

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2023



The team above Hathersage on the November Walk. Photo Richard Linney.

Editorial

In here is the formal notice of the A.G.M. on 25 March, the first live meeting since 2019, on page 8 and details of how to pay your subscription for the coming year – see page 4.

A variety of meets coming up in the next couple of months including trips to Scotland, the Lakes and local walks. Several lectures too, including a charity lecture by Mick Fowler.

Lots of meet write-ups for events from November to January, including a memorable Bullstones, many of which had beautiful weather and resulted in some stunning photos.

Copy Deadline 22 February

Meets List 2023 Michael Moss

The meets for the first three months are firm, all the hut bookings are confirmed, but there are some meets, especially from May onwards that will depend on members volunteering to lead them. So if people can volunteer to take on a meet: hut meets, Peak day meets or anything that they are keen to add, arrange and shape to their preferences then I would very much like to hear from them.

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

Walk Leaders needed

The following dates are still open for leader volunteers. Venue at leader's discretion; about 10 miles.

Wed. 5 July

Wed. 6 September

If you can help please be in touch.

Stuart Firth Email stuartmfirth@btinternet.com tel. 07977 458048

Feb	1st	Wednesday walk		Rachel Walker
	3rd-4th	Milehouse cottage, LCCS hut	Kincraig, Cairngorms	Rob Beck
	8th	Winter wall Wednesdays	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	6/20	Mediterranean sport climbing	Aparthotel Terralta, Benidorn	Derek Pike,
	18/19	Weekend walk - Gritstone Trail 4 Teggs Nose		Stuart Firth
	23 rd	Thursday short walk	Calke Abbey	Colin Hobday
March	1st	Wednesday walk - Thorp		Peter Amour
	8th	Winterwall Wednesdays	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	10/11th	Fylde hut swap, Lakes	Little Langdale	Dave Snod Halliwell
	17/18	Waters Cottage, FRCC hut	Kinlochleven	Michael Hayes
	23rd	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	25/26	AGM and spring stride		
29th	First Wednesday outdoor climbing meet	Harborough rocks, Brassington		
April	1st/2nd	New members climbing meet	Peak district	Chris Ashworth
	5th	Wednesday walk - Bradbourne		Gill Raddcliffe
	7th-10th	Easter, Bouldering Fontainebleu		Lance Baker
	15th	Weekend walk - Dimmingsdale		Peter Amour
	15th	Alpine training, Nigel Berry	Black Rocks, Cromford	contact M Moss to book
	20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
21st/22nd	Glen Etive hut, Grampian club	Glen Etive, Scotland	Pip Leach or M Percival	
May	1st	May BH camping	Cornwall	Michael Hayes
	6/7 or 13/14	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	10th	Wednesday walk		Jan Wilson
	18th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	20th	Gritstone trail stage 5		Stuart Firth
	20th May to 4th June	Scotland stacks, pinacles and other classics	West coast Scotland	Michael Moss
29th	Spring BH			
June	7 th	Wednesday walk		John Gwyther
	9th - 10th	High Moss hut, Rucksack club	Duddon valley, Lakes	Meet leader needed
	15th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17/18 (or 3/4)	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	17/18	Weekend walk, Yorkshire Ramblers Club hut, LowstClapham, Yorkshire Dales		Peter Amour
	23rd-25th	BBQ Tan yr Wyddfa		Tony Howard

July	???	Alpine meet		Meet leader needed
	1/2nd or 8/9th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	5th	Wednesday walk		
	15/16	Weekend walk		Nigel Briggs
	20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	28/29th	Welsh hut meet Tan Yr Wyddfa		Meet leader needed
Aug	2nd	Wednesday walk		Jan Wilson
	4th-5th	Weardale, walking and mountain biking		Pip Leach and Pete Masters
	12th/13th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th	Weekend walk		Louise Amandini
	26th-28th	BH		Meet leader needed
Sept	1st/2nd	Low House MAM hut, Coniston	Lakes	
	6th	Wednesday walk		
	9th/10th	Peak climbing day meets/BARMY comp?	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	15-Jan	Weekend walk		Richard Linney
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
23rd/24th	BARMY comp?	Peak district		
Oct	4th	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	6/7th	Fylde hut Little Langdale	Fylde MC hut swap	Dave Snod Helliwell
	11th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	14th-22nd???	Mediterranean sport climbing	Sardinia, TBC	Simon Pape
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st	Gritstone trail stage 6 - finale		Stuart Firth
	27/28	Curry meet. Lakes? or Tan yr Wyddfa as fall back		Tony Howard
30	Start Monday evening indoor meets	Climbing unit, Derby		
Nov	1st	Wednesday walk		Rusty - Clive Russell
	4th	Bonfire night	Heathy Lea, Chatsworth	
	8th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	18/19	Joint FRCC/Oread MC Dry-tooling Meet	Rawhead Barn, Langdale	Neil McAllister & A N Oread
	16th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
17-Jan	Weekend walk		John Gwyther	
Dec	2nd?	Annual dinner		
	3rd?	Post prandial walk		
	6th	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	6th	Winter wall wednesdays		
	9th to 11th	Bull Stones		
	13th	Black rocks evening meet and pub social	Cromford	
	16/17	Dry tooling Masson Lees		
	16th	Weekend walk		Steve Booth
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa		

