

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2021



Two white-haired old codgers making their way up to the Moelwyns at August Bank Holiday – full story page 10. Photo Tom Larkam.

Editorial

Lots of meets coming up this autumn: the BARMY competition, a real fun day out, a mountain bike circuit, two hut meets to Wales, the first of the new season's lectures at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook, the Annual Dinner and several day walks. But **some meets will not happen unless a leader comes forward!** **The Bullstones really needs a volunteer – now!**

On page 4 is the draft **meets list for 2022**. Still time to add the meets that you want to see on the calendar.

Write-ups include sunny Bank Holiday action on the rock, Peak District cycling exploits, local rambles and a further instalment of Tony Moulam's memoirs. Very sadly there is a tribute to Lisa Welbourn who died recently after a long battle with cancer. Her courage and determination to keep fit and active - she recently completed a 10k run - is an inspiration to us all.

Don't forget, if you are intending to join any indoor meet it is important for everyone's safety that you have done a self-administered lateral flow test with a negative result beforehand.

Copy Deadline 20 October.

Forthcoming Meets 2021

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

October	3	BARMY competition	Peak District	Michael Moss
	6	Wednesday walk	Ashover	Peter Amour
	16-17	Hut meet	Tan yr Wyddfa	Michael Hayes
	21	Short walk	Kirk Ireton	Ruth Gordon
	23	Weekend walk	South Derbyshire	N & J Briggs
	29-31	Mountain bike tour weekend	Heathy Lea	Spenser Gray
November	1	Indoor evening climbing starts	Climbing Unit Derby	
	3	Wednesday walk	Brassington	John Gwyther
	5	Working party and Bonfire	Heathy Lea	Chris Wilson
	13-14	Cwm Eigiau	Snowdonia	Janet Briggs
	20	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	Peter Amour
	26-27	Fylde MC hut swap	Little Langdale	Dave Helliwell
December	1	Wednesday walk	Wetton Mill	Rusty Russell
	4	Annual Dinner	Fox & Goose	Chris Radcliffe
	5	Post Prandial Walk		Leader needed
	10 -12	Bullstones		Leader needed
	15	Black Rocks evening meet	Cromford	
	18-19	Weekend walk	Venue TBD	John Green
	24 – 3 Jan	Christmas/New Year	Tan yr Wyddfa	
	26	Boxing Day Walk	Miners Arms Brassington	Gathering. No leader.
January	1	New Year's Day walk	Peak District	

Winter 'Zoom' talks

Last winter we had a series of 'zoom' presentations that proved very successful and well supported. At the end of the session we said that we would run another series of zoom based talks as well as the Royal Oak Lectures.

These talks can only take place if people volunteer to give them! So far we have only one offer of a talk for the forthcoming series!

To give a presentation by zoom you need to have a computer-based presentation on Powerpoint, Apple Keynote or any other presentation package and access to zoom via the internet. I have prepared a 'guide' to help people get started, answer some common questions and list things that previous presenters would have found useful to have known before the event. Talking to a computer is a little different from talking to a live audience!

Before the 'real' event we can go through the set up and check that all the links work and the presenter is happy about how to run the talk.

So, if you have anything to talk about please let me know, the presentation can be any length (well within reason!) and on anything you feel will be of interest to club members. If you only have a short presentation, we may be able to get together a number to make a 'members' evening.

Please get in touch if you are willing to give a talk or if you would like any further information about giving a talk by zoom.

Nigel Briggs. email: president@oread.co.uk

Indoor meets Programme Rob Tresidder

Steve and Jean at the Royal Oak in Ockbrook are ready to welcome the Oread back again after a gap of a whole winter and one month: I have decided to have no meeting in October.

Spenser Gray will kick off our indoor winter on 2 November with a talk about his recent cycling journey in the Scottish highlands. More details page 8.

Subsequent meets will take place at 8 p.m. on the first Tuesdays of December, January, February and March.

If you have a tale to tell, maybe carefully dragged out of the recesses of your memory during lockdown or perhaps something snatched in unlikely circumstances in spite of the pandemic, then I am keen to hear from you. Some of you are too shy to come forward on your own behalf so maybe you could recommend a friend (Oread or other) and leave me to draft the invitation they cannot refuse.

My talk, A History of Ice Climbing in 60 Objects was incomplete when I delivered it some years ago. It could do with an update especially since the discovery of the ice axe used to kill Trotsky in Mexico. Encourage me, if you like!

Draft meets list 2022 Michael Moss

I'm still looking for hut bookings away from Derbyshire, especially for January through to April. Gaps will be filled by booking Tan yr Wyddfa for Oread/guests exclusive use. The meets list is even more of a draft than usual at this stage, due to Covid-related difficulties. It is very much open to suggestions, especially if anyone is offering to lead a meet. This is members' opportunity to get something they want onto the meets list overleaf.

Michael Moss email meetsec@oread.co.uk

Jan	3 15/16 20	New year BH Weekend walk Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
February	2 5/12 17 19/20	Wednesday walk Mediterranean sport climbing Thur short walk Weekend walk		Avoiding half term 21/25 Feb Ruth Gordon
March	2 4-5 17 24 27 30	Wednesday walk George Starkey Hut, Patterdale Thur short walk AGM Spring stride /Weekend walk First outdoor meet	Lake District By zoom Harborough rocks, Brassington	ABMSAC/AC hut. Stuart Hayward Nigel Briggs
April	6 8/10 15-17 21 23/24	Wednesday walk New members' meet Easter, France or Pembroke camping Thur short walk Weekend walk with new members	Heathy Lea	
May	2 11 13/14 19 21/22	Early May BH Wednesday walk Low House hut Thur short walk Weekend walk	Conniston, Lake District	MAM
June	2/3 3-4 8 10-11 16 18/19 25/26	Spring/Jubilee BH High Moss hut Wednesday Walk Fylde hut Thur short walk Weekend walk Midsummer meet & BBQ	Duddon valley, Lakes Little Langdale Heathy Lea	Rucksack club Fylde MC hut swap
July	6 16/17 21 23 to 7 Aug	Wednesday walk Weekend walk Thur short walk Alpine meet	Alps? Elsewhere?	
August	3 18 20/21	Wednesday walk Thur short walk Weekend walk Late summer BH		
Sept	3/4 7 10/11 15 17/18 30/1	BARMY comp Wednesday walk Climb and curry meet Thur short walk Weekend walk High House, Borrowdale	Heathy Lea Lake District	Tony Howard, date may change K-Fellfarers' hut
Oct	5 8/15 15/16 20 23-29 31	Wednesday walk Mediterranean sport climbing Weekend walk Thur short walk Strawberry cottage, Glen Affric Scotland Start Monday evening indoor mClimbing unit, Derby		Avoiding half term 24/28 Oct Peter Amour
Nov	2 5 12/13 17 18-19	Wednesday walk Bonfire Weekend walk Thur short walk Fylde Stair hut	Heathy Lea Stair, Newlands valley, LDave Helliwell (Snod), Fylde MC hu	
December	3? 4? 7 9/10/11 14 15 26 24-3 Jan	Annual dinner Post prandial walk Wednesday walk Bullstones Black rocks evening meet Thur short walk Boxing day walk Christmas and New Year hut meet	Cromford, Derbyshire Tan Yr Wyddfa	Date & location TBC Date & location TBC

Special Offer - Free Fun!

