

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

MARCH 2023



Left: Alan Monks enjoying the climbing at Ozzimosis and Right: Tim Sellears on Jomfua on the Rjukan trip. Photos courtesy of Jeff Ingman.

Editorial

In here is the formal notice of the A.G.M. on 25 March, the first live meeting since 2019, on page 6 and more about plans for the 75th anniversary on page 10.

Coming up soon are a walk from Thorpe and the last of the indoor lectures – from our very own Paul Gardiner - followed by trips to Scotland, the Lakes and more local walks. Looking ahead there are signs of spring with outdoor evenings restarting and an Easter bouldering trip arranged.

Meet write-ups include ice climbing in Norway, local walks and cragging in Spain.

Copy Deadline 20 March

Meets List 2023 Michael Moss

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 Leader needed

There is just one Wednesday walk left seeking a careful and considerate leader!
Date 5 July. Venue at leader's discretion; about 10 miles.

If you can help please be in touch.

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

March	1st	Wednesday walk – Thorpe		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	Bonsall	Ruth Gordon
	25/26	AGM and spring stride	Matlock	Jan Wilson
	29th	First Wednesday outdoor climbing meet	Harborough rocks, Brassington	
April	1st/2nd	New members climbing meet	Peak district	Chris Ashworth
	5th	Wednesday walk – Ogston		Gill Radcliffe
	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
May	1st	May BH camping	Cornwall	Michael Hayes
	10th	Wednesday walk		Jan Wilson
	13th	Alpine training, Nigel Berry	Black Rocks, Cromford	contact M Moss to book
	13/14th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Dave Mason
	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	7th	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, Yorks Ramblers hut, Lowstern	Clapham, Yorkshire Dales	Peter Amour
	23rd-25th	BBQ Tan yr Wyddfa	N Wales	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
	25 -29 th	Welsh hut working party and meet Tan Yr Wyddfa		Meet leader needed

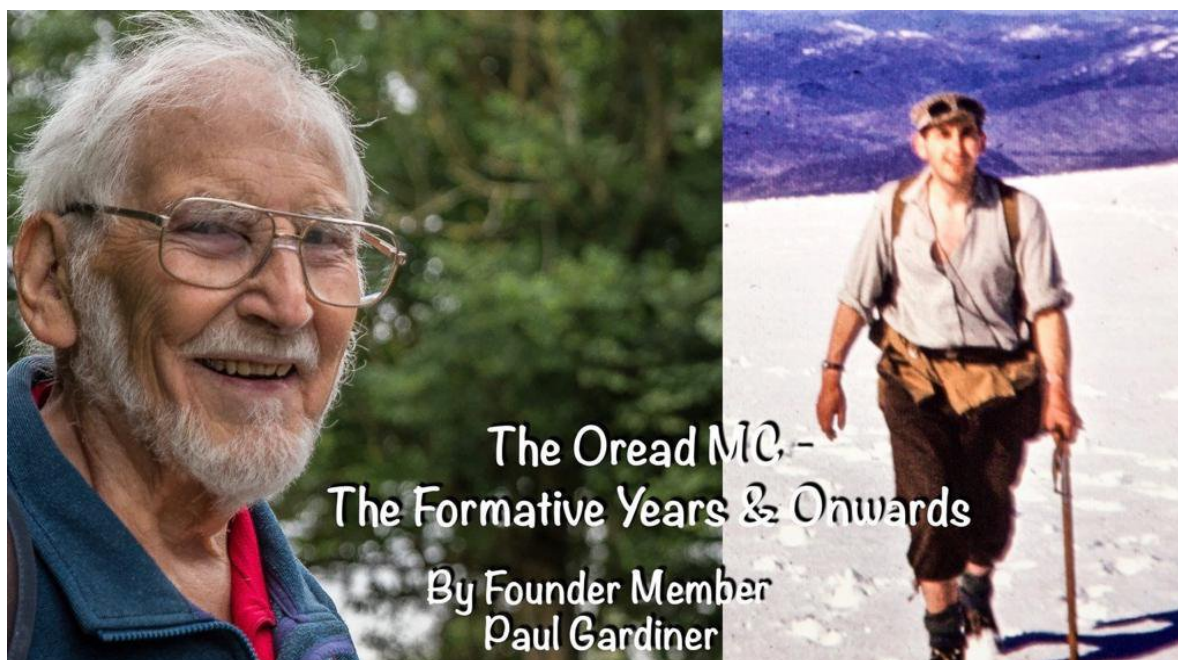
Aug	2nd	Wednesday walk		Jan Wilson
	4th-5th	Weardale, walking and mountain biking		Pip Leach and Pete Masters
	12th/13th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th	Weekend walk		Louise Amandini
	26th-28th	BH		Meet leader needed
Sept	1st/2nd	Low House MAM hut, Coniston	Lakes	
	6th	Wednesday walk		
	9th/10th	Peak climbing day meets/BARMY comp?	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	16/17	Weekend walk		
	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, Tan yr Wyddfa	N Wales	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		
	16th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18th	Annual dinner		
	18/19	Joint FRCC/Oread MC Dry-tooling Meet	Rawhead Barn, Langdale	Neil McAllister & A N Oread C
	18th	Weekend walk		John Gwyther
	19th	Post prandial walk		
Dec	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	

