

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

APRIL 2022



Congratulations to Paul Gardiner, co-founder member, past president – 50 years ago – and Honorary Member, shown here celebrating his 90th birthday on a walk with friends, relations and fellow Oreads. Photo Peter Amour.

Editorial

Lots of meets coming up - including the successor to the popular Boundary Walk. Don't miss the first leg of the **Gritstone Trail** starting in Macclesfield Forest on 6 April. There are also two meets in April particularly aimed at newer members, one for climbers and a second walking weekend at the end of the month. Plus of course Easter in France for some bouldering in the sun.

In May there is a Meet to the excellent Low House Hut in Coniston - let us hope for some more of the wonderful weather enjoyed on the recent Patterdale meet – photos and write -up in here.

Finally – a plea from the Committee - the new committee as listed on page 7 is short of a secretary. A volunteer would be most welcome!

Copy Deadline 20 April.

Forthcoming Meets 2022

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

April	6	Wednesday walk	Macclesfield	Stuart Firth
	8/10	New members' meet	Heathy Lea	Ben Wooler
	15-17	Easter Bouldering, Fontainebleau	Camping Les Prés - Aquadis Loisirs.	Lance Baker
	21	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23	Weekend walk with new memb	Heathy Lea	Peter Amour
May	Apr 30-May 2	Early May BH		
	11	Wednesday walk	Hayfield (Millie's Tea Room)	Rachel Walker
	13/14	Low House hut	Conniston, Lake District	MAM hut. Charlie Taylor
	19	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21	Weekend walk	Flash Bar Cafe	Michael Percival
June	2/5	Spring/Jubilee BH, Pembroke sc	Upper Porclew Farm, Freshwater East	Leader needed
	8	Wednesday Walk	Tideswell	Chris Radcliffe
	10-11	Fylde hut	Little Langdale	Fylde MC hut swap, meet leader needed
	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, ML	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	Wildboarclough	Clive Russell
	11-15	Hut working party	Tan yr Wyddfa	Dave Helliwell (Snod)
	15-16	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 m	Climbing unit, Derby	

Nov	2	Wednesday walk	Hollingsclough	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
December	3	Annual dinner, Fox and Goose	Nr Chesterfiled. Chris and Gill Radcliffe	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	

6 April Wednesday Walk– Gritstone Trail 1 Stuart Firth

I intend this to be the start of a new project – to walk the length of the Gritstone Trail in a series of loops. I know a lot of folk enjoyed the Peak District Boundary Walk so this is a follow-on. I hope you'll join me for this stage and hopefully others in the future.

Meet at 10:30am at Trentabank Reservoir Visitor Centre, Macclesfield Forest. Pay and Display car park. OL24 White Peak GR 941722. There may also be free roadside parking at Ridgeway Reservoir. GR 946714.

The approximate route is: Greenbarn, Lowerhouse, Hill of Rossencloves, Lingerd's Farm, (possibility to shorten route here), Higher Pethills Farm, Foxbank Farm, Ridge Hall Farm.

We'll finish at the Leather's Smithy pub for some refreshment. Bring a packed lunch for al fresco dining.

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

8-10 April New Members Meet Heathy Lea Ben Wooler



A shot from the new members meet way back in 2018 which saw a fantastic turnout of old and new members.

It's about time we dusted off our ropes and shoes for a slightly delayed new members meet to see just how weak our fingers have become. Hopefully this year we'll actually get out on real rock!

The format of the weekend will likely involve a small group out climbing on the Friday evening then retiring to Heathy Lea via the Robin Hood. Saturday morning we will then head out to a local crag to be confirmed nearer the time although probably Stanage.

Saturday evening will include a hearty meal provided by the club. The Chef is still to be determined and if no one volunteers it will be the meet leader (to everyone's risk), any budding caterers are encouraged. **Please ensure you inform the meet leader in good time if you are attending the meal and of any dietary requirements.**

Sunday will once again see us out at a local crag before heading home when enthusiasm or daylight fails.

The cost of the two nights in the hut plus Saturday's evening meal will be £10 payable on the weekend. Please come along and support your club, even if just a few hours out on the crag one day. These meets have brought many new members to the club and I think we can all agree it would be a good chance to get out and see some familiar faces without a webcam!

