

# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**NOVEMBER 2022**



**Wild wet and windy! Read all about it on page 14. Photo Stuart Firth.**

## **Editorial**

At the end of this issue are the details and menu form for the annual dinner – this must be returned by 14 November at latest so do it now!

Also the draft meets list for 2023 is in here with lots of meets still needing leaders and still spaces for more meets -what would you like to see in there? On page 10 is the latest on Heathy Lea and the work on the Severn Trent building. The hut will remain open but access will be difficult during the working week.

Write-ups include climbing at sunny Caerfai, more scary Norwegian rock and some very wet wanderings in both the Lakes and Peak District – which, strangely, the participants seem to have enjoyed!

**Copy Deadline 20 November.**

## Forthcoming Meets 2022

Nov	2	Wednesday walk	Hollingsclough	Clive Russell
	5	Bonfire	Heathy Lea	
	9th	Winter wall Wednesday	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	12	Weekend walk	Hathersage (Outside cafe)	Richard Linney
	13	Dry tooling	Masson Lees	Jeff Ingman and Tim Sellears
	15	Zoom talk	Evening	Janet Briggs
	17	Thur short walk	Bonsall	Ruth Gordon
18-19	Fylde hut	Little Langdale, Lakes	Dave Helliwell (Snod), Fylde MC hut swap	
December	3	Annual dinner, Fox and Goose	Nr Chesterfield	Chris and Gill Radcliffe
	4	Post prandial walk	Venue TBC, Nr Chesterfield	Jan Wilson
	7	Wednesday walk	Rowsley (Massarellas cafe)	Charlie Taylor
	7th	Winter wall Wednesday	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	9/10/11	Bullstones	Yorkshire Dales, Sat. Helwith Bridge	Nigel Briggs
	14	Black rocks evening meet and sc	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	

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

In October, Spike Johnston got the winter programme off to a flying start with two short talks first on a ski traverse of the Hardangervidda and then an account of walking in the remoter parts of Tenerife. Thank you Spike!

01 November. **Brian Hall**, author of soon to be published *High Risk, Climbing to Extinction*, an account of Brian's climbs with several deceased climbers and his rigging experiences on films such as the *Eiger Sanction*, *Touching the Void* and the film he co-directed *Bonington, Mountaineer*. **Please also see separate notice and picture on page 5.**

06 December. **Jon Morgan**, professional mountain guide, retired anaesthetist. Jon is a hill runner and ski mountaineer. He also represents GB in skimo racing and is currently more than halfway into a one-week-at-a-time ski traverse of the whole Alps.

**10 January 2023. Graham Hoey**, Peak based author, new router, photographer, climbing guidebook writer. Graham was a guest at the Oread dinner in 2021.

07 February. **Paul Bingham**, Oread, will talk about nesting birds and how they tie in to his mountaineering.

07 March. **Paul Gardiner**, Oread and one of only two surviving original members. This will be a bit of a look back! Assisted by **Peter Amour**.

Rob Tresidder email: xxxxxxxxxx

## Draft Meets List 2023 Michael Moss

The meets for the first three months are firm, all the hut bookings are confirmed, but there are some meets, especially from April onwards that will depend on members volunteering to lead them. So if people can volunteer to take on a meet: hut meets, Peak day meets or anything that they are keen to add, arrange and shape to their preferences then I would very much like to hear from them.

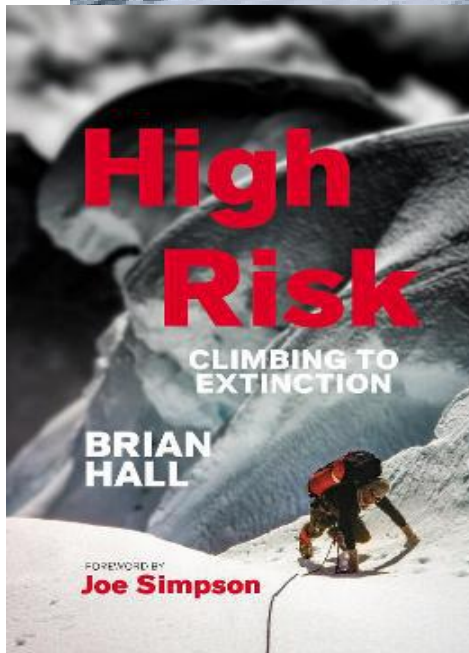
Michael Moss: email: [meetsec@oread.co.uk](mailto:meetsec@oread.co.uk) Tel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

