



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2021



Some great Wednesday evenings: Mike Moss on Heather Wall, Stanage, photo Lianne Sellors and Charlie Taylor on Tree Groove, Gardoms. Photo Michael Hayes.

Editorial

July's meets list kicks off with the New Member's Meet and the summer bivvy meet, both going ahead though in a different form from the original plan due to ongoing Covid restrictions. The working party at Tan yr Wyddfa has had to be postponed for the same reason – but never mind – you can do your bit on the Heathy Lea working party instead!

Lots of walking meets including the grand finale of the Peak District Boundary Walk and a plea for leaders to organise some weekend climbing trips over the summer. Some Self Rescue training events are planned soon – see page 3 for more info. Elsewhere more about the new Oread website on page 10, tributes to Digger Williams, and meet write ups from Cornwall, Teesdale and closer to home.

Copy Deadline 20 August.

Forthcoming Meets 2021

In a typical year we have a well attended meet in the Alps at the end of July and start of August, this year it would be great to replace it with meets in the UK.

If you fancy leading a meet for any of the four weekends from 24th July to 15 August please get in touch with Michael Moss. Weekends, or long weekends, in Snowdonia, the Lakes, Yorkshire, sea cliffs.... where and how long for, you decide.

Michael Moss: email: meetsec@oread.co.uk

July	2-3	New Members meet	Heathy Lea	Ben Wooler
	3-4	Summer hike & bivvy	Bleaklow	Pete Amour
	7	Wednesday walk	Bonsall	Sue Todd
	15	Thursday short walk	Minninglow	Ruth Gordon
	17-18	Working party & BBQ	Heathy Lea	Chris Wilson
	24	Peak District Boundary Walk finale	Heathy Lea	Paul Gardiner
	24 July – 15 August	Alpine meet replacement	Long weekends in UK TBD	Leaders needed
August	4	Wednesday Walk	Cat & Fiddle	Rusty Russell
	21-22	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	Chris/Jan Wilson
	28-30	Summer BH meet	Baggy Point, Devon?	Venue could change
September	8	Wednesday walk	Tideswell	
	10-12	MAM Hut or Camping	Ogwen	
	24-25	Lowstern hut Clapham	Yorkshire Dales	Nigel Briggs
	25-26	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
October	2	BARMY competition	Peak District	
	6	Wednesday walk	Ashover	
	9	Working Party	Heathy Lea	Chris Wilson
	16-17	Curry meet	Tan yr Wyddfa	
	23-24	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
	29-31	Strawberry Cottage	Glen Affric	Graham Weston
November	3	Wednesday walk	Brassington	
	5	Bonfire	Heathy Lea	
	13-14	Cwm Eigiau TBC	Snowdonia	Janet Briggs
	20-21	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	

	26-27	Fylde MC hut swap	Little Langdale	
December	1	Wednesday walk	Wetton Mill	
	4	Annual Dinner	Fox & Goose	Chris Radcliffe
	10 -12	Bullstones		
	15	Black Rocks evening meet		
	18-19	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	
	24 – 3 Jan	Christmas/New Year	Tan yr Wyddfa	
January	1	New Year's Day walk	Peak District	

Self Rescue training

The committee is planning to organise some subsidised training sessions in Self Rescue techniques. Some evenings have been provisionally booked: 19, 22 July and 9, 12 August 6-10 pm. If you would like to take part in one of these it would be very helpful if you would register your interest as soon as possible and state whether the training would be new to you or if you want refresher training/ more advanced techniques. This will help us set up the right number and type of course. If you are interested but would prefer a weekend date please let us know. Please email Dave Mason to register interest. Email: xxxx

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.

Unfortunately due to the extension of the restrictions we can no longer run the new members meet in the proposed format, however that does not mean we will

not be climbing!

We will still be out climbing on the Saturday and Sunday of the 3/4th July in the Peaks with a BBQ at Heathy Lea on the Saturday night. Unfortunately we cannot provide overnight accommodation at Heathy Lea as previously hoped.

Saturday's venue will be Stanage popular, meeting at the main carpark at 10am. The meet leader will be there in a Yellow van from slightly before then to act as a meeting point for new and old members alike. For those not sure where to park, the below link has the description for parking. If unsure feel free to contact the meet leader. Parking will get busy if the weather is good so it's better to be early however there is additional parking closer to Stanage Plantation which is within walking distance.

https://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crags/stanage_popular-104#overview

Saturday evening's BBQ will be a bring-your-own affair and we will have the BBQ's lit and ready to cook from around 6pm. Please note that as we are limited to a maximum of 30 can you please inform the meet leader if you wish to attend (if not already done) so we can keep track on numbers.

Sunday's climbing venue is to be decided on Saturday and the meet leader will send out a note to the OREAD with a time and location for those wishing to join.

It is important during the day's climbing that we stick to the restrictions of a maximum of 30 group size in outdoor gatherings. As such we will ensure we spread out sufficiently along the crag during the day.

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 on [xxxx](#)

2 - 3 July. The Summertime Berwyn Mountain Bivvy,
now the

3 July Peak District Upper Derwent Valley Bivvy Peter Amour

Due to Covid-19 factors THE WELSH VERSION IS NOW OFF.

But fear not, you can still sense freedom by backpacking from the viaduct on the Snake Pass and walking to and hopefully occupying the recently inspected Lower Small Clough Cabins. Brian West and I recently visited the cabins and found them in basic but good order with tables and chairs plus flowing water right outside the door, what else could one need?

