



# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2022



**Rachel Walker (right) on the summit of the S.E. Ridge of the Aiguille L'Index. Read all about it on page 9. Photo G Radcliffe.**

## **Editorial**

Coming up soon we have a variety of local walks, including part three of the Gritstone Trail, the first of our winter lectures at the Royal Oak, plus meets to Scotland and the Lake District and notice of December's Annual Dinner. The meets programme for 2023 is shaping up well and will appear in next month's newsletter so, if there is somewhere you fancy going be in touch with Mike Moss soon. What about day climbing meets to the far flung corners of the Peak or some cycling or mountain bike days out? We are also seeking volunteers to give a talk either live at the Royal Oak or on Zoom – don't be shy! Write-ups include the wonderfully sunny Alpine meet, local walks and an exciting rock climb in Norway – oh – and a very special birthday!

**Copy Deadline 20 October.**

## Forthcoming Meets 2022

**Michael Moss: email: meetsec@oread.co.uk Tel xxxxxxxx**

<b>Oct</b>	5	Wednesday walk	Hope	Pip Leach
	11	Lecture Spike Johnson	Royal Oak Ockbrook	Rob Tressider
	12th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	15	Weekend walk	Kidsgrove – Timberbrook	Stuart Firth
	20	Thur short walk	Thorpe	Colin Hobday
	23-29	Strawberry cottage, Glen Affric	Scotland	Peter Amour
	31	Monday evening indoor meet	Climbing unit, Derby	
<b>Nov</b>	1	Lecture Brian Hall	Royal Oak Ockbrook	Rob Tressider
	2	Wednesday Walk	Hollinsclough	Clive Russell
	5	Bonfire	Heathy Lea	
	9th	Winter wall Wednesday		
	12	Weekend walk	Hathersage (Outside cafe)	Richard Linney
	13	Dry tooling	Masson Lees	Jeff Ingman and Tim Sellears
	17	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18-19	Fylde hut	Little Langdale, Lakes	Dave Helliwell (Snod), Fylde MC hut swap
<b>December</b>	3	Annual dinner, Fox and Goose	Nr Chesterfield.	Chris and Gill Radcliffe
	4	Post prandial walk		Date & location TBC
	6	Lecture Jon Morgan	Royal Oak Ockbrook	Rob Tressider
	7	Wednesday walk	Rowsley (Massarellas cafe)	
	7th	Winter wall Wednesday		
	9/10/11	Bullstones		N and J Briggs
	14	Black rocks evening meet	Cromford, Derbyshire	
	15	Thur short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17	Dry tooling	Masson Lees	Jeff Ingman and Tim Sellears
	26	Boxing day walk		Location TBD
		Christmas and New Year hut		
	24-3 Jan	meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	

## Winter Zoom Talks Nigel Briggs

We hope to run a series of zoom based talks over the winter months, the first one will be in November. The talks will be around the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

We need people to volunteer talks in order to run the series. The talks can be a full slot, 50 mins, or shorter and any subject you deem to be of interest! We can run a number of short presentations on the same evening if needed.

Details of the talks and joining instructions will be sent out prior to each talk.

If you are uncertain about presenting over zoom please talk to me or any of the previous presenters. Guidance and the opportunity to practice can be given!

Nigel Briggs email:xxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxx

## **Indoor lecture programme 2022-23 at the Royal Oak Ockbrook Rob Tresidder**

This year I am hoping to be able to return to pre-Covid levels of talks especially from outside speakers. Last winter there were in the end no visitors, after two withdrew for Covid transmission reasons. Things are looking much better this time with three outsiders already committed. There are a couple of alterations from the usual “first Tuesday of the month”. The beginning of October is the Royal Oak’s beer festival. Worth a visit as they are once again Derby CAMRA’s pub of the year. The first Tuesday in January is too close to the bank holiday, so I have moved that as well.

What I need from Oreads is some help with the gaps! Do you have a tale to tell? Do you know someone that you would like to hear speak to the Oread? Let me know and I will make the invitation.

