



# Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

**April 2025**



**Pete Wragg and Laura Booth on Nethermost Pike with St Sunday behind. Patterdale Meet - photo Roger Larkam.**

## **Editorial**

Spring seems to be here – lots of sunny photos this month and we have outdoor climbing venues for Wednesday evenings on page 3. We have a Welsh meet, Easter at Font, May Bank Holiday in Cornwall, the New Members' Meet, the next Geo Walk and plenty more local walks to look forward to.

Write-ups include an ascent of Sentries Ridge, a day on sunny Stanage, and some interesting snippets of Tan yr Wyddfa history.

Ever wanted to do the Pennine Way? See page 9 for an interesting option to tackle it in stages.

**Copy Deadline 20 April.**

## 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

2025				
				
	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
<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	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Middleton(wirksworth area)	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	12th-27th	Font camping meet	Bouldering meet in Fontainebleau	Nuno Gomes Chris Wilson
	26th	Upper Hulme - Flash)	Saturday walk	Peter Amour
	27th	Millstone	Crack climbing	Simas Jermosenka
<b>M a y</b>	0	0	0	0
	2nd-11th	Cornwall camping meet	Camping, walking & climbing	Ed Bloomfield
	7th	Hartington Station/T issington trail	Wednesday walk	J Gwyther
	15th	Shilto woods	Thursday short walk	Chris Paice
	16th-18th	New members' meet Heathy Lee	Climbing and bbq at the hut	Kevin Moss
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>J u n e</b>	24th	TBC	Saturday walk	J Gwyther
	23-31st	Scotland	Climbing & walking W Coast	Mike Moss
	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
<b>J u l y</b>	19th	Ticknall	Thursday short walk	Nick Evans
	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
	2nd	Eyam	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	04-6th	Rock Hall Roaches	Climbing at the Roaches	Charlie Taylor
	12th	Peak District pinnacles meet	0	???
<b>A u g u s t</b>	0	0	0	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
	1st-3rd	MAM Coniston	0	???
	6th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
<b>A u g u s t</b>	8-10th	Heathy Lea family meet	0	Rob Beck Nuno Gomes
	16th	Geo walk Brierlow Bar – Tideswell	Saturday walk	Mike Percival
	0	0	0	0
	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	Teggs Nose	Wednesday Walk	Nick Evans
	2-4th	Tyw working party	Tyw maintence meet	Snod
	5-7th	Glan Dena (Ogwen valley)	North Wales climbing and walking	Snod
	0	0	0	0
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	19th-21st	Peak District BARMY comp heathylea	BARMY competition	?????
	21st	Post Barmy Sunday walk	0	Chris Paice
	0	0	0	0
	26-28th	Heathylea meet	0	Kevin RM
	0	0	0	0
<b>O c t o b e r</b>	1st	Bamford	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	0	0	0	0
	11-13th	High House Lake District	Curry Meet(walking & climbing)	Tony Howard
	10-19th	kalyrnos	med sport Climbing meet	Em Hayes
	16th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th	Geo Walk - Tideswell to Edale	Saturday Walk	Rob T residder
	19th	Froggat Slab	Peak District slab climbing	???
	24-26th	TYW - North Wales	0	???
	0	0	0	0
	5th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8th	heathylea	Bonfire night	Kevin M
	0	0	0	0
	7	Tafaroute anti atlas morroco	Climbing morroco	Ed B
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22nd	Annual dinner	Bentleybrook	Christine pace
	23rd	Post prandial walk	0	0
	23rd	Post dinner climb ,	0	0
	28-30th	Birkness barn Lake district	Walking meet	Charlie Taylor
<b>D e c e m b e r</b>	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	Rachel Walker
	0	0	0	0
	24-1 Jan	0	Christmas and New Year hut meet	??