The plan is to meet at 2-00pm, Saturday, 3rd July by the footpath (GR SK 191 865) onto Crook Hill at the junction of the Dams Road and the Ladybower viaduct (A57) road.

We will then follow the ridge as far as Alport Castles to then head north-east to

access West End followed by gaining the open moorland to the cabins in the evening.

Any seasoned Oreads will know the cabins as the location of many a winter Bullstones meet, a good scene for yarns to be told and stories to be exaggerated. If you've never been there bring your bivvy kit, give it a go, you won't regret it!

Sunday morning will see us access the eastern side of the Derwent Valley and then climb onto Howden Edge by the Cut Gate bridle way to then head south by the higher ground of Derwent Edge back to the cars.

Parking - there are areas of long (free) lay-by just east of the Ladybower Viaduct on the A57, also several areas of free off road parking on the dams road itself, please be aware not all of the dams road parking is free, so you might have to get there a bit earlier to find a spot which will allow time to walk to the RV start point.

I really look forward to seeing you there, if you're interested you can contact me by e mail or by telephone.

Wednesday 7 July Walk Bonsall Sue Todd

Meet in Bonsall village by the Fountain Cafe grid ref. 281580 for a 10.30 departure. Early arrivals might want to take advantage of some quick refreshment, or, possibly at the finish depending on time. Plenty of free car parking next to the recreational ground opposite the cafe, or street parking. Please bring own packed lunch.

We will be walking in the hills and dales to the west of Matlock, and hopefully see some deer in Clough wood.

I'm assuming we won't be restricted by rules on numbers in July, but a text, phone call or email, to let me know you intend coming, would be very helpful so we don't leave without you. Thank you.

Sue Todd

13- 18 July Tan yr Wyddfa Working Party and Barbecue Snod Helliwell

Due to the extension of Covid Restrictions the working party has had to be postponed until we can all stay in the hut – though anyone who feels the urge is very welcome to go and work – up to three households can now legally share the accommodation under Welsh regulations! It will be re-scheduled as soon as the situation eases.

Thursday 15 July Minninglow Short Walk Ruth Gordon

Park at the Minninglow car park on the High Peak trail (SK 194 582) near Pikehall. Walk to Minninglow, Neolithic tombs and great views, drop down to Royston Grange and Royston rocks. Pleasant walking with interest. This one is around five miles and no really steep hills.

Ruth Gordon

Saturday 17 July Heathy Lea Chris Wilson

The other day someone came down our lane with a can of blue spray paint, and amongst other things vented his frustration by scrawling “Bugger Boris” on the road in large letters. In retaliation, Boris put the kybosh on the Tan yr Wyddfa working party and barbecue planned for 13-18 July. But the Welsh loss is Heathy Lea’s gain.

Unlike Tan yr Wyddfa, Heathy Lea is a fairly short drive away for most of us, so an overnight stay is not essential. Six people from any number of households can meet indoors and up to 30 of us outdoors. So the weekend is an ideal opportunity to pop out to Heathy Lea and help the Oread maintain its hut, meet friends, walk and climb and have fun. Or sit, drink a cup of tea, and watch.



Like all property, a bit of work will always be needed on both our huts, even if they have hardly been used for the last year. In the cottage at Heathy Lea little is required indoors, a bit of tidying, cleaning and checking. Some of the tasks outside are to clear the gutters, wash the windows and paint them where needed, repair the steps up to the barn that rock, paint the handrail up to the barn and clear vegetation. The barn could do with a bit of work including woodworm treatment and the coal store would benefit by replacing the roofing sheets. The list of jobs could be more extensive but also shortened. It all depends on whether the whole club turns up and we have to limit the group sizes or just the odd individual.

Why not lend a hand for an hour or so, clear off for a walk or to a crag then reappear in the evening for a drink and BBQ?. Or stay the whole day. And then repeat it again on Sunday!

This will be the first working party I’ve led since taking over from Phil and Yvonne so I will be completely out of my depth and need all the help available. It really would be wonderful to see you there. Please give it some thought. You don’t need to be a skilled professional, just someone who wants to help the club. And please let me know if you might come so I have some idea of numbers and what materials to provide.

Chris Wilson.

Saturday 24 July Peak District Boundary Walk Final Celebratory Leg Paul Gardiner

The guide book says Millthorpe to Beeley 10.6 miles but the intention is to terminate at Heathy Lea as the final section of the walk has already been covered.(26.11.17). This brings the distance down to about 6 miles, i.e. a short day out. So, the start will be from the Royal Oak in Millthorpe at 11.15 with some options to show up there by whatever means you choose. e.g. Super Fit - Start from Heathy Lea, walk to Millthorpe and back again. I shall not be in this group! Bikers - Stash bikes at HL, drive to the start and bike back to vehicles. I do not have a bike.....However, to make a longer walk I propose to start from the car park at Shillito Woods (GR 295750) moving off at 10am for a walk to Millthorpe via Moorhall and Hollin Wood, about 2 1/2 miles arriving for the 11.15 start. At Millthorpe any Doctor's Notes will be scrutinised and those pronounced fit will be issued with a chit for a complimentary drink at the Robin Hood as we pass through to HL. We will proceed via Smeekley Wood and Hewetts Bank to pick up the road for a section to join the A621 and then across the moor



on the bit that I suppose everyone knows. The post walk get-together at Heathy Lea could be the first proper social gathering since the lock down. Cream teas will be on offer so, whether you have done the whole circuit or a few stages or even none, do turn up. **Some indication of attendance about a week before the event would be helpful to ensure sufficient victuals.**

Hopefully we will be free of restrictions by the 24th so that the walk can go ahead without red tape. Join at Shillito or Millthorpe as suits you - may help to spread the parking about a bit. **Drinks at the Robin Hood should not delay getting on to Heathy Lea where there is a cream tea to be shifted!**

Paul Gardiner: Phone xxxxxx or E mail xxxxxxx

This snap from the previous leg of the Boundary Walk shows three generations of Gardiners in dynamic action. The identity

of the photographer has been concealed for his own protection!