**11** October 2022. **Spike Johnston**. See notice on page 5

01 November. **Brian Hall**, author of new book “High Risk” recounts his climbs with several deceased climbers. **See page 7.**

06 December. **Jon Morgan**, professional anaesthetist, professional mountain guide.

**10** January 2023. **Graham Hoey**, Peak based author, new router, photographer, climbing guidebook writer.

07 February. **suggestions/offers please!**

07 March. **suggestions/offers please!**

Rob Tresidder email: xxxxxxxxxx

## **The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oread**

2024 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Oread Mountaineering Club. During 2024 we will hold celebratory events to mark the occasion.

The anniversary gives us the opportunity (excuse) to look back over the last 25 years. To provide a 'countdown' we are going to reproduce a noteworthy article from the Newsletter archive every month from now until the end of 2024. The articles have been selected to reflect what has happened within the club rather than the "best" articles but hopefully they are all rather good. They should allow us to have a little indulgent wallow in nostalgia! We hope you enjoy (re)reading the articles.

A second initiative is to get a club photographic archive on the website. Watch this space for details about how to view and contribute to the gallery.

### **Members' Corner**

#### **For Sale: Ice Climbing Gear.**

Following last month's Ad most of the gear has been sold.

There's a pair of Quarks plus 1 spare blade, and a couple of "non turbo" ice screws left.

Get in touch if you're interested.

Richard Hopkinson: email xxxxxxxxx Tel. xxxxxxxxx

#### **Wednesday 5 October Hope area Walk Pip Leach**

I will be leading this walk, starting from the village of Hope. There are three cafes to choose from in the village, can I suggest meeting outside the Cafe Adventure (no idea what it's like but I like the name, at 10.15!) There is parking in the village, it's probably Pay and Display, but there are toilets there.

This is a classic, well known and much loved walk, but it's a while since I've been up in that area, and it's always worth a visit. I suggest we set off with the steep ascent of Lose Hill, I'm hoping it's not too busy mid-week, the view is so rewarding. We'll take in Hollins Cross, and I suppose while we're up there, Mam Tor, then descend into Edale.

From Edale, I propose we ascend via Grindbrook, probably my favourite trail in the Peak District, then skirt round the high ground there, heading East. There's a trig point to aim for, followed by Madwoman's stones - intriguing name! We can descend onto the Roman Road that heads towards Win Hill, and take a descending path back into Hope (or take in Win Hill if energy levels and the mood takes us)

It's about 11 miles or 12 miles with Mam Tor, by my reckoning and entails a lot of ascent/descent, nothing for seasoned walkers, following such exploits as the Coast to Coast and walking in the Alps.

Please let me know if you are able to come along. I can co-ordintate lifts, if it helps, or if you work out car sharing between yourselves, that's fine too.  
Pip Leach: email [xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Tuesday 11 October 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**



### **Spike Johnson will entertain us with tales from Norway and Tenerife:**

The evening will start with photos from a wild hut-to hut ski tour in Norway that I did in March 2019 with Helen and Pam Norris. We carried out a South to North traverse of the Hardangervidda. One of

the highlights was when we came across a herd of over 300 wild reindeer, the low point was the wind and rain! We had a tricky time at the end of the tour with the wild weather that the Hardangervidda is famous for.



For the second half of the evening, I have decided that it would be interesting for Oreads to see some photographs of Helen and myself exploring the wild mountainous country in the Anaga Rural Park (UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve) on the North of Tenerife in January 2020. The walking was quite exciting and remote with lots of plants.

Admission £3.00 Oreads £5.00 non members.

## **Saturday 15 October Gritstone Trail part 3 Stuart Firth**

I propose to walk Part 3 of the scenic Gritstone Trail in a linear fashion from Kidsgrove railway station (SJ837 543) to our Part 2 start / end point of Timbersbrook car park. (Map OL 268, GR 894 627).

This will require some logistical planning. Assemble at Timbersbrook at 10:00.

Depart at 10:15 in half the cars arriving at Kidsgrove about 30 minutes later.

Walk back to the remaining cars at Timbersbrook which can then be used to retrieve those at Kidsgrove. Easier done than said. I hope.

It would be jolly helpful if intendees could let me know beforehand please so that I can do some more personalised planning.

Meanwhile, the walking route is as follows:

Kidsgrove Railway Station, Red Bull, Macclesfield canal, The Bank, Mow Cop Castle, Old Man of Mow, Cheshire's Close, Pot Bank, Nick i' Th' Hill, Congleton Edge, Overedge, Timbersbrook car park.

