

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2024



Paul Bingham presents Peter Amour with the Bent Screw awarded to him at the 2023 Dinner for a navigational faux pas involving a lengthy search for an elusive field path near Monsal Head. The path was eventually discovered right beneath his feet – the word “Tunnel” on the map might have been a helpful clue.

Editorial

It's a new year and lots of meets coming up: New Zoom talks on 30 January and 27 February; Scotland and Lake District plus local walking meets. Some still need a meet co-ordinator to take

bookings and keep people informed in the run-up to the meet. Could you do that for a meet you would like to join?

Subs are now due – if you have not yet paid see page 4. The AGM notice is in here – we plan a good social evening with a pie supper before – see page 11 to book yours. Also accommodation info for the 75th Annual Dinner at The Maynard on 16 November – you need to do this now or it will all be booked up – page 13. and sadly, notice of the loss of former member, Tim Freeman and tributes to Colin Barnard.

Copy Deadline 21 February

Meets List 2024 Michael Moss

Please note: these meets will not happen unless people volunteer to coordinate them so don't be shy – have a look and see what you can do. Some weekends have been booked at Tan yr Wyddfa including Easter weekend when perhaps someone may fancy using the hut as a base for a Gogarth meet.

There is a Lofoten trip in the summer but that is too far for people with limited holidays so an alternative venue would be welcome as well.

Michael Moss: email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Tel xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Feb	5th to 19th	Mediterranean sport	Benidorm	Ruth Gordon
	6th	Lecture	Royal Oak, Ockbrook Massarella's cafe,	Rob Tresidder
	7th	Wednesday walk, Rowsley, Nine ladies circuit	Rowsley	Rachel Walker
	9th/10th Feb	Waters cottage, Kinlochleven	FRCC hut	Christabel Goode
		Winter wall wednesdays Nottingham	oread/iogroup &	
	14th	Climbing Centre	Instagram for details	Emma Hayes
	17th	Weekend walk	Longshaw	Gill Radcliffe
	22 nd	Thursday short walk	Ashover	Ruth Gordon
	27 th	Zoom lecture	Iceland & Greenland	Pip Leach
March	1st/2nd	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale,	ABMSAC hut	Michael Hayes
	5th	Lecture, Langtang trek	Royal Oak Ockbrook	Nigel Briggs
	6th	Wednesday walk	Calver	Chris Paice
		Winter wall wednesdays Nottingham	oread/iogroup &	
	13th	Climbing Centre	Instagram for details	Emma Hayes
	14th	Thursday short walk		
	15/16th	Karn House, Aviemore	FRCC hut	leader needed
		Àite Cruinnichidh Hostel, joint meet with the		
	22/23/24th	Eagle Ski Club	Roy Bridge, Scotland	Neil Thompson
	23rd	Oread AGM and social supper	Matlock football club	Jan Wilson
24th	Spring stride (Geo walk stage)	Matlock to Cromford	Peter Amour	
	Easter - Sea cliffs/Mediterranean sport/			
	29th/1st Apr.	Fontainebleu bouldering?	leader needed, chooses locati	
April				
		British summer time, first Wed. evening meet		
	3rd	Harborough		
	3rd	Wednesday walk		John & Frederique Gwyther
	5th/6th	High House, Seathwaite, Borrowdale	K fellfarers hut	Peter Amour
	12/13th	Inbhirfhaolain Grampian Club Hut	Glen Etive,	Nigel Briggs, Janet Briggs
	18th	Thursday short walk		
		Weekend walk, finale of the Gritstone Trail		
	20th/21st	(#6)		Stuart Firth
	26th/27th	Fylde hut swap	Stair or Little Langdale	Dave Snod Helliwell

May	1st	Wednesday walk		Chris Mather
	Dates TBD	bouldering?		Leader needed
	3rd/5th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	
		Early May Bank Holiday, Sea Cliffs Cornwall or		
	4th/6th	Pembroke or Gogarth		Leader needed
	16th	Thursday short walk		Chris Paice
	18th	Weekend walk/Geo walk stage	Cromford to Winster	Jan Wilson
	25th May to 2nd June	Scotland - Spring Bank Holiday (25th/27th May)	Skye, Ben Nevis, Applecross - TBC	Michael Moss
June	5th	Wednesday walk		leader needed
	14th/15th	BBQ meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	15th	Weekend walk - Kinder		Peter Amour
	20th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st/22nd	Rock hall cottage, Roches		Ed Bloomfield
	22nd June to 7th July	Lofoten, Norway		Nigel and Janet Briggs
	July	3rd	Wednesday walk	
12th/13th		Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
18th		Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
20th		Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Winster to Parsley Hay	Chris Paice
26th/27th		Sport climbing and walking, Lowstern, Yorkshire	Yorkshire Ramblers Hut	Leader needed
Aug	7th	Wednesday walk		leader needed
	9th/10th	Glan Dena, Ogwen Vally, Wales	MAM hut	Dave Snod Helliwell
	15th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17th	Weekend walk		leader needed
	24th/26th	Aug. Summer Bank Holiday, Pembroke South		Roland Smith
	30th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
Sept	4th	Wednesday walk		leader needed
			Camping, Chatsworth, Derbyshire	
	13th/15th	Oread 75th anniversary		
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Parsley Hay to Milldale	Pam Storer