<b>Jan</b>	1st	New year's day walk		
	6th-7th	The Cabin, JMCS hut	Balgowan, Newtonmore	Meet leader needed
	11th	Winter wall Wednesdays	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	14th to 21st	Ice climbing, Rjujan,	Norway	Jeff Ingman
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21/22	Weekend walk		
<b>Feb</b>	1st	Wednesday walk		
	3rd-4th	Milehouse cottage, LCCS hut	Kincaig, Cairngorms	Meet leader needed
	8th	Winter wall Wednesdays	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	6/20	Mediterranean sport climbing	Aparthotel Terralta, Benidorm	Derek Pike,
	16th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17/18	Weekend walk		
<b>March</b>	1st	Wednesday walk		
	8th	Winterwall Wednesdays	Awesome Walls, Sheffield	Dave Mason
	10/11th	Fylde hut swap	Little Langdale for Stair?	Meet leader needed
	17/18	Waters Cottage, FRCC hut	Kinlochleven	Michael Hayes
	23rd	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	25/26	AGM and spring stride		
	29th	First Wednesday outdoor climbing meet	Harborough rocks, Brassington	
<b>April</b>	1st/2nd	New members climbing meet	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	5th	Wednesday walk		
	7th-10th	Easter, Bouldering Fontainebleu		Lance Baker
	15/16	Weekend walk		
	20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st/22nd	Glen Etive hut, Grampian club		Meet leader needed
<b>May</b>	1st	May BH		Meet leader needed
	6/7 or 13/14	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	10th?	Wednesday walk		
	18th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	20/21	Weekend walk		
	20th May to 4th June	Scotland stacks, pinacles and other classics	West coast Scotland	Michael Moss
29th	Spring BH			
<b>June</b>	8th?	Wednesday walk		
	9th - 10th	High Moss hut, Rucksack club	Duddon valley, Lakes	Meet leader needed
	15th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17/18 (or 3/4)	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	17/18	Weekend walk		
	23rd-25th	BBQ Tan yr Wyddfa		Tony Howard

<b>July</b>	???	Alpine meet		Meet leader needed
	1/2nd or 8/9th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	5th	Wednesday walk		
	15/16	Weekend walk		
	20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	28/29th	Welsh hut meet Tan Yr Wyddfa		Meet leader needed
<b>Aug</b>	3rd	Wednesday walk		
	4th-5th or 11-12th	Weardale, walking and mountain biking		Pip Leach and Pete Masters
	5th/6th or 12th/13th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19/20	Weekend walk		
	26th-28th	BH		Meet leader needed
<b>Sept</b>	1st/2nd	Low House MAM hut, Coniston	Lakes	
	6th	Wednesday walk		
	9th/10th	Peak climbing day meets/BARMY comp?	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	16/17	Weekend walk		
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23rd/24th	BARMY comp?	Peak district	
<b>Oct</b>	4th	Wednesday walk		
	6/7th	Fylde hut Little Langdale	Fylde MC hut swap	Dave Snod Helliwell
	11th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	14th-22nd???	Mediterranean sport climbing	Sardinia, TBC	Simon Pape
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21/22	Weekend walk		
	27/28	Curry meet. Lakes? or Tan yr Wyddfa as fall back		Tony Howard
	30	Start Monday evening indoor meets	Climbing unit, Derby	
<b>Nov</b>	1st	Wednesday walk		
	4th	Bonfire night	Heathy Lea, Chatsworth	
	8th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	18/19	Joint FRCC/Oread MC Dry-tooling Meet	Rawhead Barn, Langdale	Neil McAllister & A N Oread
	16th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon	
	18/19	Weekend walk		
<b>Dec</b>	2nd?	Annual dinner		
	3rd?	Post prandial walk		
	6th	Wednesday walk		
	6th	Winter wall wednesdays		
	9th to 11th	Bull Stones		
	13th	Black rocks evening meet and pub social	Cromford	
	16/17	Dry tooling Masson Lees		
	16/17	Weekend walk		
	21st	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon	
	24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	

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

Brian was at the forefront of British and Himalayan mountaineering in the 1970s and 1980s. A generation of radical young climbers emerged, with tiny budgets and high ambitions they pioneered light and fast Alpine-style expeditions on great peaks including Everest, K2, Jannu, and Nuptse.



High Risk: Climbing to Extinction recalls eleven of his climbing friends who risked, and too often lost, their lives to stand on the top of the world's highest peaks at a turning point in mountaineering history. The book takes the reader back to a different era, through the voices of those who can no longer speak. 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 [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) 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 [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Sunday 13 November and 17 December Dry Tooling at Masson Lees Jeff Ingman and Tim Sellears**

Climbing outside in November? Climbing outside in December? .....regardless of the weather?

It can only mean one thing.....dry tooling.

To my knowledge this is the first time that the Oread will be meeting for dry tooling, a specific niche activity for developing skills and strength for winter climbing. It involves using ice tools and crampons to climb rock, sometimes on natural pick placements but often on drilled slots and pockets.

Yes, it's true, the rock gets scratched, hammered and battered. The venues for this activity are chosen by consensus for their lack of suitability for conventional rock climbing, mostly due to a high "choss" factor and the steepness of the rock. The big cave at Masson Lees is perfect on both counts.

It's very popular in the Autumn and Winter months with the great and good of the winter climbing scene, who claim that tooling is the key activity to train for hard ice and mixed. For the rest of us the benefits are quickly won and profound, just ask Tim. He went from novice to a high level of competency in just a few weeks during the second lockdown, when this form of climbing was the only thing available during wet and cold weather. You just need to wrap up warm.

### **Equipment**

Bring your ice tools, helmet, boots and crampons. Ice tools should have the adze removed if possible or padded with foam and tape if it's not possible to take it off. This should prevent a trip to the infirmary if your axe pops out backwards. Crampons should be mono-point if possible. You can use two front points but you will be making life very difficult for yourself. If you have fruit boots (yeah...

right) then bring them along, this is what they were made for. If you're inquisitive and want a look see then bring a helmet, especially useful when hanging around at the bottom of the crag. Also, safety specs are a good idea when climbing.