Stuart Firth: email [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Thursday 20 October Short Walk Colin Hobday**

Meet at Narlows lane car park, Thorpe (free) for an 11.00 am start. The route will be via Tissington and Fenny Bentley about five and a half miles with one short steep hill - and a tea stop at lunch time.

Please let me know if you are able to make it.

Colin Hobday: email [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **23-29 October Glen Affric Peter Amour**

The meet is fully booked, should anyone wish to be put on a reserve list please feel free to e mail me.

To those booked on to the meet we have bed nights in Strawberry Cottage from Sunday, 23rd - Fri, 28th October, leaving on Saturday, 29th.

The journey out and back involves a long drive AND a 5 mile walk/cycle ride track journey to/from Strawberry Cottage, which lies deep in Glen Affric.

The 5 mile track journey is on Forestry & Land's property, and a condition of using the access, which the An Teallach MC have to comply to, is two vehicles only are allowed to travel the track. That said, I plan to have my car and one other act as "lorries" to ferry gear to/from the hut while participants walk/cycle the forest road. For this to happen we need to rendezvous at the River Car Park, Glen Affric to transfer gear from the cars which must be left behind into both gear ferrying cars. I propose we meet at 5pm Sunday afternoon. Should ANYONE have a problem with this time please let me know as soon as possible, co-ordination on this is vital. Several of us are OVERNIGHTING en-route out and back to fit the gear transfer plan, could I ask you to bear this in mind.

I shall send out further details next week.

Peter Amour: email [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Tuesday 1 November 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**

Brian Hall, a mountain guide and safety consultant, grew up with the radical climbers who would come to define a wild and glorious chapter of Himalayan mountaineering in the late nineteen seventies and eighties. He partied with them, climbed with them, and grieved many of the eleven unforgettable climbers portrayed in his new book. "*High Risk*" which takes the reader right to the heart and soul of the golden age of UK climbing.

Admission £3.00 Oreads £5.00 non members.

## **Wednesday 2 November Hollinsclough walk Clive "Rusty" Russell**

Meet at the phone box in Hollinsclough (SK065266) a little before 10.30 so that we may move off at that time, there is unlikely to be a shortage of parking space on the verge, mid week in winter. We shall merely view my much lauded usual haunts of the limestone hills from a respectful distance, and instead head north towards Axe Edge on ground more comfortable underfoot than the famously described bogland, closer to the upper reaches of the Manifold. Having reached a respectable altitude on the bleak and isolated little patch of moorland above Dun Cows Grove we shall move East to Flash Bar where there is sustenance and shelter if desired. The return down the Dove basin will be on a selection of accomodating tracks encountered more by chance than navigational prowess.

Rusty: email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Saturday 12 November Hathersage Walk Richard Linney**

Meet in the centre of Hathersage for a 10am start, opposite the Texaco Garage / Santana Balti.

Our route, of roughly 11 miles, takes us through a good mix of terrain, from riverside paths and a wooded gorge to the open moorland of Stanage Edge (Hathersage > Padley Gorge > Toad's Mouth > Higger Tor > Burbage Bridge > Stanage Edge > Long Causeway > Hathersage).

Let me know if you're planning to join me!

Richard Linney email [xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **18-19 November Little Langdale Dave "Snod" Helliwell**

The Fylde club's delightful hut is well situated for a variety of crags - in Langdale itself are Gimmer, Raven, White Ghyll and Pavey Ark and there's magnificent quarries close at hand too. Plus great mountain walking in all directions.

We sincerely hope for better weather than last year when gales knocked out the

power lines for the whole weekend – but I shall be bringing a camping stove just in case! This is a hut swap 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. Parking is limited – only six spaces adjacent to the hut so car share if possible.

Book your bed with me:

Snod: email [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx) Tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx and leave a message.

## **Saturday 3 December Oread Annual Dinner Chris and Gill Radcliffe**

*Please save the date in your Calendar!*

The annual dinner 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 but there is a Premier Inn - Chesterfield West (on the A619 Baslow – Chesterfield road) only a mile away 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). Book the hotel early - it is very popular.

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!