Oct	2nd	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	4th/5th	Curry meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	dates TBD	Mediterranean trad	Morocco	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th/20th	Fylde hut swap	Stair or Little Langdale, Lake district	Dave Snod Helliwell
	19th	Weekend walk		leader needed
		Summer time ends, start of Monday climbing		
	28th	wall sessions		
Nov	1st/2nd	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	leader needed
	6th	Wednesday walk		leader needed
	9th?	Bonfire night		
	13th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffiled and/or Nottingham	
	16th	Annual Dinner	Maynard, Grindleford	
	17th	Post prandial walk		
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	Dec	4th	Wednesday walk	
4th		Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffiled and/or Nottingham	
7th/8th		Bullstones		
11th		Black rocks evening meet		
14th		Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Milldale to Wetton Mill	Clive Russell
19th		Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
24-1 Jan		Christmas and New Year hut meet		Tan Yr Wyddfa

Oread Membership Renewal 2024

It's time to renew your membership for 2024, we have again managed to hold our fees flat for another year.

- £45 for Full Membership
- £35 for Senior Membership
- £35 for Provisional Membership
- £25 Voluntary contribution for receiving the paper newsletter

If you have already set up a GoCardless mandate then you should have received an email and you don't need to do anything apart from logging in to the members' part of the Oread website to make sure your details are up to date.

How to Pay: 1 of 3 ways

Our preferred method is to set up GoCardless direct debit by setting up a general mandate using these links:

Provisional member and Senior member,
£35:<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0004BWYZEHS9>

Full member,
£45:<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0004BWZ2FGNQ>

You will be notified by email before any money is transferred.

Alternatively you can also pay by bank transfer or cheque

- 1) By bank transfer to Oread Mountaineering Club Sort Code 30-98-97 Account 62584068 with Subs and your name in the reference field. Once the payment has been made, please email michaelhayes6688@gmail.com with confirmation.
- 2) By Cheque made payable to the Oread Mountaineering Club and then posted to Michael Hayes, 179 Starkholmes Road, Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA

Winter zoom talks Nigel Briggs

We hope to resume the winter zoom talks on the 30th January with subsequent talks on 27th February and the end of March. See meets info below.

Nigel Briggs : email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

This Winter's Evening Talks Rob Tresidder

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

06 February: Pete Montgomery on the first kayak descent of the Fraser River in British Columbia

05 March: Nigel Briggs on his very recent trek in the Langtang valley, Nepal

I am starting to look for speakers for next winter, 2024-5. Do you know someone you could invite or someone you would like me to invite? Please be in touch.

I have been doing this job for longer than is good for the club. If you think you would enjoy running a 6-lecture programme, please have a word with me or the president. I am more than willing to stand aside!!

Rob email: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Tuesday 30 January: Zoom around the Tour du Mont Blanc Nigel and Janet Briggs



Last summer a group of six of us spent an enjoyable two weeks walking the Tour du Mont Blanc. Join us on zoom where we will talk about the walk.

Zoom meeting details will be circulated closer to the time

Tuesday 6 February 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Peter Montgomery will talk about the first kayak descent of the Fraser River in British Columbia.

He will show slides and a video of the kayak descent by himself and others. Expect an 8m waterfall, legendary whirlpools, historic goldmines and encounters with bears and other wildlife.



Wednesday 7 February Rowsley Walk Rachel Walker

Meet at Massarella's Cafe, Peak Village, Rowsley at 10.00 for a 10.15 start. Cafe opens at 9.30 am. Free Parking.

Distance 10 miles.

Ascent 900 feet.

Moderate.

Follow the Derwent Valley Heritage Way along the River Derwent, passing the Peak Rail heritage railway on the way to Darley Bridge and its ancient yew tree. Climb to the



atmospheric Stanton Moor with its ancient burial mounds, unusual rock formations and Bronze Age stone circles, meeting the Nine Ladies before returning through White Peak pastures to Rowsley. If you want to shorten the walk there are regular buses in-between Darley Dale and Rowsley!

Rachel Walker Tel:xxxxxxxxx email:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

9-10 February Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Waters Cottage Kinlochleven Christabel Goode

We have 14 places booked at the Fell and Rock Hut in Kinlochleven in the western Highlands. The hut is in a great position with close access to all the main climbing areas including Glen Coe and Ben Nevis. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Christabel Goode: email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel.xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

14 February Winter Wall Wednesdays Nottingham Emma Hayes

We will be at Nottingham Climbing Centre, where you can do both bouldering and lead climbing, from 7.00pm. All welcome.

Emma Hayes: email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The **Thursday Short walk** is a week later than usual on 22nd as your leader will be on holiday on the 15th

Saturday 17 February Burbage Valley walk Gillian Radcliffe

This walk is a mix of woodland and moorland, covering parts of Nether Padley and the Burbage valley.

We'll depart at 10.15 from the paying (free for NT members) car park at Longshaw (map reference SK 266801 marked Nell Croft on maps).

