

# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**APRIL 2023** 



Seeking the way down from Stob Coire nan Lochan. Photo Mike Rittig.

See page 11 for the story.

#### **Editorial**

In here are the list of Wednesday evening outdoor climbing venues for the month, details of the New Members Meet – do come along if you can, the last Scottish winter meet, walks around Ogston Reservoir and Dimmingsdale and, further ahead, the next section of the Gritstone Trail, a fortnight in Scotland and a Yorkshire Dales weekend.

Meet write-ups include Little Langdale, Scottish adventures plus several local walks.

#### Copy Deadline 20 April

### Meets List 2023 Michael Moss

There are some meets, especially from June 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: meetssec@oread.co.uk Tel xxxxxxxx

April	1st/2nd	New members climbing meet	Peak district	Chris Ashworth
	5th	Wednesday walk - Bradbourne		Gill Radcliffe
	7th-10th	Easter, Bouldering Fontainebleu		Lance Baker
	15th	Weekend walk - Dimmingsdale		Peter Amour
	15th	Alpine training, Nigel Berry	Black Rocks, Cromford	contact M Moss to book
	20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st/22nd	Glen Etive hut, Grampian club	Glen Etive, Scotland	Pip Leach
Мау	1st	May BH camping	Cornwall	Michael Hayes
	10th	Wednesday walk		Jan Wilson
	13th	Alpine training, Nigel Berry	Black Rocks, Cromford	contact M Moss to book
	13/14th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Dave Mason
	18th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	20th	Gritstone trail stage 5		Stuart Firth
	· ·	Scotland stacks, pinacles and other classics	West coast Scotland	Michael Moss
	29th	Spring BH		
June	7th	Wednesday walk		John Gwyther
	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, Yorkshire Ramblers Club hut, Low	stClapham, Yorkshire Dales	Peter Amour
	23rd-25th	BBQ Tan yr Wyddfa	N Wales	Tony Howard
July	???	Alpine meet		Meet leader needed
	1/2nd or 8/9th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Meet leader needed
	5th	Wednesday walk		Rusty Clive Russell
	15/16	Weekend walk		Nigel Briggs
	, 20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	25th to 27th	Tan Yr Wyddfa working party		Dave Snod Helliwell
	28/29th	Welsh hut meet Tan Yr Wyddfa		Meet leader needed
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Aug	2nd	Wednesday walk		Jan Wilson
	4th-5th	Weardale, walking and mountain biking		Pip Leach and Pete Masters
	12th/13th	Peak climbing day meets	Peak district	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th	Weekend walk		Louise Amandini
	26th-28th	ВН		Meet leader needed

Sept	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	
Oct	4th	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	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
	21st	Gritstone trail stage 6 - finale		Stuart Firth
	27/28	Curry meet, Tan yr Wyddfa	N Wales	Tony Howard
	30	Start Monday evening indoor meets	Climbing unit, Derby	
Nov	1st	Wednesday walk		Rusty - Clive Russell
	4th	Bonfire night	Heathy Lea, Chatsworth	
	8th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	16th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18th	Annual dinner	Fox & Goose nr Chesterfield	
	18/19	Joint FRCC/Oread MC Dry-tooling Meet	Rawhead Barn, Langdale	Neil McAllister & A N Oread
	18th	Weekend walk		John Gwyther
	19th	Post prandial walk		
Dec	6th	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	6th	Winter wall wednesdays		
	9th to 11th	Bull Stones		
	13th	Black rocks evening meet and pub social	Cromford	
	16/17	Dry tooling Masson Lees		
	16th	Weekend walk		Steve Booth
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa	

# Wednesday evening climbing venues.

This year we will choose a venue in advance - it can still be changed if the weather is unsuitable but at least there will be a starting point for discussion.

- 5 April **Colehill** then the Boat, Cromford.
- 12 April **Birchens** then the Wheatsheaf, Baslow.
- 19 April **Wildcat** then the Boat, Cromford.
- 26 April **Burbage North** then The Grouse, above Froggatt.

