



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**SEPTEMBER 2020**



**Lianne Sellors and Dave Mason on Neb Buttress HVS 5a Bamford: Dave's "all-time favourite trad lead so far." Photo Michael Percival.**

## **Editorial**

In this issue details of such meets as the club is able to run at present – sadly two big social ones, the Heathy Lea Anniversary, and the Annual Dinner have had to be cancelled as there is no means of holding them the way we would like to within the regulations.

On page 2 a report of what your committee has been doing, since the start of lock down, and is continuing to do to manage the club's activities in a way that minimises the risks to members as individuals and to the club as a whole.

Coming up: the new season of Boundary Walks and the monthly Wednesday walks. Also in here answers to the Mountaineering Quotations quiz and the star of the Photo puzzle reveals all. Plus lots of

photos and snippets from recent climbing and walking get-togethers.

It would be lovely to make October's issue a Heathy Lea Special edition so please let's have lots of photos and memories - see page 5 for details. Looking forward to hearing from you all. **Please note Heathy Lea Stop Press item on page 20.**

**Copy Deadline 24 September.**

## **Running the Oread through, and coming out of, lockdown. Nigel Briggs, President.**

This is an update as to what has been going on within the committee since lockdown began. The committee has continued to meet monthly throughout the lockdown period via Zoom. As we are coming out of lockdown, we are beginning to find the 'new normal'. The situation is still ever changing, and the committee is looking at how we can resume activities whilst fulfilling whatever regulations are in place at the time, and minimising the risk of exposure to Covid-19 to our members whilst taking part. Members are reminded that they should not take part in any activity if they have any of the symptoms of Covid-19. If they develop symptoms after the event they should arrange to be tested through 'NHS test and trace'. Others taking part in the activity may be required to self-isolate if Covid-19 is confirmed.

One of the issues with meets at the moment is the use of huts. These are opening up in a similar way to our own, usually only to the club's own members and single household groups only, unless acceptable social distancing between groups can be maintained. This makes running club hut based meets effectively impossible at the moment. We hope meets can be resumed, but who knows when. Our own huts are available for members to use, for booking and details please contact the hut booking secretary, Michael Hayes.

Groups are getting out walking and climbing, again these need to fall within the regulations, currently up to a maximum of six. Do use the email 'group.io' or facebook to advertise trips but please keep the group to six or fewer; if there is more interest, split the groups! When out, social distancing should be adhered to.

Back in March when lockdown began, I had the naive idea that we would be back to 'normal' by the summer, how wrong I was! In November we have the Annual Dinner on the meets list. The dinner is booked to be held at the Fox and Goose, as last year. By now we would expect to have the menu decided and to be ready to send out booking information soon. Under current regulations there would be a maximum of 30 and tables would be in household groups with social distancing between. Who knows what the situation will be in November, as things stand easing lockdown is 'on hold' and local restrictions are being introduced in certain regions. Under the current regulations the committee feels it would be inappropriate to hold the dinner (part of the enjoyment is meeting up with people and not being socially distant). Therefore, we propose to postpone the dinner until 2021.

On the subject of postponements, we have an outstanding AGM. Back in March we said we would hold the AGM when regulations allowed. At the moment regulations do not allow us to hold the AGM and it is not obvious that this will be possible in the near future. We are (almost) at the mid-point between AGM's. We therefore feel we should 'skip' this year's AGM and go through to the 2021. The accounts from last year were externally examined and have been distributed, along with the officers' reports, in the April Newsletter. If there are any

questions please send them to me or to the secretary, Simon Pape.

In summary 2020 has been an extraordinary year which none of us would have believed, let alone predicted. I hope the situation continues to improve and we can go back to the world we knew.

Nigel Briggs.

Simon Pape.

## **Forthcoming meets 2020**

The meets programme for the coming year is temporarily suspended but limited walking and cycling meets are now happening - see below. And please do use the email group and/or Facebook to advertise your plans so small groups can get together enjoying the outdoors in good company. It is happening – see page 11 onward.

Michael Moss. Email for Meets Secretary remains [oreadmcmets@gmail.com](mailto:oreadmcmets@gmail.com)

### **Wednesday 9 September Walk Grindleford**

Aargh, it's autumn already... Meet at Grindleford railway station cafe at 10:00 for a 10:30 start.

Route to be determined by consensus on the day and led by whoever pulls the short straw. Socially distanced of course, breaking into smaller groups if necessary. Several of the regulars will be away so, as surely as cream comes to the top, it should be an especially select band.

There is plenty to do in the area and the Grouse Inn might provide a suitable watering hole. Probably best to have a packed lunch to hand.

Stuart Firth

### **Sunday 20 September Peak District Boundary Walk Langsett – Low Bradfield Pip Leach**



Here we are in September, still needing to work with 2m distancing, no more than six people meeting outdoors, unless from your own household and car sharing advised against, though not illegal.

