

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

MAY 2024



Happy 75th Birthday Oread Mountaineering Club - Gardoms 21 April.

Editorial

A bumper issue with lots of summer meets coming up – Cornwall, Skye, a Welsh barbecue, Peak District climbing and walking – and more!

An inspirational account of winter climbing despite a distinctly unhelpful winter on page 10, the end of the Gritstone Trail, page 17; the start of the Geo Walks page 15 and a magical spring day at Gardom's Edge to celebrate the club's 75th birthday page 20.

A final call for contributions to the 75th Anniversary Almanac page 10 and memories of Peter Kenyon who died recently.

Copy Deadline 20 May

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.
 Michael Moss: email: xxxxxxxxxxxx Tel xxxxxxxxxxxx

Walk leaders are still needed for Saturdays: 17 August and 19 October.
 Wednesdays: 03 July, 07 August, 04 September and 04 December. Contact Stuart Firth if you can help.
 Stuart Firth: tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx; email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

May	1st	Wednesday walk Alport Castles	Fairholmes,Ladybower	Chris Mather
	4th/6th	Early May Bank Holiday, Sea Cliffs Cornwall	Kelynack camping	Phil Waterson
	11th/12 th	New members climbing meet	Peak District	Ed Bloomfield
	16th	Thursday short walk	Longstone Moor	Chris Paice
	18th	Weekend walk/Geo walk stage	Cromford to Winster	Chris & Jan Wilson
	25th May to 2nd June	Skye - Spring Bank Holiday (25th/27th May)	Scotland	Michael Moss
	June	5th	Wednesday walk	
14th/15th		BBQ meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
15th		Weekend walk - Kinder	Kinder	Peter Amour
20th		Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
21st/22nd		Rock hall cottage, Roches	Roches	Ed Bloomfield
22nd June to 7th July		Lofoten, Norway	Norway	Nigel and Janet Briggs
July		3rd	Wednesday walk	
	12th/13th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	coordinator 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	Angela Pingram
Aug	7th	Wednesday walk		coordinator needed
	6th-9th	Tan yr Wyddfa working party		Dave Snod Helliwell
	9th/10th	Glan Dena, Ogwen Vally, Wales	MAM hut	Dave Snod Helliwell
	12th-22nd	Austrian Alps	Otztal valley	Michael Hayes
	15th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17th	Weekend walk		coordinator needed
	24 th -26 th	Aug. Summer Bank Holiday, Pembroke	Pembroke South	Roland Smith
	30th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	coordinator needed

Sept	4th	Wednesday walk		coordinator needed
	13th/15th	Oread 75th anniversary	Camping, Chatsworth, Derbyshire	
	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	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	coordinator needed
	dates TBD	Mediterranean trad	Morocco	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th/20th	Fylde hut swap	Little Langdale, Lake district	Dave Snod Helliwell
	19th	Weekend walk		coordinator needed
	28th	Summer time ends, start of Monday climbing wall sessions		
Nov	1st/2nd	Curry meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	4th-18th	Morocco		Gill Radcliffe
	6th	Wednesday walk	Rachel Walker	
	9th?	Bonfire night		
	13th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23rd	Annual Dinner	Maynard, Grindleford	
	24th	Post prandial walk		
Dec	4th	Wednesday walk		coordinator needed
	4th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield 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

Forthcoming Meets

Wednesday evening climbing venues.

The venues can still be changed if the weather is unsuitable but at least there will be a starting point for discussion via the new WhatsApp group.

1 May	The Roaches then The Rock.
8 May	Burbage North then The Grouse
15 May	Lawrencefield then The Grouse
22 May	Froggatt then The Grouse
29 May	Stange Pop then The Grouse
5 June	Willersley then The Boat

Wednesday 1 May Alport Castles Walk Chris Mather

Meet at Fairholmes, at the top of Ladybower Reservoir, outside the car park cafe SK 173 893 at 10.00 a.m. for a 10.15 start.

Parking at Fairholmes pay car park or free on the access road before.

Start is through Hagg Side wood up to Lockerbrook Heights, along Rowlea Pasture to Alport Castles before descending south to the A 57 and crossing to the river Ashop and climbing Blackley Hey. We return through pine woods to recross the A57 before climbing to the east of Hagg Farm and returning down through Lockerwood Coppice. 13k. 610m ascent.

Chris Mather: tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

3-6 May Bank Holiday Camping Kelynack Cornwall Phil Waterson

We will be based at the campsite at Kelynack, set in a small valley.

<https://www.kelynackholidays.co.uk/the-site/touring-caravans-and-tents>

Early booking advisable. The site has excellent Wi-Fi, toilet and shower facilities, separate sinks for dish washing, laundry facilities and a small shop. Pitches all have electric hook ups accessible. The site is set just off the main road with a bus stop near by. You can walk from the site onto the coast path walking to Lands End and Cape Cornwall easily. A gentle short walk into St Just with shops and good pubs for food. Climbing is easily accessible from the site to Sennen, Bosigran, Lands End and many other climbs - either drive or by bus.

