

Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

December 2024 - January 2025



Above: first snow of winter: a stunning alpine blue, sun and sparkle day. Hob Hurst's House 21 November. Photo Michael Hayes.

Right: Mega bonfire at Heathy Lea 9 November. Thanks to Kasia and all the bonfire builders, stokers, cake makers and sausage sizzlers! Such a fun night! Photo Seyhan Turan.

Editorial

Hey it's not even Christmas and next year's alpine summer hols are in here for you to plan!

Right now festive nocturnal fun at Black Rocks and on the Bullstones, then Boxing Day and New Year options. Lots of local walks plus Aviemore in January to get the winter gear into action.

Next lecture December 3rd -it's the Wilsons on a Greek Odessey featuring 25 crags!

Write ups include the ever enjoyable curry meet and ice climbing memories of Rjukan from 2023 to whet your enthusiasm for the repeat meet coming up in February 2025.

Sadly also tributes to Don Chapman and founder member, Dave Penlington, who, so sadly, passed away just before our anniversary dinner that his family had so hoped he would be able to enjoy with us.

On page 5 is the link to view the brilliant photo show played at the dinner – don't miss it!

It would be really helpful if all future newsletter correspondence could be sent to newseditor@oread.co.uk.

Copy Deadline 20 January.



Meets List 2024 Ed Bloomfield

Ed Bloomfield: email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Tel xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dec	4 th	Wednesday walk	Cromford	Rob Tresidder
	4 th	Awsome walls Sheffield 7pm	David/Ed	winter wall
	6 th -8 th	Bullstones	The Strines Pub	The Wilsons
	11 th	Black rocks evening climb	Midweek climbing chat	winter wall
	12 th	Short walk	Kniveton	Ruth Gordon
	15 th	Sunday Geo walk	Milldale-Wetton Mill	Clive Russell
	18 th	Notts Climbing Centre 7PM	Emma/Luke	winter wall
	24-1 Jan	Christmas & New Year	T an yr Wyddfa	Snod Helliwell
	26 th	Boxing Day Social	Miners Arms Brassington	self guided

Oread Walking Programme 2025 - new Coordinator

For the last few years, I have enjoyed organising the Wednesday and Weekend walking programme for the Oread. It's now time for me to hand over the responsibility and so - from 01 January 25 - Peter Amour has kindly offered to take on the role. Peter will of course continue to liaise with Ed Bloomfield who is the Committee Meets Secretary for all club activities.

You can contact Peter by email: xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx or via the Walking group on the Oread WhatsApp community.

Naturally I would like to thank those who have supported me - especially all the leaders who have introduced us to their favourite routes and the attendees who have trodden them with unfailing good humour. Onwards and upwards.

Stuart Firth

P.S. A replacement leader is needed for **Wednesday 5 February**. Please contact me (up to 31 December) then Peter, if you can help.

Meets List 2025 - Edward Bloomfield


The 2025 meets list still has some blanks where there should be a meet coordinator. I need more volunteers to step forward!

All meets need attendees, so please put some place holders in your diary for 2025.

There is no greater joy than leading a meet that gets people out doing the things they love doing and bringing us all together at home or abroad!

Leading a meet is not too scary, if you haven't done it before myself and the hut secretaries will be on hand to make sure you have all the information you need to lead your meet successfully.

Volunteer to lead a meet and be a part of your club's future.

2025				
	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
J a n u a r y	1st	Ashover	New Years Day walk	Peter Amour
	8th	Monsal Head	Wednesday walk	Peter Amour
	10th-12th	Karn House, Aveimore	Winter climbing in the Cairngorms	Rob Beck
	16th	Tissington	Thursday short walk	Christine Pace
	18th	TBC	Saturday walk	Steve Booth
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	25th	Stanage	Peak District bouldering meet	??
	0	0	0	0
F e b r u a r y	1st-8th	Rjukan Hytteby	Ice Climbing in the Rjukan valley	Ed Bloomfield
	5th	TBC	Wednesday walk	???
	3-17th	Benidorm	winter sun sport climbing	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	15th	Wetton Mill - Upper Hulme	Saturday walk	Stuart Firth
	16th	Cratcliffe	Peak District bouldering meet	?????
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21-23rd	TYW	Weekend scrambling & walking meet	Nigel berry
	0	0	0	0
M a r c h	1st	Curbar	Peak District bouldering meet	???
	5th	TBC	Wednesday walk	Chris Mather
	7th-8th	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Walking and climbing in Patterdale	????????
	14-16th	Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven	Scottish winter climbing	Mick Hayes
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22nd	TBC	Saturday walk	???
	22nd	Matlock FC???	Saturday AGM???	Jan Wilson
	23rd	TBC	Sunday Post AGM Walk (Spring Stride)	Committee
	0	0	0	0
	28-30th	North York Moors camping meet	Climbing and walking in North Yorkshire	Wilsons
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
A p r i l	2nd	Wednesday climbing outdoors starts	Harborough Rocks	N/a
	9th	Dimmingdale, Alton	Wednesday walk	Peter Amour
	4th-6th	TYW hut meet North Wales	Walking and Climbing in North Wales	????
	17th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th-27th	Font camping meet	Bouldering meet in Fontainebleau	Nuno Gomes
	17-21st	Cornwall camping meet	Climbing and camping meet Cornwall	??
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26th	Geo walk Upper Hulme – Flash	Saturday Walk	Peter Amour
	27th	Millstone	Crack school climbing with a focus on coaching crack climbing skills	Simas Jermosenka
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

