



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

MARCH 2024



An impressive piece of rock - To pa ti, Puig de Garaffa, Mallorca. Photo Roger Gibbs. Read all about it on page 15

Editorial

New in this issue: a plea to share your favourite photos of Oread meets and people to enjoy at the 75th Anniversary – see page 4.

On page 5 all the info on our new WhatsApp community which should make getting together for meets and informal fun so much easier.

Lots of meets coming up soon, several in Scotland and the Lake District plus

local walking meets, including the finale of the Gritstone Trail. Looking further ahead there is a bouldering trip to Fontainebleau at Easter and Cornwall for the early May bank holiday.

Some meets still need a co-ordinator to take bookings and keep people informed in the run-up to the meet. Could you do that for a meet you would like to join?

The AGM papers accompany this issue – we hope to see you there. Oh, don't forget to have a look at the Health and Safety policy see page 8.

Copy Deadline 20 March

Meets List 2024 Michael Moss

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

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

March	1st/2nd	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale,	ABMSAC hut	Michael Hayes
	5th	Lecture, Langtang trek	Royal Oak Ockbrook	Nigel Briggs
	6th	Wednesday walk	Calver	Chris Paice
		Winter wall wednesdays Nottingham	oread/iogroup &	
	13th	Climbing Centre	Instagram for details	Emma Hayes
	14th	Thursday short walk	Pikehall	Ruth Gordon
	15/16th	Karn House, Aviemore	FRCC hut	Michael Moss
		Àite Cruinnichidh Hostel, joint meet with the		
	22/23/24th	Eagle Ski Club	Roy Bridge, Scotland	Neil Thompson
	23rd	Oread AGM	Matlock football club	
	24th	Spring stride (Geo walk stage)	Matlock to Cromford	Peter Amour
29th/1st Apr.	Easter - Fontainbleau bouldering		Dave Mason	
April				
		British summer time, first Wed. evening meet		
	3rd	Harborough		
	3rd	Wednesday walk	Longnor	John&Frederique Gwyther
	5th/6th	High House, Seathwaite, Borrowdale	K fellfarers hut	Peter Amour
	12/13th	Inbhirfhaolain Grampian Club Hut	Glen Etive,	Nigel Briggs, Janet Briggs
	14 th	Wildcat Clean up	Matlock Bath	Derwent MC
	18th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
		Weekend walk, finale of the Gritstone Trail		
	20th/21st	(#6)		Stuart Firth
	26th/27th	Fylde hut swap	Little Langdale	Dave Snod Helliwell
May				
	1st	Wednesday walk		Chris Mather
	Dates TBD	bouldering?		Leader needed
	3rd/6th	Early May Bank Holiday, Sea Cliffs Cornwall	Kelynack	Phil Waterson
	16th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18th	Weekend walk/Geo walk stage	Cromford to Winster	Jan Wilson
	25th May to 2nd	Scotland - Spring Bank Holiday (25th/27th	Skye, Ben Nevis,	
	June	May)	Applecross - TBC	Michael Moss

June	5th	Wednesday walk		Rusty Clive Russell
	14th/15th	BBQ meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	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		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		leader needed
	9th/10th	Glan Dena, Ogwen Valley, Wales	MAM hut	Dave Snod Helliwell
	15th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17th	Weekend walk		leader needed
	24th/26th	Aug. Summer Bank Holiday, Pembroke South		Roland Smith
	30th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
Sept	4th	Wednesday walk		leader needed
	13th/15th	Oread 75th anniversary	Camping, Chatsworth, Derbyshire	
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Parsley Hay-Milldale	Pam Storer
Oct	2nd	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	4th/5th	Curry meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	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	Weekend walk		leader needed
	28th	Summer time ends, start of Monday climbing wall sessions		
Nov	1st/2nd	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
	6th	Wednesday walk		Rachel Walker
	9th?	Bonfire night		
	13th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	17th	Post prandial walk		
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23 rd	Annual Dinner	Maynard, Grindleford	

Dec	4th	Wednesday walk		leader needed
	4th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	7th/8th	Bullstones		
	11th	Black rocks evening meet		
	14th	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Milldale- Wetton Mill	Clive Russell
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet		Tan Yr Wyddfa

75th Dinner Photo Montage Appeal

Dear Oread Member,

We are in the process of compiling a photo montage which we hope will be playing at the dinner in November as a large wall projected backdrop with suitable music. To date Pete Kennington has taken some archive material from the Newsletters and come up with a brilliant reel. To now get the final version it would be excellent if you could submit a small number of photos which show the Oread at play!!!

