

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

APRIL 2020



Sunset over Y Garn taken for you all from Tan yr Wyddfa as the hut closes on 19 March. photo – Snod Helliwell.

Editorial

What can I say?

I guess we all have to deal with this horrible situation in whatever way gives us a chance of staying sane. Good luck in finding ways of dealing with the current restrictions.

Among the things that will keep you out of worse mischief – please think about sending something for the next newsletter to raise our spirits. A photo, an anecdote, a tale of walks, climbs, adventures from the recent or long ago past – anything to cheer us up – or something so grim and bleak we will feel happy to be preserved from such horrors! I used to belong to a Creative Writing group – believe me, hours can pass in a flash while you try to recreate an experience in words. Email or text documents are great but hand-written by post is just fine!

In this issue is all the information usually available at the AGM and a process for asking questions, making comments and circulating these with the answers from the relevant committee members just as if we were in a face to face meeting. Best we can do under the circumstances.

Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Copy deadline for next issue is 23 April.

The Oread Needs You!

The Club urgently needs a volunteer to be **Heathy Lea Hut Custodian**. The Club cannot function without someone to take on this essential role at the 28 March AGM. Please think seriously whether you could do this, or part of it - perhaps share this role with a friend?

It is an organisational role rather than someone who has to do all the work as there is a Hut Committee to share the practical work, DIY etc and several people who regularly help with hut checks.

Forthcoming meets 2020

The meets programme for the coming year is temporarily suspended. Nigel Briggs. Email for Meets Secretary remains oreadmcmets@gmail.com

Lofoten July 2020? Derek Pike

As things stand at the moment with this virus and its associated travel restrictions and the uncertainty of how long it may continue, possibly into next year, I shall not be taking any more bookings. The Hayes, Briggs and Pikes are already booked onto a site at Kabelvåg for 14 nights from the 22nd July but this may have to be postponed to another year, we will just have to wait and see. If you wish to discuss please contact me at derepike1234@btinternet.com or 07876 238312

A message from Nigel Briggs, Oread President from 28 March

I don't think any one of us would have predicted the situation and challenges we are currently experiencing. For the want of overusing the term it is 'unprecedented', with jaw dropping announcements almost becoming a daily occurrence. These are not the conditions I would have thought I would be taking over as President in, however they are! Thanks to Snod for steering us through the last two years and thanks for all who have contributed in the running of the club.

In the forthcoming weeks times are going to be difficult, in the meantime let's look out for each other and look forward to better times.

Member's Corner

Stuart Firth writes:

Oread Puzzle – Who made this plate?

This plate was presented to an old friend of the Oread - Tony (AJJ) Moulam - at the 21st Anniversary Dinner.



Tony has recently been in touch with me with a photograph of this plate which he values highly. It was given at a time when the Oread dinners were somewhat wilder than they are nowadays and featured drag artists, strippers and other non-PC attributes. Even I can remember when it was prudent to ensure one's underwear was presentable. The peripheral cartoons are all meaningful; for example, I know that at Christmas Tony would eagerly trade his turkey portion for someone else's chipolata sausages.

Rob Tresidder has suggested that the top-heavy waitresses were based on a cartoon character called Betty Boop whose scandalous figure and persona resulted in Hollywood establishing the film rating system known as the Hays Code.

Dave Appleby has kindly established with the Pretty family that although Molly was a ceramicist - as is her daughter Laura - she was not the craftsperson who created the plate.

So, the question remains: who made the plate? I'm hoping that members of the club who were at the dinner may be able to provide an answer.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

The March Midweek Meander Peter Amour



We didn't get away with taking on Chrome Hill - arguably the most eye-catching feature of the Peak.

Sharing transport, John Gwyther and I arrived just about on time at the Cobbles Cafe, Longnor to be quizzed in detail about the route. The interrogator (a runner from Parwich) made it feel like a job interview.

Feeling as though I was on a short term contract I led a north easterly line to cross the River Dove over Beggar's Bridge to then pass through Underhill where a sheep was found to be doing a good impression of a corpse. Sue and John informed the farmer of the situation then joined us in crossing Hitter Hill by the Clive Russell route over to Glutton Dale (who needs footpaths?).

The combination of muddy and steep terrain generated enough wimp factor for us to by-pass the Parkhouse Hill test, but we did tackle Chrome Hill under grey skies where food was eaten on the summit.

Having taken lunch, the meandering ridge was traversed before descending to then tackle the steep ground by Rock Tor. On less demanding ground we took an anti-clockwise arc to arrive at Tenterhill's really characterful packhorse bridge and rendezvoused with Derek who'd avoided Chrome Hill to save his knee some grief.



Above all difficulties: Rusty, John Gwyther, Sue, Stuart and John Green about to leave Chrome Hill summit.