M a y	2nd-5th	Gower camping meet	Camping, walking & climbing	??
	0	0	0	0
	7th	TBC	Wednesday walk	?
	15th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	16th-18th	New members' meet Heathy Lee	Climbing and bbq at the hut	Kevin Moss
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24th	TBC	Saturday walk	0
	0	0	0	0
	23-31st	Scotland	Climbing and walking West coast Scotland	Mike Moss
J u n e	0	0	0	0
	4th	Dovedale	Wednesday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	6th-8th	Lowstern North Yorkshire	Walking & climbing meet North Yorkshire	Pete Amour
	0	0	0	0
	15th	Peak District women rock	Local meet for Oread women to celebrate women in the club climbing	Emma Hayes
	19th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21 st	Geo Walk - Flash to Brierlow Bar	Saturday Walk	Chris Paice
	0	0	0	0
	21-6th	Saas Grund, Pennine Alps Switzerland	Alps meet	Steve Christian
J u l y	26-28th	Little Langdale (Fylde hut)	Climbing and walking meet	Snod
	2nd	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	04-6th	Rock Hall Roaches	Back by popular demand climbing at the Roaches	Charlie Taylor
	30-Dec	0	0	0
	12th	Peak District pinnacles meet	0	???
	0	0	0	0
	17th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th-20th	Anglesey camping meet	Sea cliff climbing & camping	Lianne/Dave Mason
	0	0	0	0
A u g u s t	26th	Shuttlingsloe	Saturday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	0	0	0	0
	1st-3rd	MAM Coniston	0	???
	6th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8-10th	Heathy Lea family meet	0	Rob Beck/Nuno Gomes
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	16th	Geo Walk - Brierlow Bar to Tideswell	Saturday walk	???
	0	0	0	0
S e p t e m b e r	21st	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22-25th	Pembroke camping meet	Sea cliff climbing, Pembroke	???
	30-6th	Ailefroide, Ecrins	Alps trip	Nigel Berry
	3rd	TBC	Wednesday Walk	???
	5-7th	Glan Dena (Ogwen valley)	North Wales climbing and walking	???
	TBC 2/3 weeks	Ailefroide Ecrins France	Alps meet focused on Rock routes	Nigel Berry
	0	0	0	0
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	19th-21st	Peak District BARMY comp	BARMY competition camping meet	?????
S e p t e m b e r	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26-28th	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

O c t o b e r	1st	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	0	0	0	0
	11-13th	High House Lake District	Walking & climbing meet	Tony Howard
	0	Med Sport??	0	Em Hayes
	16th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th	Geo Walk - Tideswell to Edale	Saturday Walk	???
	19th	Froggat Slab School	Peak District slab workshop on slab climbing technique	???
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24-26th	TYW - North Wales	0	???
N o v e m b e r	0	0	0	0
	5th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8th	heathy lea	Bonfire night	Kasia?
	0	0	0	0
	7-16th	Desert Rock	Destination to be confirmed Red Rock , Wadi Rum or Tafaroute	KewEd
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22nd	Annual dinner	0	????
	23rd	Post prandial walk	0	0
	23rd	Post dinner climb ,	0	0
D e c e m b e r	3rd	Goyt	Wednesday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	6-7th	Bullstones	0	Mike Mowbray
	0	0	0	0
	13-15th	Mannood drytooling	Drytooling meet hut to be confirmed	Rob Beck
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	20th	Geo Walk - Edale to Birchen Clough Bridge	Saturday Walk	???
	0	0	0	0
	24-1 Jan	0	Christmas and New Year hut meet	??

Evening Meets - Rob Tresidder

Here are the dates for our Ockbrook meetings. All start at 8.00 pm. I have opened a WhatsApp page in the Oread community so you can keep an eye open for updates there.

03 December Chris Wilson;

07 January 2025 Carrie Beadle;

04 February Emma Hayes;

04 March T.B.A.

Please be in touch via the WhatsApp group or direct with me

Rob Tresidder tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

75th Anniversary Slide Show

The fabulous montage of photos compiled by Pete Kennington which was shown at the annual dinner is now available to view on You Tube using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLOaKXyHPag>

Oread Membership 2025

It will soon be time to renew your membership for 2025. Unfortunately this year we are having to increase our subs by £5 to cover the cost increase we have seen from the BMC (for every member we now pay the BMC £29.33 which is an increase of £5.43 from last year).

The 2025 membership fees now stand at:

- £50 for Full Membership
- £40 for Senior Membership
- £40 for Provisional Membership
- £25 Voluntary contribution for receiving the paper newsletter

We will be contacting you after Christmas about renewing your membership, either by GoCardless or by other methods for those not signed up to GoCardless. Michael Hayes and Janet Briggs.

Oread WhatsApp Community – it really works well – give it a go!

This is a proven and secure mobile phone based means of communication used to assist Club members quickly and easily publicising and arranging their Club based activities.

Since its launch in March over 100 members have joined and it is working well. Do give it a try – it really makes joining a group out on the crag or going for a walk so much easier.

The Community is open to all Oread Full and Provisional Members.

The advantage of the WhatsApp platform is the ease of messaging. It will already be familiar to many smart phone users, but it is here configured as a 'Community' with subsidiary Groups assigned to interests. Through joining / leaving an interest Group, members can select only those interests which are relevant to them. This means they will **not** be bombarded with unwanted messages.

These are the current interest groups

Interest Group	Notes / activities
INITIAL	
Mid-week climbing	Includes Sport, bouldering, inside & outside
Weekend climbing	Includes Sport, bouldering, inside & outside
Winter Climbing	
Climbing	General climbing chat for discussing climbing related topics.
Cycling	
Walking	

Running	
Environmental	
Winter Evening Talks	
Alps 2025 discussion	
Oread Committee	Committee only, eg meeting arrangements etc

Plus there are temporary groups for forthcoming meets which are deleted after the date has passed.

If you wish to make an announcement to the whole WhatsApp Community - eg a reminder of a forthcoming event you can do so by sending your message to one of the Community Administrators.

Ed Bloomfield	Community Creator
Jan Wilson	President
Mick Hayes	Membership Sec
Mike Moss	Meets Sec
Dave Mason	webmaster
Emma Hayes	(Committee member)

How to join: open this link on your device which has WhatsApp installed.
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Dv8W5qVAUwOGpk1fzLqPVR>
or request to be added by sending an email with your mobile number to a Community Administrator.