Phil Waterson email: xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

11-12 May New Members Meet Ed Bloomfield

The new members' meet - an opportunity for old friends, new friends and number 1-6 friends to come together on God's own gritstone. The club president has personally put in a request with the powers that be (Met Office) for some forecasted sunshine, the Heathy Lea hut will be available Fri-Sun for those who wish to stay up in the peak. (Book via the website). It would be great if there is a crowd at the hut as well as the crag. The current plan will be to head to Stanage for a day of trad climbing on the Saturday. And on Sunday we will get out climbing perhaps Horseshoe if there is an appetite for sport or potentially a Stanage double bill. This will be decided based on what the new members would prefer, I'll create a poll in the WhatsApp chat to get the general consensus. Timings etc will be confirmed in the WhatsApp group.

All experience of climber is welcome and for the less experienced please be forthcoming with your abilities so you can be suitably partnered off into a competent team and get the most out of the weekend.

Any queries whatsoever please reach out and get in touch. If you feel more

comfortable messaging me privately than in a group then please do.
Ed Bloomfield email: xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

16 May short walk Longstone Moor Chris Paice

It is street parking opposite The Crispin pub, Great Longstone, DE45 1TZ. We will congregate on the triangle of grass that can be seen for an 11.00 am start. Map reference 198 727 although my track record on sending these isn't great! People still find the location, Thank you.

Through the church yard and over fields to Hardrake Lane. We then walk steadily up to Longstone Edge. The last few metres being a bit of a scramble, but the climb is steady. Then we walk on the very minor road that skirts around the moor edge. Following a wall and road westwards to Castcliff we encounter a much busier road. Not for long, at Rolley Low the footpath climbs gently over fields eventually reaching a restricted by way to take us into Great Longstone. Pub at the end!

It is a mixture of footpaths, tracks and tarmac (at most 1 mile) with gates but only two stiles. The views could be amazing, we may stop a few times for quick a fluid intake and working out what we can see. We will have a lunch stop as well.

5.3 miles, total ascent 817ft.

Look forward to walking and talking with all who come.

Chris(tine) Paice xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel.[xxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Saturday 18 May Geo-Walk-Cromford-Winster The Wilsons

The start is from Intake Lane, Cromford GR SK 298 567 at 10-15am.

Parking can be found in Intake Lane, Cromford Market Place, or in the Rugby Club Ground car park on Cromford Meadows.

The walk is a 10 mile linear one, not very strenuous, and will require a shuttle system.

Could I ask for 4 volunteers to provide return transport from Winster car park GR SK 239 603. They to be collected from the car park at 9-15am by us, and shuttled to the Cromford start point.

Start point:- From Intake Lane, Cromford, then onto - Sheep Pasture Incline - Middleton Top - Harborough Rocks - New Harborough Farm - Longcliffe Quarry - Ible - Whitelow Farm - Bonsall Lane - Winster Car Park. The walk offers some good Peakland elevated views combined with some explanation of the local geology. I hope to see you there, please let me know if you wish to participate or can offer a shuttle service.

Please bring a packed lunch and we can hopefully find a picnic spot on route. We can either call in the Miners Standard for refreshments on completion of the walk or a Cromford venue on our return.

Our mobile numbers are [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxx) or [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxx) Chris and Jan

18 -19 May Keswick Mountain Festival

A few members of the Oread are going to Keswick mountain festival on the 18-19th May. It's a great weekend of outdoor events and music. Join Steph in the 50k trail run! or myself spectating and taking in the atmosphere! Details can be found at

<https://keswickmountainfestival.co.uk/>

Emma Hayes email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

25 May – 2 June Skye Michael Moss



Skye has great opportunities for climbing, scrambling and walking. Climbing includes many long classics, the Dubhs Ridge (pictured above), Pinnacle Ridge and routes on Sron na Ciche including the Cioch. There is a range of mountain routes at all grades and of course scrambling on the Cuillin Ridge itself. Objectives for me is to complete the Cuillin Ridge, and one of three classic mountain routes.

We will be camped at the beautifully situated Glenbrittle campsite, booking is not required.

Contact me to find out more.

Michael Moss email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Wednesday 5 June Alstonefield Walk Clive Russell

We shall assemble on foot opposite the car park and toilet block in Alstonefield (I suggest you share vehicles where possible, not only because the Peak Park are now charging extortionate fees for their car parks but also to leave space for others).

I propose to set off at 10.30 am so a 10.15 arrival would be good.

The plan, subject to adjustment depending on the weather and the state of the party, is to take the Eastern bank of the Manifold, downstream as far as Castern Hall and then down to Ilam from where we will nip up Bunster and then head vaguely North before descending through the wood to Ilam Rock. A few short strides up the valley will take us to Milldale and a

comfortable rising path back to the departure point. Rather than quoting distances and rise and fall in metres or even poles and perches, I shall undertake to adjust the journeying so that no one is exerted to an undue extent.

Anyone requiring a lift from Parwich can text me, xxxxxxxxxx (first three requests accepted).

15 -16 June Tan -Yr-Wyddfa BBQ Tony Howard

Summer at Tan yr Wyddfa – you could be walking the hills or climbing in ‘The Pass’ or Tremadog, baking at Gogarth, or perhaps best of all hiding from the heat on Cyrn Las, Cloggy, or Craig Yr Ysfa.

Last year’s BBQ weekend was a bit damp, the previous year brought very hot weather; too hot for some. On Saturday night we will be having a BBQ and whatever the weather we should have a great time. You should bring your own food and drink. I will provide some BBQ machines and fuel.

If you want to come along, please let me know ASAP.