Membership Subscriptions 2023

Membership subscriptions for 2023 are now due.

Rates have been kept at £45 for ordinary full members, and £35 for senior and provisional members.

Payment is by GoCardless direct debit, or if that is not possible, by bank transfer, or cheque, payable to Oread M.C. and sent to Michael Hayes, 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA

If you have already set up a GoCardless mandate, you should recently have been contacted by Janet Briggs (Treasurer) and payment will be taken from your account on 31st January. If you do not have a direct debit set up you should have been contacted by Michael Hayes (Membership Secretary). Thank you to all those who have moved onto GoCardless, it works well and makes the collecting of subscriptions much easier.

If you have not had these communications or have any other queries please contact either of us, contact details are on the committee page of the website.

Could all members with internet access also please log onto the members page of the website and check that all your details are correct.

Thank you. Janet Briggs

Wednesday 1 February Cromford walk Rachel Walker



Walk: Cromford to Matlock

Time: Wednesday 1st February 10.00 a.m. start

Meeting point: Cromford Market Place outside the Greyhound

Free parking: Cromford Market Place or the Lime Yard to the left of the Community Centre (across the road from the Market Place)

Public transport: Buses from Bakewell and Derby, Train from Derby

Route: From Cromford we will walk to Bonsall via Scarthin, past the Heights of Abraham and down into Matlock, returning via a lower path on the same side of the valley or alternatively via High Tor on the opposite side of the valley.

Distance: about 9 miles

Possible coffee shop in Matlock, or Cromford on return.

Rachel Walker: tel. 07944200579 or email catherinerachelwalker@gmail.com

3- 4 February Milehouse Cottage Cairngorms Rob Beck

We have 12 places available at Milehouse Cottage, near Kingcraig.

The LSCC hut, situated in the Cairngorms national park, has good facilities and easy access to the Scottish mountains.

A chance to get your crampons and axes out.

For more info about the cottage:

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

To book your place contact

Rob Beck Email:bobreck@hotmail.co.uk Tel:07837663506

Tuesday 7 February 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Paul Bingham will give us an introduction to how his birding interest developed from times in the hills and mountains, culminating in a look at trends and changes



during his 20 years of Upland Breeding Bird Surveys for the British Trust for Ornithology on Kinder Scout and Bleaklow

Admission £3.00 Oreads £5.00 non members.

Saturday 18 February Gritstone Trail 4 - Stuart Firth

Having completed the southern half of the Gritstone Trail, we now resume the project to commence the northern half.

Meet at 10:00 am for a 10:15 departure at Trentabank Reservoir OS Explorer 268 Wilmslow / Macclesfield / Congleton; GR 962712. Public loos, roadside parking free.

The route is as follows: Trentabank, Bottoms Reservoir (near Langley), Teggs Nose, Teggs Nose visitor centre (cafe and facilities), Tower Hill, (possible diversion to Robin Hood pub at Rainow if participant acclamation demands), Snipe House, Wickinford Farm, The Lathes, Turnshawflat, Macclesfield Forest, Trentabank.

Please let me know if you're coming and also if you would like to lift share.

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

Tuesday 21 February 8.00 pm Zoom talk Chris Wilson

The penultimate Zoom event this season will be based on a ramshackle set of photos from sunny climbing locations interspersed with a few via ferrate (a confession, I used Google to check on the plural!). Many of us have heard of meccas such as the Costa Blanca and Kalymnos but never visited and others might enjoy a few reminders of how good they can be. That's the thought behind this collection of photos, with a few other less frequented places thrown in for good measure. To add a little variety one or two well frequented via ferrata have been included, all in France.

It should be a fairly short non serious session, so maybe you might want to get one or two of your photos out and let us see them when it's ended. Joining instructions will be circulated nearer to the date.

