



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**APRIL 2021**



**Places we would love to be..... on Sgurr a Chaorachain looking towards Loch Kishorn. This photo, with Nobby Millward in silhouette, was taken by Harry Pretty in June 1988.**

## **Editorial**

In here we have the programme of what we hope to be able to do over the rest of the year with plenty of walking and climbing meets coming up soon – including a couple of shorter walks for those who find the pace and distance of a typical Oread walk a bit too taxing these days.

There is a brief report of the AGM plus more memories of climbing days past, featuring Alf Bridge, another disaster-strewn journey retold and a list of Tony Smedley's mountaineering books for people to choose from, and hopefully raise a bit of money for charity in the process.

**Copy Deadline 20 April.**

## Forthcoming Meets 2021

Here is the list of what we hope to be able to do as the year progresses. Obviously it is all subject to whatever regulations may be in force at the time but it would be really good if we could have some volunteers to lead some of the meets later in the year which currently have no leader. Please be in touch if you could help. **Most urgently we need a leader for 15-16 May.** We have produced a general risk assessment, following BMC guidelines, that meet leaders can use with a minimum of fuss for both walking and climbing meets, and I will be able to offer advice on how it applies to your meet.

**Mike Moss: email [xxx](#)**

March	31	First outdoor evening climb	Brassington, Harborough rocks	
April	2-5	Easter day meets	Peak, Derbyshire	Lance Baker, venue to be accounted via Facebook etc.
	10-11	Climbing meet	Peak, Derbyshire	Michael Moss, venue to be accounted via Facebook etc.
	14	Wednesday walk	Ellastone, Staffs	Stuart Firth
	17-18	Climbing meet	Gardom's edge, Derbyshire	Snod (Dave Helliwell)
	22	Short walk	Brassington circuit	Ruth Gordon
	24	Weekend walk	PDBW	Chris Raddcliff
May	1-3	Camping climbing meet	Venue TBD, hopefully Lakes	Spenser Gray. Venue meeting covid restrictions to be found
	12	Wednesday walk	Millers Dale	
	15-16	Climbing meet	Venue to be decided	Meet leader needed. Venue meeting covid restrictions to be found
	20	Short walk	Darley bridge circuit	Ruth Gordon
	22	Weekend walk	Staffs way section	John Green
	29-31	Spring BH camping meet	St Just, Cornwall	Michael Hayes
June	4-5	Summer hike and bivvy	Berwyn Mountains	Pete Amour
	9	Wednesday walk	Ladybower	
	11-13	Camping meet	Short notice location	
	19-20	Mid summer BBQ	Heathy Lea Derbyshire	include BBQ if covid restrictions allow
	26-27	Camping meet	Northumberland	Spenser Grey. Suggested venue, could change
	26-27	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
July	2-3	New members' meet	Heathy Lea Derbyshire	Ben Wooler
	7	Wednesday walk	Bonsall	
	13-17	TyW working party	Tan Yr Wyddfa	Snod (Dave Helliwell)
	17-18	Welsh BBQ	Tan Yr Wyddfa	include BBQ if covid restrictions allow
	24-25	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
	24/7-15/8	Alpine meet	TBD	
Aug	4	Wednesday walk	Hathersage	
	21-22	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
	28-30	Summer BH camping meet	Baggy point, Devon	Suggested venue, could change
Sept	8	Wednesday walk	Tideswell	
	10-12	Camping meet	Short notice venue	
	24-25	Lowstern hut, Yorkshire Dales	Clapham, Yorkshire Dales	Nigel Briggs, Yorkshire Ramblers Hut,
	25-26	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
Oct	2	BARMY comp	Peak, Derbyshire	
	6	Wednesday walk	Ashover	
	9	Heathy Lea working party	Peak, Derbyshire	Chris Wilson
	16-17	Curry meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	
	23-24	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
	29-31	Strawberry cottage, Glen Affric	Scotland	An Teallach MC hut. Graham Weston. Some places from Sun 24th.
Nov	3	Wednesday walk	Brassington	
	5	Bonfire	Heathy Lea Derbyshire	
	6	Annual Dinner, Fox and Goose	Nr Chesterfield	Heathy Lea booked for 5th and 6th
	13-14 TBC	Cwm Eigiau hut	Snowdonia	Janet Briggs
	20-21	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
Dec	1	Wednesday walk	Wetton Mill	
	10-12	Bullstones		
	15	Black rocks evening meet	Cromford, Derbyshire	
	18-19	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
	24-3 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	

**Covid restrictions:**

As you will, no doubt, already know a relaxation of the Covid restrictions is planned for 29th of March. This will allow for groups of up to six to meet outdoors. Experience last year was that walkers and climbers can readily form groups of six or less when out, please stick to these limits.

A summary of the restrictions applying to England is available on the BMC web site, and on the government web site. The limit to groups of six is expected to apply until 17th May when groups of up to 30 will be allowed, and restrictions on overnight stays are also relaxed somewhat, which should allow more ambitious meets.

## **Wednesday 31 March First outdoor evening climbing meet of the year**

As is traditional, Harborough Rocks is the venue to celebrate the clock change with a climb or an evening walk.

**Wednesday evening climbing venues for the rest of April will be decided via the email group and/or Facebook.**

## **2 -5 April Easter Lance Baker**

I shall be looking to arrange some Gritstone edge outings over the Easter weekend, weather and interest depending. I will be posting confirmed venues and dates on Facebook closer to the time and on the group email.