The emphasis should be on characters, events or significant places and the idea is to provoke lots of discussion, reminiscences and shared experiences across the complete range of members. The final version we hope will be on our website as a lasting memento and possibly a research tool.

Pete advises:

'Anything around 1Mb is OK and anything bigger is fine. Photos around 750Kb may work but photos less than 100Kb generally will not work.

We have a Drop box folder which will be used to compile all the photos. You can get access to this and upload yourself if you get in touch or send your photos to myself or Ruth for inclusion in the selection process. If you want to get involved in this one please get in touch. I 'm sure help will be welcome.

Hope to see your shots included.

Best regards

Jan Wilson email: jan.lumsdale@gmail.com

Oread WhatsApp

The Oread have been looking at creating a WhatsApp community for the group to provide a rapid, interactive communication tool for club members initially but non- members may be able to become part of our groups at a later date. Most of you are probably using WhatsApp on a regular basis by now so hopefully you will be familiar with how it works and can join straight away.

This may seem a small step since we are all so familiar with this tool however because we are a club and have clear responsibilities to each other we have taken significant time and trouble to understand the implications of using WhatsApp together. Ed Bloomfield has kindly helped the Committee understand how it works and how to structure the group. He has written a description below for your information. I urge you to read it and decide for yourself if you want to join.

We will continue to run the trial and monitor any issues over the coming months. Please remember to use appropriate language and I hope humour for the groups you join. This should be a real asset to us so let's enjoy. If you have any strong feelings along the way please let me know. We are reviewing all of our communications streams and hope to form a small working group to look after these going forward. If you have any interest in this please get in touch.

Jan Wilson email: jan.lumsdale@gmail.com

Oread WhatsApp Community

Description

This is a proven and secure mobile phone based means of communication used to assist Club members quickly and easily publicising and arranging their Club based activities.

A demonstration/trial has been running since Nov 23 and currently has 24 participants. A Committee Group (now part of the Oread Community) has been active since Jun 23. Oread committee reviewed the arrangements 13 Feb 24.

The advantage of the WhatsApp platform is the ease of messaging. The WhatsApp platform is already familiar to many smart phone users, but it is here configured as a 'Community' with subsidiary Groups assigned to interests. Through a simple means of joining / leaving an interest Group, members can thereby select only those interests which they choose to be relevant. This is unlike the current 'IO' email system where users see all 'chats'.

Community Membership

The Community includes (and initially is restricted to) all Oread Full and Provisional Members with a submitted mobile phone number, excluding any who have withheld permission for their phone number to be shared

with other Club members (ie as those listed on the Club website members contact page).

Initially all Club Members will be invited to join the WA Community, enabling members to then choose interest Groups. If they subsequently wish, members can silently leave the WhatsApp Community ^{-see WA 'Community Info' page}).

The Platform is configured such that only Community Admins can add persons to the WA Community. New members (subject to their disclosure permission) would be added to the WA immediately their prospective application is approved. If a Club member who has withheld email contact details wishes to be added to the WA community this can be arranged.

WhatsApp member phone numbers are visible to other WA members. Names/pics however are only visible if a) the other's phone number is named in the member's Contacts file or failing that, b) the name/pic has added to the member's own WhatsApp profile ^(see WA/3dots/settings/[name/profile]).

Members will be asked to ensure that they have added their name to their WA profile.

Interest Groups

Groups are formed around interests which Club members may have, and about which communication is needed. Interest Group members can send and receive messages within the group to individuals or to the Group.

- Members of the Community are able (using the platform) to request admittance to one or more Groups reflecting their interest. Admission to a Group is configured so that Group admission is automatic (eliminating admin time). The Committee group is open only to committee members (minutes are published on the website).
- Groups can be added / deleted (by Community Admin) as Club interests evolve, or planned events arise or are completed. Groups need to identify an Admin to moderate the group's communication.
- Members can leave a group (or the Community) at their own will. Leaving a Group might be eg if they are unavailable for a period of time (or season) and don't wish to be informed of the group's activities or have changed their interests. If they wish to rejoin, the normal group joining process is used.
- Communications within the Community are not visible outside the Community. The communication within an interest Group is not visible outside the Group. Normal social media etiquette applies to all.