WhatsApp Help https://faq.whatsapp.com/967457667545238/?helpref=hc_fnav

Forthcoming Meets

The Brit Rock Film Tour is currently underway with three exciting adventure films. Local venues include Grindleford 3 December, Nottingham 5 December, Leicester 6 December and 17 January Hathersage. Online digital release from 20 December.
More info: <https://britrockfilmtour.com/>

Tuesday 3 December 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Six Oreads set out in Autumn 2023 on a campervan experience across France, through Italy, around Greece and then back again. The objective was to visit new places, climbing and walking with a bit of cycling and swimming thrown in. There was also an interest in food, wine and sightseeing. 25 crags were climbed on including Matera, Meteora, Manikia and Varasova along with La Rocchetta and Frosolone in Italy. The walking highlight was undoubtedly the Vikos gorge in the Pindus mountains. We visited archeological sites and wonderful cities. The evening will provide a taste of our adventure.
The Royal Oak, Ockbrook DE72 3SE Admission: £3 (Oreads); £5 (non-members).

Wednesday 4 December The Little Grey Rabbit Walk Rob Tresidder

Departure: from Cromford Station as soon as the train arrives from Derby, a few minutes after 10.00am.

Getting there:

- by train from Derby, departs at 0935 and stops at 4 stations on the way
- by 6.1 bus from Derby, departs bus station at 0850, alight outside Greyhound Hotel, Cromford at 0947, cross A6, walk along Mill Lane to station or follow R bank of river below Willersley crag.
- plethora of buses (and train) from the north. Ask me if you need to know more.
- by car to Cromford Station CP. Parking charges apply.
- on foot, if you are holidaying in the delightful old waiting room (NB. No discount for Oasis fans).

The walk is short (6.2k) even by Wednesday short walk standards but steep. We will climb to Riber Castle then descend through Starkholmes to Matlock Bath, where the walk ends. I will probably have had enough by this stage but if some feel only lightly exercised I am happy to continue Northwards along the L bank of the river by the BMC approved "climbers' path" (flotation devices advised).

Returns to start can be made via train, bus or on foot.

Rob Tresidder email:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

6 – 8 December Bullstones 24 Jan Wilson

The Bullstones is full. We have fourteen happy Oreads willing to take one for the Team. If however you want to join us for part of the fun we will be in the Strines Inn from 7:30pm until it closes on Friday 6th December. We are having some great pub food and would be happy to have any local Oreads join us to cheer us on our way.

If you want to join our linear walk on Saturday we will be leaving the bivvy spot on the track up to Back Tor at some silly hour around 8am??? We will then proceed by several routes in an anarchic way taking in the Bullstones cabin, LadyBower then over to Bamford for late afternoon/ early evening drinks at the Anglers. From there we will head up to Thorpe Farm bunkhouses for a curry delivery or self catered. After dinner we have the traditional whiskey tasting ceremony. If you want to be included and you're not booked on the meet then get in touch with me.

On Sunday we will leave Thorpe Farm and head back to Strines by all sorts of routes. If you want to join us there is parking at the farm (£2) and I'm sure we can give a few folks a lift back down the valley at the end of the day to collect their car. This meet is always great fun so if you fancy a taster then get in touch.

Jan Wilson: email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Wednesday 11 December Black Rocks Night Climb

This annual madness involves climbing at Black Rocks in the dark early evening – or Harborough for the not quite so mad – and Wirksworth wall for the boringly sane – followed by a get together in the Boat at Cromford. It's steak night so best pre-order if you want to eat 01629 258083 or there's always the chippy!

Thursday 12 December Short Walk Kniveton Ruth Gordon

We will meet in Kniveton at the junction of Ostrich Lane (leaves the main road by the school) and Longrose Lane where there is some parking. Otherwise park on the main road and walk the short distance to the meeting point. SK209 508. We will start at 11.00 am and follow the lane to pick up a bridleway leading us past Wigber Low then we take a footpath right to cross the Haven Brook and up over fields to Bradbourne where we can look at the weird ancient animals carved around the church door. We will return via the bridleway over Haven Hill. This is a relatively short walk, about four miles, suitable for the darkest days of the year.

Sunday 15 Dec Geo Walk Milldale – Wetton Mill

Clive “Rusty” Russell

(Please note change of date!)

This being a one way walk I shall present myself with a vehicle at the car park adjacent to Wetton Mill Tea Room at 10.00 am, in the hope that others will leave a vehicle there and travel back to Milldale with me (the walk will then commence at 10 30am). By then even Squires, if he joins us, and most certainly the rest of humanity will be well adjusted to GMT.

We shall first take the footpath to the top of Cave Dale and then cross the road at Stanhope Grange, and thence to Wetton, the Manor house and Wetton Mill. It is rumoured that a stallion, once kept at Stanhope Grange, escaped onto the public highway and mounted a pony pulling a milk cart with considerable damage to the shafts and harness. Those travelling with me are likely to be well past the peak of virility and unlikely to attempt a similar escapade. The area is typical of limestone geological features and any discourse from me will be minimal.

To recap, walk starts at Milldale at 10.30, park where possible and meet on foot by the packhorse bridge.

Those willing to leave a vehicle at Wetton Mill, please park there at 10 am, on the East side of the road, just North of the turning into the Mill premises (map ref SK 094 561).

It would be helpful if those planning to attend would let me know a day or two beforehand so that transport arrangements can be firmed up.

Rusty Russell: email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

26 December Boxing Day get together Brassington

As usual make your way to the Miners' Arms on foot, bicycle or any other means that takes your fancy, for a sociable meet up. The pub opens at 12.00 noon. Probably as well to book if you want a meal. 01629 541977.

Christmas/New Year at Tan yr Wyddfa Snod Helliwell

The hut is reserved for members and their guests over the festive period. Book yourselves in, come and go as you please. I will not be there at Christmas but will arrive a day or two later in time for a New Year celebration featuring a joint meal -including Joan's wonderful soup! probably a fiendish jigsaw, silly games and fun. Hope to see a good crowd there.

Snod email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or WhatsApp

1 January New Year's Day walk/meet up Peter Amour

Wow! The second quarter of this century starts on Sunday, 1st January. I hope to see members from across all the Oread spectrum whether young, mature, climbers, walkers, runners, cyclists, or by car come together to celebrate the start of another new year.