If there are any preferences on dates and venue etc, please reach out to me via email, [xxxxxxx](#)

## **Sunday 11 April Peak Gritstone Mike Moss**

As many of us will be weak from missing the indoor walls over the winter we'll aim for somewhere with a friendly mix of grades. Exact venue to be announced via Facebook and the io group nearer the date, the deciding factor will be the weather. Email [xxxxxx](#)

## **Wednesday 14 April The Inaugural Post Lockdown Mid Week Get Your Boots On Walk Stuart Firth**

Pete Amour is unfortunately not now able to lead this walk so I have stepped in. Here is his plan:

Yes! The bubble has burst, we can now go out and play in the great outdoors in groups of up to six. So, without hesitation (although there may be some deviation) get your bendy boots on and come and join me at Ellastone Village Hall car park, Church Ln, Ellastone, DE6 2HB. OS (Explorer Map 259 GR 116 434) Parking is by donation. I plan to be booted and gone by 10.15am, I would suggest arriving in reasonable time, the last post lock-down situation generated heavy car park demand.

Routewise (about 18.2 km) we shall head north east along the Limestone Way, curve onto a northerly course through Lordspiece, briefly touch Swinscoe Bank (A52) and pass through Leasow to turn south. Just prior to Stanton we will divert (or even deviate) to aim for Slade Hollow and then head west - Hobble Wood - Raddlepits before gaining (hopefully) wonderful clear views from the Weaver Hills. A descent will then guide us down to Wootton - Hall Lane - Wootton Hall Fm - Oak, and back to the start point.

Should the weather or fitness create difficulties short-cuts are available (meet leader thinking about himself).

Refreshments - Plan on a packed lunch, there may be a farm garden ice cream shop in the afternoon (not guaranteed, not buying either).

Could I advise that if you plan attending, and we make (hopefully) more than the legal six then we will have to split up (I don't have any spare £10 000s). Please let me know if coming along, or if you are willing to offer to head any group of six.

For communications give me, Stuart, a call on xxxxx

## **18 April Climbing at Gardoms/walking from Heathy Lea Dave "Snod" Helliwell**

If we are lucky with the weather parking on a Sunday in the Peak is likely to be difficult so I propose we park at Heathy Lea and enjoy a day at Gardom's edge, the crag most traditionally associated with Oread first ascents, including Dave Penlington's magnificent Apple Arete and the fierce jamming challenge of Oread. The edge becomes dark and overgrown in summer so this is the perfect time of year to enjoy its many delightful and often challenging routes at all grades.

Hopefully walkers will join us too and give us a wave as they pass by through a beautiful moorland area that lends itself to circular walks. See you at Heathy Lea at 11.00 am or later on the crag. Please be in touch if you are coming but need to link up with people to climb with. We will of course need to limit our get together to groups of six but there's plenty of room on the crag.

Dave "Snod" Helliwell text me on xxxxxx

## **Thursday 22 April Brassington Short Walk Ruth Gordon**

There must be others who, like me, enjoy a sociable walk but through age, injury or general creakiness find the Wednesday walks too far and too fast-paced. It is no fun to feel everyone is having to wait for you so as a trial I propose a couple of walks on Thursdays in April and May. These will be no more than six miles (with options to shorten) and taken at a gentle pace. We will pause to enjoy the views, eat a packed lunch, and find interesting things to look at along the way.

We will meet at 11.00am at Brassington picnic site SK233 547 and follow a circular route taking in Harborough and Rainster Rocks with lead mining remains and old ridge and furrow field systems to add interest.

Please let me know if you are coming, or if you would have liked to but can't do this day or time.

Ruth Gordon tel. Xxxx

## **Saturday 24 April Peak District Boundary Walk Ringinglow – Millthorpe Chris Radcliffe**

After a five month delay, the roadmap out of lockdown now gives the opportunity to finish the Peak District Boundary Walk project. I am hopeful that that this meet will run, but of course we do have to check the rules closer to the day.



This is the penultimate stage of the Oread project to complete the whole of the PDBW. The first part of the stage starts along Houndkirk Road (a popular MTB trail) crosses Houndkirk Moor before descending through Blacka Moor plantation then climbing out onto Wimble Holme Hill and across Topley Moor before finally descending into the Cordwell valley. It is not overly long at 15 km but has quite varied terrain and minimal road sections. We will probably pause for lunch on the descent from Topley Moor trig point below Flask Edge.

The start is at the Norfolk Arms, Ringinglow (SK 291837) and it finishes near the Royal Oak pub, Millthorpe (SK 317764). There is ample parking at both ends of the route – on the verge opposite the Norfolk Arms and at the bottom of Millthorpe Lane. The drive between the two locations is about 15 minutes. The shortest cycling route is through Holmesfield, Mickley, Topley, Dore at 10.3 km in about an hour.

To keep to Covid-19 restrictions we will walk in groups of 6 and maintain social distancing. Please contact me if you intend to join the walk and if you want to discuss transport. The start outside the Norfolk Arms will be at 10:30.

