

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024



Come and have fun with the Oread! The Post-Prandial walk was graced with disgusting conditions – see page 20. Photo Spike Johnston.

Editorial

Lots of local walks and social get-togethers to see us through the winter months, from gentle strolls to the rigours of the Bullstones weekend and four Scottish winter meets

In here is the draft programme for next year with a regular line up of local walks including the new Geo walks. Away meets include many hut meets that have to be booked months ahead – we now need volunteers to lead them.

Please have a look and see what you can offer. There is still plenty of time to add in extra meets so if you have an idea of something you would like to do then get in touch with Michael Moss and let's make it happen.

Write ups include some appallingly wet wanders and an excellent curry meet, and sadly, notice of the loss of long-term member, Colin Barnard.

Copy Deadline 20 January

Meets List 2023 Michael Moss

Dec	5th	Lecture - John Shields paraclimber	Royal Oak Ockbrook	
	6th	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	6th	Winter wall wednesdays (Sheffield/Nottingham)	oread/iogroup for details	Emma Hayes
	9th to 11th	Bull Stones		John Gwyther
	13th	Black rocks evening meet and pub social	Hope and Anchor, Wirksworth	
	16th	Weekend walk	Big Moor	Steve Booth
	21st	Thursday short walk	Tansley/Riber	Ruth Gordon
	24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	
	26th	Boxing Day walk & pub	Miner's Arms Brassington	

Draft Meets List 2024

Please note: these meets will not happen unless people volunteer to lead them so don't be shy – have a look and see what you can do.

Some weekends have been booked at Tan yr Wyddfa including Easter weekend when perhaps someone may fancy using the hut as a base for a Gogarth meet.

There is a Lofoten trip in the summer but that is too far for people with limited holidays so an alternative venue would be welcome as well.

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

Jan	1st	New Year's Day walk & pub	Royal Oak, Wetton	
	9th	Lecture	Ockbrook	
	10th	Wednesday walk		John and Frederique Gwyther
	12/13th	The Cabin, Balgowan, Nr Newtonmore	JMCS hut	Michael Hayes
		Winter wall wednesdays (Sheffield/Nottingham)	oread/iogroup for details	Emma Hayes
	17th	Thursday short walk		
	18th	Thursday short walk		
	19th/20th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
	20th	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage, Matlock	Robin Hood inn	Stuart Firth
Feb	6th to 20th	Mediterranean sport	Benidorm	
	6th	Lecture	Ockbrook	
			Massarella's cafe,	
	7th	Wednesday walk, Rowsley, Nine ladies	Rowsley	Rachel Walker
	9th/10th Feb	Waters cottage, Kinlochleven	FRCC hut	leader needed
		Winter wall wednesdays (Sheffield/Nottingham)	oread/iogroup for details	Emma Hayes
	14th	Thursday short walk		
	15th	Thursday short walk		
17th	Weekend walk		Gill Radcliffe	
23rd/24th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed	
March	1st/2nd	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale,	ABMSAC hut	Stuart Haywood
	5th	Lecture, Langtang trek	Ockbrook	Nigel Briggs
	6th	Wednesday walk		Chris Paice
		Winter wall wednesdays (Sheffield/Nottingham)	oread/iogroup for details	Emma Hayes
	13th	Thursday short walk		
	14th	Thursday short walk		
	15/16th	Karn House, Aviemore	FRCC hut	leader needed
	23rd	Oread AGM	Matlock football club	
	24th	Spring stride (Geo walk stage)	Matlock to Cromford	Jan Wilson
		Easter - Sea cliffs/Mediterranean sport/Fontainebleu bouldering?		leader needed, chooses locati
	29th/1st Apr.	Fontainebleu bouldering?		
	29th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	

