



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2022



The group on Ecton Hill

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Happy Bullstoners on Ecton Hill. Photo John Green.

Editorial

Lots of meets coming up - from local walks to weekends in Patterdale and Scotland plus indoor wall sessions and lectures live and on Zoom. **Note the early start time at the Royal Oak on 1 February: 7.30 pm.** Also plenty of meet write-ups with a bumper crop of photos from all the seasonal events.

In here the formal notice of the AGM – there are committee vacancies – could you take on a role? The club cannot operate without people to do the basic admin jobs that keep things going.

Also in here – a plea for photos of fun for the news feed on the website and plans for the 75th Anniversary coming up in two years' time.

Subscriptions for next year are due now –if you haven't signed up for Go Cardless - find out alternative ways to pay on page 8.

Don't forget, if you are intending to join any indoor meet it is important for everyone's safety that you have done a self-administered lateral flow test with a negative result beforehand.

Copy Deadline 20 February.

Forthcoming Meets 2022

Michael Moss: email: mamoss@btinternet.com Tel 07932 420414

February	2	Wednesday walk	Hulme End	Peter Amour
	6/20	Mediterranean sport climbing	Aparthotel Terralta, Benidorm	Derek Pike,
	9	Winter Wall Wednsdays	Nottingham climbing centre	Michael Percival
	11/12	Ochils Mountaineering Club hut	Crianlarich	Mick Hayes
	17	Thur short walk	Kniveton	Tom Corker
	19	Weekend walk	Ellastone church	Louise Amandini
	23	Winter Wall Wednsdays	Foundry, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	25/26	Tan y Wyddfa	Reserved for Oread only if a meet leader volunteers	
March	2	Wednesday walk	Crich (The Loaf cafe)	John Green
	4-5	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Lake District	ABMSAC/AC hut. Stuart Hayward
	9	Winter Wall Wednsdays	Nottingham climbing centre	Michael Percival
	17	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23	Winter Wall Wednesdays	Awesome walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	24	AGM	By zoom	Nigel Briggs
	25/26	Carn Dearg MC hut, Braedownie	Glen Cova, Scotland	Christabel Goode
	27	Spring stride /Weekend walk		Nigel Briggs
30	First outdoor meet	Harborough rocks, Brassington		
April	6	Wednesday walk	Macclesfield	Stuart Firth
	8/10	New members' meet	Heathy Lea	Ben Wooler
	15-17	Easter, France or Pembroke campi	Location TBD	Lance Baker
	21	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23	Weekend walk with new member	Heathy Lea	
May	2	Early May BH		
	11	Wednesday walk	Hayfield (Millie's Tea Room)	Rachel Walker
	13/14	Low House hut	Coniston, Lake District	MAM hut. Charlie Taylor
	19	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21	Weekend walk	Flash Bar Cafe	Michael Percival
June	2/3	Spring/Jubilee BH		
	3-4	High Moss hut, Rucksack club	Duddon valley, Lakes	
	8	Wednesday Walk	Tideswell	Chris Radcliffe
	10-11	Fylde hut	Little Langdale	Fylde MC hut swap
	16	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18	Weekend walk	Langsett (Polka Dot cafe)	
	18/19	Camping and walking, Swaledale	Usha Gap Camping and Caravan Site, M	Peter Amour
	25/26	Midsummer meet & BBQ	Heathy Lea	
July	23- 7 Aug.	Alpine meet	Argentiere (Chamonix), France	Gill and Chris Radcliffe
	6	Wednesday walk	Wildboardclough	Clive Russell
	8-9	BBQ Tan yr Wyddfa		Tony Howard
	16	Weekend walk	Congleton	Stuart Firth
	21	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
August	3	Wednesday walk	Tansley (Kath's Cafe)	
	18	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	20	Weekend walk Late summer BH	Longshaw Estate cafe	

Sept	3/4	BARMY comp	Heathy Lea	
	7	Wednesday walk	Ashford tea room	John Gwyther
	10/11	Climb?		
	15	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17	Weekend walk	Ilam NT café	
	30/1	Climb and curry High House,	Borrowdale, Lake District	Tony Howard, K-Fellfarers' hut
Oct	5	Wednesday walk	Hope	
	8/15	Mediterranean sport climbing		Avoiding half term 24/28 Oct
	15	Weekend walk	Froghall	Stuart Firth
	20	Thur short walk		
	23-29	Strawberry cottage, Glen Affric	Scotland	Peter Amour
	31	Start Monday evening indoor mee	Climbing unit, Derby	
Nov	2	Wednesday walk	Hollinsclough	Clive Russell
	5	Bonfire	Heathy Lea	
	12	Weekend walk	Hathersage (Outside cafe)	
	17	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18-19	Fylde hut	Little Langdale, Lakes	Dave Helliwell (Snod), Fylde MC hut swap
Dec	3	Annual dinner, Fox and Goose	Nr Chesterfiled. Chris and Gill Radcliff	Date & location TBC
	4	Post prandial walk		Date & location TBC
	7	Wednesday walk	Rowsley (Massarellas cafe)	
	9/10/11	Bullstones		
	14	Black rocks evening meet	Cromford, Derbyshire	
	15	Thur short walk		
	26	Boxing day walk		Loction TBD
	24-3 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	

Introducing WINTER WALL WEDNESDAYS the underwhelmingly named series of events that you didn't know you wanted!

