

# Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

**March 2025**



**Dawn above the Winnats 6 January – story page 18 - photo Ian Ferguson.**

## **Editorial**

Meets coming up to the Lakes, Scotland, an extra Northumberland trip squeezed in before Yorkshire plus Easter bouldering at Font and the Alps and Kalymnos later in the year.

Notice of the A.G.M. with walks both before and after this year. Don't forget to order your pie and pea supper. Page 7.

Meets write-ups include the latest Geo Walk, Costa Blanca capers and a Peak District ski tour.

Sadly also notice of the deaths of two long-term members, Pauline Wright and Andy Oakden. page 22.

**It would be really helpful if all future newsletter correspondence could be sent to [newseditor@oread.co.uk](mailto:newseditor@oread.co.uk).**

**Copy Deadline 20 March.**

## Meets List 2025 - Edward Bloomfield

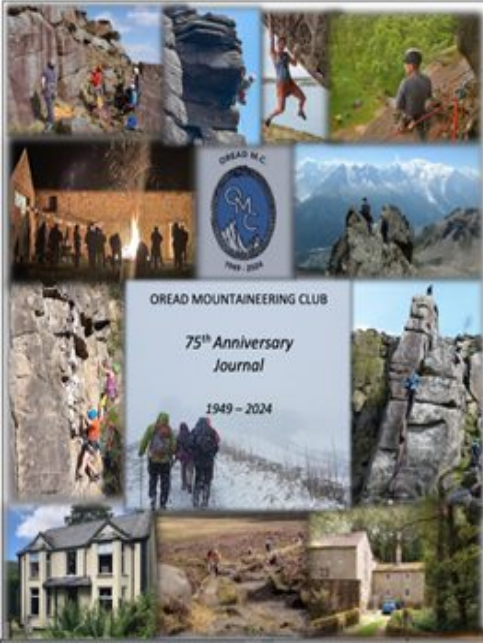
The 2025 meets list still has some blanks where there should be a meet coordinator. I need more volunteers to step forward!

Ed Bloomfield email [edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com](mailto:edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com) tel. 07990 066362

	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
<b>M a r c h</b>	1st	Curbar Edge	Bouldering meet	Kevin RM
	5th	Bamford Edge - Stanage Edge	Wednesday walk	Chris Mather
	7th-9th	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Walking and climbing in Patterdale	Rodger Larkham
	13th	Fishpond matlock -Dmc Winter lecture	Roger Mear - Big Wall Climbing	dmc
	14-16th	Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven	Scottish winter climbing	Mick Hayes
	20th	Hartington	Thursday short walk	C Paice
	22nd	Pre AGM Longshaw	Saturday walk	C Paice
	22nd	Matlock FC???	Saturday AGM???	Jan Wilson
	23rd	(Spring Stride) Curbar Gap	Sunday Post AGM Walk (Spring Stride)	P Armour
	28-30th	North York Moors camping meet	Climbing and walking	Wilsons
	0	0	0	0
<b>A p r i l</b>	2nd	Wednesday climbing outdoors starts	Harborough Rocks	N/a
	9th	Dimmingdale, Alton	Wednesday walk	Peter Amour
	4th-6th	TYW hut meet North Wales	Walking and Climbing in North Wales	????
	17th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	12th-27th	Font camping meet	Bouldering meet in Fontainbleau	Nuno Gomes
	26th	Upper Hulme - Flash)	Saturday walk	Peter Amour
	27th	Millstone	Crack school climbing coaching	Simas Jermosenka
	0	0	0	0
<b>M a y</b>	2nd-11th	Cornwall camping meet	Camping, walking & climbing	Ed Bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
	7th	TBC	Wednesday walk	J Gwyther
	15th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	16th-18th	New members' meet Heathy Lee	Climbing and bbq at the hut	Kevin Moss
	24th	TBC	Saturday walk	J Gwyther
	23-31st	Scotland	Climbing & walking West coast	Mike Moss
<b>J u n e</b>	0	0	0	0
	4th	Dovedale	Wednesday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	6th-8th	Lowstern North Yorkshire	Walking & Climbing N Yorks	Pete Amour
	0	0	0	0
	15th	Peak District women rock	Meet to celebrate women climbing	Emma Hayes
	19th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21nd	Geo Walk - Flash to Brierlow Bar	Saturday Walk	Peter Amour
	21-6th	Saas Grund, Pennine Alps Switzerland	Alps meet	Steve Christian
	26-28th	Stair cottage Keswick (Fylde hut)	Climbing and walking meet	Snod

