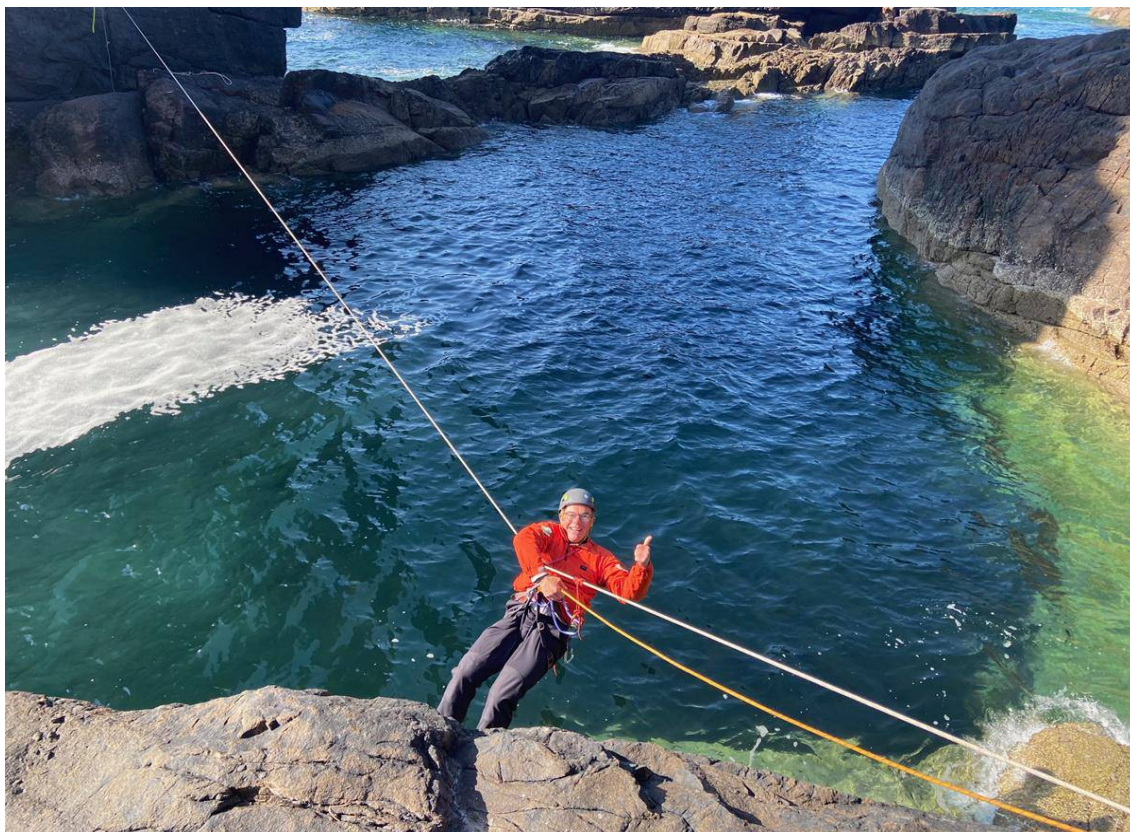


OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2023



John Dobson on the Tyrolean traverse returning from the Old Man of Stoer see the story on page 11

Editorial

A bumper issue because the foul, un-summery weather has given everyone lots of free time to write up their meets stories from Scotland in May through to Nenthead in early August! Roger Gibbs shares his latest hard earned tick and Rob Tresidder muses on the routes most climbed....

Meets coming up – weekends in Coniston, Little Langdale, Snowdonia, Peak District walks, a fun competition, last of the outdoor evenings with a celebratory curry night in Matlock Bath and the first of our winter indoor climbing nights and monthly illustrated talks kicking off in October. Or head for Spanish sunshine - Siurana!

Date for your diary – Annual Dinner always a great night on 19 November. For walkers and bikers please contribute to the forward planning info on pages 2-3 and looking ahead to next summer – Lofoten? Page 10.

Copy Deadline 20 September.

Meets List 2023 Michael Moss

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

Sept	1st/2nd	Low House MAM hut, Coniston	Lakes	Charlie Taylor
	6th	Wednesday walk	Kinder	John Green
	9th	Peak climbing day meets - Limestone multipitch	Peak district	Michael Moss
	10th	BARMY comp. - Millstone and Burbage area	Millstone/Surprise view car park	Michael Moss
	16/17	Weekend walk	Castleton	Richard Linney
	20 th	Wildcat and curry	Matlock Bath	Simon Pape
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
Oct	3 rd	Paul Gardiner Lecture	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Rob Tresidder
	4 th	Wednesday Walk	Curbar area	Charlie Taylor
	6/7th	Fylde hut Little Langdale	Fylde MC hut swap	Dave Snod Helliwell
	11th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	14th-19th	Mediterranean sport climbing,	Siurana, Spain	Emma Hayes
	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	
	7 th	Cath Flitcroft lecture	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Rob Tresidder
	8th	Winter wall Wednesdays		
	16th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	18th	Annual dinner	Fox and Goose	Chris Radcliffe
	18/19	Joint FRCC/Oread MC Dry-tooling Meet	Rawhead Barn, Langdale	Neil McAllister (FRCC) & Tim
	18th	Weekend walk		John Gwyther
	19th	Post prandial walk		
Dec	5 th	John Shields Lecture	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Rob Tresidder
	6 th	Wednesday Walk	Axe Edge	Charlie Taylor
	6th	Winter wall wednesdays		
	9th to 11th	Bull Stones		Meet leader needed
	13th	Black rocks evening meet and pub social	Cromford	
	16/17	Dry tooling Masson Lees		Meet leader needed
	16th	Weekend walk		Steve Booth
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet	Tan Yr Wyddfa		

2024 Walking Programme Stuart Firth

The Oread Walking Programme has been going for a few years now and has been successful in terms of lots of repeat custom and also in attracting new members – especially women. Whilst I am personally and regrettably slowing down, it is evident that others are speeding up. Or is this just the “policemen are getting younger” phenomenon? Whatever – I suggest it’s time for a review of what we do. Therefore, I’m asking for your input please.

