



Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

July - August 2025



Enjoying the June sunshine at Froggatt, photos by Michael Hayes (left) and Douglas Gardiner (right).

Editorial

A double issue as usual for the summer months. Meets coming up at the wondrous Rock Hall below The Roaches, to Anglesey and Pembroke for sea cliff climbing, Coniston – and of course the Alpine meet at the end of August in the beautiful Ecrins area. Lots of local walks including the next Geo walk and a family friendly weekend at Heathy Lea.

Please see page 3 for important updates on Tan yr Wyddfa and page 9 for the latest on the Annual Dinner – the menu choices and booking form are at the end of this issue.

There are also tributes to Derek Carnell and Reg Squires. More memories and photos would be very welcome for future issues.

Copy Deadline 20 August.

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!

Ed Bloomfield email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

2025				
	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
J u l y	2nd	Eyam	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	04-6th	Rock Hall Roaches	Climbing at the Roaches	Charlie Taylor
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	17th	Pentrich	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18-20	Anglesey camping meet	Sea cliff climbing & camping	Edward bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
A u g u s t	26th	Shuttlingsloe	Saturday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	1st-3rd	MAM Coniston	walking & climbing in lake district	Nigel briggs
	6th	Rowsley matlock	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8-10th	Heathy Lea family meet	climbing meet and bbq at heathy lea	Rob Beck
	16th	Geo Walk - Edale to Birchen Clough Bridge	Saturday walk	Mike Percival
	0	0	0	0
	21st	Wirestone Matlock	Thursday short walk	Chris Paice
S e p t e m b e r	22-25th	Pembroke camping meet	Sea cliff climbing, Pembroke	???
	30-6th	Ailefroide, Ecrins	Alps trip	Nigel Berry
	3rd	Teggs Nose	Wednesday Walk	Nick Evans
	2-4th	Tyw working party	Tyw maintenance meet	Snod
	5-7th	Glan Dena (Ogwen valley)	North Wales climbing and walking	Snod
	0	0	0	0
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
O c t o b e r	19th-21st	Peak District BARMY comp heathy lea	BARMY competition	?????
	21st	post pamy sunday walk	0	Chris Paice
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26-28th	Heathy lea meet	0	Kevin RM
	0	0	0	0
	1st	Bamford	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
O c t o b e r	11-13th	High House Lake District	Curry Meet(walking & climbing)	Tony Howard
	10-19th	kalymnos	med sport Climbing meet	Em Hayes
	16th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th	Geo Walk - Tideswell to Edale	Saturday Walk	Rob Tresidder
	19th	Froggat Slab	Peak District slab climbing	???
	24-26th	TYW - North Wales	0	???
	0	0	0	0

N o v e m b e r	0	0	0	0
	5th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8th	heathylea	Bonfire night	Kevin M
	0	0	0	0
	21-30th	Tafaroute anti atlas morroco	Climbing morroco	Ed B
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22nd	Annual dinner	Bentleybrook	Christine pace
	23rd	Post prandial walk	0	0
	23rd	Post dinner climb ,	0	0
	28-30th	Birkness barn Lake district	Walking meet	Charlie Taylor
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 dry tooling	Dry tooling 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	Rachel Walker
	0	0	0	0
	24-1 Jan	0	Christmas and New Year hut meet	??

Tan yr Wyddfa Update

Hut bookings in August

From 13 -24 August inclusive the hut is fully booked – including the Oread room, by a mixture of Oreads and a visiting club.

Planning Permission

On 16 June, after a lengthy and frustrating process we finally received planning permission to do the external insulation and re-rendering of the building. The permission is valid for five years and it is hoped that the work will be timetabled for Spring/Summer 2026.

Recycling – glass

In spite of repeated efforts by several members to make sure the bin was not over full and contained only the correct materials the glass bin has never been collected. We believe the bin collectors are not willing to drag a heavy bin up the track to the bin lorry in the car park. Therefore we have had no choice but to empty the bin ourselves (the empty bin is currently in the wood shed until we can get it returned to the council) and **all glass must now be taken home with you.**

Peak and Northern Footpath Society News (The Oread is an Associate Member.)

We are planning to start some group inspections - along the lines described in the Signpost article (no 84: Summer 2025, p6). These will be social walks open to all members and inspectors which will collect data on footpaths in areas where we do not currently have information.

