



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2021



**Ready for the off at the start of a hard fought BARMY Competition. Read all about it on page 13. Photo Ruth Gordon.**

## **Editorial**

Lots of meets still to come: the start of the season's indoor meets both live and on Zoom; several walks, a mini working party before the traditional bonfire at Heathy Lea, the Bullstones of course as John Green has valiantly taken on the task of organising it; weekends away in Snowdonia and Little Langdale, plus, of course, the Annual Dinner – booking forms and all the info in here. Don't delay – bookings close on 15 November.

More meets have been arranged for 2022 but still time to add events that you want to see on the calendar.

Write-ups include the Clapham meet, rambling around Monyash, a dry-tooling extravaganza and a final instalment of Tony Moulam's memoirs.

**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 November.**

## Forthcoming Meets 2021

**Michael Moss: email: [meetsec@oread.co.uk](mailto:meetsec@oread.co.uk)**

October	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
	18	Short walk	Brassington	Ruth Gordon
	20	Weekend walk	Hathersage	Peter Amour
	23	Zoom Lecture	S. Australia	Nigel Briggs
	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	Thorpe	Paul Gardiner
	10 -12	Bullstones	Wetton	John Green
	15	Black Rocks evening meet	Cromford	
	18	Weekend walk	Lathkill Dale	John Green
	21	Zoom Talk	Our Year	Chris Radcliffe
	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

This winter (November to March) we are planning on running a series of zoom talks on (usually) the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. The talks will be short presentations by members covering recent and not so recent adventures.

The proposed dates are 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March. The talks will normally start at 20:00.

Joining details will be sent out shortly before the talks contact me for further information.

Nigel Briggs. email: [xxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxx

## Draft meets list 2022 Michael Moss

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.

Michael Moss email [meetsec@oread.co.uk](mailto:meetsec@oread.co.uk) tel. xxxxxxxxx

<b>Jan</b>	3	New year BH		
	15/16	Weekend walk		
	20	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	28/29	Milehouse cottage, Ladies SCC	Kingcraig, nr. Kingussie	
<b>February</b>	2	Wednesday walk		
	5/12	Mediterranean sport climbing	Benidorm	Derek Pike,
	11/12	Ochils MC hut	Crianlarich	
	17	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19/20	Weekend walk		
<b>March</b>	2	Wednesday walk		
	4-5	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Lake District	ABMSAC/AC hut. Stuart Hayward
	17	Thur short walk		
	24	AGM	By zoom	
	27	Spring stride /Weekend walk		Nigel Briggs
	30	First outdoor meet	Harborough rocks, Brassington	
<b>April</b>	6	Wednesday walk		
	8/10	New members' meet	Heathy Lea	
	15-17	Easter, France or Pembroke camping		
	21	Thur short walk		
	23/24	Weekend walk with new members		
<b>May</b>	2	Early May BH		
	11	Wednesday walk		
	13/14	Low House hut	Conniston, Lake District	MAM
	19	Thur short walk		
	21/22	Weekend walk		
<b>June</b>	2/3	Spring/Jubilee BH		
	3-4	High Moss hut	Duddon valley, Lakes	Rucksack club
	8	Wednesday Walk		
	10-11	Fylde hut	Little Langdale	Fylde MC hut swap
	16	Thur short walk		
	18/19	Weekend walk	Yorkshire dales camping	Peter Amour
	25/26	Midsummer meet & BBQ	Heathy Lea	
<b>July</b>	6	Wednesday walk		
	8-9	BBQ Tan yr Wyddfa		Tony Howard
	16/17	Weekend walk		
	21	Thur short walk		
	23 to 7 Aug	Alpine meet	Alps? Elsewhere?	
<b>August</b>	3	Wednesday walk		
	18	Thur short walk		
	20/21	Weekend walk		
		Late summer BH		
<b>Sept</b>	3/4	BARMY comp	Heathy Lea	
	7	Wednesday walk		
	10/11	Climb?		
	15	Thur short walk		
	17/18	Weekend walk		
	30/1	Climb and curry High House,	Borrowdale, Lakes	Tony Howard, K-Fellfarers' hut

<b>Oct</b>	5	Wednesday walk		
	8/15	Mediterranean sport climbing		Avoiding half term 24/28 Oct
	15/16	Weekend walk		
	20	Thur short walk		
	23-29	Strawberry cottage, Glen Affric	Scotland	Peter Amour
	31	Start Monday eve indoor meets	Climbing unit, Derby	
<b>Nov</b>	2	Wednesday walk		
	5	Bonfire	Heathy Lea	
	12/13	Weekend walk		
	17	Thur short walk		
	18-19	Fylde MC Stair hut	Newlands valley, Lakes	Dave Helliwell hut swap
<b>Dec</b>	3?	Annual dinner		Date & location TBC
	4?	Post prandial walk		Date & location TBC
	7	Wednesday walk		
	9/10/11	Bullstones		
	14	Black rocks evening meet	Cromford, Derbyshire	
	15	Thur short walk		
	26	Boxing day walk	Tan Yr Wyddfa	
	24-3 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet		

## **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>

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 xxxxxx

### **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.

Admission £3.00 Oreads £5 non members.

Rob Tresidder: tel. xxxxxxxx

### **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: email [xxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxx

### **Saturday 4 November Heathy Lea working party and bonfire Chris Wilson**

Please come along and spare an hour or two helping with a few jobs at the hut and building a bonfire to enjoy when darkness falls.

Chris Wilson xxxxx and mobile xxxxxx

### **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

### **Thursday 18 November Short Walk Ruth Gordon**

We will set off at 11.00 am from the little car park near Brassington SK233 547 and head off over Carsington Pasture to make a circuit to the east of the vilage.

Ruth Gordon tel. xxxxxx email [xxxxxxxx](#)

### **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

### **23 November 20:00 Zoom Talk – Nigel Briggs**

#### **Travels around a small bit of Australia**



Tales of our 'road trip' into South Australia and the Flinders Range, calling in on a well known crag on the way back. Or, what happens when a couple of Brits get lent a 'Disco'.

## **26 – 27 November Fylde Hut Little Langdale Dave Helliwell**

I recently stopped at the Fylde hut in Little Langdale and it has had a complete make over during lockdown - in fact some of the paint was still green - a very pleasant place to be. It is well situated for a variety of crags. In Langdale itself are Gimmer, Raven, White Ghyll and Pavey Ark. For mountaineers what could be better than Bowfell Buttress? Heron crag, Esk buttress and Scawfell east are possible, as are the crags of Thirlmere. Oh, and there's quarries close at hand too I believe. This is a hut swap with Tan yr Wyddfa so we only pay our own members' rates £5.00 per night. Extra nights before or after may be available but must be booked and paid for direct with the hut warden.