1. Can you put one foot in front of the other and repeat ten thousand times - preferably alternately and within the hours of daylight?
2. Can you tell the difference between north and south on a map?
3. Do you sometimes confuse east and west, left and right - but maybe don't like to admit it?
4. Are you good at herding cats in Derbyshire?
5. Do you like putting the world to rights with like-minded mates?

If you answered "yes" to at least three of those questions, then you have some of the characteristics of a typical Oread walk-leader! There is no pay, the rewards are high and there are plenty of vacancies for the Wednesday and Weekend Walks in the new 2022 meets calendar. There is a hard-core of regular leaders who no doubt will be willing to give suitable training and encouragement.

The lines are open! Volunteer now!
Stuart Firth: tel. xxxx email xxxxx

Sunday 3 October 10.30 am BARMY Competition Peak District Michael Moss

BARMY, or best all round mountaineer of the year, puts the emphasis on ground covered. The format will be similar to previous years, with categories for climbers, runners, walkers, and for this year, bikers.

Points will be awarded for crags visited, climbs done, triangulation points reached. Additional points for stone circles, monoliths, pubs and cafés visited. There will be bonus points for visiting both grit and limestone, for pinnacles climbed, for top technical pitch, max. altitude reached, for clipping a bolt or peg, swims taken and maximum crow flying distance from the car park reached. There will be a handicap in favour of the 70+ and for each child completing the course. There may also be points for wearing traditional dress: breeches or bright lycra spring to mind, where supported by photographic evidence.

It will be a team event. If you are looking to join a team please advertise via Facebook and/or the Oread io group. Duration is up to 7 hours. The competition will start at the NT car park between Froggat edge and the Grouse Inn.

Convenient for a social at the Grouse after the event.

Scoring scheme...

The goal is a good day out in the Peak. There will be separate categories for climbers, for runners/walkers, and for those using bikes. The scoring is the same for all:

10 points per crag visited,

10 points per climb, increased to 11 for one star, 12 for two star and 15 for three star routes.

20 points for each of patronising a pub or, crossing stepping stones, visiting stone circles or monoliths, clipping a bolt or peg, taking a swim,

and for visiting both grit and limestone.

20 point handicap in favour of teams including the 70+ or children (40 if you manage both).

50 points for trig points, pinnacles, longest as-the-crow-flies distance from the car park and hardest technical pitch.

-2 points per minute over 7 hours.

20 points for completing in period costume (britches, bright lycra..) or fancy dress.

Boulders count, but climbing teams must take a rope and gear.

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

Wednesday 6 October walk from Ashover Peter Amour

I plan to start the walk from the free car park in Ashover Parish Hall Car Park, Milken Lane. Meet up at 10-00am for a departure 15 minutes later.

The 10.5 mile meandering, undulating route will pass through/near the following places: Farnhill - Alton - Littlemoor - Handley Lodge/Handley - Woolley - Woodhead Grange - Littlemoor - Milltown - Overton Hall - Goss Hall - Marsh Green - Rattle and (hopefully) back to the cars. I sense one of the three pubs will welcome us with open arms for a liquid top up after a change of footwear.

Should you wish to contact me my number is xxxx. I look forward to seeing you there.

15 -17 October Welsh Hut Meet Michael Hayes

Come and join us for an autumn weekend in Snowdonia at our own hut Tan yr Wyddfa. We have the whole hut reserved so just go onto the website www.oread.co.uk and book your bed. The format for the weekend will depend on the weather so bring your climbing and walking kit.

Depending on who signs up we may even reinstate the original Curry meet on the Saturday night so let me know if you are interested in helping or just eating.

Michael Hayes: email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com tel. 07771700913

Thursday 21 October Short walk Ruth Gordon

This will start from outside the Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton at 11.00 am. There are usually plenty of parking opportunities on Main Street. The walk will take in a trig point - grandly named "The Mountain" which is only a gentle ascent but gives fabulous views all round, before a steep descent to Biggin by Hulland and on to Carsington Reservoir. It is around six miles with no steep ascents.

Ruth Gordon: email xxxx

23 October Weekend Walk, South Derbyshire, Nigel and Janet Briggs

The meeting place for this walk will be the public car park at Ticknall Village Hall, just off the minor road from Ticknall to Ingleby (SK353240). The public

parking is at the back of the car park and is free but there is a box for donations. Toilets were unfortunately permanently closed when we visited in September. For anyone wanting pre walk refreshments there is a nearby café on the Main Street: Scoff and Shop.

The walk will start with a tour of eclectic crags of South Derbyshire, firstly heading down through fields and woodlands towards the Trent Valley and Anchor Church, once the home of hermits, rarely if ever visited by climbers nowadays, but it has become a popular swimming spot if anyone fancies a late October dip. From there we climb away from the Trent Valley, with good views back over South Derby and the hills beyond, skirting round Foremark Reservoir to the nature reserve which contains Carvers Rocks. A picnic lunch will be taken somewhere in this area, bouldering on the soft sandstone optional.

From here we head further southwards and over Pistern Hill which should yield views southwards towards Charnwood Forest. We then return to Ticknall through the grounds of Calke Abbey, exploring some of its industrial past in the form of tramways and lime kilns.

Distance about 20km, no refreshments en route so please bring your own.

Janet Briggs: email xxxxxxx

29 -31 October Heathy Lea Mountain Bike Tour Spenser Gray

I am running a weekend cycling meet based at Heathy Lea. If there are sufficient numbers I can organise some kind of group meal.

My proposed off road route is here (starting at the Yorkshire Bridge):

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1691097>

If people would prefer to do a road based route, or something shorter/ longer you are welcome to put together your own route/ trim off bits of mine to suit.

Highlights will include:

- The Three Stags Heads at Wardlow Mires (one of the Peak District's stranger pubs with well kept beer/cider).
- Bakewell Tarts from Bakewell.
- Relaxed mountain biking over the top of Baslow, Curbar and Froggatt Edges.
- The delight of descending the Long Causeway at Stanage.
- A sore pair of sit bones on Monday morning!

I plan to head up to Heathy Lea on the Friday night after work and will drive up to my start point.

If you would like to join please let me know and book your bed on the website.

If you would prefer to treat it as a pair of one day rides rather than a touring weekend you are absolutely welcome to leave sleeping bags etc in the hut and collect them at the end of your ride on Sunday.