## Wednesday evening climbing venues

2 April      Harborough  
 9 April      Intake Quarry  
 16 April     Wildcat  
 23 April     Gardoms/Birchen  
 30 April     Roaches

## **BMC Membership Cards 2025**

The BMC's cost saving measures have included accelerating the move towards digital-first communications to reduce postage and print costs while maintaining engagement with members. This means that your 2025 editions of Summit Magazine will be coming direct to your inbox to be accessed directly through their website and your membership cards will also become digital from April.

## **Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

The Oread has a club membership with the PNFS which does so much good work on our local footpaths. If you would like to read their latest newsletter, Signpost here is the link.

**<https://pnfs.org.uk/downloads/signpost/signpost83p.pdf>**

## **Forthcoming Meets**

### **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.

### **4-6 April Tan yr Wyddfa Ed Bloomfield**

Staying at the club hut in north Wales for the start of spring, hopefully the weather will play ball! I'm planning to walk over Nantle Ridge on the Saturday and get out climbing Sunday at Tremadog or on Anglesey. There are many options available to walkers and climbers alike so feel free to come along and hopefully enjoy some Welsh sunshine.

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

### **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.

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.

**The campsite has changed from the one advertised in last month's newsletter. If you make a late decision to join the meet be in touch for the latest info.**

Climbing Fontainebleau

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

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

## **17 April Short Walk Middleton by Wirksworth Ruth Gordon**

Start at 11.00 am from the Nelson Arms at the top end of the village. SK276561 There is parking at various spots along Main St. We will head up Water Lane onto The Moor and then over lanes and fields past Intake Quarry to drop down to the road at Arm Lees Farm. A short stretch on the road will get us onto the trail which we follow briefly until we can turn right to join the Griffie Grange bridleway and make our way back via Hopton Quarries. The walk weaves an intricate way among the numerous and impressive quarries of the area enjoying high fields with great open views, some lovely woodland and rural tracks. It is under six miles but there is quite a lot of up and down so you will be well exercised.

Ruth Gordon email [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com) tel. 07999 857922

## **26 April Geo-walk section 6 Upper Hulme - Flash Bar Peter Amour**

PLEASE NOTE, AN EARLIER THAN NORMAL START TIME (9-30AM ) DUE TO LIMITED PARKING.

Being a linear walk shuttle cars will be required. Could I ask those offering a taxi service back to Upper Hulme be parked at Flash Bar lay-by (Grid ref SK 032 679) prior to 9-00am.



Hi Folks, we'll be touring the popular area around the Roaches, and it will be a Saturday, making for more demand for parking spaces. Please car share where possible and park (£2-00) at Paddock Farm, just south of Hen Cloud. Grid ref SK 007 613. Alternative (and not so convenient) parking options are in the limited marked out bays on the road below the Roaches, or even further away (pay & display) in the Severn-Trent Tittesworth Reservoir car park. Geologically, the walk gives a lot with good vistas, we shall be visiting the mineral details of The Roaches - Lud's Church - Gradbach - Three Shires Head - Flash Bar. Distance :- 16km, total ascent 570 metres. Please let me know if you can make it, and if you can offer car sharing, and/or a car shuttle. Cheers, Peter.  
Email: [peter@amour02.force9.co.uk](mailto:peter@amour02.force9.co.uk) tel. 07827 378147

## **27 April Crack Climbing Day at Millstone Simas Jermosenka**

A day to focus on crack climbing skills, sharing beta, encouraging everyone to enjoy our favourite climbs, our party pieces and our worst nightmares! Keep an eye on WhatsApp for last minute arrangements or be in touch.  
Simas Jermosenka email [s.jermosenka@gmail.com](mailto:s.jermosenka@gmail.com) tel. 07828 745890

## **2-11 May Cornwall Ed Bloomfield**

Planning on staying at Kelynack campsite for 7-9 days, having never climbed on Cornish Granite I suspect Tom L will be showing me some of the classics like Commando Ridge at Bosigran. We will be walking some days and climbing others having an early summer holiday on the British coast. If you wish to book on get in touch with me, I'm just waiting to hear back from the campsite on availability.  
**[enquiries@kelynackholidays.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kelynackholidays.co.uk)**  
Ed Bloomfield: email [edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com](mailto:edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com) tel. 07990 066362