I look forward to seeing you all. Email xxxxx

### **1 – 3 May Bank Holiday Meet Spenser Gray**

I hope regulations will permit a camping meet of some sort to take place this weekend. Details will be circulated via the email group and Facebook when I

have worked out a plan.  
Spenser Gray email [xxxx](#)

### **Wednesday 12 May Walk Miller's Dale Stuart Firth**

Meet 10.30 at Miller's Dale car park GR 137 733. Route to be decided. Please let me know if you intend to come.  
Stuart Firth tel. Xxxx

### **Thursday 20 May Darley Bridge short walk Ruth Gordon**

A second short walk, this time meeting at Darley Dale Cricket Ground car park SK 270 624 to do a traverse of Oker hill, a mini-mountain with glorious views and subject of a Wordsworth sonnet. We will visit Wensleydale and Clough Wood (where the bluebells are stunning if we are lucky with the timing) and the remains of Millclose Mine. Please let me know if you are coming.  
Ruth Gordon [xxxx](#)

### **Saturday 22 May Staffordshire Way Walk John Green**

This walk should give members some idea of what the Staffordshire Way has to offer. We will meet at GR SJ8948 6276 on the picnic site car park just out of Timbersbrook village. 10.15 for 10.30 start. From Derby take the A52/523 and turn left at Rycroft Gate to Congleton, as the road descends take either first or second right to Timbersbrook and the Car Park. We follow the Staffs Way up "The Cloud" to its summit and wonderful views of the Cheshire plain. A descent to the Bridestones will give us a look at a really brilliant 3000 year old Neolithic chambered cairn. This is the only chamber left of the original three. We then continue along the road to point 222m and take the track to point 234, turn right and follow the road for half a kilometre. A path on the left take us to the radio mast on the Overton Road. Half a kilometre of road walking takes us to Poolfold where a track west opposite the pub brings us out on the A527, 100 metres right should be a track to Congleton Edge and back onto the Staffs Way. Dropping from the edge we join the old railway which is now a trail. Along this for a kilometre then across to Overedge, Pool Bank and a short bit of road back to the car park. About 15 kilometres with a few good climbs. If the weather is fine it will be a walk to remember. Please contact me if you are coming on xxxxx

Due to COVID this is provisional and small changes may be needed. Please ring to confirm. Thanks. John Green

### **Spring Bank Holiday Weekend 28-31 May or longer Cardinney Caravan and Camping Park, Cornwall**

We have managed to block book several camping pitches on this lovely campsite only three miles from St Just and Lands End. Places are limited so call the campsite on 01736 810880 to book your pitch and a £30 deposit will be

required. Just mention the Oread when booking.

Hopefully by then we should be able to socialise outside freely and even visit the odd pub garden so I am sure this will be a popular meet as we all look to get back out again. The many Granite cliffs around Lands End like Chair Ladder and Bosigran are a perfect destination at this time of year and add to that the superb beaches and costal walking there is more than enough to keep everyone happy. We are booked on from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of June so if you can why not extend your stay !

Michael Hayes. Email **XXXXXX**

## 2-4 July New Members Meet Ben Wooler



*A shot from the new members meet way back in 2018 which saw a fantastic turnout of old and new members.*

It feels like only yesterday that the 2020 new members meet was cancelled and now we find ourselves heading into spring 2021!?! I think we can all agree it is about time we dusted off our ropes and shoes for a slightly delayed new members meet to see just how weak our fingers have become.

The format of the weekend will likely involve a small group out climbing on the Friday evening then retiring to the Heathy Lea via the Robin Hood. Saturday morning we will then head out to a local crag to be confirmed nearer the time although probably Stanage.

Saturday evening will include a hearty meal provided by the club. The Chef is still to be determined and if no one volunteers it will be the meet leader (to everyone's risk), any budding caterers are encouraged and will be rewarded with beer. **Please ensure you inform the meet leader in good time if you are attending the meal and of any dietary requirements.**

Sunday will once again see us out at a local crag before heading home when

enthusiasm or daylight fails.

The cost of the two nights in the hut plus Saturday's evening meal will be £10 payable on the weekend. Please come along and support your club, even if just a few hours out on the crag one day. These meets have brought many new members to the club and I think we can all agree it would be a good chance to get out and see some familiar faces without a webcam!

If you wish to attend or if you are a new member and would like any further information on what you may need or what you can expect please get in touch with the meet leader onxxxxx The hut tends to fill up fast and will be allocated based on first come first served basis.

Please note this meet will only go ahead in this format if national restrictions allow and we may need to adjust depending on the situation at the time.

## **News and Reports from Meets**

### **Annual General Meeting 2021**

After last year's AGM had to be first postponed and then cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year we held a virtual AGM using zoom. 51 members logged on to the AGM and the usual business of hearing reports, approving accounts and electing a new committee were covered with questions asked and answered. The full details will be in the minutes.

The virtual meeting worked well; the submission of some questions prior to the AGM enabling considered and informed responses to be made. Whilst it was not the same as a 'usual' AGM it is a format that did allow us to hold the AGM. You had to provide your own refreshments and 'closing' after the meeting was abrupt however the journey home was considerably shorter! Thank you to all who attended the AGM your participation is appreciated. If anyone is interested in taking on the Health and Safety Officer position, please let us know.

The new committee and hut committees are:

President:	Nigel Briggs
Vice President:	Dave Helliwell
General Secretary:	Simon Pape
Membership Secretary:	Michael Hayes
Treasurer:	Janet Briggs
Hut Bookings Secretary:	Michael Hayes
Hut Custodian Heathy Lea:	Chris Wilson
Hut Custodian Tan yr Wyddfa:	Dave Helliwell
Meets Secretary:	Michael Moss
Communications Officer:	Ruth Gordon
Additional Committee Members:	Pete Lancaster, Mike Wren, David Mason

Heathy Lea Hut Committee: Chris Wilson, Steve McDonagh, Michael Hayes, Pam Storer, Mike Wren

Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Committee: Dave Helliwell, David Appleby, Chris Eyre, Roy Eyre, Derek Pike, Pam Storer, Ruth Gordon.