If you want to take part in any of these group inspections, then you need to give your name, email and phone number to one of the leaders below. You can send a text or email.

If you wish to be added to the general list to be notified of future inspections, please contact David Gosling. More group inspections will be held in the coming months across the whole of the PNFS region.

Here are the leaders and locations of the first group inspection walks. The precise details of the date and time and meeting place will be sent to you by the leader, either by email or Whatsapp..

David Gosling xxxxxxxxxxxx Stafford/Cannock Chase, 10th and/or 11th July
ShirleyAddy xxxxxxxxxxxx Pleasington (near Blackburn) July/August (date to be arranged)

Ken Brockwayxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Marston Montgomery (near Rocester/Utttoxeter), in the week 1st-5th July

Please respond ASAP. Adding your name to our lists does not commit you to attend but it will mean you will be kept informed of upcoming group inspections. Remember we need your email and mobile phone number.

David Gosling,
Vice Chair and Trustee

Forthcoming Meets

Wednesday 2 July Eyam Walk Chris Paice

This walk begins at Eyam, the car park opposite the museum but above the toilets. Ref 767 214. Toilets usually open for when we start. We'll walk across to Foolow, Grindlow and then begin steadily climbing up to Abney Moor. This will take in Hucklow farm and Abney Grange. Across the Moor to Brough Lane. This we will follow North easterly ish to Wolfs Pit. Here it is easterly to the sheepfold at the edge of Smelting Hill. Southerly to Abney, Cockey farm, crossing Bretton Brook to Nether Bretton picking up the Sir William Hill track. This takes us east to Ladywash farm. At this point we go south (not past the YHA) but taking a track to lead us back to the start point.

Some steep ascents but also the more level areas across the fields and moor and easier track walking. Should be good views and may be a glider or two.

Distance 9.85 miles

Total elevation 1692.89 ft

Chris Paice Email xxxxxxxxx tel: xxxxxxxxx

4 - 6 July Roaches Meet Charlie Taylor

Join me at the Don Whillans memorial hut located at the Roaches in Staffordshire, for some of the best gritstone on offer. There's plenty to go at from the door but for those seeking a little more solitude, Hen Cloud and Ramshaw rocks are nearby as well as ample bouldering.

This former hunting lodge, once home to self-proclaimed lord of the Roaches, Doug Mellor, is part lodge, part cave! It's a lot more spacious than might first appear and sleeps 12 with kitchen and living areas.

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

Thursday 17 July short walk Pentrich Ruth Gordon

We will meet for an 11.00 am start on the Lower Hartshay road SK377516 near the traffic lights at Buckland Hollow on the A610 Ambergate to Ripley road. We will make a clockwise circuit via Lodge Hill Farm, Wingfield Park, Wingfield Manor, Weir Mill Farm, and Coneygreys Farm to Pentrich where, who knows? the pub might be open, before returning to our start. It is about six miles, mostly farmland so quite a few stiles, but the ascents are fairly gentle and the views surprisingly good.

Ruth Gordon email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxx

18-20 July Anglesey Climbing Ed Bloomfield

We will be based at the Valley of the Rocks campsite, Portdafrarch, Trearddur Bay Isle of Anglesey LL65 2LL Tel: 01407 765787. You need names and vehicle registration number to book in. An opportunity for both climbing on Gogarth or Holyhead Mountain or for exploring the walking and lovely beaches on Anglesey. Join the WhatsApp group or be in touch with me for more info.

Ed Bloomfield email xxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxx

Saturday 26 July Shuttlingsloe walk Clive (Rusty) Russell

The walk will start from Wildboardclough, parking in a disused roadside quarry at approximately SJ 983682 just beyond the T junction on the right. The route initially trends westwards on field paths below the flank of Shuttlingsloe. We shall pass the Pot Lords pub and join the Gritstone Trail before flanking the reservoirs to a scenic lunch stop. Thereafter we turn back East, through the trees to toil up the flank of Shuttlingsloe proper before descending back to the start. Although parking as I write this is free and unregulated this is anathema to the various park and highway authorities in the neighborhood so it would be wise to check with me (xxxxxxx or xxxxxxxxxxx close to the time to confirm these details and discuss car sharing if possible.

1 – 3 August Coniston Low House (MAM Hut) Nigel Briggs

We have a booking at the well appointed MAM Hut, Low House, in Coniston at the beginning of August.