Spenser Gray: mobile xxxxxxx

Tuesday 2 November 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



Spenser Gray will describe the route followed by the Great North Trail between Cromford and the Northern Highlands of Scotland taking in Cape Wrath, Duncansby Head, John O'Groats and Dunnet Head. He will also recount some entertaining tales of the high and low points experienced during his journey and discuss some of the history associated with the route and the areas which it passes through.

If there is interest he will go on to discuss the planning and logistical considerations associated with this kind of route and how people can go and have similar adventures themselves.

Wednesday 3 November Brassington walk John Gwyther

Meet at Brassington Church 10.30 am. (I'm not aware of anywhere in the village that might provide refreshments then). An anti-clockwise circuit of Carsington Water, starting towards Bradbourn, down to the Visitor's Centre, along the dam, over to Kirk Ireton, north to Hopton, back to Carsington and Brassington. 17km 250m ascent.

John Gwyther: emailxxxxxx

13 -14 November Cwm Eigiau Cottage Snowdonia Janet Briggs

If you like isolation and basic facilities you must visit this special little hut situated high above the Conwy Valley, grid reference SH713638. It is the last building in the valley marked on the OS map. Access is by foot only from the public car park at SH732663, this is about a 3km walk, so come prepared to

carry in everything you need for the weekend.

The hut is a superb starting point for all the hills in the Carneddau Range. For climbers Craig yr Ysfa with the classic Ampitheatre Buttress is approximately 45 minutes walk from the front door.

We have exclusive use for the weekend, the hut can sleep 8 comfortably, on Alpine style sleeping platforms (2 x 2 bed downstairs and a larger one upstairs). The cottage is equipped with basic cooking facilities (gas rings and grills) and lighting powered by solar panels. The hut is not served by electricity. A chemical toilet is installed in the hut extension. Heating is by a very efficient coal fired stove. Due to limited cooking space a communal evening meal works well, Nigel and I are happy to sort this for Saturday evening. The cost of the accommodation is £9 per person per night.

Please be aware that the hut is basically one room so you will be sleeping in the same room as others. We request that you do not attend if you have any of the symptoms of Covid, and that you take a lateral flow test, and return a negative response, within two days of the meet. This is for everyone's peace of mind and safety.

We are hoping to use this meet to trial online booking via the website, a link will be available from the meet details on the Home, or Events pages of the website. If you have problems with the online booking please email me.

Janet Briggs: email xxxxxx

Saturday 20 November Hathersage Wander Peter Amour

I plan to do a circuit of about 10-11 miles (hopefully with others) to the west of Hathersage taking in Offerton Moor on the outbound leg with the return passing by Bamford Mill. I will be found supping a pre-walk cuppa in the Outside Cafe at 10-00am and look forward to seeing you there.

Peter Amour: tel.xxxxxx

Saturday 4 December Oread Annual Dinner

Please save the date in your Calendar!

The annual dinner is back on the Meets List! We had to cancel in 2020 because of Covid, but we are set to enjoy a full gathering of the club this year. We are going back to the same venue and the price (£30) will be the same as in 2019.

The Fox and Goose Inn, Pudding Pie Hill, Wigley. S42 7JJ.

www.thefoxandgooseinn.com

A very pleasant country pub with good food and beer on the B6050 Baslow to Brampton road. A mere 2.9 miles from Heathy Lea –

downhill on the way back!

Overnight accommodation

The pub does not have any accommodation but there is a Premier Inn - Chesterfield West (on the A619 Baslow – Chesterfield road) only a mile away - book early, it is very popular - and you can be collected and taken back at the end of the evening in the Fox and Goose minibus. (Must be booked in advance).

Cars and van dwellers can stay overnight in the Fox and Goose car park. Please park around the perimeter.

Heathy Lea is reserved for the weekend – bookings through the website. Taxis or volunteer drivers could be organised among those staying there or bring your bike!

After the long hiatus in regular gatherings of the Club we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner.

The full menu and booking form will be published in the November Newsletter.

Any questions, please contact us - Chris and Gill Radcliffe:

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News, Articles and Reports from Meets

August Bank Holiday Tan yr Wyddfa Dave “Snod” Helliwell

The Hon. Ed. and myself set off Friday dinnertime and called in at Ogwen on the way to do Rowan Route on the Milestone. We arrived at the hut to find Steve Christian and Kevin Raisin-Moss and their families already ensconced, enjoying a few days of climbing, walking and cycling in glorious sunshine. Also in residence were Ruth's friend, Heather and John Fisher, delighted to be back at the hut he has missed for so long.

On Saturday the Hon. Ed. wanted to do the East Ridge of Y Garn because she had never done it and it looks so fabulous from the hut – we were promised it was dry – and you can walk from the hut. Walk? Walk? Traversing the boulder field was very slow and hard work, much more taxing than the climbing which landed us on the summit at 5.45 pm for a very late lunch!

We got back to find new arrivals, Mike Moss, Gandalf (Roger Larkam) and his carer, Tom had enjoyed Christmas Curry at Tremadoc on the way, Michael Percival and friends Amir and Zibrit were there along with Derek and Joan who elected to sleep in their van as the hut was really quite full! This feels almost like the old days! Almost normal. Derek did point out that he had been the first to book in!

Sunday dawned bright and sunny again so I went to the Moelwyns with Mike, Gandalf and Tom where we enjoyed Kirkus Direct and Thumbelina on Clogwyn yr Oen. Meanwhile Ruth and Heather walked from Beddgelert to Nantmor along the river, and back over the tops; a journey involving more stress and bloodshed than they anticipated.

Memo to self: carry a simple first aid kit! A dirty hanky and two tissues had to suffice!



Another beautiful day on Monday. We went to the Pass, by a miracle found a parking space and did Skylon and Wrinkle on Carreg Wasted. Meanwhile the culture vultures enjoyed a day at Plas Newydd on Anglesey while Michael Percival and his team were up at crack of dawn for an ascent of Snowdon and were gone before we returned, as was John Fisher.

Photo shows me on the first pitch of Skylon, Mike Moss belaying. Thanks to Tom Larkam for the photograph.

Tuesday was tidying up and heading home except for Derek and Joan who were joining their son for a few more days of unbelievably good Snowdonia weather. All in all a brilliant weekend, sunny and no rain – but I have never seen the car park for Snowdon so full. Cars

rammed in everywhere Let's hope they can all go to Magaluf next year!!

An August Bank Holiday trip to Yorkshire Roger Gibbs

A super forecast and plenty to go at. Yippee! The weather turned out to be as good as promised: sunny and with enough breeze to keep the midges away mostly. The lads got a pass for Saturday and Chris (a friend, not an Oread Chris) was psyched for some sport. I wanted to get some E points, but wasn't feeling super confident so soon acquiesced. We settled on Trow Gill as we could walk/bike up there without having to move the vans and there was the option of sun and shade.

I must have looked quite a sight as I wobbled down the main road on Sharon's road bike (so she could use my mountain bike to ride with Ben) without

bothering to put the saddle up, knees around my ears, with the angry handbag that was my sport rope flopping around. This was clearly a lot more dangerous than going trad climbing.

