



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2020



Fay Weatherstone and William Tubby celebrating 50 years at Heathy Lea with a designer birthday cake. Full story on page 17.

Editorial

We have walking and climbing meets coming up soon, although sadly, due to Yorkshire becoming Tier 3 territory, the last two stages of the Boundary Walk have had to be postponed. Alternative walks have been organised for these dates.

A draft meets list for the start of next year is in here too. We need meet leaders to come forward if all these events are going to happen.

Sadly no dinner this year – but – crack open the bubbly or the Laphroaig according to your taste – we do have a speech! See page 6!

Write ups include recent walks, bizarre activities at the Devonshire Dome (for devotees of esoteric winter climbing activities) and memories of Black Rocks in 1940.

Also in here - how to get a hold of a copy of the new digital book about mountain bothies pre 1965, and a lovely painting of one by Harry Pretty. More about these paintings, recently donated to the Club.

Finally it is Subs time again – but check out page 22 – the news is better than you think!

Copy Deadline 20 November.

Covid 19 and Club meets

I have a certain degree of trepidation in writing about Covid-19 as we are in another period of rapidly changing Government regulations!

We have produced a "Covid-19 Protocol" for the running of club meets and activities (these include anything that is advertised by the newsletter, email group or social media). It was published in October's newsletter and is available on the Oread web site under the Covid 19 tab.

Meets that fall into the "Organised sporting events" category require the completion, and retention, of a risk assessment prior to the meet. We have produced a generic risk assessment that can be used for this purpose. The risk assessment is available from the club's Covid-19 Officer, Mike Moss.

As a club we need to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 for ourselves, our members and the wider community in which we operate. Please adhere to the protocol at all times, the more we all do this the sooner we can hope to have restrictions eased.

The BMC guidance is at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/covid19-restarting-club-meets> with a useful summary of what the restrictions are regarding huts, outdoor meets and wall for each of the three tiers at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/clubs-huts-meets-and-current-covid19-restrictions>

Independent groups are, of course, at liberty to go into the outdoors, however, they are encouraged to take the same steps to minimise transfer of Covid-19 and to abide by Government and local restrictions.

Nigel Briggs

Meets programme 2021 - ideas and volunteers

Do you have a desire to go on a club meet to somewhere in particular? Better still do you fancy leading it? If so could you let me, Mike Moss (mamoss@btinternet.com), know.

Tan Yr Wyddfra and Heathy Lea are booked to the Oread for more weekends than usual in 2021, this is because securing bookings with other clubs seems harder this year because of covid-19 restrictions uncertainty. I've also put in camping meets at each of the bank holidays. Most of these meets still need leaders, so if you fancy leading a meet at one of our splendid huts, or have an idea of where you would like to have a camping meet (Pembrokeshire, Gower, Lakes, Scotland...) on any of these dates please let me know.

Stuart Firth has sketched a plan for monthly Wednesday walks, with approximate venues, and weekend walks. Anyone interested in leading one of these is invited to contact Stuart (stuartmfirth@btinternet.com). Confirmation and details will appear as usual in the appropriate newsletters. The weekend walks will operate in a similar manner to the Wednesday walks. The logistics of a Peak District Boundary Walk follow-on that we initially hoped to do would likely be even more challenging with Covid restrictions, so circular walks are most

likely, especially in the initial part of the year. The plan proposes weekend dates, but we are likely to alternate Saturdays and Sundays with maybe the odd weekend thrown in if future restrictions allow.

To help meet leaders we have produced a general risk assessment, following BMC guidelines, that meet leaders can use with a minimum of fuss for both walking and climbing meets, and I'll be able to offer advice on how it applies to your meet.

All Oread meets for the first four months of the year.

Oread meets 2021 (plan at Oct 2020)				
January	1	New year's day walk	Venue TBD	
	6	Wednesday walk	Ashford on the Water	
	22-23	Hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	
	23-24	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
February	3	Wednesday walk	Monyash	
	19-21	Hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	
	20-21	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
March	3	Wednesday walk	Ilam	
	5-6	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Lake District	ABMSAC/AC hut. Stuart Hayward
	5-6	High House, Borrowdale (TBC)	Lake District	K-Fellfarers' hut
	Date TBC	AGM	Venue TBD	
	Date TBC	Spring stride (Weekend walk)	Venue TBD	Nigel Briggs
	26-28	Hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	Neil Weatherstone
	April	2-5	Easter camping	Fontainbleu or Sea Cliffs
	14	Wednesday walk	Youlgreave	
	17-18	New members meet	Heathy Lea Derbyshire	Ben Wooler
	23-24	Fylde hut, Stair	Lake District	Hut swap
	24-25	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	

and the proposed walking meets for the year. Two of these dates will, hopefully, be used to complete the last two stages of the postponed Boundary Walk.