There are plenty of climbing options, Dow Crag may even be warm and dry, the Coppermines valley has numerous crags and there is always the local slate to visit for both trad and sport. If you have had enough of summer rock climbing and your thoughts are turning to winter, there are dry tooling venues near by.

Walking and scrambling are well catered for with the Coniston Range across the road from the hut. The Old Man is likely to be busy but there are plenty of other hills to enjoy.

If it is hot, and it is your sort of thing, there are plenty of swimming options available from Coniston Water to mountain tarns, by August Goat Water may even be pleasant!

If you want to attend please get in touch with me.

Nigel Briggs email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel xxxxxxxx

and look out for the meet specific Whatsapp group.

Wednesday 6 August Rowsley to Matlock Stuart Firth

This is a one-way walk using a bus - or possibly train - to get us to our start point at Massarella's café, Rowsley Retail Park. (W3W reaction.forget.shelving). I propose we meet at the café for a coffee beforehand and leave at 11:00.

We'll walk past Stanton in Peak, linger at Nine Ladies and contemplate the view from Will Shore's Tree before arriving in Matlock. Who knows? There might be afternoon scones chez moi at the end. Bring lunch.

Technicalities: 13.1 km, ascent 480m, descent 450m. Estimated walking time 4h 55m.

There are three potential bus pick-up points in Matlock: Bakewell Road bus station, the train station and Gateway Court - the flats on the A6 near Sainsburys. The steam choo-choo might also be operating from the platform near Sainsburys if you like that sort of thing. Transport is frequent and timetables are liable to change so best to Google before travel.

Contact Stuart Firth: email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxx

8-10 August - Heathy Lea Family Meet Rob Beck

Come and join us for family fun on the 8-10 of August at the Heathy Lea Club Hut.

For the big kids, we have easy access to local gritstone crags - Birchen and Gardoms a short walk away. For the younger ones there will be piñatas, giant jenga and water gun painting.

We'll toast the weekend with a bbq and drinks on Saturday night.

All welcome.

Rob Beck tel. xxxxxx

16 August Geo walk Edale – Birchen Clough Michael Percival

PLEASE NOTE, AN EARLIER THAN NORMAL START TIME (09:00) DUE TO BUSY PARKING AND A LONGER CAR SHUTTLE.

Being a linear walk shuttle cars will be required. Could I ask those offering a taxi service back to Edale be parked at Birchen Clough Bridge lay-by (Grid ref SK 109 914) prior to 08:10.

Meeting in Edale Car Park at 08:45 the walk starts at 09:00.

Embark on a stunning GeoWalk along the initial stretch of the Pennine Way, the path follows a geological sequence of Late Carboniferous sandstones and shales, capped by younger superficial deposits like peat and head.

We begin at The Old Nags Head in Edale and set off towards Upper Booth, look out for the massive Mam Nick landslide across the valley. Ascend steeply via Jacob's Ladder to Kinder Low's trig point (633 m), navigating sandstone boulders and thick peat bogs, a hallmark of Kinder Scout formed under wetter, cooler climates 5,000-6,000 years ago. Restoration of these bogs boosts water quality, carbon storage, and biodiversity.

Continue along the plateau's western edge to Kinder Downfall, a dramatic cascade over sandstone steps, especially striking after heavy rain. From here, descend via the Pennine Way to Ashop Head, then follow the rugged, often wet path down Ashop Clough's V-shaped valley, shaped by the Shale Grit Formation and mantled with head deposits from periglacial frost action. The route concludes through a pleasant forestry plantation at Snake Pass, ending at the A57 car park.

Start = Edale Car Park | SK 124 857 | [Google Link](#)

End = Birchen Clough Bridge | SK 109 914 | [Google link](#)

Wednesday 20 August Steve Clegg Memorial Event Rawhead Barn Langdale Howard Lancashire

The venue will be the Fell and Rock Climbing Club property, Rawhead Barn and Cottage, Langdale, Lake District. This will be an all day gathering, come and go as you please. We shall be providing food from around late afternoon into the evening and beyond! It would be helpful if you could let me know of any particular dietary requirements, i.e. vegetarian or gluten free, which we shall do our best to accommodate. We shall also have some local beer on tap - if people prefer other drinks, wine, soft drinks etc. it would probably be best if you bring your own.

For full details of accommodation and parking options see your May newsletter.