## **Wednesday 7 May Hartington Walk John Gwyther**

Meet at 'Hartington Station' car park (off B5054) at 10.00 am. 21km 254m ascent 4h 30. The walk proceeds to Biggin, then up Wolfscote Dale to Hartington (lunch stop). Then walk around Carder Low to Parsley Hay and back along the High Peak Trail to the car park. There are toilets at the start, Hartington and Parsley Hay. I'll bring a packed lunch but there are lots of eateries in Hartington.  
John Gwyther: email [jagwyther54@gmail.com](mailto:jagwyther54@gmail.com) tel. 07931 630974

## **15 May Shillito Wood Chris Paice**

Begin at Shillito Wood car park, ref: 749 293 to set off walking at 11.00.a.m. The first 1 ½ miles is along a very quiet (the leader hopes!) country lane to Unthank Hall. From here we continue on footpaths for most of the walk taking in Horsleygate, onto Lydgate and coming south to Horsleygate hall. A very short road stretch towards Smeekley Wood, skirting the wood to walk along Carr Road (not a road, a track). A footpath along the bottom of Hewett's Bank takes us back

to the start. A mixture of wooded areas, fields and some steady uphill stretches. Variety under foot, roads, tracks and footpaths. Something for everyone, there is small water side stretch, so do join us.

8.85km, 5.5 miles, not exact but thereabouts!

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

## **16 -18 May New members meet Heathy Lea Kevin Raisin-Moss**

Either stay Friday night or meet up with us Saturday morning, departing from the hut around 10:00, or at the crag.

Plan is to climb at Stanage popular on the Saturday and Burbage South on the Sunday.

A barbecue will be put on for the Saturday evening.

We need members who can partner up with new members and provide sponsorship so please come along and support the meet.

Contact Kevin Raisin-Moss for further info: email [mapperleysamurai@gmail.com](mailto:mapperleysamurai@gmail.com) tel. 07920 522691.

## **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 Schönblick 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-Côte 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.

## **Pennine Way in Stages - Gauging Interest**

### **Neil Weatherstone**

I've always fancied doing the Pennine Way (435km, 11000m of ascent), but find it impossible to get the time off from work and a busy family life to do it in one push, therefore I'm looking to gauge interest if others would like to join me to do this in stages. I enjoyed hearing of other Oreads who completed it last year and have taken some inspiration from John, Pippa and the Hayes to find a way to get it done. I have a rough plan of 5 stages, to be completed over long weekends, perhaps one stage per year starting 2026, walking in late April or May before the midges arrive. Stages have access to public transport near the start and finish and I have family in Northumberland that could help with the logistics in that sparsely populated area north of the wall. I'd be looking to mix wild camping and basic accommodation where convenient, similar to a Bullstones weekend but with better weather and more daylight (I hope). I'd plan the walks and accommodation and co-ordinate travel, lift shares etc.

1. Edale to Cowling, 4 days

2. Cowling to Horton in Ribblesdale, 4 days

3. Horton in Ribblesdale to Middleton-in-Teesdale, 3 days

4. Middleton-in-Teesdale to Greenhead, 4 days

5. Greenhead to Kirk Yetholm, 5 days

If you're interested, drop me a note ([neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com) 07946 825798 or on WhatsApp) so I can gauge if there is enough interest to run these in the meets programme. Any comments, ideas and advice also welcome from those who have done the PW previously.

Thanks

Neil Weatherstone



# News, Articles and Reports from Meets

## Tan yr Wyddfa 21-23 February Harriet Burson-Thomas



On surprisingly sunny Saturday, four members of The Oread Mountaineering Club—Aaron, Jae, Nigel, and I—set out for an unforgettable scramble on Sentries Ridge, a hidden gem on the southern flanks of Mynydd Mawr in Eryri National Park.