Jen Chambers, email: [fmc.bookings@outlook.com](mailto:fmc.bookings@outlook.com)

We have 16 beds for Friday and Saturday nights - 5 are already taken so don't delay!

Parking is limited – only 6 spaces adjacent to the hut so car share if possible - there will be no room for camper vans!! Plenty of parking for such monstrosities across the ford.

To book for the meet contact me,

Dave Helliwell tel xxxxxx and leave a message or email [xxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxx)

## **Wednesday 1 December Wetton Mill Walk Rusty Russell**

Wetton Mill, where the tea room may or may not be open, shall be the destination rather than the start/finish of this walk. There is spacious and comfortable outdoor dining accommodation just upstream of the bridge and on the west side of the river so I suggest you bring your own refreshment. We shall assemble at the public car park in Alstonefield in time for a 10.30 start, the village hall car park is available a few yards away in the unlikely event of there being no spaces left. We shall then proceed at a moderate to slow pace down Narrowdale then across to the Manor House and Ecton Hill. From the summit we shall descend beside Sugarloaf to our luxurious dining spot before returning via Thors Cave and Wetton. The overall distance is in the region of 10 miles.

### **Footnote**

Many of you are dubious about rods poles and perches and I have already suffered the intellectual stress of composing puzzle correspondence using metres so I have reverted here to 19<sup>th</sup> century imperial linear measurements.

Rusty Russell tel. xxxxxxxx email [xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx)

## **Saturday 4 December Oread Annual Dinner**

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.

The dinner venue is once again at:

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

[www.thefoxandgooseinn.com](http://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. Unfortunately Premier Inn - Chesterfield West, only a mile away, is already full for this date (but there may be cancellations). Other options include Premier Inn – Town Centre and The Olde House, Newbold. The Fox and Goose do have a free mini-bus to transport diners to the local Premier Inn and are willing to extend this to the other hotels if this is necessary. This service must be booked in advance.

Car 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!

As an alternative the Wilsons and Ruth are happy for people to stay with them in Matlock as in previous years. It may be possible to get a minibus to take us there and back if there is enough interest. Please get in touch with Chris or Jan or Ruth if you want to do this.

After the long hiatus in regular gatherings of the Club we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner. Payment methods and booking form are at the end of this newsletter.

**I must have the completed forms by 15<sup>th</sup> November**

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

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

## **5 December Post Prandial Walk Paul Gardiner**

I propose to meet at the car park at Narlows Lane, Thorpe, around 10.15 for a 10.30 stroll off via Tissington, Newton Grange and Parwich Lees which should put us at 'The Sycamore' in Parwich soon after opening time. I have told the staff that we will be there for drinks. If you require food please arrange it direct with the pub beforehand. Anything you have packed to be consumed off the premises, (e.g in the Rec. ground almost opposite ) After a suitable time the route is uphill, down to the Bletch Brook, up again and back by trail to Thorpe Station. Can't guarantee mud free.....

Paul Gardiner tel. Xxxxxxxx email [xxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxx)

## **Tuesday 7 December 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**

Bob Pettigrew, no less, will talk to the club about the second ascent of the Solang Weißhorn, so named by none other than General Bruce (first ascensionist) after its resemblance to the well known peak in Walliss, Switzerland. Bob will also talk more generally about his journeys to India and the Kulu.

Rob Tresidder: tel. xxxxxx

## Friday 10 December Bullstones 2021 John Green

This year I have been given the job of leading this traditional meet. As a number of our regular attendees are unavailable and I now have difficulty going for more than 18k I have tried to a) keep it local b) Ensure good accommodation for Sat night in case the weather is inclement on Friday night and c) not too far on Saturday. I hope all the above should make for a great weekend.

Starting point for Friday is The Royal Oak in Wetton. Free Car Parking in village for 25 cars. If anyone wants a meal I would suggest booking as they may well be busy. We will leave as usual at around 23.00 and walk up onto Wetton Hill. There is plenty of room to bivvy here. We have permission from the National Trust as a special one off for this walk.

Saturday will start with a path over Ecton Hill down to Ecton and along the Manifold Trail to Hulme End. A bit of road walking then takes us from Hayesgate to Townend and the River Dove which we follow to Bridge End and Harris Close, then descending to Pilsbury. A short trek across fields brings us to Vincent House and across to the High Peak Trail which we follow to our night's accommodation at The Royal Oak in Hurdlow. 18km.

The bunkhouse has been booked for 6 beds, so please let me know if you are coming, the earlier the better so I can book more in time. The kitchen only has seating for 6, there are showers and cooking facilities but not much room. The cost is £15 per person for the night. They have no communal room. I have also booked 6 places for a meal in the pub for Sat evening at 19.00. You will need your sleeping bag but sheet and pillow are provided. The pub will get busy as it's near Christmas. **I must have bookings for Saturday night by 13 November at latest.**

Returning back to Wetton has three alternatives.

- Bring a bike and leave at Hurdlow on Friday, use this to ride the 20km back along the High Peak and Tissington trails.
- Walk the High Peak and Tissington trail back.
- Car share back arranged on the Friday.

Friday Royal Oak - Wetton 01335 310287

Bivvy – Wetton Hill.

Saturday Royal Oak – Hurdlow 01298 83288 Bunkhouse £15 each. 6 places booked and paid.

John Green, xxxxxxxx

## Saturday 18 December Lathkill Dale Walk John Green

As we have so little daylight at this time of year an early start will need to be the order of the day, but not too early! 09.30am.

I think the Lathkill round from Moor Lane car park should be doable in most weathers. It is a classic, starting from SK 1922 6448 at the car park, and taking the Limestone Way past Calling Low into Cales Dale. Some very slippery steps get us down to the main dale and the River Lathkill which may be in full flow for us. A simple plod along the excellent path will bring us to Conksbury and across the road. The path continues along the Lathkill to Alport where we cross the road again and join the River Bradford which is followed to a path steeply up to the

Middleton Road and back on the Limestone Way which brings us back to the cars. 14 km.

If you are coming on the outing, please let me know on xxxxxxxx

## **And fun in the sun February 2022 Derek Pike**

A few of us have booked with Jet2 for a trip to Benidorm, hopefully climbing and walking in some much needed sunshine. We are staying at the Aparthotel Terralta from 6 or 7 February for between 11 and 14 days. We have booked half board but you can also self cater. All welcome to join us, until 21 November I have promotional codes to get £50 per person off the cost. Contact me if you need one.