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 look back at the very start of the Oread, (before it was Oread) There will be pictures of early members and groups which I hope will encourage participation from the floor-- like Oread talks used to be !!--if you recognise someone and have an anecdote. Peter Amour has put a lot of effort into stringing this together. Come and see who was on the hill before you!

10-11 March Little Langdale Dave “Snod” Helliwell

Still places left at this great Lake District venue!

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. Gill will be talking about her five weeks in the Chamonix valley and climbs with the Alpine Club and Oread members. "I didn't climb to a high standard, unlike the illustrious Oread members of old but I had a great time and enjoyed the company of my climbing partners and the views". Peter will be presenting an audio-visual "Travels With A Camera- Hills and Other Places" A journey to English, Scottish and Welsh locations. Joining information will be circulated nearer the time.

Thursday 23 March short walk Ruth Gordon

This will be a second attempt on the Bonsall walk which, in November, was inundated with such heavy rain that a swift retreat was made to the cafe! We will start at 11.00am from the Fountain Cafe, Bonsall. (Open from 8.30 am for early arrivals!) Roadside parking by the cafe or in the park bottom parking, - honesty box £1.

After an uphill start up Bonsall Dale the route is surprisingly gentle - into Horse Dale to join Blackmore lane, Morelands lane, leading to Salters lane where we cross the road to contour above Jug Holes cave then pick up the track/path to the top of Masson hill, good views if it's clear. Field paths back to Bonsall, where pub and cafe await.

Ruth Gordon email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com tel. 07999 857922

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, Church St. Matlock. <https://www.thedukewilliammatlock.com/> tel. 01629 583111. The pub has a large car park and serves food from 12 noon to 8.00 pm We have the upstairs room reserved from 7.00pm and want to make a prompt start at 7.30.

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, by email (and post if needed) around 15 March. 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.

Pip Leach email: pippasleach@gmail.com By post: 18 Wessington Lane, South Wingfield, Alfreton DE55 7NB

Sunday 26 March Spring Stride Jan Wilson

Meet at 10 am for a 10.15 departure. The Spring Stride will leave the Duke William in Starkholmes at 10:15am and after following the top of High Tor continue on uphill to Bilberry Knoll. We will then head off down into the Derwent Valley taking in the newly restored Aqueduct Cottage before climbing up to Holloway where there is a possible coffee venue. We then climb up to Long Lane to cross to the Jug and Glass at Lea for a drink/ lunch stop. We will return to Starkholmes via Dethick and Riber. The whole route is just over 10 miles with the opportunity at several points for a short cut (self-guided) back to the lunch stop or the end for those who are nursing surgery, injury or exhaustion.