	Wednesday	Venue		Weekend	Venue
January	6	Ashford on the Water	January	23-24	TBD
February	3	Monyash	February	20-21	TBD
March	3	Ilam	March	TBD to suit AGM	TBD
April	14	Youlgreave	April	24-25	TBD
May	12	Millers Dale	May	22-23	TBD
June	9	Ladybower	June	26-27	TBD
July	7	Bonsall	July	24-25	TBD
August	4	Hathersage	August	22-23	TBD
September	8	Tideswell	September	25-26	TBD
October	6	Ashover	October	23-24	TBD
November	3	Brassington	November	20-21	TBD
December	1	Wetton Mill	December	18-19	TBD

Forthcoming Meets 2020

Wednesday 4 November Walk Hartington Clive Russell

Please assemble at 10am by the duck pond in Hartington where (failing memory permitting) I shall be found chilling out and bonding with the ducks. We may be able to get a morning coffee somewhere in the city, but afterwards we shall not pass any eating or drinking establishments so be prepared to dine alfresco. The plan is to shamble along the top of the East bank of the Dove and then descend to cross the river, probably at Coldeaton Bridge, before toiling up the steep West bank to enter Narrowdale and then return via Beresford Dale ford and Pike Pool. Rusty has been in touch to assure everyone that the walk will be run in groups of no more than six, observing current Covid-19 regulations. Rusty email zrussell2@gmail.com tel. 07895 761615

Sunday 8 November PDBW – POSTPONED **Alternative circular walk: Bretton Clough and Abney** **Chris Radcliffe**

The latest Covid restrictions do not allow those living in Tier 1 or Tier 2 areas to arrange meets in Tier 3 areas. As the start of the planned PDBW at Ringinglow and approximately half the route is in South Yorkshire, I have had no option other than to postpone this walk.

After discussion with Stuart Firth and Paul Gardiner (leader of the final PDBW to Heathy Lea) we have decided to postpone the remaining two sections of the Boundary Walk. We hope to complete these as soon as restrictions are lifted next year and hopefully allow us to have an appropriate celebration at Heathy Lea when the project is finally completed.

I will lead an alternative circular walk on the day. This will start in Hathersage and gain Bretton Clough, cross to Abney and over Offerton Moor, before descending to the valley and returning along the Heritage Way. Approximately 15km with 500m ascent.

Meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start at SK 232812. This is where the Station Approach meets the B6001 south of Hathersage centre. The station car park is for rail users only, but there is limited roadside parking. Alternatively use the Pay & Display car park on Oddfellows Road, opposite the swimming pool and café.

To keep to Covid-19 restrictions we will walk in groups of six and maintain social distancing. Please text or email me if you intend to join the walk. Chris Radcliffe email chris@farfields.co.uk tel. 07770 883259

21 November Sadly it's not the Annual Dinner----but

cook yourselves something special, charge your glasses and read the President's After Dinner Speech on page 6!

27 – 29 November High House, Borrowdale

We have a booking for the KFellfarers hut deep in Borrowdale. Space is restricted to six due to Covid restrictions. We have spaces left.

Contact me, Michael Moss, if you are interested: email mamoss@btinternet.com

Wednesday 2 December Tissington Walk John Gwyther

Meet at the Tissington Trail pay and display car park SK177522 at 10 o'clock (Doesn't stop you parking for nought elsewhere!). Circular walk to Parwich and Alsop en le Dale. I don't expect any cafés or hostelrys to be open so please bring refreshments. The walk will, of course, be run according to Covid -19 regulations.

Please let me know if you're coming on 07931 630974.

Sunday 6 December Replacement Wak Paul Gardiner

Due to the postponement of the Boundary Walk I have planned an alternative circular walk. Subject to regulations at the time I propose : Meet at Earl Sterndale at 10.00 for 10.15 stroll off. Roadside parking near the church or round about. Uphill over to the rim of the quarry, down to Brierlow Grange and across the A515 down into Horseshoe Dale, (rough). Climb out where Midshires Way crosses and pick up Caxterway Lane to Chelmorton. Uphill and over to Flagg. (cut out here if weather is bad) otherwise down fields parallel to Flagg main street. Arrive at Mycock Lane and then up through fields to Pomeroy. Descend to the High Peak trail, turn right to where it ends at the quarry then go left up a track to the crest of the hill and bear away over fields on the right back to Earl Sterndale. Possibly 15k, two or three less if cut out is used. Please let me know if you intend to come.

Paul Gardiner tel. 01332 559957.

Wednesday 16 December Black Rocks/ Harborough Night Climbing

T'will be the Wednesday before the Wednesday before Christmas and the fact that we can't all crowd into a lovely warm pub, breathing the nasty colds we've just caught in the chill night air over one another, while scoffing pie and peas together does not in any way excuse committed Oreads from this traditional pre-Christmas event. Let's be seeing you all out there in the dark, dark night! Cromford Chippie will be frying up the usual excellent fare.

The President's Pre-Dinner After Dinner Address

I sat in the Fox and Goose enjoying the dinner last year and let my mind wander as Snod oversaw ceremonies. Next year, I thought, it will be me up there if all goes as expected. I had better start paying attention, and make mental notes of the activities going on within the club during the year.