Derek Pike tel.xxxxxxx email [xxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxx)

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets**

### **Roof collapse at Severn Trent Building, Heathy Lea**

From the photo below taken by Michael Hayes you will see that the Severn Trent building has finally had enough and a significant part of the roof has collapsed. The Club has been in contact with Chatsworth who were aware of it and have escalated it to their surveyors and legal team. At the moment it is not affecting our use of the hut as all the debris fell inside the building.



### **24 26 September – Lowstern Hut - Clapham, Yorkshire Dales Nigel Briggs**

The end of September can give magical late summer weather, or it can give a foretaste of the winter months to come. This weekend gave a mixture, with a predominance of the winter to come.

I had planned to arrive late afternoon and go for a run. Unfortunately, the M6 had other ideas and I arrived much later than anticipated, but at least it was still daylight. Peter Masters was already installed, and Martin Lancaster was in evidence if not in residence. I was determined to get some sort of run done so set off on the lower slopes of Ingleborough. The route was slightly modified as the gloom turned into night. Pip Leach and Rachael had arrived by my return. Through the evening Spenser, Kevin Raisin-Moss, Louise Pymm and Nicola Bishop arrived and early Saturday morning Michael Hayes.

Peter, Pip and Rachael set off on mountain bikes to play on the trails and byways in the area in indifferent (well damp) conditions. The rest of us procrastinated, discussing the pros and cons of various crags and the frictional qualities of damp polished limestone. Eventually Hutton Roof was picked as a suitable venue with it being in the direction of dryer weather and (slightly) brighter clouds. Off we went to see 'what is was like', well all except Martin who wisely kept his powder dry. A walk up to the crag soon proved it was wet and not inviting. Kevin was not to be beaten by wet rock and trainers on a diff so went for the higher friction of skin on damp rock barefoot option. At least one route done! However conditions did not invite a prolonged visit, so we left!

Kevin and Spenser continued to head west and went to Trowbarrow, where they reported finding sun and warm rock and enjoyed some good climbing.

Michael, Louise, Nicola and I elected to cut our losses, go back to the hut, don some boots and go for a walk up Ingleborough. It came as no surprise to find the inside of the cloud over Ingleborough looked pretty much the same as every other cloud I have been in. There were hints of clearing and it was interesting to pass the old haunts of Gaping Gill and Trow Gill on the way back to Clapham. Martin had headed out to Hutton Roof, I don't think it was much dryer than earlier in the day.

Sunday dawned less promising than Saturday. Murmurs of heading home were heard. Kevin and Spenser left to call in at Woodhouse Scar (Halifax), on route for home. Pip, Rachael and Peter decided to wander to Ingleton before heading up Ingleborough. Louise, Nicola and Michael were talking of home. I was set for walking when Martin's optimism that the conditions were not as bad as they seemed, and that it was brightening up finally convinced me and climbing won. Louise, Nicola and Michael soon followed, agreeing that it would be sensible to take a look at Giggleswick South. Once at the car park it did not look good, the ground was wet, however we were there so it seemed only right just to go and have a look. Next follows some crashing around tree covered scree looking for a crag! To cut a story short we found it and the rock was drying so a pleasant time was had on some Yorkshire limestone sport routes before heading home, or in my case back to the hut for another night.

Rachael, Peter and Pip also stayed until Monday morning, which dawned very wet. Pip and I went for a run on Ingleborough (not up to the top) before all heading our separate ways into a world of fuel shortages and in my case more stationary traffic on the M6.

It was back to reality after an excellent weekend of what used to be normality! Thanks to all for making a damp weekend so enjoyable.

## 25 September Circling the Drain Stuart Firth



*Magpie Mine. Richard, Peter and John striding out with Sue lending scale to the mine buildings.*

The fitter members of the Club had headed off to Yorkshire and counties north for the weekend so the attendance here was somewhat diminished. However, it was good to see Richard Hopkinson emerge from downtown Wirksworth. The weather was unpromising but soon brightened after a strong intake of caffeine at the Old Smithy cafe.

As we strode across the fields, the conversation appeared to be centred on hips, hernias and hearing aids. One member had been told by his GP that he had a nasty case of hypochondria. "What! Something else wrong with me? Is there a cure?"

We had a good wander around Magpie Mine - allegedly the best preserved lead mine in Derbyshire - more than can be said of this motley crew. The deepest shaft is 728 feet and the mine is famous for the deaths of three miners as a result of a dispute over mineral rights. The accused were found not guilty of murder but some say the mine is haunted.

A perilous scree descent through Great Shacklow Wood brought us to our lunch spot in the sun.

The crew opted for the direct return up the delights of Deepdale and across the meadows and pastures towards Monyash.

Here we restored our carbs by scoffing the famous apple cake and ice cream washed down with welcome mugs of builders' tea.

Thanks to Peter Amour, John Green, Richard Hopkinson and Sue Todd for their excellent company.



Saturday, September 25, 2021

*The lunch stop – photo John Green.*

### **3 October BARMY Competition results Michael Moss**



The rules favour those looking to cover a distance collecting crags, pinnacles, trig points and monoliths in addition to climbs. On the day heavy showers and high wind made teams concentrating on crags and routes uncompetitive. The best strategy by far was to have a plan and to know where to find monoliths (stoops and guidestones) and stone circles which are handily put on a map on the Derbyshire Historical Environment Record web site and on the Derbyshire Heritage web sites. I'm intending to choose a different start point next year so the planners will be forced to work up a new route.

### **Results**

Roger and Tom Larkam - 826 plus hardest boulder

Chris and Gill Radcliffe - 520 cycling

Nigel and Peter Briggs - 471 including highest point 395m and hardest pitch

Ruth Gordon and Richard Hopkinson - 460 walking

Simon Pape and Dave "Snod" Helliwell 399

Michael Moss, Kevin Raisin-Moss and Catherine Hocking 261

I've given points for both the hardest technical pitch and boulder as pitched climbing and bouldering are somewhat different games. 50 points so worth competing for. Each café or pub counts too, one team found a loophole in the rules and gained 20 points for just using a café toilet, so a refinement to the rules next year I think.