4 August Wednesday Walk Gradbach Rusty Russell

*The original proposal, to meet at Goyt bridge and approach the Cat and Fiddle has been abandoned as the Forestry Commission have closed the relevant paths for their operations. **We shall now meet at an informal car park (SK009 650) approximately 1 mile SE of Gradbach car park, this is at the end of a track***

to Moss End Farm. Please note that the annotations of buildings etc. differ between the OS 1/50000 series maps and the White Peak Tourist map. The plan is to follow Black Brook southwards and then cut across to reach the end of the Roaches Ridge which we shall follow back before sampling the exciting features beyond Roche End.

You may choose to join me afterwards and sample the culinary delights at Flash Bar stores thereby dissipating the embarrassing and heavy stores of cash which would otherwise wear out your pockets after my style of economical parking arrangements.

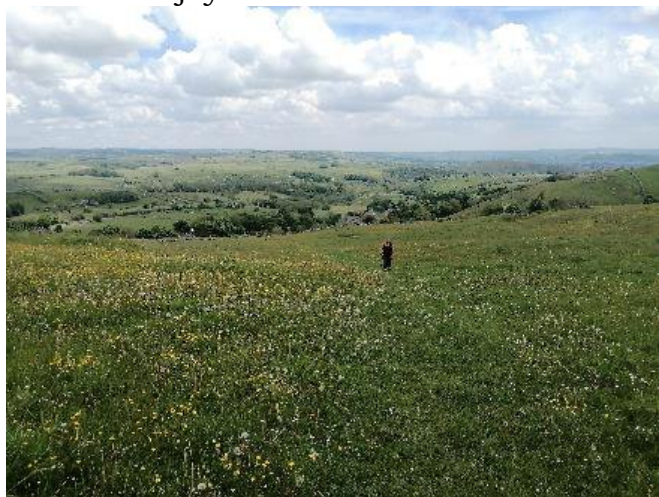
Please assemble in time for a 10.30 start. It would also be helpful if those proposing to attend would let me know.

Email: xxxxx tel. xxxxxx

Saturday 21 August A Stroll around the Wye Chris Wilson

Start at the Peak District National Park's Tideswell Dale Car Park. (£4.75 all day and cash only or find a layby nearby for free. Toilets available and I'm advised they are well presented.) SK 1538 7418. Departure time 10.30.

We will amble a short distance down Tideswell Dale before taking a diversion to a basalt quarry whose stone was quarried for roads until the 1960's. It also affords good views. Back in the dale we pass the junction with Millers Dale and reach Litton Mill where we cross the river above the notorious mill and head fairly steeply uphill, crossing the Monsal Trail. The wild flower meadows we cross are a joy to behold when in bloom and alive with orchids.



The wildflower meadows

It's of interest to note that our path has been in existence for at least 250 years. High Dale is crossed before the route gently rolls down to the A6 and Taddington village. Here the 14th Century church sports a 7th Century Celtic cross in its churchyard and the surrounding fields demonstrate both Celtic lynchett terraces and mediaeval strip farming. Although hardened alcoholics may pause in the Queens Arms the rest of us will instead steel ourselves for a little more exercise and make the ascent of Sough Top, from where the views are superb. It's then easy walking to the highest village in Derbyshire, Chelmorton. Just off the route we have an option of visiting the Neolithic chambered tomb of Five Wells, via Sough Lane and Pillwell Gate. Before lunch is taken at the Church Inn we pass

the former lead mine of Grove Rake and Bank Pit Spring, an early source of the village's water.

The pub serves good beer (including Abbeydale's Moonshine), tea and pub food. Opposite is the highest church with a spire anywhere in England, the 11th century St John the Baptist and packed lunches can be eaten nearby. Plants are usually for sale next door, so bring something to carry them in.

After a brief stop we will head west past Shepley Farm and down Caxterway Lane (with a Medieval in-field system on our left) and on into Deep Dale with great views of Topley Pike Quarry. Crossing the A6 leaves us with a meander down the true left bank of the Wye, passing en-route the wonderful crags of Chee Dale. The path can be a bit slippery in the wet, but we shall have sunshine! Those wanting a faster/easier route can hop onto the Monsal Trail and rejoin us further downstream at Miller's Dale Station. A few metres along the road here takes us to the Anglers Rest and the potential of early refreshments. A final bit of uphill effort leads to the dilapidated Meadow Farm and brings the reward of a lovely walk downhill back to the start.



Along the Wye

The walk is about 11.5 miles, with 1800 feet/550 metres ascent. It should be possible to create shorter and longer versions to suit. The day will be a great opportunity to enthral others with tales of the summer's daring do's, stretch your legs and see some wonderful sights (not just my knees). Whilst we're walking we can make plans for the Sunday – should it be Agden Rocher (a traditional post alpine venue in past years) or somewhere else.