Thursday 23 February Short Walk Colin Hobday

Please note this walk is a week later than usual. Meet at 10.45am for an 11.00 am start in the car park at Calke Abbey, Ticknall, (National Trust members free) and walk through the lovely parkland of Calke in a circuit passing the old lime workings and through the tunnel (Head torch) stopping at the adventure play centre for lunch. Distance about 5 miles with the option of a cup of tea at the end. Please let me know if you are able to come along and enjoy South Derbyshire.

Colin Hobday: tel. 01332 551594 or 07310 090724 email colinanduschi@talktalk.net

Saturday 25 February Mick Fowler Lecture Matlock

Mick Fowler is giving a talk at the Imperial Rooms, Matlock at 6.45 pm. The evening is a fundraising event, including a raffle, for a small charity 65 Degrees North <https://www.65degreesnorth.co.uk/> that helps to rehabilitate injured veterans through adventurous challenges.

Mick's enthralling presentation, 'No Easy Way', covers his more recent thrilling adventures in the mountains and also how he has coped with the competing priorities of his life, including recovering from cancer.

For more info, and to book tickets (£10.00):

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/wellington-street/imperial-rooms-matlock/no-easy-way-with-mick-fowler/e-jebvyk>

Wednesday 1 March Circuit from Thorpe Peter Amour

The walk will take a twisting course to cross Dovedale, skirt the shoulder of Bunster Hill and then switch back to Ilam. A combination of tarmac and turf will then guide us to Blore, followed by heading for Mappleton village followed by an elevated finish to Thorpe.

If interested Pete can be contacted on 07827 378147, if not interested the phone number is the same!

Tuesday 7 March 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

The last lecture of the season will feature Paul Gardiner, Oread and one of only two surviving original members. This will be a bit of a look back! Assisted by Peter Amour.

10-11 March Little Langdale Dave "Snod" Helliwell

The Fylde club's delightful hut is well situated for a variety of crags - in Langdale itself are Gimmer, Raven, White Ghyll and Pavey Ark and there's magnificent quarries close at hand too. Plus great mountain walking in all directions.

This is a hut swap so we only pay our own members' rates £5.00 per night. Extra nights before or after may be available but must be booked and paid for direct with the hut warden. Jen Chambers, email: fmc.bookings@outlook.com

We have 16 beds for Friday and Saturday nights. Parking is limited - only six spaces adjacent to the hut so car share if possible.

Book your bed with me:

Snod: email fingertipdave@outlook.com Tel. 01298 812753 and leave a message.

17-18 March Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Waters cottage Kinlochleven Michael Hayes

We have 12 places booked at the Fell and Rock Hut in Kinlochleven in the western Highlands. The hut is in a great position with close access to all the main climbing areas including Glen Coe and Ben Nevis.

With longer daylight hours March is an ideal time to make the journey north in search of snow and ice.

To book your place please email me michaelhayes6688@gmail.com



Tuesday 21 March 8.00 pm last Zoom talk

Gill Radcliffe and Peter Amour will entertain us for the last of this winter season's Zoom talks. More details next month.

Saturday 25 March 7:30 pm Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place at 7:30 pm on Saturday 25th March 2023. The meeting will be held at The Duke William, Matlock. This will be the first 'in person' AGM since March 2019.

In the meeting we will approve the minutes of the 2022 AGM, consider the accounts and officers' reports for 2022, elect a new committee, elect the hut committees, consider any proposed amendments to the constitution and

consider any other proposed business.

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 4th 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, who must be a full member. Nominations can be made for any position. 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, Pip Leach, by the 4th March 2023 and be supported by two full members of the club.

28 April – 9 May Bank holidays in Cornwall Michael Hayes

This is an early notice for the May Day Bank Holiday weekend meet to Cornwall and as an extra coronation Bank Holiday has been added I expect campsites to be booked up quickly to make use of the longer holiday.

We are planning to stay at Kelynack Caravan & Camping Park which is close to the village of St Just and in an ideal location for all the West Cornwall climbing venues including Bosigran, Sennen and Chair Ladder. In addition to the climbing there are fantastic coastal walks, beaches and so much more.

We are booked into the campsite from the 28th to the 9th but come for as long as you can and enjoy this fantastic part of the world.

The cost will be £10 per adult per night and £10 per night if you want electricity hook up and a 25% deposit is required.

Either phone the campsite on 01736 787633 or email the form which can be found on the website www.kelynackholidays.co.uk And don't forget to let me know!