April			
		British summer time, first Wed. evening meet	
	3rd	Harborough	
	3rd	Wednesday walk	John & Frederique Gwyther
	5th/6th	High House, Seathwaite, Borrowdale	K fellfarers hut leader needed
	12/13th	Inbhirfhaolain Grampian Club Hut	Glen Etive, leader needed
	18th	Thursday short walk	
	20 th	Weekend walk, finale of the Gritstone Trail	Stuart Firth
	26th/27th	Fylde hut swap	Stair or Little Langdale Dave Snod Helliwell
May			
	1st	Wednesday walk	Chris Mather
	Dates TBD	bouldering?	Leader needed
	3rd/5th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales
		Early May Bank Holiday, Sea Cliffs Cornwall or	
	4th/6th	Pembroke or Gogarth	Leader needed
	16th	Thursday short walk	
	18th	Weekend walk/Geo walk stage	Cromford to Winster Pete Amour
	25th May to 2nd June	Scotland - Spring Bank Holiday (25th/27th May)	Skye, Ben Nevis, Applecross - TBC Michael Moss
June			
	5th	Wednesday walk	
	14th/15th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales leader needed
	15th	Weekend walk - Kinder	Peter Amour
	20th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21st/22nd	Rock hall cottage, Roches	Ed Bloomfield
	22nd June to 7th July	Lofoten, Norway	Nigel and Janet Briggs
July			
	3rd	Wednesday walk	
	12th/13th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales leader needed
	18th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	20th/21st	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Winster to Parsley Hay Chris Paice
	26th/27th	Sport climbing and walking, Lowstern, Yorkshire	Yorkshire Ramblers Hut Leader needed
Aug			
	7th	Wednesday walk	
	6th/9 th	Tan yr Wyddfa working party	N. Wales Dave Snod Helliwell
	9th/10th	Glan Dena, Ogwen Vally, Wales	MAM hut Dave Snod Helliwell
	15th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	17th/18th	Weekend walk	
	24th/26th	Aug. Summer Bank Holiday, Pembroke South	Roland Smith
	30th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales leader needed

Sept	4th	Wednesday walk		
	13th/15th	Oread 75th anniversary	Camping, Chatsworth, Derbyshire	
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st/22nd	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Parsley Hay-Milldale	
Oct	2nd	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	4th/5th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
	dates TBD	Mediterranean trad	Morocco	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th/20th	Fylde hut swap	Stair or Little Langdale, Lake district	Dave Snod Helliwell
	19th/20th	Weekend walk		
	28th	Summer time ends, start of Monday climbing wall sessions		
Nov	1st/2nd	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
	6th	Wednesday walk		
	9th?	Bonfire night		
	13th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	16th	Annual Dinner	Maynard, Grindleford	
	17th	Post prandial walk		
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	Dec	4th	Wednesday walk	
4th		Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
7th/8th		Bullstones		
11th		Black rocks evening meet		
14th/15th		Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Hilldale- Wetton Mill	
19th		Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
24-1 Jan		Christmas and New Year hut meet		Tan Yr Wyddfa

Oread Subscription Renewal 2024

Although BMC subscriptions are increasing to £23.90 the club will cover this increase so subscriptions will remain at £45 for ordinary membership, £35 for senior members (those in receipt of state pension) and £35 for provisional members. Honorary members, of course, pay no subscription.

In 2022 we started to collect our subscriptions in a different way, by direct debit. **If you signed up last year you will not need to do anything**, we will automatically collect them in late January. However you will always get notification in advance of collection so you, or we, can cancel the direct

debit if you no longer wish to continue your membership.

If you have not yet signed up but would like to do so this is what you need to do. Please sign up if you can because it saves a lot of work for both Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Log into the member's area of the website, click on MY PROFILE, and check

- that the information we hold about you is correct and up to date, and that you still agree to the consent options and statements. **See the reminder below.**
- If you are having difficulty logging into the members area, but know your username there is a password reset option.
- Your username is your initial and surname, all lower case and no spaces.
- If none of that works email David Mason on websupport@oread.co.uk

- Click on one of the links below to set up your direct debit through GoCardless:
 1. Ordinary Membership (£45):
<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00046KY2C564>
 2. Senior Membership (£35):
<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00046KY9WA7E>
 3. Provisional Membership (£35):
<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00046KYJ8D22>

You will then be asked to enter some personal details and your bank account number and sort code. The appropriate subscription will be deducted from your bank account in late January 2023. It will appear on your bank statement as GoCardless, and a reference which will in many cases refer to Oread, but this seems to vary from bank to bank. You will be notified before the payment is taken and your payments are protected, so you are guaranteed a refund if a payment was ever taken in error.

GoCardless is the UK's leading Direct Debit provider, processing over £5 billion in payments annually for more than 30,000 organisations, and your payments are covered by the direct debit guarantee:

<https://gocardless.com/guides/posts/dd-guarantee-in-plain-english/>

If there are two Oread members with a joint bank account you will both need to sign up separately, and two separate payments will be taken from the same account.