When we started, the idea was for monthly day walks on Wednesdays and

weekends. These were designed to have a broad spread roughly in the Peak District, have multiple leaders and be about 10 miles long. The ethos was to have a strong social element with a café / pub stop or finale. With regular drink, breath and photo breaks, it would be non-competitive so no-one would get left behind – or be allowed to stray too far off course (you know who you are!).

Ruth Gordon then introduced the complementary monthly Thursday walks covering shorter distances at a more leisurely pace. These too have proved to be popular.

It seems to me that a “gap in the market” has now evolved for fitter, newer, younger, better-looking, more ambitious members who enjoy distances longer than 10 miles at a higher – maybe “no prisoners” – pace. So, I would like to float the following ideas for discussion:

- A new programme for stronger walkers (Organiser required)
- Probably on a different day in the month from the existing programmes
- Alternatively dedicate some of the approximately 36 / 365 existing walking programme days to longer / faster walks
- Grading the walks – Sprinters, Striders and Strollers (>12 miles; c.10 miles; <8miles) so that folk know what they are letting themselves in for.

Peak District GeoWalk

The Peak District Boundary Walk series proved to be popular so I am wondering if there would be sufficient demand for a follow-up series tackling the new Peak District GeoWalk as a similar series of day walks. “A Guide to Rocks and Landforms on a Long-Distance Walk”. This could be incorporated into the programmes described above or done as weekend meets possibly using accommodation. I would be prepared to oversee the organisation of this if others were to “volunteer” to lead sections. Details can be found on www.peakdistrictgeowalk.org.

I should be delighted to receive comment on the above and / or alternative suggestions.

And finally: The Pennine Cycleway Derby – Berwick on Tweed

Is anyone interested in doing the Pennine Cycleway in stages over a period of time? Do let me know. I might organise a series of meets.

Stuart Firth email:xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Wednesday evening climbing venues.

6 September **Willersley** then The Boat at Cromford.

13 September **Colehill** then The Boat at Cromford.

20 September **Wildcat** then the Old Bank and curry night Matlock Bath.

1 - 3 September Low House Coniston Lake District Charlie Taylor

We have the MAM Low House hut, located in the village of Coniston, booked for the weekend. The hut is located close to the fells of Dow Crag, Grey Friar, Wetherlam and the Old Man of Coniston with great walking and climbing in Great Langdale, just a few miles up the road. The Grizedale Forest offers plenty of easy walks and some of the best natural trails Mountain Biking routes the UK has to offer.

Please book your place with Charlie Taylor: e-mail xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or call/text me on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Wednesday 6 September A Walk Over Kinder John Green

I suggest starting at 10.00am from the car park at Barber Booth SK 1080 8472. There should be room for enough cars, but would think getting there earlier may be better as Saturdays can get busy. This is a classic walk over Kinder but keeping away from the main drag. We will walk up the road to Upper Booth then make our way into Crowden Clough. The ascent of this should be fun and a scramble can be done at the top, if you like, and weather conditions permit. From the top we use the compass to track over the main plateaux of Kinder and into the Kinder River basin which we follow to the Downfall (lunch?) From here around the edge to Cluther Rocks, then down to point 427m left around the ridge over Oaken Clough and pick up the Pennine Way back to the start. About 13k but some hard going.

John Green email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 9 September Peak Limestone multipitch Michael Moss

The venue will depend on weather and the preferences of those attending so keep an eye on the group email and make your interest known.

Michael Moss email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sunday 10 September BARMY Competition Surprise View Michael Moss

BARMY, or **Best All Round Mountaineer of the Year**, puts the emphasis on fun, on interesting ground covered rather than difficulty. The goal is a good day out in the Peak. Points will be awarded for, amongst other things, crags visited, climbs done,



triangulation points reached. The format will be similar to previous years, with categories for climbers, boulderers, runners, walkers, and bikers. We will park at Millstone Surprise View car park above Millstone Edge. The trig point at the South end of Stanage is the common objective,

From the car park a 12km route out and back to the trig point would take in Millstone, minor less visited crags near Millstone, Carl's Wark, Higgarr, Stanage south end, Burbage N and S and Bridge area. The exact route is your choice and can be varied with extra trig points (to suit walkers and

mountain bikers), more (Lawrencefield) or less crags to suit fitness, competitiveness, weather etc.

Start at 10 a.m. at the car park, arrive early to get a space especially if the weather is good.

Finish at 6 p.m. at the car park, with a trip to the The Grouse just north of Froggat to reflect on the results.

Scoring scheme...

There will be separate categories for climbers, for runners/walkers, and for those using bikes. The scoring is the same for all:

100 points for reaching the common objective, the trig point 457m at the south end of Stanage,

10 points per crag or bouldering site visited,

10 points per per climb, increased to 12 for one star, 15 for two star and 20 for three star routes.

20 points for each of patronising a pub or, visiting stone circles, monuments or monoliths, clipping a bolt or peg, and taking a swim, and for visiting both grit and limestone.

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

50 points for trig points, pinnacles, hardest technical pitch

(climbing and bouldering considered separately) and longest climb.
-2 points per minute over 8 hours.

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

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

Michael Moss email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 16 September Castleton Walk Richard Linney

Cave Dale and the Great Ridge from Castleton (c.10 miles)

Meet at the Peak District National Trust car park (Buxton road, SK 149829) for a 10 am start.