**Congratulations Roger and Tom.**



## Dryanuary - Tim Sellears

Ask most Oreads who've been on a recent Alpine or Bullstones meet and they would probably confirm that I'm quite partial to the odd alcoholic beverage. Exaggerated tales of taking barrels of real ale to meets, trying every beer at a brewery or organising whisky tasting should be taken as just that. What most would not know is that I normally take a month off said beverages after the Christmas and New Year festivities. I should point out that this isn't part of some ridiculous resolution but more to help my enthusiasm for winter training.

This worked well in 2020 when I raised my game on a January ice climbing trip to Austria and then later consolidated this with an amazing three days on The Ben. But what to do during the winter of 2021 when travel was seriously frowned upon ... unless for work of course ?

There was nothing for it but to thumb through my winter climbing books, one of which was *"Chasing The Ephemeral - 50 Routes for a Successful Scottish Winter"* by Simon Richardson. Back in 2016 he promoted this at Outside in Hathersage and I went along with Jeremy Windsor who lived locally and I'd climbed with earlier that year. Afterwards a group of us, including Simon, went for a curry at Maazi and I remember much banter between Jeremy and his mates regarding dry tooling at the "Crag of Dreams" in Masson Lees. I'm sure by now you can guess where this is going ...

Wikipedia suggests *"Dry-tooling is a form of rock climbing in which ice axes are used to climb rock that is not covered in snow or ice ... Dry tooling is controversial among many climbers ... "* It's the middle of January and I'm suffering from withdrawal symptoms that have nothing to do with beverages. There's nothing for it but to make an obvious call to a potential partner in crime ... "Absolutely - when can you go ?"

Tooled up with ice axes, crampons and mountaineering boots we head down into Masson Lees and the aforementioned wall at the far end of the quarry. Excited to be out we clip-stick a couple of high bolts and try *"The Warm-up M6"* I make three desperately strenuous moves and need to rest; my arms are burning, I can't see the next move and I've already ground off any resemblance of a point from each pick and crampon ... what joker named this route?

We swap over and although Hägar makes better progress he too is feeling the strain, resting on a bolt he looks down with a grin "This is brilliant mate, I'm so glad we made the effort". After a rest and battle with the allegedly easier *"Hook me up M5+\*\*"* we agree this will be the next best thing to winter climbing and may just keep us sane too.

Both routes have pre-placed quickdraws at the lower off and all bolts en-route, we only switched to lead climbing after the third bolt.



*[ Hägar midway on The Warm-up M6\*]*

After another couple of visits it's obvious we need more robust hardware and so new picks and points are purchased from "Kusnia Szpeju" in Poland.

*[ The dry tooling specific aptly named "Punk" pick ]*



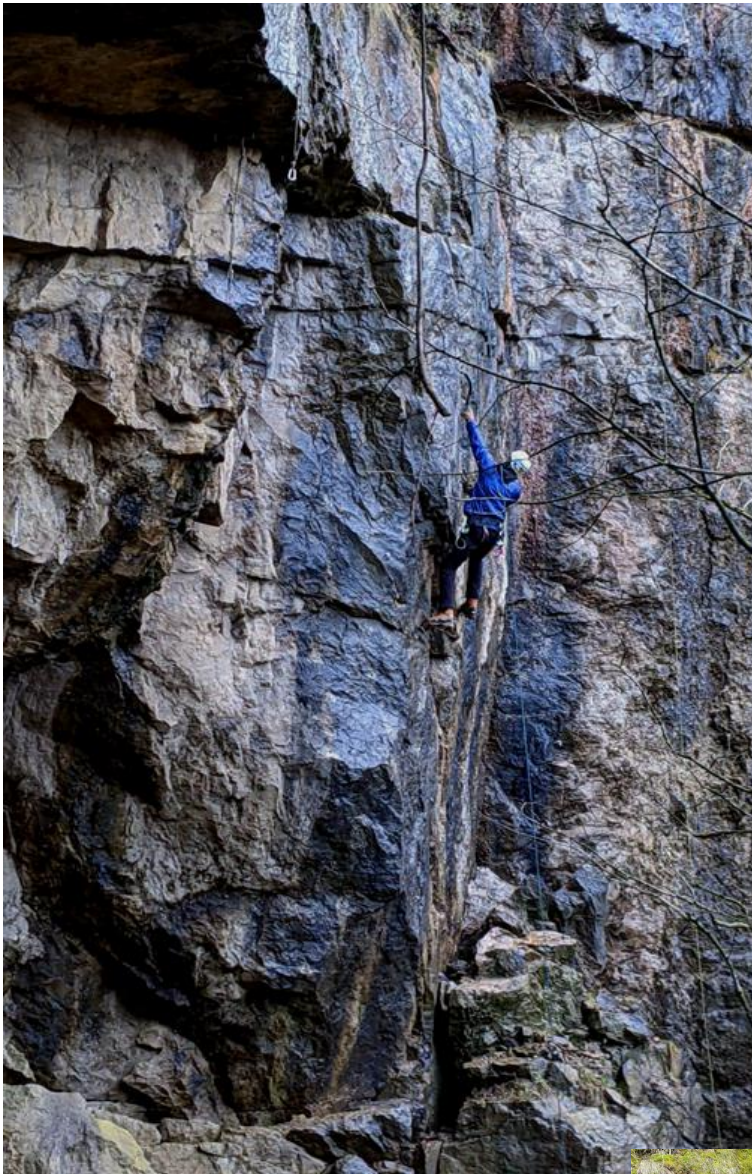
Should dry tooling turn out to be your thing then it's possible, at significant cost, to purchase specialist axes and shoes, amusingly known as "fruit boots". Keen to replace the cumbersome mountaineering boots but being of a frugal nature Hägar decides to make his own fruit boots, first from ice skates and then using some old walking boots. To be fair the latter, stiffened with a carbon fibre plate no less, not only look the business but apparently perform exceptionally well too.

*[Home made fruit boots using a bolt on crampon.]*

Several trips later we're gaining strength and technique but more importantly the knowledge of where the natural and drilled placements are. This beta is critical to



make progress up a route but it is hard won and not without the odd fall ... luckily the ground is generally steep! The weather is not always good but, contrary to its name, dry tooling can readily be done on a damp day. As with any quarry climbing the routes can change due to broken holds and this seems more true for dry tooling.



It's almost a disappointment when the season changes and the restrictions start to ease. We have made good progress under the watchful eye of the crag custodian, George Michael, below.

To reward his sterling work we regularly took along some bird seed; it has to be said though that he has a penchant for sausage roll!