If you have not signed up and do not wish to do so you need do nothing now, we will contact you in the new year to make alternative arrangements.

Thank you, Janet Briggs, Oread Treasurer. Please email me with any questions or concerns on treasurer@oread.co.uk

A Year End Reminder from the President

As we reach the end of another year I hope you are all well and enjoying your outdoor activities in the hills. From my conversations around the club we are certainly covering a lot of ground. As a group of friends with our principle interest in mountain sports I believe we should regularly think about our own personal safety and that of the people we climb with. I wanted to remind you all that we have our handbook on the Oread website and it would be good for all of us if you reviewed the advice on personal safety from time to time. In our handbook we say:

ALL MEMBERS:

'Membership of the Oread Mountaineering Club is only open to adults, i.e. those aged 18 or over.

Members must acknowledge the British Mountaineering Council Statement of Participation: 'The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions.'

Members must have an awareness of their own capabilities and limitations, and as a result always take part in activities in a way which does not endanger themselves or others.'

I would also like to remind you that our health is can change and we should keep this in mind when we assess our participation in our chosen activities.

Keep yourself and those around you safe and have a great time. I look forward to seeing you out in the hills in the near future.

Jan Wilson

Winter zoom talks Nigel Briggs

Winter zoom talks - in the last newsletter I said that I hoped the first of this season's evening zoom talks would be on 17th October. However due to technology glitch issues and other time pressures we will not be able to get our presentation ready on time.

We are then away for much of November and therefore not able to organise anything for November, therefore the first zoom evening is now likely to be in December. I will issue further information nearer the time. Apologies for this.

Nigel Briggs : email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com. Tel. 01283 732925

This Winter's Evening Talks Rob Tresidder

These take place on the first (except January) Tuesday of the month at The Royal Oak in Ockbrook.

05 December: Jon Shields, paraclimber

09 January 2024: Colin Hobday, on three US national parks; Rock Hudson on the Himalaya

06 February: Pete Montgomery on the first kayak descent of the Fraser River in British Columbia

05 March: Nigel Briggs on his very recent trek in the Langtang valley, Nepal

I am starting to look for speakers for next winter, 2024-5. Do you know someone you could invite or someone you would like me to invite? Please be in touch.

I have been doing this job for longer than is good for the club. If you think you would enjoy running a 6-lecture programme, please have a word with me or the president. I am more than willing to stand aside!!

Rob email: Rob61.Tresidder@icloud.com

Tuesday 5 December 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



Jon Shields will talk to **“Hopping Mad; adventures of a paraclimber.”**

Jon is a GB athlete and will talk about his climbing both before and after his accident. He has recently returned from competing in Innsbruck.

Admission £3 Oreads, £5 non members.

Crowdfunding campaign to support Jon Shields, Team GB, compete in para-climbing

The Derwent Mountaineering Club, of which Jon is a member, has a Crowdfunding campaign supporting Jon's continued participation in international and national para-climbing competitions in 2024. Team GB provide lots of practical support (eg: coaching) but very limited financial support to attend the actual competitions (nothing for travel and occasionally a little towards accommodation). Hence this crowdfunding campaign!

The link to the campaign is given below. You can support Jon by:

1. Donating to his fund if possible;
2. Sharing the campaign, including the link, to your friendship or other groups;
3. Sending him a message of support.

The link to Jon's page on Just Giving is:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jon-shields-teamgb?utm_id=1&utm_term=2R94EEaMR

Wednesday 6 December Axe Edge - Charlie Taylor

Meet at the layby outside Flash bar stores café on the A53 Leek-Buxton Road (SK032678). Parking here is limited, so please car share where possible. I aim to depart at 10:00. This walk takes in Axe edge, Cheeks hill, Dane bower colliery engine house, Whetstone ridge and Three Shires head. The route is approximately 10 miles long with of 1,500 ft of ascent. Please let me know if you are attending.

Email: Charlie.taylor30@gmail.com tel: 07879523522.

8-10 December Bullstones John Gwyther

We rendezvous at the Duke of Norfolk pub Ringinglow (free parking opposite) Friday night 8 December. After refreshments we venture onto Blacka Moor (Brown Edge) and strike camp. On Saturday there'll be a walk ending at the Derbyshire Pennine Club hut, Stoney Middleton. A fish and chip supper or dinner at the pub are possibilities. After breakfast on Sunday there'll be 'a leisurely stroll' back to Ringinglow. If you would like to participate, please let us know in advance. The hut costs £10pp and is **limited to twelve places**. We'll also need to know who wants to eat in the pub to book space.