We head southwest to Nether Padley, passing through pleasant woodland near Lawrencefield and Millstone before getting to the open landscape of Higgartor, Stanage Trig and Burbage valley. Depending on time and weather we'll take the green track back to the NT cafe or enjoy far reaching views from the top path. Mostly on good paths, with a couple of short steep sections.

Moderate, 8 miles 350m ascent. Bring lunch, cafe refreshments at the end.

Gillian Radcliffe email: xxxxxxxxxxxx tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thursday 22 February Short Walk Ruth Gordon

We will start at 11.00 am at Ashover Village Hall, On street parking or there are usually plenty of spaces at the Village Hall, Most of the route is not on the White Peak map, you need Explorer 269, Chesterfield and Alfreton. My plan is cunningly to avoid all the steepest ups and downs in the parish, taking us via Hockley Quarry to Fallgate, Milltown, Overton Hall, Goss Hall and Butts Quarry. The basic route is a mere five miles but can be lengthened with some steeper ground included according to the enthusiasm and fitness of the party on the day. There are, of course three excellent pubs in the village should anyone happen to be interested in such establishments.

Ruth Gordon email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Tuesday 27 February Zoom talk Pip Leach

Greenland and Iceland 2013

The 'Iceberg Trail' on the remote east coast of Greenland, was a backpacking trek, requiring food drop offs and boat rides between the various sections and crampons for crossing snowfields and ascending mountains. It was a great adventure, in a true wilderness, with breathtaking scenery.

The Laugavegur trek of Iceland stood out for its magical and diverse landscape, stark and beautiful volcanic hills, hot springs and spouting thermal vents.

Joining information will be circulated by email nearer the time.

1-3 March Patterdale George Starkey Hut Michael Hayes



Back in our regular spot but with a stand in meet leader this year we have 22 beds booked at the ABMSAC George Starkey Hut in Patterdale for the nights of Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd March and as usual we should have options to extend should anyone want.

As this is a long established Oread meet I think most will be aware of the options available near to this hut, and over recent years climbing, walking, mountain biking, fell running and canoeing have all featured. The picture was taken on the last Patterdale meet in 2022 when we once again enjoyed some fantastic winter conditions.

As we have reciprocal rights to this hut its only £10 per person per night. If you want any more information or to book a berth please email,
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Tuesday 5 March 8pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Nigel Briggs will talk about his recent trek in the Langtang valley, Nepal.

Wednesday 6 March walk Chris Paice

A walk that begins at Calver, parking by the school. Ref: 248 734, S32 3AX is the postcode for the school. 9.45 a.m. for a 10.00 set off. From here we take the Derwent Valley Way crossing New Bridge and then doubling back for the footpath that takes us Knouchley Farm. Moving onwards to Stoney Middleton, through the village to pick up the footpath leading to Coombs Dale. Onwards to Black Harry Gate and around the water (optional). To return we aim for Deep Rake and take a track North (ish) to go around Calver Peak. This drops us in Calver. We then find the way through Calver to Mill Farm, picking up the Derwent Valley Way and returning to the start point. Almost 10 miles, bring a packed lunch, snacks, drink, total ascent 1612ft.

Chris Paice, email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

13 March Winter Wall Wednesdays Nottingham Emma Hayes

We will be at Nottingham Climbing Centre, where you can do both bouldering and lead climbing, from 7.00pm. All welcome.

Emma Hayes: email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

15-16 March Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Karn House Aviemore

Taking advantage of our reciprocal rights with the FRCC we will return to Karn House, the superb Fell and Rock Hut in Aviemore where we have 12 bed spaces booked.

The weekend's activities will be guided by the weather and hopefully we will once again get some fantastic Scottish winter climbing and mountaineering done.

22-24 March Roy Bridge Neil Thompson

This is a joint meet with the Eagle Ski Club based at the Aite Cruinnichidh Hostel, Roy Bridge. Please be in touch if you would like to know more and are interested in joining us.

Neil Thompson: email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 23 March Annual General Meeting Matlock Football Club

The forthcoming AGM will be held at the Matlock Town Football Club in the centre of Matlock. There is parking on site with overspill at the Cricket Club

next door. We hope to make it a good social occasion so have organised some food. **(see below)**.

In the meeting we will approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM, consider the accounts and officers' reports for 2023, elect a new committee, elect the hut committees, consider the proposed amendments to the constitution and consider any other proposed business.

The officers' reports and the accounts will be circulated prior to the AGM, hopefully in the March Newsletter. Questions are requested to be submitted in advance of the AGM and the responses will be provided at the AGM. Questions asked during the meeting will also be answered.

Nominations for Officers of the club and members of the committee are welcome and must be submitted by the 2nd March to the Secretary. Each nomination must be in writing and supported by two full members of the club along with the consent of the nominee, who must be a full member. Nominations can be made for any position. In the event of multiple nominations for the same position a vote will be held.

Any motions and/or changes to the constitution for consideration need to be sent to the Secretary, Pip Leach, email xxxxxxxxxxxx by the 2nd March 2024 and be supported by two full members of the club.