### 1-2 April New Members Meet Chris Ashworth

We will meet at a crag in the Peak on Saturday morning at 09.30, final location to be determined by the weather. I will keep people informed on the io group and Facebook. We will climb through the day and back to Heathy Lea for dinner, and then Sunday morning out for another day's climbing at one of the local crags. Please come along and support your club, even if just a few hours out on the crag one day. These meets have brought many new members to the club and I think we can all agree it would be a good chance to get out and see some familiar faces. Heathy Lea is available for both Friday and Saturday nights (although I cannot be there on the Friday) and you should book your beds using the online booking system. The hut tends to fill up quite fast. If you are a newish member and would like any further information on what you may need or what you can expect please get in touch with me.

Chris Ashworth email: xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxx

# Wednesday 5 April Ogston Reservoir Walk Gill Radcliffe

This walk starts at the West car park (free) near Ogston Reservoir Sailing Club (please do not park at the sailing club). Grid ref SK374604. Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.

This is a great circular walk with good views from Highoredish and Cocking Tor. The route is seven miles with options to extend and the ascents are mostly gentle (perfect for those with new knees or hips!). The route is on field paths, tracks and quiet roads. Please bring food and drink as there are no cafes en-route unless we extend the walk into Ashover, which will be weather dependent. Gill Radcliffe tel. xxxxxxxxxxx

# 7-11 April Easter Bouldering Fontainebleu Lance Baker

With last year's Easter trip to Font proving a success, a return trip is warranted. It may be busy, though we found this added to the experience with camaraderie rather than queues.

A getwaway to test and refine your technique, or to enjoy the comfort of your bouldering mat whilst sampling the wine, coffee and patisseries. The sandstone boulders are clustered at a number of venues spread out in the forest surrounding Fontainebleu. There are problems at all grades, often above friendly sandy landings.

I have booked in at the campsite: Camping Les Pres – Aquadis Loisirs from 07/04 to 13/04. A few are booked from 07/04 to 11/04.

https://www.aquadis-loisirs.com/camping-nature/camping-les-presfontainebleu

Most venues accessible within a 30 minute drive.

Lance Baker email xxxxxxxxxx tel. Xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

# 15 April and 13 May Alpine Skills Training

Nigel Berry has again generously agreed to offer some training to Oread members. These will be one day sessions on skills for Alpine mountaineering, the day will include moving together, short pitching and crevasse rescue. The venue will be at Black Rocks, Cromford, making great use of the gullies and crevices there.

Nigel can take 4 to 6 people in a session. Two pairs of three with people who know already how to belay etc.

The cost will be £10 per person to contribute to Nigel's expenses. If you are free and keen to get this training please let me know by email or text, saying which of the days you would like to go on. If you have expressed interest but not yet sent your £10.00 to Janet please do so or your place may go to someone else.

Michael Moss email: xxxxxxxxxx tel.xxxxxxxxxx

# 21 - 22 April Glen Etive (Inbhirfhaolain Hut The Grampian Club) Pip Leach

This weekend offers another unique experience of staying in a very basic but charming hut, where you need to fetch your water from the river and it also boasts the delights of a composting toilet! However, in the iconic Glen Etive, under the towering Munros, such as Ben Starav and Buachaille Etive Mor, what's not to love? Not forgetting climbing on the Etive Slabs.

It is possible to camp at this hut but nevertheless, numbers are limited to only 13 and there is already some interest. There is also the possibility of extending the stay to include Sunday 23rd.

If you would like to join me on this weekend, please get in touch.

Pippa Leach: tel. xxxxxxxxxx email xxxxxxxxxxx

# 15 April Dimmingsdale - Kingsley - Dimmingsdale Circuit Peter Amour

This is an area well provided with plenty of tracks and should make an excellent springtime jaunt. I'm advising an earlier than usual start time at the Ramblers Retreat car park of 9-45am for a 10-00am departure due to it's popularity at weekends. The undulating terrain gives great reward with a mix of lakes, forests and open ground which should be displaying plenty of colour.