Well here we are at the time of the year when thoughts are turning towards the annual dinner. As it turned out events did not go as expected! I am sure that we all have our list of changed plans, cancelled trips and finding different ways of doing things. There have been opportunities, time to do all (well, some in my case) those things that have never quite seemed important enough to justify doing. Such as sorting through photographs. I always thought there was no hurry to sort and label those boxes of slides I have from the late 70's and 80's, I would always be able remember where, what or who. I was wrong!

So, I became President at the AGM, hang on, there was no AGM. Almost the first decision I presided over was to suspend the meets programme! Possibly my reputation should have preceded me in that the last Alpine meet I led I did not actually go on! I opted to stay at home and enjoy some surgical intervention for a cycling related injury. That's another story not to be repeated now. However, I was told it was an excellent meet. I have yet to climb in the Chamonix valley, maybe one year.

In the first couple of months of the year some meets did take place, the first meet to Scotland happened, but didn't. (I must confess that I was the meet leader). All was good except the conditions and weather; with incoming storms it was not worth the drive. The second weekend to Scotland in the Cairngorms was well attended and had reasonable conditions, not brilliant but good and everyone got out and enjoyed 'lean' winter conditions. During the meet there was talk of 'this new virus', little did we know! The beginning of the year seems along time ago now, but I do remember there was a lot of rain! Despite the poor start to the year meets did take place, the Boundary Walk continued, folk got out, ice was found in the UK or further afield, there were snatched trips to crags, or warm rock in Spain and even climbing walls visited. Another successful winter lecture programme was completed. And then

As summer progressed people started going out again, but with new restrictions and advice. Social distancing and the 'Rule of Six' became common terms, alcohol-based gel was packed, and there was no sharing of food allowed. Tentative steps were being made to run meets, albeit meets that would be different to what they had been. Our huts were accessible again, but with restrictions. We had a way forward

As I write this revised guidance is being issued and regions are being risk tiered. New regional restrictions on movement and contacts are being made. Today, Wales has announced a two week 'fire break'. I'm not going to attempt to predict when we get to back to pre-Covid days, when you could ask a stranger to pass you something or squeeze through a huddle to get to the bar! The one bit of the club that has continued is the Newsletter. If you have fond memories, (appropriate for sharing) please write them down and send them to Ruth Gordon who can put them in the Newsletter for all to enjoy.

I would like to thank all who have helped the club during the year, the meet leaders (and attendees) the committee, who have met regularly using 'zoom' and kept the club running. Thanks particularly to Ruth for regularly producing the Newsletter and to all who have contributed to it.

Finally, no Presidential dinner address would be complete without reference to the 'Bent Screw'. I am using this opportunity to ask people to let me know of any acts that have taken place this year that may be worth consideration. However, the bar has been set. A last-ditch attempt to keep the award was made by the 2018 recipient who 'forgot' to bring the trophy to the dinner last year. However, the next day a very worthy claim was put in. As recorded in the Newsletter at the time the following conversation took place.

Phone call transcript:

Oread: Good morning Rusty, how are you?

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

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

Meet Leader: 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.

I also appear to have let the identity of the claimant slip there as well! (I also acknowledge that failing to appear on your own meet does not put me on the thickest of ice!)

I would be grateful if details of other candidates' actions could be sent to me for consideration.

All that remains now is for me to ask you to charge your glasses and raise them in a toast to THE OREAD.

Past Times and Old Friends

Honorary Encounters II: Tony Moulam

In 1939 I won a County Minor scholarship to grammar school, namely Bemrose in Derby, where two events would shape my future. The first was exchanging my bike with a fellow pupil. He swapped my Rudge, a bagatelle game and a complete set of John Player's cigarette cards of the 1937 coronation (in an album) for his lightweight Bown Elite Club with 26 x 1 ¼ inch wheels and a fixed gear. This was a considerable step above my previous machine, and it re-ignited my interest in cycling.

One memorable weekend I rode to Tring Youth Hostel, a distance of nearly 100 miles, and my longest jaunt until then. I had been brought up to believe that all hills were north of Derby, and that 'the south' was flat! This proved not to be so and I (literally) sorely regretted my fixed gear of 83.2. On my return I spent the next few weeks building a spare wheel with a second hand Sturmey Archer three speed hub. This enterprise was not totally successful, as I had not mastered the technique of tightening, evenly, the spokes! So at every revolution of the wheel the rim brushed one of the caliper brake pads, impeding progress but making a satisfying noise as I sped along.

I continued my visits to Hartington Hall and gained some notoriety by wearing shorts in winter and cast off plus fours in summer, obtained by my father from

the landlord of the Dog and Partridge pub. During this interregnum, between cycling and walking I did my initial rock climbs. The first on a ramble through Dovedale when I ventured up the shifting scree to the foot of a Tissington Spire. A steep wall of about 30 feet eventually yielded to my assault as I detached adherent tufts of grass to reveal underlying holds for my fingers and triple-hob nailed boots. As I gained height I became more and more frightened but eventually reached the top, at a sort of col, and was able to jump down a few feet to the scree gully on the other side. The second, and more satisfying achievement occurred after a cycling weekend spent at Wirksworth Hostel. This was my first visit to Black Rocks, when I ventured along beneath its North Face, noticing nail-scarred holds, none of which was I able to follow. Eventually I forced my way up what I later found to be Sand Gully, to a triumphant if dirty emergence on the summit! On my return home my mother was not pleased having to wash my soiled clothes in her dolly tub as the embedded grit needed to be rinsed away with considerable effort and waste of water.