<b>J u l y</b>	2nd	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	04-6th	Rock Hall Roaches	Climbing at the Roaches	Charlie Taylor
	12th	Peak District pinnacles meet	0	???
	17th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th-20th	Anglesey camping meet	Sea cliff climbing & camping	Lianne/Dave Mason
	26th	Shuttlingsloe	Saturday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	0	0	0	0
<b>A u g u s t</b>	1st-3rd	MAM Coniston	0	???
	6th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8-10th	Heathy Lea family meet	0	Rob Beck/Nuno Gomes
	16th	Geo Walk - Brierlow Bar to Tideswell	Saturday walk	???
	21st	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22-25th	Pembroke camping meet	Sea cliff climbing, Pembroke	???
	30-6th	Ailefroide, Ecrins	Alps trip	Nigel Berry
<b>S e p t e m b e r</b>	3rd	TBC	Wednesday Walk	???
	2-4th	Tyw working party	Tyw maintenance meet	Snod
	TBC 2/3 weeks	Ailefroide Ecrins France	Alps meet focused on Rock routes	Nigel Berry
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	19th-21st	Peak District BARMY comp	BARMY competition camping meet	?????
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26-28th	0	0	0
<b>O c t o b e r</b>	1st	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	0	0	0	0
	11-13th	High House Lake District	Walking & climbing meet	Tony Howard
	10-19th	kalygnos	med sport Climbing meet	Em Hayes
	16th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th	Geo Walk - Tideswell to Edale	Saturday Walk	???
	19th	Froggat Slab School	Slab climbing workshop	???
	24-26th	TYW - North Wales	0	???
<b>N o v e m b e r</b>	0	0	0	0
	5th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8th	heathy Lea	Bonfire night/hut maintenance	Kevin M
	7-16th	Desert Rock	Reservation to be confirmed Red Rock , Med. Barm of Tideswell	Kev/Ed
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22nd	Annual dinner	Bentley brook	Christine pace
	23rd	Post prandial walk	0	0
	23rd	Post dinner climb ,	0	0
<b>D e c e m b e r</b>	28-30th	Birkness barn Lake district	Walking meet	Charlie Taylor
	3rd	Goyt	Wednesday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	6-7th	Bullstones	0	Mike Mowbray
	0	0	0	0
	13-15th	Mannood dry tooling	Dry tooling meet hut to be confirmed	Rob Beck
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	20th	Geo Walk - Edale to Birchen Clough Bridge	Saturday Walk	???
<b>D e c e m b e r</b>	0	0	0	0
	24-1 Jan	0	Christmas and New Year hut meet	??

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal**



The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal is now available on the club's website as a pdf document.

### **75th Journal**

We are getting 'hard' copies of the Journal for those who request them.

There are two options available, the first is a paperback copy of the Journal that is on the website. It contains summary versions of four articles. Around 125 pages and costing £10. The full versions of the articles are available as appendices on the website along with some additional photographs. The second option is a paperback copy with the appendices included, around 270 pages and costing £21. Orders have been placed and delivery is expected in around two weeks time. They will be available for purchase/collection at the A.G.M.

Thank you. Nigel Briggs email [nigel.briggs@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel.briggs@btinternet.com)

## **Forthcoming Meets**

**Tuesday 4 March 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**



### **Stevie and Laura: SteLa**

A record breaking tandem bicycle ride around the World

Stevie and Laura set off from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin with the aim of setting a new tandem circumnavigation record. 180 days later, and after battling



monsoons, sickness, border closures and motorcycle collisions they arrived back where they started in a blizzard.

Admission: £3 (Oreads); £5 (non-members).

Rob Tresidder tel. 07951 625378 email: [rob61.tresidder@icloud.com](mailto:rob61.tresidder@icloud.com)

## **Wednesday 5 March Stanage Edge Walk Chris Mather**

We will meet at Cutthroat Bridge car park on the A57 SK2160 - 8150 at 10.a.m for 10.15 departure.

(Parking start to be confirmed - watch What'sApp or be in touch with me if you don't do WhatsApp.) We walk south to join the main path along Stanage edge before turning east to Stanage Pole and down to the Redmires reservoirs and Hallam moors, then turning north towards Moscar and back to the start.

Approximately 14 Km.

Chris Mather: email [chrisemather@icloud.com](mailto:chrisemather@icloud.com) tel. 07983153144

## **7-8 March George Starkey Hut Patterdale Roger Larkam**

Consulting the Oread chronicles there seems no period since at least 1985 when an annual Patterdale meet has been omitted. This record of location continuity is surpassed only by Black Rocks on the WBWBXmas meet.

The meet is fully booked.

George Starkey Hut (<https://george-starkey-hut.com/>) in Patterdale, on the A592, post code CA11 0NL, GR NY 39412 16085

Roger Larkam email [roger.larkam@gmail.com](mailto:roger.larkam@gmail.com) tel. 07936 634 021

## **Thursday 13 March Big Wall Climbing - Roger Mear 7pm for 7:30pm at The Fishpond pub (Ballroom), Matlock Bath**

The last Derwent M.C. lecture of the season to which all Oreads are invited. An excellent speaker and a talk that won't be repeated. NB: The pub itself is closed for refurbishment, however the Ballroom can be accessed via the external ramp (It will be signed). The bar in the ballroom will also be open.