Chris Wilson email:xxxx

24 – 25 September Clapham, Yorkshire Dales Nigel Briggs

We are holding a meet at the Yorkshire Ramblers Club's Lowstern Hut, just outside Clapham, Yorkshire. We have 16 spaces available in the hut for the Friday and Saturday nights. The hut is well situated for many activities. There is plenty of climbing, both sport and traditional in the area, the well known venues such as Malham and Gordale are a short drive away and some other less well known crags such as Giggleswick, Attermire and Twistleton are closer.

There is excellent walking to be had from the hut as you are on the edge of the Three Peaks area. Any one, two or all of the peaks are achievable in a day from the hut (all three would be a 'good' day out). Or, if so inclined, the area offers excellent running.

The area is rich in cycling challenges both for road and mountain bikes. If none of the mentioned attractions appeal you could always go cave spotting!

If you are interested in coming along please get in touch with me, this will be an early meet in the post Covid restriction, return to 'normal' service.

The area is also rich in Tea Shops and cafes and you may be able to find curd tart, now **that** is worth searching out!

Nigel briggs email: xxxxxxx

News and Reports from Meets

The new Oread Website Janet Briggs

As I hope you all know by now the new Oread website is up and running. It is at the same address: www.oread.co.uk. If you have not done so yet please go and have a look. In addition to the content on the old site it has lots of new photos showing Oreads in action, more detailed information on meets, sections on reciprocal rights huts, going on a meet, a guide for meet leaders and previous newsletters arranged by year. New members will also be joining through an online form going forward.

Logging on to the members' area allows you to see an up to date list of members' phone numbers and email addresses, as well as the chance to update your own details online. You can look at availability and book into our two huts online, in due course when hut meets return you will be able to book onto them online and you can also view club policies and the members' handbook.

For anyone having difficulty with logging in for the first time please contact me on treasurer@oread.co.uk, if necessary we can arrange a 'phone call and, I can talk you through the process. If you have not received any information about the login process it may have gone into spam, if you have multiple email addresses it will have been sent to the one provided to the club at your last renewal. For any other comments on the website, possible additions or improvements or to let us know of any inaccuracies or links that don't work please contact the web team on websupport@oread.co.uk.

21-23 May Yorkshire Camping and Climbing

The weather was very unkind but some climbing was done at a soggy Brimham

on Saturday and freezing Crookrise on Sunday and a good time was had by all with the Wilsons' van only needing to be towed out of the mud once!



Left: Chris Wilson peering into Cyclops at Brimham and right: Michael Moss shivering his way up Octopus on Crookrise. Photos Michael Hayes.

9 June Wednesday Walk Alport Castles John Gwyther



Five Oread members met on a beautiful June morning at Fairholmes car park, Ladybower. After tea from the kiosk we strove forth up the side of the Derwent valley to the Lockerbrook Activity Centre and then climbed steadily to the Alport Castles. It is thought to be one of the largest landslides in Britain and dates back perhaps 10,000 years (not as I thought 1,000-2,000 years-which would have been a good reason not to linger at the top of it!). We then descended to a glade below it and picnicked. Janet declined Stuart's offer to join him for a dip in a very brown looking tarn just below 'the Tower' and we hiked off down the Alport valley to the Snake road. There was then a brisk climb up the old Roman road towards Hope Cross. There we encountered what seemed like 50+ mountain bikers, two of whom were Scots from Suffolk, who extolled the benefits of electrically assisted bikes (that look only pedal driven). We then headed down to the Snake Road and ascended back up to Hagg Farm and back to the car park (and more tea). More like 20km (not the 13km I predicted). Many thanks to Janet, Nigel, Stuart and Peter for the excellent company and tea on a beautiful day. Also thank you Stuart for the photo.

11-12 June Middleton in Teesdale Pip Leach



We had a fabulous weekend, in an area not much frequented by Oreads, the sun shone but there was a brisk westerly wind, which probably kept it a few degrees cooler than temperatures back here in Derbyshire.

For the walk on Saturday, a shuttle was set up, utilising bikes, and leaving three vehicles at Cow Green Reservoir. Our walk followed the River Tees, along the Pennine Way. Striking is the contrast in the landscape, as one travels upstream. Starting in quiet meadows, it got a bit busier around Low Force and then High Force, then got much quieter again, in the more wild, upper course of the river, culminating in the highly impressive Cauldron Snout waterfall. Thanks to Peter for leading the walk, we'd been told 12 miles, more like 14 by the time we got back to the cars.

The bike ride on Sunday was no less varied, taking in railway lines, quiet roads, tracks and moorland. The more remote areas, high on the Pennine Bridleway, then descending to Balderhead

Reservoir, perhaps being the most impressive. Close to 30 miles covered, off road, not as impressive as Nigel's 100 mile time trial in the Lakes, but a good effort, nonetheless.



If there's interest next year, perhaps we can persuade Peter to lead a similar camping weekend in Weardale.

Cornwall Bank Holiday Meet 2021 Michael Hayes



The sun shone and 43 Oreads and friends enjoyed a fantastic few days of post

lockdown freedom.

36 managed to book on the campsite at Cardinney with the remaining seven spread across another couple of local campsites with people staying from three to nine nights. Climbing took place every day on too many routes and crags to mention.

We managed to pick up at least three Bent Screw nominations with two very bruised ankles and a set of car keys locked in a boot! We ate lots of ice cream and pasties and generally had a really good time.



Thanks to all those who made it such a good holiday.