Tony Howard email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Tel: Home xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Mobile: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

22 June – 6 July Lofoten Islands Norway Nigel Briggs

Plans are progressing for the Lofoten trip and contact has been made with the campsite. We will make a provisional booking in early March. If you are on our list you will have been contacted by email. If you have not heard from us you are not on the list. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch. As a brief resumé we will be camping at Kabelvåg between the above dates. Some of the group are also going to stay further west on Lofoten for part of the time.

Driving to Lofoten 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 and Janet Briggs xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

12 – 22 August Austrian Alps Michael Hayes

Come and join us in Austria this August in the wonderful Otztal valley just South West of Innsbruck.



We were last there in 2019 and had a fantastic couple of weeks sport climbing, mountaineering, walking, hut to hutting, mountain biking and enjoying this wonderful area. We are staying at the campsite in Umhausen so if you want to come along then just book yourself onto this campsite [Ötztal Camping Tyrol \(oetztalcamping.com\)](http://oetztalcamping.com) and contact me if you want any more information.

Michael Hayes
Email: xxxxxxxxx Tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

13- 15 September 75th Anniversary Celebration Camp Chatsworth Chris Wilson

The Oread has been fortunate to secure the exclusive use of Chatsworth's Golden Gate campsite for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights this weekend in September. The Golden Gate is the posh gate on the way into Baslow from Heathy Lea.

The site can accommodate up to 70 caravans, motorhomes, campervans and tents. There is water. It is flat. There is a chemical disposal point. BBQ's are permitted only if they are raised off the ground and there are strictly no fires. The club will arrange for toilets and showers on site. We will also most probably bring in outside caterers for one of the evenings. The cost will be £10 per placement.

We do have some restrictions – we can't have a marquee and need to keep the noise down at night because there are houses not too far away.

The site is a short stroll to both Baslow village and Heathy Lea.

We are planning a number of activities for the weekend including a Barmy competition (“**Best All-Round Mountaineer of the Year**”) walks, climbs, bike rides and fun! More details will be released over the coming weeks and months but it should be a great weekend, so please put it in your diary.

If you want to book your spot, just drop me a letter, email, WhatsApp or text, preferably with numbers and unit type! If however you just tell me you're coming, I will probably forget!

Chris Wilson email xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

4 - 18 November Morocco

A few members are going to the Anti-Atlas in Morocco at the beginning of November. If you want any more details please contact Gill Radcliffe by email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

23 November Oread 75th Annual Dinner at the Maynard Arms

Further to the earlier Newsletter announcement we have reserved seven bedrooms for the evening of the Dinner at standard room rate (£130). These can be booked by Oread's and will be held **until July** when the hotel will release any not booked for general sale.

Please get in touch to book, 01433 424110 and make the hotel aware of your Oread connection. **They advise us there is plenty of local accommodation but the Maynard and all local accommodation get fully booked every weekend so it is best to book ahead.**

Other options include:

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

Bike and Boot (Hope Valley) 01433 440777 (discounts for group bookings)

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.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Oread 75th Almanac Nigel Briggs

The 'Almanac' is mainly concentrating on the events and changes over the last 25 years, however this it is not exclusively the case. If you wish to contribute an article about anything related to the Oread, or Mountaineering in general, it would be welcome. The piece could be about a specific event, it may be a reflection on past events from today's viewpoint, personal thoughts about how 'things' have changed (for better or worse) or it could be predictive as to how 'things' may progress. There is room for all. I want everyone who wants to contribute to have the opportunity to do so.

Over the last few months I have asked some of you for material to go in the publication, thank you to those who have already sent it to me. I am now starting the compilation; I would like any promised articles in soon and certainly before the summer.

I am also going to need photographs to break up the text, so if you are contributing please could you include a photograph or two. From the contributions already received it should be an interesting read! Nigel Briggs email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

An update on posting old newsletters to the website.

Thanks to a lot of tedious and painstaking work by Mike Wren a big collection of old newsletters is now available to logged in members on the Oread website. He has run OCR in Acrobat on them all which means that they can now be searched for any text.

A further batch is currently being scanned. These will be uploaded in due course. Then we will check for what is still missing and try to complete the set. Mike says "Please do have a browse through them. I found the early 1970's particularly fascinating. I am sure other club members will too."

Making the most of a Marginal Winter Edward Bloomfield

This year me and Rob Beck teamed up to try and push our winter climbing along in search of steep mixed routes in the Scottish mountains. We did keep an eye out for the pure ice lines and we did manage to get on Aladdin's Mirror Direct in January and me and Chris Ashworth even managed to get some Welsh ice while it was here for those three days. The dry tooling over the last year has opened the door to many Scottish mixed routes which we probably wouldn't have considered before "tooling". So a big thanks to the Masson Lees dry tooling community for that. The conditions this year have been marginal at best and at times non existent but with the right objective, flexibility and a willing partner you can make

the most of what's on offer. The start of the year we headed for the northern Cairngorm to Sneachda in the first two weekends of January and climbed some classic routes. Invernookie IV 5 was the opener of the season, it felt like a traditional mountaineering route hence it needs a good covering of snow. The route isn't all that sustained but it doesn't lack in character or interest; the last pitch out of the cave at the top provides a nice dose of exposure. We decided The message IV6 was next on the list and after a night of much anticipation in the van and not a great deal of sleep, knowing I was going to get the crux pitch, it was enjoyable climbing with protection and hooks where you need them. The route had a good buildup of snow, frozen turf and ice but the crux pitch and last pitch were a little lean, I can only imagine that they normally are due to the steepness. We got back from that weekend to find we had two letters from the Cumbria police force - apparently we did a thorough job of testing the cameras on the A66 making sure it is functioning camera in both directions!