Michael Hayes: Email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

A circuit from Hathersage Saturday 12 November Richard Linney

Nine of us were spoilt with fantastic (unseasonable?!) weather on our walk from Hathersage.

When we planned our November walk I was expecting ice, fog and a biting winter wind - as it was the sun shone, it was warm and there was hardly a breath of wind all day!

We walked through Padley Gorge, Toad's Mouth, over Higger Tor to Burbage Bridge, over Stange and back via Long Causeway - just over 11 miles. The views were fantastic, as was the coffee and

cake in Outside afterwards! Thanks to Catherine, Cathy, Linda, Louise, Rosa, Pete, Peter, and Pip for a really enjoyable day.



Fylde Hut Swap meet at Stair (or was it Little Langdale?) 18-19 November Snod Helliwell

This meet had been in the calendar for months as a Little Langdale meet. Fortuitously, as meet leader, I checked the Fylde website to see if we needed to bring pillowcases. Imagine my consternation to see Aylesbury M.C. booked in at Little Langdale! It appeared that we were booked in at Stair. I checked with Jen, the hut booking secretary and she confirmed it. I hastily told everyone else, and for me that was fine as it must have been 20 years since I last stopped there.

Pippa, German Mike, John Gwyther and Pete Amour went up for an extended weekend and on the Friday afternoon Pippa and Pete did Catbells with a return along the Newlands Valley via the leadworks. John Gwyther went sleeping bag shopping to replace his good one that he had carefully left at home in Beeston and Mike Rittig explored waterfalls around the Newlands Valley.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny, Angela and Roland regretted not bringing any climbing gear but had a lovely walk in the sunshine up Sail and Crag Hill.

They intended to go further up Grasmere but, due to a late start, doubled back and then down through Stony Croft Gill. The other walkers split into two parties, John Gwyther and Mike Rittig took on Robinson, Dale Head, High Spy with a return along Catbells. Pippa and Pete picked up the col between Catbells and High Spy, went on to Dale Head to see John and Mike going anti-clockwise and then descended by Hindsgarth.

Botty, Gandalf, Ethelmoss, Derek, Mike Wren and I went to climb Bowderstone Pinnacle above the Bowderstone hut in Borrowdale – what a flog! Derek and Mike bailed out and enjoyed a walk over Great End instead. The rest of us did the pinnacle which was fun (once we got there) and involved climbing down off the top followed by an abseil.

It was still light (just) when we arrived at Brown Slabs on Shepherd's and we did a couple of routes (bit damper down here). Bott and I abseiled off as it was too dark to find the path!!!

A good night was spent in the Swinside pub where Angela had booked a table and we enjoyed some good grub, and, I'm told, the beer was excellent too -then back for a sing song at the hut as Botty had brought his guitar.

Sunday was too damp to climb so Ethel and Gandalf went for a walk – Catbells I think, and the Pingram-Smythes headed that way too. We went for a walk from Chapel Bridge, up the Newlands, past the climbing club hut, to Castlenook mines where the weather became inclement and we decided enough was enough. The four walkers set off for Causey Pike and Sail, which John, Pippa and Mike completed, returning along Coledale. John returned after a very wet but ultimately successful mobile phone search. (The phone was extremely mobile – the helpful woman who found it took it back to Keswick!) Pete amended his day due to a foot injury, giving up on Causey Pike to go alongside Stoneycroft Gill taking on the Wainwright of Outerside and the ridge to Braithwaite and Swinside and back to the Hut.



Causey Pike taken by Peter Amour before he went lame!

The walking team stopped on for an extra day, and on the Monday John, Mike and Pete visited the former mines around the slopes of Hindsgarth/Newlands Valley area while Pippa collected the Wainwright of Outerside via Stoneycroft Gill, returning by a similar course of the ridge above Coledale that Pete had done the day before.

It was a great weekend in good company, lots done and a great sing song – just like the old days!! Thanks to all who came: Peter Amour, John Gwyther, Roger Larkam, Pippa Leach, Michael Moss, Derek Pike, Angela Pingram, Michael Rittig, Roland Smith, Michael Wren, my mate Irwin Bottomley and myself.

Post Prandial Walk 4 December Jan Wilson

On a damp but dry December morning a hardy bunch of Oreads set out from Heathy Lea on the post prandial walk. The walk was a figure of eight allowing for a longer (approx. six miles) morning followed by a drink at the Robin Hood and a shorter afternoon stroll. The aim was to give the opportunity for all to touch base after the dinner.