AGM Food orders

The AGM will start at 8.00pm. If you want to have the pie, chips and pea supper this will be served at 7:30pm. The choices are steak, meat and potato or vegetarian. The price is £9.95 per person. The football club requires orders and payment four weeks before the event. **If you are having food please submit your order in writing to me before Friday the 23rd of February. Payment must be made via BACS to the club account reference AGM food. Please ensure you receive an acknowledgement from me within a few days.**

The club has real beer on offer including session ale. There is a small window up to one week in advance of the meeting to add the odd latecomer. Please be aware this is another admin task I could do without and get your orders and payments in promptly.

Account name: Oread Mountaineering Club

sort code: 30-98-97

account number: 62584068

Jan Wilson email xxxxxxxxxxxxx

5 – 6 April High House Hut, Seathwaite, Borrowdale Peter Amour

High House, one of the finest and best maintained climbing huts in the Lake District. The scope here is extensive both for climbers, and for the hill walker. Whatever your choice there's more than a weekend's sport to go at. The hut is located at grid reference NY 238 119, and is accessed by passing through the hamlet of Seathwaite and going through the Five bar gate at the farm, followed by a left turn to cross the unfenced bridge onto the hut drive. Don't dally folks, this hut a superb location, contact me on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx if you want a bed space or two.

12 – 13 April Glen Etive – The Grampian Club Hut, Inbhirfhaolain Nigel Briggs

We are returning to Inbhirfhaolain which we have booked for the weekend. The hut can sleep 13 with some camping space available. The hut is basic but charming, water has to be fetched from the river and there are great views from the composting toilet, if the door is left open! The hut is well placed for the Glencoe and the Etive hills and all they offer. As for the time of year well the weather could be anything! We could catch the end of winter or the first days of summer or more likely something between! Whatever the conditions you need to be there to make the most of them! If you would like to join us for the weekend, please get in touch. Nigel Briggs xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 20 April – Gritstone Trail 6 Stuart Firth

Meet at Lyme Park NT car park at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure. Please note that NT car park charges are per person, not per vehicle – so bring your membership card if you have one. 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 10:00 – 16:00), Bowstonegate, Sponds Hill, Pt 407, Stag House, Keepers Cottage, Birchencliff, West Parkgate, Green Farm, Elmhurst Cottage, Disley Pt 183 (THE END yippee), Green Lane, Bollinghurst Bridge, Lyme Park. There is an opportunity to shorten the walk part way round should you wish. Please let me know if you plan to come and/or would like to lift share.

Stuart Firth: tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx email xxxxxxxxxxxxx

22 June – 6 July Lofoten Islands Norway Nigel Briggs

A number of people have already expressed a definite or possible intention to come to Lofoten this summer. We have contacted you separately with further arrangements, however if anyone else is interested in joining us please get in touch.

As a brief resumé we plan to be camping at Kabelvåg between the above dates. Driving there will take up to a week each way in addition. Flying is an option for those with less time, and we are sure some of your luggage could be transported there for you by someone travelling by road.

The campsite has space for tents and vans and also a variety of cabins and apartments.

The climbing in the area looks, and by all accounts is, fantastic with something for all abilities. In addition to this there is potential for walking, cycling, swimming, soaking up the local culture, or just watching the sun 24 hours a day (or maybe the rain, sunshine is not guaranteed!). What is not to like?

Nigel Briggs xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

16 November Oread 75th Annual Dinner at the Maynard Arms

There are several options for accommodation for the 75th Annual dinner on the 16th November this year. The hotel itself is quite expensive but other options exist including:

The Sir William Hotel 01433 613 167
The George (Hathersage) 01433 650 436
The Millstone Inn (Hathersage) 01433 650 258
Scotsman's Pack (Hathersage) 01433 650 253
Little John (Hathersage) 01433 650 255

There are also plenty of B& B's in the area. For the campervans we are in the process of organising a camping venue at the bottom of the hill in Grindleford and will publish details as they are finalised. The Maynard will not accept vans.

The key issue for those of you requiring accommodation is to book early as Derbyshire and particularly the Hathersage area is very popular, particularly in the run up to Christmas.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

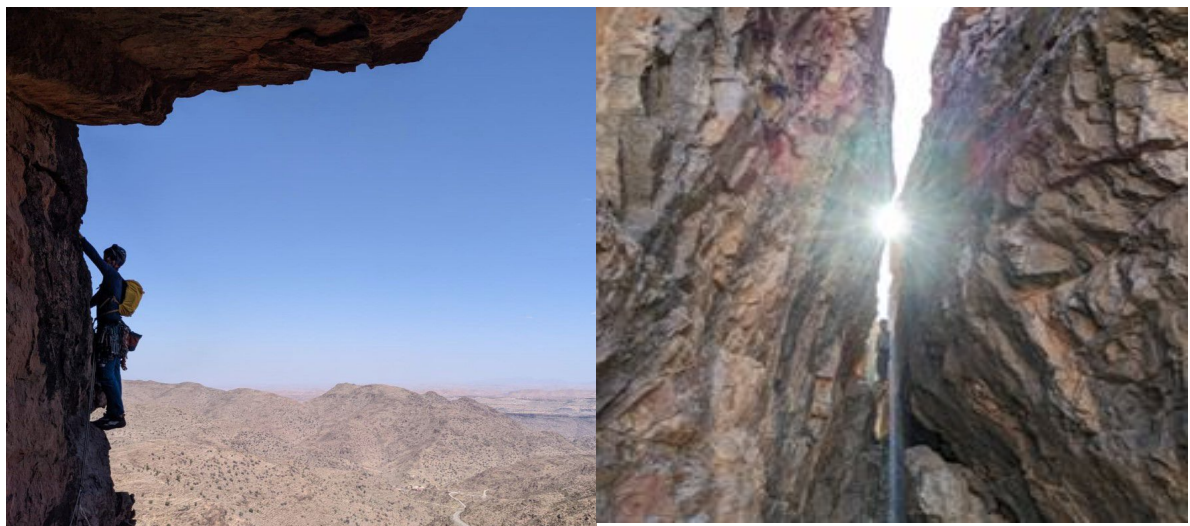
October 8-15 2023 Tafraoute Morocco Ed Bloomfield