## **14-16 March Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Waters cottage Kinlochleven Michael Hayes**

We have 15 places booked at the Fell and Rock Hut in Kinlochleven in the western Highlands. The hut's 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.

**Places are limited so get in quickly and book your place by emailing me:**  
[michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com)

## **20 March Short Walk - Hartington Chris Paice**

Starting at the area of green space opposite the Charles Cotton pub (SK17 OAL) grid ref SK127 604. There is limited street parking here but 45m away is pay and display parking where the toilets are. Setting off at 11.00 we start on streets past the youth hostel and then take Highfield Lane towards Dale End. This then leads into Biggin Dale which we take and find the River Dove at Wolfscote Dale. A lovely walk along the river to Beresford Dale. At the weir we go through the wood and then over the fields and return to the start. A relatively easy walk, Biggin Dale is a little rocky in places but otherwise good paths and tracks. A few places of interest along the way. Three dales, one river and tea shop at the end (if open). Always good company. Do join us. 9.5km (5.92 miles). Total ascent 164 m (538 ft)  
Chris Paice: email [walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk) tel. 07773 045838

## **22 March Longshaw walk (pre AGM) Chris Paice**

A 10 a.m. start from the National Trust car park at Longshaw. Free for National Trust members and Scottish National Trust members. Toilets at the visitor centre and café which is a short walk from the car park. Alternative free parking on the A6187, the same road which the Fox House is on.

Longshaw map ref 261,800 S11 7TZ

We then go onto another map to travel in a northerly direction and then westerly towards Higger Tor. Continuing this path in a roughly southerly direction to Over Owlter Tor. Crossing the A6187 we walk alongside Oxhay wood and through Bolehill Wood to Upper Padley. It is now southerly to Grindleford and then we walk up Padley Gorge. Eventually we cross Burbage Brook and the B6521 to walk alongside Granby Wood and return to the start point.

12.5 km (7.81 miles), total ascent 487 metres (1597ft)

Chris Paice: email [walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk) tel. 07773 045838

## **Saturday 22 March 8.00pm 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. We hope to make it a good social occasion so have organised some food (**see below**).

In the meeting we will approve the minutes of the 2024 AGM, consider the accounts and officers' reports for 2024, elect a new committee, elect the hut committees, consider the proposed amendments to the constitution and consider any other proposed business.

The officers' reports and the accounts will be circulated prior to the AGM, early in 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and/or changes to the constitution for consideration need to be sent to the Secretary, Simon Pape, email [simon.pape66@gmail.com](mailto:simon.pape66@gmail.com), 41 Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, DE4 3RH by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and be supported by two full members of the club.

## **AGM Food Orders**

The AGM will start at 8PM. If you want to have the pie, chips and pea supper this will be served at 7:30PM. The choices are steak, chicken or vegetarian. The price is £10.00 per person. They can get something gluten free if necessary but haven't confirmed a price. The football club require orders and payment four weeks before the event. **If you are having food, please submit your order in writing to me before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March.**

Email [jan.lumsdale@gmail.com](mailto:jan.lumsdale@gmail.com)

Payment must be made via BACS to the club account reference AGM food. Please ensure you receive an acknowledgement from me within a few days.

The club has real beer on offer including session ale. There is a small window up to one week in advance of the meeting to add the odd latecomer. Please make my life easy and get your orders and payments in promptly.

Account name: Oread Mountaineering Club

sort code: 30-98-97

account number: 62584068

## **Sunday 23 March Spring Stride Curbar Gap Peter Amour**

Following on from Chris Paice's pre-AGM Saturday walk I'm offering a post-AGM stint over mainly moorland and wooded terrain from Curbar Gap on the Sunday. I advise car sharing to ease parking spots demand, and on environmental grounds.

Start time :- Assemble 10-00am - depart 10-15am.

From :- Pay & display (NT and RSPB members free) at Curbar Edge car park SK 2625 7471. Should the car park be full :-

a) Seek parking either in Calver Village by the church/school, and liaise about a shuttle lift to the car park, or

b) Use the limited lane spaces approaching the aforementioned car park.

If a plan to co-ordinate a shuttle is required my mobile number is 07827 378147

The route will head off anti clockwise to take in the Eagle Stone (bouldering options available). Passing Wellington's Monument and Blackstone Edge we'll cross the Baslow - Sheffield road and trek onto Shillito Woods using a stint on asphalt. Veering north the feet will tread onto Car Lane under Hewetts Bank, and through Smeakley Wood. Re-crossing the A621 we'll use tracks by Car Top and onto a possible open-water (for the foolhardy) swim in the disused reservoir in Big Moor. Hopefully having dried off the party will end the walk with a traverse over the moor on an ancient route not recorded on maps. Of interest this by-way features (two) ancient way stoops.

I look forward to you joining me, and talking about your newly-acquired Oread Committee posts!