The route is 10.5 miles, 1,346ft/410m ascent, from Langsett to the pretty village of Low Bradfield, passing through Bolsterstone, there are some lovely views along the way and a couple of road sections, if this affects your choice of footwear. When I did a recce, pre-lockdown in March, it was really muddy underfoot (after our incredibly wet winter) of course it will have baked hard in the spring sunshine and then got wet again in recent rain.

Personally, I'd rather avoid public transport, and bus routes, to connect the start/finish require going in to Sheffield and a change of bus, so I think shuttles,

of sorts, will be needed. If I am unable travel in anyone else's car, I will use my bike, as I did for the recce. It's a great bike ride, but not for the faint hearted, as it goes up the Strines road, used in the 2014 Tour de France, with killer hills! My suggestion, for those who can share lifts and can do a shuttle, is to meet at Low Bradfield at 10.00am (Dark Peak Explorer map OL1 GR SK 263920) there is ample parking on the bottom edge of the cricket ground. A couple of footbridges take you to a village hall and some public toilets, a bit basic and may/may not be open. Cars then need to be taken to the start at Langsett. Those who did the previous section may recall, there is a water authority car park (free but I'm not sure if it's open) just off the A616, go over the dam, turn left (GR 211004) Check the Gov.uk website for the latest advice on car sharing etc.

I would like to make the official start just outside the Bank View Café, the one with Tour de France 'King of the mountains' red polka dots on it! It may or may not be open for anyone wishing to have a cuppa. (Opening hours currently 10-3). We start by walking over the dam, opposite.

We will need to follow the current guidance, keeping within the same group of no more than six, with social distancing. This is a shame, as our walks are normally so sociable, but there again, people naturally fragment into twos, threes and so on, as we go along.

In terms of lunch stops, depending on time, there is a short diversion to the trig point at Salter Hills (249973) it has superb views. Alternatively, there is a bench on the way in to Bolsterstone, just after the track turns to a lane, or as you descend the steep hill, after Bolsterstone, on the right. Both benches have sufficient grass around to keep a 2m distance.

Please let me know if you are thinking of coming along, so I can ponder on the logistics. If you have transport sorted amongst yourselves, that would be great, if you need transport, let me know.

Really looking forward to seeing everybody,  
Pip.

## **Wednesday 7 October Walk Alton Towers area**

Details in next month's newsletter.

## **10 October Peak District Boundary Walk John Gwyther**

So the PDBW walk Low Bradfield-Ringinglow continues on Saturday 10th October. Starting at the south end of the Low Bradfield cricket ground at 10.30 (SK 26369 91859). I suggest we park at Ringinglow and either lift share or use taxis to ferry us to Low Bradfield (I'll need know how many are coming and arrange a time, nearer the time). The trip is possible by bus, takes 2 hrs and 4 changes! I did it on my mountain bike taking 75 mins and several getting off and pushing bits. The walk took 3.5 hours, contains quite a lot of 'road' walking, few stiles but no places of refreshment or loos (there are loos at Low Bradfield and the at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow). If you would like to come on the walk could you please let me know by Friday the 9th Oct and also if you will be needing transport.

John Gwyther

## 10 -11 October Heathy Lea 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

We had so hoped to be able to have some sort of gathering and celebration at the hut. However, there's no way we can have the sort of informal gathering we would enjoy under current regulations so we will have to hold it over until happier times.

For the walkers there is the planned Boundary Walk and for the climbers a great way to celebrate the weekend would be to repeat some of the early Oread routes on the local edges. Have a look at the first ascents on Birchen, Gardom's and Chatsworth. The names to go for in the first ascents list, in no particular order are Eric and Ivy Byne, Cyril Machin, Dave Penlington, George Sutton, Nat Allen, Keith Axon, Don Chapman, Ernie Marshall, Stan Moore, Harry Pretty, John Fisher. It would be very special to have a few words and photos of these routes. The routes include Right Hand Crack, Gardom's Gate, Oread, Keith's Corner Crack, President's Wall, Blenheim Buttress, Nowanda, Cider, Tree Neighbour, Scoop Tower on Gardoms. Horatio's Horror, Nelson's Nemesis, Barnacle Bulge, The Chain, Powder Monkey Parade, Moby Dick, Pillar Wall, Topsail and many more on Birchen. O'Reilly's Staircase, Calypso Crack, Stranglers Groove, Stranglers Crack, Throttled Groove, Anarchists Arete, Spiral Route on Chatsworth.

**For those who have memories of Heathy Lea over the years, photos and memories of meets, work parties, wild, abandoned type parties with drunken persons on the sleeping platform plummeting onto the floor-bound sleepers below, would make for a splendid Anniversary newsletter. Please be in touch with your contributions! See also Page 20 Stop press request!**

Send to the Hon. Ed. Email [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com) or post to 4 The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock DE4 5LB

### Member's Corner

#### **Clear your surplus gear in a good cause.**

Sally Dipple says she had some excess climbing gear that she needed to get rid of and has found an excellent charity shop specialising in donated outdoor clothing and sports equipment in Buxton: the Thomas Theyer Foundation shop at 1 London Road Buxton. It opens 9.30 -4.30 Tuesday to Saturday. The charity provides support and access to outdoor activities for children with additional needs. [www.thomastheyerfoundation.org.uk/](http://www.thomastheyerfoundation.org.uk/)

#### **Oread Honorary Members**

Following last month's appeal for information about our Honorary Members, **Dennis Gray** shared his connections with the Oread over the years:

I first became 'friends' with some Oread members when I moved to Derby for work at the end of 1959. I lodged with Nat Allen's parents, and Nat and I were then most in contact with The Rock and Ice Club (Manchester).