Me and Chris Ashworth went out to Tafraoute on the 8th October flying from London Luton on a very early flight with the intention of making the 2.5 hour drive from Agadir to Tafraoute in the day light. This proved to be a good idea although we wish we had stayed at the airport the night before for some rest and in hindsight we should have stopped at one of the north facing mountain crags on the drive in.

We climbed a local route in the evening, very narrowly avoiding climbing in the dark on the first climb, only 500m from the hotel!

It's fair to say on day one we were feeling pretty intimidated and isolated. We were very aware that there was no one coming to get us if something went wrong so we tried to minimize the risks by only climbing 3* classic routes in the hope all the loose rock had been pulled down before and climbing in the shade to avoid any heat related incidents.

The next day we headed out to the Hairpin Slabs in search for a short walk in and some morning shade. We climbed a route "Scrunchie" S 4b 3*. The route was a nice intro to the climbing style - run out and holds of plenty. We had plenty of time so we went to Azumer crag on the way back where we found some other English men hiding in the shade, we climbed "Be Prepared" and "Razzle dazzle". We managed to put a new route down when trying to get off Be Prepared after misreading the descent.



The next day, on the recommendation of Mr Wilson, we went to Lower Eagle crag and climbed "Pink Lady". This route was our first longer multipitch and after some bush whacking we started up what proved to be a superb climb with some fantastically exposed positions. The Chimney and the

traverse were the best pitches on the route; the holds were plentiful and the gear was adequate.

Wednesday we went to climb a Bonnington route “Multiple Pillars of Pleasure” on Tskara East pillars but it proved too hot so we jumped on Pans Labyrinth thinking we would get through it quicker as we had more grades in hand - it proved to be the route of the week! With some really memorable pitches. Chris took the window traverse, tip toeing out under the roof before shooting up the arete, and I got the hidden chimney to finish! Back and footing with a splitter crack for gear.

That evening we ventured out of the hotel as we had had enough of bread and tagine - so we went for the obvious choice - Pizza.

Thursday we went, following again in Chris Wilson's and Bonnington's footsteps, on a route called Gamma on Greek Buttress. This was the first 5a climb of the week and it was definitely a bit steeper.

Friday we set off again for Multiple Pillars of Pleasure and arrived later in the day to have the shade in our favour.

The last day we thought we should go for the Bonnington hat trick and climb another classic that him, Joe Brown and Derek Walker put up “Space walk” in the Allemen valley, the route finding was adventurous, I think we traversed as much as we climbed vertically and as we topped out the heavens opened and we got our first taste of Moroccan rain! Although it was short lived it was still pretty surreal after baking in the valley sun all day. The evenings were short and were spent eating tagine and bread then diving into guide books to prepare for the next day...

We will be returning next autumn Oct/Nov and it would be great to go out as a bigger team!



Bullstones 9-11 December John Gwyther



Thirteen (bad start) Oread stalwarts assembled at the Norfolk Arms Ringinglow Friday night to start the Bullstones 2023. The night was windy but mercifully dry as we walked up Houndkirk Road to our bivvy site. About 4.30 it started to rain (and didn't really stop) and at dawn everyone (except Roger who opted for a lie-in) hared off to the bus shelter by the Fox House, so Kevin could do a brew. The stove proved problematic so off we went in the rain to the cafe at Grindleford where gargantuan amounts of food and tea were consumed. Coming out everyone posed for a photo (it wasn't raining) and then Janet, Dawn, Nigel, Charlie, Peter and myself plodded down the Derwent valley to Stoney Middleton and the Pennine Club hut. Most of the walk was spent discussing the merits and downsides of the Derbyshire education system.

All the others were already in the hut but I'm not entirely sure how they got there! (The Larkam party is rumoured to have ascended Sir William Hill en route.) After sorting a leaking pipe, everyone arranged their sodden belongings on chairs and radiators in the forlorn hope of getting things dry. Kevin, James and John fed themselves while the rest of us braved the rain and went to the Indian and afterwards the Moon. Kevin and John arranged a whisky tasting contest. On Sunday, everyone dispersed and Peter and I walked over to Eyam, Hathersage (where the Wilsons treated us to tea), past Carl Wark and back to Ringinglow in the low cloud. Is a 85% dropout rate an Oread record? Many thanks to Jan, Dawn, Chris, Charlie, Kevin,

James, John, Simon and Roger for their company and taking part. Special thanks to Janet and Nigel for bringing their van (in case of a human overflow) and Peter for mentoring me and walking to the bitter end.