Peter Amour email [peter@amour02.force9.co.uk](mailto:peter@amour02.force9.co.uk) tel. 07827 378147

## **24 - 28 March Northumberland - Pop-Up Midweek Camping Meet Stuart Firth**

This pop-up meet is offered as a prologue to Jan and Chris Wilson's Osmotherley Camping Meet - which takes place on the following weekend of 28 - 30 March. Sue and I will be staying at Herding Hill Farm Camping and Glamping Site at Haltwhistle. This is close to Hadrian's Wall and it will take about an hour and a half to drive south to Osmotherley on the Friday.

Our personal plan is to continue our Pennine Cycleway mission - Sustrans Route 68. The Reivers Coast-to-Coast Route 72 also goes through Haltwhistle and I'm sure there are good MTB and walking opportunities. And if you wondered what the Romans Ever Climbed for Us the answer has to be the excellent climbing at Crag Lough. What else would you do in the evening after building a section of Hadrian's Wall and before going to the Twice Brewed pub?

It would be great to see a few others there for some social interaction. I intend organising nothing so please make your own bookings. This is a 5\* site with facilities for all tastes - including hot tubs! Haltwhistle also boasts B&Bs and Hotels. Let me know if you're coming and we'll keep an eye out for you.

Herding Hill Farm Camping and Glamping Site

Shield Hill

Haltwhistle

Northumberland

NE49 9NW Tel. 01434 320175

bookings@ herdinghillfarm.co.uk

[www.herdinghillfarm.co.uk](http://www.herdinghillfarm.co.uk)

Stuart Firth tel. 07977 458048 email [stuartmfirth@btinternet.com](mailto:stuartmfirth@btinternet.com)

## **28 – 30 March North York Moors Chris Wilson**

A venue with a lot to offer, from trips to the café, a pub crawl, walking, cycling, climbing. All in a lovely setting. The days will be long and the weather, whatever it chooses to be, will enable you to have a great weekend.

**Climbing.** There are over 100 crags in the area, although some are rather small and somewhat esoteric. Others are excellent. Hard sandstone crags, soft sort of limestone crags, perfect rock, adventurous rock. Bouldering and trad climbing prevail. Fantastic views abound.

Driving times from Osmotherley to some of the better known crags: 10 minutes to Scugdale ("great quality, sunny setting"), 30 to Wainstones ("extensive repertoire of excellent climbs, superb views"), 25 to Whitestone Cliffe (allegedly formed by a landslip and has the feeling at times that this is still happening, but well worth a visit if only to do Nightwatch).

There's White Stones Crag, giving lonely moorland bouldering in an evening suntrap, described as heaven! Or Tranmire with over 165 routes (on good rock



and you will be the only climbers there). How about Roseberry Topping, the Matterhorn of Cleveland, or Clemitt's Crag with around 400 boulder problems.

**Walking.** Osmotherley has been famed for the walking in the area since the early 1800s. Wonderful short and long walks abound. Circular walks and long National Trials – your choice.

**Cycling.** Lots of mountain biking trails in the area, some short, some long. How about a 10 km circular moderate route (3 hours) from the village, or an 8 hour circular from Black Hambleton. If that doesn't grab your attention, there's plenty of road cycling on quiet lanes.

**Other activities.** Abbeys, castles, a White Horse, museums, farms. It's all there in abundance.

**Campsite / Camping Barn / Hostel** - <https://www.coteghyll.com/book/>

We are staying at Cote Ghyll Campsite, Osmotherley. Make your own booking via their web site. There are various camping options from £29.00 per night, a cottage sleeping 8 with hot tub etc, and the hostel (shared rooms or en-suite private rooms) from £40 per night. It's a 15 minute walk to village centre.

The lovely village of Osmotherley caters for many tastes. It has three pubs, a newsagent, a village convenience store and an antique shop as well as a yoga centre, at least three churches and a few B&Bs. If you're planning on coming along let me know.

Chris Wilson email [c.wilson.48@talktalk.net](mailto:c.wilson.48@talktalk.net) or WhatsApp 07881 698758

## **Wednesday 2 April Evening climbing Harborough**

Yippee! the clocks have changed and the outdoor climbing season will start with an evening at Harborough before retreating to a local hostelry.

## **Wednesday 9 April Dimmingsdale Southern Saunter**

### **Peter Amour**

Starting from the Severn-Trent, Ramblers Retreat Car Park (GR SK 06244 43132) near Alton Towers. Meet 10-00am for a 10-15am departure (I did consider 10-15am sharp but saying such things seems to cause me problems?). The 10.5 mile route will be typical of the area, undulating, with a mix of open terrain, valleys and woodland. Route :- Holm Cottage - Gallow Green - Croxden Abbey - Hollington - Overton - Common End - Lodge Dale Fm - Greatgate Wood - Newton - Dimmingsdale - Finish I hope to see you there, please car share if possible.

Peter Amour email [peter@amour02.force9.co.uk](mailto:peter@amour02.force9.co.uk) tel. 07827 378147

## **12-27 April Experience the Magic of Fontainebleau**

### **Nuno Gomes**

Pack your climbing shoes and join us for an epic bouldering trip to Fontainebleau, France. Renowned for its legendary sandstone boulders, "Font" is a playground for climbers of all abilities, offering endless problems to test your

skills and push your limits. People are going at varying dates and lengths of time to suit their own availability.