One of the Oread friends I made was Beryl Turner, and I used to bunk off work some Wednesdays to meet up with her and climb in the Peak. Jokingly she used to advise that she would find me a wife!

I was in the Cairngorms one winter when I learned that Beryl and her husband Roger had been involved in a road accident and they were in Inverness hospital. I journeyed there and in a bed, next to Beryl, was a young female friend, Leni. She had been in their car and was also injured. Leni was also, like Beryl and Roger, a member of the Oread. We married in 1969 and had the full Oread treatment at that year's Annual Dinner.

I was a member of the 1961 Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition and climbing with Ray Handley succeeded in summiting the two major peaks of the Manikaran Spires, amongst some other ascents.

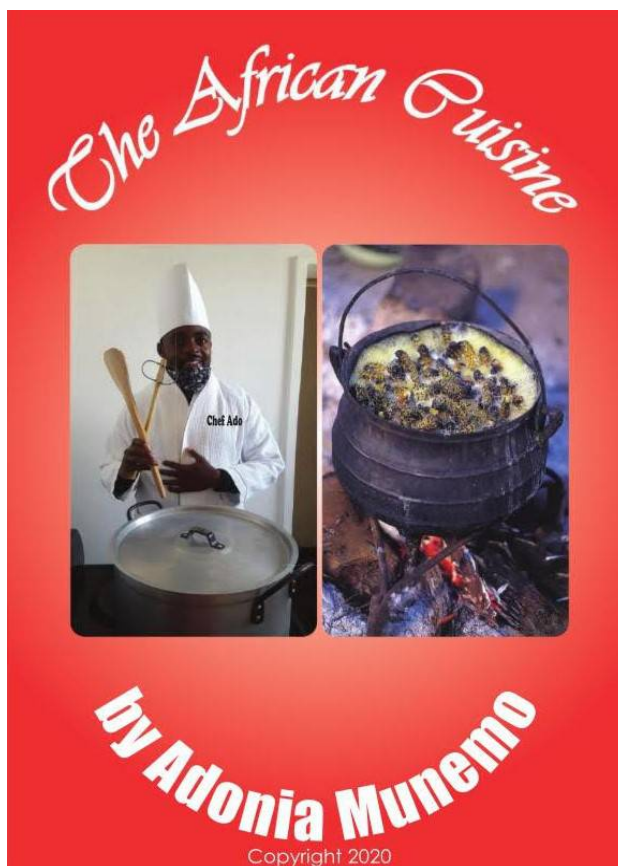
When our children were young we visited Heathy Lea on many occasions. Both my sons climbed. When I was at the BMC I spent time advising and lobbying for a Sports Council grant to help with a Oread hut need for funds.

Unfortunately although Leni continued to climb for the first years of our marriage, including when we were living in Kenya, she stopped later becoming heavily involved with the Guide movement.

Sadly she is now suffering from dementia.

I was honoured to become a Hon. Member of the Oread, especially as I had never actually joined the club.

### **And another good cause:**



Richard Hopkinson writes -

Last year Christine and I did a cycle tour in the Drakensburg Mountains of South Africa. On the tour we were very well looked after by three young Africans.

They and their families have been very hard hit by Covid - No tourists-no work-no income. One of them, Adonia, has spent this time producing a cookbook of traditional South African food, with 21 traditional recipes, some of which they cooked for us. He has not put a price on this but is just asking for a donation of any amount. We have made a donation for a copy, which is PDF. If you would like a copy, you can send me the donation and I will email you a copy of the book, and pass on the donation.

## Past Times and Old Friends



When we were last at Tan yr Wyddfa, Snod was browsing through the old guidebooks, and found these two characterful cartoons inside Ernie Phillip's 1945 Glyder Fach guidebook. Does anyone know who the artist was?

### Historic Mountaineering Quotes: a Quiz. Pete Scott

**Here are the answers.** Thanks Pete for a fascinating quiz. Rob Tresidder provided the only written response received saying “I think I could probably answer all of these using my “library” or Google, so thought it more entertaining to eschew such cheating sticks!” Even so he got seven right or partially right. Congratulations!

#### 1 AF Mummery 1855 – 1895

#### My Climbs in the Alps and Caucasus

*“It has frequently been noticed that all mountains appear doomed to pass through three stages:*

*An inaccessible Peak – The most difficult ascent in the Alps- \*An easy day for a Lady”*

He often climbed with a ‘Lady’, e.g. \*Miss Lily Bristow made the first female ascent of the Grepon in a team comprising Mummery, Collie, Slingsby and Hastings.