## **The Goes Wrong Show: A little trip to Sweden Dave “Snod” Helliwell**

Following last month's article by Paul, our Hon. Ed. was expecting a flood of disaster-strewn reminiscences to fill the magazine. As none were forthcoming I was pressed into action to tell you a tale. Now this story doesn't include any climbing - except a visit to a very famous boulder near Ollie's house at Vinslov, Sweden, where climbers come from afar to try the very technical problems.

Every year the mighty Panther Owners Club holds an International Rally. We have had rallies all over Europe, plus Colorado and New Zealand. Radders' brilliant Zoom lecture took me back as we visited many of the places on South Island that he did.

This is the story of the 2012 rally in Sweden. It went downhill right from the start. My companions were Chris and Jennie Strawford, and Robert Le Blanc who comes over from Canada for these jaunts. I was on my 1939 Panther Model 100, Chris on a 1954 M100, Jennie on her 1958 M100 with its box sidecar and Robert on a 250 MZ which he kept at Chris and Jennie's home in Darley Dale.

We were booked on the Monday night Hull-Rotterdam ferry, giving us four easyish days to get to the rally. We had agreed to meet up at the garage on the A617 just before the M1 Junction 29. Unusually for me, I was a little late but there was no sign of the others. At 16:00 hours I was starting to get worried. Phone calls got no answer. They eventually appeared after 17:00 hours making it very tight to get to the ferry. Chris had decided this morning was the very moment for retiming his ignition!! It had not gone to plan.

We set off and just beyond Winterton, in sight of the Humber Bridge, Jennie burnt out her clutch. A regular occurrence!! They always carried spares. Chris went on ahead to the ferry but we couldn't find the spare clutch plates which he had cunningly packed in a secret compartment at the bottom of the box. We phoned Recovery. Chris meanwhile had broken down at the entrance to the docks. By now the ferry was long gone; night had fallen. Robert and I found him by the entrance - no sparks! The casting that held the points had broken, I had a spare and fitted it by torchlight and reset the points. We set off back home. Jennie was back there before us.

Buy another ticket time: the Tuesday ferry was full so catching the Wednesday ferry would only give us two days to get there. I decided on a change of bike - my 1955 M75 350 Panther is much more comfortable for long days in the saddle.

We made the Wednesday night ferry. Phew! Next morning we set off on a long haul. Chris looked a bit strange – turned out he'd left his false teeth on the ferry! We caught the last ferry over the Weser – in fact they came back for us having just pulled out as we appeared – and we headed for a campsite in Bremerhaven. It was getting late and we couldn't find it. As usual someone came to our aid and we followed him for three or four miles to a very nice campsite. These trips really show the good side of human nature. A local will come to our aid in times of trouble – Germans in particular have been very helpful, time after time.



Starting Chris's bike had become more and more difficult all day and on day two Rob and I had to push start him every time we stopped. We hadn't gone far



before Jennie's bike stopped with no sparks. Eventually it was diagnosed as the points coming loose. Then another long push down a hill to get Chris's bike going. *Chris labouring to fit the spare tyre while Rob and I look on.*

As we crossed the Elbe by ferry Rob and I noticed Jennie's back tyre was looking very bald. Panther sidecars are fitted with a spare wheel so we stopped and changed it. Why would you set off on a big trip with a nearly bald tyre? We made it into Denmark on Friday night, very nice campsite, and arrived at the rally Saturday dinner time.

The rest of the holiday went well. Vesa from Finland had a spare magneto which we fitted to Chris's bike. No more pushing!! A great trip to the Glyptotek in Copenhagen and on to the German post-Inter rally in Eggebek. We finally arrived at Jill and Kees's house at Dorn near Utrecht, A couple of days relaxation and then Kees led us to Europort on little back roads alongside dykes – much better than the motorway. But – there was a final sting in the tail – we had arrived a day too early!! So I bought my fourth ferry ticket of the trip – but at least we were heading home.

The final act – Jennie holed a piston coming off the Humber Bridge – and I could ride home alone!

## **Past Times and Old Friends**

### **Honorary Encounters: Tony Moulam**

#### **Oreads Emeritus, Number 5**

My next subject is Alf Bridge, a true titan of the 1920s and 1930s scene. When I first met him, in 1945, he was in his early 40s and the oldest climber I knew! He often appeared at Black Rocks to enjoy a vicarious pleasure as Harding and I swarmed around these iconic crags, exploring unclimbed corners of the complex buttresses. He was our choice of president for the infant Stonnis Mountaineering Club that we formed and he was a constant inspiration to us.

1945 turned out to be the apogee of the Harding/Moulam partnership, as I was soon to be spirited away to the Preliminary Training Unit at Norton Barracks, Malvern, to learn how to play my minor role in defending the realm! On 8 July Peter led Ronni and me up Lean Man's Superdirect, a pitch I found extremely difficult as I had not yet mastered the hand jamming technique developed by Peter, and struggled to subdue the crack with a sort of bastard layback. Imagine our chagrin when we found that Alf had forestalled us, by 15 years, but had been persuaded by his companions (Jack Longland and Ivan Waller) to suppress details as they considered the risk to be unjustifiable.

About this time, Peter, already a member of the Climbers' Club, suggested that I should apply -so that we could use their hut in Wales - and that I should ask Alf to propose me as he had more standing than Peter in this senior club. Alf was stocky and well built and spoke quietly with a barely detectable lisp, and was very approachable, despite his renown. He had always stood up for young climbers, particularly those from less posh backgrounds, and agreed enthusiastically. The only problem I could see was that the subscription of, I think, 25 shillings per year, was more than my army pay of a guinea a week. However my father, who had earlier stumped up 3 guineas for Life Membership of the YHA, offered the necessary sum as a present for my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. So I

sent off the form and waited with apprehension for the response, which came in due course in 1947.