Plenty of chance of a post-walk coffee and snack at the Ramblers Retreat.

Start point :- Car Park adjacent to Ramblers Retreat cafe, Red Lane, Alton, SK 063431 (Advise car sharing to ease parking spaces, reduce environmental damage).

Start time: - 9-45am for 10-00am departure.

Route: Towards - Threapwood - Hawksmoor Wood - Ross Bridge - Whiston Bridge - Whiston - Black Plantation - Rock Cottage - Staffs Moorland Walk - Star Wood - Old Star - Longshaw - Farley - Barbary gutter - car park Distance 11 miles.

If you plan to go, let me know, I'll look out for you, Peter.xxxxxxxxxxx

# 20 April Short Walk Tansley Ruth Gordon

We will start at 11.00 am by Tansley Church. There is street parking to be had in various spots on the road through the village. The walk will take us through fields and woodland across Knabhall Lane to Allen Lane and then to Holestone Gate Road, returning via Old Engine Farm, Packhorse Farm, Knabhall and Whitelea lanes. Distance about five miles with just one short steepish section as we climb out of Tansley.

Ruth Gordon email xxxxxxxxxxx tel xxxxxxxxxxxx

### 28 April - 9 May Bank holidays in Cornwall Michael Hayes

This is an early notice for the May Day Bank Holiday weekend meet to Cornwall and as an extra coronation Bank Holiday has been added I expect campsites to be booked up quickly to make use of the longer holiday.

We are planning to stay at Kelynack Caravan & Camping Park which is close to the village of St Just and in an ideal location for all the West Cornwall climbing venues including Bosigran, Sennen and Chair Ladder. In addition to the climbing there are fantastic coastal walks, beaches and so much more.

We are booked into the campsite from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> but come for as long as you can and enjoy this fantastic part of the world.

The cost will be £10 per adult per night and £10 per night if you want electricity hook up and a 25% deposit is required.

# Saturday 20 May 2023 Gritstone Trail 5 Stuart Firth

Meet at Lamaload Reservoir car park at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure. Bring Picnic.

OS Map 24 GR 977 754 (aka W3W conspired.reframe.royal)

This is a circular walk partly on the Gritstone Trail and links with our previous stage. It goes something like this:

Lamaload Reservoir, Works, Wells, MS, Rainow, Tower Hill, Kerridge Hill, White Nancy, Bollington (possible refreshment at either The Green Bollington or Café Waterside but bring picnic), Sowcar, Berristall Dale, Brink Farm, Pt 407, Further

Harrop Farm, Harrop Fold Farm, Blue Boar Farm, Memorial Stone\*, Lamaload Reservoir.

"HERE JOHN TURNER WAS CAST AWAY IN A HEAVY SNOW STORM IN THE NIGHT IN OR ABOUT THE YEAR 1755". And on the other side "THE PRINT OF A WOMANS (sic) SHOE WAS FOUND BY HIS SIDE WERE (sic) HE LAY DEAD".

I am, of course, hoping for better weather and fewer dead bodies. Please join me for this penultimate stage of the Gritstone Trail.

Please let me know if you would like to join us on this walk and/or would like to lift share.

Stuart Firth: email xxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

# 20 May – 4 June Scottish west coast stacks, pinnacles and classics meet Michael Moss

Arrangements are:

Glenbrittle, Skye - Sat. 20th May leaving Sat. 27th May Clachtoll beach campsite - Sat. 27th May leaving Sat. 3rd June

Please book for Clachtoll as soon as possible, it's on the north coast 500 route so is popular. They don't have serviced pitches for the full week. I've booked at Clachtoll for part of the week with electricity and and part of the week without. When you book do put in the online booking form comments that you are part of the Oread, they ask that people who are coming in a group say so in their booking.

At Glenbrittle booking is not needed.

If you are coming and have let me know already, thanks. If you haven't let me know please do so, it will help with transport.