Left: Edward Bloomfield leaving the cave "Invernookie", Right: Rob Beck Final pitch "The Message".

The following week it stayed cold and the forecast was good in the east so we went back to "Sneachy". With an early start from the van we managed to be first on Aladdin's Mirror Direct IV4 for a first taste of Scottish Ice climbing. We descended down Aladdin's Couloir. Next on the agenda was Hidden Chimney Direct IV5. The first pitch is a slabby corner crack which provides some real 3d climbing with feet on the left wall while axes make use of the crack and the flatties on the right. Rob was a guide book lighter by this time so was moving fast through the crux. The Chimney was well

buried at the top but was well protected steep climbing. We topped out in 60mph wind and made a hasty retreat to the van. The forecast for Sunday was cold and windy, very windy! We walked in with our hearts set on one route with not much of a plan B in mind. First lesson of the year - always have a plan B and C. We stood at the bottom of the Seam flaking ropes and gearing up thinking the next team will soon be moving. WRONG we got cold and ended up like frozen crisp packets after an hour so we retreated from the crag. In hindsight the only decision to make when cold is to warm up and then make a decision about what to do next but if we had had a plan B and C we wouldn't have got cold in the first place.



Left: Edward Bloomfield ice pitch "Aladdin's Mirror Direct". Right: Chris Ashworth Ice pitch "Cleft Gully".

The following weekend Scotland was looking thin but Wales had a cold snap so me and Chris A got in the car Friday morning and went for the long walk in to Clogwyn Du. It seemed all the ice climbers in Wales were out. We walked in wanting to climb Left Hand Branch but it wasn't in and our plan B was Original Chimney but there were climbers on there so we ended up on plan C getting high on the crag on Cleft Gully V6. Chris led the ice pitch, his first time on ice since Norway 23 and made light work of it, he brought me up under the roof and I led the short 10m pitch to the top. The roof will eat you alive if you go too deep but once I retrieved one of my stuck axes and got established out from under it, we were stood on top of Glyder Fawr in gale force winds. We descended via Bristly Ridge, it was a long memorable day out! One to be treasured given the rare beast that is Welsh ice.

Scotland was out of condition for a few weeks so it was back down Masson

Lees to keep ticking over until the winter returned. The middle of February was cold again but there had been a turbo thaw so we need to go in search of some mixed routes, we agreed the east looked best again and were promised two blue bird days. We went back for The Seam IV 5 and made sure we left the van before first light to be first on the route. We did have Stirling Bomber as a plan B in case. But we made it on the route first and hooked our way to the top. The climbing on The Seam is superb, joyful hook after hooks. Loads of gear though you never really felt like you needed it. We shot across Fiacaill ridge and descended the goat track and we decided to go have a poke at Stirling Bomber V7. We were losing the light after the first pitch so abbed off although a team was then starting up Fingers Ridge by head torch in the dark. Guess that's one way to avoid the traffic. One to go back for.

The next day we went back for Stirling Bomber but there was a team of three starting up which proved to be a blessing. We had Fingers Ridge as a plan B but again we were the back of the queue so we consulted the brochure and thought what we were looking at was in but thin and kicked on up Fluted Buttress Direct. The turf was frozen and there was plenty of ice in the crack so upwards we went. There was a team above us but they were two pitches up by the time we were geared up. The 2nd lesson of the year came shortly after, don't climb under people in winter – at least not on a steep direct climb. I was bringing Rob up to the second stance and it sounded like the whooshing of a helicopter in my ear as an axe went toppling past my head as the team above had dropped one. Other than that the route went with a clove hitch, the gear was hard won and the moves tentative but it was fantastic climbing and we topped out to an amazing sunset as we walked across and down the Cairngorm.

The Cairngorms were warming up Monday and due for a dump of snow so we shot across to Glen Coe after visiting the chippy in Aviemore. We made light work of the walk in to Stob Coire Nan Lochan and had Raeburn's original route as plan A as we had seen on UKC it was in good condition but the turf was insulated by the snow and wasn't frozen so after retreating from pitch 1 we went for a quick dance up Dorsal Arete II, a fine short mountaineering route with interesting moves if you want them. We managed to test the Variable speed limit on the M1 on the way home - another letter from the constabulary was imminent.



Left: Rob Beck penultimate pitch "The Seam". Right: Edward Bloomfield penultimate pitch "Dorsal Arete"

The continued thaw and snow dumping continued and Scotland looked out of action for a couple of weeks with warm easterly winds, but there was a glimpse of hope in the middle of March for some mixed routes in the Glen and potentially the Ben. Paul Headland from Lincoln MC joined us for the weekend so we booked into Waters Cottage last minute and made the long walk in for Church Door Buttress in Glencoe. It's a monster of a walk in but is the most reliable winter crag in Glen Coe with it being the highest and having a number of mixed lines. After the 2.5 hour slog in we geared up and started up Flake Route Right Hand V7. The first pitch was a series of steep cracks and was again feet on the left, axes in the crack; the turf was solid and so was the snow. I belayed Rob and Paul up at the bottom of a chimney. It was like a mini Crypt Route pitch. Paul went into the chimney shredding his bag, back and front pointing his way up and out onto a chock stone belay. There was no way of passing him on the stance so we bumped him onto the next belay which provided some exposure getting across and right from the top of the chimney to the main buttress. Rob was on the sharp end now and led two pitches crossing the arch, to a steep corner. With technical steep climbing akin to the crux on The Message but longer! superb leading in a remote setting. The wind was picking up and I led us up the final pitch which was steady enough ground with a couple of sketchy moves on cruddy ice to belay in the 60mph winds. What a final route to end the season - a big walk in, a crack, a chimney, a corner and a spindrift exfoliation to finish!



