a rare example of success being snatched from the jaws of defeat through excellent teamwork of the organisers in the face of adverse circumstances.

The post-prandial walk was in danger of falling into the contrary mode through the no-show of the meet leader.

Phone call transcript:

Oread: Good morning Rusty, how are you?

Rusty: Well, thank you. What can I do for you?



Oread: Perhaps you could come on the walk you're supposed to be leading...

Rusty: Oh, is it today?

Confused sounds of hearing aids, spectacles, maps being frantically sought overlain with female tittering followed. Then Rusty announced he would rendezvous with us part-way into the walk.

Thereafter all went well – if you can describe constant rain and mud as such. But seriously a dozen or so of us had a fun day out with a welcome lunch break at the cosy Waterloo Inn at Biggin. Rusty stayed outside although, as a former civil engineer, he had chosen the venue well. The thickness of the pub walls attenuated the probable sounds of him self-flagellating as penance for his initial cock-up.

Then Rusty was chauffeured home to finish his breakfast...

We look forward to his offer of reparations – perhaps on the New Year's Day walk?

Photo by Chris Radcliffe.

Rusty has this to say for himself!

Firstly a humble apology, I forgot the date of my own meet and had to be stirred into action at very short notice by Stuart Firth who saved the day. This leaves me in no moral position to comment on the sloth of certain club worthies who were absent, disinclined to brave the elements.

Anticipating unfriendly climatic conditions, and constrained by the need for a large car park near to the badlands East of the Derwent, I chose a route from Minninglow, using the abundant green lanes and packhorse type trails rather than the genuine hills of the Peak or indeed the "god forgotten boglands" of the approaches thereto. A brief foray into Biggin Dale was incorporated to prevent a premature arrival

at the Waterloo Inn (somewhat more accommodating since the change of management). Despite the cold blustery wind, and drizzle, there was a pleasing

and cheerful attendance, Sue, and Stuart Firth, Chris R. Helen G and Spike, Mike H. Pippa Leach, Roy Eyre, Peter Amour, Chris and Jan Wilson, Nigel and Janet Briggs. I probably counted some twice or not at all, missed or forgot a few and generally bungled the administration but I think a good day was generally had by all. Thanks for the company.

Our Man: a song composed by Gil Male and performed at the 70th Anniversary Dinner by Rusty Rocks and the Bent Pegs

For tradition I'll tell you a tale
'Bout a red blooded man, a red blooded male
He's done many things and none to fail

So who is he, this red blooded male?

*(Chorus) Yes, yes ... feel the pain!
Not enough ... do it again
Come on, come on! You must keep up
Get on with it ... do your stuff*

Mountaineering, stories to tell
The Eiger and Dru, both living hell
Cold feet, cold hands and bivvies as well

Cold feet, cold hands and bivvies as well

Chorus

Fell running ... a must for your spirit
Lungs and muscles pushed to the limit
You've got to run ... 'til you win it

You've got to run ... 'til you win it

Chorus

Cycling ... do not spurn
Lungs exploding and muscle burn
Push your body ... to the next turn

Push your body ... to the next turn

Chorus

Rock climbing ... a passion of old
Heaving and pulling 'til arms do fold
Trashing your hands in jamming cracks

Trashing your hands in jamming cracks

Chorus

I guess by now, you know the man
His style and grit are well known
But most of all he's our man
So raise your glasses to Radders our pal

So raise your glasses to Radders our pal

Chorus

Yes, get on with it and ... do ... your ... stuff

Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

29-30 November	Wrekin MC 12 beds
6-7 December	Rock and Heather 16 beds
21 December -1 January	Oread Christmas meet
19 January	Castle MC
24-25 January	Oread meet
8-9 February	Orpheus CC

HEATHY LEA

6-7 December	Bowline Club cottage
14 December	Bullstones
20 December	Oread Social
31 December – 1 Jan	Dave Hayden 6 beds
18-19 January	Neil Weatherstone 1 room
7-8 February	Vibram MC cottage

“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

Welcome to new provisional members Andy Norman, Emily Spence and Esma Akhtar. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Margaret Foster

Sadly Margaret passed away on Monday 30th September. Although not an Oread member, she was very well known and much liked by many Oread families and will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to husband Graham and their children, Alex and Nick.

A tribute from Graham Foster

Margaret or as she was mostly known, Marg, was a farmer's daughter from what was Westmoreland and always enjoyed being in the outdoors. After meeting me she started coming out with the Oread and joined in many meets in the lakes,

Right: Margaret on the Ffos y mynach footpath near St David's, Pembroke.

Derbyshire, North Wales, Pembroke, and Cornwall. She particularly enjoyed the family meets at Tan Yr Wyddfa when the children were small. She took



part in several working parties at Heathy Lea when we first took on the lease. Although never keen on climbing she often told the story of getting stuck in Fat Man's Chimney at Black Rocks, due to her more ample proportions in those days. Her last route was 'Summers End' in Pembroke to celebrate Nat Allen's scattering.

Margaret on the approach to Moll's Gap, Ring of Kerry.



She was disappointed not to reach the top of Schehallion last year, failing to get there by about 300 metres, due to her increasingly obvious lack of stamina. Also in her repertoire were cycling, swimming and skiing, all of which she enjoyed until very recently.

Although never a member of the Oread, Marg. was widely known among the members and will, I know, be missed by all of them.

George Sutton 1923 – 2019

Sad news in the Club's 70th Anniversary year: George Sutton, Founder and Honorary Member, died on Friday, 1st. November at the age of 96. He was the leader of the 1954-55 British South Georgia Expedition, and was presented in recent times, with the British Empire Medal, after it was re-instated, as recognition for his work with young people from deprived backgrounds. He led a full and very varied life.