Michael Moss email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxx

#### 17 -18 June Yorkshire Dales Peter Amour

For :- Climbers and Hillwalkers.

Where :- Lowstern Hut, Clapham, near Settle'

Bedspaces: - 10 only. If you want one book early.

A superb purpose built hut in its own grounds with facilities for all outdoors sport including caving if that's your preference.

**Climbers:**- Sport climbing - Trow Gill and Robin Proctor's Scar within walking distance. A short drive away to Giggleswick North and South and only a little further to Malham and Gordale.

Trad climbing a short drive away at Twistleton Scar and Attermire Scar.

Plus many other crags in the area. An excellent climbing area with plenty to go at on fine Yorkshire Limestone. There is also a "Classic Rock' grit climb on the top of Pen y Ghent if you fancy a walk as well as a climb!

**Hillwalkers:**- Loads. More than you can shake a stick at! Pen Y Ghent, Whernside, Ingleborough, Crummackdale, Moughton Scar, Ingleton Falls. Lots of others of higher and lower elevations.

If you want to guarantee a place in this special area contact me on:xxxxxxxxxxx I look forward to seeing you.

#### **Members Corner**

# Congratulations to Derrick Burgess who celebrates his $90^{\text{th}}$ birthday this month.

Here he is, in celebratory mode "doing an Egyptian" with Ron Sant in Cornwall many moons ago, captured on camera by Roger Larkam!



# News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Little Langdale 10-12 March Snod Helliwell



#### Two old codgers enjoying the sunshine and blue skies - photo Tom Larkam

The Fylde hut swap really was at Little Langdale this time. It was a bit like Ten Green Bottles or that well known Agatha Christie novel - except we started with nine.

Pip caught Covid so then there were eight.

Joan had a cold so she and Derek dropped out – then there were six. The Friday was the morning that Derbyshire woke to a good dumping of snow so axes and crampons were packed. Gandalf and his Carer (aka Roger Larkam and son, Tom) picked me up late morning and as we headed for Stockport we drove out of the snow. It was a lovely day and we grabbed a route at Raven Crag, Walthwaite on the way.

On arrival at the hut Michael and Helen Hayes were already there, having stopped the previous night at the Three Shires. They had walked over Wetherlam and had a really good day out in the snow – though there was very

little in the Lakes compared with what we left behind. Meanwhile German Mike (Rittig) had walked up towards Tilberthwaite. Friday night was fish and chips in Ambleside.



Helen Hayes on top of Wetherlam – photo Michael Hayes.

Saturday morning dawned dry but not so bright. Helen was also not so bright with a cold and the after effects of their long walk so they left for home. Then there were four.

German Mike went up Pike O'Blisco and Weatherlam. Gandalf, his Carer and I went looking for a crag he fancied at the top of Wrynose Pass. It was Siberian up there and we soon dissuaded him. We returned to lower levels and went to Scout Crag – very polished. We did one route and went to Upper Scout. After two routes there they wanted to go to the New Dungeon Ghyll to watch the rugby. I think they would have been happier if we had done another route instead ......

It started snowing whilst we were in the pub and carried on into the night. German Mike was leaving to meet up with friends in Scotland and was worried that he might be snowed in - but come the morning it had all gone and was fine for his getaway. Mike left for Scotland and then there were three.

Gandalf and his Carer drove up the Wrynose again to find the new crag. I walked

up Lingmoor Fell, good views. As an added bonus on the way back, Dale End Farm had cakes and an Honesty Box. The flapjack was scrumptious! Rain was forecast for the afternoon but we all got back to the hut at much the same time and it was only spitting.

All in all a great weekend; the forecast was proved wrong and those who didn't go missed a great weekend in a lovely hut. Thanks to those who came to share it.

# Meanwhile - heading North - Mike Rittig:

I met up with some mates and planned to do just some warm-up routes around Fort William between the Lakes and Kinlochleven invites, but what happened was that I did as many big routes as possible before the winter ended. By the end of the week I was completely done and couldn't do any more routes on the Waters Cottage meet, doh, but the weather was bad by then anyway.