The walk in had been flagged as a long old slog but it turned out to be a pleasant walk through beautiful surroundings and only gently uphill. There is a £1 toll to use the track though. The crag soon hove into view, two walls of steep and compact limestone. It was a little reminiscent of Chee Dale with some areas of dirty or suspect looking rock, but the best routes seemed to avoid the grot. We had the place to ourselves and plumped for the obvious warm up on the sunny North Wall, Alick, F6b+ and three stars. This seemed a lot harder than it should have been and re-examining the guide we realised we'd just done Get Smarter, F6c/+. I always have to have a word with myself when I fall off the warm up, although in my defence I foolishly followed Chris's whack route finding instead of using the big holds in the groove 18 inches to the left. Next up we really did do Alick, and it was excellent with good holds appearing just as you needed them.

We declared ourselves warmed up and the sun was getting hot too, so we headed over to the shady South Wall. Other teams started to appear but we still had plenty to choose from. Chris made short work of Brush with a Goat, F7a, and handed over to me. The start involved some pulling on small sharp crimps, before shuffling across to under the flake line. Small footholds and beefy pulls get you to an ok rest below a blank groove. Increasingly precarious moves. I'm a bit far above that bolt. I grabbed the quickdraw. There may have been some expletives. Falling off the warm up and now bottling out of the main event (well one of them). I had a quick look at the rest and lowered off feeling a bit grumpy. After a decent rest, I got back on only to fall off the flake! What was going on today? Chris calmed me down, got me to scope the moves properly and I took another long rest while he got on something a bit harder. Right then, to work. I walked out from the base of the crag and talked myself through what was to come. Then, in a departure from normal, I did on the rock pretty much what I had just practised on the ground. The beefy flake was eased by stepping a little to the left on to small but positive footholds and using the big undercuts. Just swapping from using the inside of my toe instead of the outside on the crucial foothold in the groove changed the slap to a static move. I bounced my foot a little higher and stretched into the overlap. A few moves higher and I'm into big chunky undercuts and staring at the belay. That was straightforward. I pulled the rope through to clip in and promptly dropped it.

"Drat," I probably didn't say.

Next go I managed to clip in properly and I'm lowered to a congratulatory fist bump and a bit of gentle teasing.

Chris has a working go on his route and then I get on Open for Business, F7a. This was billed as marginally the harder of the two in the guide. Chris had found it fine, but then he always does.

"It's just technical," he opined. As someone possessed of the climbing finesse of Bambi after a big night out, this didn't inspire confidence. I am quite tall though. The start is the same as Brush with a Goat and my fingers are starting to know about those sharp holds. There's an obvious long stretch to decent holds allowing access to a tiny right facing corner. Good undercuts and I can work my feet up. Hang on a sec, I can reach off the ledge! Get in, first bit lanked! Someone

else seems to take over for a while and my feet go on the holds a bit like I've seen proper climbers do it. A big span out left for a side pull and up to positive holds, but it's pretty steep. I revert to type and start dithering. More side pulls and an obvious ticked crimp (filthy habit, but very handy). I'm dimly trying to remember what Chris had said about how to do this bit. No idea what he meant. Boning down with my right hand, left hand low I paste my feet on and jerk up into the undercut. Feet on proper holds now and I can reach the belay. Get in! We'll call that a flash then.

Chris tidied up his route and we hightailed it back to the campsite for cricket, tall tales and a nice glass of red.

Wednesday Walk 8 September from Calver Chris Radcliffe



We enjoyed fabulous weather for this walk – very warm and sunny, but with a cooling SE breeze. A small group assembled from various directions, with some muttering that the meet leader had specified the Bridge Inn, Calver, when in fact it was Curbar (not so – the website confirms it **is** Calver and the grid reference was included anyway).

We started along the heritage way to Froggatt Bridge and then climbed up the hill to reach the closed road leading to Eyam. The route across the fields is followed by the “Grindleford Gallop” fell race as far as Longstone Moor, where we paused for lunch before dropping down the Longstone Edge. We traversed under the edge with great views to the south, before descending through Rowland to Hassop and then along School Lane to reach Bank Wood. This is a fine ridge

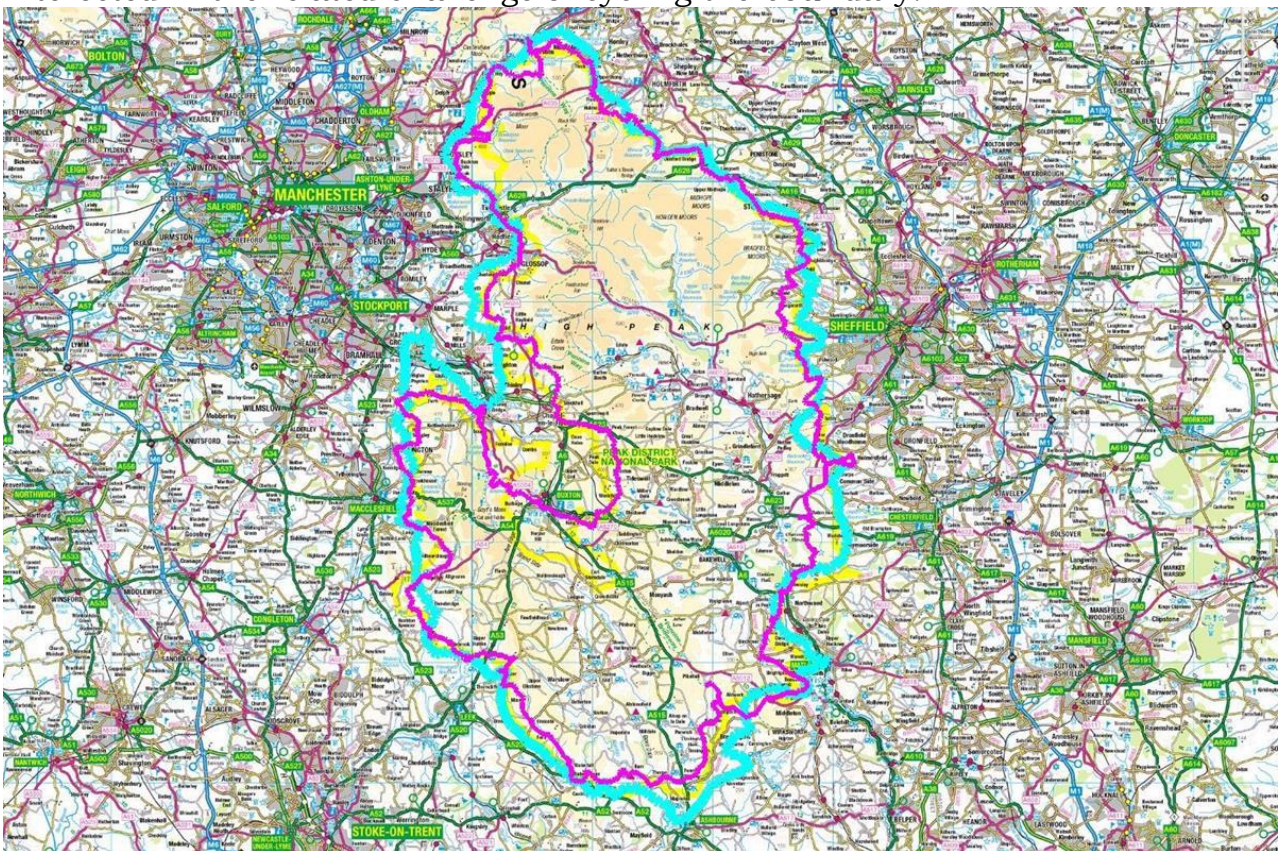
with open views bringing us back to Calver and our start point.