Admin Roles

Community Admin

Controls addition and deletion of Groups, and community members joining/leaving (leaving can also be initiated by the WA member

themselves). Can make Community Announcements (sent to everyone).
Anyone can see the Admins.

Group Admin

Ability to add/delete of Community member to/from that specific group.
A group can have multiple admins.

How to join: open this link on your device which has WhatsApp installed.
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Dv8W5qVAUwOGpk1fzLqPVR> or request to be added by an email with your number to a Community Administrator.

WhatsApp Help

https://faq.whatsapp.com/967457667545238/?helpref=hc_fnav

Oread WAp Interest Groups

Interest Group	Notes / activities
INITIAL	
Mid-week climbing	Includes Sport, bouldering, inside & outside
Weekend climbing	Includes Sport, bouldering, inside & outside
Winter Climbing	
Climbing	General climbing chat for discussing climbing related topics.
Cycling	
Walking	
Running	
Oread Committee	Committee only, eg meeting arrangements etc
POTENTIAL FUTURE eg	
<i>75th Anniversary</i>	Sept 24 arrangements
<i>HL Sub Committee</i>	
<i>TyW Sub Committee</i>	

Oread WAp Community Admins

Ed Bloomfield	Community Creator
Jan Wilson	President
Mick Hayes	Membership Sec
Mike Moss	Meets Sec
Dave Mason	webmaster
Emma Hayes	(Committee member)
announcements (eg Winter lectures) to be forwarded to the above	

Oread Mountaineering Club – Health and Safety Policy

The Club's Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed and updated and is on the website. Please could you take the time to read it. It is only six pages long and explains how Health and Safety operates in the club and what is expected of members. Also, as a member you have agreed to abide by it.

To find the Policy on the website, click on the 'About' tab and select 'Policies' from the drop-down menu.

Have a read and if there are any comments please get in touch. Although we have checked it thoroughly, I cannot guarantee that all the typos have been removed so please let me know if you find any.

Nigel Briggs email: nigel.briggs@btinternet.com

Forthcoming Meets

Tuesday 5 March 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Janet and Nigel Briggs will give an illustrated account of their four week trek last autumn in the Langtang area of Nepal. Admission £3.00 Oreads, £5.00 non members.



Wednesday 6 March Calver walk Chris Paice

A walk that begins at Calver, parking by the school. Ref: 248 734, S32 3AX is the postcode for the school. 9.45 a.m. for a 10.00 set off. From here we take the Derwent Valley Way crossing New Bridge and then doubling back for the footpath that takes us Knouchley Farm. Moving onwards to Stoney Middleton, through the village to pick up the footpath leading to Coombs Dale. Onwards to Black Harry Gate and around the water (optional). To return we aim for Deep Rake and take a track North (ish) to go around

Calver Peak. This drops us in Calver. We then find the way through Calver to Mill Farm, picking up the Derwent Valley Way and returning to the start point. Almost 10 miles, bring a packed lunch, snacks, drink, total ascent 1612ft.

Chris Paice, email walking.paice@hotmail.co.uk, tel. 07773 045838

13 March Winter Wall Wednesdays Nottingham Emma Hayes

We will be at Nottingham Climbing Centre, where you can do both bouldering and lead climbing, from 7.00pm. All welcome.

Emma Hayes: email emma.hayes06@gmail.com

14 March short walk Ruth Gordon

We will meet at the Minninglow car park on the High Peak Trail (SK194 582) near Pikehall for an 11.00 am start. We will walk up to Minninglow, Neolithic tombs and great views, before dropping down to Royston Grange. From here the shortest way back would give only a four mile walk but there are options to extend it to five or six via the impressive Hoe Grange and Ballidon quarries or Cardlemere Lane and Gotham – depending on the enthusiasm of the party on the day.

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

15-16 March Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Karn House Aviemore Michael Moss

Taking advantage of our reciprocal rights with the FRCC we will return to Karn House, the superb Fell and Rock Hut in Aviemore where we have 12 bed spaces booked.

The weekend's activities will be guided by the weather and hopefully we will once again get some fantastic Scottish winter climbing and mountaineering done.

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

22-24 March Roy Bridge Neil Thompson

I've arranged a joint meet for the Oread with the Eagle Ski Club for three days at the Aite Cruinnichidh hostel in Roy Bridge 22nd to 25th March. It's a self catering hostel with double bed rooms or bunk rooms to suit and is an ideal spot for playing on Ben Nevis, the Grey Corries, messing around in boats or just a change of scene. If anyone is interested please get in touch.