*The “warm up” at Masson Lees always provided a spicy intro to this niche activity – easier options are now available.*

The routes are well bolted with many of the quickdraws in place, which makes leading, clipping, stripping and failing very easy. If you have a sport climbing belay device for single rope then bring it along.

I have asked Neil Blake to join us, and he's accepted. Neil is the coach for the British Ice Climbing team and an expert dry tooler. He has been a regular on the ice climbing competition scene for several years and now develops the young British talent for international competition. He's easy company, passing on his knowledge and wisdom with humour and goodwill.

Please let Tim or I know if you intend to join us for either of these meets so that we can plan a suitable itinerary.

Jeff Ingman email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Tim Sellears email [xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Tuesday 15 November First Winter Zoom talk**



Janet Briggs will be giving a presentation of her journey across the country this summer on the Coast to Coast Walk. Joining details will be emailed out separately nearer the time.

It is hoped to have Zoom talks on the third Tuesday of the month through the winter.

## **Thursday 17 November Short Walk Ruth Gordon**

This will be a Bonsall - Masson Hill round. We will start at 11.00am from the Fountain Cafe, Bonsall. Roadside parking by the cafe or in the park bottom parking, - honesty box £1,

Minimum gradients on the route from Bonsall Dale into Horse Dale to join Blackmore lane, Morelands lane, leading to a short section of Salters lane to pick up the track/path to the top of Masson hill, good views if it's clear. Field paths back to Bonsall. Pub and cafe.

Ruth Gordon email [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **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. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and leave a message.

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

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).

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!

We have previously had a good attendance at this venue and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner.

**The booking form is at the end of the Newsletter.**

**Please complete your booking form and return to us no later than 14<sup>th</sup> November – thank you!**

Any questions, please contact us - Chris & Gill Radcliffe:  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Sunday 4 December Post Prandial Walk Jan Wilson**

After a night on the tiles, or an evening spent at the Oread's Annual Dinner, what could be better than a walk in the countryside with friends, enjoying the fresh air?

The dinner this year is at the Fox and Goose on Pudding Pie Hill (what a wonderful name!). Heathy Lea is close by (five minutes by car)..The Sunday walk hasn't been plotted in any detail yet, but will probably be based in the same area. I'm hoping to lead a walk that caters for most abilities. In other words, there will be short cuts and opportunities to quit if needed.

The walk will start in at or around Heathy Lea. It will have a lunchtime stop in a pub. The distance will be around ten miles for the fit, but it will be possible to make it much shorter. It will be enjoyable. The company will be great. So please get the date in your diary! You will need to let the excitement build for another month and the next newsletter to get more details, but that should be adequate time to speculate, and prepare.

I do hope we will see you on the walk.

Jan Wilson email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **Tuesday 6 December 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**

Jon Morgan: professional mountain guide, retired anaesthetist. Jon is a hill runner and ski mountaineer. He also represents GB in skimo racing and is currently more than halfway into a one-week-at-a-time ski traverse of the whole Alps.

Admission £3.00 Oreads £5.00 non members.

## **Wednesday 7 December walk - Rowsley Charlie Taylor**

Meet at Massarella's café at the Peak Village shopping complex just off the A6 at Rowsley, where there is plenty of free parking available. I'm aiming for a 10:15 depart. The route takes us over the A6 into Rowsley village, up on to Stanton moor-visiting Nine Ladies stone circle and the Cork stone- past the Druid inn at Birchover, then over to Robin Hood's stride. From here it's downhill to Youlgrave and Alport before the steep up hill to Stanton in Peak and then back to Rowsley. The route is approximately 10 miles long with 1,693 ft of ascent.

Please let me know if you are attending  
email:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx\_Tel: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **9-11 December Bullstones meet Nigel and Janet Briggs**

The Bullstones meet will be in the Three Peaks Region of the Yorkshire Dales. Starting from Clapham, Friday night will be spent on the lower slopes of Ingleborough before heading to Helwith Bridge for Saturday night at the YSS Hut. On Sunday it will be the return to Clapham.

Let us know if you would like to come on the meet either for the full experience or just to join in the Saturday evening festivities.

Further details in the next newsletter.

Nigel and Janet Briggs email:[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **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 [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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

### **Heathy Lea Update Chris Wilson.**

Work has begun at last on the Severn Trent building and some impressive scaffolding is now in place.

It will have a substantial roof on so that work below should not be compromised by winter weather. There will be staging at the window levels of the STW building. Access to it will be by a ladder and there will be a hoist. All will be made safe and secure when not in use. The scaffolding contract is for 16 weeks from 10 October but the builder is uncertain whether this will be long enough.

Both the builders, Harry Briddon, and Crown Scaffolding are fully aware of the bridge weight restrictions and the difficult access to the site.

They think they will need to rebuild the top metre or so of the STW side walls.

We looked at our barn, and they think the ridge needs sorting and the party wall rebuilding (and the roof in this area).

They will have to site a reasonably large crane on the highway side of the

stream. I don't know the exact location but they know we need access.

Whilst they can get a Transit size vehicle over the bridge anything larger will block the lane, so it will be blocked at times during the week. I said that we don't use it much week days, but would need somewhere to park the odd vehicle. I'm sure this can be sorted if the need arises.

The builders' working hours are 8 to 4.30 on weekdays and they do not usually work weekends.