We would suggest La Musardiere as our base camp, a well-located campsite perfect for both vans and tents—ideal for unwinding after full days of climbing. Many participants are planning to extend their stay, soaking up every bit of Fontainebleau's stunning landscape and unique climbing vibe.

Font is the perfect place not only tackle incredible problems but also share laughs, stories, and beta with a fantastic crew. Plus, with a big group attending, there'll be plenty of crash pads to go around. If you bring your little ones, there are a lot of fantastic boulders for them to start climbing in a safe and healthy environment.

Come for the climbing, stay for the community, and leave with memories that'll last long after the chalk has settled.

Link to campsite:

[Camping La Musardi re - Milly-La-For t](#)

Climbing Fontainebleau

<https://bleau.info/?locale=en>

Nuno Gomes: email [nunogomes.pe@gmail.com](mailto:nunogomes.pe@gmail.com) tel. 07592 322724

## **Oread Alpine Meets 2025**

### **21 June – 5 July Saas Grund, Valais, Switzerland Steve Christian**

Our first alpine trip of the year will be to the lovely 'Saastal' based at Camping Sch nblick in the village of Saas Grund. It is the eastern region of the Swiss canton of Valais, north of the Monte Rosa group. There is a concentration of thirteen peaks exceeding 4000 metres that include technically easy normal routes along with some classic snow and rock ridge traverses. It is a perfect venue for new or experienced alpine mountaineers alike. There are also lower altitude classic rock traverses and some good multi pitch rock climbs. Half and full day walks are possible to a number of alpine huts, lakes and cols, which can include ascents of smaller walking peaks.

The campsite should soon be open for the winter season. They have reserved 25 camping places for us and we will be able to book directly with them from mid-March onwards.

Steve Christian: email [climbersteve@hotmail.com](mailto:climbersteve@hotmail.com) tel.07467 329175

### **30 August – 6 September Ailefroide Ecrins National Park, France Nige Berry**

The second confirmed venue is Ailefroide in The Ecrins National Park, France for the first week of September i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September. There is an option to extend this for a further week after the proposed finish date depending upon people's preference. It will also be possible for people to independently go a week earlier. It will be based from the campsite in Ailefroide [Camping Ailefroide \(Vallouise-Pelvoux\) | Provence-Alpes-C te d'Azur Tourism](#)

This venue works well at the end of the season August / September (when the

French finish their holidays) perfect for families, great campsite, no telepheriques to pay for and possibilities for booking huts. Conditions can be mixed for snow alpinism but still possible with the Pelvoux traverse or Dom de Neige / Barre des Ecrin.

It has many bolt protected multi pitch granite routes, either from the campsite or in the surrounding mountains, along with many bolted valley crags in adjacent areas. There are nearby options for bouldering, canyoning and via ferratas. The local and nearby walks are also varied and extensive.

Nige Berry: email [nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk) tel. 07939 073394

## **12-19 October Kalymnos Emma Hayes**

Join the WhatsApp group or be in touch to find out more.

Emma Hayes: email [emma.hayes06@gmail.com](mailto:emma.hayes06@gmail.com) tel. 07879 446441

## **\*SAVE THE DATE\* 22 November**

22<sup>nd</sup> November will be the Annual Dinner at The Bentley Brook Inn, Fenny Bentley, DE6 1LF. Save a room, there are 12 of various sizes and prices. Further details to follow.

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets**

### **Geo Walk Dec 15 Errors and Omissions Rusty Russell**



First may I apologise for the omission of Louise from the listing of those present.

Secondly, I attach a photograph of assorted humanity emerging from a lane SW of Long Low.

There is an ambiguous notice regarding the right of way status of this lane (Rumours of alteration by a club member have been much exaggerated).

Photo Copyright Stuart Firth, 1 Armageddon Road, Top of The Cliff, Matlock.



## Karn House meet 10 – 13 January Michael Hayes

The photo was taken by Douglas Gardiner looking up on the final part of the Fiacail Ridge up to the Cairngorm plateau. It shows - from top to bottom, Michael Hayes, Kasia Sajdok, Steph Jimenez, Emma Hayes, Luke Marshall.

Conditions were poor with lots of unconsolidated snow so we chose this route as a safe option to give the group some more experience of mixed climbing in Winter.

Great day out wading through deep snow to get to the bottom of the ridge then a steady climb up sticking to the very crest of the ridge whenever easier options opened up on the right.

For the final 100m the six of us tied two ropes together and moved together with a few running belays up the grade II climb. Lots of scraping the loose snow which covered everything to find good axe placements in the rocks.

Our descent took us around the top of Sneachda and then down the Fiacail a' Choire Chais back to the car. By the time we got back to the ski centre it was just below freezing and the wind was getting stronger (it had been -15 Deg C on the way up this morning).