Approaching Church Door Buttress.

The Sunday and Monday looked warm and windy so we retreated to the Lake district and went to the Works for some dry tooling Sunday and Monday before heading home.

Next season it would be great to have more Oreads making the most of what's on offer in the UK Winter wise. Anyone with an interest please join the WhatsApp community winter climbing chat and let's get after it!

Spring Stride Geo-walk, 24 March Peter Amour

Arriving at Matlock's Hall Leys Park with John and Frédérique I expected perhaps another three or four takers. In the event I was somewhat surprised to see 16 Oreads plus four members of the Von Briggs family leaving the Park in cool, bright, but breezy conditions.



19 of the 20 ready to depart at the Hall Leys start.

Less than 10 minutes into the walk I referred to the Geo-walk notes at Pic Tor, and addressed the group with some details about the carboniferous stratas, which strangely were categorised as Monsal Dale Limestone, even though they were nowhere near that place name.

Traversing the east side of the Derwent Valley we then took to following the loop path from and back to St John's Road by way of someone's private garden. At the tarmac end we then headed up through a mix of mossy woodland and boggy pasture where I informed the followers about High Tor's rock history, (minus Radders and Sue Todd, who'd broken away Tour de France style). Apparently the Tor is a mix of the aforementioned Monsal Dale Limestone, and carboniferous mud-stone, the latter forming much of the dome features of the main face.

The tearaways were reeled in near the Heights Of Abraham and informed about the recently missed lesson. This was followed by snippet number three, which conveyed the interesting story about rocks with a Dolo prefix which were around our feet. Stones of this type were categorised by a French mineralogist, so, dolostone and dolomitic and Dolomites acquired their titles from the 18th century Monsieur Deodat Gratet de Dolomieu. So its quite probable that a significant Italian location took part of his name.



Oreads and the Von Briggs family around the Masson Hill former mine workings.

Leaving the open and heavily quarried area of Masson Hill the journey headed towards Ember Farm through the connecting woodland, which was dominated by Beech, Ash and Hawthorns. The tree varieties reflect the minerality of the soils beneath their roots. While treading the arboreal

paths the info sheet told us of Coal Pit Rake, now a sizeable and visible hillside cleft.

Passing by the former quarryman's hamlet of Upperwood we headed towards Scarthin, to find a now defunct adit which gave up calcite to its owners. A sharp left turn saw us drop to the A6 by Masson Mill, grab lunch in Matlock Bath Park, and conclude the day by going over High Tor, with some playing on Giddy Edge, and squelching through the incorrectly named former galena rake of the Roman Caves.

Thanks to all who came along, too numerous to mention.

Matlock-Bonsall Walk 18 April Ruth Gordon



The weather was kind – the rain held off till we got back – it was even pleasantly warm in the morning sun as eight of us set off for Jugholes where Stuart had brought a torch to show us the hidden lower entrance to the cave and into the start of the main cave passage. From there it was across dandelion covered fields with wonderful views over

to Bonsall. We even managed to find a lunch spot to suit the exacting requirements of the party – something to sit on (Gil) and out of the wind (Sue)! On our return via the Limestone Way we spotted this splendid stone chaise-longue and couldn't resist a photo. Halldale quarry was deserted and scattered with spring flowers – but building is supposed to start soon so if you always meant to try the climbing or just want to experience the weird grandeur of the huge cirque with a helipad in the centre best get in there soon. For those who didn't have time for tea and scones at Sue's – well you missed a real treat – they were delicious!

Gritstone Trail 6 - 20 April 2024 - Stuart Firth

After seemingly weeks of incessant rain, it was great to wake up to a bright sunny day for once. And what could be better than a great walk in the Peak District to complete the Gritstone Trail project?

Due to various unconnected circumstances, we were reduced to just the three of us - Linda, Sue and myself - and we were a happy trio. We had some good conversations as well as splendid views from a near-figure-of-eight perambulation of Lyme Park.



Our first memorable landmark was the Bow Stones - allegedly of Saxon origin.

Long Distance views were had into Derbyshire.



Lunch was especially memorable in the close company of a herd of deer - all within 20 miles of Manchester city centre.



Too much engrossing chat and a stunning 360-degree vista encompassing North Wales, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire resulted in yours truly making a couple of minor route-finding errors. The final outcome was a total route length of 18+ kilometres and 500m ascent and descent. (2km over budget.) And precious little mud. In addition to completing the Gritstone Trail project, we also trod some of the North Cheshire Way - maybe one for the future.

All in all, a satisfying day out and highly recommended; and many thanks to Linda and Sue for their company.

P.S.

It is notable that this was the final meet of the Oread's third quarter-century - celebrated in suitable style by the consumption of Lyme Park cafeteria's last piece of Lemon and Orange cake and most excellent flapjack.