The evenings are dark and the weekends are wet. Many of us spend our time dangling around at indoor walls so we thought it was time that we organised some sessions at them to at least allow you to socialise a bit while you are there! The theme is simple – on the 2nd Wednesday of each month there will be an indoor wall event held in Nottingham and the 4th Wed of each month there will be an indoor wall event held in Sheffield.

For this Winter I am proposing:

9th Feb - Nottingham (Nottingham Climbing Centre)

23rd Feb - Sheffield (Foundry)

9th March - Nottingham (Nottingham Climbing Centre)

23rd March - Sheffield (Awesome walls)

The suggested start time is 7pm to give most people the chance to finish at work and get to the venue. Drop me a message and let me know you are coming down and I'll keep an eye out for you! I hope to see lots of friendly faces.

Dave Mason: email dmason1992@hotmail.com

28-29 January 2022, Milehouse cottage, Kincaig Pip Leach

This is the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club hut near Kingussie in the Cairngorms, find more details at:

<https://www.ladiesscottishclimbingclub.org/huts/milehouse-cottage/>

We have 12 places currently booked, but we can increase to 17 if we wish. Cost is £10 pppn. Pip Leach is provisional meet leader so please book your place with her. Pip Leach: email pippasleach@gmail.com tel. 07941 395856

Tuesday 1 February 7.30pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



Rob Tresidder will give an illustrated talk about the **Alpine Passes Walk**, from Sargans to Montreux via eighteen passes and below the north face of the Eiger.

This talk is in honour of Kev Reynolds, walker and writer extraordinaire 1943 – 2021.

Admission, as usual £3.00 Oreads, £5.00 others.

Please note earlier start time to accommodate the pub's current closing time of 10.00 pm.

Wednesday 2 February The Hulme End Hobble Peter Amour

I shall be inside the Hulme End Tea Junction, (postal code SK17 0EZ) from about 10.10am taking a hot drink/snack prior to starting the walk at 10.30am. Regarding parking I believe that if using the cafe you can leave your vehicle there all day. Should you prefer not to there is a pay and display car park next door.

Route-wise we shall make a circuit west of Hulme End and touch Warslow, Lower and Upper Elkstones prior to completing the loop via Moorside, Moorside Farm, Warslow Hall and Hollow Farm back to the start point. About 10 miles of undulating terrain.

I look forward to meeting the regular victims, and welcome any others. For any further info/updates you can contact me on 07827 378147.

Wednesday 9 February 7.00pm Evening wall meet.

Nottingham (Nottingham Climbing Centre) . <https://www.nottingham-climbing.co.uk/>

11-12 February 2022, Inverardran Cottage, Crianlarich

This is the Ochils Mountaineering Club hut, with more details at:

<https://www.ochils.com/club-cottage-for-let>

We have a booking for 10 beds at £12 pppn. Michael Hayes is meet leader – **Fully booked but contact him if you would like to be on the reserve list.**

Michael Hayes: email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com tel. 07771 700913

Tuesday 15 February 20.00 Zoom talk Pip Leach

Scotland summer 2021

With an aim of completing 60 Corbetts this year, I headed to the far north west of Scotland. I was joined by a couple of fellow Oreads for my 'significant' birthday. Activities included cycling, kayaking, sightseeing, overnight bothy stay, and of course, those all important Corbetts. The joining link will be emailed out prior to the event.

Thursday 17 February Short Walk Tom Corker

Park in Kniveton at or near the bend on the minor road which leaves the main road by the school. SK209,508 for an 11.00am start.

The walk takes in Wigber Low, crosses the Haven brook to Bradbourne and back via Haven Hill. The ascent of Haven Hill is optional but interesting.

Tom Corker email clairecorker1@talktalk.net tel.07871276516

Saturday 19 February Ellastone Walk Louise Amandini

The walk will start at 10.15am at the carpark opposite St Peter's church in Ellastone (Church Lane, Ellastone, Ashbourne DE6 2HB.) It is next to the village hall and a tennis court, on the road to Wootten. The walk will be approximately 10 miles taking in Wootten and the Weaver Hills. Bring a packed lunch but if you are in luck Daltons dairy may be open and they do great icecream!

Louise Amandini tel. 07876 543171

Wednesday 23 February Evening Wall Meet

Sheffield (Foundry)

Dave Mason email dmason1992@hotmail.com

Tuesday 1 March 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

No details as yet. Contact Rob Tresidder tel. 07951 625378.

Wednesday 2 March Walk Crich area John Green

Starting from Crich village centre at 10.30, we will walk out to the Memorial of the Sherwood Foresters, then traverse Cliff Quarry and drop to Wakebridge. A further drop to Wakebridge farm will see us continue to Holloway (Fuel Café), Lea

Hurst, Lea Wood and the Derwent Valley Heritage Way to Duke's Quarry. From Crich Carr a little road walking takes us to Chase Cliffe where we climb up to Crich Tors and back to our starting point. About 16k. Please let me know if you are coming so I can look out for you. It's a nice round, well worth the effort. J.Green tel.07760 136369 email: green987651@outlook.com

4 -6 March Patterdale Stuart Haywood

22 beds are booked at the ABMSAC George Starkey Hut in Patterdale for the nights of Friday 4th and Saturday 5th March. However as usual we have the option of extending our stay by a day or so if required.