The fickle UK weather was changing again but we had managed a fantastic day out!



## **Blore Pastures walk 9 February Rusty Russell**



We were fortunate on this day that the winter weather was in temporary remission. After establishing that the whole of the car park could not be seen from each end we managed to assemble a team comprising of Sue, Richard Freestone, Stuart Firth, John Green, Peter Amour, Chris and myself. The steady ascent to Hazelton Clump and the ruined Musden Farm was comfortable, I was a touch disappointed at needing to consult the electronic map to locate the alpine style zig zag path passing left of the summit of Musden Low, it would seem that some of the masonry walling of yore had been removed. Thereafter progress to Calton and Slade House. Here, climbing the stile the masonry came adrift resulting in a backward flip through 180 degrees. It was not the effect of this impact which led me to offer to stand drinks for the team at Throwley Hall should they be open, but a desire to discover who knew that the building was an ancient ruin.

After a pleasant rest there but consuming our own picnics We then drifted comfortably down to Ilam Tea rooms and thence back to starting point.

## **Peak District GeoWalk - Wetton Mill to Upper Hulme 15 February Stuart Firth**

Having had a persistent spell of cold, dull weather - reminiscent of being permanently trapped inside a paper bag - I hadn't been confident of achieving a quorum for this walk. So, I was very pleasantly surprised that twenty people showed up. Not only that but they all presented themselves in good humour at the right time and in the right place thus allowing the car shuttling to run smoothly and the walk to start on time.





*Lunch in an abandoned farm house. John, Chris P, Gill, Rusty, Nick, Jan, Rachel and Chris R.*



*The long and winding road....*

We slithered up the mud of Hoo Brook towards Butterton and Rusty volunteered that he would endeavour to restrain himself by ensuring that there was at least one person in front of him at all times. No prizes for guessing how long that lasted...

Having previously distributed the GeoWalk official geological guide to participants and, having assumed they could all read, I deemed myself to have fulfilled my educational duties. I was thus able to successfully rebuff all questions - intelligent or otherwise. Despite a constant stream of suggestions as to better alternative routes and a leadership error,

*Now tell me again, which way did the meet leader go?*

I stuck to my plan and ultimately delivered everyone safely to the finish.



*The advance summit party - Nigel, John, Marie, Cathy, Louise, Janet, Linda, Steve, Gill and Chris*

The weather was cold, misty and damp and the conditions underfoot were heavy going. However, the crew were jolly and - as the photos attest - everyone had fun. Towards the end, the sun broke through and we could actually see some geology - otherwise known as Ramshaw Rocks, Hen Cloud and the Roaches. Although we were too late for the café, I think everyone was glad to go home for a hot bath and a cuppa.

And finally, thanks to everyone for coming:





L to R : Marie Cowie, Nigel Briggs, Jan Wilson, John Gwyther (hiding), Louise Amandini, Gill Radcliffe, Rusty Russell, Linda May Drew, Sue Todd, Steve Booth, Chris Radcliffe, Angela Milne, Martin Hooper, Chris Paice, Rachel Walker, Janet Briggs, Lynda Watts, Cathy Luffman, Nick Evans. Hen Cloud and the Roaches in the background - evidence of geology at last.

## **Costa Blanca 2025 Ruth Gordon**

Another year, another two weeks of sunshine, sea and spectacular mountains. This time the weather was superb – Derek and Joan copped a brief, dramatic thunderstorm but we, a mile from the car on the Toix sea cliff, only got a few drops to worry us. Every day was a climbing day – or a big walk day – or a laze on the beach – or catch the train to explore day.

Almond trees in full blossom, orange and lemon trees dripping with fruit – Snod bought 5 kg of oranges for 3 euros 50 on the market and overdosed on orange juice ..... “have you got some Rennies”?

**Highlights** – sunshine, day after day while the messages from home said grim, miserable, freezing! Lots of laughs and fun over leisurely meals. For Snod and Simon climbing as hard as they wanted every day in perfect conditions. Chris, Roy and Kev walked the Helada ridge from Albir to the Cross; tough but magnificent.





*Left: Roland coming up fast on the inside at Sella. Right: Look at that sky! Derek and Snod at Marin.*

The whole climbing team had a day trip to Alcoi to do the Cresta del Castellar – a mini mountain ridge with three pitches of excellent bolted climbing at 4+ and a ridge scramble to finish. Mountains in one direction – olive oil factory on the other. *(photo Simon Pape).*



Met up with Roland and Angela for a challenging day's climbing at Sella. Janice won a bottle of Cava in the music quiz - she knows everything! Chris complained her early start home was before breakfast – and scored a picnic box of ten random items, mostly edible! I dropped Snod's “nearly new” Helly Hensen jacket – disaster -but lo and behold, someone had hung it up on the fence. All well – it was too young to die - only 12 years old. Snod and I found a lovely short ridge walk for our last day with stunning views in all directions.