Neil Thompson: email ntntansley@hotmail.com

Saturday 23 March Annual General Meeting Matlock Football Club

The forthcoming AGM will be held at the Matlock Town Football Club in the centre of Matlock. There is parking on site with overspill at the Cricket Club next door. The bar will be open from 7.00 pm with food at 7.30 prompt for those who have ordered and the meeting will begin at 8.00pm.

In the meeting we will approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM, consider the accounts and officers' reports for 2023, elect a new committee, elect the hut committees and consider the proposed amendments to the constitution.

The agenda, 2023 minutes, proposed constitution amendments, committee nominations, officers' reports and the accounts accompany this 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. All correspondence needs to be sent to the Secretary, Pip Leach by email pippasleach@gmail.com or post to 18 Wessington Lane South Wingfield Alfreton DE55 7NB.

Sunday 24 March Matlock - Cromford - Matlock Geowalk Peter Amour

Forming a part of the Geo walk Circuit we will depart Hall Lees Park, Matlock at 10-15am after congregating at the War Memorial.

For parking, there has been a kind offer from Stuart Firth and Sue Todd to allow up to 5 cars to be left at their homes, please liaise with Stuart regarding this. Any excess to this number could I suggest using the Railway Station Car Park.

Leaving the memorial we shall follow the flow of the Derwent to then cross the river and the A6 to ascend to the Heights of Abraham to take in some of the Geo details of High Tor.

The route will then guide us over to Ember Farm, and then back to the A6, where Wild Cat Crag will be in close proximity.

Our direction then follows the east bank of the River Derwent followed by a sharp climb to get us above High Tor, with Giddy Edge for those so interested. While in the area the old Roman Mines could be explored for a bit of fun.

The final stint will be back to Hall Lees Park. For those wishing to they could take their climbing gear, and complete the circuit more vertically, there should be opportunities (six miles with 1275' of ascents)

I hope to see you there, and to convey a little information about the geology along the way. Please let me know if you'd like to join us, it should be quite a sociable do.

Peter Amour email: peter@amour02.force9.co.uk tel. 07827378147

Tuesday 26 March 8.00 pm Zoom talk Chris Wilson

Decline and Rejuvenation

As many of you know, I had both of my knee joints replaced just over a year ago. I'm now back climbing and walking, and enjoying life again. This Zoom briefly looks back over the gradual decline leading up to this followed by the return to mobility and happiness. So it's really a mixed bag of old and more recent photos! Life does continue with metal knees!

Joining information will be circulated by email nearer the time.

29 March – 1 April Bouldering at Fontainebleau

Dave Mason



Join the Oread for an unforgettable bouldering getaway in Fontainebleau, France, from March 29th to April 1st.



Known for its world-class sandstone formations, Fontainebleau offers climbers of all levels a thrilling experience. We've selected a convenient campsite suitable for vans and tents, providing a cozy retreat after exhilarating days on the rocks. Many are extending their stay to fully immerse themselves in Fontainebleau's beauty. With expert guidance from Oread's leaders, prepare for an adventure filled with challenges, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments. Get ready to scale new heights and discover the magic of Fontainebleau's bouldering scene! There will be a large group attending so expect plenty of pads!

Link to campsite Camping Les Prés - Aquadis Loisirs

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/d5wccq3jhNgkKRXUs6>

Dave Mason email: dmason1992@hotmail.com

Wednesday 3 April Longnor Walk John Gwyther

Meet at Longnor 10.00 am for a 10.15 start (free parking in the market square). Walk down the Manifold to Brund. Then Hartington, Carder Low, Pilsbury, Crowdecote, High Wheeldon. 18km 445m+ ascent 5h. Please bring refreshments and let me know if you're coming.

John Gwyther tel. 07931630974 or email jagwyther54@gmail.com

5-6 April High House Seathwaite Borrowdale Peter Amour

High House, one of the finest and best maintained climbing huts in the Lake District. The scope here is extensive both for climbers, and for the hill walker. Whatever your choice there's more than a weekend's sport to go at. The hut is located at grid reference NY 238 119, and is accessed by passing through the hamlet of Seathwaite and going through the Five bar gate at the farm, followed by a left turn to cross the unfenced bridge onto the hut drive. Don't dally folks, this hut is in a superb location, contact me on peter@amour02.force9.co.uk if you want a bed space or two.