If you wish to attend or if you are a new member and would like any further information on what you may need or what you can expect please get in touch with the meet leader on benjaminwooler@gmail.com. The hut tends to fill up fast and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

15-18 April Easter Bouldering, Fontainebleau Lance Baker

An Easter getaway to test and refine your technique, or to enjoy the comfort of your bouldering mat whilst sampling the wine, coffee and patisseries. The sandstone boulders are clustered at a number of venues spread out in the forest surrounding Fontainebleau. There are problems at all grades, often above friendly sandy landings.

I have booked in at the campsite: Camping Les Pres – Aquadis Loisirs

<https://www.aquadis-loisirs.com/camping-nature/camping-les-pres-fontainebleu>

Most venues accessible within a 30 minute drive.

Lance Baker email lance.baker88@outlook.com tel. 07811 152705

Thursday 21 April Short Walk Ruth Gordon

We will start at 11.00 am at Ambergate, parking just over the river bridge on Holly Lane, the little road that goes off near the Hurt Arms and the cricket ground at SK347515. We will make our way up through Shining Cliff woods to a fine lunch spot in the fields above and then over to Alderwasley and down to

Whatstandwell where we might be tempted to stop at the Family Tree for a beer or afternoon tea before making our way back to Ambergate along the canal.
Ruth Gordon email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com tel. 07999857922

22 – 23 April New (or even second-hand) members' Heathy Lea Walking Weekend Peter Amour



The finest climbing hut between Baslow and Chesterfield is booked for the new members walking week-end so get your beds reserved – two already taken. If you're not such a new member you're more than welcome, let's mix it!

Friday evening - Do as you please, walk or climb. Meals available at the Robin Hood Tel 01629 700888

Saturday 10-15am- Be ready and booted to head north along the top of Birchen's, over White Edge, enter Longshaw Estate and make our return under Froggatt, Curbar Edges. 11-13 miles, pace and distance set according to the group on the day.

Saturday evening - Georgina is offering communal cous-cous meals (chicken or vegetarian) plus a sweet and maybe some wine for just £5-00 (the maybe depends on whether individuals sup a bottle or share it).

Please let us know a week before.

We could even have a bonfire party if folks want it, bring additional booze.

Sunday 10-15am - Treasure Hunt, locate the clues, test your map reading, more details to follow.

As mentioned, it's a great hut facility so get your bed spaces booked in or come along for the individual days, it'll be a good weekend. If interested let me know by email, peter@amour02.force9.co.uk tel. 07827 378147.

See you there, Peter

Wednesday 11 May Hayfield Walk Rachel Walker

We will meet at Millie's Tea Room, 7, Church Street, Hayfield (SK22 2JE) at 10.30a.m. (10.00 if you would like a drink first). The Sett Valley Trail Car Park is nearby on Station Road (SK22 2ES).

The walk will begin up the Snake Path past Kinder Reservoir, ascending into William Clough, onto the summit plateau of Kinder Scout. We then walk by Kinder Downfall, crossing Red Brook, then walking above The Three Knolls and descending to Tunstead Clough Farm and back into Hayfield.

Distance: 9 miles Ascent: 1590ft

Rachel Walker email: catherinerachelwalker@gmail.com Tel 07944 200579

13-15 May Low House hut Coniston Charlie Taylor

We have the MAM Low house hut located in the village of Coniston booked for the weekend. The hut is located close to the fells of Dow Crag, Grey Friar, Wetherlam and the Old Man of Coniston with great walking and climbing in Great Langdale, just a few miles up the road. The Grizedale Forest offers plenty of easy walks and some of the best natural trails Mountain Biking routes the UK has to offer.

Please book your place with Charlie Taylor: email charlie.taylor30@gmail.com or call/text me on 07879523522

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Thursday 2 – Sunday 5 June Pembroke South

Twelve places have been reserved for Oreads camping at Upper Portclew Farm, Freshwater East. This is handy for the climbing on the South Pembroke sea cliffs. Cost is £10 pppn. Apparently it is filling up fast for this weekend. If you want to go please contact the campsite directly to book. They have a web site, but you need to phone 01646 672122 to book.