As this is a long established Oread meet I think everyone will be aware of the options available in close proximity to this hut, and over recent years climbing, walking, mountain biking, fell running and canoeing have all featured.

Although I will be co-ordinating bookings for this meet it is unlikely I will be the 'on the ground' meet leader. Assuming current UK and Norwegian Covid restrictions do not change over the next few weeks we will be having our 3rd attempt at a Hurtigruten 'northern lights' coastal voyage. Hopefully this time the trip won't end in a very polite but firm deportation!

Consequently if you want to book a berth please ring/text me, Stuart Haywood on 07774 – 859553 or e-mail stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk I will of course reply to all e-mail and text messages to confirm bookings.

Wednesday 9 March Evening Wall Meet

Nottingham (Nottingham Climbing Centre) . <https://www.nottingham-climbing.co.uk/>

Tuesday 15 March 20.00 Zoom talk Chris Wilson

GR20 in Corsica

The final Oread Zoom of the winter features a footpath that traverses the mountains of Corsica from north to south and is said to be one of the finest walks around. Jan and I walked it in 2017 and wouldn't disagree. Many Oreads have first hand knowledge of it and it was the subject of a Harry Pretty lecture some years ago at Ockbrook. Hopefully the zoom will rekindle memories of good times past and encourage others to give it a go.

As an introduction and to add a bit of interest I'll be describing three other interesting walks:

a lovely walk that Jan and I did after escaping from storms in the Dolomites – a pair of gorges in Paklenica, Croatia;

A few years ago some of us had a lot of fun descending the Torrent de Pareis in Mallorca;

The (now sadly emasculated) Caminito del Rey at El Chorro in southern Spain is a fairly thought-provoking trip. The link will be emailed out before the event.

Wednesday 23 March Evening Wall Meet

Sheffield (Awesome walls)

Dave Mason email dmason1992@hotmail.com

Thursday 24 March 8.00 pm Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place at 8 pm on Thursday 24th March 2022. We will be holding the meeting virtually on Zoom.

See page 9 for full details regarding the business of the meeting and how it will be conducted.

25-26 March Braedownie Hut Glen Cova Christabel Goode

This is the Carn Dearg Mountaineering Club hut in Glen Clova (south east side of Cairngorms, Scotland).

find more details at <https://carndearg.org/club-hut/>

We can have up to 16 people, 8 people have signed up already. Cost is £10 pppn.

Please book your place with Christabel Goode

email: christabelgoode@gmail.com tel. 07904 944846

Oread Summer Alpine Trip 2022 Gill Radcliffe Change of date.

I had originally planned to run this meet earlier in July but due to the unavailability of some club members I now intend to run the meet from the 23rd July to 7th August.

It's likely that Chris and I will be in the area for longer so any member is welcome to join us before or after these dates.

The plan is to return to Camping Du Glacier D'Argentiere camp site near Chamonix. The club went there in 2016 but I didn't get to go so I'm putting it forward as the summer Alpine meet for 2022. I've been reliably informed that it's an excellent camp site and I'm aiming to reserve a spot for Oreads.

The Chamonix mountains are the premier alpine climbing area in Europe and there's a lifetime of adventures waiting for everyone. Whether you want to focus on multi-pitch rock routes in an alpine setting or opt for classic snow and mixed routes there is plenty to do. There are excellent walks in and around the Chamonix valley, including the Tour du Mont Blanc. I walked this excellent route in 1986 and it took me seven days, now it's run in 20 hours by elite athletes.

There are plenty of guide books out there but I would recommend the following

two books by Jean-Louis Laroche & Florence Lelong for starters:
Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles Rouges / Mountaineering in the Mont Blanc Range

If you're intending to come (Covid restrictions permitting) then I would appreciate a response as I will get in touch with the campsite to see if we can camp near one another. On-line booking is now available so that will make life a lot easier for the meet leader!

Gill Radcliffe tel. 07816 072138 email gill@farfields.co.uk

Oread Subscription Renewal 2022

It is that time of year again....

Subscriptions remain at £45 for ordinary membership, £35 for senior members (those in receipt of state pension) and £35 for provisional members. Honorary members, of course, pay no subscription so can ignore all this.

If you have not signed up for the Go Cardless direct debit please pay now either by BACS to our Lloyds account – Sort Code 30-98-97 Account number 62584068. Please put Subs in the 'Reference' box so we know what the payment is for and email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com to tell him you have done it. Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread M.C. to Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA Mobile 07771 700913.

If you have any problems or queries please contact me on treasurer@oread.co.uk

Thank you,

Janet Briggs, Oread Treasurer.

Your Website Needs You!!!

Done a great route? Had a lovely walk? Been bouldering with a few mates? Please share a photo and a line or two about your day to keep the News Feed on the home page of the website lively and constantly changing. Official meets reports go on there but so much more happens in between. Let's show the world what a great, active club this is.

Just send your photo and brief info to Dave Mason and he'll upload it to the website. Email dmason1992@hotmail.com

Calling all Hoarders! 1977 Oread Bulletin Wanted!