Any questions, please contact us - Chris & Gill Radcliffe: [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **14 -21 January Ice Climbing Rjukan Jeff Ingman**

This meet is now fully booked and there are a couple of reserves in case of drop-outs. Jeff Ingman: email [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx)



# News, Articles and Reports from Meets

## Summer Alpine Trip 23 July – 7 August 2022

Thirteen Oreads attended the alpine summer meet in the Chamonix valley, staying at the excellent Camping du Glacier Argentiere run by twin sisters, Isobelle and Lolo. Chris and Gill had been on the Alpine Club meet at the same campsite since July 2<sup>nd</sup>



and once that meet ended it was nice to be joined by familiar faces for the two weeks of the Oread meet.

Unfortunately, this year almost all mixed high mountain routes were out of condition and high level rock routes subject to difficulties of access and sometimes rockfall. This was due to a dry spring, a heatwave in

June and persistent hot weather in July. Despite this, Mick and Kasia grabbed an ascent of the Tete Blanche ( *above*) whilst it was still feasible.

However as there is so much to do in the Chamonix area mountain activities were still an option.

The most popular activity was walking and climbing in the Aiguilles Rouges, which has easy access due to the uplift and a non-glacial approach. Typical of the weather we enjoyed, all the routes were climbed in hot and sunny conditions. A large team ascended the SE ridge of the Aiguille L'Index (Mick, Kasia, Rachel, Pippa, Chris & Gill) (*right*) finding it very busy with guided parties. On a later date Nigel and Janet found it very quiet and therefore had a more relaxed experience on the same route. Chris and Gill had a quiet time on Mic est Maousse and Hotel California. Nigel and Gill had a great day out on Point Gaspard as a precursor to climbing the Papillon Arete on the Aiguille du Peigne. Papillon Arete is a



great route with a mountain feel; the odd peg and slings ease passage and speed up the ascent but it's still a race against time to catch the teleferique down and save one's knees from the agony of a long descent.



Nigel, Janet and Pippa weren't so lucky a few days later when they missed the last chairlift after completing a via ferrata and via corda (scramble) and had to walk down to Argentiere, arriving hot and tired at 8.30pm, just in time to join in with Tom's birthday celebrations.

Janet, Nigel, Pippa and Rachel braved the cold water to go swimming at various high level lakes in the area; I'm told it was all very refreshing and the views were wonderful. In-between climbing routes, Chris did a lot of cycling on his e-road bike and mountain bike. Mick and Helen, Pete and Sue did a lot of walking and were very taken with a patisserie in Argentiere that was aiming for the accolade of being the best in France, necessitating repeat visits to check it out! (*Below.*)

Towards the end of the trip, Gill did a two day back pack trip from Vallorcine to Mont Buet; spending the night on top of Cheval Blanc. After the busyness of the Aiguille Rouge trails it was a delight to walk amongst quiet mountains; whilst not technically difficult I did see Ibx and dinosaur footprints on a slab of rock, I guess the footprints were made when it must have been a mud flat 250 million years ago?

On the last day most people went climbing on various crags and came together in the evening for an excellent meal at La Dahu restaurant in Argentiere. Yet another amazing place to eat; it



was an enjoyable end to a great two weeks.

Attendees – Mick & Helen Hayes, Kasia Sajdok, Nigel & Janet Briggs, Rachel Walker & Pippa Leach, Pete & Sue Lancaster, Tom & Ellie Hayes, Chris & Gill Radcliffe.

### 3 August Matlock area Walk John Gwyther



On a fine summer's day five Oread stalwarts plus one, met up outside Highfields School. We then set off for Lumsdale Quarry (not on the itinerary), passed through Tansley to Riber Castle for a coffee stop and then down a pretty steep descent into Old Matlock. Back up the hill for a picnic at the Heights of Abraham and over to Bonsall where a rather persistent young lady tried to sell us some of her friend's pictures in aid of a dubious cause. Then off past the quarry towards Cromford, where muddy bottoms were enjoyed by Stuart and Frederique (in one of the driest summers for years) and then after more dissent we clipped the corner and headed down to Matlock Bath for ice creams. Triple Brownie points to Sue for correctly identifying an enormous Chicken-in-the-Woods (*Lactiporous sulphurous*) bracket fungus. Back up to Starkholmes, past the Arkwright ruins and on to the school.



Many thanks to Sue, Frederique, Stuart, Richard and Peter (who had already done it) for the good company and S&S for the cream tea afterwards.