Alf was, of course, a man with an enviable portfolio of skills ranging from prodigious moorland walks (often interspersed with climbs on gritstone) and a reputation as a strong leader or support companion for rock climbs. He had a particular rapport with Maurice Linnell and Colin Kirkus and, once, in their company, he even offered to throw the diminutive Alan Hargreaves up the then unclimbed first pitch of Curving Crack on Clogwyn du'r Arddu! *Alf is shown here with Colin Kirkus at Helyg in 1942.*

His strength was also formidable, demonstrated when he fell attempting to lead Scafell's Flake Crack without aid. He became detached from the rock but caught the chockstone as he passed and retrieved the situation. This may have been the reason why he became an exponent of controlled falling, which apparently he used to demonstrate on climbs like Black

Slab at Stanage. I must admit that I was never a convert and always believed in the old adage that a leader must not fall.

Alf became a steeplejack and set up his own company after completing his apprenticeship. One notable contract he won was to conduct a structural inspection of the Eiffel Tower, which he did solo about thirty years before Mac and Chris Brasher climbed it for television in May 1964. Further study, at night school, saw him qualify as a Chartered Engineer specialising in industrial boiler inspection, which was how he became involved with solving the troubles experienced by Cunard's flagship liners.

One other pre-war exploit is worthy of note, although Alf was less actively involved in it. He was recruited by Ivan Waller (who often used the Miners' Track from Pen y Pas to Llyn Llydaw to test the suspension of his Rolls Royces) to be his mechanic in the Irish Motor Club's Senior Fifty race, at Dublin's Phoenix Park in 1932. They spent a few days together climbing from Helyg before proceeding to the Holyhead/Dun Laoghire ferry and stripping the Alvis Silver Eagle of unnecessary parts, such as its mudguards, headlights and spare wheel.



*An Alvis Silver Eagle like Ivan's.*

September 17<sup>th</sup> was mainly fine, and the track dry. All was going well until an over-enthusiastically driven Alfa went broadside in front of them. Ivan avoided this unexpected hazard with great skill but Alf shut his eyes and did not open them again until rapturous crowds carried them shoulder high from the steaming car.



*Alf and Ivan, race winners.*

They had won, at an average speed of 77.87 mph, whereas the second place went to a 1250cc MG Magna at 68.49mph. Ivan was awarded the Royal Irish Automobile Club Cup and the gallant pair were wined and dined at Castle Knock

Lodge instead of the spartan tent in which they had spent the previous night.

When war broke out in 1939 Alf was too old for military service and also in a reserved occupation. Nevertheless he became a civilian instructor, based at Helyg, for the army's Mountain Training Wing. He later held similar posts at the Commando Training Unit, Achnacarry, near where the Commando Monument now stands, and at Bosigran, in Cornwall. Alf was justly proud of his association with these elite forces, and I met two of them, E Brooks and J S Kerry, when I stayed at Ogwen Cottage in 1949. They had an obviously high regard for Alf and remembering them and many others he often wore the coveted green beret (Peter and I copied the fashion but ours were black).

*Alf, in his green beret, supervising New Year Buttress.*



In September 1947 I was widening my climbing horizons with regular forays to Crag Lough on the Roman Wall, thanks to a posting to Catterick Camp. It was relatively easy to hitch hike there, whereas visits to my old stamping grounds in the Peak were

precluded by time. And it turned out that I missed a week end army course, run by Alf at Stanage, where Harding and Dave Sampson were acting auxiliary instructors. During a break from teaching Dave pointed out that the crack that should logically complete Doncaster's climb had yet to be ascended. Peter filled in the gap after tackling the thrutchy initial pitch by chimneying. The new route was christened Goliath's Groove as a tribute to Dave, who laybacked it the whole way!

Five years later Alf made another contribution to climbing history. His connection to the John Brown group, through his boiler expertise, led to involvement in the development by their subsidiary, Normalair, of oxygen equipment for the 1953 Everest Expedition. He became friends with Sir Eric Mensforth, the Managing Director, and enjoyed a few seasons with him in the Alps and Morocco.

Alf died suddenly in 1971, and unexpectedly, a few years after he had come out of retirement unable to settle to an inactive life. Just before this I had a surprise encounter with him on a BEA plane, as we were both returning from business trips to Scandinavia, an unexpected end to our friendship that had lasted for 26 years.

### **Chris Radcliffe adds:**

Alf Bridge, with Ivy Byne, spoke at the official opening of the “Eric Byne Memorial Cottage”, (Heathy Lea) in October 1970. The photo below comes from “Climb if you will”. Over 100 people attended the event.



*Opening of Eric Byne Memorial Cottage (Heathy Lea) Oct. 1970 by Alf Bridge and Mrs. Ivy Byne. In the centre the Oread president for 1970 Derrick Burgess*

*Photo . . Harry Pretty*

### **Tony Smedley's books.**



*Tony, photographed on the Galloway moors, by Gordon Gadsby.*

Tony's son, Vince has very kindly donated Tony's collection of mountaineering books to the club so that members can choose a memento, and, he hopes, will make a voluntary donation to the Derby and Burton Hospitals Charity

(Haematology Department) in his memory. Details of how to do this are given with the list of books at the end of this newsletter. A suggested donation is a minimum of £5 per book.

You may ask for as many books as you wish but if there are multiple requests for a book the lucky recipient will be drawn out of a hat on the 10<sup>th</sup> April to give everyone time to reply.