We follow the narrow limestone gorge of Cave Dale that leads steeply uphill to the high pastures above the village. Level walking along tracks provides a breather before we climb to the summit of Mam Tor and follow the Great Ridge over Hollins Cross, Back Tor and Lose Hill before descending to Hope through fields and following the riverside path back to Castleton – where refreshments are available at a multitude of hostelrys.

Please let me know if you're planning to join us – or if you'd like any more info email :xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Wednesday 20 September, Matlock Bath Balti, 8.00pm Simon Pape

Normally, this would mark the end of summer, but since we haven't had one this year, think of it more as a reason to avoid going to the climbing wall for another week! **IF** it's dry, we'll probably climb at Wild Cat, now that we can and abseiling in of course. The table's booked for 8.00, so there may just be time for a quick pint in the Old Bank beforehand.

If you want to come for the curry, please let me know by Sunday 17th September.

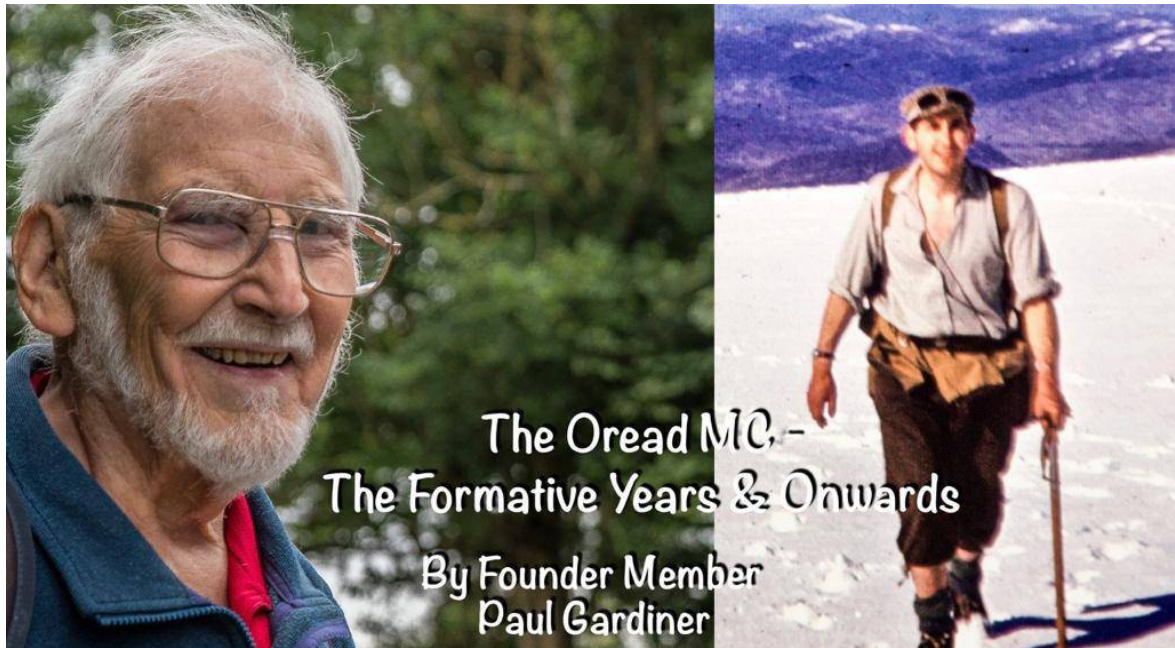
Simon Pape tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thursday 21 September Short Walk Ruth Gordon

We will park at SK313610 the Wilson residence, Plantation Lodge, Upper Lumsdale Matlock DE4 5LB for an 11.00am start. The route takes in Sandy Lane, Cuckoostone Lane, Matlock Forest (a mix of trees and open moorland), Wirestone Lane, Eddlestow Lot, more forest, Wayside Farm and back through fields, lanes and woodland to Lumsdale where tea will be on offer. Be in touch if you need more detailed directions to the start.

Ruth Gordon email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Tuesday 3 October 8 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



The first lecture of the season will feature Paul Gardiner, Oread and one of only two surviving original members. This talk, (which sadly had to be postponed in March due to illness) will look back at the very start of the Oread, (before it was Oread) There will be pictures of early members and groups which I hope will encourage participation from the floor-- like Oread talks used to be !!--if you recognise someone and have an anecdote. Peter Amour has put a lot of effort into stringing this together. Come and see who was on the hill before you!

Admission £3.00 Oreads £5.00 non members.

Wednesday 4 October Curbar - Charlie Taylor

Meet at Curbar Gap car park (SK262747) with an aim to depart at 10:15. This walk takes in Curbar and Froggatt edges, Grindleford, Padley Gorge, Longshaw Estate and White edge.

The route is approximately 11 miles long with around 1,200 ft of ascent Please let me know if you are attending.

Charlie Taylor email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

6-7 October 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.

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

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 xxxxxxxxxxxx Tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx) and leave a message.

14- 29 October Siurana Spain Emma Hayes

A few members from the Oread are heading to Siurana in Spain 14-29th October for some sport climbing. Small apartments can be found in Cornudella. There is also a campsite just outside Siurana village. Me and Luke are staying in apartment Chenin Blanc-Priorat. If you want to join in, find yourself a climbing partner and book some accommodation. There are regular flights to Barcelona and then it is a 2 hour drive from the airport. If you would like any more information you can contact me through my email: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Weekend Walk – Saturday 21 October – Gritstone Trail 6 Stuart Firth

Meet at Lyme Park NT car park at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure. Bring Picnic.

OS Map OL1 GR 963 823 (aka W3W topic.homelands.reboot)

This is a circular walk partly on the Gritstone Trail and linking with our previous stage. It's the last one in the series. It goes something like this: Lyme Park car park – free for NT members (facilities, café), Bowstonegate, Sponds Hill, Pt 407, Stag House, Keepers Cottage, Birchencliff, (possibly The Tin Hut Coffee Tavern), West Parkgate, Green Farm, Elmhurst Cottage, Disley Pt 183 (THE END yippee), Green Lane, Bollinghurst Bridge, Lyme Park.