Has anyone got a copy of Bulletin Volume 24 no 1 Spring 1977 which I could borrow to be scanned and added to the set of journals and newsletters etc on the website? It is likely to have a yellow/orange cover. If you can help please let me know. Contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Thanks Ruth Gordon.

Thursday 24 March 8.00 pm Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place at 8 pm on Thursday 24th March 2022. We will be holding the meeting virtually on Zoom.

In the meeting we will approve the minutes of the 2021 AGM, consider the accounts and officers' reports for 2021, elect a new committee, consider amendments to the constitution and consider any other proposed motions.

The officers' reports and the accounts will be circulated prior to the AGM, hopefully in the March Newsletter. Questions are requested to be submitted in advance of the AGM and the responses will be provided at the AGM. Questions asked during the meeting will also be answered.

Nominations for Officers of the club and members of the committee are welcome and must be submitted by the 3rd March to the Secretary. Each nomination must be in writing and supported by two full members of the club along with the consent of the nominee. Nominations can be made for any position. However, there are vacant positions for Vice President, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Member. In the event of multiple nominations for the same position a vote will be held.

Any motions for consideration need to be sent to the Secretary, Simon Pape, by the 3rd March 2021 and be supported by two full members of the club.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution

The AGM in March 2019 adopted a new constitution. A few improvements were subsequently suggested, these were on the agenda of the 2020 AGM, which never took place due to the first Covid lockdown. The committee would like to propose these alterations at this year's AGM.

In the amendments, below, text to be removed is struck out and the text to be inserted is in **bold**. The change to 7.6 is to formalise the good practice we operate in not allowing two, or more, people who are signatories of the Club's accounts to be related.

The change to 11.1 needs a little more explanation. In 2019 when the new constitution was written we followed the recommendation of the BMC to say that if the club were dissolved any remaining assets would be donated to Charity or an organisation with similar aims and objectives. We have since learnt, from our Inspector of Accounts, that this statement precludes us from being considered a mutual organisation. It is to our advantage to be a mutual organisation as this has implications for corporation tax liability. If we are a mutual organisation only income from non members is considered as income. If we are not a mutual organisation all income, including membership fees and hut fees from members are considered as income. We would like to be a mutual organisation, so we propose to revert to any remaining assets on dissolution be distributed to the remaining Full Members. This change should not alter the club's legal status as

an unincorporated association.

Amendments:

7.6 The Treasurer shall be a signatory of the account(s). Additionally the Committee will nominate a minimum of three elected ~~Club~~ **committee** members, **who are not related to each other or to the Treasurer**, as signatories for the club account(s) of whom at least two shall have access to see all transactions in the Club's bank account(s).

11.1 The Club can only be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote at a General Meeting. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution, if the assets of the Club are not sufficient, shall be the joint responsibility of all Full Members. ~~The Committee will arrange to discharge any remaining assets by donating to Charity or to organisations with similar aims and objectives to the Oread.~~ **Any remaining assets will be distributed between the remaining Full Members of the club in a manner determined by the Committee and agreed by a majority vote at a General Meeting.**

Oread 75th Anniversary Nigel Briggs

The 20th March 2024 marks the 75th Anniversary of the inaugural Oread Meet. During 2024 the committee thinks it would be appropriate to run a number of events to celebrate our club and the 75th Anniversary. We are very much at the early stages of planning, if you have any ideas of events that could take place, or if you would like to be involved in any of the projects in any way please get in touch with me. The success of any of the celebrations depends on people willing to organise and help run them!

There are a number of projects we would like to see.

- An almanac type publication

I would like to follow the 25th and 50th Anniversary tradition with some sort of publication. I do not envisage producing and publishing a book. It would concentrate on recording the main events of the last 25 years (suggestions about what are the main events are welcome) and venues and highlights from 'annual events' such as the Bullstones Meet, the Alpine Meet and the Dinner etc. I also envisage contributions on members' own thoughts and reflections from the first 75 years of the club. This could be distributed as a pdf file, or printed out to order.

- Putting a photographic history together

We would like to collect 'interesting' photographs of club members and activities together on the website. Each photograph would be accompanied by a short description of the 'backstory' of the photograph, who is on it and where etc. Start to look through your photograph collections!

- **Publishing one article per year from the Newsletter from the years 2000 – 2024**

One article selected from the Newsletter for each year from 2000 – 2024 and put on the website.

- **Run a Summer Weekend Camping Meet**

The idea here is to hold a celebratory meet where members, friends and kindred clubs can come together for a weekend and celebrate the Anniversary. As the numbers could be large camping may be easier to organise than a hut based meet. There is no venue yet but the Peak District, as our 'homeland' seems an appropriate area to hold the meet.

- **75th Annual Dinner**

Something a bit grander than we have had in recent years.

If you are interested in contributing to the organisation of these, or other, events please get in touch with me, thank you.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

ABMSAC George Starkey Hut in Patterdale: Booking Information

The hut is available to Oread members midweek for parties of between 4 and 10 to book for individual visits rather than official club meets. In excess of 10 the hut must be booked by the club.

When using the ABMSAC hut booking site Oread members are asked to note and use the new 2022 code, OreadMC 31748 -74.