About this time I remember writing in my diary (long lost along with my YHA card and its record of my hostel visits) 'Decided to concentrate on climbing'. Nevertheless, during the summer holiday after the exams, prior to entering the VIth form, a school friend and I set off on an ambitious five day jaunt to North Wales. I had sought professional help from a bike repairer to straighten my rear wheel, and the miles to Chester, our first stop, soon passed. We had decided to take the coast road and stopped in Flint for an early break where we, two handsome young lads in shorts, were chatted up by a crowd of lurching factory girls. Luckily, perhaps, we escaped when the works hooter called them back to their tasks and continued without incident to Bangor. Here the warden recommended a local chippie and I remember sitting on the pier and eating this

delicious repast with our fingers from a, then legal, newspaper pack.

As my pal had arranged to meet relations in Betws y Coed for lunch next day we separated and he took the direct route, via the A5. Because I wanted to see Telford's Menai Bridge I went first to Caernarvon, then on to Llanberis, Nant Peris and on up the pass, soon flanked by cliffs on either side. Instead of lunch (I hadn't got any) I scrambled up to what must have been Craig Ddu and again found that I could make no impression on the rocks.

Somewhat disheartened I then tackled the road and met my friend, as arranged, at the railway station in Betws before continuing to Cynwyd for our last night's stay. In the morning we soon reached the A5 and a brisk westerly wind at our backs urged us on our way home.

After I had bought an 80ft sisal rope from the local ironmongers and an expensive

pair of clinker nailed boots from Robert Lawrie, to give the rock less of a chance,

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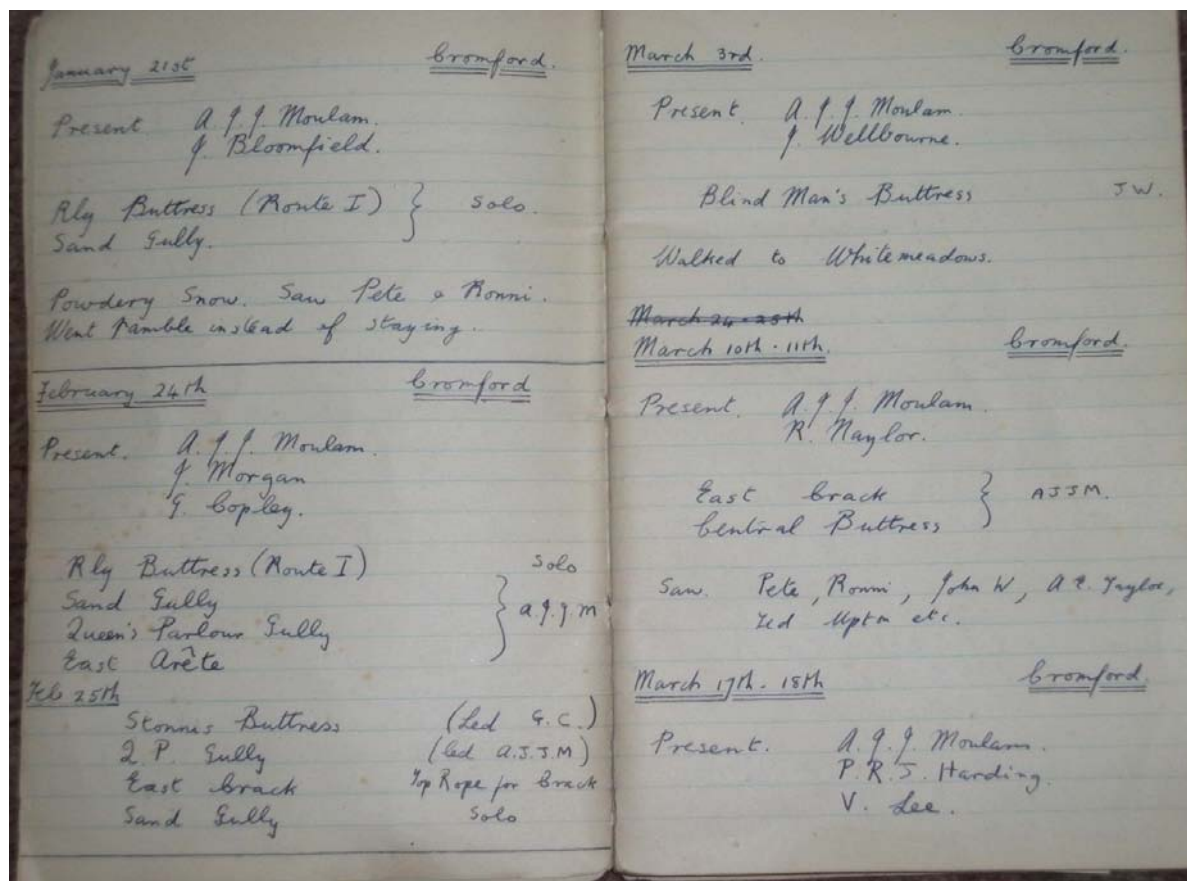
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I encouraged various members of the VIth form to join me on the crag. My prowess on the rocks had increased a lot and I was leading routes such as Railway Slab, New Year's Buttress and Sand Gully (in much better style than on my earlier ascent). Then, on March 3rd, I met Johnny Wellbourne, a tall enigmatic man who led me up Blind Man's Buttress and appeared in the next four or five entries in my log, and seems to have changed the spelling of his name. He then became the second future Oread Honorary member I had met.