12 – 13 April Glen Etive – The Grampian Club Hut, Inbhirfhaolain Nigel Briggs

We are returning to Inbhirfhaolain which we have booked for the weekend. The hut can sleep 13 with some camping space available. The hut is basic but charming, water has to be fetched from the river and there are great views from the composting toilet, if the door is left open! The hut is well placed for the Glencoe and the Etive hills and all they offer.

As for the time of year well the weather could be anything! We could catch the end of winter or the first days of summer or more likely something between! Whatever the conditions you need to be there to make the most of them! If you would like to join us for the weekend, please get in touch.

Nigel Briggs nigel.briggs@btinternet.com

Sunday 14 April Wildcat Crag Clean Up

The Derwent are organising a Climb and Clean at Wildcat on the 14th April in conjunction with the BMC. The event will start at 10:00am at the Crag and will involve removal of vegetation from the routes and clearing any rubbish. The date has been agreed by the landowner and the BMC. Please bring your gardening equipment along with your gear. You have permission to use the bottom river level gate on the day.

Jan Wilson email: jan.lumsdale@gmail.com

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 are coming and/or would like to lift share.

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

26-27 April Little Langdale Dave “Snod” Helliwell

Back again at the Fylde Club Hut in Little Langdale at NY 31575 03014. where we have enjoyed many great meets over the years. Bargain price too because this is a hut swap so just £5.00 a night. The location, in one of the most attractive valleys in the Lakes, is ideal for walking, climbing and mountain biking. Nearby peaks include Wetherlam, Great Carr and Pike O'Blisco which together form part of a horseshoe walk around the valley (and the line of the Three Shires Fell Race). It is only a short drive into Great Langdale for classic rock climbing venues, while the nearby slate of Hodge Close offers more esoteric and hard climbing opportunities, as well as a dry-tooling venue. Mountain biking is available in nearby Grisedale Forest. The parking is limited so we need to car share as much as possible. Email or phone and leave a message to book your place.

Dave Helliwell email: fingertipdave@outlook.com tel. 01298 812753 mobile 07976 517216

3-6 May Bank Holiday Camping Kelynack Cornwall Phil Waterson

We will be based at the campsite at Kelynack, set in a small valley.

<https://www.kelynackholidays.co.uk/the-site/touring-caravans-and-tents>

Early booking advisable. The site has excellent Wi-Fi, toilet and shower facilities, separate sinks for dish washing, laundry facilities and a small shop. Pitches all have electric hook ups accessible. The site is set just off the main road with a bus stop near by. You can walk from the site onto the coast path walking to Lands End and Cape Cornwall easily. A gentle short walk into St Just with shops and good pubs for food. Climbing is easily accessible from the site to Sennen, Bosigran, Lands End and many other

climbs - either drive or by bus.

Phil Waterson email: philwaterson165w@gmail.com tel. 07936 712223

22 June – 6 July Lofoten Islands Norway Nigel Briggs

Plans are progressing for the Lofoten trip and contact has been made with the campsite. We will make a provisional booking in early March. If you are on our list you will have been contacted by email. If you have not heard from us you are not on the list. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch.

As a brief resumé we will be camping at Kabelvåg between the above dates. Some of the group are also going to stay further west on Lofoten for part of the time.

Driving to Lofoten will take up to a week each way in addition. Flying is an option for those with less time, and we are sure some of your luggage could be transported there for you by someone travelling by road. The campsite has space for tents and vans and also a variety of cabins and apartments.

The climbing in the area looks, and by all accounts is, fantastic with something for all abilities. In addition to this there is potential for walking, cycling, swimming, soaking up the local culture, or just watching the sun 24 hours a day (or maybe the rain, sunshine is not guaranteed!). What is not to like.

Nigel and Janet Briggs (nigel.briggs@btinternet.com)

13- 15 September 75th Anniversary Camping meet Chatsworth

In mid September the club will be spending the weekend celebrating our 75th anniversary with a camp in Chatsworth park. We're still working out the details of what will happen but you can definitely reserve the dates now.

We have use of the Golden Gate campsite I(not far from Heathy Lea). It has water supplies and chemical waste disposal points and we will provide toilets and washing facilities. If you don't like camping (in either tin or canvas "tents") Heathy Lea will be available We'll have various activities on offer to ensure that everyone will have plenty to do. So please reserve the weekend and join us.

23 November Oread 75th Annual Dinner at the Maynard Arms

Further to the earlier Newsletter announcement we have reserved seven bedrooms for the evening of the Dinner at standard room rate (£130). These

can be booked by Oread's and will be held **until July** when the hotel will release any not booked for general sale.