12 – 14 November Cwm Eigiau Cottage Janet Briggs



Photo Pip Leach

A fairly select group comprising of Janet and Nigel Briggs, Pippa Leach and her niece Claire, Rachel Walker and Michael Moss headed for the Conwy Valley during the daylight hours of Friday. Pippa and Rachel met up with Claire at Bodnant. Claire was somewhat delayed by a nasty accident which happened just in front of her en route, fortunately those involved emerged unhurt from the cars. At this stage Pip discovered the first faux pas of the weekend, she was in Bodnant but her lunch and flask of coffee were still in her car outside Rachel's house.

Meanwhile the meet leader and her driver, holders of the hut key, were planning to arrive in daylight and before the others. As members of the host club, the Rugby Mountaineering Club, we have been to Cwm Eigiau quite a few times before, but nearly always arriving in the dark. It is about a 40 minutes walk from the car park to the cottage and we decided it would be great to do it in daylight for once. I found the car park on OS maps on my phone, instructed Nigel to turn right at Tal y Bont and we headed up the hill. It didn't look entirely familiar, but it was daylight. We reached the car park, strange, we both thought the parking was on the right of the road, not the left. Anyway we loaded up front and back rucksacks and headed off towards the dam. Nigel remarked that he didn't remember pylons in this bit of the valley. I dismissed this since we usually walked up in the dark. 20 minutes later and having still not reached the familiar dam wall Nigel insisted we looked at the map... faux pas number two, we had set off from the wrong car park in the wrong valley, having taken the wrong road

out of Tal y Bont. Whoops! First rule of navigation: if it doesn't look right it probably isn't. Second rule for Nigel...don't trust your wife.

So after a 20 minute drive back down to the valley and back up the correct road, we found the correct car park, from which we could see the dam and no pylons. We recognised cars in the car park so knew we were no longer going to arrive first. By this time it was raining and getting dark. Nigel seemed to manage to let me set off first, maybe so that I would get the flack for being late. I hurried along as fast as I could with two rucksacks, in the dark, over rough tracks and through mud, imagining the others huddling together in the rain wondering where we were. As I sighted the cottage there were lights outside, then welcoming shouts, and it soon emerged that they had only been there about five minutes and had seen our lights coming, so they were not too cold and wet and fed up, phew!

Once inside, we found the switch for the solar powered lights, managed to unjam the door to the outhouse with the toilet in, turned on the gas and water and got a kettle on. Before long the stove was lit, food was on the go and all was forgotten and forgiven (I hope). For those who have not been, Cwm Eigiau is pretty basic with no electricity, a chemical toilet and one main room with a small bedroom below and sleeping platform above, off it. It has character!



Saturday morning dawned dry, but mainly cloudy, with some cloud around summits and quite windy. We decided on a ridge walk and got our stuff together. At this stage faux pas number three became apparent, Mike had walked up in shoes, and his boots were still in his car boot. He wasn't going back for them and his shoes were pretty wet and muddy anyway!

We went downstream to the bridge first then up a path to the old mine workings. From there it was a thrash up the hillside to the first summit of the day, Pen Llithrig y Wrach (as we later learned the hill of the slippery witch). By now the clouds were breaking and we were getting views of the way onwards. Next summit was Pen yr Helgi Du, from here we could see along the arete towards Carnedd Llewellyn, and spot routes such as Ampitheatre Buttress on Craig yr Ysfa. In the other direction we could see down into the Ogwen Valley. By now the weather was a mixture of watery sun, mist, cloud and winds, mostly all at once and quite atmospheric. Someone remarked it was a day for Brocken Spectres.



The next part involved a narrow ridge and some quite scrambly bits, possibly somewhat out of Claire's comfort zone, but aided by 'Aunty Phil' she coped admirably. We stopped for lunch above the top of Craig yr Ysfa. From there climbing up to the summit of Carnedd Llewellyn we were rewarded by several fleeting Brocken Spectres. Soon afterwards we lost the views as the clag came down. Our final summit was Foel Grach with its substantial but not very inviting shelter. The OS map showed a good path back to the valley from here. We tried

to find it, with some compass work and quite a lot of grovelling around in boggy conditions. Eventually we decided that if we headed down we were going to hit the right valley. Consulting the Harvey's map later shows the path as a 'public footpath without path on the ground'. As we emerged out of the mist we were able to head fairly directly for the hut.

After a good day on the hill we enjoyed a communal meal of pasta with chicken and mushrooms, and lots of cake and custard. Cooking was interrupted by a persistent carbon monoxide alarm which didn't seem to like the fact that the stove chimney was not drawing well until it got hot enough. Once it did really get going the hut was very warm and cosy.

Sunday morning was dry but cloudy. Claire elected to wander up the valley with her camera for a spot of photography. Pip, Rachel, Nigel and I decided to complete the circuit of the valley by heading downstream at valley level on the south side. We headed across to near the car park and then along the ridge behind the hut. Mike came with us as far as the car park, then went back to the hut to pack the rest of his stuff and head home. We had a much less dramatic walk weather wise, but very pleasant. The main difficulties were in the valley, with more non-existent paths, including one crossing the river, and another which was meant to cut a corner across a field of tussocky grass and heather. The short cut certainly didn't save us time. Back on the ridge we had good views of the lakes Dulyn and Melynlyn (on a warmer day with more time I might be tempted to investigate closer for a swim). We also encountered a friendly group of semi wild horses. After a pleasant lunch stop on Craig Eigiau we headed back down to the hut, and the fun job of digging a hole and filling it with the contents of the toilet bucket. The walk out was pleasantly uneventful, as was the drive down the correct road to the correct valley. The remaining five of us extended the weekend with a night (or more in our case) at Tan yr Wyddfa.