Access is going to be an issue during the week (but we want the work done). Preferably don't arrive before 4.30 on a Friday as you might not get in.

## **Curry Meet High House Borrowdale 30 September – 2 October Tony Howard**

I usually promise exceptional weather for my meets. We had exceptional weather! It rained heavily on Friday morning and by the afternoon the road was flooded between Seatoller and Seathwaite and later near Rosthwaite. Three Oreads had arrived on Thursday and were experiencing the 'fun' during a tour of Sty Head, Angle Tarn and Langstrath Dale! Our local correspondent on the ground and in the water have reported on their adventures separately – see below.

Two cars arrived at the hut early on Friday evening, via the Newlands and Honister pass. Another three cars arrived before dark, two via Rosthwaite and the main valley. By Saturday morning a total of 18 Oreads had arrived.

The highlights of Saturday were as follows. Our President experienced the 'Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner' with a traverse of Sty Head, Great Gable and Brandreth, returning via Rosthwaite! Gill, Pippa and Peter Masters walked round Sty Head and Sprinkling Tarns, Allen Craggs and Glaramara. Richard Hardwick walked to Sprinkling Tarn via Seathwaite Fell with Graham Williams his local mate. They returned via Glaramara and Rosthwaite Cam. Others set off in groups of two or three, walking around the Borrowdale valley at lower level, sometimes in heavy rain.

The evening began with cake and bubbly to celebrate octogenarian Chris Radcliffe's birthday – thanks to Sue and Stuart. It was Chris's real birthday not his official one! This was followed by enough 'Bombay' mix to sink a ship. Seven curries were presented and consumed: three veggie, one fish and three of meat. These were accompanied by yogurt, rice, naans, pickles and chutney. This main course was followed by a tropical fruit salad. Thank you to those who prepared the food, in particular the cooks: Gill, Pippa, Jan, Nigel, Stuart and some fat bloke.

On Sunday some departed shortly after breakfast. Nigel, Peter Amour and John walked around Castlerigg and St. John in the Vale. Gill, Pippa and Peter Masters investigated scrambling options before traversing Grey Knotts, Brandreth, Green Gable and Base Brown. Roger did a run around the tarns. Others visited the tarns at a walking pace.

Despite the weather, those who got to Borrowdale appeared to enjoy the weekend of exercise and a spiffing good get-together. Here's looking forward to the next one.

## **“It Will Be Wet With Gusty Conditions” -Friday 30 September Peter Amour**

John Dobson, Nigel Briggs and I arrived at High House on Thursday afternoon to commence celebrating another of Tony's curry meets, also Chris Radcliffe's significant 80th birthday

The forecast for Friday (Mr Radcliffe's birthday) was a poor one, with heavy rains and gusty winds. I suggested staying off the tops due to deteriorating conditions. The agreed plan was follow Sty Head Gill, and take in Sty Head, Sprinkling and Angle Tarns, with a return by the shelter of the appropriately named and relatively unexciting Langstrath.



The journey to Sty Head Tarn was wet and fairly uneventful apart from a naive Taunton foursome who's map reading abilities attracted them to joining us to do their navigation. Nigel discouraged them by advising we could change our route plan. They departed our company as we took an atmospheric snack at Sprinkling Tarn.

During the descent to Angle Tarn the weather was as projected with some feisty gusts of face-stinging squalls, one of which had me onto my knees. The route down Langstrath from Angle Tarn is normally a routine occurrence; this day would be different.

Adhering to the map and following the footpath's course we lost about 100 metres of height with Angle Tarn Gill to our right. At this point Nigel pointed out the ferocity of the gill, *and* that our restricted view of Langstrath's western slope was displaying a completely inundated footpath below created by the combining silvery run-offs of Allencrags Gill, Angle Tarn Gill, and many others temporary in nature. The consensus was stay high, and to contour the as yet not fully visible flanks of the valley, the track would ultimately take to the eastern side of the seriously swollen Langstrath Gill, so accessing that side would ease the situation later.

The journey along the entire length of the dale led to making very slow progress with permutations of staying higher, going lower, bridging, re-ascending, vaulting, and when no other option was available, wading the ever wilder conditions. At one point there were scores of glistening, powerful, and not so powerful waters dancing towards the valley bottom. One of the worst of the crossings thankfully gave us a footbridge, which we reached and left by a shin deep wade, another gave us an above the knee 20 metre wide swirling, bubbling ford. The trickiest of the white water was as we neared the valley exit. A wide, one metre deep cascade was coming off a 45 degree slope. This was of concern as any mistake here would have taken us under the hinged fencing hanging below the adjacent wall and straight into the foaming un-swimmable main watercourse. The crossing demanded attention, and got it.

The remainder of the walk was relatively tame really, needing just a wander down much steadier floodwaters, some of underpants depth, with a return to High House in a combination of sunshine and showers...and washed underpants.

Thanks to John and Nigel for their calm manner. Cheers, Peter

## Wild, Wet and Windy! Pip Leach



Those were the weather conditions that greeted us on our walk from Hope, on 5<sup>th</sup> October. I was grateful that another six souls turned up, besides me, as the forecast was dire! Bolstered by a cuppa from the Cafe Adventure, we set off. The ascent of Lose Hill got us warm, I had been prepared to modify the route,

but the consensus was to go to the viewpoint at the top, for what were sadly, limited views.