**Low points** – Kev and Janice fell off a pavement – don't ask; The sat nav didn't like the new motorway and took us back round the block, extending our journey to Marin by around 30 minutes; but hey the time flies by when Ken is regaling you with the saga of collecting a four foot six inch stuffed pike he bought on ebay from the Idle Working Men's Club. Drove to Ambolo to find it closed due to



“serious landslip” (not mentioned on UKC) but retrieved the day at Murla. Mike's ribs hurt so much after the Alcoi gallivant he had to confine himself to walking duties. We lost the movie quiz by one point – but fear not – Simon has written down all the answers for next year!

So – do come along! I have lots of £60 off vouchers valid for 2026 if you are up for it!

Thanks to all who made this a great fun trip again.

Chris and Roy Eyre, Kev and Janice Fidler, Snod and Ruth, Ken Jones, Chris Paice, Simon Pape, Derek and Joan Pike. Mike and Sue Wren.

## **An English Ski Tour Ian Ferguson**



In the week of January 6<sup>th</sup> FOMO was severe. Snow and settled high pressure aligned perfectly with inescapable family commitments. But Saturday could work... what to do ? WhatsApp reported tempting conditions in Eryri, North Lakes or the North York Moors. Traffic mayhem appeared widespread. Reports from the Scottish Avalanche Information Service were best summarised as “it’s complicated.” Tension built as the day approached...

I kept it simple. The further destinations would be three hours, plus complicated roadhead parking, plus the uncertain return journey on top of, with luck, the fatigue of a good day out. Blencathra summit pictures made it no more appealing than my extrapolations from webcams in the Peak. A circuit from Castleton could raise the chances of skiable snow by permitting access to slopes of different aspects, with only a short carry. Remembering the awkward parking in the area, I set the alarm for an alpine start.

Gratification was not instant. The Buxton road was slick and twisty. Unloading skis at 6am in the westernmost parking spot in Castleton felt lonely and eccentric. It’s always great to skin from the car, but Winnats Pass was dark and damp with high-speed fog. The full moon would have been ideal but had set an



hour earlier, so occasional bursts of head-torch were needed to clip in or see what new joy the ski-tips had struck... never anything good. Morale rose as the sides of the Pass revealed skiable snow accumulations. Approaching the farm, some snow was deep enough to allow five-bar gates to be surmounted without removing skis. Hip flexors were massaged as Mam Tor itself started to show.

Once having skooshed across to the first road crossing, I was starting to feel slightly less like an out-of-place incompetent. The place was humming with cars everywhere and more arriving. I focused on the ascent of sparse, patchy, hard snow and busy paths, trying to avoid tripping anyone (primarily myself) and thinking that Winnats would be a nicer descent.

The pre-dawn summit was a cheery place. About fifty people, a couple of tents, and an enthusiastic welcome for my incongruous over-equipment. “You gonna ski off that ? Can I watch ? Can I take your picture ?” – but most folk were appreciating the exquisite view.



After a LOT of photos and a glug of water, skins off, boots switched from “stun” to “kill” and no further avoiding the first turns of the season. The noise of eye-rattling iced sastrugi seemed to upset a small dog very badly, but it couldn’t catch up. Let’s not pretend the route to Hollins Cross was wide groomed piste, but it was very satisfying choosing precise easy lines on or beside the path, spreading the minimum possible terror amongst pedestrians.

I breakfasted as the sun rose, at the base of the ascent to Lose Hill. The summit itself would only have won me a sharp, constricted descent clashing with the path, so instead I took the chance to review the face of the Tor. The wide ramp of the east face tempted – but snow cover didn’t look generous and my main encouragement was a single set of tracks from earlier in the week.

It was a lovely easy skin back up to the top of the Tor, with Winnats in the back of my mind as the descent to look forward to. The sun was up, the light was spectacular, I was stopped a few times for photos and to have my skins fondled and there were no small dogs.

Two climbers (not Oreads) were very smug at having climbed Blue John Rib. They're welcome to it – my past esoterica include a few pitches of southern chalk, but a line must be drawn somewhere. I reset the boots and drew my own wiggly line down the east face, over pillows of soft drift, hard shaded patches and grass-infested thinness lower down the face. I can't claim continuous linked turns top to bottom, but I stayed upright.



Mam Tor gully itself was full of folk wielding axes, then mighty rocks. A couple of skiers had appeared and were tackling the steep entry 50m below the summit, but an extra climb to get three mid-high-consequence turns didn't appeal to me, so I contoured around back to the Winnats path. Fifty ewes had just been let out to pasture (grass could be found...) so I crossed behind them to modest cheers from some lively folk walking up from Treak Cliff.

Treak Cliff was a joy. I fell in behind three van-deposited skiers who had skied the slope once already, so I scowled down the fall line once more and had at it. Decent snow, the occasional noisy shady bit or loop of chicken wire or random couple of housebricks, but ... it was so good I skinned back up and did it all again and internet browsing records show that I may have reviewed the symmetry of my turns on Strava a couple of times since then...