Despite his application (1880) for membership of the Alpine Club being 'black balled', (on the grounds he was employed in 'trade', he climbed with women in the party, later climbed without guides), Mummery was the leading mountaineer of the era in terms of first ascents in the UK and the Alps. For example he made the first ascent of the Zmutt Ridge of the Matterhorn, the Aiguille Charmoz and the Aiguille Grepon. He later climbed and explored the Greater Ranges. Disappeared on Nanga Parbat with two Gurkha companions 1895.

## **2 Geoffrey Winthrop Young 1876 – 1958**

**\*After his leg was amputated during WW1**

*"I have not lost the magic of long days: I live them, dream them still.  
Still am I master of the starry ways, and freeman of the hill.*

*\*Shattered my glass, ere half the sands have run  
I hold the heights, I hold the heights I won."*

Up to the outbreak of WW1 Winthrop Young made many first ascents of serious routes in the Alps and first ascents of new routes in the Lakes and North Wales. After WW1 he continued to climb and was involved in Education, particularly Outdoor Education. Friend of Kurt Hahn and instrumental in the ideas and future creation of D. of E. and Outward Bound.

## **3 Edward Strutt CBE DSO 1874-1948 Alpine Club President 1935 – 1938**

Valedictory Address to The AC just before the first successful ascent of The Eiger North Wall by Heckmair and Vörg, Harrer and Kasperek in 1938.

*"The Eigerwand – still unclimbed – continues to be an obsession for the mentally deranged of almost every nation. He who first succeeds may rest assured that he has accomplished the most imbecile variant since mountaineering first began."*

Edward Strutt was regarded as being pompous and pontificating (His paternal Grand Father was Edward Strutt, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Belper (Strutts of Belper and Milford villages and textile factories).)

## **4 Edward Whymper 1840 – 1911**

## **Scrambles Amongst The Alps 1871**

*" Still, the last sad memory hovers round, and sometimes drifts across like floating mist, cutting out the sunshine, and chilling the remembrance of happier times. There have been joys too great to be described in words, and there have been griefs upon which I have not dared to dwell: and with these in mind I say, Climb if you will, but remember that courage and strength are nought without prudence, and that a momentary negligence may destroy the happiness of a lifetime. Do nothing in haste; look well to each step; and from the beginning think what may be the end."*

First ascent of The Matterhorn 14<sup>th</sup> July 1865 by The Hornli Ridge. Disaster struck on the descent when four of the party of seven fell to their death.

## **5 Ian McNaught-Davis 1929-2014 BMC Conference Buxton.**

This was an important debate attended by speakers for and against the Proposal 'Training and Certification for Mountain Leaders' attended by a large audience. 'MAC' opened the discussion by striding onto the stage and offering the following:

*"If you're not prepared to die, don't go climbing." DISCUSS!*

Ebullient, forceful and charismatic, he had an enthusiasm for life in general and mountains in particular that was impossible to contain. MAC as he was known, born in Wakefield, became a kind of international Yorkshireman, urbane but plain speaking, down to earth but with an appreciation of life's pleasures. Not only an influential mountaineer but also a successful business man and TV presenter.

## **6 WP Haskett Smith 1859-1946 England 1894**

## **Climbing in The British Isles**

*“Milstone Grit: A material which is very abundant in Yorkshire and Derbyshire. It is fairly firm, but seldom affords a climb of sustained interest. Few kinds of rock weather into such eccentric forms and of this propensity Brimham Rocks are a good example. It forms most of the Edges in Derbyshire. It is much more satisfactory than the limestone and many pleasing problems may be found on it, especially in the neighbourhood of the Downfall on Kinder Scout. For this Buxton or Chapel-en-le-Frith is of course a better place than Matlock.”*

*Haskett Smith in 1886 made the first ascent, SOLO, of Napes Needle.*

*“My first thought on reaching the top was one of regret that my friends should have missed by a few hours such a day's climbing. My next thought was one of wonder whether getting down again would not prove far more awkward than getting up.”*

Jubilee Ascent of Napes Needle In 1936 Haskett Smith agreed to climb Napes Needle to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his conquest of the pinnacle. He was driven from London to Wasdale Head in a small open car, and when he finally climbed out after the long journey his limbs were creaking and his eyes streaming. An audience of 300 gathered around the Dress Circle and Needle Gully. Roger Chorley led the climb in cold, gusty weather with occasional snow flurries. On reaching the summit someone called out, **“Tell us a Story”** and Haskett Smith shouted back, **“There is no other story. This is the top story.”**

## **7 Mallory on the approach to Everest through Tibet 1921:**

### **Letter to Geoffry Winthrop Young**

***“We're just about to walk off the map – (the survey made for the Lhasa expedition). We've had one good distant view of Everest from above Kampa Dzong and I'm no believer in the easy north face.”***

## **8 Chris Radcliffe and Pete Scott, Aiguille du Dru North Face**

## **9 Rishi Sunak and The Rishi Gorge**

*A single word connecting: RISHI*

*The Chancellor of the Exchequer RISHI SUNAK*

*And*

*The approach to Nanda Devi Sanctuary RISHI GORGE*

RISHI a Hindu sage or saint., an accomplished and enlightened person.