75 Today! Gardoms on 21 April



A toast to the Oread! Photo Spike Johnston

How unbelievably lucky we were! The forecast wasn't that great but the sun shone all day and for almost the first time this year it was a pleasure to sit outside around Apple Buttress and soak up the warmth.

For an impromptu meet attendance was good – around 20 Oreads disported themselves on routes first led by Dave Penlington and Ernie Marshall including, of course the magnificent Apple Arete, surely one of the finest gritstone VSs in the Peak, (first ascent Dave Penlington in 1952).



Mike Moss put a friend in Velvet Cracks which provided endless entertainment as party after party failed to retrieve it. Mike Mowbray was invited to have a go “Certainly not - not today! I'd have to give it back to him!”

Three generations of Gardiners presided over events – Founder Member Paul bringing champagne for a toast and the very first guidebook to the crag –



published in 1950 before Apple Arete was climbed! Later in the day he telephoned the Penlingtons: “Dave had a good recollection of the area where climbing was done today. He and Janet send their Good Wishes to all Oreads on this special day. I told him that first ascent leaders' names were printed in modern, coloured guide books and his comment was "Oh! Dear"! He was bringing up names from the past, E.g. Ernie Marshall as I saw on one guidebook page and Keith Axon came up several times. He would have loved to be there today, (if only lying down like me!).

Spike Johnston recorded the day both in photographs and video:

Here is a link to the best photos that he took last Sunday

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBnpg9>

Here is the Short Video including his horizontal interview with Paul Gardiner <https://youtu.be/4tiFuL8wIqY>

Here is an interview with the veteran mountaineer (you can tell because he has a beard) Roger O'Read <https://youtu.be/Ok0OIAK49uM>

Or you can find the videos by searching Youtube.com for Oread Mountaineering Club.

Spike also forwarded the following letter from our host:

Dear Oread Mountaineering Club,

Last Sunday was one of the very few warm and sunny days this year. I was enjoying warming up in the sunshine, and revelling in the beauty of my environment when, my solitude was slowly strangled and then shattered by a group of loutish "Oldsters" accompanied by a few members of the younger generation who really should know better. I discovered that they belonged to the Oread Mountaineering Club and was horrified by their behaviour, there was shouting, swearing, drinking and even lying down. There were evidently some ring leaders in the group who claimed that they had many friends of differing sizes, and one chap in particular spent the whole day tugging and jostling with one of his friends. Thankfully after polishing off champagne, pork pies and performance enhancing energy gels they seemed to get bored, and headed off in search of Robin Hood who I have not seen in these parts for years.

I am writing this to you as I am concerned that a follow up event was talked about for 2049. I hope that by then these people will have learned to respect me a bit better, although I do have a new friend who has taken up residence with me.

Yours Grumpily,

George

G.A.R. Doms esq.

Wildcat: Clean to Climb Sunday 14th, April 2024

This report was sent to BMC by Greg Jennings of the Derwent Mountaineering Club (who organised the event). The story has been put out on <https://hillwalking.thebmc.co.uk/news> and will also be included in the next issue of Summit. Oread attendees were Roland Smith, Angela Pingram, Gill and Chris Radcliffe, Roger Larkam.

Wildcat purrs again!

On Sunday 14th April a group of 13 local climbers, drawn mostly from the Derwent Mountaineering and Oread Clubs, tackled the encroaching vegetation on Wildcat main crag. This is one of the best limestone inland trad crags in the UK and, whilst inevitably there is more to be done, it has now been given a spring clean and is climbable so add it to your 2024 climbing diary! See the list of routes cleaned below and notes about where there is more to be done. It is important to respect the access agreement

with Manor Adventures, the landowner, which requires abseiling from the top of the climbs. To support this and help climbers find the right area of the crag, we have refreshed and increased the number of fixed abseil points at the top and also marked them with discreet wooded signs - see the list of these below. A big thank you to both the BMC and Manor Adventures who have supported this clean up as well of course to the local climbers who got down and got dirty!



Team briefing at the start. Photos courtesy of Gill Radcliffe.

Gill Radcliffe adds:

After a briefing by Greg Jennings of Derwent M.C., teams chose a route to clean, one person abseiled in and the other provided the safety back up. The photos show the top of Cats Eye before and after an attack on the wild roses and the finish of Catharsis Wall about to undergo the same treatment. Both routes are in better nick and it was very satisfying to leave the crag in a more climbable state.

List of fixed abseil points (all 'renewed' and with discreet wooden name-signs attached) Catacomb, Broken Toe, Coyote Buttress, Sourpuss, Cat Walk, Lynx, Octopuss.