Riber Chris Must Ramble 21 December Christy Mass



Another most enjoyable walk led by Ruth. The team was herded by Ruth (who could have done with a sheepdog to control the front-runners) from Tansley, over Riber to the Matlock Cactus Climbing Centre, and back via Lumsdale. The “Chris Must Ramble” could have been accompanied by "A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall" or “Blowin’ in the Wind”, and I am wondering what we will experience on the next of Ruth’s walks. A good time was had by all, even those not called Chris, and Helen excelled herself on the Cactus route at Matlock (pictured).

After the walk Mr and Mrs Mass called in at a handy hostelry where Christy enjoyed a dark seasonal ale, Blitzten, after receiving assurances that no Reindeer were harmed in the brewing process. Mrs Mass enjoyed a lighter coloured pint of Snowflake, but they were a bit suspicious as snowflakes are usually pure white, and this looked like one of the Reindeer might have peed in it. Anyway a good time was had by all, and the sleigh got them Ho ho ho home.

Thanks to Spike, Helen, Nick and Chris x 3 (Mather, Paice and Radcliffe).



Boxing Day get-together, Miners' Arms Brassington



A good time had by all. Thanks to Ed Bloomfield for the photo.

This was the only decent day's weather amid the constant deluge around Christmas and New Year and it tempted out lots of Oreads, friends, family and dogs to the Miners' Arms from all different directions.

Almost 30 of us enjoyed a catch-up in a warm and welcoming hostelry – so much better than shivering outdoors at Carsington last year!

New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa

It was a rather damp but jolly affair at Tan Yr Wyddfa this New Year but that meant we could source round the clock shifts to complete the traditional jigsaw provided by the Pikes.

We got a couple of days on the hill, exploring quarry ruins or by the sea between the torrential stuff.

At midnight we raised a glass to absent friends, (especially John Fisher and Rock Hudson who were unable to join us this year) - and joined hands for a boisterous rendition of Auld Lang Syne. Pete Wragg was thrown out into the rain to first foot us as he was the only one present with hair that was, once upon a time, dark! (This may explain why he needed three glasses to see in the new year!)



I thought Pete Kennington was a very skilled photographer – but how has he managed to make your Hon. Ed. look so horrifyingly fat????

Bolsover Walk 10 January John Gwyther

Fifteen Oreads met in a rather grey but dry carpark in Bolsover. After a rather muddy descent and climbing with difficulty over a fallen tree, we reached the Stockley Trail. 3Km on we met the A617 and the largest Starbucks I have ever seen.

We walked through Bradley Vale, where a small boy told me where to go, and onwards to Ault Hucknall cemetery where lunch was partaken of. A surprisingly large cemetery where most of the ‘residents’ seemed unusually young.



Then on to the café at Hardwick Hall where the Hayes were waiting with their new grandchild. The walk back to Bolsover was mostly over recently ploughed fields and, despite a minor navigational glitch in Glapwell, we all made it back to Bolsover. No one fell over and everyone said they had enjoyed themselves.



Many thanks to Pip, Rachel, Sue, Frédérique, Christine, Janet, Alison, Jan, Chris, Mike, Peter, Nigel and especially Stuart for the photo, for their attendance and company.

Codnor short walk 18 January Chris Paice

It was a lovely blue sky day as seven Oreads joined me for a walk from Codnor Park reservoir. Around the walk we saw several information boards showing us industrial past and we enjoyed walking in the transformed pleasant countryside. Excellent views across to Alport heights, Carsington wind turbines and Crich stand. Onwards to what is left of Codnor castle, some of the group remembering Tony Robinson's "Time Team" visit in 2007. Another of the group surprised to learn that her ancestor, Bess of Hardwick, was a servant girl there. Maggie's Den provided a warm welcome space for hot drinks and hot food for some. Thankfully, the route back was frozen footpaths (not mud and mud as when I walked it) taking us by the river Erewash and a section of the Cromford canal. Around the reservoir to look at Golden Valley and more history. We all stayed upright, good conversations, wide ranging with laughter adding to the mix, very good.



Thank you all for coming, listening to me share and the very good company. Peter Amour, (who took the photo), Nick Evans, Stuart Firth, Ruth Gordon, Sue Todd, Rob Tresidder, Heather Clifton Smith. .

Paseo de Gracia Chulilla Roger Gibbs

The sweeping orange and grey walls of the gorge at Chulilla are a breathtaking sight. Sport climbing paradise. I hadn't been since 2019 and I couldn't help but grin as we walked across the bridge, a glorious blue sky above, the sun warming the crags on the left side. Obviously, we head right, into the shade: we weren't here to enjoy ourselves. It was Day Two, and surprisingly I'm allowed a warm up. As in an actual route that wasn't at my limit, not just flogging up the gully approach.