It would be helpful if you would RSVP me to give us an idea for catering requirements.

Howard Lancashire tel. xxxx email xxxxxxxxxxxx

Thursday 21 August short walk Wirestone area Chris Paice

A circular from Wirestone quarry.

We start at the car park known as Wirestone Quarry but also known as Eddlestow Lot. Map ref; 324 633, no postcode but it is actually a Derbyshire County Council car park. Off Robriding Road, which leads to Overend. Approx a 5 mile walk, 672 ft of elevation so a more gentle circular. The most northerly point being a place called Peasunhurst.

11 a.m. start with packed lunches, drinks, conversation and hopefully some laughter.

Look forward to your company.

Christine xxxxxxxxx

22-25 August Pembroke Camping meet

Keep an eye on the WhatsApp for a group for this meet or be in touch with Ed Bloomfield for information nearer the time.

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



The venue is Ailefroide in The Ecrins National Park, France for the first week of September i.e. 30th August to 6th September. Just nine weeks away! See last month's newsletter for more info on this wonderful area.

Looks like a sufficient and keen enough team is heading for the Haute Val Durance.

My wife and I will be there from Friday the 29 th August for two weeks.

The campsite guardian says there will be no problem finding a space for a group after the last weekend in August. Would be good to know if anybody is looking for a van hook up. If so please contact me or Camping Ailefroide direct.

[Camping Ailefroide \(Vallouise-Pelvoux\) | Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Tourism](#)

Any questions etc feel free to contact me.

Nige Berry: email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxx

12-19 October Kalymnos Emma Hayes

Join the WhatsApp group or be in touch to find out more.

Emma Hayes: email [xxxxxxxxxx](#) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 22nd November Oread Annual Dinner **Christine Paice** **6.45pm for 7:15pm**

The annual dinner is at:

The Bentley Brook Inn

Fenny Bentley,

Ashbourne DE6 1LF

Phone: [01335 350278](tel:01335350278)

Overnight accommodation

The pub does have accommodation. Rooms are limited, there are now 11 rooms vacant for us, various sizes. Bentley Brook are currently holding the rooms **until 22nd September and are offering a 10% discount** on all rooms booked direct, guests can call on 01335 350278 to secure their room and discount.

We have secured overnight spaces for 6 camper vans in the car park. There is only **one space** left at the time of writing.

Contact xxxxxxxxxxxx.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this annual OREAD event.

The booking form is at the end of the Newsletter.

Please complete your booking form and return to Christine Paice no later than 28th October – thank you!

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Lowstern Meet, Yorkshire Dales 5-9 June Peter Amour

Mid-day on the Thursday saw Nick, John and myself drop our gear off at this superb hut, grab some scoff, and head for nearby Austwick to kick the weekend off in the typically limestone local terrain. The walk saw us head east and onto the quirkily named but really rewarding limestone escarpment of Giggleswick Scar.

Friday had the three of us motor up to Chapel Le Dale, with Nick guiding us by some impressive cascading sink holes, disused quarries and onto the extensive areas of clints and grykes, now nature reserves, displaying great vistas of Wharfedale, Ingleborough and Pen y Ghent, plus the bonus of a wide variety of flora, some of which were rare.



A wet Saturday saw Pete and Ali and Mike Percival visit the Stainforth area, exploring the huge defunct Hoffmann lime kilns before gaining height to pass by the former Bolton Speliological Society hut in Lower Winskill (Pete's old club). The

rains made for a good reason to take a shufty at the very lively Catrigg and Stainforth Forces before seeing sense and going to the pub.

Mike's partner Jae didn't like the idea of getting wet in the rain, so went caving instead with Crewe Caving Club in Kingdale's Master Cave, before deciding the waters there were too extreme, and went down Toyland Extension to see if they could drown in there instead. With common sense coming to the fore, Jae and Co decided to do more rational things by visiting a bar, where she bought herself a hot chocolate, a hot chocolate in a bar.....I worry for the girl!

Sunday's outing had us meet up with Frederique Gwyther at Embsay reservoir and have an enjoyable time circumnavigating the Embsay and Bardsey Moors in temperamental weather, which, for all its attempts, didn't spoil the day and gave us some extensive views around Wharfedale and the wider area.



Michael Percival being a gentleman and not blocking anyone out of the shot on Barden Moor!