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

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

27 – 29 October Tan yr Wyddfa Curry Meet Tony Howard

The weekend Curry Meet will be at Tan yr Wyddfa this year. Most of you will be familiar with our Welsh hut and with the curry meet format, but for the few who are not, the hut is based in Rhyd Ddu just south of Snowdon. This gives easy access to most of the best walking and climbing in Snowdonia.

We'll have the curry on Saturday night, as usual. I will cook a couple, but the plan is to persuade one or two (or more) of you to also cook a curry. I will reimburse you for the ingredients you need **for the curry itself**. I will provide **all** the ancillary stuff, rice, naans, samosas, Indian sweets, fruit salad etc.

The cost for the food will be about £10 per person, for **everyone who signs up**. Payment method to be decided. I will let you know about this in advance. Bring your own wine and beer etc. I have been running these meets now for over 20 years and they have always been a well-attended warm social occasion. So, if you've not been before, come and join us.

If you would like to come along and **particularly if you would be willing to make a curry**, please let me know ASAP, indicating what you would like to cook. In that way we should be able to provide a balanced menu.

Tony Howard Home: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Mobile xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 18 November Oread Annual Dinner Chris Radcliffe

[Please save the date in your Calendar!](#)

The Fox and Goose has served us well over the last couple of years, so this will once again be the venue for the annual dinner.

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

www.thefoxandgooseinn.com

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

Overnight accommodation

The pub does not have any accommodation but there is a Premier Inn - Chesterfield West (on the A619 Baslow – Chesterfield road) only a mile away 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 me - Chris Radcliffe: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

This Winter's Evening Meets

These take place on the first (except January) Tuesday of the month at The Royal Oak in Ockbrook.

03 October 2023: Paul Gardiner, OMC
07 November: Cath Flitcroft (BMC)
05 December: Jon Shields, paraclimber
09 January 2024
06 February
05 March Nigel Briggs on Langtang trek

That leaves me with one (or two) slots to fill. Do you have a tale to tell? Maybe you would prefer half an evening. Do you know someone you could invite or someone you would like me to invite? Please be in touch.

Rob email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Summer 2024 Lofoten?

We are considering running a meet to the Lofoten Islands in Norway next summer. This was originally planned for 2020 by Derek Pike but had to be cancelled'. For those that have not heard of the area there is lots of rock climbing along with walking, cycling, the sea, islands and generally a special place to visit.

At the moment plans are 'flexible' but we are looking at being in Lofoten around about the end of June or early July (we want to see the midnight sun). There is no useful ferry so the options for getting there are air, rail or a long drive.

If you are interested and want to know more, please get in touch.

Nigel Briggs xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Towards the 75th

Next year is the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Oread. To remind ourselves of the past we are reproducing one newsletter article a month on the website. These can be found on the website under the 'Oread 75th Anniversary' tab or follow this link for the latest article :

<https://www.oread.co.uk/75th-anniversary-archive-article-8-2017/>

A new article will be published every month, keep checking to enjoy articles from the past 25 years and to refresh your memory.

Scotland stacks, pinnacles and other classics 20 May – 4 June Michael Moss

A group of eight plus an old dog travelled up to Skye for the May holiday with the ambition to do good things on the Cullin ridge.



Dave, Lianne and Pip on Am Basteir.

Our first day out from Sligachan was straight up onto the ridge to climb the intimidating looking Basteirs Tooth via Naismith's route and then a scramble over Am Basteir and Sgurr nan Gillean. Enough to show most of us that the ridge in one go would need some more fitness training. Dodgy looking weather on the next day led us to go for Window Buttress original route. A cold climb to the window which the wind was ripping though eventually lead to a pinnacle and a descent in an horrendous loose gully before the pleasant walk back to Glenbrittle. On the day three a small team bagged a much more reliable classic, climbing the Inaccessible Pinnacle and Sgurr Dearg.

The highlight and end of the week was the Dubhs ridge. The route in was an early speedboat from Elgol to the peaceful and isolated Loch Coruisk. The Dubh ridge is long scramble and a good place to practice moving together techniques. Our route continued up into mist over Sgurr Dubh Mor and across the main ridge and down into Coire a' Ghrunnda, just dropping out of the mist as was descended into the the coire. The rocky walls of the coire made the helicopter loud, and the approach and landing

near us in the coire bottom impressive. Still more entertainment for us; a paramedic jumped out and scrambled up the hill towards us. Less entertaining for him, wearing full heavy flying gear and helmet, and eventually disappointing when he found out it wasn't us who needed rescuing. Below: *Tom and Roger on the cliffs near Elgol*



A still smaller number headed further north to Assynt to camp at Clactoll a beautiful spot near Lochinver. This was our first trip this far north on the west coast, and the weather was looked promising. A trip to the sea cliffs at Reiff proved that this was too far away to be worth the slow drive from Lochinver. Much more to hand were Stac Pollaidh, Suilven and the Old Man of Stoer.

On Stac Pollaidh we took the enjoyable but hard to find original route on the West Butress, a splendid summit with fabulous long views over the low lying peat bogs and lakes across Assynt. The route over Suilven from Inverkirkaig and back to Glancanisp lodge meandered around the lakes and, mostly, around the

bogs. A long, but great day out, and a good way of ascending Suilven.

The Old Man of Stoer is separated from the main land by a narrow channel. The adrenaline surge from the exciting and strenuous tyrolean traverse across this really sets you up for the climb. The climb itself is solid VS, a little bold in places, but not too hard. The excitement continues with a long free abseil, our 50 metre ropes, with stretch from our body weight, were only just long enough, and then only reached the tyrolean rather than the ground.