## News and Reports from Meets

### 5th August Goyt Valley Wednesday Walk Peter Amour



*The group at Errwood Hall. Photo Chris Radcliffe.*

A surprisingly empty (free) Derbyshire Bridge car park greeted nine Oreads for a trip exploring the Goyt Valley terrain.

With windy and showery conditions forecast later I decided to reverse the route and set our sights on taking the highest ground by way of the west ridge early. Following a lively (and early) shower we left Shining Tor and took a food break prior to descending from Pym's Chair along the quirkily named asphalt called "The Street". More enjoyable ground was encountered by heading down through the mixture of trees and pasture to view the short lived (96 years) ruins of Errwood Hall. In warming conditions we gained the traffic restricted valley lane. Heading south, our boots made use of the characterful packhorse bridge to experience another lively shower and to then ascend the valley's eastern bracken coated slopes back to the start point.

An enjoyable circuit with extensive views, displays of heather and good company. Thanks to following for joining me :- Chris and Jan, Johns - Green and Gwyther, Chris Radcliffe, Stuart Firth, Pete and Judy Scott. Sorry that Rock had difficulties in locating the car park and missed us, maybe next time.

## Mountain Bike Ride 17 August Spenser Gray



The Mountain bike ride went well, we visited the Hermit's Cave in Dale Abbey before some of us stopped off at the Smithfield Ale House, I think the Barmaid was happy to see Mike and Simon Wren! Emily Spence and Andrew Norman were also out on the ride, haring along at some ungodly pace!

### **Out and About in the Peak.**

#### **Neil Thompson**

This Summer has been a fine adventure for those bold enough to plough on regardless and tedious to the extreme for the cautious, I know people who to date haven't left their house since March. That might be a bit extreme.

I took the decision to continue working, chopping trees and trimming hedges, as this was well within the "can do" list of permitted jobs and why not. I'm also blessed with a fanatical pal, Allan Whitaker, whose irrepressible enthusiasm for climbing means he's endlessly trying to drag me out, avoiding bolts if possible. As such Allan hauled me away from work onto Willersley recently, forcing me to lead a few old routes I haven't been on for years. I was even dragged up Gangué Grooves which was straight forward climbing on what I consider thin kit. I don't think most people agree but it seemed poor to me until we got 1/3 up. It was refreshing to escape to Stanage on another weekday with barely a soul in sight,

perhaps not so empty now but the sense of escape and normality was very welcome. It's easy in these times to stay home but I'd miss the wildlife, the birds, the orchids, all the little bits that raise morale and remind us we're alive. Of course we don't need to climb to enjoy all these pleasures but wildlife havens like Intake quarry are a real pleasure and the day we ventured there recently we were alone, all you could hear were birds. That's not bad for an old grotty bolted quarry.

Everyone has a different take on risk and what's reasonable currently but it's good to be dragged out away from work and it's a grand escape.

Everyone should also have a fanatical pal like Allan. I keep telling him the Oread is full of fanatics but he's yet to join. Must go there's work to attend to, most of you won't remember that. Mutter,mutter. Enjoy yourselves.

### **Mike Moss**

Enjoying a day out at Stanage with Al Aslin and Lance Baker. Lance shown here on Martello Buttress.



### **Dave Mason**

Me and Lianne finished the Bamford ticklist the other week with a few Oreads to cheer us on! Also Lianne lead her first 7a sport route clean which leaves me with some catching up to do!