Jan Wilson email: jan.lumsdale@gmail.com tel. 07769 186041

Wednesday 29 March Harborough Rocks

The clocks have changed, summer is on the way and we'll meet up for a late afternoon to early evening scramble or ramble at Harborough before retreating as darkness falls to the Miners' Arms, Brassington.

1-2 April New Members Meet Chris Ashworth

We will meet at a crag in the Peak on Saturday morning at 09.30, final location to be determined by the weather. I will keep people informed on the io group and Facebook. We will climb through the day and back to Heathy Lea for dinner, and then Sunday morning out for another day's climbing at one of the local crags. 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. Heathy Lea is available for both Friday and Saturday nights (although I cannot be there on the Friday) and you should book your beds using the online booking system. The hut tends to fill up quite fast. If you are a newish member and would like any further information on what you may need or what you can expect please get in touch with me.

Chris Ashworth email: cashworth@gmail.com tel. 07832 301033

Wednesday 5 April Ogston Reservoir Walk Gill Radcliffe

This walk starts at the West car park (free) near Ogston Reservoir Sailing Club (please do not park at the sailing club). Grid ref SK374604. Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.

This is a great circular walk with good views from Highoredish and Cocking Tor. The route is seven miles with options to extend and the ascents are mostly gentle (perfect for those with new knees or hips!). The route is on field paths, tracks and quiet roads. Please bring food and drink as there are no cafes en-route unless we extend the walk into Ashover, which will be weather dependent. Gill Radcliffe tel. 07816 072138

7 -11 April Easter Bouldering Fontainebleu Lance Baker

With last year's Easter trip to Font proving a success, a return trip is warranted. It may be busy, though we found this added to the experience with camaraderie rather than queues.

A 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 Fontainebleu. There are problems at all grades, often above friendly sandy landings.

I have booked in at the campsite: Camping Les Pres – Aquadis Loisirs from 07/04 to 13/04. A few are booked from 07/04 to 11/04.

<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

15 April and 13 May Alpine Skills Training

Nigel Berry has again generously agreed to offer some training to Oread members. These will be one day sessions on skills for Alpine mountaineering, the day will include moving together, short pitching and crevasse rescue. The venue will be at Black Rocks, Cromford, making great use of the gullies and crevices there.

Nigel can take 4 to 6 people in a session. Two pairs of three with people who know already how to belay etc.

The cost will be £10 per person to contribute to Nigel's expenses.

If you are free and keen to get this training please let me know by email or text, saying which of the days you would like to go on. **If you have expressed interest but not yet sent your £10.00 to Janet please do so or your place may go to someone else.**

Michael Moss email: mamoss@btinternet.com, tel.07932 420414

21 - 22 April Glen Etive (Inbhirfhaolain Hut The Grampian Club) Pip Leach

This weekend offers another unique experience of staying in a very basic but charming hut, where you need to fetch your water from the river and it also boasts the delights of a composting toilet! However, in the iconic Glen Etive, under the towering Munros, such as Ben Starav and Buachaille Etive Mor, what's not to love? Not forgetting climbing on the Etive Slabs.

It is possible to camp at this hut but nevertheless, numbers are limited to only 13 and there is already some interest. There is also the possibility of extending the stay to include Sunday 23rd.

If you would like to join me on this weekend, please get in touch.

Pippa Leach: tel. 07941395856 email pippasleach@gmail.com

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

20 May – 4 June Scottish west coast stacks, pinnacles and classics meet Michael Moss

Arrangements are:

Glenbrittle, Skye - Sat. 20th May leaving Sat. 27th May

Clachtoll beach campsite - Sat. 27th May leaving Sat. 3rd June

Please book for Clachtoll as soon as possible, it's on the north coast 500 route so is popular. They don't have serviced pitches for the full week. I've booked at Clachtoll for part of the week with electricity and and part of the week without. When you book do put in the online booking form comments that you are part of the Oread, they ask that people who are coming in a group say so in their booking.

At Glenbrittle booking is not needed.