Skye and Assynt has truly inspirational scenery, I hope to return again. Thanks to all who came on the trip.

Limestone Pavements and Craggs, Flying Friesians and Cyclists 14-18 June Peter Amour

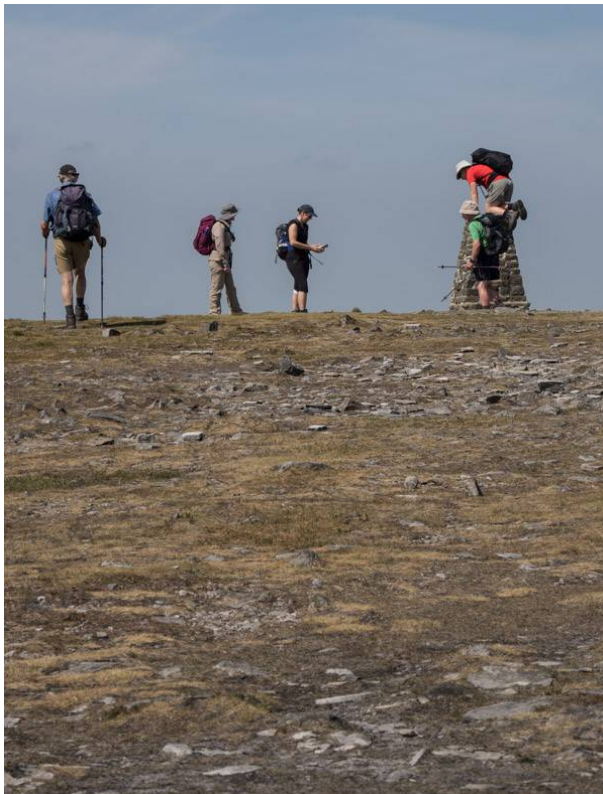
In initiating my plan to book the superb Lowstern Hut I reckoned on a core group of half a dozen making the booking viable. This was ill-founded on my part as these characters would be successfully participating in Tour De Mont Blanc at the time.

With a bit of marketing I managed to get a cohort of nine involved, with participants starting on the Wednesday, and the last departing on the following Monday morning.

The meet started with Steve Booth and Nick Evans' arrival on the Wednesday, and on Thursday saw a visit to Kingsdale, and taking on Gragareth at 627m, followed by briefly exploring Yordas Cave, with the return route skirting many pot hole entrances, so typical of the location.

Thursday afternoon saw my arrival at the hut, where I was to find Chris Radcliffe, fresh back from powering his e bike around the local and worthwhile lanes. With the long daylight hours I decided to follow the valley meadows and lanes towards Ingleton, and then to partially ascend Ingleborough using tracks, and to traverse open access land, and descend on a second footpath bringing me back nearer to Clapham. In the event there were copious signs warning of endangered ground nesting birds, so I amended my plan, returning to use valley lanes to avoid the birds.

While travelling the asphalt I was confronted by a distressed cow on the road. As the farm drive was very close by I alerted the farmer who arrived shortly afterwards to use his quad-bike to herd the Freisian back to its pasture. Being aware of its agitated state I kept myself well to one side of the lane as the athletic cow was heading my way a some speed. Imagine my surprise to the see the bovine vault clean over the four foot wall into the field without taking a stone out!



Friday had Chris Radcliffe impress us with completing the the Trough of Bowland circuit on his bike, a distance of 105km, hats off to you Chris!

Walkers (Team Big Boots) Chris Mather, Marie Cowie, Linda Drew, Nick and Steve and myself took in Little Ingleborough/Ingleborough, followed by a traverse of Simon's Fell, and descending through Crummack Dale, with a quick stop off for a pint in Austwick. On our return we saw Angela and Roland had arrived after clocking in with a trip up Ingleborough, with good vistas.

Left: Steve Booth keen to claim the summit of Ingleborough!

Saturday saw Angela and Roland out early to attack the excellent rock on Robin Proctor Scar crag which gave them great pleasure on its starred

routes. Chris Radcliffe was still full of energy and took his bike over to Ribblesdale via Ingleton, then through Newby Head, Dent, Barbondale and High Bentham to knock out nearly 70km and 1042m of climbing!

Team Big Boots left the hut to access Austwick via an old packhorse track, to then cut up through the extensive escarpment of Moughton Scar followed by a limestone pavement traverse in the direction of Helwith Bridge's watering hole. The descent to the pub proved interesting, giving the optical illusion of heading us directly down the 60m limestone face of Dry Rigg Quarry!

Nick excused himself to rest a dodgy foot, and explored the botany near Horton, where Orchids were among varieties to be seen.



Cooling off before dropping down through Crummock Dale. Moughton Scar in the background.

Sunday had Mr Radcliffe swap steeds for the mountain bike, taking in the 21km MTB loop of Feizor Nick - Clapham, with 375m of hill work.

Climbers Roland and Angela were straining to get in more routes by enjoying the crags at Giggleswick, which wore them out but did at least give dappled tree shade while belaying. They said they'll be back!

For a number of reasons the Big Boots team went separate ways, generally towards home. I made a visit to the wildlife reserve visited by Nick the day before and enjoyed both the flora and the Ribblesdale views before heading home having had a very rewarding trip.

Monday, still keen for more activity Chris remained in the Dales to commit himself to a soggy walk, followed by an evening cycle ride in the Grassington area.

Thanks everyone who came along and made the weekend so enjoyable.

Tan -Yr-Wyddfa BBQ 23-25 June Tony Howard

Seven hardy souls braved the poor weather forecast and turned up at TyW on Friday. When Richard Hardwick and I arrived in the early evening Radders and the Hayes' were already there. Kasia and Michael Percival arrived a bit later, Mike having driven down from Scotland!