John Gwyther tel. 07931 630974

Peter Amour tel. 07827 378147

Wednesday 13 December Black Rocks/Harborough and pub social

It's the Wednesday before the Wednesday before Christmas - time for a little moonlit madness! Forgather any time after dark at either Harborough or Black Rocks and attempt a route or two before adjourning to the Hope and Anchor Inn, Wirksworth. The pub does serve food until 8.30 pm – pie and chips £11 -but it is “steak night” so you may be wise to book. Tel. 01629 823773. The chippy is a handy alternative just across the road.

Saturday 16 December Big Moor Walk Stephen Booth

A moorland walk from Shillito Wood car park to Longshaw, a mix of woodland and open moors.

Starting at 9.30 am from the free car park at Shillito wood (Map Ref. SK 29495 74973. What Three words; mats.pipeline.whimpered).

The walk progresses north taking in Barbrook Reservoir, Flask Edge, Totley Moor before the toilets and tea shop at Longshaw. After leaving Longshaw estate the walk crosses White Edge to reach the Hurkling Stone and returns to the start via Ramsley Reservoir.

Grade Moderate; Distance 12.5 miles. Ascent 1,250 feet

Head Torch advised in case of delays (sun set 15.49)

Stephen Booth: Tel; 07985 588544. Email; booth.steve.j@gmail.com

21 December Short Walk Ruth Gordon

We will start at 11.00 am by Tansley Church. There is street parking to be had in various spots on the road through the village. This is a shorter walk (under five miles) suitable for the shortest day! but does have some ascent. We will go up to Riber by the most gentle means of ascent and take our time over it, before descending to Starkholmes and into Matlock where a pub or cafe stop can be had if the party so wishes. We will then go to Matlock Green and follow a woodland path to the bottom of Lumsdale and follow the bottom of the valley back to Tansley.

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

24 December – 3 January Christmas and New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa

As usual all will be welcome for a sociable time over the festive season and, weather permitting, an ascent of Christmas Curry or Canyon Rib - or lovely walks along the beach from Borth y Gest to precede a pot luck supper on New year's Eve, Come and enjoy! Just book yourself into the hut for the dates you want.

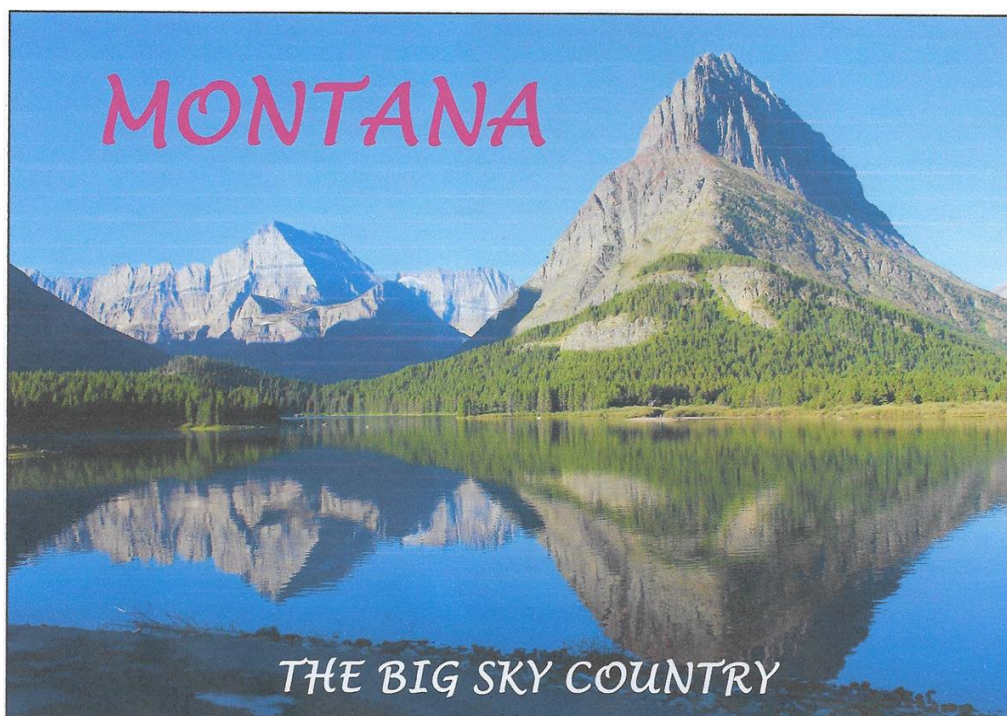
26 December Boxing Day Walk

Back to normal! The Miners' Arms at Brassington will be open this year and will be pleased to see us. Make your own way by whatever route and form of transport appeals on the day, for festive drinks and a good natter. They don't know yet whether they will be able to do food or not so if you would like to eat best phone to check. 01629 541977