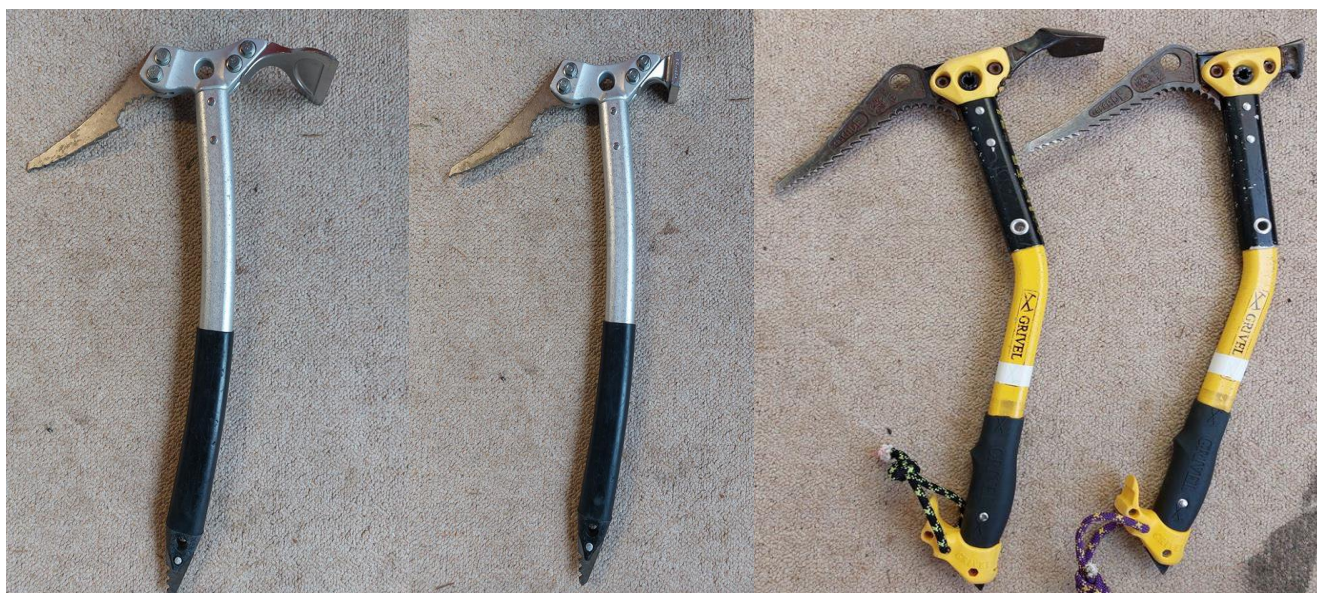
If you are coming and have let me know already, thanks. If you haven't let me know please do so, it will help with transport.

Michael Moss email mamoss@btinternet.com tel. 07932 420414

Members Corner

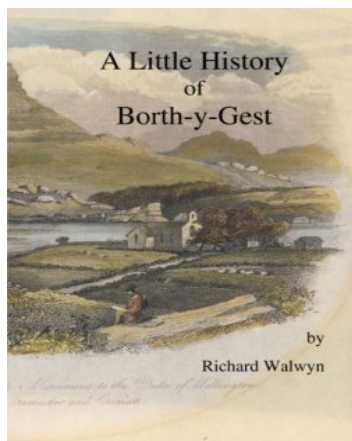
Gill Radcliffe writes:

I'm selling my Mountain Technology Vertige climbing axes for £60. (Pictured left). They're good for general purpose mountaineering and ice climbing. Suitable for climbing up to grade 3 / 4 on ice and a good mountaineering axe. A really good strong axe but a bit heavier than more modern axes. Also Chris's Grivel Cascade Technical Axes for icefall climbing - £50 each. (Pictured right). Features include interchangeable picks and added weights to made the head heavier. Both axes in very good condition.



Contact Gill Radcliffe on 07816 072138 if you're interested.