His obituary was published in The Times on 22 November 2019. If you would like to read this please let Ruth know.

A full tribute from one of our own members will be published in our next issue. Meanwhile we have received the following email from George's son, Richard:

“It is with sadness that I tell you of the recent death of my father, George Sutton, who will be known to you as one of the original founders of the Oread Club. He was immensely proud of the club and, indeed, when I was going through some papers back at my parents' house a fortnight ago, I was struck by the prominence given to the Oread newsletters. They were numerous and had clearly given him enjoyment in his final days.

Sad to say, I also found several attempts by my father to write to you to say that he would like to have attended the meeting you are having - or have just had - in November. In these latter days, he was in good health but quite weak - but the will was still there to get to see you one last time.

Thank you for the support and inspiration you gave him; this means a lot to me.

For your interest, I attach the draft order of service I have prepared for next week's funeral in Wallasey - and perhaps you will note that I have asked for the donations to be made to the Oread. This seems most appropriate.

Very best wishes - and my hopes for the future success of the club,

Richard Sutton”

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:

Last month's puzzle with a lesser element of dogmatic right and wrong succeeded, as I had hoped, in eliciting the comments of a fellow mountain wanderer, and I felt that Roger's response merits publication as an answer.

Roger Chapman writes:

"Rusty's puzzle this month had me wallowing in nostalgia about all those half-forgotten walks back in the mists of time when I could still manage some of the harder classic walks such as the Welsh 3000s. But ranking walks against one another is a very personal thing and one that might be coloured by the extremes of weather as much as anything else. One of the most perfect solo days out I ever had was a relatively mundane Scottish ridge south of the A86 (the Geal-Charn ridge) in February 1980. A long walk-in and out more than compensated for by a blue sky, no wind and snow so crisp it squeaked and the hills to myself all day apart from a solitary 4 x 4 on a track to the east.

Anyway back to Rusty's puzzle. There must be a considerable number of ridges in England and Wales that are at least as hard as Striding Edge some of which I have not done. For a personal favourite I am torn between Crib Goch (which I once incautiously said could be done hands in pockets for most of its length) and the central rib (Hall's Fell) on Blencathra which brings you out right on one of the summits. I rather think Rusty's choice would be Crib Goch.

In terms of difficulty the Main Ridge is in a different league to all the others as it is in terms of quality. Striding Edge is clearly the easiest followed by Crib Goch, the North Ridge of Tryfan with Aonach Eagach second only to the Cuillin.

In terms of quality I would place the North Ridge of Tryfan above Aonach Eagach with the rest of the order the same."

I find myself in broad agreement, rating the Cuillin Ridge as in a class of its own, Striding Edge scenic but easiest and Tryfan and Crib Goch roughly on a par. Aonach Eagach is in my view a tough proposition in other than summer conditions, and the one I did not name, which I consider to be worthy of inclusion is Sharp Edge above Scales tarn.

This month's puzzle.

Some insulating boards had been delivered to Heathy Lea, but the delivery driver was not prepared to turn into the difficult entrance and dropped them on the other side of the road, and went on his way. Mike H. a good man as always, went to pick them up and carry them into the driveway and after a quick glance, was about to step off the kerb when he spotted one of the first electric trucks approaching, being of course silent and giving no audible indication of its presence. He dropped the board and ran like crazy, reaching the white line 10ft. out from the kerb in the nick of time. Mike averaged 10 mph (not bad for a middle aged walker from a standing start). The truck, unknown to him, was doing 45 mph. How far away was it at the instant he crossed the kerb?

Membership Renewals for 2020

Following a full review of the membership subscriptions we have made some significant changes to both the cost and the structure as detailed below.


- Although we managed to absorb last year's BMC increase this year we have seen another increase of £6 for every member which we now need to pass on. The committee reviewed the cost v benefits and decided that it was still a very competitive proposal given the benefits of continued BMC membership - The subscription includes the BMC fee of £20.25 giving you all the benefits of individual club membership including the BMC third party insurance.
- We have removed the Joint membership Fee as all our members receive the same benefits and we have to pay the full BMC membership for everyone. With the move away from the posted newsletter there is also no benefit to the Oread from members sharing the same address.

Fees for 2020 are:

- £45 for Full membership
 - £35 for Senior Membership (Past UK State Pension Age)
 - £35 for Provisional membership (First full year only)
- (members paying multiple BMC club memberships can reclaim £20.25 from the BMC)*

How to pay: 1 of 2 ways

- You can pay by bank transfer Sort Code 30-98-97, Account Number 62584068 with (Subs and your name in the reference field). Once the money has been transferred please email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com confirmation and a copy of the form below.
- Please complete the form below and send it with a cheque made payable to the Oread Mountaineering Club, posted to Michael Hayes, 179 Starkholmes Road, Starkholmes, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5JA

Oread Mountaineering Club Membership Renewal and Contact List Update		
Name		
Address		
Telephone Number		
Telephone Number Mobile		
Email Address		
Secondary Email Address		
Contact in case of emergency	Name, phone number and address:	
I hereby reapply for membership of the Oread Mountaineering Club, and confirm that I have read the constitution and promise to abide by its rules, respect its properties, and give due respect to the mountain environment	Yes / No	
Data Protection: I agree to my contact details being held by the Oread MC, shared with other paid up members and passed to the BMC to gain my third party insurance	Yes / No	
Participation Statement: I recognise that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions	Yes / No	
Signature		
Date		
Membership Type: Please tick relevant box		
Full Member	£45.00	
Senior Member	£35.00	
Provisional Member	£35.00	
Member with permanent address outside the UK. 50% of appropriate rate as BMC membership is not included.	£22.50	

If you have any questions, then please contact me – Michael Hayes 07771 700913

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