At this point we transferred from the Dove valley to the Manifold Way to then use a combination of tarmac and muddy turf to the ancient market place in Longnor. Thanks for the company of John Gwyther, John Green, Stuart Firth, Sue Todd, Derek Pike, and last but not least Rusty for his local drier ground knowledge and banter.

Patterdale 6-8 March Pippa Leach



Heading towards High Street via Angle Tarn - later driven down to Hayeswater and Brotherswater to miss the stinging hail.

Even though there wasn't a named storm coming through the weekend of the Patterdale meet, the pattern, or should I say rut, of wet and windy weather did persist. This was more than made up for by the good company shared.



The Meet Leader, suitably dressed for gusty winds and painful hail showers, gets on with making the best of the day. Photos Pete Amour.

In truth, the weather didn't stop us getting out and about. Certainly, some plans to go high were aborted, but Aira Force was magnificent, with rivers in spate, others did a walk to Howtown and back, three of us even circumnavigated Ullswater itself, this was not without rewards, with views at low level.

Thank you to those who attended and put up with me leading my first meet!

Peak District Boundary Walk 13-15 March Stuart Firth

Marsden to Holme and Holme to Langsett Barn



The self-declared good-looking members of the party smile for the camera.

This was our second double stage of the boundary walk with some challenging logistics. We based ourselves at the spectacularly-positioned Whitegate Leisure campsite near Holme with campers, sleepers-in-cars, camper vans and a party self-catering nearby. Holmfirth Taxis did a fantastic job shuffling us to the start, from the finish, to the pub and back and sundry car-recovery missions.

Saturday's walk started from the Month of Sundaes café in Marsden and retraced our steps back to the leat traversing the hillside above the Holme Valley. We could see the site of the historic Bilberry Dam disaster of 1852 that killed 81 people and was witnessed by an ancient relative of mine. The guidebook led us astray into a shooting range but fortunately our losses appeared to be minimal. We continued past multiple reservoirs built to feed the old woollen mills and had fine views towards Castle Hill, Huddersfield and the Emley Moor masts.



P1080766.JPG

Mick & Helen at lunch

Saturday, March 14, 2020

The fashionistas of the Oread model the new 2020 spring season colours... (Photo: John Green)



... whilst Radders takes a Churchillian postprandial nap with the spring chickens still looking energised.

A few of us celebrated the completion of the official stage by calling in at the pub before completing the day with a hike back up to the campsite. The hospitable Fleece Inn at Holme provided us with an excellent dinner and it was great that our party of fifteen could all eat together and be served simultaneously. The

standard of graffiti in the gents was memorable but unfortunately not repeatable in a journal of such high social mores.

Saturday night was notably wild, wet and windy with vans rocking and rolling and tents flapping noisily. Fortunately, only one vehicle needed the helpful campsite owner's 4x4 to be towed off the waterlogged pitch on Sunday morning.

Our second day seemed colder and we passed through interesting woodland from Heaven (Elysium Farm) to Hell (Hades). Not surprisingly, the weather then warmed up.



Hades – a fine piece of graphic drystone wall demarcates the official entrance to Hell.

By our elevenses refreshment stop, we had crossed the watershed and entered the reservoir moorland area associated with Sheffield's outlying steelworks hidden in the valleys to escape Hitler's bombs. There was a slightly dull stretch along a tarmac rail trail but we soon reached Langsett reservoir where we had lunch alongside a trout ladder.



Pip and Neil are early adopters of the Covid19 self-isolation strategy...

We had been walking briskly and arrived at our endpoint much earlier than planned. This allowed us to refresh ourselves in the café and pub while we waited for the rescheduled taxis to return us to the campsite. All-in-all another happy weekend walking despite the looming Virus Crisis and plummeting stock markets. Let's hope it'll all feel more settled in September when we hope to resume our PDBW walks. Hope to see you on the other side...

If you want to do a bit of DIY on stages you have missed etc see the website friendsofthepeak.org which has lots of info on the PDBW, downloadable maps and also volunteering opportunities.

Some thoughts on this Winter's floods Clive "Rusty" Russell

In spite of Brexit, the Virus, global warming etc. the seasons continue to evolve. There have been some extremes of wind and rainfall, but the flooding resulting from the latter has been exacerbated by unwise management, flood defences keeping water out of what were formerly flood plains so that it arrives downstream more quickly, and building on the flood plains themselves. A country in which qualified engineers take jobs in banking to move into a different earning league deserves what it gets in respect of civil engineering works of course. I personally prefer to observe nature and refrain from precipitate large scale action until it has been thoroughly vindicated by research.

On 21 Feb it felt bitterly cold as I dined again on Hollins Hill, irrespective of the actual temperature, a clear sky and a brisk wind leads to a low "feel like"

temperature as published in weather reports. The low atmospheric humidity and the air movement however created conditions for evaporation so that the ground surface, except in low places where standing water was present, began the lengthy process of drying out. I observed an enormous water tank, installed to provide for the sheep during preceding dry summers, full to the brim and oozing at the seams. The following weekend on “Dragon’s Back”, the drying seemed to be under way and the temperature was more friendly.