20 November Hope Valley Circuit Peter Amour

A lively eleven (and Freddy the dog) left Hathersage, headed for Lead Mill Bridge and then briefly followed the Derwent upstream. Callow Wood was soon accessed and gave the pleasure of boots rustling through dry autumn leaves. Shortly thereafter we covered tarmac, Offerton Moor and a combination of green lanes and footpaths to be treated to the view of Bradwell and the Hope valley bathed in superb autumn sunshine. Dropping into the village we then passed through a series of small pastures to take a lunch break before moving onto and through Brough.

The active eleven (and one Freddy) commenced the return leg and took in the impressive waterway engineering at Bamford Mill before entering Sickleholme Golf Course, going into committee mode to navigate what seemed like 18 holes and two bunkers before exiting the park. In failing light hot teas and cold ices were enjoyed at Thorpe Farm before returning to Hathersage in darkness. All in all a great day in a superb valley with the excellent company of Sue Todd, Louise Amandini, Linda Drew, Stuart Firth, Jan and Chris Wilson, Mike Hayes,

Mike Percival, Richard Hopkinson, John Gwyther and Freddy the Schnauzer.



Elevation's reward, a great view of Bradwell and the Hope Valley from Offerton Moor.

26-28 November Little Langdale Hut Swap Ruth Gordon

The date for our annual hut swap had been chosen by the Fylde Club – perhaps they knew something we didn't-----

Snod, his mate Irwin Bottomley and I arrived in Little Langdale mid afternoon on Friday. It wasn't a bad day, but a bit chill in the hut so we turned the heaters up, had a quick cup of tea and set off for an hour or so walking through the woods and quarries. We'd got a map but it became too dark to read it – however we managed a successful circuit and got back to find Derek Pike and Mike Wren had arrived. The hut was gradually warming up but it was chill sitting around so we went up to the Three Shires and had a pleasant couple of pints toasting ourselves in front of their lovely log-burner. Roger and Tom arrived and we all cooked and ate. Meanwhile it had started to rain, then sleet and the wind was getting wilder and wilder. The lights flickered a couple of times and then, around 9.30 they went out for good! Storm Arwen had arrived. It wasn't really a problem then as the emergency lighting over the doors came on and we sat in the subdued glow, chatting and listening to the wind – it sounded like a train coming through – crazy noises.

Come morning it had dropped somewhat but still strong and bitter cold. Derek was a hero and boiled kettles on the gas in his camper van so we all got cups of tea. It was a gloriously clear, sunny morning so we decided on a walk over to Coniston in hope of finding a cafe open. Derek and Mike opted for a more local

walk around the quarries. We were barely across the ford when we encountered a chap with a chain saw chopping up a tree that was blocking access to the house up the track. A few minutes later we realised it wasn't just the odd tree – they were down in swathes, across every road and footpath – not just shallow rooted birch but pines, beech, oak, holly – it was horrifying. Once clear of the woods the views were superb, all the tops with a covering of sparkly snow.



There was no power in Coniston either but we found a cafe with a gas cooker and fortified ourselves with hot drinks - Snod and I got the last two bacon butties – the rest had to make do with pies. An elderly woman came in and assured us that roads were already closed by snow and more was due to come in. We weren't convinced (it hadn't been forecast on Friday) until our return route gave us a fine view of Wrynose where five cars were reversing back down, very slowly and cautiously.



Back at the hut the batteries had run out on the emergency lighting but we found a few tea light candles and sat and shivered for an hour or two. We muttered enviously about how cosy the Fylde members would be in front of the fire at Tan yr Wyddfa, cooking their meals

on our gas rings!

The word on the street was that Ambleside had power so we headed there in hope of finding a warm pub – along with everyone else in the whole of the Langdale and Coniston area! The place was hoaching – we got almost the last spaces in the main car park – but it all worked out splendidly – fish and chips, followed by a pleasant evening in the Golden Rule where we sat, lingering over our pints, as long as possible!

Sunday morning we woke to snow – the old woman was right! We packed up and cleared up and filled a jerry-can of water for the people in the house up the lane which had no water – we were obviously better off than some. The surface of the lane, where it had been polished by feet and tyres, was lethal so Roger, Tom and Derek got stuck in with shovels and rakes, breaking up the icy surface so the cars could get a start on the hill. We closed up the hut as best we could, without power we couldn't turn the electronic heater controls back down nor even be sure if we had switched all the lights off.

We had an outline plan to meet up at the Old Dungeon Ghyll car park and go for a walk – but the wet snow kept walloping down and the road to Elterwater was tortuous with hastily chopped fallen trees still partially blocking the road. We got through to Langdale and decided we really didn't fancy getting wet on a snowy walk and then starting what would be a slow journey home through the snow – but no sign of the Larkams who had gone off first. We set off home, on the M6, running out of the snow around Lancaster, but back into it again from Manchester south. Derek and Mike stayed off the motorway but found the A65 even more snowy and challenging. Meanwhile the intrepid Larkams stuck with plan A and by afternoon were rewarded with clear skies and snowy peaks in



Langdale.