The second crucial event of my Bemrose schooling, mentioned above, was to meet Peter Harding, who was about to leave to become an apprentice at Rolls Royce. As our paths constantly passed at Black Rocks, we became regular climbing partners and soon formed the Stonnis Mountaineering Club. Johnny was another founder member, and I have already described the Great Stonnis schism that led to him joining the Oread.

Everest Anniversaries

Some Oreads may have seen the 45th Anniversary screening of Everest the Hard Way on 24 September. This celebrated the anniversary of Dougal Haston and Doug Scott being the first Brits to summit Everest.

This put **Shirley Wainwright** in mind of an earlier anniversary - she writes:

29 May 2003: Endeavour on Everest. Odeon, Leicester Square, London.

Molly Pretty and I travelled down to London to see this presentation of the first

successful attempt on Everest 50 years ago. This was organised by the Everest Foundation. It was on one of the first hot summer days, and we were pleased to be inside the cinema, which was full to capacity.

In the foyer almost every book written about Everest was for sale, including a reprint of Edmund Hillary's "Attempt on Everest". How many first editions among Oread members?

David Attenborough was the "master of ceremonies" and the main guests were Mike Westmacott, George Lowe, Charles Wylie and George Band, who were on the successful expedition, and also Doug Scott and Chris Bonington (previous Dinner Speakers!).

It made one think how the years have passed, to see these great mountaineers still somewhat active and "on show" now in their prime, sitting on stage relating their experiences. Edmund Hillary celebrated in Katmandu, and spoke to the audience by live video link.

It was a touching experience, recapping this wonderful achievement, and done with such modesty from these great men.

We hoped we may have seen some more Oreads there – after all we are a mountaineering club! We understood that Bob Pettigrew was going to the evening presentation when the royal party was present. I hope he enjoyed it as much as we did.

(This article first appeared in the newsletter for July 2003).

More kids with cake!

Tony Smedley contributes this lovely photo of "Uncle Nat" Allen feeding Tony's daughter, Fiona and the Hobday children with birthday cake (Nats 50th, he thinks) on the Green at Alstonefield, just in front of The George.



News and Reports from Meets

Dimmingsdale/Churnet Valley October Mid-Week Walk Peter Amour



By the Conduit, above Farley Park. Photo John Green.

A belated surge of participants booking in generated the need for a second group leader. A phone call to Nigel Briggs fixed things, he would lead out cohort A, and I would take group B 15 minutes later.

On the morning Nigel took his merry band up Dimmings and Ousal Dales and faded off into the morning mists. Rusty, John Green, John Gwyther and myself used the same directions, and then took the testing descent down Mosses Bank where Rusty adopted the sitting glissade position to calculate the co-efficient of friction of his trousers on bracken - to acquire accurate data he repeated this twice more!

Being devious, I took group B directly along Red Lane into Oakamoor village - (missing out two footpaths I'd advised group A to take). A steep northerly tarmac ascent into woodland tracks led us out onto a mix of easier gradients, woodland, open country and lanes to Moneystone to find the Staffordshire Moorland Way. Departing the SMW proved something of a challenge with dense undergrowth creating the need for diversionary tactics to access the footpaths. A choice of alternative, sometimes parallel paths led us in a clockwise arc, one of which at Cottonplain climbed a raised embankment of some fair dimensions, we could only think that historic mineral extraction had been its earlier purpose.

Food was taken near Moorside sitting on the steps of an en-route portacabin before entering limestone terrain by Wardlow Quarry. A southerly course then saw us walk through the in-rut deer park at Longshaw (Staffs). Exiting the park created its own challenges, a collapsed timber footbridge had to be traversed, followed by a fight on very steep ground festooned with a holly thicket. Atop the bank we encountered a drainage ditch, which necessitated a contouring traverse along the hillside. Finally a descent over Farley Park dropped us into the wooded Barbary Gutter and onto the cars.

It was a bit surprising that group A's cars were still there, given that they left before us. Had we beaten them by using the short-cut at Oakamoor? Was it due to Nigel misunderstanding my instructions (which were obviously right, they came from me)? Or was it our secret weapon, the pace-man Mr Russell? Who knows?

I enjoyed the area, a location that isn't widely used by Oreads, I also enjoyed that others seemed to have appreciated these Staffordshire hills and valleys too. Cheers to Stuart, Sue, Chris, Nigel and Janet, John Green, John Gwyther and Rusty.