Leaving the hut, we followed forest tracks before emerging onto the scree slopes beneath the rugged cliffs of Craig y Bera.

*Left: Nigel with the ridge in the background.*

Nigel took the lead as we made our way toward the middle ridge. Splitting into two teams, we began our ascent, with Nigel calling down, “Push, don’t pull!” Heeding his advice, we scrambled over fractured, blocky rock. Aaron’s description of the terrain as being “as

loose as an old Renault steering rack” gives you some idea of what we were up against.

Our first challenge was a five-metre gendarme. Both teams opted for a direct ascent, relying on well-placed gear and a committed move from a deep crack. Then came a well-earned photo break—what a view! The Llyn Peninsula shimmered in the distance, with steep rocky drops on either side. As the ridge narrowed, we tackled a series of rocky pinnacles—the signature feature of Sentries Ridge. Jae and Nigel pushed ahead, moving alpine-style and roped together for safety. Aaron and I followed closely behind, finding the upper sections steeper but more solid underfoot.

*Right: Jae on the ridge.*

After about four hours of scrambling, both teams reached the grassy top-out near Mynydd Mawr’s summit. The views were breathtaking—Nantlle Ridge to the east, the coastline to the west, and Snowdon’s





iconic peak on the horizon. What a fantastic day in the mountains!



## A great day on Stanage 1 March Kevin Raisin-Moss



Uncommonly good conditions prevailed for the the time of year and we attended Stanage Plantation for some sun kissed trad climbing instead of the planned chilly bouldering. The meet was well attended with double figures of Oread making the most of the good weather.

*Left: me on top and Ed climbing.* Paradise wall had everything of a reasonable grade on it climbed my most parties.

Ed, on strong early season form, went on to lead his 5th E1 with a solid onsight of Millsom's Minion before following up Tower Face for dessert. *(Photo below right).*

Whilst most departed for the pub we used up the last of the daylight with Wall End Slab via Bridge's variation for a new tick.





**Stanage Walk 5 March Chris Mather**





The weather blessed us for our walk along Stanage Edge ensuring a good turn out. We met at Cutthroat Bridge car park just in time to see the fire brigade put out a fire of the remains of a workman's van. Fortunately the driver escaped unscathed. We set off up Jarvis Clough and visited the standing stones on Moscar Moor before climbing up to High Neb and continuing along the edge to the famous pole where we stopped for elevenses. We proceeded down hill to the Redmires reservoirs before heading north and over the A57 to Crawshaw Lodge for lunch. We then followed the minor road west to Moscar Cross farm and back to Cutthroat Bridge.

## **Patterdale 7 – 9 March Roger Larkam**



*Pip Leach and Gill Radcliffe on top of St Sunday crag.*

As anticipated Spring arrived and, conveniently, two sun-kissed days unfolded. Various excursions were had - water assisted rounds of High Street and thereabouts, and various tours around the Helvellyn cirque (including approaches via the Pinnacle Ridge and east ridge of Nethermost Pike). Pinnacle Ridge was seemingly the only place in the shade. Sheffield Pike was reported as boggy but close to the Travellers Rest. Cycling tours included the The Royal, Dockray. Sunday's escapades saw no let up and included Gowbarrow Fell and Beda Fell and the crags of Long Scar and Castle Rock.

Although not advertised as such, it emerged that this was a Joint Meet, subsidised by the Alpine Club. This was a shock to many of the 17 assembled company, so much so that further investigations were put in place. Witnesses were called. Explanations suggested. Motives examined. Apparently two of the

gathering, caught between two affiliations, casually allowed themselves to be lured by a covert and cut-price booking arrangement offered by the wearers of tweeds and crampons with spats. The court of public opinion found the accused, otherwise of stout and dependable character, here behaving in a manner difficult to comprehend. Perhaps only a desperate effort to finance replacement batteries for one of many hi-tech appliances or the price of a new tweed padded lycra garment with matching alpine spats. The case is being monitored.