Thanks to all who came on a weekend we won't forget – and particular thanks to Derek for all the very welcome cups of tea. The hut swap is scheduled for 18-19 November 2022. A primus stove and a Tilley lamp are already on the essential kit list!

Bullstones 2021 John Green



Ecton Hill summit 369m

Saturday, December 11, 2021

On December 10th a stalwart group of Oreads met up in Wetton at the Royal Oak for our usual unorthodox walk in the countryside! Things did not bode well when we noticed that the village had no mains power and was on a generator. However, the beer was good as was the food and as usual so was the company. As this was a wimp's Bullstones as designated by the meet leader, we did not have far to walk when asked to leave by the landlord. Well not really, but we were the last there.

The evening was dull and dank but not raining and our various accommodations were erected near the summit of Wetton Hill, except for Peter and John who went to the correct place and were not led astray by the meet leader. Next morning, we awoke to a most beautiful sunrise, pictured overleaf by Neil Weatherstone, as we packed for the flog to Hurdlow.



Sunrise (Neil Weatherstone)

Saturday, December 11, 2021

The route took us down to the road at Lees Farm and then around Ecton Hill of Copper Mining fame. The descent from the summit divided the group and some took the zig zag track, others the shoulder all eventually arriving on the Manifold Trail. The first stop was at the Café in Hulme End where first comers had the fantastic carrot cake. Later arrivals had to make do with less attractive fare. The route continued by Townend and Harris Close to Pilsbury where lunch was had at the roadside. One farm we passed had the worst slurry I have seen in a long time and there was no way round! One member was covered to her knees in the stuff. I felt sorry for the animals that had to traverse this just to get to their dinner. The continuation was over fields to Vincent House and Darley Farm to join the High Peak Trail to The Royal Oak at Hurdlow. The pub looked after us very well and the meal in the evening was worth waiting for, especially as there were some new beers to try. Our room was designated as the whisky tasting room so one member was removed to better accommodation where she could get some sleep without disturbance. Some unusual whiskies appeared and very few were guessed by the group, all were enjoyed however.

Sunday started with drizzle and mist but cleared later so all in all a good Bullstones especially given the problems with Covid. My Thanks to those who came and contributed to the occasion. Nick, Peter, Simon, Derek, Neil, Tim, Tom, John, Charles, Dawn, Tom H, Mike, Pippa, Roger, James, Kev, and part time Chris and Jan. Good to see you all.



Whisky tasting

Saturday, December 11, 2021

18 December Lathkill Dale Walk John Green



Saturday, December 18, 2021

An early start was had by a gritty Oread group out in the cold and mist of a short December day. The objective was a traverse of Lathkill Dale. A route almost

everyone knows but good nevertheless. We started from Moor Lane car park, some of us in the layby and others in the car park. After checks by Peter we collected ourselves and walked out to Calling Low and Cales Dale where we descended very slippery steps into the Lathkill itself. Following the track to the small bridge which gave access to Bateman's House, we climbed down the steps to see into the sough itself using the hand generated light there. A short while after we climbed onto the old rail track and looked around the old mine workings before carrying on to Alport where we joined the River Bradford and its dale. Here we met Roger, Sharon and Ben Gibbs with Dave and Victoria Mawer. They were going the other way round the walk after some cold-water dips in the river! The Limestone Way took us back to the car park and a visit to the Smithy Café in Monyash for well-deserved tea and cakes. Thanks to everyone who came, with such miserable weather it would have been a bit grim on my own.



In Lathkill Dale

Saturday, December 18, 2021

A New Year's Day Gathering Peter Amour

Some years earlier I was asked to lead this event when Rusty belatedly took ill. On that occasion I collected Rob Tressider en-route, arrived at the Ilam start point in torrential rain and found ourselves the only fools out on such a foul day. This year I collected Jane Tressider, and was pleased to see we made a round dozen, and in much finer conditions....



Nearing Stanshope, Mr Wilson trying to intimidate Martin Lancaster who is trying to use Chris Radcliffe's phone.

The departure from Ilam Cross had us progressively gaining height to Dovedale Wood, slithering north along the rim of the dale and then treating the party to mud glissading down to Ilam Rock. Having three new faces in the group I was somewhat surprised to find that they were still polite to me, although Martin Lancaster did make some utterance about me not getting too close to the Dove. An ascent of Hall Dale would see us regain the lost height, take refreshments, and head over to Wetton on kinder ground.

The lunch stop was a mix of those eating on village benches, while others noshing on the Royal Oak's bench were given some grief for it. A few Oreads were seen to be either in or arriving at the pub, including Dave Wright, Brian and Liz West, and Roger Larkam, the latter who had run from Ilam in about 50 minutes, not bad for a grey-bearded old badger!

The return stint saw us lose a third of the group within the 'Oak and we made a return on more sympathetic terrain following the general line of the Manifold Valley. The latter section of the jaunt gave us an unexpected treat of seeing a substantially sized flock of Starlings building up prior to going into murmuration mode. All in all a good day, let us hope for a new year of less difficulty and more good companionship.