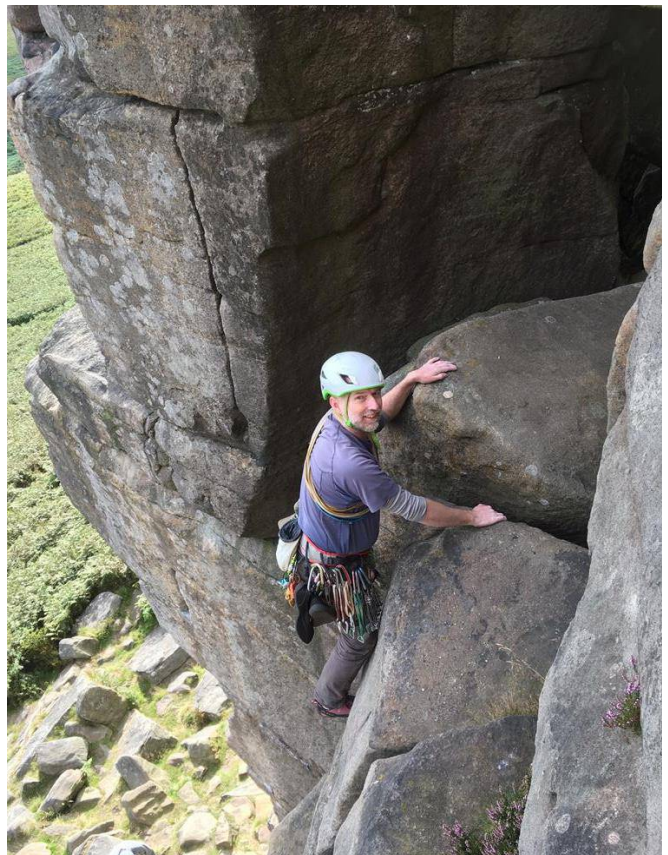
**Rachel Walker**

Instead of climbing I had a go at painting Black Rocks.....



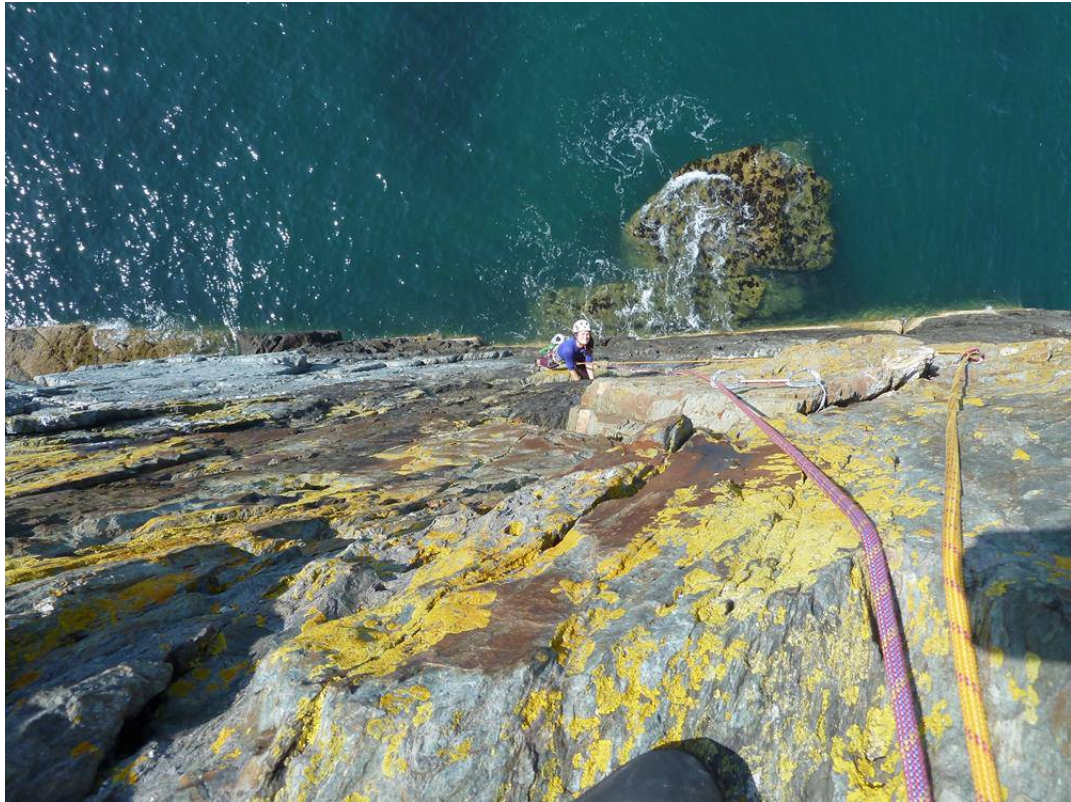
**Mick Hayes**

Climbing at Stanage with Derek he wanted an easy first climb in months so we



started on Severe and ended up on VS 5a!

North West Passage on Castell Helen - a great weekend in Wales.



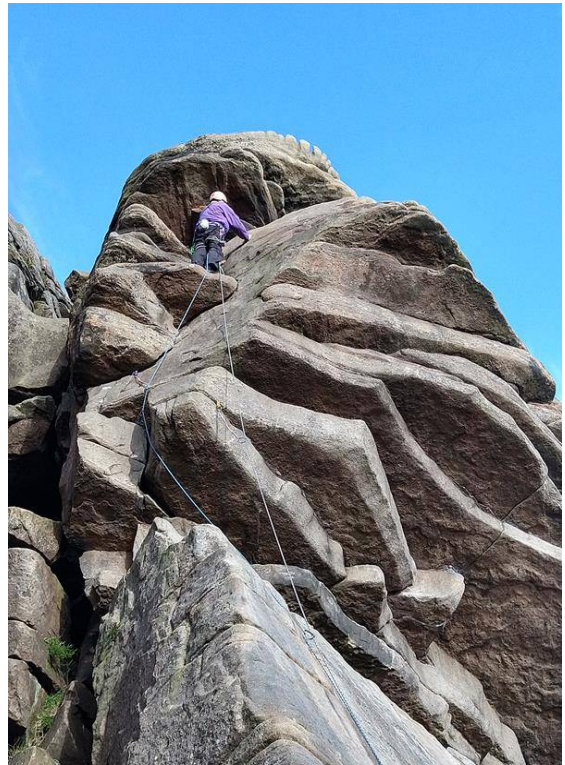
**Pete Amour**

A trip up onto Kinder via Crowden Clough's grade 1 scramble with Oreads and friends from the Monday Group led by Paul Bingham. Other Oreads in the party included Jean Bingham, Mike Wren and yours truly. Mike taking an independent line in the photo! A good day.