In addition to climbing there was kayaking, freezing sea-bathing and some cycling enjoyed, including a back lanes expedition to St Ives which had to leave the tarmac when the planned route was blocked by road closures due to the imminent G7 Summit. Nothing daunted Chris Radcliffe found an alternative route!

Mr Radcliffe demonstrates his climbing, cycling and navigational prowess! Photo Stuart Firth.



The Speyside Way Pip Leach

As most Oreads headed south over the Spring Bank, Peter and I bucked the trend and went in the opposite direction, to Scotland. We had the same amazing weather, yet were treated to the views of snow on the Cairngorms. Remarkably, there were no midges! Apparently, they were late putting in an appearance, due to the cold spring.

Summer suddenly seemed to switch on, the wildlife was just brilliant, from roe deer along the trail, to red squirrels. The ospreys, this year, have deserted Loch Garten and favoured Loch Insh instead, we were lucky enough to see them when kayaking.

Starting at Buckie, on the coast, we worked our way inland, walking or cycling, however, the section from Newtonmore to Aviemore, was done in the opposite direction, on the water. Using three modes of transport for the Speyside Way certainly meant lots of variety and interest, the downside being the amount of gear required!



Thursday short walks Ruth Gordon



Lunch stop at the surprising Turkey Dip Rocks. Photo Chris Radcliffe.

The Thursday walks have, so far attracted 15 Oreads and friends, most of whom have joined in more than once – a good sign I hope! The latest, around Winster,

was not quite as short as it should have been, partly due to a detour to avoid a big herd of cows with young calves. But Derrick turned down the offer of a short cut and we all went on up to Stanton Moor. His efforts were rewarded when the return trip took us past The Druid's Inn – a lo! It was open! The walks have been a great opportunity to catch up with folk, some of whom I haven't seen for years. The weather has mostly been kind, I've discovered paths I've not been on before and hidden corners close to home – like the amazing Turkey Dip Rocks, Darley Bridge, and other local curiosities. Thanks to Tom for such varied and interesting walks and to everyone who has made them such sociable events.



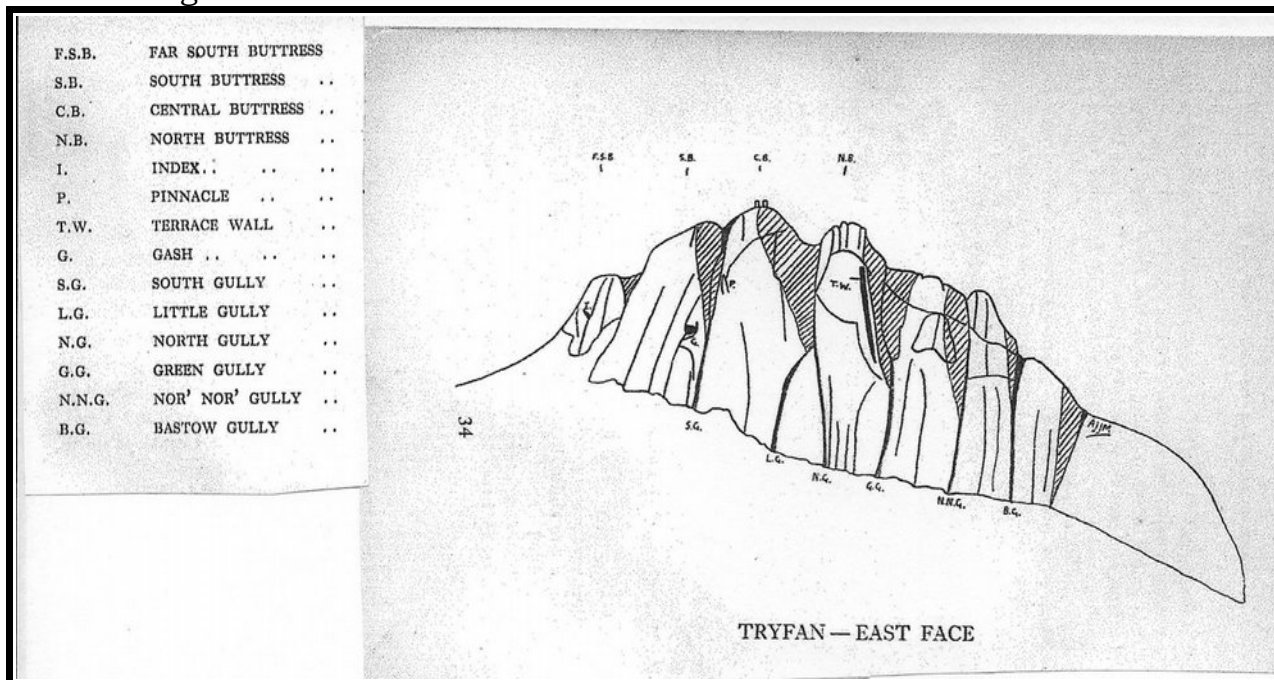
Left: Mike Wren and Roger Larkam ascending the Cork Stone (Sue Wren is averting her gaze!) and right, Derrick Burgess strides out followed by his faithful porter.