The continuation along the ridge to Hollins Cross was into the westerly wind and hard going. Mam Tor obscured in cloud, we dropped off the ridge and into the Edale Valley for calmer conditions.

The church in Edale Village, thankfully provided a dry lunch stop, and a chance to put the world to rights.

I had already decided not to go up Grindsbrook, as it made the walk too long, however, 'Plan A' was Ringing Roger, whereas 'Plan B' was staying in the Valley at low level. With cloud levels lifting, we opted for Plan A – hurray! The hillsides are certainly now getting their autumn hue, and despite the grey skies, many trees are now coming to their full glory. It was another steep climb, but this time, more rewarding, in terms of visibility.

Skirting round the edge of Kinder was beautiful, as indeed was looking down the whole of the Edale Valley, from Hope Cross (not actually a cross) on the course of the old Roman Road.

We descended on a pleasant, easy angled path, back down into the village of Hope, a little late, the cafe had closed. We were damp (not drenched) and justifiably fatigued, having done a good 12 miles.

Thanks, as ever, for the good company, especially on a day when you might think twice about going out!



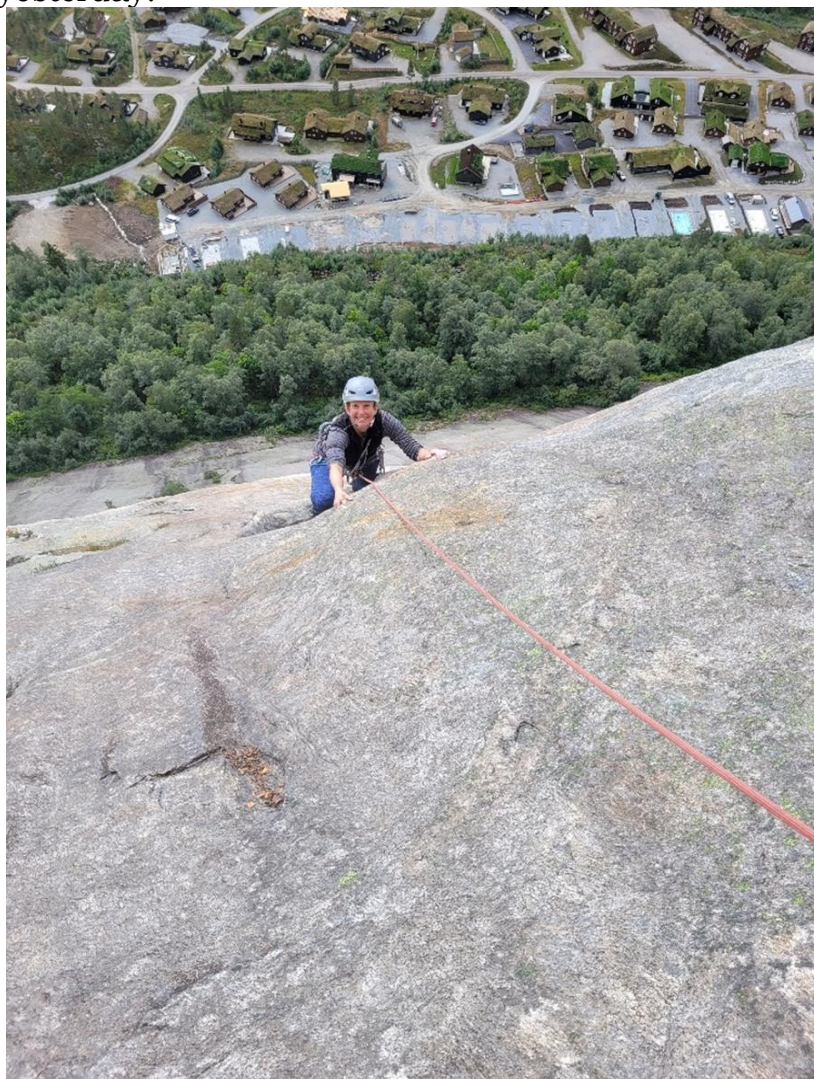
## **Electric Avenue, Lofjell, Norway Roger Gibbs**

The weather window was about to slam shut. But...if we got an early start, raced up it in super-efficient style, I could be down from the route in time for a gentle family trip up the via ferrata off to the right and down before the rain. I just had to sell it to the team. Thumbs up all round. We're on.

It's chill in the early morning but the wild mountain silence is slightly spoilt by the roar of diggers building more ski chalets. Once more we do the familiar scramble over the avalanche barrier and thrash through the trees. Today we're a three, but the addition to the team is a slab queen and if we're slick with the changeovers and the seconds follow together we won't go much slower than a team of two.



Pitch one is billed as another introductory slab romp but the start is a little green. It's soon apparent that this one doesn't get as much traffic as the crag classic we did yesterday. After a bit of hopping around on lichen covered grot, we work out where we're heading and Chris sets off. I've carefully calculated how to avoid the hard bits of course but I'm hoping for a little more in the way of runners than yesterday.