I've probably ski-toured 30-50 days in Scotland over the last 15 years, but this was my first English summit on skis, and as a day out it matched any I've had in the UK. Once-in-a-decade conditions, a bit of judgement and I didn't miss out. Crampons, axe, harscheisen and blizzard bag stayed in the sack. The Edale road parking mayhem made the national papers.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, 13km/750m ascent, 5h45 out of which 3h eating, photographing, faffing with skis or posing for photographs (but only when people asked me to...)



## Hut Bookings.

Hut bookings are now made online at the Oread website [www.oread.co.uk](http://www.oread.co.uk). The 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](mailto: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.



### Pauline Wright

The redoubtable Pauline, a member since 1973, died on the 18th January at Stone Cross care home, Kendal. She was 95. During her long, and for many years active life she achieved some notable things: she was active on Oread alpine meets for many years, climbing 20 4,000m peaks. She did the Welsh 14 peaks and backpacked from Lands End to John o' Groats, all off road, over 78 days. She was one tough woman. Our sympathy to her sons Dave and Brian.

This photograph, by Gordon Gadsby is captioned "Pauline suspicious" – no doubt she rightly guessed she was to be exhibited in the Club Interest section of the annual photo competition.

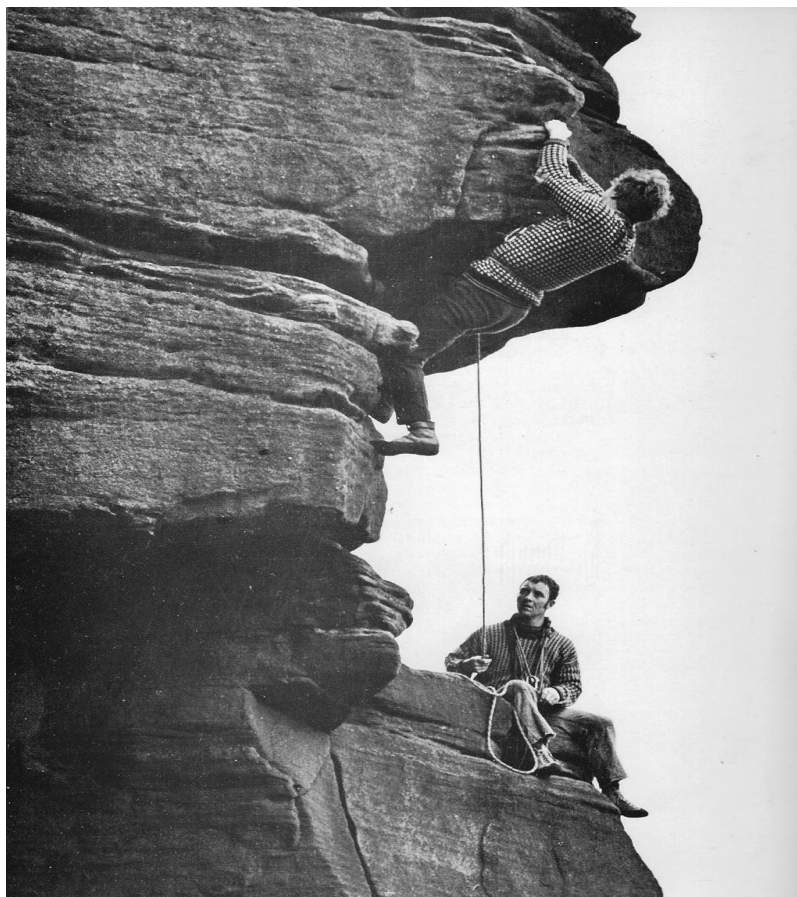


## **Andy Oakden**

Andy died on Sunday, 16th February. He was taken to hospital after developing pneumonia and unfortunately, did not respond to treatment. He was 85 years old. He was a member of the Oread for many years, he joined in 1969.

His daughter, Nicky writes: "I remember some wonderful holidays in the Alps when I was a small child. There are not so many of his generation remaining now but I'm sure there will be a few stories to tell.

Thanks for continuing to send the newsletter to Dad over the past few years. He always looked forward to receiving these and reading about what everyone was doing".



This photo from "Climb if you will" shows Andy belaying Derrick Burgess on Harding's Super Direct Finish to Cave Inominate on Stanage.

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

## **Information on Member Activities**

Welcome to new Provisional members Alan Bower, Martin Hooper and Rebecca Orme. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

We have new full membership applications from current Provisional members Harriet Burson-Thomas and Aaron Wigley, plus Sally Ames, Daniel Boast and Andrea Doyle. If you would like to comment on any of these applications, please contact a member of the committee.

## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

### **Last month's puzzle solution:**

The climber was Snod Helliwell on Cemetery Gates on 20 July 1969 - the day the Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. Apparently somebody correctly guessed the route but the memory-challenged competition setter cannot



recall who it was. This person should contact Mr Helliwell to claim his substantial prize.

**This month's puzzle:**

In which range of mountains is this waterfall situated?



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