1 January 2024 New Year's Day Walk

Unless a leader emerges the usual plan is for people to wend their way to the Royal Oak at Wetton by a variety of routes for a festive get together. It would appear from their website that you will need to book if you want to eat. I have been unable to establish their opening hours over Christmas/New Year. Their phone number is 01335 310287.

Tuesday 9 January 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



A double bill: Colin Hobday will talk about a visit to three National Parks in North America, starting in Montana in the Glacier National Park close to the Canadian Border, then on to Yellowstone N.P. ,finishing at the Grand Teton N.P. Three National Parks but each one Different. Then Rock Hudson will talk about his trips to the Himalayas.
Admission £3 Oreads, £5 non members.

Wednesday 10 January Bolsover walk John Gwyther

Bolsover-Hardwick and back. Meet at Town's End carpark (near Morrison's) Bolsover for a 10.00 am departure.

Distance 18.7km with 220m ascent. Mostly over bike trail, some muddy fields and park land. No serious climbs and no stiles.

Bring your own refreshments but there is the possibility of tea at Hardwick or Bolsover. If you would like to come, please let me know so we don't leave without you.

John Gwyther tel. 07931 630974

12- 14 January Scottish winter meet Michael Hayes

The first Scottish winter meet for 2024 will be at The Cabin, Balgowan, Newtonmore. Newtonmore gives access to Creag Meagaidh, the Northern Cairngorms and even The Ben. We have the whole hut which sleeps 10 people at a cost of £5 pppn for Members and £14pppn for Guests.

Depending on Weather and who goes we may well extend our stay but will sort that out nearer the weekend. Parking is limited to six cars so it's a good idea to car share.

Let me know if you want more information or would like to book a place.

Michael Hayes: email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

18 January Short walk Codnor Park Chris Paice

Codnor Park Reservoir will be our meeting point for this walk. It is on the Coach Road - NG16 5PX is the post code, O.S. Explorer 269, 513 435 map reference. Leaving from here at 11.00am we have a short road walk, uphill, on Monument lane. From a distance you can see the Jessop monument but when walking you can't! The road turns into a track eventually passing Codnor Castle. Continuing on the track (technically Castle Lane) we pass the golf course and we are now on Aldercar Lane. On to Maggie's Den. This is primarily a café for Aldercar Fisheries but will provide a tea/coffee stop. It's seems fisherman don't have cake (there is flapjack) as there is none!! Hot food is available until 1.30 and I'm sure they are used to people eating their own food outside.

Moving through the fisheries, under the railway line, we begin our journey back. This includes the River Erewash, Erewash Meadows, lots of birds to spot, maybe! This has the potential to be quite boggy (in October the Erewash flooded around this area). Ultimately, we walk along the Cromford canal back to the cars. Approx. 4.96 miles. It can be extended another 1 ½ miles to walk around the reservoir and visit Golden Valley, a small place but lots of history. After the initial short uphill, it is gently downhill then flat. Very few stiles.

Contact Chris; email walking.paice@hotmail.co.uk or tel. 07773 045838

19-20 January Tan yr Wyddfa

The hut is reserved for club members this weekend. Book yourself in online as usual – who knows – we may have snow!

Saturday 20 January 2024 GeoWalk Robin Hood Inn to Matlock - Stuart Firth

15km, 270m ascent, medium grade.

The Peak District GeoWalk is a new multi-section walk offering a broad and deep insight into the geology of the Peak District – and hence also its many rock-climbing opportunities. It was developed by Albert Benghiat and Martin Whiteley who have described it all on a freely available and excellent website: www.peakdistrictgeowalk.org.

Much of the territory will be familiar to members of the Oread but those who undertook the previous project – the Peak District Boundary Walk – will vouch for the many surprises we found along the way. I am hopeful that this latest venture will render similar satisfaction. The idea is to walk a section every other month with different leaders and hopefully some input along the way from the rock climbers amongst us.