When it comes to my turn to follow, it's supposed to be easier than yesterday's intro pitch but it doesn't feel it. Perhaps I'm just a bit cold and stiff, not properly awake yet. The belay is tucked in beside a giant flake, I grab the rack optimistically and set off. The rock is now back to the perfection we'd got used to – clean and sound. The climbing is a delight: pad up, ignore the lack of runners, repeat until the rope runs out. Once again, the difficulty is gently building. Pitch 4 is rated as 6, but it is has three bolts. So that will be fine. I pad up to the overlap, pull over and rightwards. There are the three promised bolts, all within five metres. I wonder about the remaining 50 metres. A little trickle of water oozes down next to me. In increasing desperation, I smear up and clip in. More precariousness. I can't reach the top bolt. And I need to smear my foot exactly where the tiny rivulet is going. Any residual bravery I might have had is



evaporating fast. At Chris' suggestion (in order to include him in the blame), I stand on the bolt with my other foot and clip the top bolt. Not daring to think, I step left and start padding across. The arcing traverse goes on for a long time, but the ripples and crystals in the granite gradually become more friendly. I belay and bring up the team.

We're moving a lot more slowly than the previous route up this wall and it's certainly not the team. Well, not the other two members of the team. Everything is a little harder and a little more sustained. Chris runs out another huge pitch on pristine rock with barely any gear. Soon it's my turn again. I cross a little overlap with some protection, then decide to concentrate on my feet. Eventually I can see the base of the crux crack above and to my right. I ponder alternative curving lines of ripples but neither seems to quite join up. I plump for down and across some flakes and finally discover another runner, then pad up to the belay.



We reunite and grab a snack and some water. It's clear I'm going to be in trouble as we are already later than our promised finish time and there are four more pitches to go. I cast a wary eye at some dark clouds rolling in as Chris sets off. There is a lone bolt, barely visible on the pitch, but the crack should offer decent gear. Hand jams narrow to powerful and precarious looking finger locks. And there's a sting in the tail too: beefy pulls on small holds. Chris is clearly trying hard and his whoops of joy are heartfelt when he cracks it. We should probably draw a veil over what happened when I came to follow this pitch.

My turn again and I cop for a rope stretcher, curving a very long way back left. I perform some ungainly a

cheval action up a big flake to a ledge, reverse mantleshelf and tiptoe across. It's steady enough despite the 6+ tag but you really wouldn't want to fall off. The seconds follow carefully, aware of the potential monster swing. I belay below "Street's End", the recommended finish. One last hard pitch and then a steady

romp to the top. I eye the roof above warily. At least it has gear.

Chris vanishes from view and I'm left to daydream of easy ground and chat while the ropes run out. When it comes to my turn I grunt and thrash over the steepness and struggle over onto slabby ground. I unclip the last runner. The ropes run horizontally for 20m. There is no gear. I opt to drop down into a tiny corner and then bridge up onto a faint line of ripples and crystals. Every move reduces the swing and it gradually eases. Phew, we're almost there. The last pitch is easier but as bald as the rest and it's not entirely obvious where to go. Eventually I spy some bolts at the very limit of rope stretch. The team join me and then plod off through steep heather and into the trees. We're up. It's late now and I'm clearly not going to be doing a via ferrata before the rain comes in. Or before dark probably. We trudge down, sucking boiled sweets and debating what English grade it would get. All too soon we're back in civilisation, back in the world. But I reckon we've experienced the best of Lofjell's Big Wall. Although there is that crack out right...

## St Davids revisited Mike Wren

August 2022 saw the whole Wren tribe of ten, on a family camping holiday near Sr.Davids ; an area well known to Oreads.

As the area boasts some fine climbs in beautiful locations, a number having been put up by Oreads, Simon and I had optimistically packed climbing gear, hoping to pull a climb in.

We were not disappointed.

On the last day of the holiday, there was a morning tide window, enabling an early morning foray to Craig Caerfai.

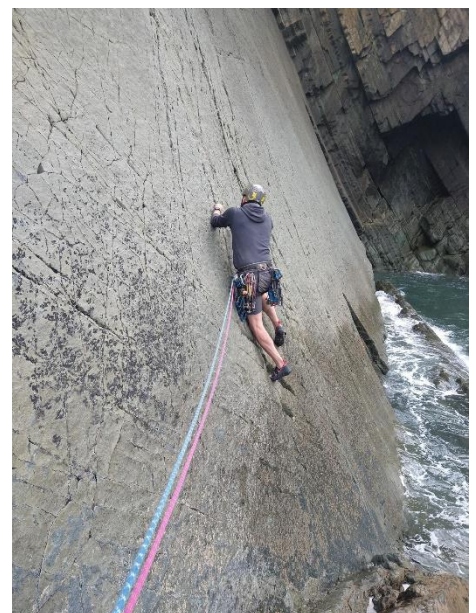
The 6.30 alarm seemed to be no time at all since we had all been sitting round the campfire the previous evening.

Being the only vehicle on the roads and in the car park was novel.



There would be time for one route, so we had settled on Armorican, first climbed in July 1978 by Oread members Nat Allen, Derek Carnell and Dennis Davis.

A very enticing line, on a slab soaring straight up out of the sea, it steepens all the way to an overlap near the top. Above this the slab is less steep, and easier ; but contains







no gear placements.

I sat on the rocks to one side of the start, belaying Simon as he steadily ascended, anxiously watching the quite frisky waves on the rising tide. When it was time to follow, the starting holds remained just above the sea, apart from the occasional wave. One well timed big step across, and I was committed and still dry.

The rock was just as sound and friendly as I remembered from leading it on Nat's recommendation many years ago.