Past Times and Old Friends

The First Honoraries – Tony Moulam

George Sutton and Harry Pretty have always epitomised the Oread for me:: the former for his quiet and determined outlook and Harry as a gregarious and user-friendly personality. In fact I only knew George superficially and remember best his enthusiasm for Lyngen and the early doings of Oreads' visits to the area. To refresh and expand my memory before committing to paper I re-read 'Glacier Island', his account of the ambitious expedition to South Georgia. I found it even

more compelling than when I first bought it nearly sixty years ago. Dipping into the Oread's 50th Anniversary Journal, I also found his account of his early rock climbing. The introduction, on a training meet at Glan Dena, to Tryfan and Craig yr Ysfa revealed a macabre, if tenuous, connection to my first encounter with death on the hills. I was on leave climbing with John Williams, a fellow cadet at the Royal Signals OCTU. We were based for the weekend at Scotty Dwyer's cottage in the Nant Ffrancon Pass where we met Jim Birkett and Tom Hill, legendary Lakeland climbers. We had climbed on Lliwedd, Bochlywd Buttress and Glyder Fach and on Sunday, our last full day, went on the east face of Tryfan. First we did Crevassed Rib, an under-rated route which leads up to the 'battleship bow', a prominent feature just below the peak. Here we met another pair who had just done some Terrace Wall routes and planned to finish their day with the Munich Climb. Whilst they set off down South Gully John and I descended the upper part of North Gully to access the Terrace Wall. It was a lovely warm and sunny day and we had abandoned our clumsy nailed boots in favour of lightweight and tactile rubbers. We romped up Terrace Wall Variant, Long Chimney and Belle Vue Bastion and were relaxing beside Adam and Eve when a passing walker asked if we knew that there had been an accident? He gestured towards South Gully so we quickly picked up the rope and descended to the Heather Terrace, where we found a group of climbers who told us that the casualties had already been evacuated. It appears that the leader had fallen from near the top of the crux pitch of the Munich Climb. His second was not belayed, notoriously difficult to arrange here, and he was catapulted from the broad grassy ledge when the shock load came on to him. Both men were dead when they were reached in the bed of the gully and a very rapid, if vain, 'rescue' had been arranged.



This drawing of the features described is taken from the 1956 C.C. Guidebook to Tryfan and Glyder Fach written by Tony Moulam himself.

Casting my mind back 75 years it seems remarkable how efficiently this was

managed, in the infancy of official mountain rescue in Wales. It was no doubt partly due to the throngs of people about at the time, because of the good weather, but there must also have been someone present with a great flair for organisation. The local press reported the Bangor Coroner's inquest and gave the men's names as Larry Beswick from Cheadle Hulme and Harry Brooker of Haywards Heath; they were the two who had introduced George to climbing on that week-end course.

There was nothing we could do to help so we soloed the Overlapping Rib route to regain our boots and reconfine our toes.

We returned to Scotty's in a somewhat subdued mood. I, in particular, recalled standing in that same fateful place two years earlier whilst Harding led the steep and intimidating slab. I had been fortunate that he did not fail, and I was able to include a cautionary note when I wrote the Tryfan and Glyder Fach guidebook in 1956.

Happily this sad event did not deter George from pursuing his mountain dreams and in another couple of years, with Dave Penlington and Paul Gardiner, he founded the Oread. The inaugural meet was held at Black Rocks on 20 March, 1949. As it happens I had cycled from Derby to Burton the day before and, with Peter Harding, had polished up the Outlying Climbs section of our Black Rocks and Cratcliffe Tor guidebook for the Climbers' Club. On the Sunday we did a motoring tour including Alport Stone, Black Rocks (where I soloed Pirate's Staircase with difficulty and an unbendable right leg), Robin Hood's Stride and Cratcliffe Tor, somehow missing the circus act put on by Harry Pretty, perhaps because it was on the West face.

I never actually climbed with George but remember an intense and interesting discussion with him, after a dinner (perhaps 1957) about his South Georgia expedition. His description of the weather and other tribulations experienced was timely as I had recently read the account of Shackleton's 1914-17 Antarctic adventure which culminated in the crossing of the island after Endeavour had been crushed by the ice. This exploit had always seemed to me a great success compared with Scott's heroic failure which seems to have much more popular coverage in the annals of British adventure.

The nascent Oread's reach of 8,000 miles overseas to this inhospitable place enabled Harry Pretty's professional surveying to produce valuable mapping and gave its five members unforgettable experiences. Although they did not conquer Mount Paget - the culminating peak of the Allardyce Range, it had not been an explicit objective of their plan. In the event the first ascent was accomplished ten years later by the more numerous and much more lavishly funded, Joint Services Expedition.



The Expedition. Left to right: R. A. Brown
I. M. Brooker, H. Pretty, E. C. Webb, G. A. Sutton

Another notable (or notorious) “honorary” Oread of the expedition was Dick Brown. I first met Dick at a Sheffield University Mountaineering Club dinner in February 1950, when T Graham Brown (no relation) was the principal guest. He gave an enthralling lecture about the Brenva face's Via de la Pera on the Friday evening, after which a select group from his audience thronged the Union bar. On Saturday we walked to Bell Hagg, ran back and made our way to the Fox House for the meal. Replete, but not sated, a quirk of the licensing system led us to catch a late bus to the Marquis of Granby where we drank legally for another hour! Eventually we were shut out into the night and, not very steadily, tottered to Yorkshire Bridge and on to the Win Hill (Poltergeist) barn.

The carousing continued at somewhat lower-key, as Dick produced a flask of illicitly distilled 'waters of Nevis' filched from friends in the Chemistry faculty, which ensured we all slept soundly and missed any arcane and supernatural activity which may have occurred. Not surprisingly it was a fairly jaded party that set out, not too early, on the morrow into the bracing breeze and sleet flurries on what was to become an Oread favourite walk, via various landmark outcrops, to the Abbey Brook cabins and eventually to the Flouch Inn, where we caught a bus to Sheffield and sobriety!