The day will be more about socialising than breaking any records. With that in mind I plan to meet at Eddlestow Lot, the Wirestone Quarry Car Park off Wirestone Lane, Grid reference SK 232 633.

Meet at 10-45am for a 11-00am departure.

Lunch (Bookings required) at the Crispin Inn, Church St, Ashover, S45 0AB, Tel 01246 590039. Mention Oread Mountaineering Club to assist seating.

Estimated time of arrival from 12-30pm.

Route (6.5 miles) :- Vernon Lane Fm - Brockhurst Fm - Henstone Cottage - Marsh Green - Butts - Crispin Inn, Ashover (Lunch) - Overton Cottages - Cocking Tor - Old Engine Fm - Wayside Fm - Bottom Moor - Car Park.

Bring a head torch just in case....oh, and my beer money.

Cheers, Pete. email: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or via the Walking group on the Oread WhatsApp community.

Tuesday 7 January 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Carrie Beadle, mountaineer and skier and daughter of Robin will speak about climbing, ski mountaineering and maybe a little plasma physics.

Wednesday 8 January Monsal Head Loop Peter Amour

Start time :- 10-00am for a 10-00am departure. Distance :- 11 miles.

From where :- Road-side, Butts Lane, Little Longstone, near Monsal Head.

Grid Reference SK 186 716. Or nearby car park with toilets at Monsal Head (pay & display).

Advise car sharing to reduce the environmental and car spaces demand.

What better as an antidote for the depths of winter? - the White Peak uplands! So with that in mind I'm guiding us from Monsal Head to see the superb views over Longstone Moor, down into upper Cressbrookdale and on to Foolow, where, if the demand is such we could examine the inside of the Bull's Head pub.

Having allowed you ten minutes in't pub (tee hee), I shall herd you over the easy terrain to Eyam and entice us all over the heights of Black Harry's Lane to gain the vistas to the south and west. Having reached the wuthering heights of

Longstone Edge gravity and big boots will take us via Great and Little Longstone villages back to the cars.

Take a packed lunch (to feed the meet leader).

Please let me know if you plan to take part, I can then look out for you.

Cheers, Peter email: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or via the Walking group on the Oread WhatsApp community.

10 -13 January Karn House Aviemore Rob Beck

Break out your winter gear!

We're returning to Karn house, Aviemore, this January.

A fantastic hut in a great location, with easy access to Cairngorm and the northern corries.

Places are going fast so let me know if you'd like to join.

Rob Beck: Tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thursday 16 January Short Walk Tissington Chris Paice

A Tissington wander beginning at Tissington car park ref:179 520. Car parking currently £4.75 all day, toilets and hot drinks may also be available. 10.45 for a 11.00 a.m. start

Walking in an easterly direction along Darfield Lane we pick up the track that goes southerly along Square Plantation. Moving along the track to Basset Wood farm and then southerly to Cherry Orchard farm at Fenny Bentley.

Crossing the A515, past the church, a fairly steady incline of two halves takes us to the Tissington trail. Crossing the trail, we walk up to the pub and past the pub (controversial), passing Narlow Lane to join Spend Lane. Along here we join the Limestone way taking us to Washbrook Lane and ultimately a walk along the Avenue to return to the start point.

This walk is largely lanes and tracks so less dependent on weather conditions and reasonable easy walking with a few stiles. There are also many options to shorten the walk should needs be.

6.4km (4miles). TOTAL ascent 462ft.

Do join me and others for chat, laughter and fresh air. All of which are good for all.

Chris Paice: email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) or tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 18 January Whatstandwell walk Steve Booth

Meet in the car park (£2,00) at Whatstandwell railway station on the A6 (SK 33322 54093) for 10.00 am start. Our walk of approximately 11 miles starts very gently, heading south on the canal towpath for just over 1.5 miles before heading up hill to the village of Crich and a visit to Crich Stand. With most of the up hill behind us the walk continues to Lea before heading down to Viaduct cottage and returning to the start along the canal towpath.

See details below.

Steve Booth: Tel; xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Email; [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#)

Title	Whatstandwell, Crich Stand, Lea
Start venue	Whatstandwell Railway station, £2.00 pay by RingGo. Map ref. SK 33322 54093 Free parking may be available in the Cromford canal car park (B5035) Whatstandwell Map ref, SK 33238 54335
Grade	Moderate
Distance	11 miles
Ascent	1400 ft
Refreshments	Jug and Glass, Lea and possibly The Family Tree at the end of the walk
Route (Basic)	Whatstandwell station, Cromford canal, Crich Chase, Crich, Lea, Viaduct cottage, Whatstandwell.

25 January Stanage Bouldering

Keep an eye on the the WhatsApp group for arrangements nearer the time or be in touch with Ed Bloomfield: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx Tel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

3 – 17 February Sun Rock Benidorm Ruth Gordon

There's a good team heading to the Costa Blanca, not too late to join us! We have booked a Jet2 holiday from Manchester or East Midlands at the Aparthotel Terralta, Benidorm, with Half Board Plus but you can also self cater if you prefer. Car hire is essential for getting to the crags and we will organise that in the new year when we know how many are coming. Please confirm via the Alicante meet WhatsApp group or to me personally if you want to share in the car hire. Any questions please be in touch.

Ruth Gordon email: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and leave a message if I'm not at home.

Oread Alpine Meets 2025

21 June – 5 July Saas Grund, Valais, Switzerland Steve Christian

Our first alpine trip of the year will be to the lovely 'Saastal' based at Camping Schönblick in the village of Saas Grund. It is the eastern region of the Swiss canton of Valais, north of the Monte Rosa group. There is a concentration of thirteen peaks exceeding 4000 metres that include technically easy normal routes along with some classic snow and rock ridge traverses. It is a perfect venue for new or experienced alpine mountaineers alike. There are also lower altitude classic rock traverses and some good multi pitch rock climbs. Half and full day walks are possible to a number of alpine huts, lakes and cols, which can include ascents of smaller walking peaks.

The campsite is currently closed and opening for the winter season in the next few weeks. They have reserved 25 camping places for us and we will be able to book directly with them from mid-March onwards.