October Peak District Boundary Walk Low Bradfield to Ringinglow John Gwyther



Ten members met up at the Norfolk Arms, Ringinglow on a rather dreary Saturday morning. We were all transported in a socially distanced manner to the start at Low Bradfield (except Peter Amour who had already walked the route in the dark). We then set off in two groups (Peter leading the first as he could do it blindfold). The second was accompanied by Luna, an eighteen month white Alsatian bitch who was very adept at tying up various walkers with her

10 metre lead. We passed an obelisk at Edgefield Farm, dedicated to a child who drowned in a spring there in 1832 (thanks Nicola), had a few tutorials on fungi

from Natasha (who sadly only found one specimen good enough to eat) and lunched at Wyming Brook. There was quite a lot of road walking, the terrain wasn't too muddy, the weather bucked up and the company was excellent. Many thanks to Sue, Rachel, Pippa, Nicola, Natasha, Stuart, Spenser, Mike, John and Peter (special merit for doing the walk twice) for coming; and hopefully see you on the 8th November for the penultimate stage. Thanks to Stuart for providing the photos.

Sport for All Jeff Ingman

For all those Oreads who are interested in mainstream mountaineering, there's nothing for you here – walk on by, just move along. This bit of nostalgia is about dry tooling and preparation for mixed climbing, so pretty niche in all respects. I must admit that it only accounts for about one percent of my own climbing, but that is due more to lack of facility. 'Tooling' is much more popular in Scotland and mainland Europe where specific facilities and crags are devoted to it.

Many of my non-climbing civilian friends and relatives think that climbing is, well, ridiculous. Some of my climbing friends think that dry tooling is ridiculous, so there we have it –double ridicule, or more likely, ridiculous squared. But we are tool using Homo Sapiens, and my Viking ancestors were pretty well known for grabbing axes and hammers when faced with a struggle!

My first go at using ice axes and crampons to climb dry rock was on the outside climbing tower at Glenmore Lodge. It was an evening fun competition as part of a BMC international meet. Winter climbing hero, Andy Turner, who was at the top of his game, set the routes and we all struggled to get up them. I then watched with interest as the momentum in this bizarre activity grew, leading to a prized place in the X games and inclusion in the Sochi Winter Olympics as a demonstration event.

At that time (2014) the UK had a series of winter indoor competitions, the British Tooling Series, so that suitable competitors could be identified to represent the



UK on the international circuit. Sochi was clearly going to be a show case and Andy Turner was picked to carry the flag. The event was dominated by Eastern Europeans but it had a big impact on Andy, who redoubled his training.

The Sochi Winter Olympics route climbed the leaning back wall then went out across the roof via the hanging cubes and 'icicles'.

Andy was working for Derby University at the time, lecturing in outdoor pursuits at the Buxton campus. Inspired by his Russian experience, he decided to put on a showcase tooling event in Buxton and modelled the climbing structure on the Sochi competition wall, but located it inside the massive Devonshire dome.



Inside the 'Thunderdome' in Buxton, six suspended cubes and a timber icicle, all with bolt on holds to hook and foam sheets to whack with your picks!

When I heard about the plans and saw what was being built I was itching to have a go at the route – just for the novelty of it. I messaged Andy to see if I could get on the route and he replied, “Yes Jeff, just enter the competition!”. Now that wasn't really what I had in mind, I was hoping to sneak in the day before the event and have a discreet play on the route with zero chance of embarrassment. It was not to be, centre stage or nothing. And so it was that I found myself entering my first real climbing competition in my mid-fifties, in October 2014. I was queuing to register with the other competitors and was surprised to hear Dutch, Belgian and Russian voices

around me, together with some Scottish accents. This whole thing seemed much bigger than I'd imagined. The atmosphere was good, we were all going to be helping out with the belay duties so there was a high level of trust. The competition format allowed a first try at the route in the afternoon, and then, based on how far we got, maybe get another go in the final that evening. We drew lots and got on with the first round of attempts, all under the watchful eye of Andy Turner who was the competition referee. I paired up with a Scottish guy who had travelled down from Aviemore (eight hours driving) and got ready to climb. I had brought my normal winter climbing boots and crampons but noticed that nearly all of the other competitors had "fruitboots". These are like stiffened old style rock boots with the business end of a crampon bolted on to the front part of the sole. Some climbers had homemade alternatives. Fortunately for me, Andy offered to lend his specialist footwear and I gladly accepted. My Scottish mate tied into the rope which was pre-clipped into a high runner next to the first cube. He stepped off the balcony on to an overhanging "ladder" that took him to the first moves, and managed to get one of his axes to stick on the first cube. Two minutes of thrashing around followed before my belaying duty was called into action. I lowered him to the ground where he regained his breath, totally pumped - and he hadn't got on the first cube. I'd seen other competitors do a figure four move here and I wasn't looking forward to that!



The start "ladder" leading to the first cube.