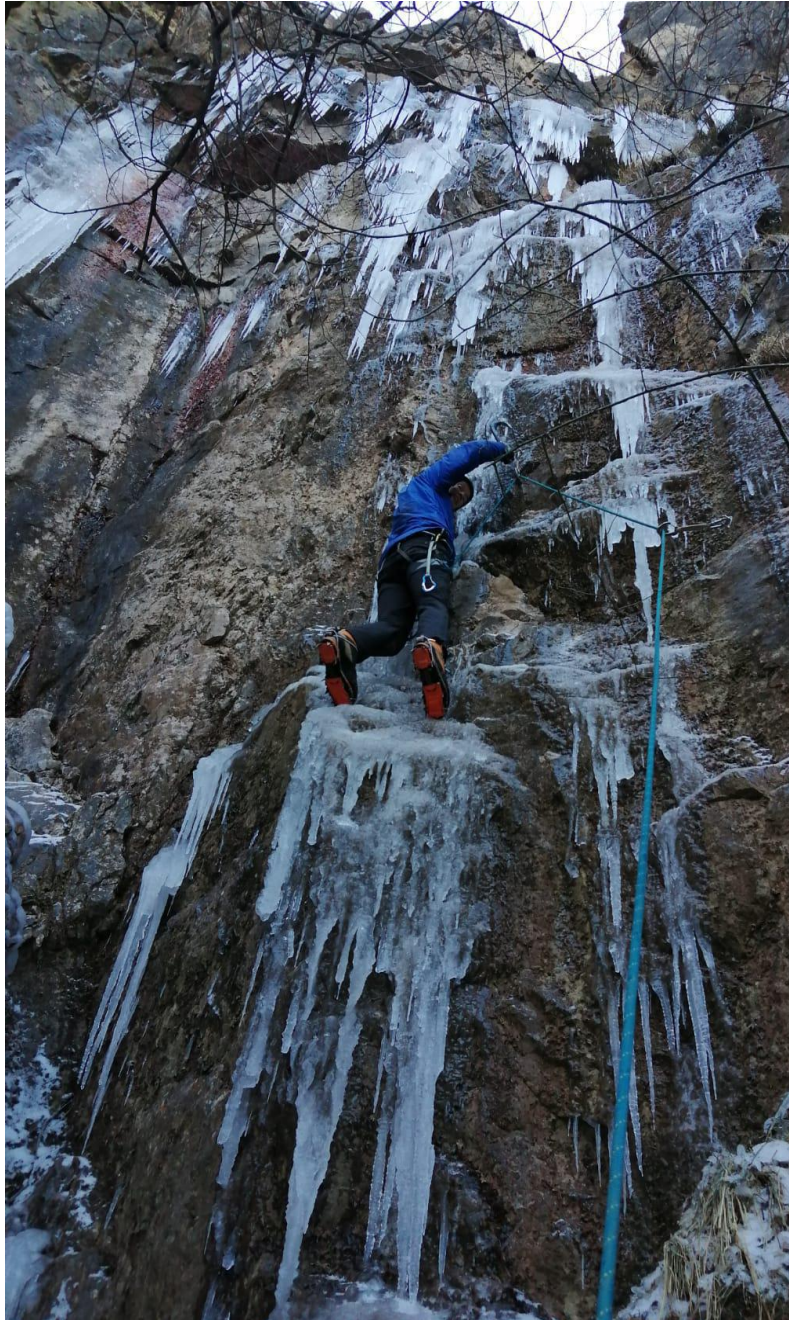
*[ Me midway and below the crux on Chelly Express M7\*\*\*]*

Is it popular? It might not be for everyone but this picture was taken during a Scottish Dry Tooling Club meet in September at The Works in Cumbria ... Hägar and myself were the oldest participants by some margin !

Was it a good substitute to winter



climbing and did it keep us sane during the winter of 2021?



The saying goes that a picture tells a thousands words and I think you'll know the answer.

We were very lucky to get the forth and fifth ascent of this new route in Masson Lees which formed after a wet spell followed by another "Beast from the East". It was climbable for just six days and thanks must go to Ramon Marin who had the foresight to bolt this spectacular line.

It still makes me smile thinking about it !

*[ Me on Blue Moon WI6\*\*\* ]*

If you want to know more about dry tooling then I suggest you buy me a pint ... though obviously not in January!

## **Past Times and Old Friends**

### **Further Honoraries – Tony Moulam**

Sadly (for me at least) this will be the last Honorary themed article I shall write, moving on to the remaining Oread Honorary members who I know.

The first is Paul Gardiner, President in 1972, who presented me with a treasured artefact – the Oread plate commemorating my dining, at your club's expense, from 1951! Unfortunately my attendance at your dinners was only intermittent,

as the Climbers' Club soon found another north country resident to send as their representative. However I always enjoyed the somewhat boisterous events and managed to clock up some four or five appearances in the 21 years. More recently, in fact just before I started writing this series of pieces, Paul informed me of the plate's provenance; to wit the Bass brewery, where he worked. This added to the plate's appeal as most of my early climbing was with Peter Harding, whose father, Reg, was landlord of the Bass tied house, the Navigation Inn in Derby. Here much of my youth, when not on the rocks, was mis-spent including the occasion when I set the pub's billiard table alight whilst demonstrating my newly acquired petrol fuelled compact camping stove to the first AGM of the Stonnis Mountaineering Club!