Now it was time for something a bit more demanding: Paseo de Gracia, a 37m monster. The start is guarded by a steep grey groove, with an obvious layback / pinch at the top. Above this is a bulge and what was hopefully a thank god bucket a little higher still. Chris had done some techy, balancey looking manoeuvres to get his right hand to the top of the layback / pinch. Then he'd fondled some general rubbishness with his left, flicked his feet around and arrived at the maybe jug. More snakehips action and he pulled over and headed on up. When it came to my turn, I crept higher and grasped the bottom of the pinch / layback. Bounce the right hand again to the top. I fondle where Chris had fondled.

"It's not very good, that left hand," floats up from the deck. I'd noticed.

Right, enough technique. I slap my feet on somewhere and jerk up for the “bucket”. It is a bucket. More technical wizardry? Nope. Match and go again. Another smaller but decent hold. Feet up and pull over onto slabbier ground and try to get my breathing under control. I can’t pant too hard as it hurts my ribs, and my lungs are full of snot. I pant gently.

Above me orange rock leans out in another little groove which curves from left to right. I work my way up, undercutting a crack at the side of the groove until I have to commit to smaller holds on the wall to the right. Chris had stepped further right here and contrived some sort of rest. I decide to push on. A little overlap bars the way, the holds not entirely obvious and everything leans. It’s all become rather pressing. I try a disappointing crimp for my left. That’s not going to cut it. Looking left and feeling under real pressure now, I spot another, slightly higher hold. My left hand stabs out and lands it. It’s good, and more importantly the extra height allows me to work my feet higher. A few more punchy moves and it relents. More constricted panting.

Below me, Chris is looking quite small and he’s really not, but I am still barely halfway up this monster pitch. The rest of the route unravels itself in a long, pleasurable flow. There are no hard moves, but no really easy ones either: I’m not sure I would use the guidebook expression “victory ladder”.

Back on to smooth grey rock, peppered with goutes d’eau, but the belay is on sight, decorated with two tiny quickdraws. Suddenly the butchness of the crux is forgotten and I’m smearing on not a lot. Teetering up and not daring to breathe (I can’t anyway), I’m level with the chains. I haul up nearly 40m of rope and clip. Now I can swing left with abandon, the smears suddenly much more secure. A silent whoop and I’m lowered back to the world. I almost remember to gaze around the breathtaking gorge on the way down.

Later I discover that Paseo de Gracia is an elegant, majestic boulevard, once a showcase for Barcelona's bourgeoisie at the turn of the 19th century. It’s now reputed to be the most expensive street in the city. Lots of modernista buildings, but I’m sure you knew that. The route seemed pretty majestic, but there wasn’t a lot of elegance on show from me.

Hut Bookings.

Both our Welsh and Derbyshire hut bookings have moved online at the Oread website 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

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.

Tim Freeman

Former member, Tim Freeman, passed away on 1st November 2023 at home in Nottingham. He had a number of health issues over the last two years. He will be missed greatly by his family, his two children and many friends including older Oreads who will remember him.

Colin Frederick Barnard: a tribute from Clive Russell



Colin getting psyched up for Cneifion Arete with Llyn Idwal seen below.

Colin came to the Oread along with Rock, Keith Gregson and John Linney as former members of (I think) one of the Stafford area climbing clubs. I remember he teamed up with myself and Reg Squires at the Welsh Hut, probably during an Easter gathering and we went round to Tryfan and tackled some of the easy but polished and worn classic climbs on the Milestone and Gribin Facet, probably in 1983 or 1984

None of us were natural athletes and so our normal habitats were the lower graded old classic routes and mountain walking, albeit in all conditions. We became a natural partnership. Reg had the greater domestic commitments and so Colin and myself often operated as two thirds of the triumvirate. We continued thus for a number of years with Peak District walks and climbing on Sundays together with mountaineering from T.Y.W. and the Patterdale Hut during annual meets there.

He was a reserved and un demonstrative man and very stoical regarding his own problems so I think many were slow to realise his gradually increasing difficulty in maintaining his former level of activity but I remember he, Reg and myself ascending Cnicht and moving over towards the old mine workings (the Moelwyns were I think one of his favourites) when it became clear that he was experiencing abnormal difficulties Sadly it was a long and gradual downhill progression from that point onwards, we were outdoor friends not in the habit of meeting at our homes and Margaret and I last met him walking in a field in mid Staffordshire. He wrote every Christmas as his illness progressed and he will be greatly missed.

Richard Linney writes:

Colin was such a lovely, quiet man. He was a big friend of my Mum and Dad (John and Margaret Linney) and a real inspiration for me in so many ways.

I remember lots of Oread meets with Dad and Colin when I was in my teens, particularly in the Lakes - Little Langdale and Patterdale. I've got so many fantastic memories of Colin.

**Crowdfunding campaign to support Jon Shields,
Team GB, compete in para-climbing:
a message from Paul Bingham**

For those who either don't know Jon or missed his December presentation to the Oread, what an inspirational man he is. A Scottish but Belper based climber who had the misfortune of two falls, the first not climbing related, caused, amongst other things, serious head injuries and his second fall on Curbar Edge in 2018 resulted in his left leg being amputated below the knee.

Prior to the accidents Jon was climbing regularly in the higher grades and

was determined to carry on after his accidents which he did, initially indoors, and latterly back on the rock. Over time he has developed modifications to the foot part of his prosthesis to cope with different surfaces and rock types. Notable ascents with his prosthesis include The Old Man of Hoy and the Yellow Edge on the Tre Cime di Lavaredo in the Dolomites.