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

Updates from the A.G.M.

Your new committee

For those who did not attend the recent AGM these are the officers and committee members elected. **As you can see we are short of a secretary. If you feel you might be able to help please be in touch with any member of the committee.** Committee meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday evening of the month at The Boat in Cromford.

- President: Nigel Briggs
- Vice President: Jan Wilson
- General Secretary: Vacant
- Membership Secretary: Michael Hayes
- Treasurer: Janet Briggs
- Hut Bookings Secretary: Michael Hayes
- Hut Custodian Heathy Lea: Chris Wilson
- Hut Custodian Tan yr Wyddfa: Dave Helliwell
- Meets Secretary: Michael Moss
- Communications Officer: Ruth Gordon
- Additional Committee Members: Pip Leach, Dave Mason, Simon Pape
- Heathy Lea Hut Committee: Chris Wilson, Michael Hayes, Steve McDonagh, Pam Storer, Mike Wren
- Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Committee: Dave Helliwell, Dave Appleby, Chris Eyre, Roy Eyre, Ruth Gordon, Derek Pike, Pam Storer.

Training opportunities

As you will have seen from the Treasurer's report to the AGM the club has a budget to support members who wish to improve their climbing/mountaineering skills.

The money is available to:

- subsidise courses to improve members' personal skills eg belaying, trad climbing techniques, self rescue, navigation etc.
- support members who regularly climb with novices by bringing them up to date with current best practice.
- Set up instruction for groups of members wishing to learn a particular skill (anchor building, leading, safety and best practice etc). The club would engage a suitably qualified individual to provide instruction. This would be subsidised by the club, providing a lower cost to members than booking onto a course as individuals, but would not leave the instructor significantly out of pocket.

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

Nigel Briggs email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com

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

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

New BMC Discount on YHA Membership

For BMC members aged 27 and over, you can become a YHA member at a price of £10 for 12 months. And for those 26 and under, a year's membership costs just £1 when you sign up using the BMC discount code.

All BMC members should have received an email with the YHA discount code. If you can't find your email, you can email office@thebmc.co.uk for the discount code. Once you have your code, call the YHA Contact Centre on 01629 592 700. Payment will be taken over the phone by YHA Contact Centre at the time of purchase. There is also a 10% discount on accommodation bookings using the code BMC017 during the web booking process.

4-5 March George Starkey Hut Patterdale Pip Leach

Sunshine at last! I can't remember the last time I experienced an away meet, when there was sun, snow high up, and it wasn't blowing a gale. It was well worth waiting for and felt like a breath of fresh, springtime air.

Funnily enough, as Peter Amour, John Gwyther, Peter Masters and I headed



The happy faces of Peter Masters, John Gwyther and Peter Amour in the early morning sunshine. Photo Pip Leach

across on the A66 Friday morning, the weather could only be described as dismal, rain, cold and very uninspiring. Bolstered by a good forecast, we had high hopes of it being better further west. As the fells came into view, the cloud was breaking and by the time we reached Ullswater, the sun was out. We had picked out a low to medium level walk from Pooley Bridge, which was a good warm up for more arduous walking later on in the weekend.

The meet was well attended, people opting to stay for one, two or three nights. Some Oreads used Patterdale as a stopping off point, breaking the journey on returning from Scotland, others used it as a break, heading north of the border. The rest of us were more than happy to make it a sole destination for the weekend.

Activities included walking, scrambling, climbing and pub visits. On Saturday Michael and Helen Hayes, determined to see some snow, went up Striding Edge, as did Michael Rittig and his guest, Richard. Ice axe and crampons were



The snowy top of Helvellyn with a couple of ice climbers about to top out.



The Larkams were also up there, here on Swirral Edge. Photo Tom Larkam.

necessary for the steep, final section. Derek and Snod were on St Sunday Crag and a group of us had a long walk, taking in High Street, The Knott and Angle Tarn, certainly the views across to a snow covered Helvellyn were beautiful.