We enjoyed afternoon refreshments in the café by the bridge and everyone agreed that this walk had offered a different perspective on a well known area. Thanks to Nigel and Janet, Charlie, John G and Pip for joining me on the walk.

Cycling the Boundary of the Peak District National Park Chris Radcliffe

“Tour De Peak District”

Having completed the Peak District Boundary Walk with the Oread in July, I was interested in the related challenge of cycling the boundary.



On this map the cycle route is shown in cyan and the boundary walk in magenta.

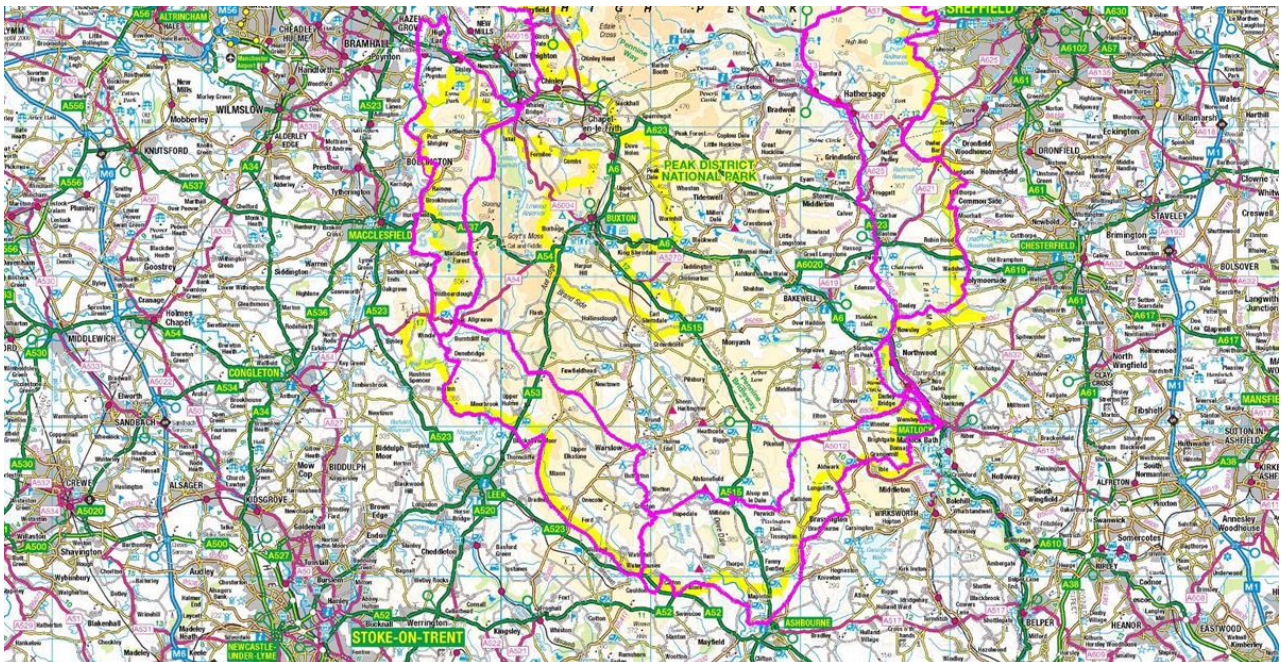
The basic route had been suggested by Chiz Dakin in her guide *Cycling in the Peak District* published by Cicerone. She conceived a linear route beginning and ending in Matlock over five stages with a total distance of 260 km (162 miles) with 6,160m (20,210ft) ascent and descent. Her stages were:

- Matlock to Dungworth
- Dungworth to Marsden
- Marsden to Whaley Bridge
- Whaley Bridge to Blackshaw Moor
- Blackshaw Moor to Matlock

All the stages involved road, some trail and some off-road riding. With some minor variations most of the stages were feasible on a road bike, apart from Stage 3, Marsden to Whaley Bridge, which had some quite gnarly off-road sections really only suitable for a mountain bike.

Chiz's route does follow the boundary quite closely, although it cuts directly across the 20km industrial corridor stretching from Whaley Bridge to Buxton. Following the edge of that loop would be another challenge.

I was not interested in following the linear route, with complications of overnight accommodation, so I planned my route on the basis of day rides. The map below shows some of my circular routes, drawn in magenta, in the southern part of the route.



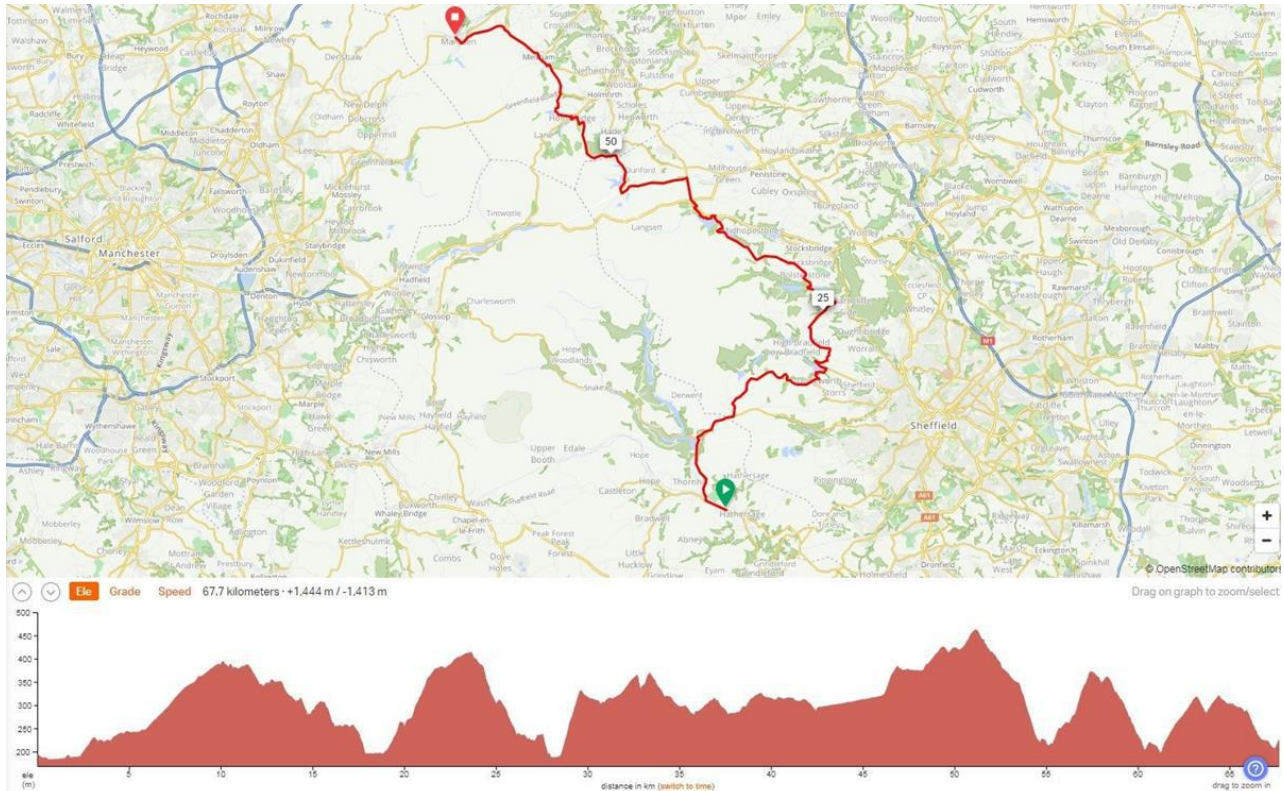
It was possible to conceive of circular routes on reasonable roads for most of the sections, but it was tricky on the NW side of the Peak. However I solved this issue by using the train to complete the circular route on two sections. Tackling the boundary route on the basis of day rides had the added advantage that I could use a mountain bike on Stage 3.