Our first section (officially No 14) will start at Heathy Lea / Robin Hood Inn and progress to Matlock via Chatsworth Edge, Hob Hurst's House and Two Dales. We will encounter Crawshaw Sandstone, Chatsworth Grit, Ashover Grit, Carboniferous Limestone, Carbonate Mud, Bowland Shale and Millstone Grit.

Meet at Heathy Lea at 10:00 for a 10:15 departure. As this will be an A2B walk, transport logistics will need to be planned so please let me know if you are coming so that I can arrange to return you to your vehicle. Sadly, whilst buses are available, the timetabling is not really convenient. There will be refreshments at the end but bring lunch.

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

Tuesday 6 February 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Pete Montgomery will talk about the first kayak descent of the Fraser River in British Columbia

5-19 February Spanish sunshine Ruth Gordon

Around 10 of us have booked with Jet2 for a trip to Benidorm, hopefully climbing and/or walking in some much needed sunshine. We are staying at

the Aparthotel Terralta for various lengths of time around these dates. We have booked half board but you can self cater if preferred, the rooms are reasonably well equipped. All welcome to join us. It is a package holiday which flies from East Midlands, Birmingham and Manchester to Alicante where you may pick up a hire car or take advantage of a coach transfer straight to the hotel. Previous experience has shown that hiring a car in Benidorm is not to be recommended! Any questions be in touch Ruth Gordon email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com tel. 01629 56636.

Wednesday 7 February Rowsley Walk Rachel Walker

Nine Ladies circuit: 8.7 miles 938 feet (precisely but not necessarily accurately) of ascent. Medium grade.

Meet at Massarella's cafe, Rowsley at 10:00 for a 10:15 start. Cafe opens at 09:30. Free parking.

Rachel Walker tel. 07944 200579 email catherinerachelwalker@gmail.com

9-10 February Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Waters Cottage Kinlochleven

We have 14 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.

Saturday 20 April – Gritstone Trail 6 Stuart Firth

Meet at Lyme Park NT car park at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure. Please note that NT car park charges are per person, not per vehicle – so bring your membership card if you have one. Bring Picnic.

OS Map OL1 GR 963 823 (aka W3W topic.homelands.reboot)

This is a circular walk partly on the Gritstone Trail and linking with our previous stage. It's the last one in the series. It goes something like this:

Lyme Park car park – free for NT members (facilities, café 10:00 – 16:00), Bowstonegate, Sponds Hill, Pt 407, Stag House, Keepers Cottage, Birchencliff, West Parkgate, Green Farm, Elmhurst Cottage, Disley Pt 183 (THE END yippee), Green Lane, Bollinghurst Bridge, Lyme Park.

There is an opportunity to shorten the walk part way round should you wish. Please let me know if you plan to come and/or would like to lift share.

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

Summer 2024 Lofoten

We plan to be in Lofoten for the two week period from 22nd June to 6th July. Our personal plan is to drive from Calais taking about a week each way.

I have emailed the people who have contacted me already, expressing an interest or a definite intention to come. If you have not had an email from me and wish to be kept informed about the trip please get in touch and I will add you to the list.

We will be taking our van so the intention is to be on a campsite, we have not yet researched options and are open to suggestions. I believe there is also low(ish) cost 'cabin' type accommodation available. We are away for the next month so will make more definite plans in early December. If anyone is planning to fly over there will be various vans going that will be able to take some of your luggage for you.

If you are interested and want to know more, please get in touch.

Nigel Briggs (nigel.briggs@btinternet.com)

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Tan yr Wyddfa Curry Meet 27 – 29 October Tony Howard

Fourteen Oreads gathered together at Tan yr Wyddfa for another Curry Meet. We were joined by Robert Fay from the Mountaineering Club of Ireland who by chance was using the hut at the same time and was happy to join in with the curry.

On Saturday Robert Fay walked up Snowdon, delighted in the comfort of the café and descended via the Snowdon Ranger path, a long-standing ambition achieved.

Nick Evans, Steve Booth, John Gwyther and Pete Amour took the bus round to Nantgwynant and beginning with the Watkin Path walked to Bwlch Cwm Llan, just north of Yr Aran. Nick ascended Yr Aran on his way back to the hut. The others took the direct path back.

Roland, Angela and John Dobson climbed Creagh Ddu wall at Tremadog and enjoyed an interesting descent.