Nevertheless, thanks to all comers, many fells were bagged, miles ridden, crags surmounted, lakes cruised and headtorches found. Until next year... the saga continues.



*Rachel at Angle Tarn.*

## **Hartington 20 March Chris Paice**

Twelve Oreads set off under a blanket of blue sky for a steady walk. A bit of a muddled start but we weren't too far astray and soon crossed fields to gain the planned route. A rocky, limestone path takes us the River Dove and no bodies lost in the lead mine entrance. At the river I sensed much relief for the lunch stop. Blue skies continued, the river babbled and positive, thoughtful, happy babble amongst Oreads. From rocky limestone the footpath is gentle amble along the Dove. No dippers, no fish but buzzards and fishermen seen along the way with blue sky continuing.

A short, wooded section, more fields and some folks stopping at the café for refreshments. Varied terrain, very varied conversations, 11 bodies returned due to one departing early. Thank you, Stuart, Sue, Rusty, Mick H, Mike W, Nick,



Ruth, Heather, Andrea, Pam and Rachel for joining me and supporting me.

## **Green Tops Rusty Russell**

During Christine's recent walk from Hartington there were several sightings of a distant edifice sporting a conical cap sheathed in what appeared to be weathered copper. Without the necessary thought and care several, including myself, suggested that this might be Ecton Mine building in the distance. Later on, a better sighting made it clear that the green cap was in the neighbourhood of Sheen which torpedoed the original theory.

Today I had the opportunity to explore the area again and I offer two photographs to clarify the position, The first (left) shows the "steeple" at the Ecton Mine building which is as I described but which clearly we could not have seen as it is in the steep sided Manifold Valley whereas we were in Dovedale. The second is clearly a church steeple which was seen in Sheen. (I had not been previously aware that there existed two such green capped steeples or towers in the area).



The Sheen photograph is of dubious quality, taken by one with an aged unsteady hand whilst seated on a motorcycle and in poor light, but serves its purpose.

## **Longshaw 22 March Chris Paice**

Eleven of us set off in anticipation of some wetter weather arriving later in the walk. Thankfully this didn't happen, and the skies cleared for some good views and good walking weather.

A short stop by the brook - all crossing the brook without incident (always a plus). Rocky ridges, named rock formations negotiated or walked close too. A busy main road crossed and a grassy area with a few rocks to sit on for lunch, away from the Saturday crowds! The mandarin ducks looked beautiful, but behaviour observations suggested a very defensive attitude.



We walked past the ice cream van, the tea shop at the end providing more appeal. This provided a good ending for us all and especially those heading off for the AGM later that day.

On the way round various people talked about the Oread set up. When put together in this concise way it struck me that the Oread facilitates a wide variety of activities, meets/climbs/walks/talks/ long or short durations (possibly not all named). It's a lot of 'behind the scenes' commitment, thanks to those who make it all happen.

Chris and Gill, Mick and Helen, Stuart and Sue, Seyhan, Rachel, Linda and Richard accompanied me, and their joint knowledge stopped the leader going too far astray. Thank you all for company and conversation.

### **Waters Cottage Kinlochleven 14- 16 March** **Michael Hayes**



Sadly there were no winter conditions for us this year but an Alpine Skills course ran in its place. We had great weather on the Saturday and three of us had a memorable day out on the Aonach Eagach ridge, one of the best ridge scrambles in Scotland.

## **When the Station Master lived at Tan yr Wyddfa**

### **Roger Larkam**

As a result of looking at the TyW deeds, I have found some history regarding the use of the TyW property as the Station Master's house.

The Watkin Path on the south side of Snowdon was opened in 1892 by Prime Minister William Gladstone, the first designated footpath in Britain. The path is named after Sir Edward Watkin, a Liberal Member of Parliament and railway entrepreneur who financed the path's construction. It was his second wife, Lady Anne Watkin (nee Ingram, m.1892) who in 1895 leased the TyW plot ('Plot15') to a David John Jones of the Snowdon Temperance Hotel, Rhyd Ddu. This was a 99 year lease, £3 pa.