It was brilliant to see the builders had made a huge effort to clear the drive and make good parking available at Heathy Lea which is looking great. We met with a big contingent at the bottom of Dobb Edge and made our way, taking in some fine views, across to the Chatsworth Estate. Despite my best efforts to go off

course we were pulled back on line and even navigated via some concealed paths to see both the hidden edges long lost in Stand wood and some great views over the estate.

We took in wild swimming spots and scenes of favourite coffee stops from the various generations represented on the day.

Leaving the estate we headed across the moor up to Hobb Hurst House where a general revolt resulted in a quick refuelling stop before we headed down to the stream, bog trotting back to the bridge taking us to the Robin Hood. Sadly the weather closed in and the pub was crowded so we packed around a big table and had drinks and chips. Our party changed shifts and the new members were tasked with pace setting. Needless to say, despite claims of joint problems, a certain Radcliffe set off at a blistering pace and led from the front for the rest of the day, taking in Birchens, finding the Gardoms Edge Carved rock and descending back via the Edge to the main road and the finish.

Despite some rain and the odd injury we had a lovely day with plenty of catching up for Oreads from around the UK.



At the carved rock above Gardom's Edge.

7 December Rowsley walk-Charlie Taylor

Twelve Hardy Souls gathered at the Peak Village shopping outlet on a beautiful, frosty winter's morning. After some initial reluctance to leave the cosy hospitality of the café, we set off into the welcome morning sun. An easy pan flat march

along the farm road rapidly started to angle steeply upwards and before we knew it we were on Stanton moor; onwards and past the Nine ladies stone circle to the spectacular Cork Stone. Some initial hesitation amongst the gathering ensued, before Nigel and Gill volunteered to scale this impressive lump of Ashover grit, (we are a climbing club after all!) but despite my insistence no one was willing to perform the obligatory headstand. Subsequent ascents were then made by Pip and me.



Gill and Nigel atop the Cork Stone

A gentle descent off the moor and through some shaded woodland led us to the Druid inn at Birchover. Unfortunately, a little too early for a lunch stop, we carried on to Robin Hood's Stride where lunch was taken in glorious winter sunshine.



Lunch at Robin Hood's Stride.

The second half of the walk took us to Youlgrave where we followed the lovely river Bradford passing Rheinstor, to the village of Alport. After an energy sapping climb up to Stanton in Peak, we found ourselves outside the peculiar named Flying Childers inn. Too late for a pint we traversed the meadows above the A6, through the tiny hamlet of Congreave and back to the start; just before the light started to fade and in time for a cuppa and some delectable cake at the café. Thanks to all those that attended. I hope you enjoyed it.

Bullstones Meet 9-11 December Nigel Briggs.

Lurking towards the bottom of the meets list, quietly nestling between the annual dinner and the seasonal festivities, lies the Bullstones meet. The Bullstones cabin has long gone and the meet has evolved, however the essential format remains. Meet in a pub on Friday evening, drink some beer, later head out into the night, walk to a bivvy site (the bivvy is now more likely to be lightweight tents for most), sleep, and after an early start set off on a good walk. Latterly the Saturday night has been spent in a hut rather than another bivvy and the final pint has been swapped for a whisk(e)y tasting session for those that wish.

Last September Janet and I were cycling through the Three Peaks area of the

Yorkshire Dales, an area that we knew well from our caving days many years ago, and thought it would make a good place for a Bullstones – a meet was born.

On Friday evening Oreads began to gather in the New Inn, Clapham, to eat and drink and prepare to head to the hills. There was already frost on the ground when we went into the pub and the weather forecast promised a cool winter weekend ahead.

At a suitable time a move was made to head out. Pip and John Gwyther had already slipped away, hoping an earlier departure was preferable to further drinking as preparation for the walk into the night. Pete was heading (by car) directly to the Saturday night hut as he was recovering from illness and not on top form, he nobly volunteered to make sure the hut's heating was in order before we assembled there tomorrow. Charlie and Dawn arrived and missed the pub completely by walking into the night straight away. Neil, who travelled with them, has a stronger (?) sense of tradition and came to the pub. Chris, who was testing his new knee, had elected to spend the night in the New Inn in salubrious surroundings and with breakfast included. He had the shortest walk of all!



As boots were laced the first snowflakes began to fall. As we walked out of the village the intensity of snow fall increased, through the flakes Chris was seen retreating back to the warmth of the New Inn. A cheery group made their way

up Long Lane to a bivvy site at Clapham Bottoms, all enjoying the winter wonderland we were walking through. Once at the chosen spot pitches were selected and tents erected. Lights seen nearby were assumed to be those of the early leavers. And the snow continued to fall.