Please get in touch to book, 01433 424110 and make the hotel aware of your Oread connection. **They advise us there is plenty of local accommodation but the Maynard and all local accommodation get fully booked every weekend so it is best to book ahead.**

Other options include:

The Sir William Hotel 01433 613 167

The George (Hathersage) 01433 650 436

The Millstone Inn (Hathersage) 01433 650 258

Scotsman's Pack (Hathersage) 01433 650 253

Little John (Hathersage) 01433 650 255

There are also plenty of B& B's in the area. For the campervans we are in the process of organising a camping venue at the bottom of the hill in Grindleford and will publish details as they are finalised. The Maynard will not accept vans.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Via d'en Pepino Roger Gibbs

We've done the hard yards of winter, the nights are getting a little lighter and it's time for the joyous annual ritual of Mallorca in February. It seems laughable now that a decade ago I wasn't sure if this was a trip for me. We had to work pretty hard to persuade some members of the team. Now the challenge is to find a big enough place to rent! With superb biking, swimming, great food and acres of perfect orange rock, I'm wearing a massive grin before the plane has taken off. It's a family affair of course but over the years families change and plans adapt. But there's always the boys' day. This time it was Wednesday and Puig de Garaffa. It's a bit of a drive but the walk in is short and when you get there you soon know it was worth it.

Sector To pa ti is an impressive wall. I'd done one route there back in 2017, but I was after bigger fish this time. We squeezed through the blocks to peer at sector Rigor Mortis next door. Impressive doesn't really cover it. Let's get to it. I volunteered to put the clips in. This seems like wimping out of the onsight (it is) but when there are no easy routes it's a good way to warm up and reduce the chance of injury for the ageing members of the team. It also seems like an altruistic move (it isn't), offering your partner the chance of the flash. What it really means is I get to scope the moves and have no stress. Nice. The guide suggests a long pumpy crack with the tough fingery crux at the top. As I work my way up, sitting on bolts and trying some moves, it feels more like a power route. Steady away across the slab. Swing left steeply to gain the crack. Butchness up to the hollow. A

juicy undercut and a big reach for holds out right. The footholds are all tucked into the niche and as I work up higher everything bulges. Including my eyes. I crank back left and lunge for a razor-sharp jug. Phew. I sit and have a breather. That clip could be exciting. The angle gradually eases and the foot holds disappear into a mass of tiny goutes d'eau. Balancey and technical climbing replaces the thuggery. It's a long way to the promised land offered by a good rail and proper feet. Figuring I've (sort of) done all the moves, I clip the belay and lower off, peering at the holds as I pass. D goes next and obviously makes mincemeat of it. "A real slow burner," he says. Maybe that top section is going to feel pumpier after battling through the steepness.



Left: To pa ti. 7a. Right: Via D'en Pepino 7a+.

I set off and for once I'm climbing quite well. The slab is fine and the pull left onto the steeper ground is solid. I wriggle into a contorted rest. Right, here goes. Left hand into the big positive undercut. A long stride out right onto positive dinks and drop down slightly for the right hand to nestle into the best bit of the crack. Roll the left shoulder over and come into a positive side pull. Work the feet up and the rock leans, increasing the urgency. Up for an only ok right-hand edge. I'm climbing positively and confidently; I note with some surprise. The quickdraw is within reach. "Don't fluff this," says the internal voice. Predictably, I fumble the clip horribly; the strain is

starting to show. Now for the lunge for the razor jug. I've nailed it. I start to pull round onto the easing in angle. The climbing style changes. Steady away, trust the feet, ignore the distress calls from aching fingers. I'm in balance, looking for the next dinks to step onto; in an instant it's all over. With a howl of anguish, I lob as a tiny part of the side pull snaps. The flake that parted company with the rock was probably only the size of the pad of my middle finger, I can feel it now as I type. The air turns blue. I have been robbed. Can I climb that well next time?

Forty minutes later I'm back. I've slightly tweaked the moves through the niche and they flow nicely. I manage not to cock up the clip and the lunge for razor jug is virtually static. I've got this. I crank up onto the easing in angle. The finger stress is still there, but it feels under control. Feet are precise. I can see the rail. Trying not to rush, I whoop up the final moves. "Not so carp after all," I holler.

"How did it look?" I ask.

"Cool as a cucumber," comes the reply. Blimey.