I did a couple of quick warm-up exercises then got myself ready at the base of the ladder, straightforward hooking but very steep. Then, two or three long reaches and a strenuous pull got me on top of the first cube. Wobble! The cubes were hanging from the steel work and moved in the air as you shifted your weight. I balanced across and got my picks into the second cube, then shuffled across towards the third. I had to take a hand off to make the next clip and got

it, but my weight shifted and the cube moved under me. I watched as one of my Petzl Nomics dislodged itself from a hook and spun downwards towards the floor, landing softly in the net. I used my remaining tool to crank as high as I could, touch a highpoint hold, then relaxed. That ended my attempt and I jumped off. I'd only been climbing for a few minutes and I was really tired.



Cranking hard through the cubes

In that first round only one climber, Tim Emmett, got past the half way timber icle. He won the event later that evening and was the only climber to complete

the route. I was particularly interested to see how well the women climbed on this strenuous route. Using combinations of heel hooks, figure fours, wide bridges and plenty of power they were well represented in the final. And then it was nearly gone. Last autumn the British tooling series was drastically reduced with only two events south of the border. The Scot's were still having it, as usual, but something has happened to either the organisation or the funding. Tooling didn't make the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea and this must have had a big impact. The British Tooling Series is running this autumn and the details were announced early in September;

28/10 King Kong in Keswick
11/11 Rope Race in Marple
25/11 Ice Factor at Kinlochleven

Note that these dates are all Wednesdays - very unusual, in the past these competition events have all been at the weekend so I suspect that this will affect both the numbers competing and watching. Probably a covid related change.

Tooling can still be done outdoors of course, and it provides fantastic training for winter climbing. The nearest venue for Oreads is Masson Lees where there are several tooling routes that are fully equipped. The entry level is not easy, with the warm up route at grade M6 or about E3 in terms of effort needed. The routes are in a cave and so it is an ideal damp autumn day activity when the crags are wet. I'll see you there.

Heathy Lea 50th Anniversary Cake James Tubby.

On reading the Heathy Lea 50th supplement to the newsletter I was first of all pleased to see a photo of myself and Neil with our three children featured. Later, on talking to Neil on the way up there that evening (Fri 2nd Oct) we then realised that with the 50th anniversary meet cancelled/postponed it looked like with our trip to Heathy Lea we would be the Oreads staying there closest to the anniversary. Expecting bad weather on Saturday due to Storm Alex we had packed ingredients to make a cake. So, with this serendipity we decided that it would be an Oread Heathy Lea 50th anniversary cake.

The weather on Saturday morning was not as bad as we were expecting, so we took a chance and decided to head up to Kinder Scout which had been our original plan. The rain did of course come later but it just added to the authentic Kinder Scout experience. I told the wet kids that we have to have days like this so that we can really appreciate any good weather. Despite the rain we had a satisfying and long day out, fully earning a fresh chocolate cake.

Our big sausage dinner was then a little delayed as we made the cake. Once cool the children were left to decorate it with instructions to include the letters 'OMC HL' and the number 50. A few photos were taken and the cake was duly

enjoyed by all five of us. So at least in some little way the 50th anniversary was marked at Heathy Lea, and with a cake made there.



Fay, William and Alan making the best of a wet day on Kinder.

Sunday weather was better so I took the boys on a walk around Birchen and Baslow edges while (for various reasons) Neil and Fay remained and were able to clean the hut according to the new guidelines.

I think it may have been 11 years ago at the AGM where the future of the Heathy Lea lease was discussed. I was one of the few present to question whether the Oread should maintain the lease, given the poor use club members were making of the hut at the time and the financial burden it had become. I like to think that the lively and open discussion on that occasion was needed and that it led to a) an effort to maintain and improve the facilities (it's a much nicer place to stay now in my opinion) and b) members to think of more ways to use the facility. I'm grateful to all those who have contributed to the upkeep over the years.

I hope that the Oread can continue to find uses for Heathy Lea to keep it relevant and financially viable for many years to come.

Seeking Simple Shelter: a new “digital book” by Richard Genner of the Mountain Bothies Association.



*A watercolour by Harry Pretty of the MBA bothy at Fion Glen, Wester Ross.
See below for more about Harry's paintings.*

Richard writes: I have recently completed a ‘digital book’ (a series of .pdf files in book format) about the use of bothies after the properties were abandoned as homes but before the MBA was formed. My pre-MBA bothy use interest was initially casual but has become more serious as (aided by lockdown inactivity and the internet) I have found more material than expected, and it is about 90 pages over six .pdf files. The on-line collections of Journals from the Scottish Mountaineering Club, the Cairngorm Club and EUMC have been a rich source.

I have used bothies and similar all my adult life and have gained immeasurable enjoyment and long-lasting friendships from the activity which far outweigh any cost to me (overloaded cars, full tanks of petrol emptied, my own energy reserves depleted, etc. and on one occasion a torn cartilage!). I therefore deplore the efforts of those who seek to make commercial gain from writing about the bothies in books which they subsequently sell.

I am happy to supply at no cost to those who have an interest, the six .pdf files about the pre-MBA use of bothies, but I am trying to control distribution to reduce the possibility of plagiarism and commercial gain by others hence would-be readers will need to contact me by e-mail. My address is rgatrg11@gmail.com With my thanks to the Oread MC for your support and co-operation in the preparation of this ‘book’.