List of climbs cleaned:

- Catacomb (VS)- climbable but could do with more cleaning on 2nd pitch
- Catacomb Direct (HVS)
- Violent Night (E2)
- Climacteric (HVS) - climbable but top pitch could do with more work
- Pussycat (HVS)
- Octopuss (HVS)

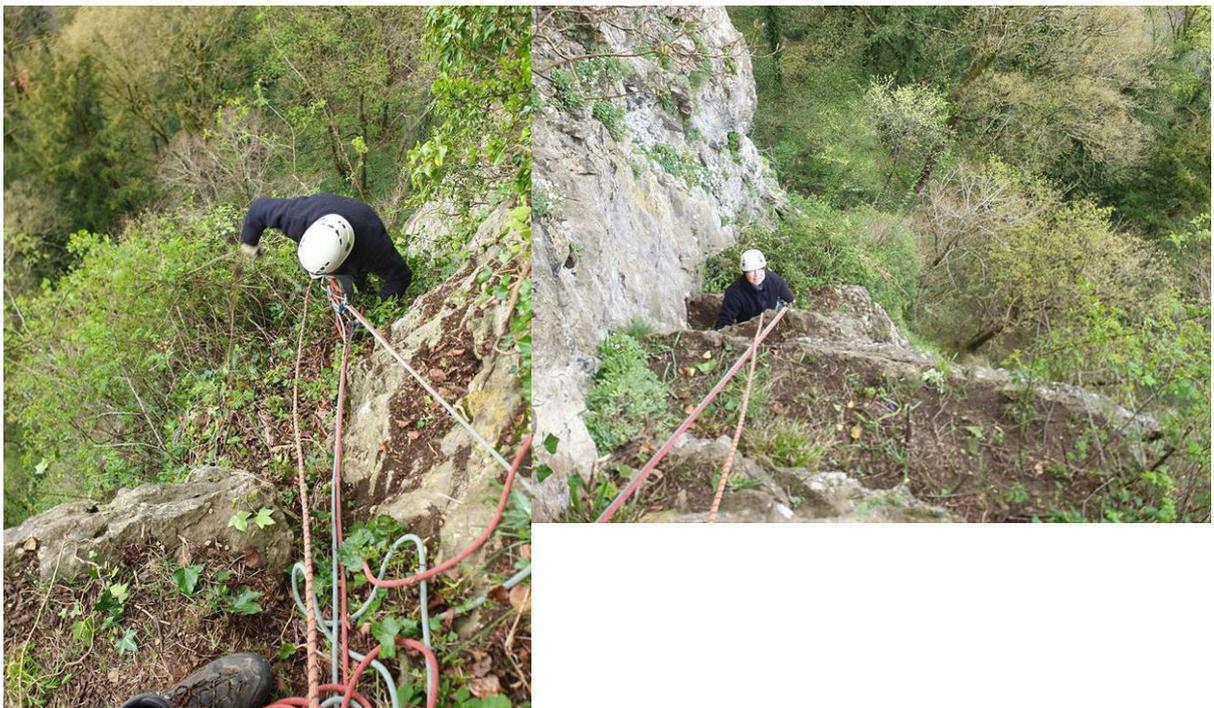
White Room (HVS)
Catastrophe Grooves (HVS)
Broken Toe Groove (VS)
Metamorphosis (HVS) - climbable but more to be done
DunB4
Fragile Glass (HVS)
Sourpuss (VS)
Super Pauline (E1)
Pupilla (VS)
Cat Walk (HS)
Cats Eye (S)
Catharsis Wall (HVS) - climbable but more to be done

There are of course many other climbs which have remained climbable, such as Golden Yardstick and Jackdaw Grooves, so this is not an

exhaustive list of climbable routes. There are others too which require a lot of work before they can be climbed enjoyably in particular the Tiger buttress area. The crag would benefit from more traffic and a little tlc. Respect the access agreement and get out there and enjoy it!



Cat's Eye before and after the clean up. Left below, Catharsis Wall.



Hut Bookings.

Hut bookings are now made online at the Oread website www.oread.co.uk. The 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.

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new full members Helen Hayes and Luke Marshall, and new provisional members, Emily Young and Maxwell Dean, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

Peter Stanley Kenyon 10 May 1944 - 17 March 2024



Peter Kenyon is shown here, left, helping Colin and Pam with the washing up at the Fylde Hut, Little Landale in March 1974. Photo Gordon Gadsby.

A tribute from Brian Wright:

Peter was a humble, gentle person, but one who could become very determined when a trip or project took his interest.

He first climbed in the Alps in 1968 with a group of friends from Derby and over the next four years climbed several peaks including the Matterhorn, the traverse of Mont Blanc and Weiskugel to name just a few. He also did the high level route from Chamonix to Zermatt with his German friend Karl Heinz Seelig.

In 1972 he was badly injured whilst attempting the Piz Palu along with his friend Karl Heinz who was also injured when Peter was knocked off by rockfall from above and the pair of them luckily being held by Gordon Wright putting the rope over a spike as they were moving together.

After spells in two hospitals in Switzerland and at home he made a slow but full recovery and eventually went back to his work for Rolls Royce in Derby, where he worked until he retired.

Around 1983 he met the love his life, Eileen, on a walking holiday with whom he spent 35 years of married life before she passed away in 2021. Before his marriage he continued to climb occasionally and take long walks in Scotland and nearer home, including the Coast to Coast walk. Peter's interest in engineering led him to take a major part in the restoration of a steam engine called the Duke of Gloucester 69621, which was probably his proudest achievement, after his love for Eileen.

A memory from Snod Helliwell:

I can vividly remember travelling up to the Lakes for a weekend in the late '70s – four up in Pete Kenyon's old Austin van. We were none of us very organised in those days so it was late when we left Derby and headed via Stoke to join the M6. No sooner had we got on the motorway than the van ran out of petrol. Luckily there were three petrol stoves in our combined luggage so we tipped the contents into the fuel tank and made our way gingerly to Keele service station.

Once re-fuelled Pete put his foot down – but the steering was so worn the van drifted erratically from lane to lane as Pete swung the steering wheel about, fighting to control it. Luckily there wasn't much traffic about by late evening in those days.