Oh yes, that route name. Well, it's either Spanish for a cucumber or a very attractive looking person. I'll let you decide.

GeoWalk - Heathy Lea to Matlock 20 January Stuart Firth

Despite the rather complicated logistics, I was delighted that seventeen participants showed up and we were able to set off on time. Although most of the route was very familiar, it was the first time I'd actually walked from the hut to Matlock. Having had the most amazing few days of crisp, bright sunshine, the forecast was less inviting but, in the event, we stayed dry. Storm Isha arrived the following day so we were very lucky.



The wooden pedestrian bridge between the Robin Hood pub and the hut having been swept away in a previous storm, we started at Heathy Lea and soon came to Chatsworth Edge (Chatsworth Grit) and had a few routes pointed out - fairly greasy-looking they were too. A lot of wood-clearing has taken place so maybe the crag will dry out when the better weather comes along.

We then came across a surprising ice-fall but no-one seemed tempted to climb it.

Passing along Gibbet Moor our next stop was Hob Hurst's House bronze age tumulus where it would have been rude not to stop for refreshments. (Photo below).

Having chilled off, we headed through the bandit country of Harland Edge, Beeley Moor and Hell Bank Plantation and luncheon was taken at a gas grid service point. It seemed a bit smelly to me but there were no smokers amongst us.....

The route continued through Two Dales, so named because... and traversed the south facing slopes of the Derwent Valley flood plain to Matlock with views towards the Limestone cliffs of High Tor. Notably the



war memorial - which signified the official end of this stage - is constructed from Millstone Grit.



I confess my geology lessons were somewhat rudimentary and I hope the leaders of the next stages do a better job. However, we did have a social cream tea to celebrate the initiation of the Oread's version of the Peak District GeoWalk. The next stage will be on the Sunday after the AGM.

Nigel and Janet Briggs, Peter Amour, Louise Amandini, Rachel Walker, Steve Booth and Cathy Luffman, Nick Evans, Sue Todd, Linda May Drew, Marie Cowie, Richard Hopkinson, Simon Pape, Pippa Leach, John Gwyther, Stuart Firth, Angela Milne (guest).

Stanton Moor walk 7 February Rachel Walker



What a lovely sunny crisp day we had for the February Wednesday walk! 17 turned up at Massarella's cafe at Peak Village with some new faces amongst them.

Heading along the Derwent Valley Heritage Way to Darley Bridge, after passing Rowsley South Station with its steam trains, we took a brief diversion through the ancient graveyard of St Helen's to admire the 2000? year old gnarly Yew tree.



Nearby is the Red House Carriage Museum. Stuart managed to take a picture of one of the horse drawn carriages.



From the old stone bridge, formerly the Toadhole turnpike road crossing of the Derwent, we gradually made our way up past Enthovens lead smelters then following a worn track up through woods then fields onto Stanton Moor with its Bronze Age artefacts.

We had lunch at the Cork Stone which, of course, had to be climbed, then reached the trig point with fantastic 360 views, before six ladies sat on the nine Ladies Stones -joined by the men.

We descended back down to Rowsley via the tall Earl Grey stone tower along big switchbacks, passing impressive quarry walls and old ruins. Sweeping grass tracks led down to Stanton Woodhouse Farmstead then along its private tarmac lane back into the village. A very enjoyable day,



culminating in another cup of tea at the cafe!



Burbage valley walk 17 February Gillian Radcliffe



14 Oreads and Neil (Pippa's friend), joined me on a 10 mile walk near the Burbage valley in benign if damp conditions underfoot. We started from Longshaw car park and descended gradually to Nether Padley on quiet paths away from the usual crowded ones, before a short steep descent to Grindleford

station. Luckily no-one tripped or slipped and the full head count was still at 16 (though I had originally counted 18 so either I lost 2 straight away or I can't count; almost certainly the latter). What goes down has to go up and we had all the height to gain to reach Stanage trig at 457m. En-route we passed by Lawrencefield and Higgarr Tor, both far too damp to tempt any climbers. During lunch we had one very short shower but the rain held off until later. The visibility was good(ish) until Higgarr and the meet leader did wonder if it was worth the effort to reach Stanage trig, but the photo looks good so it must have been.



Given the poor visibility and the call of the cafe it seemed sensible to revoke the plan to go along the top of Burbage. Chris R shot off at such a pace, intent on coffee and cake, that it took awhile for the peloton to catch up.