Steve Christian: email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

30 August – 6 September Ailefroide Ecrins National Park, France Nigel Berry

The second confirmed venue is Ailefroide in The Ecrins National Park, France for the first week of September i.e. 30th August to 6th September. There is an option to extend this for a further week after the proposed finish date depending upon people's preference. It will also be possible for people to independently go a week earlier. It will be based from the campsite in Ailefroide [Camping Ailefroide \(Vallouise-Pelvoux\) | Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Tourism](#)

This venue works well at the end of the season August / September (when the French finish their holidays) perfect for families, great campsite, no telepheriques to pay for and possibilities for booking huts. Conditions can be mixed for snow alpinism but still possible with the Pelvoux traverse or Dom de Neige / Barre des Ecrin.

It has many bolt protected multi pitch granite routes, either from the campsite or in the surrounding mountains, along with many bolted valley crags in adjacent areas. There are nearby options for bouldering, canyoning and via ferratas. The local and nearby walks are also varied and extensive.

Nigel Berry: email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Tan yr Wyddfa Curry Meet 1 – 3 November Tony Howard

Twelve Oreads attended our Curry Meet on the Club's 75th Anniversary year. It was 24 years since our first Curry Meet.

Nick Evans and I went down on the Thursday afternoon. From Wrexham onwards we saw sunshine and brilliant blue skies, but immediately after Pen-y-Gwryd we were covered in dark grey clouds. This continued for the rest of the weekend, with one exception. See below. After unloading the food and our kit at the hut, we took on what might now be considered the standard short walk from the hut. We went south then round Llyn y Gors and through the forest to the main road. We crossed this and passed by Ffridd Uchaf farm to join the Rhyd Ddu path, which led us back to the hut: just over four miles. It was dark by the time we reached the hut.

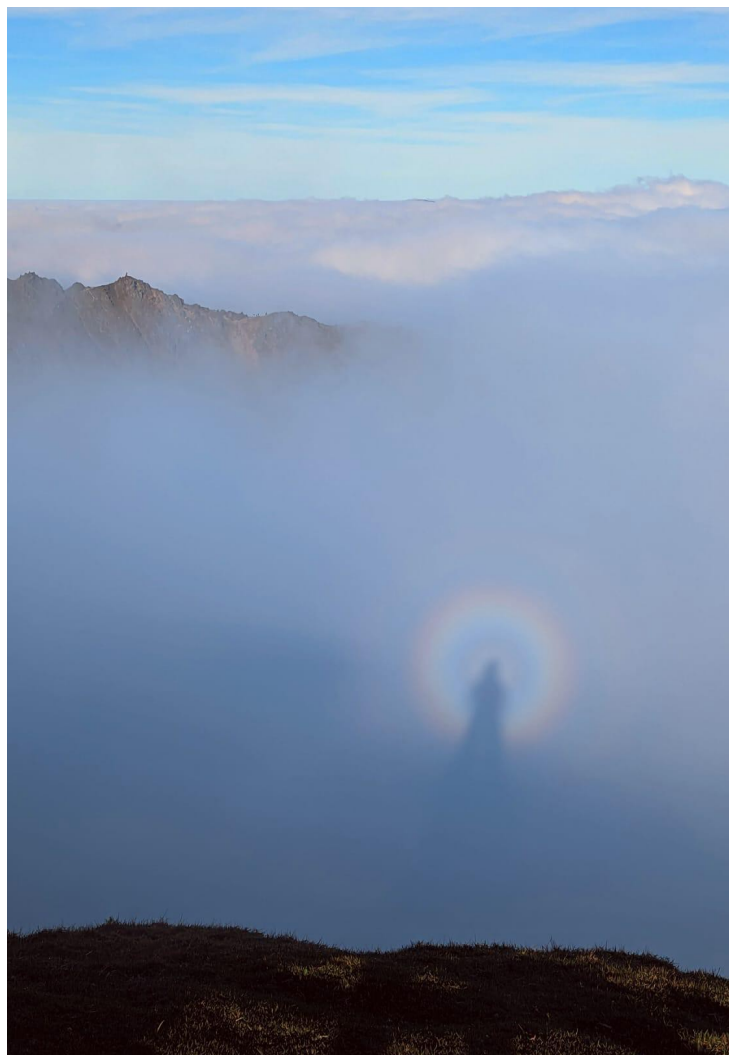
I had seen a reference in the NT magazine to a Roman period round house at Dinas Dinlle and wanted to visit it. Nick had of course been there before. So, on Friday morning Nick and I drove to Dinas Dinlle and walked round the site which is positioned on a fortified hill above the beach.



After this we chose to visit the Iron Age fort on Tre'r Ceiri near Yr Eifl, at the eastern end of the Llyn peninsula. We set off from the main car park, which was southwest of our peaks, but I stopped short of the last ascent to the fort and returned to our parked car. Nick walked up Yr Eifl and got back to the car maybe 20 minutes after me. It's an interesting area and only the second time I had been there, though Nick had been there more often. The light was fading when we returned to Tan yr Wyddfa. However, we were welcomed by the lights of the hut. Helen and Mick Hayes had arrived, and Mick was already starting the lounge fire. They had been walking in Pembrokeshire!

Nigel and Janet, Angela and Roland, then Emma and Luke arrived later that evening. Kasia and Jurek with Luna, a beautiful white Alsatian, turned up next morning, though we didn't see Luna until later and then only in the car park.

On Saturday morning, Nick and I set out from Capel Curig along the old road running alongside the A5. After about three miles, we looked up at Galt yr Ogof trying to spot Dave Roscoe's two first ascent successes, but I couldn't identify them. We turned north towards Helyg and after lunch at a bridge, crossed the trunk road and went east along a path to Tal-y-braich-Uchaf; a National Trust property. Continuing in this line we ascended to a leat and followed this to a point just above the head of Llyn Cowlyd reservoir. I was tiring, Nick was waiting! Sorry Nick. We turned homebound, south on a wet and boggy path to Bron Heulog on the A5. The road led us back to our starting point: a total distance about seven miles.