Harry Pretty's paintings.



Harry's daughter, Laura, has kindly donated to the Oread many of his fine watercolours of the Peak District, Wales, Scotland and from his holidays in the Alps, Corsica and elsewhere, including the one above. Some have been chosen to be on permanent display at our huts. The rest will be made available at events in future (whenever that becomes possible again) for individual members to choose for themselves. If you have a particular interest in seeing the paintings please be in touch with Michael Hayes to arrange a mutually convenient time. Laura also has two slide storage boxes, each capable of housing 500 slides free to a good home. Contact Michael if interested.

Hut Bookings.

All bookings for both huts will be separated by three days.

The situation is changing so fast no meaningful list of forward bookings can be printed. If you want to go contact Michael Hayes.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Open for bookings by members and their households/social bubbles. The regulations in Wales are more restrictive than in England and are subject to frequent change.

HEATHY LEA

Open for bookings by members and their households/social bubbles. All queries and outstanding payments should be addressed to Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA Mobile 07771 700913. Email: michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

A note from the treasurer:

When paying the club by bank transfer could you please use the 'Reference' box to say what the payment is for. **In particular if it is hut fees please say which hut, ie Hut fees HL, or Hut fees TyW.** Your name is not necessary in the reference, unless it is different from the bank account name. This will save me having to bother the hut booking secretary to find out which hut you have stayed at.

Thank you. Janet Briggs.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:

The view depicted was Brassington from the path leading towards Carsington and so Rainster Rocks of course lies beyond the village on the far side.

Correct solutions were received (in chronological order) from Colin Hobday (still taking it easy after his illness but happily ranging the countryside again with Uschi), Rob Tresidder, who pointed out that my camera direction was only approximate, and by post from Jack Ashcroft, a little later as I believe he does not have e mail facilities. Jack seems to have excellent recollections and knowledge of climbing territory and once again he did not let us down.

This month's puzzle

Bruah na Frith



Two Oreads, A (believed to be slightly the elder), and B, decided on an easy day and set off from Sligachan on a stroll up the easiest summit on the Cuillin Ridge, Bruah na Frith. Striking off the Glenbrittle path to the left, one is confronted by a steepish scree to gain height on to Sgurr Bhastair. The choice was between a direct steep route and a zig zag unofficial path, compacted by many pairs of boots. A, who had a lifelong habit of pushing his body to the limit when faced with any physical challenge, decided that his speed on the slacker gradient would enable him to be first to the top of the ridge, whereas B, also competitive but in a more controlled and calculating manner, opted for the direct ascent. These two had a history of achieving identical performances calculated on the basis of Naismith's formula.

For one point, which climber was first to the top of the ridge, and for two, what was the second letter of the surname of he who was first to the top of the ridge?



A mountaineer, (not one of the subjects of the puzzle), relaxing on the ridge.

Oread Membership 2021

It's time to renew your membership for 2021. As a result of a very challenging year with restrictions to normal club activities continuing into 2021 and financial pressure on some individuals not helped by lockdown, the committee has decided to make a temporary reduction to the subscription for the coming year.

Please also make sure you fill out the contact form as we will be unable to include your details on the membership list without a completed form.

For 2021 we are asking all members to pay a minimum of **£20** which will cover the cost we pay to the BMC for your membership.

If you would like to contribute more than that is also OK and as a guide, we have included last year's fees below.

- £45 for Full Membership
- £35 for Senior Membership
- £35 for Provisional Membership
- £25 Voluntary contribution for receiving the paper newsletter

How to Pay: 1 of 2 ways

1. By bank transfer to Oread Mountaineering Club Sort Code 30-98-97 Account 62584068 with Subs and your name in the reference field. Once the payment has been made please email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com with confirmation and a copy of the renewal form
2. By Cheque made payable to the Oread Mountaineering Club and then posted with the renewal form to Michael Hayes, 179 Starkholmes Road, Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA

Oread Mountaineering Club Membership Renewal and Contact List Update 2021		
Name		
Address		
Telephone Number		
Telephone Number Mobile		
Email address		
Secondary Email address		
Contact in case of emergency	Name, 'phone number and address	
I hereby renew my membership of the Oread Mountaineering Club, and confirm that I have read the constitution and agree to abide by its rules, respect its properties, and give due respect to the mountain environment		Yes / No
Data Protection: I agree to my details being held by the Oread MC in accordance with the Privacy Policy and shared with the BMC to gain my third-party insurance.		Yes / No
Data Protection: I agree to my contact details being included in a membership list which is distributed to all full members of the Oread Mountaineering Club.		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 Category: Please mark the relevant box		X
Full Member	£20 + (£25 Optional)	
Full Member (Senior)	£20 + (£15 Optional)	
Provisional Member	£20 + (£15 Optional)	
Member with permanent address outside the UK. 50% of appropriate rate as BMC membership is not included.	(£22.50 Optional)	

Please complete and sign the form and return to the Membership Secretary, Michael Hayes.

Please note that if you do not agree (or leave blank) for your contact details (address, telephone number(s), email(s)) to be included in the distributed membership list, then only your name will be on the list.

*Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
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