Saturday morning dawned damp and uninviting. Initiative and leadership were needed to break the lethargy. The meet leader rose to the task and we all walked from the hut, past Lyn y Gader and through the forestry down to Beddgelert via the usual well-maintained path. Some of us, if not all, had intended to return via the Welsh Highland Railway, but there were no seats available. We tarried a while over lunch at the ice cream café before Chris and I took the 4pm bus back. The other/younger ones walked back, taking a diversion via Ffridd-Isaf farm and the Snowdon path, thus adding a bit of height as well as distance.

The evening was dry and we all enjoyed our BBQ; no burnt offerings, no major spillages, no drunkenness, or incapacity as far as I remember!

Sunday was no drier or sunnier. Chris walked round the lake and followed the 'Young Ones' variation via the farm and the Snowdon path. Richard walked up Y Garn then south into the forest before returning. Kasia walked up Yr Aran before foraging for blackberries with Mike P. The rest of us did

some duties before going home. Nonetheless an enjoyable weekend was had by all.



Wednesday Walk Eastern Dove 5 July Rusty Russell



Following recent written/unwritten guidelines I modified the route slightly to achieve a distance of about 10 miles and turned down towards the river a little before reaching Iron Tors. Thereafter we proceeded as advertised down to the Dove, thro Milldale and up the Nabs. The idea was to take in

the widespread panoramic views from the fairly level ground between the edge of the Dove Valley and Gag Lane to the East. Visibility here was good and we were fortunate to see a large flock of sheep being gathered and penned We then turned East, crossed Gag Lane and A515 to Tissington and the Jubilee Stone at Crake Low before dropping back to Parwich for light refreshment where we were joined by Ada the hen. The last quarter of the route topped up our perspiration level to an acceptable figure.

Those attending Chris and Gill, Nigel and Janet Briggs, Peter Amour, Chris Plaice, Sue Todd and Stuart, Pippa, President Jan, Mike and Helen H, Those who I have forgotten, counted twice or whose names I have mis spelt should not be affronted at joining an increasingly populated band but should put it down to deteriorating faculties, I know there was a tall lad amongst us, connected with jet engines, but I have only been told his name six or seven times and cannot really be expected to remember.



For the eighth time, Rusty, it is Charlie! (And Christine is not a fish!) Ed.

Short Walk Lea and Crich 20 July Chris Paice

Chris (not me!) Radcliffe, Colin, Ruth, Heather, Dorothy and Reg made a happy group of seven joining me outside the now closed Jug and Glass pub! Refreshment stop at the end now not happening! We dipped into the 'Holloway' and across fields of different grasses, flowers and took time to ponder landmarks and the horizon beyond. Blink and you miss Shuckstone. A helpful farmer came from nowhere to ensure we went on the way without going through his property. (I'm sure the farmers hide someplace waiting for walkers!) Crich Stand provided the luxury of bench seating for lunch, for all of us, with fabulous views. The stand was open but the challenge of all the steps was a 'step too far' for us. Skirting Crich and through more fields to reach Upper Holloway and the steady walk along Long Lane. Refreshment stop number 2 also shut! Perhaps now a

slightly disappointed group but very understanding. There was an ongoing question about the number of stiles, possibly a few too many but Thank you all for being good hearted about this. As always, good varied, conversation and smiles. Another Thank you for all supporting me and your kind words of encouragement.

Tan yr Wyddfa Working Party/Weekend Meet Ruth Gordon



Don't plummet off the car park! Pam and Ali repainting the boundary stones. Photo Nick Evans.

It was the best attended working party for years! Pete and Ali were first to arrive – Monday and got on with the outdoor jobs while the weather was good; the rest of us turned up on Tuesday. Wednesday morning was still dry so more outdoor work – Chris Mather lowered the height of the hedge to make it easier to cut and pruned the yew tree. Brian West (after an all night fishing expedition) manfully cleaned all the guttering, Frederique and Rachel got stuck into an orgy of window cleaning, laundry was washed and almost dry when the forecast drizzle struck.

Then all hands turned to indoor jobs – you daren't stand still for fear of getting painted. Roy was particularly useful as he doesn't need a ladder to reach the top of the walls. Nick painted the new plaster in the upstairs bay and finished it off with neat plastic edging strips. Downstairs fancy turned to daring colour choices for the bays. Terracotta was the winning hue and Snod was despatched to get some on one of several wearisome trips to source materials. He returned with something called “Chelsea” which turned out to be lipstick red! This got the thumbs down from us all and

Joan was sent to swap it for something more acceptable – a restrained sage green. Over the week the lounge, kitchen, dining room, kitchen wall of hallway, upstairs bay and toilet were all repainted. Brian and Simon fitted new LED lights in the boot room and ladies washroom. Pete painstakingly measured, cut and fitted fiddly skirting boards to the bay windows and Derek replaced the dining room curtain rail. Maggie attacked the wooden backing strip on the cooker wall, sanding and varnishing it into a thing of beauty once more.



On Thursday the Gas Man came to call and awarded us a new Gas Safety certificate. He had pointed out the broken isolation handle on the outdoor wall last year and declared Snod's repair (a bit of copper tube hammered flat and bent to fit) "A Work of Art!"

While all this splendid constructive work was going on something much less pleasant was afoot in the Gents washroom. Earlier this year Nick had noticed some rotten wood below the shower tray and it was decided that the shower tray had to be removed to see how extensive the damage was. This required two full days of constant hammering, angle-grinding, crowbar thumping and an endless stream of swearing as concrete, chicken wire and around 150 meaty nails and screws were cut through before rotten plywood, MDF etc could be removed. The shower had clearly been leaking for some long time. Thanks to Derek and Snod for working so hard on this, aided by Pete and Brian, tackling a long, horrible and physically demanding job.