Stuart and Sue walked up to the col between Snowdon and yr Aran and then along the west shore of Lynn y Gader towards the road and back.



Gill and Chris arrived early on Saturday afternoon after a family celebration on Friday evening. They took a circular walk starting up the Llechog track, then descending the recently upgraded bridleway that passes Ffridd Uchaf, crosses the road and links with the Snowdonia Slate Trail past Llyn- y-Gader and back to the hut.

Richard Hardwick, Mike Wren and I repeated a favourite trip. After taking the bus into Beddgelert we walked north-easterly to Llyn Dinas before turning a hairpin right and ascending to Bwlch-y-Sygyn.

Mike and Richard before descending Cwm Bychan

On descending through Cwm Bychan we tarried a while before reaching Pont Aberglaslyn and returning via the Fisherman's path. The 6 o'clock bus brought us back to the hut just in time to join in the food preparations.

Mike negotiating the Fisherman's path.

Four curries and a dahl were presented and enthusiastically devoured: a fitting end to a day thoroughly enjoyed by all I believe.

Sunday started out dry, but most of us experienced some rain later on. Nick and Steve climbed Hebog then traversed its northern ridge over Moel yr Ogof and Moel Lefn before returning to the hut through the forest.

John G and Pete walked from Beddgelert, through the Aberglaslyn Gorge then over open moorland to Llyn Dinas and eventually to Beddgelert.



Angela and Roland walked up Mynydd Drws-y-coed / Y Garn in dry weather before descending in rain through the woods.

John Dobson walked up Cnicht and through the slate mines before descending to Croesor.

Stuart and Sue went to Bodnant gardens, where there were terrific autumn colours.

Chris and Gill drove round to Crafnant so that Gill could engage in dry tooling with other Oreads, Jeff Ingman, Tim Sellears, Alan Monks and Rob Beck in a quarry above Maes Mawr. (Lots of pics on the Oread Facebook page.) Chris walked over Crimpiau before traversing the hillside above the quarries and descending to and walking round Lynn Crafnant.

Richard Hardwick, Mike Wren and I drove to Capel Curig and walked the fairly recently upgraded path to the head of the Crafnant valley, traversing under Crimpiau as we went. The tiny figure traversing the ridge above could well have been the aforementioned Oread? We returned to Capel by the same path before setting off home.



Tony and Richard above the Crafnant valley.

Meanwhile back at Tan Yr Wyddfa Oreads were drying themselves off. Steve Booth was interrupted in the shower by a failure in the building's water supply and was, I believe, running around nearly naked! Photographic evidence clearly demonstrates that Peter had seen it all before!



Everyone made good use of the decent weather and were active on both days. Some stayed on for more! Let's hope for the same next year.

Goyt Valley Walk 1 November Rusty Russell



High on the moorland. Photo John Gwyther.

The weather being somewhat better on the day than in the recent past I was joined by a willing band and we kept pretty well to the planned itinerary, commencing with a circuit of the heather moorland East of the river until we crossed by a footbridge more or less opposite Shining Tor on the West side of the valley.

Despite the path structure at this point being somewhat changeable, owing to tree felling operations, chance rather than navigational competence guided us to the ruined Errwood Hall and North to Pym Chair. Our resolve was then tested by a very strong wind opposing our progress along the summit ridge via Cats Tor to Shining Tor where we dined in the dubious shelter of the wall, disappointingly open jointed and failing to shelter we elderly folk from the wind.

The remainder of the walk, downhill via Cat and Fiddle to the starting point was relatively easy

Those present, Chris and Gill Radcliffe, Chris Mather, Sue and Stuart, Frédérique and John Gwyther.



The Oread partisans on a training exercise near Errwood Hall ruins, ably led by Rusty - sporting a new and very fetching hat. (Chris Radcliffe, Sue Todd, John Gwyther, Rusty, Chris Mather and Frederique Gwyther.) Photo Stuart Firth

Thursday Short Walk 16 November Chris Radcliffe



Photo opportunity at a handy hobbit house where Roger found a new walking pole. Photo Stuart Firth.

I intermittently join the Thursday Short Walk although the format is ideal for me and I suggested to the regulars that they might like to try a walk on my local patch. Accordingly, ten folks assembled in front of the Bull's Head, Holymoorside, on the outskirts of Chesterfield, including John, a long-standing friend who lives in the village.