## 20 August Longshaw Loop Peter Amour

Eleven gathered at the Foxhouses car park, left promptly at 10-30am and entered the open access land adjacent to the pub.

A cocky meet leader had seen an OS recorded track that would lead us directly into the Burbage Valley from t'pub. After 75 confident metres the bouncy stride disappeared as the land owner's newly replaced barbed wire fence had him spluttering apologies about it "Being marked on't map".

Finding official foot and bridle paths the gang ventured north through a mix of former gritstone quarries, bracken, and superbly colourful August heather. With height gained a head count took place at Upper Burbage Bridge before accessing Stanage Edge by the Cowper Stone.

The wind blown escarpment made for interesting travel prior to a direction change and descent at Stanage Plantation. The party then continued south into Hathersage via North Lees, where a brief visit to the village church and the associated Little John grave was undertaken (sorry!).

Following a short debate about the remaining distance to be covered, and a number of members having commitments for the evening, the circuit length was modified to an enjoyable Derwentside walk, followed by a cuppa stop at Grindleford Station cafe and a pleasant return by the ever magnetic Padley Gorge and Longshaw Estate.

Thank you to those in attendance :- John and Frederique Gwyther, Stuart and Sue, Mike Rittig, Richard Hopkinson, Janet and Nigel Briggs, John Green and Mike Hayes. Thanks also to Jan Wilson who organised the walk but couldn't make it. We hope to see you and Chris out covering the hills before too long.

## 7 September walk Stuart Firth writes:

There were just two of us on John Gwyther's Wednesday Walk on 7 September - Sue and I. John had taken Frederique on a romantic holiday to Lake Maggiore and environs - and who can blame him? Others were engaged elsewhere.

For the record, we walked 16.47 km, ascended 689m, had 5.5 hours of sunshine, 3 drops of rain and 2 cream teas. A good time was had by both.

Oh, and we spotted this delightful bijou fixer-upper residence complete with living roof and his-and-hers water-wheels.



## East of Easy, Lofjell, Norway

It was beginning to look like the weather window might be closing. Setesdal is a beautiful, peaceful outdoor playground but it isn't always dry. We'd paddled and biked and played cricket (even done some work) in between the showers. The crags visible from the campsite remained stubbornly wet looking. One evening we even cycled up the distressingly steep hill for a look. Even with my most determinedly optimistic head on, I couldn't deny the dark wet streaks running down Lofjell's Big Wall. To be fair, Big Wall didn't actually look *that* big. Only ten pitches. But then we'd been caught out swimming across lakes that went on much longer than planned and paddled across deceptively wide fjords.

Everything out here looked smaller than it actually was. Peering back at the route I pondered. I guess the cracks would be ok, aid-able at least if they were wet. But the slabs? The guidebook was filled with photographs of very exciting looking run outs. And the Norwegians don't play cricket.

A planning conference over dinner. It looked like we only had one day. And two routes. East of Easy is the only route in the Setesdal guide with 4 stars. It was billed as the second-best route in Norway (the best one is the Presten West Pillar in Lofoten apparently). Varied climbing and taking a pretty direct line up the tallest section of the crag, it weighed in at 10 pitches and a shade under 400m according to the topo. It had some fixed gear and (controversially) bolted belays. But a quick bit of mental arithmetic revealed less than one bolt per pitch and those slabs looked mighty compact. East of Easy was graded 7-. Which translated as Australian 22. Or 5.11a. To aid in the general confusion, the guidebook had adopted an additional E grade. Nothing to do with the straightforward and easy to understand British grading system; this meant the route could have long, run out sections 1 or 2 grades easier than the headline grade. So 7-, E1/2 meant pitches of run out 6 on top of the 7-. Got that? We hadn't got a clue. But I did have my secret weapon, in the form of a rather tall, rather talented climber from Sheffield.

The other route was called Electric Avenue and it looked equally fantastic with "cracks, crimps, corners and slabs". What more could we want? Well, some dry rock for a start. We decided the enchainment was definitely, maybe on.

Depending on the weather. If it worked. We didn't need a super early start to give everything chance to dry out, but we could be looking at a late finish.