His indoor climbing exploits got him noticed by GB Climbing and he soon became part of the paraclimbing team achieving a very respectable 17th in World Championship held in Innsbruck last August (at 57 he is more than twice as old as most competitors!). So far, all well and good but here's the big 'however' – whilst Team GB provide lots of support by way of coaching, unlike many of their foreign competitors, members of the GB paraclimbing team have to fund their own travel and accommodation expenses whilst representing their country!!!!

The Oread donated £50 to help with his 2023 expenses and has contributed another £100 for 2024. If you have been inspired by his achievements and/or, like me, are horrified by the lack of financial support then contributions can be made on his Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jon-shields-teamgb?utm_id=1&utm_term=2R94EEaMR

In using Just Giving you may wish to add 'Oread MC' against your name or, of course, you can remain anonymous if you so wish. Alternatively, should you not want to use this route then cheques (payable to Jonathan Shields) can be sent to Paul Bingham, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX for forwarding to Jon. By using cheques you avoid paying the 10% minimum 'compulsory tip' charged by Just Giving. Or to put another way Jon could be given 10% more!!

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new provisional members Yuriy Arlachov, Stephany Jimenez and Aaron Wigley, and to new full member Deborah Marsh; we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Applications for full membership have been received from current provisional member Frédérique Gwyther and long ago former member Pete Wragg. If you would like to comment on these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Pam Storer

As some of you will know, Pam had a serious car accident shortly before Christmas, suffering broken ribs and other injuries. She came home from hospital on 2 January and is now tackling a long and painful recovery time with her characteristic courage and determination. With every good wish, Pam, for your speedy and complete recovery.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:



In what direction, in terms of points of the compass, had the tractor recently travelled on the adjacent photo? (Official Oread meets have passed this way at least twice on the last decade).

This location is approximately 16.2km west of the Robin Hood, this does not mean that there is no difference between the northings of those two locations.

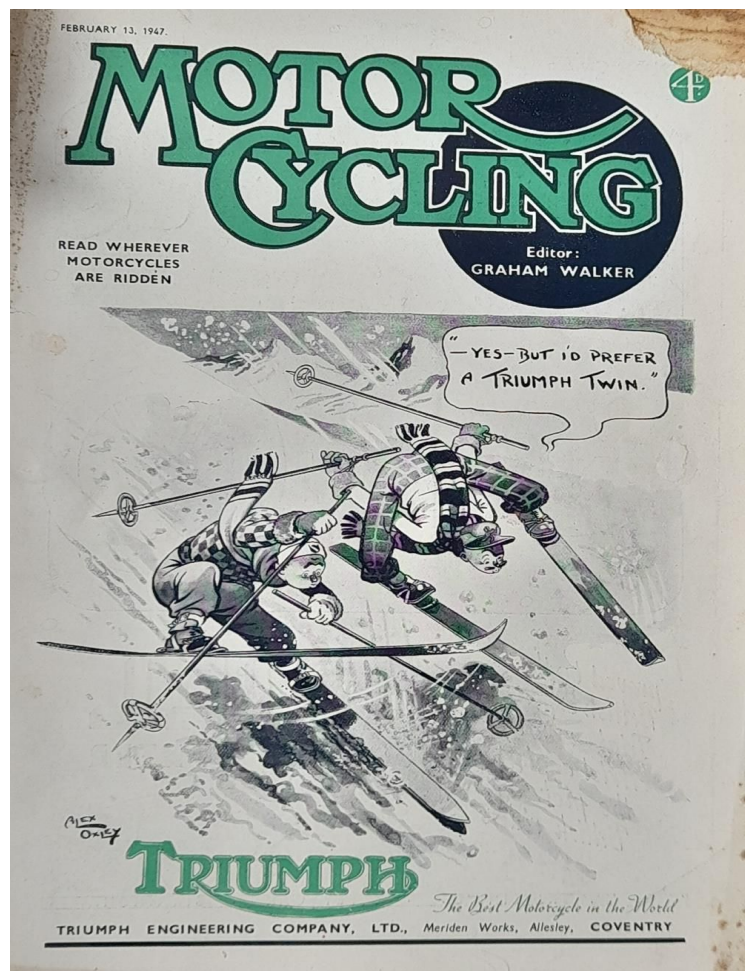
Last month's puzzle solution:

Snod writes:

As usual Rusty has bowled a googlie – there being two Dunge Bottoms. My immediate thought was the one below Windgather, very close to the Derbyshire/Cheshire boundary, G.R. 988 776, an area Rusty is known to frequent; however on that lane he wouldn't get the sun on his right until the afternoon and there was no visible spot height.

I then moved to the other Dunge Bottom near Alstonefield close to the Staffordshire/Derbyshire boundary, G.R. 136 571 and there was the spot height – Wolfescote Hill. However the lane to Dunge Bottom would not allow the sun to the right except very early morning. My next thought was Beresford Lane but that is quite busy and not really a dead end if you are brave enough to tackle the ford. That only left the lane leading to **Narrowdale** which must be the answer.

And a final smile from two old bike enthusiasts - Rusty and Snod!



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