Some interesting moves to change crack lines on sub optimal foot placements led to the exhilarating main line.

The steep section just below the overlap has some positive but narrow ledges, and a

series of good holds lead satisfyingly through the overlap to the easy angled, but, for leaders, scarily unprotectable upper slab.

An absolute joy to climb!

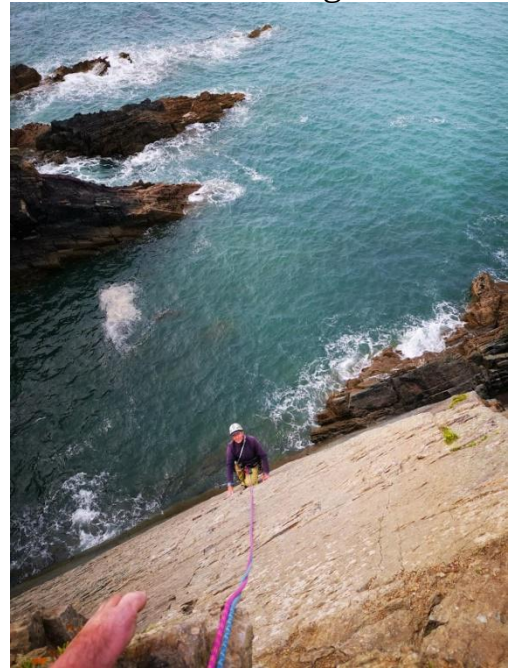
We were back at the campsite by 10.30 for a hearty breakfast, ready for the rest of the day's family fun in the sea at Whitesands,

A win-win day on a family holiday!

The heatwave weather that had tempted everyone into the sea resulted in a hosepipe ban in the area the following week.

Unexpected in Wales!

If you are on holiday in the area, and have packed climbing gear, Armorican is a superb climb to seek out!



## Saturday 15 October Gritstone Trail part 3 Stuart Firth

The jolly crew of seven met at Timbersbrook car park and, by a very wiggly route, took themselves and two cars to Kidsgrove - a Staffordshire metropolis new to most of us. Suitably booted and suited we found our way along the Macclesfield canal towpath through pleasant autumnally coloured countryside.



At Mow Cop Castle

A fierce ascent took us to Mow Cop Castle - an extraordinary folly with some important history in the Methodist movement. Lots of al fresco worship apparently. It turned out that John Green is originally a Congleton lad and he was able to instruct us in the local dialect of the natives. Specifically “Mow” is pronounced as in “cow”.

We then followed a long ridge with splendid views over the Cheshire Plain and beyond. A descent down Congleton Edge took us to a wooded re-purposed railway track - courtesy no doubt of the notorious Richard Beeching Axe. This delivered us to the car park and our means of return to Kidsgrove and hence home.

In summary, the walk itself took us through some attractive scenery in ideal weather. The going underfoot was quite hard - including towpath, road and old railway - so soft-soled trainers might have been better than boots. Also, the drive home seemed to be especially convoluted. However, the company and craic were as random and entertaining as ever; a psychologist would certainly have had a



field-day analysing the bizarre lines of conversation.

Thanks for coming to: Louise Amandini, Pippa Leach, Frederique and John Gwyther, Sue Todd and John Green. Thanks to John Green for the photos.



Along Congleton Edge

## **A short damp walk 20 October Colin Hobday**

Having searched the internet ,phone and radio for the best weather forecast I picked the one that said it would be dry by mid morning after over night rain. Soon the phone rang in the morning from a prospective member, Christine, who said it was pouring with rain and she was considering staying at home. Giving her the Oread chat line that it was dry in Derby she decided to join us in the car park at Thorpe on a dull, misty, rainy day (note car parking charges are soon to be introduced here). Some of the party appeared confused at having to wear over trousers.

Seven hardy souls assembled in full rain gear, the meet leader did a U turn and decided to shorten the walk, across the fields to Tissington with a U turn into Herbert's Cafe ,followed by a visit to the Titanic grave stone in the church yard and a quick stop under a bridge for lunch, Out into the rain and the footpath for Fenny Bentley; after the Third field we lost the footpath, morale of the group sank, soggy maps and phones said a U turn was in order - just as news came in that the P.M had done a U turn - so things were not too bad - we were all on the sinking ship.

The footpath was found and all went well and back to the car park after about five miles.

Thank you all for coming. As I sorted out the wet gear at home blue sky appeared. Another U turn.

## Mike Moore's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday gathering



Paul Gardiner writes: I went with June Walker to Mike's one hundredth birthday celebration held at his granddaughter's house. Many people from across the decades were assembled and, after presents and drinks, the magnificent spread of food was brought on. From then on for the next two hours that we were there whenever I looked at Mike he was eating! Good 100th appetite! Bless you and keep going old hill companion. Paul the Elder.

Just before the cake was demolished I managed to get it photographed and here it is. You will see a fine pair of sugarcraft boots on top!