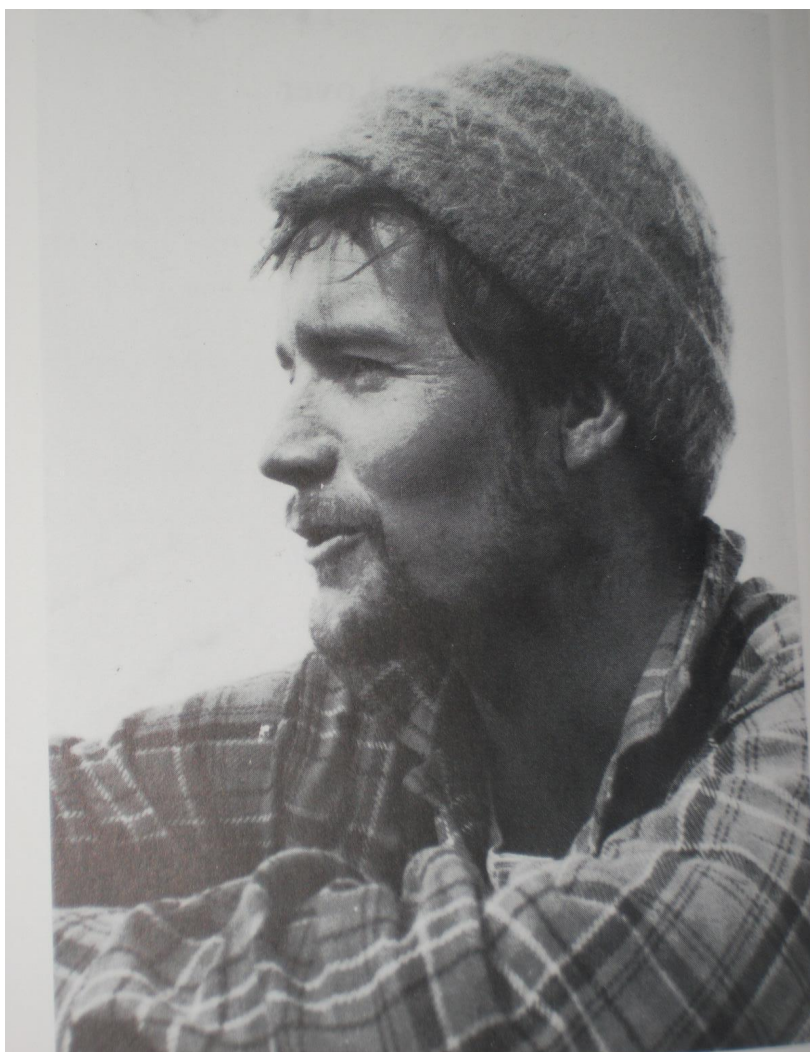
Quick thinking Ernie Phillips and Ken Herbert managed to douse the flames with the heavy cloth table cover before any real damage was done and thus saved a conflagration that could have destroyed the pub. Needless to say, Peter and I had an awkward discussion with Harding senior when we had to explain our misadventure.

Things were about to change; I moved to Norton Barracks, near Malvern, and donned khaki in place of my 6th form flannels and blazer and Harding became a lecturer at Shrewsbury Technical College. He sold his Sunbeam 350cc motorcycle and bought a Triumph Speed twin and his parents took over the Wyggeston pub in Burton on Trent. Again the father/son relationship foundered when we disposed of dirty oil from the bike's sump down a convenient grating, which turned out to be ventilation for the cellar!

However, back to the 1972 dinner and plate, it records my presidency of the Climbers' Club and concurrent election as President of the British Mountaineering Council in 1970. The position had been vacant for a year because of the illness of Basil Goodfellow, the incumbent and although Frank Solari, the Vice President, had stood in ably it was felt that the BMC post should be filled urgently because key negotiations with the Central Council of Physical Recreation about funding a National Officer were imminent. Jack Longland therefore made an approach, and persuaded me to take on this additional role. Luckily my boss at ICI (although a golf fanatic with no other obvious link to the outdoors) supported me enthusiastically by allowing me to leave work early for many meetings at the Council's offices in London.

Peter Ledeboer of the ABMSAC, who was the (also recently appointed) BMC Secretary and I initially managed to persuade our CCPR liaison officer, Fred Bristow, that climbing was different from most other sports in that it could not profit from payments to enter competitions and so all costs had to be covered by membership fees. This argument was finally accepted by the CCPR and Walter Winterbottom, the General Secretary, and first Director of the Sports Council, announced at a culminating meeting that they would, exceptionally, fund fully our National Officer!

With finance assured we acted quickly and advertised the job in the climbing media, and this proved the catalyst of my meeting with Dennis Grey, (pictured below, as published in “Mountain Lover”).



He was one of a few applicants and stood out at our subsequent interview as the best candidate. He, a 'Bradford Lad' and Rock and Ice member was a young and active climber and eloquent with good ideas as to how to approach the task. The wisdom of our selection was soon evident as Dennis, on his appointment, made a whirlwind whistle-stop tour of clubs and other assorted organizations and garnered essential support for the newly invigorated BMC.

At the end of March 1972 he arranged a Mountain Safety Conference in Birmingham, which proved very successful, although my participation was limited by a car breakdown which meant that I arrived somewhat late. At least I was able to present my paper. 'Is it Still Adventure', after one

by Ken Wilson on “Risk”.

But enough of politics and back to the basics of climbing. My first outing with Dennis was a long week end in Scotland.

A liaison meeting between the BMC and our Scots equivalent, the Mountain Council of Scotland was arranged and we took a sleeper to Bridge of Orchy, on 19 May. On Saturday, after the discussions, Dennis and I were escorted up by the kilted Sandy Cousins, the M.C.of S. Secretary.

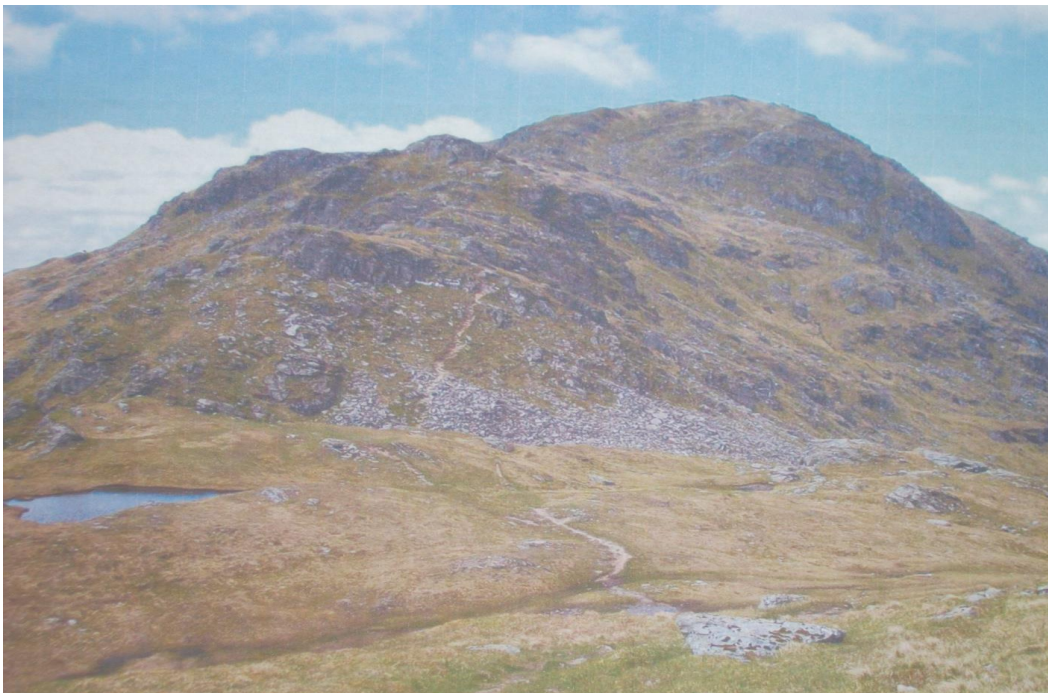
Perhaps he chose the peak, which translates as 'the peak of the Scotsmen's corries' to emphasise his organisation's separatist stance, but drove us to the locked gate on the approach trail in his self-converted estate car camper van. The climb was uneventful until we came to the summit, from which we descended after a sitting glissade over the remains of a snow cornice, which must have proved something of an ordeal for our guide's bare legs,



*Stob Coir an Albannaich (1044m).*

On Sunday, left to our own devices, Dennis and I climbed An Casteall (995m) (below) a short day on a rather undistinguished summit in the same range as we had to leave relatively early to catch the train from Glasgow, as inconveniently it started from there and did not come to Bridge of Orchy on the Sabbath!