Please note: Please contact me to arrange collection from me, or at an Oread event. If you would like them posted you will need to pay the postage and packaging costs.

Please send me your requests.

Nigel Btiggs.

**A number of the books are rare and more valuable. For these we will hold an on-line/postal auction.** The books have been valued, this is given as the reserve price of the book, shown in brackets after the title.

This is how the auction will run: Bidders submit their maximum bid for the book. The winning bid will be £1 above the second highest bid. So as an example, if a book has a reserve price of £25 and member 'A' bids £35 they will hold the highest bid at £25. Member 'B' then bids a maximum of £30. The highest bid remains with 'A', but now at £31 (£1 above B's bid). Member 'C' then submits a bid of £40. They would then hold the highest bid at £36. (£1 above A's maximum). The bidding progresses in this way. The current 'leading' bids will be published in the May Newsletter and the auction completes two weeks after the May Newsletter is distributed electronically. The winning bids will then pay the club and the club will forward the money to the Derby and Burton Hospitals Charity. If the books need to be posted, you will need to pay the postage and packaging costs

Title	Author	Date	Comments
Tales Of Mountaineering (£20)	Stefano Ardito	2000	
50 Years Of Alpinism (£20)	Ricardo Cassin	1981	
The Black Cliff (£40)	Crew, Soper, Wilson	1971	Worn dust jacket
Total Alpinism (£30)	Rene Desmaison	1982	
Climb If You Will (£60)	Jack Longland	1974	Torn dust jacket, signed by Longland, Doug Scott, Nat Allen, Jean Russell
Yosemite Climber (£35)	George Meyers	1979	
Oread MC 50th Journal (£30)	Harry Pretty	1999	Signed by G. Sutton, R Petigrew, T Moulam, H Pretty, P. Harding Ian McNoughtDavis
Hard Rock (£35)	Ken Wilson	1975	2nd Impression

## **Janet Ashcroft**

Janet Ashcroft passed away late on Saturday night 13 March. She had been in Chesterfield Hospital after suffering a severe stroke on 1 March. Our deepest sympathy goes to Jack at this sad time. Photographs and memories will be very welcome for future issues.

## **Hut 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)

When paying the club by bank transfer could you please use the 'Reference' box to say what the payment is for. **In particular if it is hut fees 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.

## **Information on Member Activities**

Congratulations to new full members Christabel Goode, Pete Masters, Andrew Norman and Emily Spence and new Provisional member Shane Fenn. We hope you will enjoy many happy times with the Oread.

An application for full membership has been received from Tom Corker for consideration at the April Committee meeting. If you would like to comment on this application please contact a member of the committee.

## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

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

The two "lows" illustrated were Minninglow, a point which is visible from a large expanse of the Peak District, and Moat Low, more visually prominent looking from the East. With regard to the point from which both were photographed, (much closer to Moat Low) I can do no better than quote Snod's answer, which was absolutely correct,

"Without being able to view the lows up close it is hard to be sure I've got the right one. The right hand one is Minninglow and the other possibly Moat Low.

The position from which the photo was taken is hard to determine because, in true Rusty style, it could be on either side of the White Peak Explorer map. My

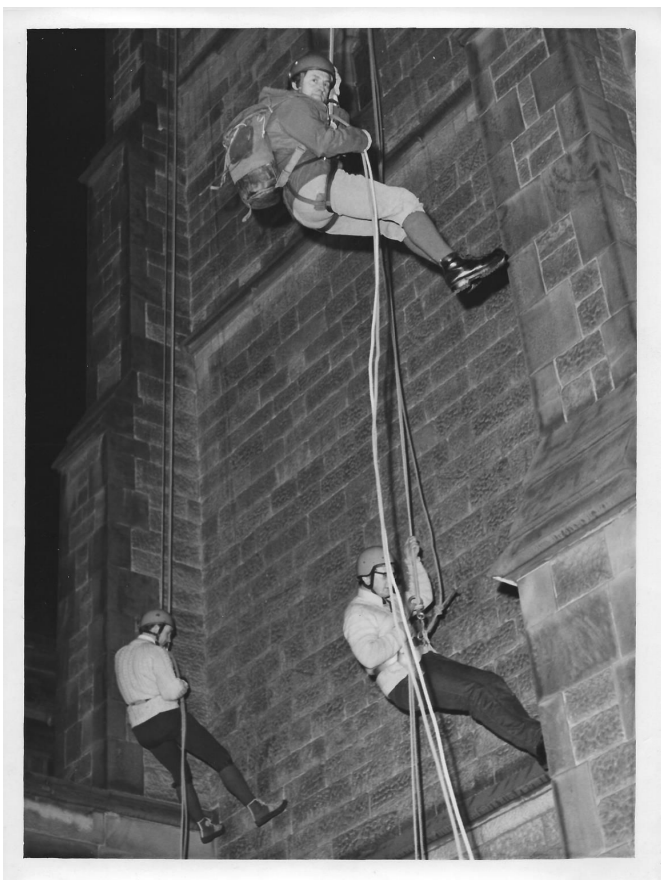
best guess is on the footpath near Boston Grange Farm at SK 155 535. Probably miles out! "

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

I spent some of the weary hours in lockdown devising a formula, akin to Naismith,'s, but adjusted for running rather than walking. Like the original, it takes no account of any increase in speed when travelling downhill. On a certain day, I did an out and back test run from home which is at a height of 700ft. (we've only just abandoned rods poles and perches in the village, metric units are for a future generation). The distance was 3 miles and I found that the outward journey against the prevailing wind took 10% longer than would have been the case on a still day. My sports watch indicated an overall run time of 34 mins 24 secs, and a total height ascended of 340ft. Previous experiment showed that my running speed on the flat was 9 mins per mile, with an additional minute required for every 60 ft. of ascent. At what height above sea level was the turning point at half distance

The pitifully slow times indicated are actually realistic now, partly due to my astronomical age in running terms, but also because of certain occasions with the brain starved of oxygen, I transposed the function of mouthwash and muscle soak bath additive, both being in blue bottles.