On this basis my total route added up to 416 km (260 miles) with 9,500m (31,170 ft) ascent and descent. To make the day rides reasonably consistent I decided to do the route over six stages. They were all enjoyable rides in their own right.

- My Day 1 incorporated the Matlock to Dungworth boundary stage, but I started at the Bridge Inn, Calver, following the roads down the Derwent valley through Chatsworth to reach Matlock where I started the boundary route to Dungworth. All excellent cycling roads across Beeley Moor to Owlter Bar, Ringinglow and the Rivelin valley, before climbing up to Dungworth. From here I reached the Strines road, dropped down to Ladybower and then followed the Derwent back to Calver. This was

95.4km/ 1,786m ascent.

- My Day 2 started at a convenient layby between Hathersage and Bamford, along to Ladybower and the Strines road to pick up the boundary section at Dungworth and follow the route to Marsden. Delightful cycling over to Ewden, a steep climb up to Bolsterstone, and over to Langsett. There was a section on the Trans Pennine Trail, before dropping down to Holmbridge. A steady climb up to Meltham and down to Marsden. From here I returned to Bamford by train via Manchester Picadilly. 67.8km/ 1,542m ascent.



This is the profile of my Day 2 – quite a lot of up and down!

- My Day 3 was the same as suggested by Chiz. I parked at Whaley Bridge and got to the start at Marsden by train. There was immediately quite a long climb up to the moors to gain bridledways through Diggle, Greenfield and Mossley. A section of the Pennine Bridleway brought me to Tintwistle. Over to Glossop and then more lumpy riding both on road and off-road through Birch Vale and eventually arriving at Whaley Bridge. Whereas my first two days had been enjoyed in pleasant and quite sunny conditions, this section was completed in wet conditions adding to the fairly tough off-road cycling and I considered this the hardest of the rides. 52.4km/ 1,529m ascent.
- My Day 4 again started at Whaley Bridge and followed the boundary route as far as Wincle where I turned off up Clough Brook and eventually passing Lamaload reservoir and climbing to Oldgate Nick, before a pleasant descent under Windgather to Kettleshulme and back to Whaley Bridge. 61.8km/ 1,545m ascent.
- My Day 5 started at Wildboardclough, picking up the boundary route at Wincle continuing to Meerbrook and Blackshaw Moor. The climb up Thorncliffe Bank brought me to Morridge escarpment and delightful

cycling all the way to Waterhouses. To get back to my start point I followed the Manifold trail to Ecton, climbed up to Warslow and over the moors to Royal Cottage and back to my start point via Gradbach. My ride was completed in drizzly conditions with low cloud and limited visibility. I considered this the most attractive ride and have repeated it in better weather. 65.1km/ 1,465m ascent.

- My Day 6 started at Darley Bridge and climbed up to Winster, across to Gotham and Alsop-en-le-Dale before dropping down to the Dove and up to Alstonefield and across towards Beeston Tor where I dropped down to the Manifold trail and regained the boundary route at Waterhouses. Ashbourne was reached via Blore and Mapleton and shortly after this an off-road section was a bit rough on my road bike, but does follow the boundary closely, then through Bradbourne to Brassington, Longcliffe and Ible. Some more off-road and some short steep climbs through Uppertown before ending the boundary route at Matlock. I followed the cycle trail back to my car at Darley Bridge. 73.4km/ 1,633m ascent.

Apart from My Day 1 which preceded a trip to North Wales, I completed the rides within a two week spell and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It gave an excellent overview of the variety of landscapes that we enjoy in the Peak District.

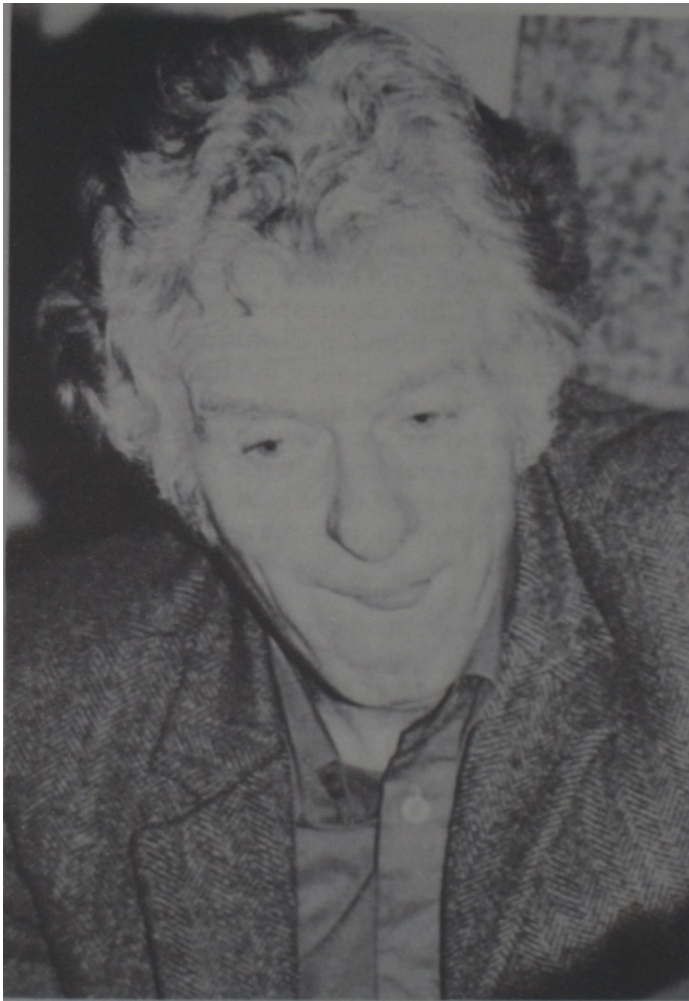


Me on top of Thorncliffe Bank, day 5, taken on the day I repeated it in sunshine.