We had enjoyed our time together and on the way home Dennis invited me to stay with him and Leni at the beginning of June, for a tour of his local crags.



The week end was fine and on Saturday Dennis, proprietorially, showed me round Ilkley Quarry sampling several climbs, the best two being Waleska and the contrastingly rather brutal Botterill's Crack, which is very different from his Slab on Scafell Crag! Sunday was the turn of Brimham Rocks where Hatter's Groove and Allan's Crack were the highlights of the day amongst its bounty of bewildering buttresses, before a civilised tea in the local cafe.

Through the rest of the year we climbed together as opportunity arose, I remember particularly The Flakes at Stoney Middleton where I came last on a rope of three along its airy and hairy traverse, and then a Guides meeting in the Lakes. On Castle Rock we did Barbican and Mayday Cracks before failing on the final pitch of Thirlmere Eliminate. Mind, it was damp, displaying constantly weeping and inadequate holds-and neither of us thought that the available protection was credible! Two guides, Chris Bacon and Sean Barry, entertained us on Sunday with Peeler, Gnome and April Fool, three esoteric VSs on a steep but nice and welcomingly dry part of Goat's Crag,

The year ended on a high note with a BMC meeting at Plas y Brenin where it was agreed that Dennis had made a fine start in defining and executing his new role, and his contribution to the sub committee deciding the future development of the BMC. We congratulated him on his achievements to date and also increased his salary!

The past year had also seen tragedy, when five pupils and a student teacher died in a Cairngorm blizzard. This event received sensational national coverage and the Sports Council urged the BMC to engage urgently with Mountain Education authorities and the Mountain Leadership Training Board. We enthusiastically responded and established closer liaison than had hitherto existed. As a corollary the Sports Council urged us to produce a mountain safety film, and assured us that funds would be made available. Peter Ledeboer then entered a dialogue with a commercial organisation and ended up with a serious commitment, which we could not afford when the Sports Council failed to sanction the finance. This led to major disagreements within our committee, and eventually Peter and I resigned over the issue.

Alan Blackshaw took over the Presidency in 1973 and Dennis and Bob Pettigrew (my last Honorary) worked hard, with many others, to retrieve the situation. Bob and I never climbed together but over the years sat many times at various top tables, the last occasion being at the Oread's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

## **Publication of Tony Moulam's writings – Stuart Firth**

As many members of the Oread will be aware, over many years Tony Moulam has contributed significantly to the history of climbing - especially in Derbyshire and North Wales. He put up a lot of new routes, wrote and edited Climbers' Club guidebooks and produced many fascinating articles for climbing publications.

Chris Radcliffe and I both feel that these writings should be brought to a wider

audience. To that end we have assembled the whole body of work with a view to eventual small-scale private publication. I am delighted to report that Tony's daughter, Clare Westrop has now enthusiastically taken up this project as a family labour of love.

To assist with print planning, it would be helpful for her to know how many Oread members could be interested in purchasing this unique book once it becomes available. Please let me know if you would like to express your interest.

**Additionally, if anyone has any particular memories or thoughts of Tony, these would be gratefully received and considered for inclusion in the publication.**

Stuart Firth: Tel. xxxxxx email xxxxxx

## **Profile: Digger.**

**The following "Profile" (one of an irreverent series spotlighting individual club members), was originally published in the newsletter (then titled Bulletin) 24 no. 2 Winter 1977 and has been re-found for publication by Paul Gardiner.**

As I strayed in the shade of the Buachaille  
One cold and wintry day,  
I trod on a bod in a boghole,  
'Twas a climber, old and grey.

T. Patey

David joined the Oread in 1962, whilst working on a rocket for Rolls Royce. He joined the club after serving a short aspirancy, and following an introduction by Janes (an act he lived to regret) as the seventh son of Gareth (the slack) Williams. David had his early years in the "Rhondda" and was educated at Tony-Pandy High. "Dai Bach", as he was affectionately known in the valleys took to the slopes like a natural. Weaned on the "Beacons" and the Black Mountains, he perfected front-pointing on the village slag heaps, using discarded pit pony shoes screwed back to front on his pit boot toes. Dave's service in the armed forces still remains something of a mystery. A popular rumour that he was chief scout to General Wingate's chindits was flattened on the '67 Welsh walk, when the already suspect qualities of his map reading were highlighted by a series of diversions. This proved that Bombadier Williams D. 217414 C.M.D. spent all his map reading sessions in the N.A.A.F.I. bar.

Dave emigrated to Derby after "the wars". He met Janes by accident during an equally accidental rocket launch over Sinfin Moor, when the warhead failed to breach the "Stenson Bubble". Dave insisted on an introduction to the Oread and our unwitting member obliged. In short, Dave quickly won favour with the club's veterans, serving an early apprenticeship as Pretty's Gentleman's Gentleman. Noms-de-plume fell on Dave as roof leaks on Tan yr Wyddfa and the "Dave" was

dropped immediately for “Tiger Williams”. Others followed, usually from Pretty, such as “Silly Welsh Twat”, until all settled for “Digger” and it stuck.

He is an appalling cook, poisoning many until “rumbled”. On Williams and his culinary fiascos Geof Hayes' amazed stare rested, as his plastic cup dissolved when trying to contain a helping of “Digger's Consomme Ospiz”. As a tea-maker he is even worse. On the '68 Welsh walk he achieved the impossible by brewing “a good strong cup of refreshing tea” without water!