Stuart Firth writes:



I have come across this publishing company whose portfolio includes a book on Borth-y-Gest. Price £6.99. I thought some members might be interested!
<https://www.delfrynpublications.co.uk/index.php>

Ed Bloomfield writes:

Mary at Craigdon Mountain Sports has agreed to offer Oreads a 15% discount for any items listed at full price. Using code OREAD15 online.

<https://www.themountainedge.com/?>

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Not sure how long it will be good for but she didn't indicate it would expire.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

The 75th Anniversary of the Oread

2024 will be the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Oread Mountaineering Club. During the year we will hold celebratory events to mark the occasion.

On the Website there is an “Oread 75th Anniversary” tab, on the page we plan to focus on celebratory events. We have started by reproducing a noteworthy article from the Newsletter archive every month from now until the end of 2024. The articles have been selected to reflect what has happened within the club rather than the best articles but hopefully they are all rather good. They should allow us to have a little indulgent wallow in nostalgia! We hope you enjoy (re)reading the articles.

A second initiative is to get a club photographic archive on the website. What we would like are photographs showing club life and members, along with each photograph we need a few words about the event taking place and any individual shown identified. If you have any suitable (or unsuitable!) photographs that you would like to add to the archive, please get in touch with me. Photographs can be digital or if prints or slides I can arrange to have them scanned.

In 2024 I am planning to produce an ‘Almanac’ predominately focussing on the last 25 years. The plan is to produce it in electronic format but also have some copies printed out, for those who prefer (like me) to have a physical copy. I have spoken to some of you already about the Almanac and I will be speaking to more about soliciting specific articles over the next few weeks. I am looking for someone to write about how the ‘Foot and Mouth’ outbreak in 2001 affected the

club so if there is a volunteer out there I would like to hear from you. Also if anyone has a subject that is reflective of the last 25 years please get in touch with me.

During 2024 we are hoping to hold a 'grandeur than usual' annual dinner and we have a weekend based in the Chatsworth estate 13th -15th September 2024 planned. At the moment plans have yet to be developed. If anyone has any ideas about what we can do or wishes to be involved in making these things happen please get in touch with me.

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

Ice climbing trip to Rjukan, Norway – 14 – 21 January



*It was **very** snowy!*

Gill Radcliffe writes:

Jeff Ingman organised the trip and arranged training for four Oread members on a first come first served basis. I responded immediately and secured a place. Whilst I have ice climbed in France and been Scottish mountaineering a number of times I have never been on a course and knew I needed to improve my technique and gain confidence. A week in Rjukan, with two days of tuition, was the ideal opportunity. We joined eight others, mostly Oreads, who had plenty of experience on waterfall ice.

The four 'newbies' were – Me, Jae yeon Oh, Chris Ashworth and Mike Rittig.

We met our instructor, Jorn, on Sunday morning and went to Krokan gorge; on Monday we went to Ozzimosis. Both days were excellent, with Jorn giving clear and precise instructions on ice climbing techniques and gear placement. We spent the first day top roping, trying to improve our axe swings; I found this surprisingly difficult to get right, though felt I had made some progress by the end of day one.

The second day was more of the same, with the added interest of placing ice screws whilst climbing (though still on top rope). We also got the chance to create and test 'Abalakov' placements and it was reassuring to realise how strong they are (in the right kind of ice!). Each of us developed at a different pace, but everyone got something from the course. Chris got on the sharp end towards the end of the week and made a very competent lead of Bullen, grade 3.



Practising Abalakov threads. Photo Mike Rittig.

I had hoped to lead an easy ice route but the excessive amount of snow this year made it impossible to get on the easier routes and we had to focus on single pitch steeper climbs in Krokan gorge. The rest of the group supported our efforts, providing advice, offering top ropes and improving our gear. Jeff in particular looked after the 'newbies' and gave up his time to climb routes so that we could top rope them.

We climbed every day except one, when it never stopped snowing. The whole trip was a great success and a learning curve. Thanks are due to Jeff for organising the instruction and to the Oread committee who supported the venture and provided partial funding from the Training Fund.