To end these musings about the progenitors of the Oread and its underlying psychology I turn to the first Peak District meet, at least since Kindwr Club days, of the Climbers' Club. It was held on 3rd and 4th May, 1958. We were on Stanage on Saturday, where I found Fern Crack surprisingly satisfying and difficult and did nothing else of note. On Sunday the arena moved to Gardom's Edge and the troupe was augmented by members of the SUMC, the Rock and Ice and the Oread, as well as Jack Longland, Geoff Sutton (from Whitehall) and sundry

climbers from Loughborough College, whose club dinner had been held at Ladybower the night before.

This multifarious mix of mountaineers ensured the day was lively with discussion, but gave me the opportunity to climb with Harry Pretty, for the first and only occasion in our long friendship. My main memory is of him expostulating that he was not really a rock climber, as we did NMC Crack, Cider Apple and Apple Crack, accompanied by ribald comments from vocal bystanders!

David “Digger” Williams



Photograph from the Gordon Gadsby collection.

With great sadness we record the death of Digger Williams. He died peacefully in hospital on Saturday 5 June, aged 99. His funeral took place on 22 June at Markeaton Crematorium. Photographs and memories of Digger will be very welcome for future issues.

A Tribute to David “Digger” Williams – read at his funeral on Tuesday 22 June. Bob Pettigrew, Hon. Member

This is a heartfelt tribute to a remarkable character that, as a hillwalker, mountaineer, alpinist and Himalayan trekker, enlivened and entertained members of the Oread Mountaineering Club for a continuous period of 60 years, as well as his colleagues at Rolls Royce, Derby – some of whom were one and the same! He was the ideal companion for unusual expeditions because Digger was a connoisseur of ex War Department equipment and made an ideal ambassador for Dad’s Army – having actually served in the Home Guard during the 1939/45 War.

The Himalayan trek that Digger and I did was reported by Harry Pretty in the 50th Anniversary Oread Journal as:

“ Also in 1998 The Great White Sahib R.G. Pettigrew, did a moderate tour of Kulu with Ernie Phillips and Digger Williams – to the D.H.E. ’61 base camp with six porters and six ponies.” In fact there were twelve packhorses.

So Digger was very well qualified to join Ernie Phillips and me to trek in the Kulu Himalaya to revisit the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition Base Camp site. Moreover he knew that we would travel from the plains to the foothills by one of the three narrow gauge railways in India – the celebrated “Toy Trains”. Ours plies from Pathankot Junction to the hill town of Baijnath-Paprola. So dismounting from the Frontier Mail at the Pathankot railhead we made our way to our reserved compartment just behind the engine through the bustling crowds on the waiting platform waiting to board

As usual accommodation on the Toy Train would be standing room only, with some brave souls taking to the roof as a preferred alternative.

Others attending this farewell service have made this trip – but not in the way I am about to describe!

The regular train driver had become a friend because of my many journeys to Kulu aboard his train. So he invited the three of us onto the footplate of the engine and began to draw out of the station en route for the mountains. As we started to gather speed I addressed my friend the driver in Hindi and told him that Digger Sahib loved railway engines and was a qualified engine driver. To my utter surprise and shock the driver turned and addressed Digger as: “Bai” (Brother) and promptly invited him to take the controls of the now swaying crowded train. Digger thus took over the “Himalayan Queen” as it gathered speed whilst Ernie turned white and desperately looked around for a means of escape! As for me I was mesmerized by the steadily increasing speed and the thought of a thousand innocent hillmen and women passengers behind us blissfully unaware of their possible fate. But with great aplomb and skill the imperturbable Digger brought the train under control and glided into the next station like a professional – to the utter astonishment of the station master at seeing a white sahib at the controls!

My second recollection relates to the trek itself. Ernie had opted out and elected

to stay in the valley fleshpots that he described as “terra firma” – less terror and more firmer!

In 1961 the D.H.E. had approached our objective the virgin Indrasan, 22,000 ft., up the Malana Nullah (valley), its entrance guarded by a very steep spur that gave access to the remote and mysterious village of Malana at a height of 7,000ft. Its inhabitants believe that they are the descendants of remnants of Alexander the Great’s army that invaded India in 327 B.C. Their customs and language are different from the paharis (hillmen) of Kulu.

Digger found the first stage – a climb of 6,000 ft. in the sun an ordeal and having stopped for a rest break discovered to his dismay that he had lost his tobacco pouch. I found him gazing ruefully at his empty pipe. Being on the outskirts of the village I called on the Negi (headman) whom I knew and asked him to sell me some of the local “desi” tambaku. Being a non smoker I did not realize that I had inadvertently bought for Digger a plug of “Ganja” – hemp, which he proceeded to smoke with relish before striding off up the trail singing Welsh hymns in a fine baritone voice to the evident enjoyment of our porters – and the pack horses!

His euphoria was short lived since our next camp by a bend in the glacier torrent had gained notoriety for its sheep ticks.

Ray Handley had a particular horror of ticks and had warned Digger to take precautions. By the time Digger, still in full voice, and I reached camp his tent was pitched on the bank above the river and we sat and enjoyed a cup of tea. Digger asked me what I used to keep the ticks at bay – an old Victorian remedy I replied and handed him my bottle of Oil of Citronella. He disappeared into his tent. Suddenly with a fearful shriek a stark naked Digger shot like a rocket out of his tent and jumped into the glacier torrent. The porters acted swiftly and intercepted him downstream unarmed.