### **And here is a photo puzzle for you too.**



Colin Hobday kindly supplied this photo of climbers abseiling down a building of some sort.

Who knows where, when and why?

All will be revealed next month.

## **List of Tony Smedley's books**

Tony's son, Vince has very kindly donated Tony's collection of mountaineering books to the club so that members can choose a memento, and, he hopes, will make a voluntary donation to the Derby and Burton Hospitals Charity (Haematology Department) in his memory. Details of how to do this are given below. A suggested donation is a minimum of £5 per book.

You may ask for as many books as you wish but if there are multiple requests for a book the lucky recipient will be drawn out of a hat on the 10<sup>th</sup> April to give everyone time to reply.

Please note: Please contact me to arrange collection from me, or at an Oread event. If you would like them posted you will need to pay the postage and packaging costs.

Please send me your requests.

Nigel Briggs.

### **To make a donation to the Derby and Burton Hospitals Charity:**

Donate online at [www.dhbc.org.uk](http://www.dhbc.org.uk)

Please make cheques payable to “Derby & Burton Hospitals Charity” and send them to Derby & Burton Hospitals Charity, Level 3, Royal Derby Hospital, Uttoxeter Road, Derby DE22 3NE.

Please let them know which area of the hospital you would like to support – Vince has requested the Haematology Department – and don't forget to include your address details and why you've made the donation so that they can say “thank you”.

If you have cash to donate please contact them on 01332 785731 to arrange to call in to the charity office.

For both cheques and cash donations, you can fill in a donation form and send it to the address above. Please email [vicky.carey@nhs.net](mailto:vicky.carey@nhs.net) for a form and don't forget to tick the Gift Aid Box so that you can increase your donation by 22% – that's £1.10 for every £5 you donate!

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hard or Soft Back</b>
Feeding the Rat ~ Profile of a Climber	A. Alvarez	1988	HB
117 Days Adrift	Maurice and Maralyn Bailey	1974	HB
The Last Blue Mountain	Ralph Barker	1979	SB
K2 Savage Mountain Savage Summer	John Barry	1987	HB
The Lakeland Fells Almanac	Bill Birkett	1997	HB
Classic Rock Climbs in Great Britain	Bill Birkett	1986	HB
Lakelands greatest pioneers	Bill Birkett	1983	HB
Women Climbing 200 years of achievement	Bill Birkett and Bill Peascod	1989	SB
A Mountaineer's Life, Alan Rouse	Geoff Birtles	1988	SB
Mountaineering	Blackshaw	1968	HB
The Shining Mountain	Peter Boardman	1978	HB
Sacred Summits	Peter Boardman	1983	SB
The Great Days	Walter Bonatti	1974	HB
Boundless Horizons	Chris Bonington	2000	HB
Everest The Hardway	Chris Bonington	1976	HB
I Chose to Climb	Chris Bonington	1966	HB
Everest The Unclimbed Ridge	Chris Bonington & Charles Clarke	1984	HB
Quest For Adventure	Chris Bonington	1982	HB
The Next Horizon	Chris Bonington	1976	HB
Everest South West Face	Chris Bonington	1975	SB
The Next Horizon	Chris Bonington	1975	SB
Climb	Anatoli Bouereev and G. Weston Dewalt	1998	SB
The Hard Years	Joe Brown	1979	HB
Speak to the Hills	Hamish Brown and Martyn Berry	1985	HB
Nanga Parbat Pilgrimage	Hermann Buhl	1981	SB
Everest	Charles Clarke	1975	HB
The Mountains Of Kenya	Paul Clarke	1989	SB
Mountains	John Cleare	1975	HB
The World Guide To Mountain And Mountaineering	John Cleare	1979	HB
The Snows of Yesteryear	Normal Collie	1973	HB
Limestone 100 best limestone climbs in Britain	Chris Craggs	1991	HB
Among Mountains	Jim Crumley	1993	HB
The Middle Aged Mountaineer	Jim Curran	2003	SB

Trango ~ The Nameless Tower	Jim Curran	1978	HB
High Achiever ~ The Life and Climbs of Chris Bonington	Jim Curran	1999	HB
Filming the Impossible	Leo Dickinson	1982	HB
The Death Zone	Matt Dickinson	1997	HB
Summits & Secrets	Kurt Diemberger	1971	HB
The Dolomites	Roberto Donati	1978	SB
A Dream Of White Horses	Edwin Drummond	1987	HB
British Landscape Through Maps	C. Embleton	1962	SB
First Over Everest	Fellowes et al	1933 ?	SB
Killing Dragons	Fergus Fleming	2001	SB
Kathmandu Valley of The Green-Eyed Yellow Idol	Bob Gibbons & Sian Pritchard-Jones	2005	SB
Ladakh Land of Magical Monasteries	Bob Gibbons, Sian Pritchard-Jones	2006	SB
Rope Boy	Dennis Gray	1979	HB
Everest	Alfred Gregory	1993	HB
Kingdoms of Experience	Andrew Greig	1986	
A Lifetime Of Mountains ~ The Best Of	A. Harry Griffin	2005	HB
Everest Impossible Victory	Peter Habeler	1979	HB
Camera on the Crag	Alan Hankinson	1979	HB
A Century On The Crags	Alan Hankinson	1988	HB
Seven Years in Tibet	Heinrich Harrer	1997	SB
In High Places	Dougal Haston	1974	SB
My life a mountaineer	Anderl Heckmair	1978	HB
Ghosts of Everest	Jochen Hemmleb, Larry A. Johnson & Eric R. Simonson	1999	HB
Bishop Pursglove of Tideswell	Martin F H Hulbert	?	SB
Life Is Meeting	John Hunt	1979	HB
Rock Climbing in Wales	Ron James	1979	HB
The Western Highlands	S.M.C. District Guide Ed Johnstone	1973	HB
Rock Climbing In The English Lake District	Owen Glynne Jones	1978	HB
Peaks And Pioneers	Francis Keenlyside	1975	HB
Into Thin Air	Jon Krakauer	1998	HB