Monday dawned dry but a little overcast. And not really windy enough. We scrounged a lift up to the car park and walked in through the slightly odd collection of ski chalets. Up and over the avalanche barrier before stopping to scope the route. There were wet bits higher up but they would be fine by the time we got there, wouldn't they? Enough obsessing about the conditions, let's just climb. Chris has the first pitch, 50m of padding. But we have a pleasant surprise – bolts and quite a few of them. It takes us a few minutes to work out which line is ours. He sets off and quickly arrives at the belay pretty much on the rope stretch. We're climbing on 60m ropes, so already the topo is looking a bit sketchy.

It's my turn. There aren't any holds but it's all a pretty gentle angle so I just pad on up. I clip into a couple of controversial belay bolts and we swap the rack over. Peering up, expecting to see bolts, something dawns on us. The first pitches of all the routes are fully bolted. After that you're pretty much on your own. I look down at my feet and start padding. I think there was a decent small cam and possibly a wire somewhere on the pitch. I try hard not to think of what I might look like if I slid down this slab. Like I'd lost a fight with a belt sander. Another rope stretching "50m" pitch gets me to the belay.

Chris has 2 (I know!) bolts on pitch 3. This doesn't seem right. I'm supposed to be getting the easy ride here. Chris doesn't get scared. The route is gently, oh so gradually upping the ante. The gear a little harder to come by, the climbing a little trickier. The slabs have steepened up now and as I eye my pitch 4, there's a distinct change in the colour and the angle of the rock. The pitch works up to an overlap, pulls over and arcs left. The first gear is in the overlap at 20m. This is where we had been able to see dark streaks from the ground, but I am easily able to step over tiny trickles of water.



I pull up and left and suddenly I'm on vertical rock for the first time, but at least I also have the first handholds of the route. I work left, becoming increasingly aware of how far away the runners now look. More slab work, and I can clip the solitary bolt. I shuffle left again. Where's the belay? It was supposed to be in the break twenty feet above me. I fiddle in a small cam behind a wafer-thin flake. It booms alarmingly when I test it with the heel of my hand. There's a slim sloping corner to my left. The moves are pretty obvious – rock into it and stretch precariously for the break. But if I make a hash of it, the cam

rips, I'm going to swing a very long way. The hunt is on for more gear. Finally, I manage to get a small wire in a few feet above the cam. I make the rockover move, not daring to breathe and pull up to buckets. Phew. Now where is that belay? I spy a lone bolt. Is that it? I start to crank up towards it, but the rock is filthy and the moves look hard. My saviour wire now looks a long way away. I engage reverse gear and finally spot the twin shiny rings out left. A stretch to clip in and I start to breathe properly for the first time in a while. As I swing onto the belay, calm down and get sorted, I reflect that this pitch was only 6. Hmm. I snap pictures of Chris grinning through a sea of granite.

Pitch 5. Chris teeters across from the belay, clips the lone bolt and disappears from sight. A little while later and it's my turn. Another 55m of pristine granite on this "30m" pitch. There are some moves but it's ok really, with the odd runner. My lead again. This is supposedly 6+, whatever that might mean. It turns out to be wildly run out but this is becoming normal now. In fact, it's another cracking pitch tiptoeing across quartz crystals in a huge leftwards arc to beneath a steep corner and a big roof. There is clearly stouter fayre ahead. Chris joins me and we grab a snack.

"Might as well enjoy ourselves if the enchainment is off," he says.

"Well, it might not be..." I reply and instantly regret it.

Chris makes steady progress up the corner, clips some fixed kit and swings out right. He's whooping and yelling about the exposure as he traverses across and up to the roof. He fiddles a runner in and launches up the overhanging groove.

There's a moment of anxiety as he tries to get more gear before abandoning the effort and launching for distant holds. He's up. When it comes to my turn, there is a very long move in the corner which makes me glad I'm seconding. I unclip the bolt and swing right onto an amazing quartz vein which dips away to the right. The exposure is pretty gob smacking and the swing potential is alarming. The overhanging groove hides a miraculous good crack, and sports good holds plus a grinning leader at its top.



There's more smearing and long run outs but East of Easy saves peak lunacy for the very last pitch: a full rope length where I failed to uncover a single runner. It's steady climbing though, so it's funny rather than terrifying. Those crazy Norwegians! I wondered where the name had come from, but all a quick Google search revealed was a kind of sub-Mills and Boon paperback: all chiselled, muscular heroes and heaving bosoms. There was none of that, even if it did get a bit emotional on occasion.