Past Times and Old Friends

Honoraries – Nat Allen Tony Moulam

I had known Nat Allen for some years as a key member of the Rock and Ice; a brilliant climber, although somewhat under-rated because of his renowned companions Brown and Whillans. Soon I saw another facet of his character at Oread dinners where he was an active producer and participant (with his then wife Tinsel) in the star-studded and legendary pantomimes! Harry Pretty and Dick Brown were amongst the performers, in roles such as Bearded Ladies and Christmas Tree Fairies.



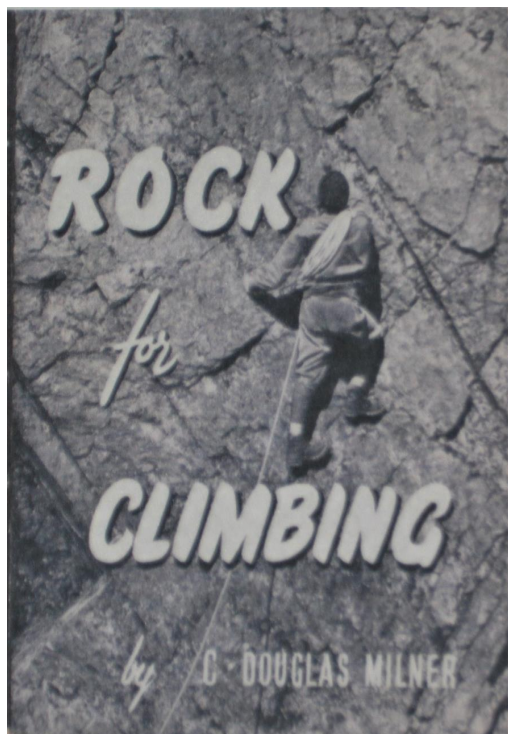
It was in somewhat different circumstances that I, at last, had a chance to climb with him. It was at a Wednesday evening meet of the Mynedd Club at Wildcat Crag and we first teamed up on Coyote Crack, Manx and Lynx ; a veritable 'cat'alogue of climbs and very enjoyable in the late May warmth. It surprised me that, perusing my climbing log, reveals that our next joint venture was eight years later but again at Wildcat and this time with Derrick Burgess. The routes were Jackdaw Groove, Cataclysm and Catacomb and the climbing was enhanced by encountering Sid Cross (retired legendary Lakeland climber and landlord of the Dungeon Ghyll Old Hotel) on an adjacent stance partway up one of the climbs. He was here with his wife 'Jammy', Denis Davies and Alf Gregory on a rare visit south!

Nat Allen, photographed by Ruth Allen.

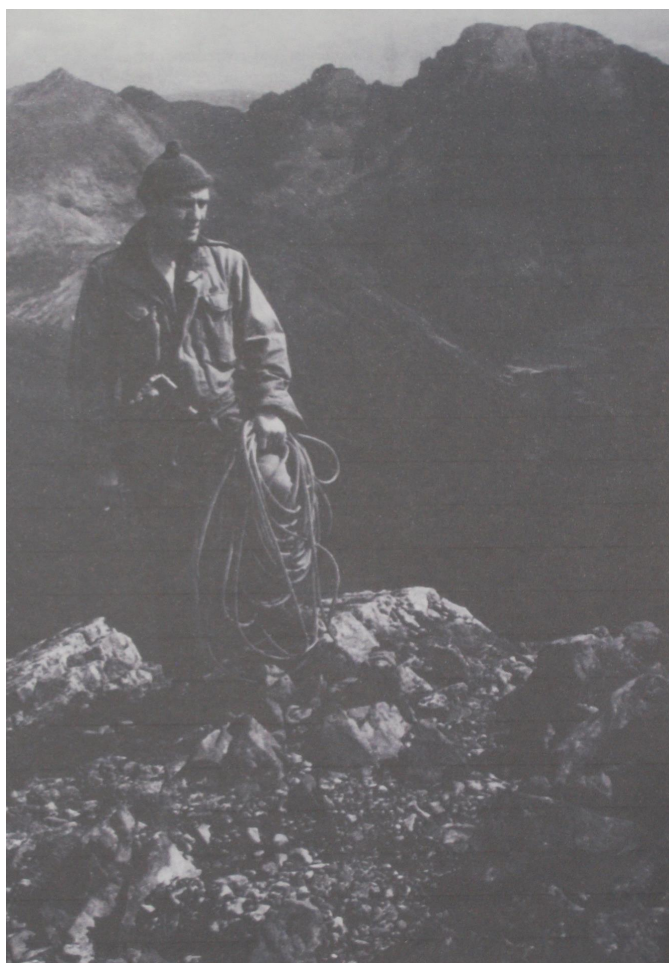
Some time later we came north for a holiday from the Bedfordshire flatlands where we lived and I introduced my 16 year old son, Peter, to the delights of wide cracks at Curbar. As a climax Claude Davis took over the lead for Sorrell's Sorrow, a baffling but satisfying off-width conundrum solved by remarkably good hand jams deep inside. Peter found this very taxing, having short arms and small fists, but Nat, in his famed avuncular mode, talked him up it with a classic demonstration of instructors' patience and techniques.

Nat was many faceted and a welcome and vital link between the new 50's hardmen of the Rock and Ice and their associates and the older and stuffer members of the climbing establishment.

I now turn to my first encounter with Douglas Milner (*Pictured below right.*) in late 1954 when all I knew of him was of his excellent photo-book, 'Rock for



Climbing'. It was a distinguished forerunner of 'Rock Climbers in action in Snowdonia' and the later series of sophisticated tomes produced by Ken Wilson, which carried on the earlier tradition of the Abraham brothers' illustrations of rock climbing in 'British Mountain Climbs' and Owen Glynne Jones' 'Rock Climbing in the English Lake District' in 1897. Our meeting came about after a unique concatenation of events.



In 1952 I had started work for ICI in Manchester and, and just over two years later, they sent me on a three week course to learn all about heat treatment and case hardening of metals. It was held at their Cassell Works in Oldbury and, after the first week in an unattractive hotel I negotiated a move to stay with John Watson in Edgbaston. John was a climbing friend, stalwart of the Climbers' Club's Northern Committee and also a member of the Wayfarers Club. The second week end of my visit coincided with their annual dinner and John invited me to be his guest. We set

off for Helsby in his draughty vintage Alvis, where we intended to climb to work up an appetite for the celebration but we were foiled by heavy rain, so spent a cultural hour or so at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool instead!