Jae writes:

It was colder and harder than I expected, but also more rewarding than expected! As a beginner group we had two days with a local guide to learn the skills before we could venture out on our own. The guide was great and was the much-needed introduction to ice climbing. We learnt to move efficiently on ice, how to place ice screws and build abalakov thread among others. Krokan proved to be the most suitable place for us to practice our trade for the rest of the week. Although it was too cold a temperature and too brittle ice for me to be at the sharp end at the time, I since got on No. 2 Gully on Ben Nevis and successfully led an ice pitch, using the skills I learnt during the trip, which I was over the moon about! Thank you Jeff for organising an amazing trip, and the experienced climbing Oreads and two friends for helping us out, giving us tips, putting top-ropes up for us, and sharing whiskey(!), and Gill, Mike and Chris for being great housemates for the week!

....and Jeff adds:

It was very snowy in Norway, more than I'd seen on the previous three trips and this presented us with some problems. There were only three venues that we could access safely without risking avalanche danger and an exhausting approach through chest deep snow. I had hoped to access some of the multi pitch classics, but it was not to be and we made the best of what we could.

For eight of the meet attendees this was their first time in the Norwegian winter, there were lots of smiling faces and a little shivering from time to time. Most days we had temperatures of -10 to -15 for the climbing which gave solid axe placements and bomber ice screw runners, good news because three of them got a full test!



Last night in the pub!

Great ice climbing, cosy accommodation, a warm hot tub/sauna and the friendly Norwegian people made this a memorable trip. Thank you to those of the Oread committee who made this happen – you know who you are.

Cromford to Matlock Walk 1 February Rachel Walker



Ten of us met up in Cromford Market Place. We made our way to Matlock via Bonsall and round the back of the Heights of Abraham. From the viewing platform (photo), several of us could see our houses.

Returning on the other side of the valley over the lofty heights of High Tor, we

teetered along Giddy Edge then along the Roman Cave - an open cut cleft where lead was mined from it in the 17th and 18th centuries, emerging by the gate to Starkholmes. Having lost three people, who walked home from here, the rest of us descended to the Cromford wharf where we had a nice cup of tea in the cafe.



Gritstone Trail 4 Saturday 18 February Stuart Firth

The cheery party of twelve assembled at Trentabank Reservoir, Macclesfield for the fourth leg of the Gritstone Trail. The multiple weather forecasts once again proved to be unduly pessimistic and, although breezy, we stayed substantially dry throughout the walk. The pull up to Teggs Nose was muddy but well within the capabilities of the party. Nick – evidently ever the purist – elected to strictly follow the ridge so unfortunately missed the first photo opportunity.



This device at Teggs Nose looked like the stone age precursor to a torture device in a James Bond movie. Fortunately, the “saw blade” that the happy Oreads were sitting on had been replaced by a more comfortable wooden plank.

The next stop was the café at the visitor centre; the service was rather slow so we were glad to get going again to regenerate some body warmth. The views over the Cheshire Plain were spectacular as we dropped down towards Rainow. We then left the Gritstone Trail proper and headed clockwise towards our convivial lunch stop by the River Dean.



At Snipe House, this less than helpful signpost invited us to decide between This Way, That Way or The Other Way. (Photo: Nick Evans)

There then followed some very attractive countryside towards and beyond Lamaload Reservoir and then through Macclesfield Forest back to our cars. Eleven miles covered and reportedly 571 metres of ascent warranted a pleasant recovery session in the seductively comfortable Leather's Smithy pub.

Thanks to all who came: Nigel and Janet Briggs with friend Marie Cowie, Linda Drew, John and Frederique Gwyther, Peter Amour, Nick Evans, John Green, Sue Todd and Angela Milne.

The penultimate stage will be on Saturday 20 May 2023.

Easy or Very Easy Roger Gibbs

Cabeco D'Or is one of the more recently developed crags in the Alicante region so you might think it's one of those local crags for locals, but when it comes recommended by aficionados and all-around legends like Big Ron you know it'll be good. We'd done our research and the UKC collective had awarded lots of stars. The guidebook photos looked pretty stunning with bulging orange rock and really massive routes. Don't come here with a 60m rope! The only minor downside was a slightly longer walk in than is usual (about 30 minutes).