Eiger Dreams ~ Ventures Among Men And Mountains	Jon Krakauer	1997	SB
Into Thin Air	Jon Krakauer	1998	SB
Mountain Leadership	Eric Langmuir	1976	SB
Matterhorn Centenary	Sir Arnold Lunn	1965	HB
Mountains Of The Mind ~ A History Of A Fascination	Robert MacFarlane	2004	SB
Call-out	Hamish MacInnes	1977	SB
Climb To The Lost World	Hamish MacInnes	1976	SB
The First Ascent of Mount Kenya	Mackinder	1991	HB
The Lure of the Mountains	Herbert Maeder	1975	HB
Aosta Valley	A. Mellano	1977	SB
K2 Mountain of Mountains	Messner/Gogna	1981	HB
Everest	Micheline Morin		SB
No place for men	Peter Mulgrew	1965	HB
Mountaineering In Scotland Undiscovered Scotland	W.H.Murray		HB
Tigers of the Snow	Jonathan Neale	2002	HB
Mountaineering and its Literature	W.R. Neate	1980	SB
Tenzing	Tenzing Norgay Sherpa	1977	HB
Climbing The Fish's Tail	Wilfred Noyce	1998	SB
Himalaya	Michael Palin	2004	HB
Himalaya	Michael Palin	2004	HB
One Man's Mountain	Tom Patey	1975	HB
Berg Heil	W. Pause	1958	HB
On And Of The Rocks	Jim Perrin	1986	HB
Menlove	Jim Perrin	1985	HB
Snowdon ~ The Story Of A Welsh Mountain	Jim Perrin	2013	HB
Mirrors In The Cliffs	Jim Perrin	1983	HB
Visions of Snowdonia ~ Landscape and Legend	Jim Perrin	1997	HB
The Villain	Jim Perrin	2006	SB
Climbing Days	Dorothy Pilley	1965	HB
To The Summit	Joseph Poindexter	1998	HB
The Magic of Skye	W A Poucher	1980	HB
Peak & Pennine Country	W A Poucher	1991	HB
The Welsh Peaks	W A Poucher	1970	HB
Where to Climb in the British Isles	Edward C. Pyatt	1960	HB
Between Heaven and Earth	Gaston Rebuffat	1965	HB

On Snow and Rock	Gaston Rebuffat	1965	HB
The Mont Blanc Massif	Gaston Rebuffat	1974	HB
Regions Of The Heart	Rose & Douglas	2000	HB
Short Description of Gods, Goddesses and Ritual Objects of Buddhism and Hinduism in Nepal	Jnan Bahadur Sakya	1999	SB
Big Wall Climbing	Doug Scott	1981	HB
Himalayan Climber	Doug Scott	1997	SB
The Six Mountain Travel Books	Eric Shipton	1985	HB
Dark Shadows Falling	Joe Simpson	1998	SB
Touching the Void	Joe Simpson	1997	SB
The Island of Skye	S.M.C. District Guide Ed. Slesser	1970	HB
A Camera in the Hills	Frank Smythe	1942	SB
British Mountaineers	F. S. Smythe	?	HB
Eyes To the Hills	Gordon Stanforth	1991	HB
The Peak	Gordon Stanforth	1988	HB
The Central Highlands	SMC Steven	1972	HB
The Northern Highlands	S.M.C. District Guide Ed Strang	1982	HB
The Arrow Book Of Climbing	ShowellStyles	1967	SB
Savage Arena	Joe Tasker	1982	HB
Conquistadors of the Useless	Lionel Terray	1975	HB
Everest ~ The First Ascent	Harriet Tuckey	2014	SB
Banner in the sky	James Ramsey Ullman	1969	HB
Tiger In The Snow	Walter Unsworth	1967	HB
Everest	Walt Unsworth	1981	HB
Savage Snows	Walt Unsworth	1986	HB
On the Pennine Way	Wainwright	1988	HB
The Mountaineer's Companion	Michael Ward	1966	HB
Snowcaps on the Equator	Clive Ward, Gordon Boy & Iain Allan	1989	HB
The Cairngorms	S.M.C. Adam Watson	1975	HB
Portrait Of A Mountaineer	Whillans & Ormerod	1973	SB
The Boys of Everest	Clint Willis	2008	SB
The Big Walks	Ken Wilson and Richard Gilbert	1980	HB
The Games Climbers Play	Ken Wilson	1981	HB

Torrifon	National Trust for Scotland	1974	SB
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**And to finish: another of Harry Pretty's photographs of a jolly outing long before social distancing was invented!**



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