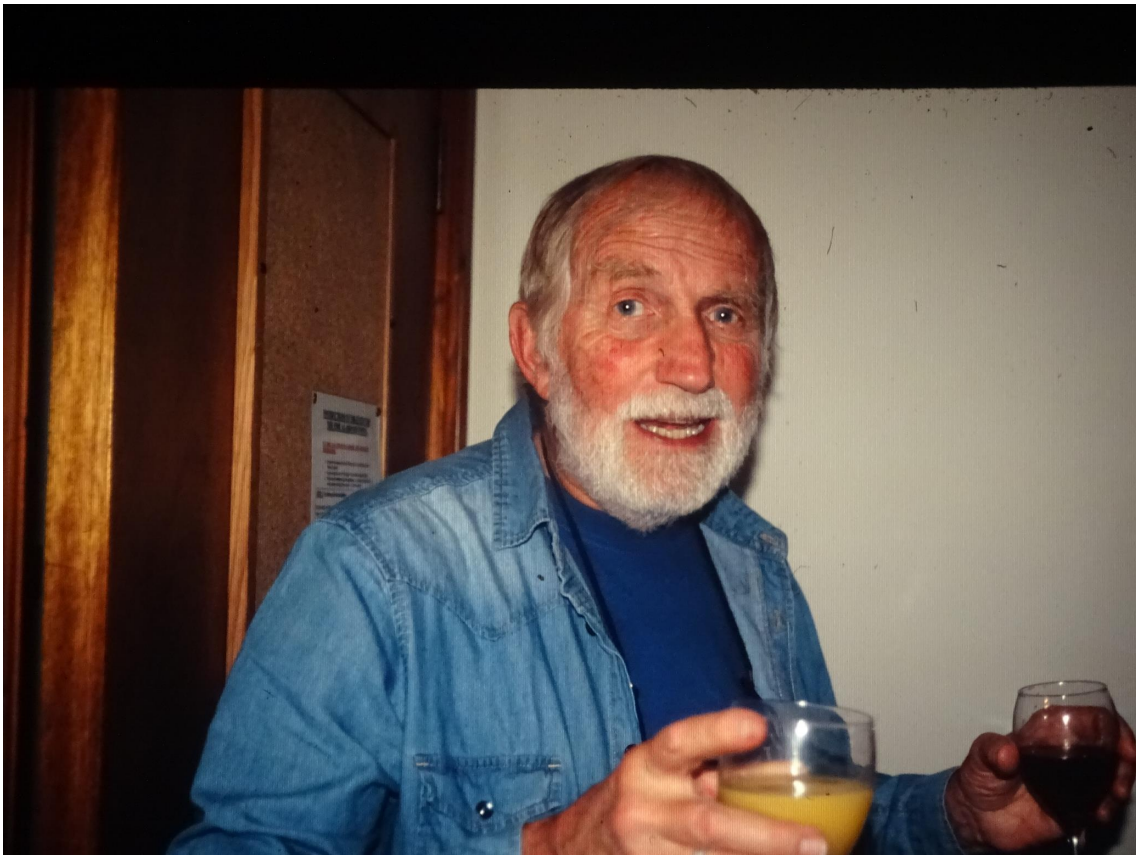
As Mike's birthday was on 1 September he received one of the last messages of congratulations from the Queen. Thanks to Mark and Petra Moore for permission to publish these photos.





## Michael Keeling

Sadly Mick Keeling passed away on Sunday 25 September. A tribute to him will appear in the next newsletter. Our heartfelt sympathy to Gill and the family.



This photo of Mick was taken in 2012 by Gordon Gadsby.

## 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

Pam and Nodge Norris would like members to know that they have recently changed their email address. They can now be contacted on

Pam: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Nodge: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

**This month's puzzle:**



The puzzle is in three parts, identify the places where the photographs were taken, and determine the distance between the two places. If we say that this distance figure should be accurate to the nearest mile then there need be no



uncertainty regarding which points on the photograph are under consideration



**Last month's puzzle solution:**

Snod decided correctly that there are 3 points for Gashed Crag, 7 for Charity and 4 for The Grimmet. Rusty would be interested to know if people agree with this assessment of the comparative difficulty of the routes.

***Dinner menu form on page 26***

## Annual Dinner Order Form

The dinner will be on the **3<sup>rd</sup> December** and will cost £29.95 per person (2 courses) or £35.00 (3 courses). 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, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

or **scan and email** your form to

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx to arrive by 14<sup>th</sup> November at the latest.

**Payment can be made in one of 2 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.**

**I must have the completed forms by 14<sup>th</sup> November**

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Payment Method:</b>	BACS / Cheque			
<b>Starter:</b>				
Maple Roast Parsnip soup				
Prawn Caesar Salad				
Bread & Dips				
Ham Hock & Apricot Terrine , Piccalilli, Ciabatta Crisp				
<b>Main Course:</b>				
Sea Bass Fillet with a Fennel Cream Sauce				
Baked Chicken Supreme with a Chasseur Sauce				
Beetroot & Squash Suet Roulade, Rice, Tomato Sauce				
Wild Mushroom & Leek Tart with a Chive Cream Sauce				
All main courses served with fondant potato & green beans				
<b>Dessert:</b>				
Lemon Cheesecake with Dark Chocolate Shards				
Classic Bread & Butter Pudding with Custard				
Selection of Cheese & Biscuits (£2 supplement)				

**Please state any dietary requirements:** All the starters can be adapted to Gluten Free; the Prawn Caesar Salad can be made vegan - Tofu, Avocado, Vegan Dressing, Vegan Cheese. Main courses can be adapted to Gluten free; the Beetroot & Squash Roulade is Vegan. Desserts - the Lemon Cheesecake & Cheese Board can be adapted to Gluten free.