**Mike Wren**

My email group post saying that Roy Eyre and I were going to Stanage Pop on Thursday, brought an enthusiastic turnout of Oreads and friends on what was the best day's weather of the week. Roy, Derek and I enjoyed a great time getting some mileage in on the classics – including Derek's lead of Flying Buttress below.

It was great to see a good number of Oreads appear, creating a well attended (not official) accidental, yet socially distanced "meet". It worked well. People stayed in small groups, well spaced out, and it was good to meet newcomers, Christabel and Jae, who both had the dubious privilege of climbing with Snod!



### **Did last year's Bullstones set a precedent?**



Those of us who endured a wild and woolly night in Eldon Hill Quarry could have done with that big marquee! Snod was rather amazed to see the quarry filled with countless trailers and all the paraphernalia of a film set in mid August. An Apple Sci Fi movie apparently!

## Not quite Lofoten! (but the next best thing) Pip Leach



*Looking down onto beautiful Loch Katrine.*

There are just two places in the world, that rival Scotland (in my opinion) for that amazing juxtaposition of stunning mountain scenery and water, namely Norway and South Island New Zealand, I was reminded of this, this summer, and how lucky we are to have Scotland, on our doorstep, requiring much less time, energy and cost to reach and, of course, much more accessible at the time of a global pandemic.

With our Norway/Lofoten trip cancelled for 2020 (just as well with quarantine measures coming into effect making foreign travel something of a nightmare) for the first time ever, I had nothing booked whatsoever for my school summer holiday. Like most of us, DIY tasks and staycation seemed to be on the agenda. However, Peter (not an Oread member but some of you have met him on our away meets) and I did manage to find some accommodation in Scotland, that hadn't already been snapped up, we headed to Dunoon, with boots, bikes and kayaks.

On the journey there, rather than crossing on the ferry from Gourock, we



decided to take the road alongside Loch Lomond, with a view to kayaking across, in order to bag the one Corbett I had yet to do in this area, namely Beinn a Choin. It was the week of the heatwave, in the rest of the U.K., thankfully, we didn't have that, but the weather was sunny and pleasantly hot. Kayaks unloaded, leaving the notoriously busy A82 was a blessed relief and the tranquility on the water was a delight. It's only a 20 minute crossing to Inversnaid Hotel, on the other side, of course the Corbett is normally climbed from the roadside at Loch Arklet, but actually, to use the kayaks made it more of an adventure.

After a walk up the road, the ascent was surprisingly difficult, we found that paths up the lesser walked Corbetts and Graham's had all but disappeared, obviously through not being walked during lockdown, spring and early summer vegetation was lush. I'm sure

it's different on the Munros, where footfall is much greater. It seemed hours to get to the summit but the rewards made the effort worthwhile, the views further into the Highlands were breathtaking, interspersed with the masses of water, in the form of Loch Lomond, Loch Arklet,

Loch Long and the beautiful Loch Katrine. It was a long day, made much longer, as just beyond Aarochar, there had been a landslide, closing the road at the Rest and be Thankful. This necessitated a mere 80 mile D tour via Crianlarich, Tyndrum and almost to Oban, in order to get to the right side of Loch Long and Loch Goil and to get to Dunoon via the north. It was a lovely evening for the drive but meant we arrived at the accommodation rather late.

Other highlights of the trip included kayaking on the lochs around Bute (flat, calm sea, ideal for a novice like me) a cycle round Bute, a couple more Grahams and Rachel (also on holiday in Scotland) joined use for a visit to the Beinn Mhor Botanic Gardens, when the hills were shrouded in cloud, and a cycle round Loch Eck. There's no sign of a solution to Covid 19 any time soon, so we'll be embracing holidays at home for a while longer.



## Hut Bookings.

**\*All bookings for both huts will be separated by three days.\***

**The booked dates given below are there as a guide to members wanting to book for themselves but unless the regulations change many, particularly those from other clubs, are likely to be cancelled.**

### **TAN-YR-WYDDFA**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 18-20 September | Michael Jones     |
| 25-26 September | Fylde MC hut swap |
| 20-21 October   | K Fellfarers      |
| 14-15 November  | Herts MC          |
| 21-22 November  | Buxton MC         |
| 27-28 November  | Wrekin MC         |
| 4-5 December    | Hinckley MC       |

Open for bookings by members and their households/social bubbles. The regulations in Wales are more restrictive than in England and are subject to change, hopefully for the better! As of now a group can stay in the hut and/or in a camper van with its own facilities in the car park.