Thanks to John Gwyther, Nick Evans, Mike Percival, Jae Yeon Oh, and Pete and Ali Kennington for joining me, and making it an interesting weekend.

Dovedale Walk 4 June Rusty Russell

Although numbers were low – perhaps because it fell between the Skye and Yorkshire meets a good time was had by all and the views were stunning! As usual the challenge of a Rusty walk was trying to keep up with the meet leader as he raced off into the distance!



Later however the esteemed Meet Leader was reduced to begging for water!
 Photos Gill Radcliffe.



Chimes of Freedom Roger Gibbs

Apparently Mowing Word is one of those spots which can elude climbers year after year. Its long-standing history of being bird restricted has obviously added to this impression. Now that the main crag is free from any restriction, and Mowing Word can be climbed on all year round, it should see much more

attention. There's certainly lots to go at across the grades. I've never been in quite a lot of years climbing in Pembroke, so there might be something to this.

We'd been paddling in some sit on kayaks in the morning, so when the kids voted for a beach afternoon, we wandered over to Mowing Word for a fairly low key session. It was pretty blowy, so we found ourselves seriously over dressed walking across the beach. Back up on the tops the wind returned but the sun shone. We spotted the crag from a distance, wow it looked good and we seemed to have it to ourselves. I spotted a stunning, crack seamed wall perched over bands of overhangs.

"What goes up there? It looks mega!" We fished the guide out. It can't be can it? Blimey, that's Chimes of Freedom.

"I've got to do that!"



It was dead low tide, so we could abseil all the way to the beach and avoid any hanging belay unpleasantness. Chris rigged the rope while I ran back around to our viewing spot to make sure we had the correct line – spot on. Still there was no one around. We hadn't missed a bird ban had we? There was nothing in the RAD so down we went. It looked seriously impressive and unchalked. The tide had turned so we needed to be fairly efficient. Chris was relaxed and pointed out the giant tooth of rock he could retreat to if he needed to avoid the waves. I set off on easy ground with just a hint of fragility. Twenty feet up, I squeezed in a couple of runners and called down to Chris to offer a higher belay. He assured me it would be fine. I pressed on: the rock was now excellent and the moves more interesting. A long stretch and I was into the corner below the first roof. Bomber gear and

chunky laybacking and I'm looking at the first of the overhanging climbing. I'm extending all the runners, I don't want rope drag on weary arms after 40 metres of this. I pull out right and gain a big break but it's all a bit pressing. More kit and back left. My right hip is against the overhang, facing left, and above me is a massive layaway which is clearly only going to work if I'm facing right. I visualise the sinuous hip rotation required. Then udge and grunt with a little less fluidity. I'm up. Except the groove I've now gained appears to still be overhanging. I'll just slot in this wire and pull through to merely vertical ground. Unfortunately, my arms, puny at the best of times, seem to have acquired the consistency of damp spaghetti. I shuffle around and finally find a semi-resting spot while sweat runs into my eyes and feeling gradually returns. After a while, I reach across and drop in the promised wire. Another minute or two and I can contemplate pulling through onto the hanging face. The rest is superb and I'm running out of superlatives for the positions, the gear and the climbing. What a route, but what do you expect, it's a Pat Littlejohn job! I haul myself over the top and sort the belay. Another team has arrived now.

"What's the block like?" they ask.

Err, it's clearly still there, I think. "Fine, no problem," I reply.

Chris races up, slightly sheepishly showing us where the incoming tide has soaked his trousers. He admits to having been a little excited on the overhangs and I'm feeling pretty smug.

What an epic route. A little research later reveals some concern over the blocks in the break. I look again at the picture. Blimey they're about the size of a car! It will take a mighty winter storm to shift that lot, not some puny little climber. Sharon has walked past while we've been doing battle and snapped some impressive looking shots. You can almost see Chris trying to dodge the waves. The grin from this route lasts most of the week.

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.

Reg Squires: An Appreciation Clive Russell



Reg, having joined the Oread Mountaineering Club in 1967, rapidly became a friend to myself and others through its agency. My first recollection dates from a winter meeting in Langdale (I think in 1968). I was between jobs and houses and without access to all my normal equipment and arrived ill shod and clothed and with a makeshift children's play tent. Like the rest, Reg did not refrain from comment but immediately it was clear that humour and not ridicule was the motivation, and we decided to join forces for the Saturday activity. We enjoyed an extremely testing day with a circuit of the Langdale skyline in poor conditions and this cemented a friendship which was to endure.