1887-8 OS 6in map shows no building on the site but the revision of 1899 shows Snowdon View. Snowdon View, latterly Tan yr Wyddfa, was thus built between 1895 and 1899, alongside the railway which had already been opened in 1881.

We have in the title deeds:

- 25 June 1906 Sir Alfred Mellor Watkin (son of Sir Edward Watkin and his first wife Mary Watkin (nee Briggs) agrees to assign Snowdon View to DJ Jones of Snowdon Temperance Hotel Rhyd Ddu (keeper & quarryman), and John Ogwen Owen (Quarryman) & Idwal Owen (Station master)
- 23 August 1906 the lease is surrendered by Mr Ellis Griffiths (farmer) to Mr David J Jones
- 24 August 1906 the lease is assigned by Mr D J Jones to Messrs John Ogwen Owen & Idwal Owen

This periodical **Welsh Heritage no 56**

<https://www.welshhighlandheritage.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WHH-No-56.pdf>

tells us more about Idwal Owen, a railway accident he had been involved in, and including that by 1911 only mother Ellen, brother John and sister Maggie are left in Rhyd Ddu at a house called Snowdon View. Idwal has left the railway and is living in Pwllheli and working as an Auctioneer's Clerk. Perhaps the accident enquiry didn't go well?

The 1901 census records the Owens living at 47 Morgan Terrace. Today Stryd Morgan is the address of only three houses on the main road. In 1911 the Owens gave their address as Snowdon View. Perhaps they gave up estimating where all the other houses in Morgan terrace would be built.

**More interesting snippets of history about the building are to be found in an entertaining article by Reg Squires which you can read on our website in Bulletin 23 no 2 Winter 1976. Find it under the Journals tab.**



## Ray Handley and the Manakarin Spires Dennis Grey



I came across this photograph, having forgotten about same.  
These are The Manakarin Spires in the Kulu, Himalaya, India.  
We made the first ascent of these in 1961, which, though named the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition, was very much an Oread party.

The summit on the right was climbed by Ray Handley, Sonam Wangyal and myself, and the one on the left by Ray and myself. This was the hardest of the two, and the most difficult rock climbing I ever managed in the Himalaya. I was too engaged on these ascents to take any pictures and the photographing was done by Ray. Unfortunately he died quite young and what happened to his pictures I do not know.

However I thought, as it is the Oread's special anniversary, tribute should be made to the memory of Ray who was with me on these two important ascents. The photo is from Bob Pettigrew's collection.

### **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**

### **Sheila Fisher writes:**

John and Gordon were good friends. I did a bit of the GR5 with them but it was a bit silly of me as I had just completed my surgical fellowship exam so not done much strenuous walking in the weeks leading up to the start.

We had an interesting stay in a hut that was still closed, having camped on the veranda but then granted admission by the guardian after we were spotted by a passer-by. Large cellar area with lots of hams and cheeses suspended from the ceiling.

My leave (and I will confess much energy) had almost come to an end by the time we reached the exquisite village of Sixt. Pauline and Gordon went on to their caravan in Chamonix and John joined them for a day or two whilst I enjoyed the local tracks and lovely scenery around the village.

I feel sure John has far better memories than I of both Gordon and Pauline. I remember her energy, her humour and her lovely smile.

## **Information on Member Activities**

Welcome to new Provisional member Mark Hipwell and full members Sally Ames, Daniel Boast and Andrea Doyle. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

We have full membership applications from current Provisional members Harriet Burson-Thomas and Aaron Wigley. If you would like to comment on these applications, please contact a member of the committee.



## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

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

The waterfall shown was Pistyll Rhaeader, stated to be about 16 miles west of Oswestry. This is fed by the waters of the Berwyn mountains (I recommend the walk from here to Cadair Berwyn).

### **This month's puzzle:**

Which former Oread member had connections with Cornwall, Kaisergebirge and Llanberis?

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