And the enchainment? Electric Avenue? Well, it was getting late so we bravely opted for dinner, a glass of wine and some war stories. We did manage Electric Avenue, but that is a whole other story.

## **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 members Stephen Booth and Dawn-Marie Willmer and to new provisional member Doris Mieschbuehler. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.



## Congratulations Mike Moore on your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!



This photo, courtesy of Mike's son Mark, shows him with his birthday card from the Oread, designed by Peter Amour. If anyone wishes to contact Mike his address is xxxxxxxxxxxx and Mark can be contacted on xxxxxxxxxxxx.

**John Fisher writes:**

I first met Mike Moore via an introduction by David Penlington in about 1950 when he was kind enough to sort things out for this tyro on a Christmas visit to Ogwen. Mike's usual companions in the hills were the Gibson, Parslow, Dearden crowd whose mountain interests were rather broader than those struggling with the vertical. Having said that, a modest climb in the Churnet Valley guide bears his name. (Moore's Crack Diff. 1952 Harston Rocks).

In 1953 we joined up for a two week camping holiday in North Wales, hitching there, first to the rarely visited Cwm Cowarch and the second week in Ogwen. Cowarch was mainly exploration and fighting off the local dogs but Ogwen more standard climbing activities. We did routes like Grooved Arete and the Direct on Glyder Fach including Gibson's Chimney. Quite good for the time – and we spent another sunny day on Tryfan with Eric Byne and Charlie Ashbury. All in boots with primitive gear, say one sling and caribiner plus a rope. Our main achievement was the 14 Peaks traverse on the hottest day of the year, ending at Pen-y-Pass and rescued by a few Sandhurst cadets (ex Helyg) who took us by car back to our Ogwen campsite.

Mike married Meg and moved out of the Oread orbit but in the 2010s we regularly went together to Tan y Wyddfa to enjoy days of pleasurable reminiscence.

As Mike had been on the Omaha beaches on day one of the Normandy landings he was eventually awarded the Legion d'Honneur at a ceremony in Burton – a fitting note to end on.

**Jack Ashcroft writes:**

Many congratulations to Mike Moore on attaining his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. No more facing up to lorry drivers twice his height in transport cafes – cup of tea in hand – trying to make progress between the tables:  
“What do you want me to do? Dig a tunnel?”

On a sadder note I was sorry to read that Doug Cullum has passed away. Doug, with his wife Mary, edited the first five years of the Oread Magazine, then titled “The Newsletter” a very welcome newsletter for several of us doing National Service in various corners of the Globe at the time.

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

### This month's puzzle:

Another sub species of the Barmy competition was launched for Oread members whereby their ascent of three different selected rock climbs was monitored, and three noteworthy ascents appeared on the score sheet. The climbs were Gashed Crag on the East face of Tryfan, The Grimmet in the Carneddau on and Charity on Idwall Slabs

Z, an old style climber who relied on his excellent balance and technique rather than strength and athleticism succeeded well on the highly polished Tryfan and Idwal routes but was not attracted by the higher graded route. X, a fine all round climber, found the chimney on Gashed Crag constricting for a tall person but excelled on the other two routes. Q, unencumbered by avoir dupois and with smaller fingers and toes to fit the holds, romped up all three.

Their scores were 11, 14, and 10. How many points were awarded for each route?

The identifying letters do not refer to chromosomes, the characters are based on persons known to me but this will be denied if found necessary.

### Last month's puzzle solution:

was set by Stuart Firth who asks readers of the newsletter who pride themselves on their familiarity with the mountains of north Wales:

What is the grid reference of the trig point from which this panorama was taken?



**Stuart responds:** The correct and complete answer is SH 32883 30920 so your Hon. Ed's answer of 329 309 is pretty good and is certainly the first I received. There was of course a massive clue on the panorama itself in the reference to Llanbedrog Community Council. The structure itself is about 50m north of the trig point of Mynnydd Tir y Cwmwd near Llanbedrog ; it is curved but the panoramic photo straightens it out. All visible on Google Earth but too recent to be on the online OS map. Well worth a visit. I had forgotten how great the Llyn peninsula is.

*More pictures from the Alpine meet.*



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