His determination is without question. In his pre-Rover days, when representing the Oread at the Summit Dance, Dave cycled, in his best suit, from Chaddesden to the Peveril of the Peak”, Thorpe. Leaving at 2.00 am “blotto”, he rode off into the night to arrive home almost sober at 4.30 am. An accomplished artist in oils and Crown Plus Two emulsion, Digger is also a terrible photographer. His Alpine shots in '68 gave Milner a case of popping monacle and Pretty had convulsions. He fortunately pulled out of active photography after producing 200 pale cream white-outs on an unsuccessful attempt on the “Strahlhorn”. His other fancies are classical music and Shakespeare. The least said about his renderings of the “Bard of Avon”s' work the better and it was only “Longshanks Kershaw” who would rise to his defence.

Digger is no “extreme rock man” but is good value on a mountain, always turning failure into success. Whether it be the Welsh walk, Peak Horseshoe, or the round of Raynesway, Digger is there. He was even seen carrying a Dulux dog on the '71 Peak horseshoe, until the dog, a bitch, packed in. In the higher mountains Dave is at his best, with many classic peaks to his credit. He will grace the ranks of the Alpine Club one day if it takes Jack Longland to fix it. He likes the “big uns” Monte Rosa, Weissmies, Mont Blanc and Mrs Mills have all felt Digger's boot. One wonders what it was that gave him most satisfaction on Mont Blanc in '70. Was it the summit, or was it the wrestling of the “blue riband” high altitude (bowel evacuation section) from Lol Burns with his spendid effort near the top on the crowded “Bosses ridge” or possibly the trumping competition in the Weissmies hut in '69.

So what is it we have in Williams the man? Son of a Rhondda miner, owner of the “Ponte Rosa” Wood Road; Rover 2000 at one end of the garage, a 20 inch diameter, touch of the Patrick Moore's at the other? There is a full disc jockey outfit of Japanese Hi Fi gear in the lounge and a selection of rare trees in the extensive grounds, looted from an assortment of National Forests. He is a high placed dignitary on the Oread committee, rivalling only his friends Janes and Fred Allen as the most dubious Assistant Secretary of all times. In concluding, what better than to see his youthful presence in the “Moon” on Tuesdays. Just a hint of the “Grecian 2000's, bike clips at the slope, galoshes of course, generous to a fault, our one and only Digger.

Live it up , fill your cup, drown your sorrow,  
And sow your wild oats while you may,  
For the toothless old tykes of tomorrow,  
Are the tigers of yesterday.

## **Lisa Welbourn: a photographic tribute from Peter Amour.**



Typically Lisa: at the centre of things and expressing her warm personality at the start of a Monday walk with Oreads and friends from a wintry Winster.

### **Hut Bookings.**

**Both our Welsh and Derbyshire hut bookings have now moved online at the Oread website [www.oread.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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 Full member Jae Yeon Oh and Provisional member Sayhan Turan. We hope you will enjoy many happy times with the Oread.

## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

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

The scene was Hartington taken from the shoulder just below the summit of Ecton Hill. Ecton Hill is of Height 369 metres, so estimating the shoulder to be 20m below the summit, say 350 metres or thereabouts would have been the rough height of the camera. Anyone who identifies the scene and tenders a figure in this general region shall be deemed to be correct. I am informed that an ascent of this terrifying precipice on a Panther motorcycle is about to take place.

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

#### Part 1

What was the name of the farmer who lived in the farmhouse and worked the land between Birchens and Gardoms during the first decade of the Oread, prior to the opening of the Eric Byne Memorial Campsite?

#### Part 2

Those who cannot answer part 1 may retrieve the situation by correctly nominating a fellow Oread whom they think will submit a correct answer to myself or your Hon. Editor.

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

## **Oread Annual Dinner Order Form**

The dinner will be on the **4<sup>th</sup> December** and will cost £30.00 per person. Tea or coffee is included in the price.

Please write your name and the name of your guest in the boxes on the top line and tick one item per course per person.

**Either post** your completed form to Chris Radcliffe, or **scan and email** your form to xxxxx to arrive by 15<sup>th</sup> November at the latest.

**Payment can be made in one of 3 ways:**

- **By cheque payable to Oread MC**
- **By bank transfer to Oread A/C No.: 62584068; Sort code 30-98-97. Please state *Your Name-Dinner* in the reference.**
- **By direct debit through GoCardless (see below for explanation) Use one of the following links, payment will be taken on 24<sup>th</sup> November.**

Single dinner (£30): <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00044PYAAFVP>

Two dinners (£60): <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00044PXXDST3>

**Please state your payment method on the form below:  
BACS/Cheque/GoCardless.**

**I must have the completed forms by 15<sup>th</sup> November**

### **GoCardless**

The club is currently running a trial of **GoCardless**, which is a Direct Debit system. If we, as administrators, and you as 'customers' find it easy to use we may set it up for paying subscriptions next year. At the moment we are offering it as one of three possible methods for paying for the Annual Dinner. You will see under the **payment options** above GoCardless links to use to pay £30 for one dinner, or £60 for two dinners for a couple.

If you wish to use this method click on the appropriate link. You will then be asked to put in your bank details, the payment will be taken just before the dinner. Part of the reason for this trial is to see how popular this is as a payment method, and if the information provided to you, and the club, on bank statements is satisfactory, and to get any other feedback. Please email me with any comments.

Thank you.

Janet Briggs: [treasurer@oread.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@oread.co.uk)

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Payment Method</b>	<b>BACS/ Cheque/ GoCardless</b>			
<b>Starter</b>				
Carrot and Coriander with rustic bread V. GF on request				
Assorted bread and dips V. GF on request.				
Crispy whitebait with garlic & chive dip				
Chicken liver parfait, apple & ale chutney served with crostini.				
<b>Main Course</b>				
Seared stuffed chicken Chicken with mozzarella, smoked bacon, mashed potato and a tomato & pesto creamy sauce. (GF)				
Baked salmon, crushed new potatoes, buttered stem brocolli & dill sauce. (GF)				
Wild mushroom risotto with truffle oil and seared rocket. V				
<b>Dessert</b>				
Rich chocolate brownie and Chantilly cream.(GF on request)				
Sticky toffee pudding & vanilla ice cream (GF on request)				
Cheese & Biscuits (GF on request)				
<b>£2 extra</b>				

(GF) Gluten Free, (V) Vegetarian,

**If you have any special dietary requirements please state them on the form. (e.g. gluten free). Any 'on request' option must be pre-ordered.**

**Please contact The Fox & Goose directly if you have any other dietary concerns: Lynne Brooks 01246 566335.**

If you have a strong preference to be seated in a particular group, please state this below & we will do our best to accommodate you.