We finished the walk at 3pm and came out of the cafe an hour later to be greeted by rain so we were very lucky. The Radcliffe's had arrived back from sunny Spain the day before so the grey skies were disappointing but it was a pleasure to meet up with friends and share the day. Thanks to all who came along to make it so enjoyable.

Attendees: Chris R, Nigel and Janet, Stuart and Sue, Judy, Richard, Nick, Pippa, Chris W, John, Linda, Neil, Steve and Cathy.

Sunny Spain 5- 19 February Ruth Gordon



After last year's disappointing weather the Benidorm team (ten of us this year) had a warm and fun two weeks - coming back to cold, wind and rain we wished we had stayed longer!



Snod and Simon climbed every day collecting 11 crags with routes from gentle 4 to tough 6 including Guadalest and Murla above.

The rest of us enjoyed a mixture of climbing, running (for Ken Jones – now officially an International Athlete running for England in a half marathon at the end of May!), walking, paddling and even sea bathing – congratulations Chris! - train trips and sight-seeing.

We didn't win the Bingo this year but Roy got first prize for exotic socks! We will be going again early February next year – all welcome - details next month.

Ashover Short Walk 22 February Ruth Gordon



After the sheeting rain on Wednesday and depressing forecast for the day I admit to rather hoping nobody would turn up! I was disappointed – Sue and Stuart, Chris Radcliffe and Gil Male all arrived eager for a wet outing!

Almost immediately sharp-eyed Stuart spotted one of those mysterious and elusive straight blue lines that criss-cross our O.S. Maps and urged us to hold it down while he photographed it.

It wasn't actually raining at this point and contrary to expectations it stayed dry overhead – though certainly not underfoot – as we slipped and slithered our way to the dramatic Hockley

Quarry, then to Fallgate and up a steep little path that leads to a very weird bit of country with lengths of old rusted piping and deep, scary chasms spanned by foot bridges – about which I have been unable to find any info.

From there past Overton Hall then, with lovely views over Ashover, to Greenend, down past Goss Hall into the Butts Quarry. There had been mutterings about lunch for a while but everywhere was far too wet to sit down – but I knew something they didn't!

We had finished our picnics at our very own picnic table before the rain started and even then it was just a brief shower. Just shows it is worth turning out no matter how horrid the forecast.



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.

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new provisional members Brian Dykes and Christiaan Hunt, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from current provisional member Frédérique Gwyther and long ago former member Pete Wragg plus new applications from Helen Hayes and Luke Marshall. If you would like to comment on these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Pam Storer writes:

Please say thanks on my behalf for all the support and good wishes I have had from Oread members. They have given me strength to fight.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

An elderly climber, Jim Askey, was always being teased about sharing the surname of a comedian, but was in reality a fairly earnest man and had kept fit in later life. Brooding a little at home on his birthday, he suddenly perked up when his nephew announced he was on the way to take him out climbing.

They had a good day on the dry but polished rock of a premier Peak District gritstone edge. One route however alarmed him a bit as it involved a traverse right under an overhang, a step up and then a traverse back with a consequent departure from verticality of the rope. Sipping a cup of tea back at home he asked to be reminded of the name of the slab. Grinning, the nephew, an IT geek, silently handed over an envelope containing his birthday card, the envelope was labeled "Askey63"

What was the name of the slab, and for a bonus point, the name of a Tryfan route of the same standard, involving a similar right traverse and return, albeit longer and on different rock.

Hint, think phonetic not graphic.

Last month's puzzle solution:

Snod writes:

Ye gods my gaster is flabbered. Rusty has been metricated. What has become of rods poles perches and chains.

Surely Pilsbury castle is 80 furlongs and 20 rods poles or perches west from the Robin Hood.

The tractor is travelling due north unless he has his tyres on the wrong way round.

Rusty replies:



The brief flirtation with these new fangled metric units, which will surely never catch on, was a mere prelude to the main substance of the puzzle, the interaction between the tractor tyres and the ground.

I would ask our friend "fingertip" to please look at this photograph of my beloved tractor which has had more oil changes since 1986 than I've had hot baths*.

It will hopefully be clear that as the rear wheel approaches the ground the Vee formed by the tread of the tyre points towards the rear of the machine (the space between the tyre treads would otherwise fill up with earth in soft going, creating the effect of a bald tyre.

The tyre tracks visible in the puzzle photograph therefore indicate that the machine was travelling downhill, or approximately South.

* For an extra bonus point how many hot baths has Rusty suffered since 1986????

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