The front page photo shows us trying to find a quick way off Stob Coire nan Lochan to escape the blizzard conditions. We had climbed up NC Gully and Dorsal Arete having down climbed Broad Gully in between and were now heading for an unidentified gully as an emergency exit. Great day out in still reasonable ground conditions which would deteriorate during the week.

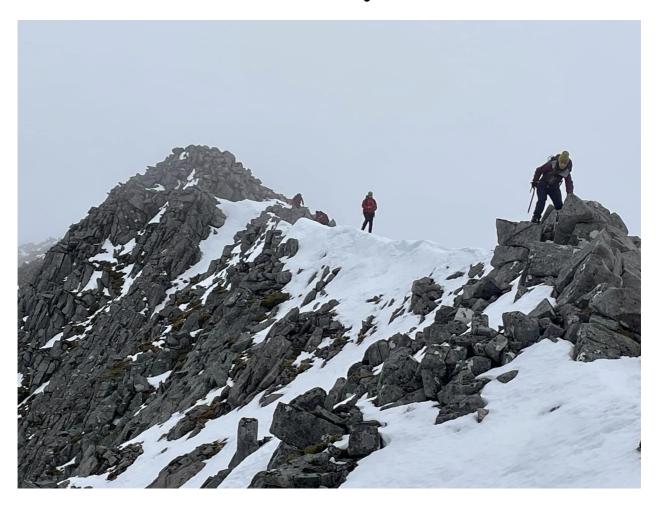


Tuesday we headed up to the north face of Ben Nevis where we did Neptune's Gully in marginal conditions (turf still frozen but thin ice and thought-provoking wind slabs on the snow) but beautiful sunshine. Wednesday we battled deep fresh snow on the Forcan Ridge in difficult conditions.

Thursday was the big thaw with gashing warm rain where we did a very wet scramble up the zigzags on Gearr Aonach which left us soaked. Friday was another reasonable day where we did Curved Ridge on Buachaille Etive Mor as a rock scramble because all the snow and ice had gone.

With my gear still wet from Thursday and the forecast showing more rain on Saturday I decided to drive back home rather than doing another wet walk.

# Waters Cottage Kinlochleven 17-19 March Michael Hayes



Six of us headed up on Thursday evening (Dave and Steph Ward, Luke O'Donnell, Kasia Sajdok, Lydia Nowak and myself) and Friday we all went on the Carn Mor Dearg, Ben Nevis circuit. After a very early morning arrival and a subsequent late start we didn't leave the North Face car park until 10am and used all the daylight available to get back to the cars just after dark. En route we picked up a bloke from London with lots of sparkly new gear but no experience so we took him with us to make sure he survived the day!

Michael Rittig joined us Friday evening but as Saturday turned out wet as forecast he decided to go home after a very productive week in Scotland but numbers were swelled as Michael Percival and Jae Yeon Oh joined us for the weekend.

Jenna Brightwell also joined us on Saturday and six became seven for our final day, Broad Gully on Stob Coire nan Lochan (picture below) before she departed for a week in the Cairngorms and we drove home.

Thanks to all who made the long journey North and made the most of a mixed weather weekend.





# Thursday Short Walk Calke 23 February Colin Hobday



#### Morning coffee stop at the old lime workings

After a week of dismal weather Thursday was a cool but perfect day, blue sky, with ten Oreads and friends meeting in the car park at Calke Abbey plus a guest appearance of John Gresty and Martina to see us off. Our route took us down to Betty's Pond and up and along through the wood until we were able to turn off and descend to the old lime workings for a coffee stop in a warm sunny spot. Some decided it was lunch time and consumed sandwiches (brownie points deducted). We were soon at the entrance to the tunnel and with the help of John Green and Nick Evans three Peacock Butterflies were found hibernating on the roof of the tunnel. Once back in the sunshine a steady plod brought us to the adventure playground for lunch (those who had Food left)! Arriving back at Calke Abbey to be greeted by Peter and Georgina Amour, more drinks and chat in the sunshine, a perfect end to the day, thanks to all who came, making it a great day out. About five miles.