Movement was late in the morning, all were waiting for daylight. A gloomy morning greeted us with a little more snow on the ground. This was not a morning for a leisurely breakfast, so we were all packed away and fed swiftly. The previous night's lights on the hillside proved to have belonged to some of the early leavers. John set off on a more direct route to Helwith Bridge and Kev headed back to Clapham to meet up with Chris. As rucksacks were being shouldered Pete arrived to view the site and to offer a tent carrying service. He took the tents of those with more 'relaxed' ethics back to Clapham for onward motor transportation.



The main group assembled and headed into the mist towards Ingleborough passing Gaping Gill main shaft, where I tried to describe the cave below. As we approached Ingleborough's summit plateau the cloud seemed to be thinning and taking on a blue hue. On the summit the clouds parted, the sun broke through and views were enjoyed. However hopes of the day being a glorious winter's day with sun and fresh snow were short lived as the clouds regrouped and that was about 'it' for the rest of the day. This was no bad thing as I for one had neglected

to bring sunglasses with me.



The descent to Horton through Sulber Nick seemed to take longer than it should, the cold head wind and the somewhat slippery conditions underfoot no doubt contributed. Kev and Chris were parked up at Horton to cheer us through and supply us with welcome tea. The day was pressing on and more importantly the hours of daylight remaining were diminishing. Various options were available, and a number were taken. Janet and Jan took a direct riverside route to Helwith Bridge. John Green had been seen heading in that direction earlier. Some took the opportunity of lightening their loads into Kev's van to be taken to the hut before we headed up towards Pen-y-ghent via Brackenbottom. The summit was never really 'on' with conditions and time, when the crest of the main ridge was reached common sense prevailed and we turned south away from the summit and down to Helwith Bridge. Conditions underfoot were 'skiddy' on the fresh snow but all made it down without incident.



'Decision time on Pen-y-ghent'

We were spending the night at the Yorkshire Subterranean Society's hut which is about 50 metres away from the Helwith Bridge Hotel (Pub). Here we were joined by Peter Masters who had travelled over that afternoon. Incidentally for van owners the Helwith Bridge Hotel is happy for vans to stay the night in their car park if money is spent at the bar. The majority ate at the pub before retreating to the hut for tea or whisk(e)y tasting. Many varieties were sampled, far too many for me to recall. Although I do remember that Neil provided many samples and was very good at identifying 'unknowns', he is certainly becoming the whisky supremo.

The following morning the proximity of the pub, and their offer to provide breakfast was too great for me, and some others, to resist. When we returned to the hut some had already set off back to Clapham. I walked back with Janet, Pip, Peter Masters, Pete Amour and John Gwyther, we took a short route back via Austwick. Others took similar routes visiting different features en route. All ended up back at Clapham and headed off for home after an excellent weekend. It was a fine Bullstones, with some memorable weather.

The cast - Kev and James Fidler, Chris and Jan Wilson, John Green, Pete Amour, John Gwyther, Pip Leach, Michael Hayes, Simon Pape, Neil Weatherstone, Charlie Taylor, Dawn Willmer, Michael Percival, Peter Masters, Janet Briggs, Nigel Briggs.

Thank you all for playing your part in another episode of the Bullstones meet.

14 December T W B T W B C Black Rocks and The Boat.



Twos a dark and very cold night but some few kept the faith. More joined the festivities aboard the warm and dry Boat in Cromford afterwards, Here Roger Larkam captures the brave and bold on camera, Mike Moss and Simon Pape have slithered up the ice-glazed rocks to join him at the first belay in Queen's Parlour Gully.

Dry Tooling Masson Lees November and December



Gill Radcliffe writes about the November meet:

Dry tooling at Masson Lees on Sunday. It was a fun day out and a new sport for me. Thanks to Jeff Ingman and Tim Sellears for organising and ensuring everyone came away exhausted. Attended by Dave Ward, Gill Radcliffe, Rob, Chris Ashworth, Ed, Neil McAllister and with powerhouse Neil Blake in support.