The Daffodils at Parwich are at least three weeks earlier than in some earlier years, and the home flood “defences” i.e. heaving up the slabs over a small culvert to allow cleaning out operations seems to have worked. The rationale was to let the water run faster through the culvert so as to scour out the silt in the bed of the small water course downstream. A further burst of heavy rain a few days ago has slowed the onset of Spring conditions, but the water stayed in its rightful path, on my premises even though it raced down in a spectacular cascade. (A moorhen seems to approve and has settled nearby). On a larger scale, I have generally been of the opinion that the River Dove flows better than the Manifold, possibly because of a more

stony bed, but the earlier extreme flows appear to have scoured out the Manifold, and last Sunday the reverse situation seemed to have been the case, the Dove the appearing more full of the two. Some of the water in the Dove may have come from the side valleys such as Biggin Dale which is flat and stony with the ground water normally below the surface where I observed and photographed the water flowing through the stone walls. This is an illustration, in my view, of how water in the absence of human intervention will lie in flat areas, rock fissures and the interstices of certain types of soil in times of flood, and later flow downstream under gravity when rainfall abates. We interfere with these natural processes at our peril.

Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Closed until further notice.

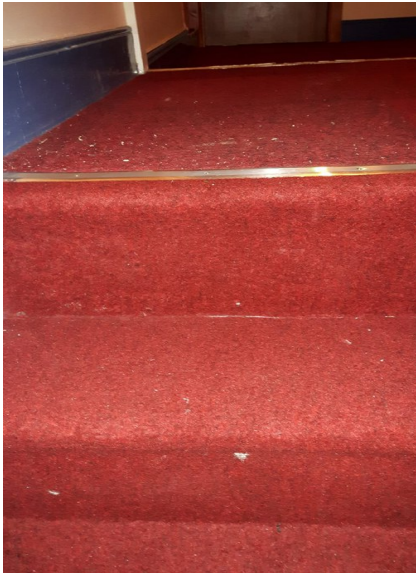
HEATHY LEA

Closed until further notice.

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

The fine new stair carpet at Tan yr Wyddfa.



Shame he didn't think to vacuum it before he took the pics!

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new full members Rob Beck, Tim Freeman, Jess Green, John Gwyther, David Hayden, Ashley Kitchen, Louise Pymm, Lucia Revelo Silva, Samantha Shillinglaw and David Uribe. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from Rachel Walker, to be decided at the April committee and Pamela Postans, to be decided at the May committee. If you would like to comment on these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

February's puzzle:

Paul Bingham writes - Re George Reynolds photo in the February issue:



Indeed it was the rocks below Old John Tower in Bradgate Park, Charnwood Forest. The Monday date is correct as it was one of the 'Monday Walks' not strictly Oread events but a mixture of, mainly, Stapleford Camera Club and their joint Oread members. Gordon Gadsby and Stu Bramwell started going out on Mondays when they retired early/mid 90s. I was the

third recruit in 1996 so I reckon they've been going at least 25 years Among the silhouettes, in addition to Colin Hobday, I can also make out Gordon and Margaret Gadsby, Stuart Bramwell and me.

Last month's puzzle solution:

Name the crag and the climb – five people correctly identified the crag as Wharncliffe and first to reply as usual was Roger Chapman who says: "According to Eric Byne (High Peak) the birthplace of gritstone climbing was Wharncliffe. The rest of the puzzle was harder. There is an illustration on the Internet that suggests the climb may well be Himmelswillen (VS 4c) but I can't find who first led it. Given the context would it be Harry Pretty?"

Hard on his heels was Puzzlemaster Rusty:

"I am reasonably certain that the crag is Wharncliffe, "Harry" is Harry Shillam. Not having a list of first ascents, the name of the climb is more problematical but, guessing the probable standard and trying to match the picture to the route descriptions I will go for October Climb."

The third reply came from Rob Tresidder and was spot on: Scarlett's Climb. First led by Harry Scarlett in 1931, now given Hard Severe 4a it was a mere Severe in the youthful Snod's day with a warning that "From the mantelshelf a tall man can reach the top, for other mortals a difficult intermediate move has to be made."

The puzzle that nobody has yet managed to answer is how he ever managed to climb anything in jeans that tight.

This month's puzzle



Featured in a recent edition of "Derbyshire Life" was a photograph of a stone staircase adjacent to a major Peak District climbing venue. Which crag was the location, and where else in the general neighbourhood, close to a gritstone wall, may another old flight of stone steps be found.

What is the approximate distance between the two staircases.

Additionally, what is the approximate distance and bearing of each from the position from which the accompanying photograph was taken.

*Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. Email alister.ruth@btinternet.com*