### **HEATHY LEA**

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 4-6 September | Mark Weatherhead     |
| 2-3 October   | James Tubby          |
| 23-24 October | Avon MC              |
| 7 November    | Oread Bonfire night? |

Open for bookings by members and their households/social bubbles. 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)

## **Information on Member Activities**

Steve Bennett has a new email address:

### **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

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

Two people tried to solve this puzzle with common sense. Laura Booth decided it was some sort of arc and the best solution was for the three chaps to ride similar distances, be chivalrous to the woman in the party, and meet at Ruth's house. Good call!

Snod wrote:

I know I've not answered the puzzle but decided an equidistant place would not be where we wanted to be!

I drew this out on graph paper and at first thought the figure was a Rhombus,

but the sides aren't the same. There must be a mathematical solution as the coordinates are fudged. I seem to be living in the middle of a field.

Drawn graphically the two outliers are myself and Derek so initially I took a common sense approach, drew a line between the two and halved it to coordinate 20:50, up the road to Ballidon Quarry but then decided it was too near Rusty so to make Rusty and Ruth have the same journey I divided their journey to give 23:50 on the road from the Via Gellia to Winster, very close to the Miner's Standard – which would make a sensible meeting point.

### **Rusty was not impressed:**

The question, after the routine rambling to confuse you, boiled down to what geometrical form or process must be used to locate a point equidistant from the four starting points.

My solution was that a circle should be drawn through any three of the four points. The fourth point in the general case would not lie on this circle, but a second circle could be drawn through the fourth point and co axial with the first circle. Any two circles on the same axis may be used to set out a globe, and the centre of the globe will of course be equidistant from all points on its surface. If the four points happen to be at the same height above sea level then the globe would be the surface of the earth. If by chance the four points all lie on a flat plane then the radius of the globe would be infinity.

This is of course an academic question, even your esteemed editor could not contemplate tunneling into the core of the earth on a motorcycle, but I consider that anyone who introduced the concept of three dimensions should be deemed to have solved the puzzle. The analysis of the situation also brings realization about the assumptions normally made in a distance calculation, the curvature of the earth and any altitude variations being disregarded.

Stuart Firth sent in an early solution asserting that the globe in question was the earth:

*A sphere.*

*If the earth was a regular sphere, its centre would be equidistant from all points lying on it. Not just four.*

*Since the earth is an irregular sphere, the equidistant point may not coincide with the centre and may in fact be in outer space so the current motorcycles may have to be traded in for BSA / Triumph Rockets.*

This, of course is deemed the winner, although there was minimal discussion about altitude effects. Laura was, I am told, on the seven seas whilst reading the puzzle and so uniquely placed to experience the curvature of the earth visually.

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

*“strenuous effort as the assortment of buttons, boot soles, dentures, broken pipes and other domestic refuse scattered en route testifies.”*

The preceding is an extract from the description, by a well known author, of the ascent of a British mountain. Who is the author, to which mountain does he refer and which feature forms the route of ascent? (The sum of the digits in metres less the sum of the digits in feet is 7 (referring of course to the height of the mountain as published at the time).

### **And the picture puzzle:**

Several people, including your Hon. Ed., recognised the crag as Windgather. Snod, local expert, decided the route was Green Crack on North Buttress and had Roger Larkam down as the man in the stripey shirt. This was not so. The climber did indeed recognise himself!

Gill Keeling writes:

"The climber is Mick Keeling, and the helpful person at the top, looking down and holding the rope, is Rusty himself. We are not sure who the other three are. We think we may have been at Harborough Rocks or Windgather and it was probably in the late '90s, possibly early 2000s once we could resume activities after the foot-and-mouth disease of the time. We may have forgotten the detail – but Mick still has the shirt! We had some great climbing times with Rusty and his contemporaries, not least Keith Gregson, Tony Smedley, Colin and Uschi, Reg Squires and Colin Barnard, before retiring for a swift half at a local hostelry.



Rusty confirms that it is indeed Windgather, Chockstone Chimney on Middle Buttress. Gill followed Mick up the route, and the chap behind him, looking away, is Colin Barnard. The other two are not Oreads. He can't remember the date either, but thinks 1990s.

### **Stop Press: Heathy Lea**

We've not been able to have a working party for a long time and there are a few bits of work that do need to be done around Heathy Lea. Are you able to help? There are the perennial items of cutting back vegetation and weed control, cleaning and tidying. But there are some other more taxing items.

Would you like to practice your joinery skill? There's a fire door that needs easing and having an intumescent strip attached. Once that's done you could focus on a few other tasks!

Plumbing and electrical experience? Plenty for you to hone your talents on, such as seeking out and destroying a couple of small leaks, replacing a valve and dealing with other little niggles.

There's quite a list of stuff to do, so if you'd like to lend a hand, please get in touch so we can arrange how we can get the work done without incurring the wrath of the authorities.

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