The good news is that the rot was confined to the construction of the shower

cubicle, all the structural timber – floor joists etc are good sound tanelised timber and have been lavishly treated with rot killer.

The bad news is that it was impossible to purchase locally a rubberised liner to lay under the shower tray to stop a repeat of the problem. So reconstruction could not begin and chaps will have to negotiate terms to use the Ladies' shower for a few weeks.



And suddenly it was Friday, the weather was looking up – Simon and Snod grabbed a route at Tremadoc, Rachel and Frederique went for a bike ride, collecting bruises to prove it, and the weekenders arrived – Graham Weston, John Salmon, Al Zindanee. Roger, Tom and Mike Moss turned up after a trip to an esoteric crag, Carreg yr Ogof, near Traws Fynnydd (left).

And goats do roam VS 4b Photo Tom Larkam.

Saturday turned out beautiful, Rachel's friend Julie arrived and they went off

biking again. The Kenningtons and Norris's caught the bus and walked back over Mynydd Mawr, the light was fabulous. Graham and John did a couple of windswept routes on Holyhead Mountain. Roger Tom and Mike, Simon, Snod and Al headed to Tremadoc, routes included Hail Bébé, Christmas Curry and Grim Wall. Sunday was forecast dire from midday but Roger, Tom, Mike and Al had a good morning on the Idwal Slabs before rain stopped play.

The team on Hope - thanks again to Tom.

Thanks to everyone who came to work, play or both.

Pete and Ali Kennington, Pam and Nodge Norris, Derek and Joan Pike, Roy Eyre, Brian West, Nick Evans, Rachel Walker,



Julie, Frederique Gwyther, Chris Mather, Simon and Maggie Pape, Graham Weston, John Salmon, Al Zindanee, Roger and Tom Larkam, Mike Moss.

P.S. Janet Penlington writes: "I am the lady on the outside of the front gate of Tan yr Wyddfa during a working party in last month's photo."

Exploring a former lead mining area near Nenthead (on two feet or two wheels) Pip Leach

The weather forecast was not good, a continuation of the rut we'd been stuck in for the whole of July, namely a low pressure system, cold fronts and rain! However, undeterred, seven of us headed for Hags Bank Campsite, a couple of miles west of Nenthead. Nenthead is actually in Cumbria but close to the borders of both Northumberland and Co Durham.



Keen as ever, Peter Amour had arrived a day early, and had managed to get his tent up in the dry. Peter Masters and I arrived early afternoon on the Friday, and the three of us had an outing to the pretty village of Garrigill, nestling in the shadow of Cross Fell (the highest peak in the Pennines). Our destination was a walk up Ash Gill, to the highly impressive Ashgill force, a waterfall which you can walk behind for a free shower! Peter M also took us through a little cave, the three of us emerged the far side caked in mud – thanks Peter! It was actually quite a sunny afternoon, we tried to savour

seeing a bit of blue sky, knowing what was forecast to come our way on Saturday.

Janet and Nigel Briggs, Chris and Gill Radcliffe arrived in the evening, and we established our camp by the River Nent.

Saturday at least dawned dryish. As the departure time for the walk approached, it threw it down. We waited a while, then set off in drizzle and damp conditions on a low level route through fields and then alongside the River Nent, on part of a long distance path called 'Isaac's Tea Trail'. There was no open water swimming here, not due to the weather, but on account of the fact that the River is highly polluted with heavy metals from the mines, although efforts are being made to clean it up, as it is a tributary of the South Tyne.



We gained height on the return, walking on a minor road, there were some views across the valley. On entering Nenthead Village, there is an impressive model village in someone's garden! It features miniature versions of local architecture.

Lunch on picnic benches was interrupted by another downpour, so we beat a hasty retreat into the local cafe, 'The Hive', a restored

Wesleyan chapel, along with many cyclists on the C2C.

In the afternoon, we wandered amongst the former mine working buildings, sadly, the mine entrance we looked at was locked. Some of us put on a loop crossing open moorland north of Nenthead, bleak at times, in the frequent showers.



Sunday thankfully, was much improved.

Six of us set off cycling, while Peter A's quest was to do some photography in Teesdale. We cycled a variety of tracks and minor roads. We crossed the road bridge above the aforementioned Ashgill Force, so another trip behind the waterfall, for those who had previously missed the dowsing in water and mud experience. I got off lightly this time, having volunteered to stay with the bikes, I was even rewarded with the sighting of a red squirrel!

Sadly, Janet was afflicted by bike



issues, initially in the form of a snapped chain. The offending link was removed, chain reattached, and we set off again. Worse was to come, on a steep and rather bouldery track (not sure of the order of events here) but

Janet's front wheel came off, the bottom of the fork was damaged, along with a brake disc, which was bent. Janet hit the deck, suffering a grazed elbow and bruised leg, not nice, but could have been worse!

In the town of Alston, we stopped to buy plasters and refreshments. With a leg starting to stiffen, after a section of the South Tynedale Railway, Janet cut the afternoon's ride short. The rest of us sallied forth, until fatigue/concerns about the time, started to kick in, we cut out an off-road section and returned via the faster tarmac option.

Thanks to all those who braved the elements and joined us for the weekend.

Whose Line is it Anyway? Roger Gibbs

I've had a change of tactics for sport climbing this summer. I've stopped just battling away for ages on something that is way too hard for me. Sometimes it feels a bit like banging your head against a brick wall. The delight of ticking the thing seems just a bit too far away. The stars aligning seems all a bit remote. Instead, recently I've been picking something that's just a bit too hard for me, planning to bag a quick red point. This leaves time at the end of the session to do a bit of work on the real project. That way, you get a tick and get a little closer to the real project too. There are different approaches to red pointing of course. Some people adjust the beta in tiny increments each time they work a route, aiming for perfect efficiency. Others stop climbing altogether for a few weeks while they do some specific training. I just keep on turning up.