The rest of our group walked up Snowdon via the south ridge in intermittent sunshine and swirling mists. That is until the last 50 metres of climb to the summit when they were treated to beautiful sunshine above a blanket of cloud. Then the mists caught up with them and provided a rare and beautiful Brocken Spectre, viewed from the summit. They descended using the Rhyd Ddu path over Llechog.

Photo M. Hayes.

In the evening bottles were opened, and the wine and beer began to flow. Some showered and made themselves more presentable, smiles broadened and pre-cooked curries were warmed slowly. We chose to eat round the tables in the dining room, which was just possible with twelve of us. Cutlery and plates were laid out and the table decorated with red roses!! I really must be getting old. It was my birthday present to the Club.

Just after six o'clock we toasted the Club with a couple of bottles of Cava, and shortly after that, cooking began in earnest, with Nick in charge of rice, Angela in charge of naans and each cook looking after their own offerings. Nick was doing a Goan pulled pork curry, Roland/Angela had prepared a lamb curry, Nigel a paneer curry, and mine were a coriander chicken plus a vegetarian one with mushrooms and peas. There was plenty of food to go around, drinks continued to flow, and a good time was had by all.

On Sunday, everybody busied themselves with breakfast and cleaning and tidying. Nick and I set off home, as did Emma and Luke. Janet and Nigel took the bus to Beddgelert, walked down the Aberglaslyn pass and returned via Beddgelert and the forest path. Helen, Mick, Kasia, Jurek and Luna walked up Mynydd Mawr. Angela and Roland rejected the cold and damp rock at Tremadog before following Nick's advice and walking to the Iron age fort at Tre'r Ceiri and then over Yr Eifl, before returning to the hut.



On Monday after doing some hut polishing they returned home via the shops of Llanberis – as you do!

I am already looking forward to next year's meet. I fancy the Lake District.

The Ice Crag Blues – Rjukan – 12 -19 March 2023

Steve Christian

Mid-March and there was an irony that early morning snow and ice covered the roads across the top of the peak district, as we accessed Manchester airport for a trip to Rjukan. The winter had waited until now to tempt us into the UK mountains, but we were committed to our journey. There was an expectation of snow-covered roads, but not both sides of the North Sea.

Thankfully the drive from Oslo Torp was in the late afternoon light, allowing us to relax a little driving with steel studded tyres on snow covered roads and soak up increasingly attractive views. We found a supermarket midway into the journey for the essential first food shop of the holiday and then further on, after two and a half hours driving time, stopped at Lake Tinnsja, one of the largest and deepest lakes in the country and Europe, as we neared Rjukan. We breathed in the fresh air and traced the ice lines on the cliffs high up on adjacent hill sides, noting their location for possible days out climbing.

We were booked into the self-catering accommodation Rjukan Hytteby, cabins that are copies of the first workers' houses built in Rjukan during the industrial revolution. Parking was the first challenge as driveways were obscured by huge mounds of ploughed snow. But the accommodation was perfect, a Norwegian style holiday chalet set on the outskirts of town. The adjacent pizza restaurant and water park were perfect near neighbours as we were to find later in the holiday.

For all of us it was our first visit to ice climb in Rjukan. For Ed, Rob, Sally and Tom it was the first visit abroad to climb water ice, whereas for me it was just shy of two decades. Guidebook swotting we whiled away the first evening, thankful to the efforts of the Oxford Alpine Club in publishing a recent printed version. Ed and Rob had booked a local guide for some first day instruction and

coincidentally we all ended up at the crag Krokan which, with easy access and single pitch climbs, is described as a modern ice crag.



Upper part of Krokan at the start of Bullen.

It was the perfect starting venue to get used to swinging the ice tools, practicing cramponing on increasingly steep ground and placing ice screw protection. It was relatively quiet, due to it being later in the season, but the routes were really fat, the best conditions that local guide Bjorn reckoned he'd ever seen. It set us up well for the rest of the week.

By day two we were getting used to cleaning off the car in freezing morning light and driving on hard packed snow, made incredibly easy with metal studded winter tyres. Today's venue crag Ozzimosis, involved parking in a snowy layby on a hair pin bend on the road above Rjukan.

Dropping over the Armco barriers on the outside of the bend led us down into a gully area, only a few hundred metres from the

road, where there was nothing but forest, silence and icefalls. The overnight snow had partially obscured the lines of the climbs and the wet snowy drizzle persisted all day. We made inroads into several single pitch water ice 3 climbs, marveling at the thickness and quality of the ice, thus building our confidence leading or seconding on steeper terrain. Most climbs were set up with slings and maillons on trees above so that the leader could be lowered off or parties could abseil without damaging the trees. We slowly became very damp as the wet snow drizzle continued all day and we left midafternoon happy with our combined efforts, back to a warm chalet to dry out the gear and ourselves. Passing through town and dropping into the local mini market to buy fresh produce, we discovered the hot food counter, discounted considerably around 5pm, the ideal post climb savory snack food. It was a treat that became a daily habit.

Getting the hang of the early starts and car clean off was now routine and day three we returned to Krokan. The crag being at the top of the valley means that on a sunny winters day the short walk down the access track and into the frozen river bed has a magical winter wonderland feel with views down the river valley below. Our initial set up was at the very top of the crag near to the three star classic WI5 climb Fyrstikkaa. Just to it's right a thin pencil vertical icefall had formed that wasn't pictured or described in the guidebook. It screamed at us to be climbed and we suspected from the fatness of many of the climbs that this was a rare if ever formed line. So, we climbed it, on top rope it has to be said, but never the less likely a first ascent. We lead the adjacent route Jomfrau and it's left hand variation both a steady WI4, swapping ropes to top rope each other's lines. Later we moved down the valley a little to climb the two variations of the classic three star WI3 climb Bullen, Tom taking the opportunity to get his first ever ice lead under his belt. The sun shone all day, so Norway's premier ice crag was elevated to glory status, with the day flowing easily even though the whole

place was frozen to a standstill.