When we dragged him out I asked him what led him to such a drastic step. Digger had been so concerned for his manhood that he had applied the Oil of Citronella liberally to his vitals and severely scalded them – he always took ticks seriously after that.

His love of mountains, and in particular the hills, moors and gritstone crags of his beloved Derbyshire seemed to increase with time, and with it his capacity for strong friendships forged by mountain experiences of all sorts!

Mementoes from Digger by Dave Penlington

At the 25th (we think) Anniversary Dinner of the Oread, Founder Members were presented with a souvenir paper weight, made by Digger Williams. They comprise a club badge, an imitation piece of rope, rocks and a sprig of heather all set in resin. We think that only five were made as Nan and Keith Axon and Molly and Harry Pretty will have shared, as couples. The other recipients were Paul Gardiner, George Sutton and I.

The weight is 600 grams, height at the back is 9 cm and at the front, 4.5 cms. The diameter is 8.5 cms. See the photos, by Janet, below. This is another example of the skills of a very clever and talented member.



Hut Bookings.

Both huts are now available for booking in accordance with current Covid 19 legislation. In Wales 3 households can stay together indoors. This will be permitted at Tan yr Wyddfa if all parties agree to share the building.

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
Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer to our Lloyds account – Sort Code 30-98-97 Account number 62584068. Please use the 'Reference' box to say what the payment is for. **In particular please say which hut, ie Hut fees HL, or Hut fees TyW.** Your name is not necessary in the reference, unless it is different from the bank account name.
Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread M.C. to the above address.

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new Provisional member Jacob Wright. We hope you will enjoy many happy times with the Oread.

Mike Moore has a new address: Riverside Care Home, Main Street, Burton upon Trent DE15 9AP

Mike's son, Mark writes: he likes to read your magazine as it reminds him of the many trips and adventures he and others (including John Fisher, Harry Pretty, Digger Williams) have had over the years. He still talks about the 14 peaks!

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solution:

This concerned the probability of the Oread winning a climbing competition.

The possible scores from the last two matches are

Two wins 6

Win/draw 4

Win/lose 3

Draw/draw 2

Draw/lose 1]

Lose/lose 0

If Oread get 6' winning scenarios are FR 4,3,2,1 or 0 CC 6,4,3,2,1 or 0 30 combinations

Similarly if Oread get 4 20

Similarly if Oread get 3 12

Similarly if Oread get 2 6

Similarly if Oread get 1 2

Similarly if Oread get 0 0

Total winning scenarios 70

Total number of scenarios for the three clubs $6 * 6 * 6$ or 216

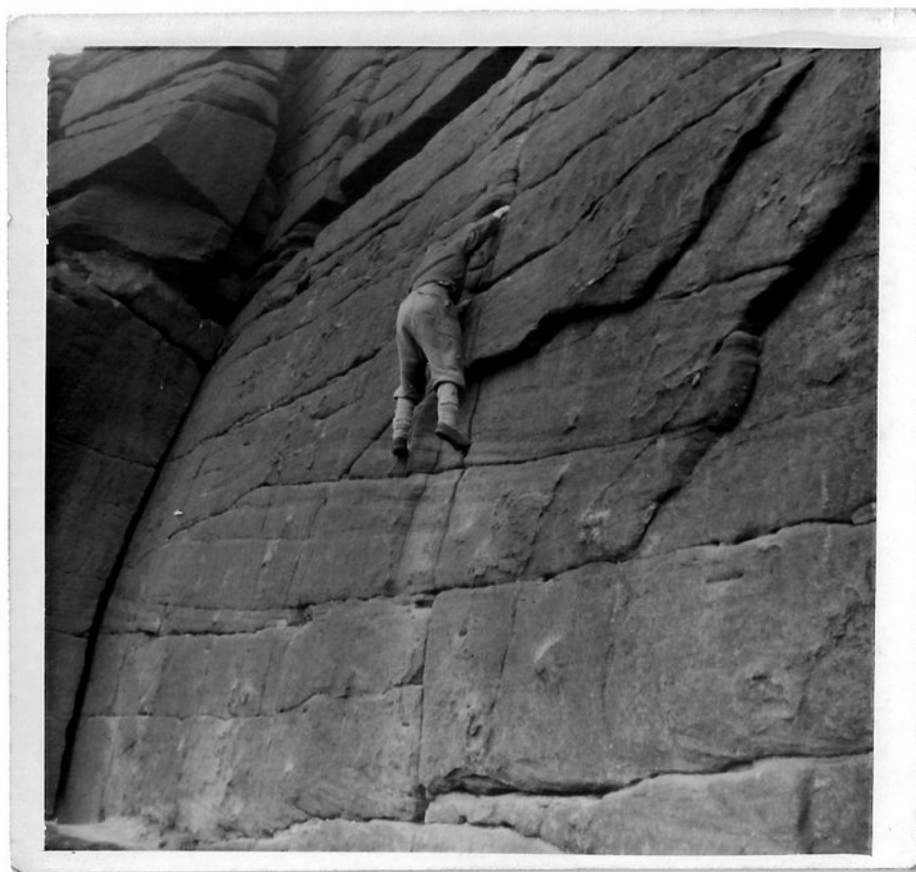
Therefore chances of an Oread win are 70 in 216 or approximately 1 in 3

FOOTNOTE:

It is best not to argue with a man who can lift a horse.



This month's puzzle



The puzzle is to identify the crag, the route and to make a best guess of the date on the accompanying picture.

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