Tim reports on the December meet: Another great dry tooling day at the Crag of Dreams Stirling effort from the newbies and improvement across the board for everyone else

New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Snod Helliwell



The weather was as wet as expected. The people arriving on 30th were almost glad to find the hut covered in dust from the damp proofing work and new floor laying. Cleaning up took up most of a wet day - sincere thanks to Pete and Ali, Pam and Nodge, Derek and Joan, Charlie and Dawn for all their hard work. Alas New Year's eve was even more horrible! So we investigated soggy quarries or splashed through the forest before an evening of complicated jigsaws mulled wine, delicious shared food and reminiscence in good company. Glasses were raised to both Rock Hudson and John Fisher who sadly were unable to join us this year. New Year's Day was a bit brighter and more enjoyable outdoors then, as a late bonus 2nd January gave us sunshine and glorious views. The new flooring looks fantastic and should be much easier to clean.

The Youlgreave Yomp 21 January Pip Leach

An atmospheric walk, with cloud inversions, blue skies and lots of laughs!

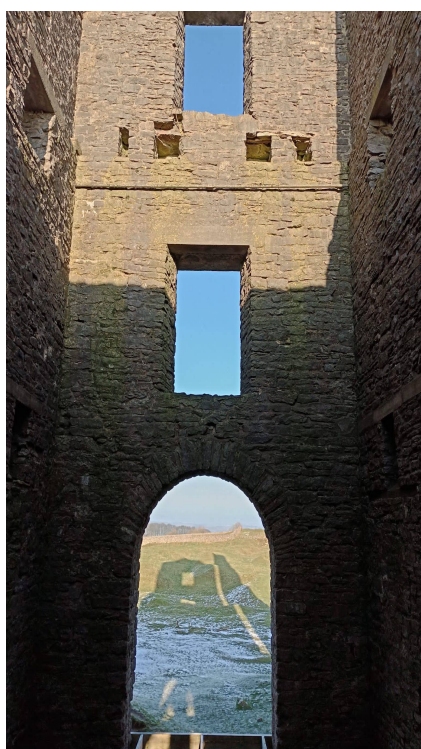


It was an absolutely brilliant turn out for this walk, with numbers slightly boosted by family, friends and guests of Oreads. Perhaps the continuing crisp, cold, winter weather had tempted people out. We totalled 18 as we set off, and even gained an Oread (in the form of Peter Amour) at the Magpie Mine, some way into the walk. Plenty of jokes abounded, about me as the meet leader and former school teacher, having to constantly head count and hand out stickers for good behaviour – haha!

There was a bit of high drama to start, compacted snow and un-gritted roads, meant a somewhat slippery approach to the designated car park. Three cars went to the wrong car park, but this was swiftly rectified, and after the obligatory group photograph, we set off.

Unfortunately, it was me who messed up next, just outside the car park, we veered off the Limestone Way. It was only for about 50 meters, but so soon into the walk, a tad embarrassing! A bit further on, I ‘took a hit for the team’, I slipped on the ice, fell head first and backwards down a slope, in a totally undignified manner! Thankfully, no-one had a camera to hand at that point, to record the incident, and nothing was hurt except for my pride. There continued

to be icy conditions, in all of the shady spots, but no-one else tumbled over. We lost the beautiful blue skies and sun, as we descended towards Youlgreave, Bradford Dale and Lathkill Dale were in fog. It wasn't until we approached Over Haddon, that we were starting to make out gloomy shapes of trees and buildings, and hints of blue started to be visible above.



At last, at lunchtime, we were bathed in full sunshine, with edges opposite, Birchover and Arbor Low (possibly) starting to emerge from the mist. In the afternoon, what could be nicer than frost, snow on north facing fields or in the sheltered dales, and sunshine?

Magpie Mine itself made an impressive outline to head towards, lovely to meet Peter Amour here, for a catch up.



There was no time to stop at the cafe or pub in Monyash I'm afraid, it was onwards and downwards, through Bagshaw Dale and into the winter wonderland that was Lathkill Dale, now clear of fog but icily cold and eerie. Over the footbridge and then back on the Limestone Way, up the steep steps out of the dale. There were some interesting techniques being employed here, to gain purchase, trekking poles or even on all fours, as the ice made for a difficult ascent.

We were on the home straight now, just as well, as the light was beginning to fade. Any longer and the head torches would have been required, but it's nice to think that we certainly squeezed the most out of the day. It was a bit longer than our normal Saturday walks, 12.7 miles, as recorded by Richard Hopkinson – oops, and Well Done All!

Lovely to see everyone and our photographs should speak for themselves, with hoar frost, snow, ice, mist and sunshine – the best of winter weather!

The magical conditions produced enough photos to fill a whole newsletter! Thanks to all who supplied them: Louise Amandini, Stuart Firth, Rachel Walker and Pip Leach. Your Hon Ed. is assured that, in spite of the evidence of the final photo, taken in the gathering gloom, below the leader did **not** lose two thirds of her companions en route.