It was an overcast damp day, typical of November, but it was an enthusiastic group that set off on terrain new to most. I live locally and have been walking and running these paths for over 40 years – what could possibly go wrong? Actually, quite a lot.

The initial fields were totally waterlogged and made worse by the cattle post-holing in the soft ground. We squelched our way through the morass and crossed the river Hipper, an unexceptional stream that a few weeks ago had burst its banks and flooded parts of Chesterfield causing a lot of damage and misery. Even after we started climbing uphill, there was no improvement in underfoot conditions and, as I was in deep conversation with Larkam, I failed to notice that I had strayed off the line of the path until I realized an angry farmer was shouting at us to get off his land. Forced to take notice, I realized I was completely confused as to where we had ended up. I knew there was a barn as a landmark, but I couldn't see it.

We ended by walking in a complete circle before finding the broken-down stile in the corner of the field – very embarrassing! I continued to a lane at Chander Hill only to find that John, walking in ill-fitting wellies, had done a face plant in the mud and was looking a bit the worse for wear.

A bit of respite along the lane to Leagreave where we turned down a steep sided wooded valley. A bit further along the path John slipped on a stile and we were all aghast to see him very quickly tumbling down the slope until brought to a halt by a tree. He now had a cut hand as well. Traversing across the steep slope he regained the path and we continued down before climbing again through Birkinshaw Wood.

Time now for a pause for lunch and more open views of the countryside to the SW of Chesterfield. Fortunately, there were no more incidents as we continued to Nether Loads and across to Harewood Road and descended back to Holymoorside.

Thanks to Ruth, Stuart, Sue, Chris P, Chris W, Richard, Roger, Gill and of course John who survived to tell the tale.

Re Front page photo 19 November Post Prandial walk

Apparently, unnoticed under all those waterproofs, a passing Norwegian was swept up into the jolly Oread outing – Ove Bakk reports:

Helen, Brian, Wim and myself had a moist enjoyable walk after the minimalist Annual Dinner. Setting out from Calver we had problems keeping pace with Richard (local knowledge), Chris (bionic) and Wim (cheerful energy) before the whole team grouped for a rendezvous with other like minded Oreads. Brian of course led the field, with the usual uncertainty whether he would decide to make an unscheduled diversion of his own design.

We reached the Grouse and settled into recharge. People seemed to ebb and flow past us (it was wet), and we even caught sight of Ruth and Snod. At this point we somehow became detached from the main group and had to fend for ourselves on the return journey via Tegness pinnacle. Somehow the four of us actually managed to stay together and laughed our way back to our cars. Thank you Jan for organising a jolly good after-dinner walk!

The last time we had such good fun was Pam Norriss's final Munro in May – Stob Ghabhar - see how jolly that was!



Hut Bookings.

Both our Welsh and Derbyshire hut bookings have 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.

Colin Frederick Barnard

Colin passed away on Saturday 11th November aged 83 years. He joined the Oread in 1978 and remained a member until ill health overtook him a couple of years ago.

The funeral service will take place on Thursday 30th November at 1.30 pm at Stafford Crematorium, Tixall Road, Stafford ST18 0XZ.

Family flowers only; donations if desired to Parkinson's UK. All enquiries to Robert Nicholls Funeral Directors, Stafford. Tel. 01785 253683

Photographs and memories of Colin will be most welcome for future issues.

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new full member Chris Mather we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

An application for full membership has been received from Deborah Marsh for consideration at the December committee. If you would like to comment on this application please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

I was recently ambling along a country lane, narrow dead end and infrequently used but open to vehicles. The sun was generally on my right. Directly ahead was a hill, the highest point on the horizon. I later ascertained that this hill (bearing 07degrees from Dunge Bottom) was 388 m. in height. What would be the name of the next major geographical feature which I reached?

All the necessary information may be obtained from the local explorer series map (1:25,000 scale). This puzzle involves more than one county. Please note, the navigation and any calculation involved is to an accuracy appropriate to simple hand held devices used by mountaineers rather than astronomy or nuclear physics.

Last month's puzzle solution:

The puzzle was solved almost instantly by Dave Appleby who wrote:

The answer is HEBOG JACK

After finishing the 14 thousanders he pulled in Hebog as he felt it was too good a peak to missor he had a lack of blood going to his brain..... Hebog Jack was later known as Tarmac Jack (named by Janes), for his love of roads instead of grass.
Happy days.

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