The emergency services accompanied by army mountain rescue teams greeted us for day four as we parked at the Vemork Bridge. In choosing to climb in the upper gorge we had inadvertently turned up at the same time as a planned mountain rescue exercise. We were politely asked to park at the far end of the car park and keep clear of the climbing in the Vemork Bridge area. Stepping around the edge of the Armco we set off down through the trees into the frozen riverbed. We turned up stream towards the upper gorge, slowly being absorbed into the silence of the frozen river valley. As we walked further along the steep sides of the gorge grew leaving us with a restricted view forwards of steep exiting icefalls. Behind us the Vemork Bridge shrank away, even though it spanned the full width of the valley, finally disappearing as we rounded the first left hand bend. Apart from the sound of our own breathing it was eerily silent. Our breath condensed in the early morning air and we moved through the knee deep snow carefully placing feet as we followed the previous visitors buried trail, making sure to avoid any buried ice holes or pitfalls. We stopped in the lowest part of the valley to inspect the available ice falls and trudge up the through the snow fifty metres to the very wide ice fall of WI3 climb Nedre Svingfoss.

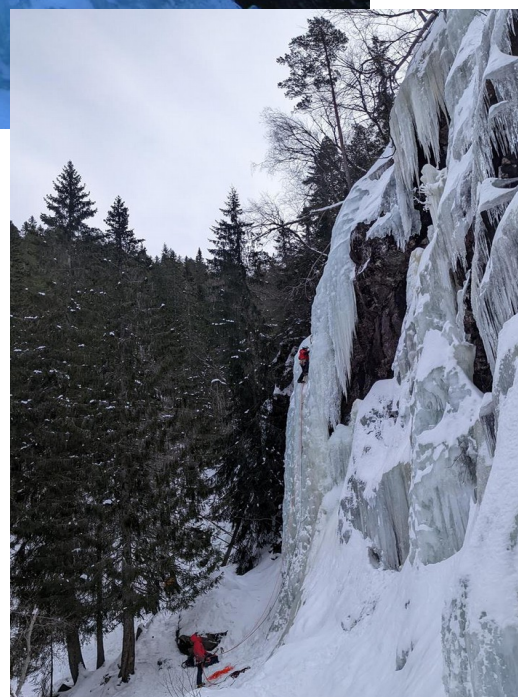


Setting off up Nedre Svingfoss in the upper gorge.

Wide enough for two independent lines to be climbed we geared up and set off simultaneously up a long single fifty metre pitch. We switched routes as the sun broke over the lip of the valley top and though it warmed it was still very cold. Further up the valley we moved on to climb the WI3 single pitch icefall By The Way before packing and returning back down the gorge in the dwindling light.

Leading the classic W14, Ozzimosis.

Our final day featured a return to the crag Ozzimosis. Ed had his eye on leading the single



pitch three-star classic WI4 icefall of the same name but I seized the day and took advantage of growing confidence and pipped him to the start.

It's a steep start to the day but the week's build-up had put us in the right form physically and mentally so we both cruised it. We topped it off with the two pitch WI3 climb Farfoss, further down the crag, before realising that hands and feet had become just too cold for comfort to do anymore climbing that day. It's a good crag with some nice climbs but set in the forest on the edge of a steep reentrant it gets no sun and seems to be a particularly cold area, great of course for ice climbing!

Five days on the bounce ice climbing and we took the final day as a rest visiting the The Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum where they tell the story of hydroelectric power, the German's use of it in WW2 to make heavy water and the Telemark Heroes before finishing off with a relaxing afternoon at the local swimming pool, saunas and thermal pools. Well worth packing your swimming costume for.

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 Yuriy Arlachov, Cathy Ayton, Maxwell Dean, Richard Freestone, Steph Jimenez, Sue Lancaster, Lydia Nowak, Trevor Stevens, Dave Ward, Richard Ward and Steph Ward. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

We have a full membership application from Cathy Luffman for approval at the December committee and a new one from Caroline Boast for approval at the January committee meeting. If you would like to comment on either of these applications, please contact a member of the committee.

Dave Penlington

Founder member, Dave, died peacefully on 6th November. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Janet and sons, Nigel and Roger. The funeral is to be on Monday, 2nd December 2024, at 11a.m. at Beetham Hall Crematorium (on A6, north of J35a) followed by refreshments at Crooklands Hotel (approx two miles from M6, J36) where all will be welcomed.



Dave Penlington photographed by Gordon Gadsby 1972.

Recollections of Dave Penlington Peter Amour

The first occasion I met Dave was in January, 1981. I was a raw new boy to the Oread MC and Colin Hobday was leading the 20 mile circuit of the Edale Skyline walk.

The weather was mixed, and when upon the southern edge of Kinder we were treated to a feisty squall of rain and sleet. I recall garbing up and pulling the hood strings in to exclude the worst excesses of the elements.

At this point I spotted someone in a red ventile jacket, again with the hood secured. Contained within the jacket was a gaunt ruddy face fringed with traces of white hair and matching moustache. I commented to myself "Blimey, what's this old bloke doing up here in these conditions?" Unwittingly, I had just met one of the fittest, toughest members of this club, founder member Dave Penlington. He was certainly not old, barely 50, my disrespectful assessment of the slim faced white haired man could not have been more wrong.

In May of that year Dave invited me to take part in the testing 14 Peaks walk in Snowdonia. We travelled together from his then home in Duffield. I shared the journey with his wife, Janet, her sister, and some other "old bloke" called Jack Ashcroft, goodness knows how five people plus gear fitted into the car.

The outline plan for Saturday was to drive around to Aber near the coast, and to trek the 14 3000ft summits back to TYW. Cars would be collected after completing the task. I was briefed

and ready, except I didn't expect the 4:30 am alpine start which Dave was to impose upon us. This came as something of a shock, the novice had a lot to learn!

At some time after 5:00am we set off in Dave's frost covered car. This irked me a little, the roads were icy, and Dave was in control of his car with only a small frost cleared port hole to peer through until the heating kicked in. We had an excellent start to the day, gaining the heights of the Carneddau in the early light. When on the ridge I began to experience ankle pain which ultimately led to my dropping out at Nant Peris, not so for Dave and Jack. They were to comfortably complete the event as if it was routine. Perhaps to them it was. The "old boys" had totally seen me off.