I've re-ticked the big three (everyone else's warm up routes) on the Cornice already this month. I'd been really enjoying the new approach, but eventually I was clearly going to need to seal the deal on the project. Despite the forecast not being great (humid and showery) today was the day for Whose Line is it Anyway. I clipped up the route to get the quickdraws in, warm up and remind myself that I really could do the moves. I was feeling confident, perhaps over-confident as I fell off the move to the big flakes before the low crux! The rest of it felt pretty solid though.

Let's have it then. First redpoint. It all felt ok but when I got to the last move, I was powered out. I clipped the last bolt, flapped feebly at the slopy block, missed and fell off. Arse. I top roped the top couple of moves a few times and figured out that it felt better if I dropped down directly below the crimp rail, sort the feet, clip, power right hand on to the slopy block then bounce the right hand onto the flake jug. The only problem was I felt pretty boxed now. We chatted and I timed a full 30 minutes rest.

Time to go. I set off on the second redpoint. There was definitely a little bit of fatigue still in the forearms. I climbed to bolt one, dropped off and lowered back to the ground (probably a good job as I had been about to

make a meal of the first proper move). Right then. I climbed ok, but still with the odd error, to the crux. It felt a bit of a wild lurch, but I got to the flake and up to the semi rest. Some folk can get a knee bar in here and I'd been encouraged to use a guppy to rest. I shook out for a bit, rather unconvincingly, and carried on. The Egyptian move to the crimps wasn't as static as it should be, but the long reach worked. Clip. Right here goes. I teetered left. No messing about trying to get a rest here now. Right hand into the undercut, feet high. Stretch left to the left end of the crimp rail. Arrange feet and drop down right under the rail, just how I practised. Clip. The lunge to the slopy block is a controlled bounce. Go again. My fingers latch the thin flake jug. A whooping bellow, even before I've clipped the belay. Yes! I enjoyed that one and everyone on the crag knew about it.

Other teams were generous with their congratulations and I smiled and smiled. It felt slightly surreal. Did I really just do that? It had felt so similar to the four or five times I'd got to that exact spot and fallen off. But not this time. Dispatched. What will I run through in my head before dropping off to sleep tonight? I'm now officially project shopping. Anyone got any good routes that are just a bit too hard?

Repeating Routes And Not Repeating Routes

Rob Tresidder

I heard Kenton Cool interviewed on the radio the other day and thought the presenter said he had climbed Everest seventy times. Maybe she did: it is the 70th anniversary of the first ascent this year. Of course he has climbed it many times but seventy should have been seventeen. What a lot of time spent climbing the same mountain, probably by the same route. Think of how many other Himalayan giants he might have climbed. Doesn't float my boat but probably fills KC's wallet nicely. Anyway, it set me musing and looking at old logbooks. Why do we repeat routes? And, why don't we repeat more of them and more often? I have only ever climbed Promontory Traverse once and yet Black Rocks is only just up the road. Right Unconquerable is one of my all time favourite routes and I'm particularly fond of Jim Perrin's description in *Hard Rock*, "Be they never so small..." And yet I have only climbed it three or four times. I think in all my years of climbing there have only been three routes that have taken their turn as my most climbed.

The first was Flake Traverse on Dinas Bach which was my fifth ever climb. I climbed it again ten days later and then soloed it the same day. A year later I started climbing nearer to home at Harrisons Rocks. On my third visit I climbed Slab Direct (5A) and this soon overtook Flake Traverse as my most climbed. I seldom visited Harrisons without soloing this delectable little gem even though there was little else to interest me in the immediate vicinity. I visited a few years ago and couldn't even get off the ground!

For many years that remained my most climbed. Eventually ascents of a third climb overtook Slab Direct and Flake Traverse by miles.

Do you know which route you have climbed more than any other?

Surely everyone does even if they are not weighed down by obsessional log books.

If you have been engaged by this piece please send me the name of the climb with approximate number of ascents. It must be a graded climb described in a guidebook: no boulder problems. I will try and bring them all together in a list/ essay. Oh and a small prize for anyone able to guess my most climbed route. In the event of more than one correct answer, the tie breaker will be the number of my ascents!

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Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

A lady with three children was walking along a road in a North Derbyshire town when she spied over a garden wall a man, clearly unhappy and frustrated, kicking a vintage motorcycle. (an array of probably defective magnetos was strewn along the path). Being of a kindly disposition, she engaged him in light conversation in an effort to calm him down a bit. He responded in like vein and asked the ages of the three children. Mischievously she replied that The product of the ages was 36. and, pointing to the door of the adjacent house said that the number was equal to the sum of the three ages Being more numerate than his appearance suggested however he replied that one more piece of information was required to solve the conundrum, the reply being that the youngest child liked ice cream.

What were the ages of the three children?

Last month's puzzle solution:

There was a good response to this puzzle and Rob Tresidder got Part 1 spot on - the dolomitic limestone rocks in the photo were at the entrance to Rains Cave.

Part 2 referred to the sleeping quarters that were pressed into use when the original Bullstones Cabin first became unfit for habitation The question was “from what material was the roof constructed and why should this be remembered?”

Colin Hobday was the first to get it right: “the roof was of corrugated iron, with Geoff Hayes and others we walked over Featherbed Moss, Margery hill arriving at Bull Stones cabin around midnight throwing rocks onto the roof to announce our arrival to those asleep inside. Year ????? late Fifties”.

Rob Tresidder got it right too, remembering that it was noisy in the rain. Roger Chapman contributed a memory of what must have been a different cabin “ The roof was turf so perhaps Bilberries. At one time rolls of chestnut palings were stored in there. Incidentally there is an interior shot credited to Gordon Gadsby on page 173 of ‘The Big Walks’. John Linney on the left with me next to him. I can still recognise the other faces but I am not sure about the names”.

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