Thank you to Chris and Jan Wilson, Jane - Jan's cousin, Martin Lancaster, Chris and Gill Radcliffe, John and Frederique Gwyther, Jane Tressider, Pippa Leach and Roy Eyre, it was great to share the day with you.

New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Ruth Gordon



Team Jigsaw! Photo Pete Kennington.

The weather was foul mostly, either torrential rain or blowing a gale so it was unsurprising that only six of us were silly enough to turn up. Still Pete and Ali explored quarry remains, Derek, Joan, Snod and I went for a seaside walk at Borth y Gest and on New Year's Day Derek Snod and I fought our way up a V.Diff on Holyhead Mountain in a howling gale. But, as ever, a good sociable time was had by all and by the end of four days we finally completed the devilishly complicated jigsaw Derek had brought to entertain us! Pete and Ali stayed on another day and tried to photograph a waterfall – but couldn't get near it for the spray!

Saturday 15 January Linacre Walk Stuart Firth

A baker's dozen Oreads were rewarded by interesting atmospheric conditions at the start of the Linacre Walk. There had been mist in the valleys first thing and it was quite spectacular above the clouds. The sun even came out and what might have been muddy ground was nicely frozen, making the going easier.

Nigel and Janet impressed the assembled company by having done a warm-up 5k park-run through Chatsworth beforehand.

Radders had kindly recommended the route through territory that was unfamiliar to me. Sometimes we do miss out on good countryside by focusing too closely on the Peak Park itself. There were some splendid equestrian properties and we debated how suitable a particular starter-palace would be for the long-mooted Oread Retirement Home.



For some obscure reason the subject of ironing was debated at length and we were somewhat surprised to hear that our esteemed president finds the activity to be pleasantly therapeutic.



A great day was capped off by a wind-down in The Peacock at Cutthorpe. We especially enjoyed watching Mike Percival scoff an enormous prawn sandwich and chips.

Thank you to all attendees: Nigel and Janet Briggs, Peter Amour, Pippa Leach, Louise Amandini, John Gwyther, Mike and Helen Hayes, Jan and Chris Wilson, Mike Percival, Tony Errett (guest) and myself. Thanks also to Peter Amour for the photographs.

Thursday 20 January Short Walk round Crich Ruth Gordon

Seven Oreads plus a couple of friends foregathered at Whatstandwell on a fabulous crisp, clear winter's morning for a circuit around Crich. We passed below Chasecliff – bigger and more impressive than I remembered – before leaving the woods to enjoy fine views all round as we made our way along Crich tors - pausing for a photo call, and into the village where some of our number fell by the wayside (into a beckoning pub). The rest continued to Crich Stand, then down, past the old Wakebridge Mine engine house and the Whatstandwell quarries back to the canal. Thanks to Tom Corker for the excellent route, Tony Howard for the photo and everyone for your company.



From the left: Ruth's friends Jackie and Heather, Graham Foster, Roger Larkam, Ruth Gordon, Derrick Burgess, Tom Corker, Chris Wilson. Photo Tony Howard

Hut Bookings.

Both our Welsh and Derbyshire hut bookings have now moved online at the Oread website www.oread.co.uk.

The new system allows you to see up to date bed availability details and make your own bookings.

Please remember to sign in as members first before making your bookings as you get access to the Oread beds and rates and you don't have to enter lots of details required for external bookings.

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

Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer to our Lloyds account – Sort Code 30-98-97 Account number 62584068. Please use the 'Reference' box to say what the payment is for. **In particular 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.

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

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new Provisional members Jeremy Lee, Christine Paice, David and Stephanie Ward. We hope you will enjoy many happy times with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from current Provisional members Chris Ashworth, Tom Larkam and Seyhan Turan plus new applications from Linda May Drew and Richard Linney. If you would like to comment on any of these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:

There is no question of a points competition as Snod was the sole contestant. He appears to have researched the data thoroughly and I can do no better than to reproduce his answer below. One ascent which has always caught my eye in the archives however is that of Spectre on the Grochan during which Ernie Phillips seconded Peter Harding, I am not sure whether Peter became a member but he was in circulation with Oread members at the time.

Snod writes:

Of course two great pre-war climbs were done in Wales by Jack Longland - Longlands on Cloggy and the amazing Javelin Blade on Hollytree wall but the rest of the party were not, so far as I can research, Oreads.

The most rewarding area of research was North Pembroke and there are many: The Lizard, 345 feet HVS. D. Burgess and T. Green. Libra 140 feet S. K. Hodge and D. Gadsby.

The Caterpillar 300 feet VS. Nat Allen and D. Carnell.
Great Slab 180 feet VS. same party.
Crescent Slab 150 feet VD. G. Gadsby and M. Hodge.
Ochre Slab 100 feet S. Nat Allen, D. Carnell, L. Peel.

But I think the route Rusty has in mind is Masquerade on Marsco Buttress, in the Red Cuillin, Skye. 200 feet Severe, by Geoff Hayes and Brian Cooke - because Rusty was there! The story is told in "Climb if you will" but the route is not in the guidebook because Brian never got round to reporting it.

All these routes are over 50 years old.

This month's puzzle:

This month's challenge is to identify the spire in the accompanying photograph. I can confirm that Oread meets have passed within view of this feature. My known habitats will also act as a clue.



*Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. Email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com*