A year later Peno came up with idea of walking from TYW, summitting Cnicht, traversing the Moelwyns for a bivvy on the Rhinogs, and to reach Dolgellau at the end of the second day. As we, John Theobold, John Musket, and myself were by accident stood in a line looking like squaddies Dave walked past us. Eyeing this chaotic company, and in his clipped manner asked "Do you all have your cooking stoves and fuel?" We all nodded, he replied "Good, then I needn't carry mine then."

We made the Rhinogs after a demanding day with a superb sunset. John Theobold had found a secured tidy looking barn. He'd also found the key under the eaves. We spent the night in the accommodation which turned out to be an Outward Bound hut.

Shortly after dawn we departed our shelter, the fine weather had too also departed. We were to experience driving storms for the whole day. I was *encouraged* by my "mate" to use my pristine new OS map in the wild conditions. On leaving the rougher terrain we trudged the final tarmac miles in very severe winds, taking turns at walking at the front to save energy. En-route we saw a road-side hotel, entered, and asked for beers all round. The young lady behind the bar said that this was a "dry" county on Sundays - no alcohol served on the Sabbath. Dave advised the barmaid that he was the Chief Constable, and that it would be alright. The youngster replied with her lilting Welsh accent "Oh no you're not, he comes in here regular". Coffees it was then...

We were collected in Dolgellau by John Muskett's wife Cath. During the return I commented that my new map was now ragged and ruined, Dave commented "It had been for a good cause."

It was always a pleasure to share days with Peno, his enthusiasm was infectious, his quiet determination impressive. When being greeted by him on the too few occasions after he and Janet moved north you felt warmly welcomed. Thank you Dave for sharing those great mountain days with me.

My condolences go to Janet, Roger, Nigel and the wider family at this difficult time.

Don Chapman

John Fisher recalls:

I was at school with Don but he was a couple of years older so we didn't have anything to do with each other then. The school was evacuated to Amber Valley Camp, Ashover during WWII- a first taste of the Peak District. I was only there a year, he got longer.

Later I thought of him as being a very good climber, in the style of Derrick Burgess, very good on his feet. I only recall climbing with him once, a route on Llewedd with Doug Cooke.



Bullstones 1968: Paul Gardiner, Derrick Burgess, Don Chapman.
Photo: C. Radcliffe.

Photograph of Don Chapman, right, from 50th Anniversary Journal.

Dennis Gray writes:

I am sad at your news re Don Chapman.

I had not seen him for many a year but in the 1950's he was very active, and I met him several times on the Grit. I am brought very much by his death to how true Omar Khayam wrote that "the moving finger writes and moves on"!

Don was a member first of the Derby based Valkyrie club; after its demise he joined the Manchester based Rock and Ice in October 1951 and later joined the Oread in 1958. Other Oreads, Don Cowan, Nat Allen and Dennis Gray were his climbing companions through the late 1940s to mid 1950s.

Dennis writes: "I associate Don with the Peak edges."

With good reason - as a check of the first ascent lists in the BMC guides will reveal.

Don was on a number of first ascents on the southern gritstone edges: his own leads included: at **Froggat** – 1948 Turret Crack; many of the early ascents at **Yarncliffe** 1950-52 including Cardinal's Crack and Arete, both VS. On **Curbar** 1948 Campion Groove, 1954 Overtaker's Buttress. **Gardoms** 1951 Babylon's Groove. **Chatsworth** Strangler's Groove, Strangler's Crack, Throttled Groove, Noser and Zizag Finish. He was in the party on many more first ascents on these edges usually with Nat Allen and/or Joe Brown,

He also ventured onto limestone: at Stoney Middleton in 1950 he was on the first ascents of Golden Gate with Joe Brown, Slim Sorrell and Nat (with a left hand finish – they originally named it Valkyrie), and Morning Crack with Joe Brown.

Don was not just a gritstone climber however:

In Dennis Gray's **Rope Boy** (published 1970) Dennis recounts a rescue attempt on Tower Ridge in 1954 (sadly the climber did not survive) After a big day out the

call for helpers came and one team set off to attempt to reach the fallen climber via Tower Gully while Dennis set out with Don Whillans, Joe Brown, Slim Sorrell and Don Chapman to get to the top of Tower Ridge. Brown and Whillans, belayed by the rest of the party, on ropes tied together, descended to Tower Gap. The body was recovered after much difficulty.

“While this was going on, Slim, Don Chapman and I up on the summit plateau were in danger of becoming exposure victims. We had no means of communication with those below so, after cutting ice bollards and anchoring the ropes to these, we found refuge by tunnelling into the ruins of the observatory, buried but accessible under the snow. The night seemed endless; we had no food and the cold bit deeper and deeper as the hours slowly ticked by until we couldn't keep still for a moment.”

These small glimpses into the character of the man will, hopefully, be filled out in a more balanced tribute in our next issue.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

Which mountaineering activity is recommended to be carried out at night, in terrible conditions and by a large party.

Hint: This is not possible in the Lake District.

Last month's puzzle solution:

Solution to November24 puzzle

The visitor numbers for each venue were provided for each of the three years and also the total revenue for each year and so it boils down to three terms in a simultaneous equation This can be solved easily by hand, but the process is somewhat tedious, However an Excel spreadsheet offers the facility to enter the nine terms as a matrix, invert this and arrive at the solution I am told that Snod travelled partway down this path and then returned to the carnivore, the love of his life

The spreadsheet below illustrates the procedure.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
13										
14										
15				Income						
16			1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	visitors				
17			2390	2190	1984					
18						1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year		
19				wales		11	10	9.1		
20				cornwall		7	6.5	5.9		
21				highlands		12	11	9.9		
22	wales	cornwall	highlands							
23	90	80	70		3.666666667	7.333333333		1		
24					-10	2		8		
25					6.666666667	6.666666667		-10		
26										
27										
28				yellow		matrix of visitor numbers				
29				blue		total income for each venue				
30				red		yellow matrix inverted				
31				green		blue multiplied by red (this is the answer)				
32										
33										
34										
35										

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