Tom Corker 27 July 1950 -22 December 2022

Ruth Gordon writes:

I first met Tom in 1976 through the Derwent Mountaineering Club but soon after he left the area and I only met him again in 2020 after he had moved back to Matlock. Climbing and mountaineering had been a life-long passion for him – even a heart attack and subsequent bypass operation had not been allowed to end his Alpine adventures! Closer to home, his explorations led to the publishing of the Cicerone guide to Scrambles in the Dark Peak, co-authored with his friend, Terry Sleaford. Tom told me he greatly missed being part of a mountaineering club but with the state of his knees could no longer participate in most activities. I said I thought there were others in just the same situation and that it would be worth offering a regular gentle-paced walk for the less physically fit.

Tom was delighted to become a member of the Oread in 2021 and really got stuck in to developing the Thursday short walks programme as soon as Covid regulations permitted. The walks were advertised in my name but it was Tom who planned and led most of them, entertaining us with snippets of local history and personal stories of his childhood adventures and working life. We had many interesting conversations about art and music as well as mountaineering. On our last meeting in November he told me he was being treated for depression but he talked of his plans to start researching his family history and the Thursday

walk he would lead in January. So it was a terrible shock to read that his body had been recovered from the River Derwent just before Christmas. I am deeply saddened by the loss of a lovely, kind man who had so much to live for.

Pete Amour writes: I am really saddened to hear about Tom, I had only met him a few times, that last being the walk from Ashover, three or four months ago, he really was a nice man. Depression is such dreadful affliction, often misunderstood, stigmatised and under communicated. I hope his family find peace in good memories of Tom, he came across as a kindly, caring and interesting man, may he rest in peace.



Tom (centre) on a Thursday walk around Ashover last May.

New Edition: Seeking Simple Shelter Richard Genner

The third and final edition of this fascinating e-book, containing much new material on the history of mountain bothies of all kinds, at home and abroad, is now available. To request a copy please email Richard Genner on rgatrg11@gmail.com

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 member Dave Burtenshaw, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from Alison Mowbray, Dave Ward and Alamin Zindanee. If you would like to comment on any of these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Pete O'Neill sends his best wishes to all his old friends. He no longer has a landline but his mobile number is 07960 360362 and he would love to hear from you.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

A senior Oread member completed a sensational ascent, the first by a club member, and in the course of this he, in his own words, “was obliged to chastise his climbing companion.”

What was achieved during this tour de force and what occurrence led to the admonition?

Last month's puzzle solution:

I received two responses this month. The first, from Rob Tresidder, as follows arrived immediately after the newsletter was sent out:

"Going with the setter's curious definition of a chain as 14.7 perches, then the postgrads were set equidistantly at 20 chains or 400 metres. If each of the four

postgrads is equidistant from all of the other three, then they are at the vertices of a tetrahedron. Most famous tetrahedral mountain in the world? Weißhorn? Slope angle of each face of a regular tetrahedron is 71° (too steep to avalanche). This is far steeper than any of that splendid peak's faces so I can't think of any mountain (we are a mountaineering club) that would fit Rusty's very precise measurements. My solution then has three of the students standing at the vertices of an equilateral triangle, side 400m, in a large very flat, horizontal area on a still windless day. Each of the students is holding one end of a 400m rope. The other ends of the three ropes are attached to the basket of a hot air balloon containing the fourth student, which is fired up and ascends until the ropes are taut. No allowance has been made for the curvature of the earth.

BTW there are only four perches (rods or poles) in a chain, not 14.7"

The second, from Snod arrived a month later!

The students are spacially arranged in a regular tetrahedron (or 3 simplex). The equilateral triangle's sides are 293 perches. They couldn't do this in England or Wales as the vertical height of the conical hill / mountain is 239 perches so they have gone to Scotland or further afield.

The geometrical figure required to equally position the four measuring positions is a tetrahedron. The move to three dimensional thinking was intended to be the main point of the puzzle.

I apologise for my error in the definition of a rod pole or perch but in spite of this it will be clear that the height of the apex point exceeds that of any uk mountain, and so far as I am aware there exists no mountain on the planet offering the necessary steep gradient on three lines set out 120 degrees apart. It therefore follows that the exercise can only take place using a tall man made edifice such as a tower block, I am told such things are prolific in a place called London which I do not propose to explore.

Snod rightly stipulated a tetrahedron. Mr Tresidder's solution was unassailable in all respects,

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