# Wednesday walk from Thorpe1 March Peter Amour

Eleven assembled at Narlow's Lane to find the car park still free of charge. With changeable weather we headed down Hall Dale, crossed the Dove at the Stepping Stones and took towards Ilam for a rendezvous with Rusty who was heading in our direction from the county boundary village. Leaving Ilam we climbed the pasture and took in a showery coffee stop near Blore.

Departing with extra layering to keep out the rain the route took us around the village and onto a green lane from Woodhouses to Martin Hill, and then into Okeover Park to grab a sheltered lunch in brighter but breezy conditions.

Dropping down into Mappleton, and visiting its church I drew the group's attention to a gravestone of the 7th Baron Methuen, who was once an engineer at Rolls-Royce, and whose descendant I met a few years ago at the family seat in Wiltshire.

The latter part of the journey took us along the eastern Dove Valley elevations with rewarding if misty views, and into Thorpe for a visit to the Old Dog pub. Thanks to Rachel, Chris, John, Stuart, Nigel, Janet, Rusty, Richard, Mick, Pippa for joining me.

#### Short walk Bonsall 23 March Ruth Gordon

It was a small team this month, just Chris Paice, Chris Radcliffe – trying out his new hip over 5+ miles and myself – but as we set off Reg Squires emerged from the cafe to join us. The day was forecast to be showery but the showers were brief and there was plenty of sun plus splendid rainbows.



The top of Horsedale was appallingly boggy after recent heavy rain but nobody drowned and the rest of the way wasn't too bad. It was quite a nature walk with three fine black rams, half a dozen fallow deer hinds, daffodils, coltsfoot, a skylark and many other signs of spring. We lunched at Jugholes cave before

crossing Masson Hill and descending back to Bonsall in the course of which the meet leader confesses to losing the planned route – but luckily the unplanned deviation was an improvement on the original – phew! Chris Radcliffe decided he wanted to try taking a selfie so here we are!



## Hut Bookings.

Both our Welsh and Derbyshire hut bookings have now moved online at the Oread website <a href="https://www.oread.co.uk">www.oread.co.uk</a>.

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: <a href="michaelhayes6688@gmail.com">michaelhayes6688@gmail.com</a>
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 Alison Mowbray, Dave Ward and Alamin Zindanee, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from existing Provisional members Louise Amandini, Edward Bloomfield, Christine Paice and Michael Rittig. Plus new applications from Steve Booth and Marie Cowie. If you would like to comment on any of these applications please contact a member of the committee.

# Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle: it's "Name the Gnomes" time again courtesy of Mr Larkam. Who are they – and for extra points where is their luxury overnight

stay?



#### Last month's puzzle solution:

The identity of the Oread motorcyclist and Skye camper will have to wait another month as Rusty has not yet revealed the answer!

An interesting postscript to Rusty's February puzzle concerning Ray Colledge and "Dan Boone" comes from Dennis Gray who writes:

Daniel Boone was actually Jimmy Fullalove from Bradford. Terry Burnell and I met him at Almscliff when he had just started to climb, and he was wearing a hat like the famous US pioneer, and because we did not know his proper name, and he followed us around we nick named him Dan Boone.

He climbed a lot with the re-formed Rock and Ice. Dez Hadlum, Dave Musgrove, Terry Burnell etc and in the Alps with various partners from that group.

Unfortunately after his golden season with Ray Colledge, he became a hard drug addict, and ended in rehab at Bristol, following which he turned to religion.

The last time I met him was in Bradford; he was giving out tracts to the uninitiated of that City, but then he became an advisor in the Citizens Advice Bureau.

He died young, and a highly inaccurate Obituary appeared in the Bradford Telegraph and Argus.

The Rock and Ice were reformed by Nat Allen and myself when I lived in Derby.

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