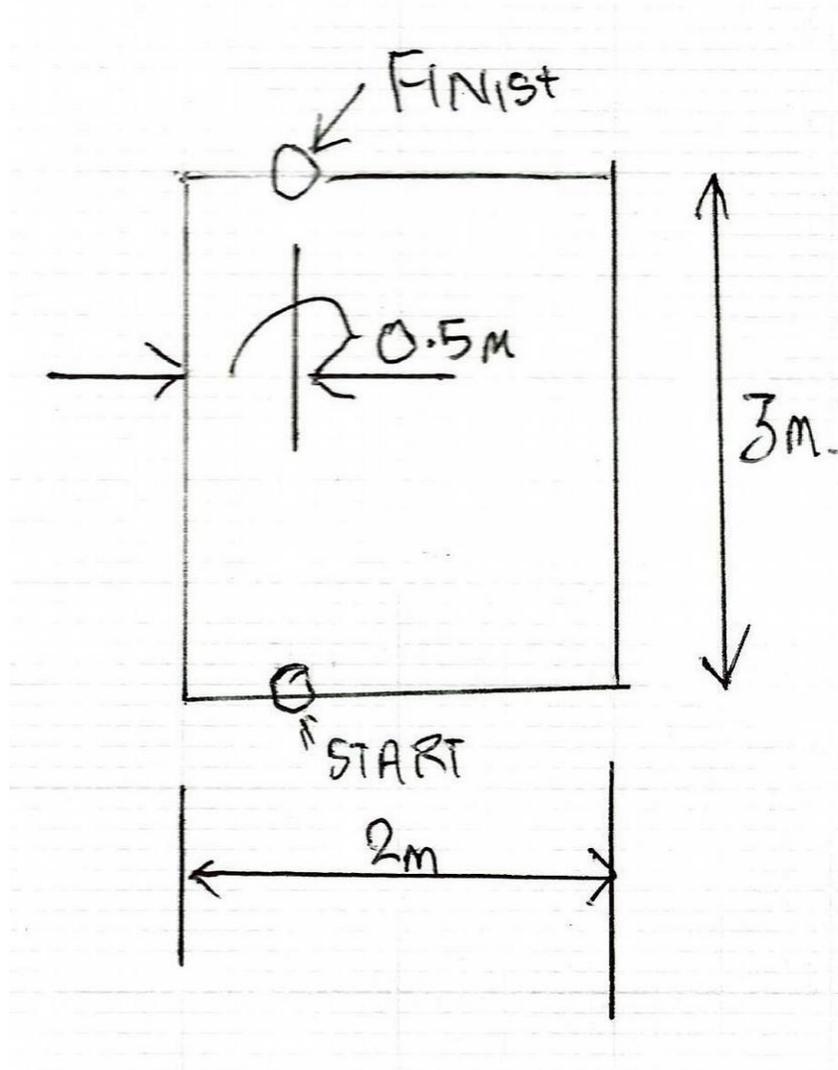
Now at this time Cadbury's were promoting “Old Jamaica” a rum and raisin chocolate bar. The TV advertisement featured a pirate ship, the helmsman wrestling with the wheel in a howling gale – Dick Halford, in the back seat, leaned forward to pass Pete a chunk of chocolate and delivered the punchline of the advertisement:

“Ere lad, 'ave a piece of this – it'll put new heart into thee!”

I have no recollection of what we did that weekend but I've never forgotten the adrenalin and laughter of that journey.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:



A radical school in the North of England decided to defy all recent regulation and instead prepare school pupils for conflict and harder times generally. Corporal punishment and fighting between pupils was not forbidden provided that no weapons were used, no padding, helmets or the like were used during cricket matches and the curriculum was trimmed of all politically correct subjects like gender, forms of address, colonial repression etc and concentrated on key subjects mathematics, sciences, cross country running and the like. The school sports championship took place on a remote moorland, within a rectangular area marked out electronically. (refer to plan for distances) Competitors were required to run from Start to Finish and to contact both sides of the rectangle en route, the runners had a gps which marked the boundaries of the course. The favourite was judged capable of 8 minutes per mile over this rough terrain and pupils were marked according to age etc based on his estimated time. What was the estimated time ?

Last month's puzzle solution:

The photograph does not of course enable us to calculate a definite distance from the centre of the universe, the puzzle is more a test of earlier familiarity with Oread characters and initiative in drawing conclusions. Most would recognise the Welbournes and the presence of the girls albeit at an early age dates it as after the conclusion of John's expedition days, (it was actually 1965). Were it in the British hills the family would probably have been staying at a hut so a family picture at a campsite might be guessed to be taken in the alps during summer weather. John and Ruth were known to be fond of the eastern alps and the location (actually Hochsolden) could be narrowed down to a degree.

Google maps specifies 920 miles as driving distance from Innsbruck to Derby so any figure in the general region of 1,000 miles would seem to be an acceptable puzzle answer (I agree that it was not stipulated whether a thumb line distance for air travel or a practical driving distance was specified).

Snod and your Hon. Ed. combined forces to solve this one. I knew the people, place and date of the photo because it had been in the newsletter before. Armed with the relevant info Snod did the maths:

"Milia Passum is a Roman mile and is a thousand paces (0.919 miles) this conveniently makes the distance from Rainster west hill to Solden 1,000 Milia Passum".

Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. Email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com