We finally arrived at the Constitutional Club, for the dinner, unexercised physically but aesthetically replete. I noted Cezanne, Degas and Monet amongst the artists' work I had seen, all colourful wonders to my rather philistine mind. In the bar we found Geoff Pigott (who I think was the official representative of the Climbers' Club), and some others from the Rucksack Club as well as many new Wayfarer acquaintances, as to be expected, on their home ground. The dinner was enjoyable in the rather staid surroundings and followed by some

interesting speeches; but the whole event was a shadow of the exuberant bacchanalian revels of the Oread!

Small groups formed in the bar after the meal and Geoff introduced me to the first banker I ever met socially, Douglas Milner!

Of course I was more interested in his extra-professional pursuits of photography and mountaineering. He had shared ropes with men such as elders like Herbert Carr and Geoffrey Peaker, and had recently published his rock climbing and Dolomites photobooks. Conversation ultimately lapsed when Geoff announced that we must leave for Wales and Douglas invited us to his home for a nightcap, as it was on the way!



Luckily it turned out to be china tea and biscuits on offer, and we set off into the still wet night in the comfort of Geoff's Citroen light 15, arriving at a dormant Beuddy Mawr at two am!

I met Douglas at two more dinners; a Rucksack Club one in Manchester and a Fell and Rock Climbing Club meal in Keswick. Quite flatteringly he sought me out at both and continued our conversations as if we had never parted.

As it happened this dinner was the first occasion I met Ray Colledge, *(pictured left)* the last of this group of Honoraries. On the Sunday I climbed Little Chamonix on Shepherd's Crag with him. This was the only time we were together on rock, and his quiet and diffident manner gave a false idea of his future alpine prowess. The Innominata on Mont Blanc was an early success, followed by participation in the Cho Oyu expedition, forerunner to Everest.

In a few years time in 1969, probably his greatest feat, at the age of 47, was an epic ascent of the Eigerwand with Dan 'Boone' (real name Fullalove). He thus joined the elite group of British climbers who had succeeded on that route.

Lisa Welbourn 1961 -2021

With great sadness we record that Lisa passed away on 3 September after a long battle with cancer. Her funeral took place on 14 September. Photographs and memories will be very welcome for future issues.

Lisa Welbourn: a tribute from Colin and Uschi Hobday

We have known Lisa since she was born to John and Ruth Welbourn as a second generation of Oreads. It was not long before she was taken out on Peak District walks, carried in a baby sling imported from Norway. She was also taken camping to Wales in all weathers in a little two man Vango tent. Lisa took it all in her stride. At the age of 3 ½ years Lisa and her younger sister Helga were my flower girls at our wedding in Germany. As the kids grew up we spent many a good time at the hut in Wales with the Welbourn family and other Oreads, especially in the New Year period. We watched Lisa grow up into a confident, happy, outgoing, intelligent and sporty young lady.

At age 18 she passed her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and that year she went to Norway to the World Scout Jamboree and did some sea canoeing. When she moved from Wales to Nottingham to start her studies at Nottingham Uni, she started to become an active Oread member, going on meets and climbing with the lads. She also came on an Alpine Meet in Austria with us and her parents and we climbed the Gross Venediger 3666m, the fourth highest peak in Austria. In the Nineties Lisa came on one of our skiing holidays to Les Gets, Two Adults and five young Oreads in one apartment. A great time was had by all. Sadly the lads are no longer Oread members, due to getting married and moving away. Lisa also accompanied her parents walking in Iceland and New Zealand. Lisa had a very successful career in IT and worked for many years for the NHS in Finance.

When she met Bryan (Bryan being a golfer), she dropped climbing and they both concentrated on mountain biking orienteering events. Lisa often beat much stronger and faster competitors, due to her excellent map reading and orienteering skills, finding the best checkpoints with the highest score. They both travelled far and wide on mountain biking holidays, to Italy, Spain, Mallorca, island hopping in Croatia, Peru, the Himalayas and Kerala. They also took up snow shoeing in the Dolomites and winter biking in snow covered Finland at -20C temperatures.

Sadly three years ago Lisa was diagnosed with cancer which led to various big operations, lots of Chemo, etc. etc. Every time she rallied round, fought her way back to fitness and kept going against all the odds. She inspired everybody with her willpower and her determination and her positive attitude towards her illness. She always fought on and always had a big positive smile. Even after her latest setback four weeks ago, she still was determined to beat it. Lisa had many talents, she could create anything with her hands, knitting, sewing and crocheting, she was also an accomplished silversmith and made a lot of bespoke

items of jewellery.

After Lisa retired due to ill health, she started coming out on our Monday Walks as often as she could in between chemo sessions. She enjoyed the company very much, always turning up with a big smile and coping very well even with longer nine mile walks. Bryan and Lisa even managed to build a wonderful house from scratch in the last three years and she enjoyed all aspects of it, especially creating a garden with a huge wild flower meadow. They both lived there happily for the last two years.

Lisa will be sadly missed by her many, many friends from all walks of life. She inspired all of us. Our sympathy goes to Bryan and Lisa's sister Helga. So far, over £2000 has been donated on Lisa's donation page for Bowel Cancer Research, which just shows how popular and well liked Lisa was. If anybody feels like adding a bit more to that sum the web page is <https://lisawelbourn.muchloved.com>

Hut Bookings.

Both our Welsh and Derbyshire hut bookings have now moved online at the Oread website www.oread.co.uk.

The new system allows you to see up to date bed availability details and make your own bookings.

Please remember to sign in as members first before making your bookings as you get access to the Oread beds and rates and you don't have to enter lots of details required for external bookings.

All queries and outstanding payments should be addressed to Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA Mobile 07771 700913. Email: michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

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 members Philip Frampton, Emma Vincent and Alamin Zindanee. We hope you will enjoy many happy times with the Oread.

An application for full membership has been received from Jae Yeon Oh. 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:

So far as I am aware, the only Oreads to have owned a Bantam are the late Brian Cooke, the late Geoff Hayes, Jack Ashcroft, David Penlington and myself. Of these I believe that all have done the Cuillin Ridge but only Jack and myself have done a marathon (I espied him in Belisha Beacon mode at the finish of the 1982 Sheffield Marathon on a very hot day, The scenery did not inspire one to linger unnecessarily). My own Alpine endeavours have fallen short of 1500ft and I have not been to the Himalayas and so Jack is a clear winner, reigning alone so far as my information goes, He sent me a jovial letter outlining these facts.

The photo below, showing a youthful Jack at altitude, (location unknown) was taken by Gordon Gadsby. Sadly there is not one of him on the Bantam.



This month's puzzle

Where is the metropolis depicted, what was the height of the camera and on which hill was it situated?



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