Michael Percival and Jae completed a couple of trad routes on Shepherd's Crag. On Sunday, I wanted to bag the Wainwright Catsycam and link it with Swirral Edge, again 'interesting' in the snow, followed by the long circuit round to Fairfield, then St Sunday Crag, by means of a return. Snod and the Larkams went to Castle Rock of Tremain while Derek and Joan took a walk around Thirlmere area.





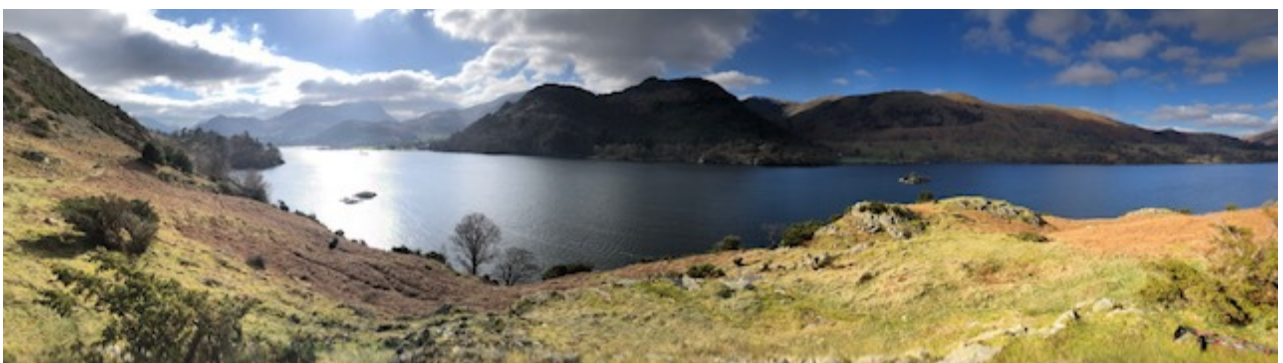
Roger and Snod on Gangway, Castle Rock. Photos Tom Larkam.

Others were in Grizedale area and other valleys.

Those who stayed until Monday ascended Plaice Fell to Howtown, with the return along the waterside.

Another feature of the weekend was cake! Both Peter Masters and John Gwyther celebrated birthdays, so those with a sweet tooth were in for a treat!

Thanks to all who attended.



Ullswater looking spectacular in the sunshine. Photo Pip Leach.

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 Full Members, Chris Ashworth, Tom Larkam, Seyhan Turan, Linda May Drew and Richard Linney and Provisional members Dave and Steph Ward. We hope you will enjoy many happy times with the Oread.

An application for full membership has been received from Judy Scott for consideration at the April Committee. If you would like to comment on this application please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:

The person in question is our esteemed Uschi
She scores 2 points as the user of a powered two wheeler,
4 points as a seasoned alpinist
16 points for residence near Markeaton Park lake.
and 32 for residence west of the Derwent
Total points 54 (I have personally never been in the slightest doubt regarding her gender).

Snod probably fixated on the powered two wheeler and was probably looking for a Bodacia or Tessy o Shea lookalike on a Black Shadow whereas Uschi has confessed to the use of an electric bike to keep up with her younger companions.

June Walker was put forward as Ruth's solution. I have known June for many years since she taught, I believe, in Ripley, but I do not know her history as an Alpinist, nor of a lake close to which she may reside.

It is possible that my information on June, and other club members, is incomplete in some relevant area.

Your Hon. Ed. still thinks June is an equally valid contender as for some years she rode an NSU Quickly moped with a rack fitted to the back to hold her rucksack and tent. In fact when she moved to Derbyshire she rode it down to Ripley from near Newcastle upon Tyne in a day. Some achievement! Her alpine exploits are recorded in "Climb if you Will" and there is what looks on the map like a modest lake just south of her home.

This month's puzzle comes to us courtesy of Roger Larkam:

It's Name the Gnome time!

Roger writes:

Can I suggest that for a little variety there could be, from time to time, a 'Name the Gnome' competition in the newsletter? I attach a couple of photos of a well-known member sporting gnome-like headgear so – can you Name the Gnome?

Other members are cordially invited to submit embarrassing photos of their gnome-like mates in 'orrible 'ats for entertainment in future issues.





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