We had the crag to ourselves and soon set to work on the modern classic Usoara / Foarte Usoara combination. Like a few of the routes hereabouts this has an easier first pitch of 20m or so followed by a stiffer extension often adding up to some monster pitches of 40m or more.



Chris went first and smashed it but he did look a bit like he was trying in parts. When it came to my turn, a Spanish team had arrived and got to work nearby. Right, concentrate. The route starts up a tiny corner and you can clip the first couple of bolts from a relaxing bridge. It's the only freebie you're going to get so best press on. The first

half is good, honest, hard work: long reaches between good holds, often open handed, so there is nothing too tweaky on cold fingers. There's a slightly precarious rest with arms thrust into a peculiar hole just below the belay chains of pitch one. It steepens noticeably now. To press on to the first chains or try to recover here? I dither briefly then push on to the chains and peer up at round two.

It looks steep but there are holds. Butch side pulling in rounded pockets takes me right to good holds and a pause. I'm gasping for breath and looking anxiously up and left at the first easing in angle. I crab up and left, stepping through precariously to a semi rest next to a dribble of fat tufa. My right calf is straining and I uge round to stand on my heel. Finally, something approaching a real rest. Milk it. Now what next? Ahead was what had been flagged as the crux section.

A little recovered I step up on undercut pockets and stretch to the top of the tufa. A sea of roundedness. I step back down and pant some more. A swing right unlocks a high step and now the undercut pockets work. Step higher and a chalky pocket is visible. I try to stuff two fingers in. No dice. Will it work with just one finger? I can hear the mickey taking about having sausage fingers in the back of my head already. Two fingers then, threequarters of the way down the first pad. I paste my feet on and jerk upwards, utterly committed. If those distant holds aren't buckets I'm going down. At full stretch my fingers connect with a good incut edge. I'm in. There's more to come (there was bound to be, this thing is 40m long) but it's steadier now and I can enjoy myself, whooping it up to the top chains. To my left the Spanish wad is peeling off his route amid shouted curses. Nice not to be the total muppet at the crag I thought smugly as I was being lowered to the deck.

I discreetly checked the guidebook. Ha, he was falling off something easier than my route. I felt cock a hoop...for about 30 seconds until I realised he had rinsed the lower easier section and was pitching off the harder extension. Still, it was only F8a. Punter. Later with the aid of Google, I'm slightly disappointed to discover than my route name means easy / very easy...but then this is Spain where everyone's Grandma onsights F8a. Venga!

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 new for March

Welcome to new provisional members Frederique Gwyther and Rob Haddow, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from existing Provisional members Louise Amandini, Edward Bloomfield, Christine Paice and Michael Rittig. Plus a new application from Steve Booth. If you would like to comment on any of these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

Which early Oread member was one of a triumvirate who camped somewhere in the vicinity of the bloody stone during an early expedition to Skye. He also used a Motorcycle and sidecar for family transport in early times.

Last month's puzzle solution:

The significant event referred to was the ascent of the Eiger North Wall, the first by an Oread, the late Ray Colledge. His companion "Dan Boone" was not an Oread member but it was not stipulated that the party should be exclusively Oread members Ruth has the true identity of "Dan" but the event resides in my memory based on the alias printed here

Ruth wrote:

"We thought this must be about Ray Colledge's ascent of the Eiger Nordwand in 1969. In the upper reaches a snow storm left everything appallingly slippery. "To speed things up I did not stand in slings as Dan had, but to help with the strenuous pull over the bulge I did pull on the sling attached to his nut runner. As it popped out of the crack I hung like a sack below the bulge. Dan was of course ready for this but as I pulled myself back onto the rock he gave me a serious talk on how one should be more careful when pulling up on nuts." (Taken from Climb if you will.)

However I have verbal information that Dan dropped his ice axe at some point and Ray, in his own words, "was obliged to admonish him".

I have always respected Ray whom I considered to be a very fine climber.

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