Reg worked for a while I think in Manchester and I worked in Chester for a couple of years so, both distant from our natural environment, we met socially a few times. Thereafter Reg and Anne lived in Africa for a spell and when they returned to the UK (I have heard stories of a return overland by Land Rover) and I came back to live and work in the Peak District, it was a great re union and we hastened back to the local crags. We had one holiday in Scotland when the weather was deplorable. A tourist visit to Eilian Donan Castle saw us cut off from the clouded sky but made colder by the gloomy walls (no energy performance certificate in those days). Reg and I salvaged the holiday with a traverse of the Sisters of Kintail. I repeated this many years later and it seemed much further and steeper.

During the passage of years it became clear to all that Reg was chronically unpunctual and frequently disorganised and ill equipped. An extreme example was an occasion when by arrangement he was to meet myself and (I think) Mike Wren for a walk on the moors above Baslow. He arrived, predictably late in a very ramshackle vehicle, with one of his own boots and a basketball boot, both for the

right foot. With difficulty, using a horse paring knife and some baling string, we were able to fit him out to the absolute lowest standard but making mobility possible. On the way he lost his car key. Using plain wire from the fence I managed to poke through the rubber window surround and get the door open. By connecting the ignition to some bare wire at the stoplight we were able to start his engine from a push and send him on a perilous journey home. The salient point is that his friendly and patient personality was such that people were willing to tolerate the inconvenience of his eccentric failings. Indeed when, sadly, I had to relay news of his passing for circulation round the club, an immediate spontaneous reaction was “ he was such a character”.

Reg, myself, the late Colin Barnard and other frequent companions were in the lower quartile of climbing abilities but this did not prevent us from having many successful, enjoyable and active expeditions. Year on year we attended inter alia the Oread club Patterdale Meet, the Welsh Hut at Easter and, much later on, he, Colin Hobday, Peter Amour and myself would meet on Wednesday evenings for rock climbing at Rainster Rocks and other nearby venues. In the mountains proper where the climbs were longer than one length of the rope then we had to “belay” or attach the team to the rock whilst the leader carried on. I remember, when several of us ascended the North Buttress on Tryfan, he paid me the very great compliment of insisting that his then young son Adam was attached to my section of the rope rather than his, tacitly implying that Adam would thereby be safer. On another ascent at Cwm Silyn, I faltered and Reg took the lead over the most exposed section. As befits a team pulling together we each played to the other’s strengths.

In later life we gradually lost the ability and motivation for the longer walks and climbs but in what must now be viewed as an Indian summer we met on several of the more recently initiated “Oread Short Walks.” Those memories will remain. Reg may have been in failing health but we can take comfort from the manner of his passing, a sudden medical event whilst fishing in the Dove with Adam, he even had a fish on the line!

Derek Carnell 30 July 1933 – 29 May 2025

Ruth Gordon writes:

Derek joined the Oread in 1969 but he would have been well known to members earlier as he and Nat Allen, along with other members of the Rock and Ice, were much involved in exploring the possibilities of the Manifold Valley limestone. His name appears on the 1960s first ascents of Skylight Groove, Skylight Flake, Ocelot Groove and Nocturne. Then they turned their attention to Dovedale where, with Derrick Burgess and Les Peel, they indulged in an orgy of new-routing in the upper reaches of Tissington Spires, just as the guidebook was being published. Derek's routes include such esoteric gems as Topsy Turvey, Veteran's Chimbley and Sentinel Crack. Derek's article, (in the July 1971 Oread newsletter) is one of the funniest climbing accounts I have ever read and cherished. There is an extract in the 50th Anniversary Journal but seek out the original on the website – it is well worth the effort!

By this time the team had also discovered North Pembroke and from 1970 – the mid 1980s his name appears again and again in the list of first ascents, often

with Patti too. Llenrac Slabs, of course, bears his name! I remember a club meet in the early 1980s when he recommended us some of his favourite routes there. He enjoyed several holidays in the Alps and Pyrenees with some notable ascents detailed in "Climb if You Will" and he loved skiing. For some years he looked after the ski tows for Derby Ski Club. My own fondest memories of Derek are of time spent with him on skiing holidays in the 1990s – he did not let his painful arthritic knees stop him although he had to sit on the edge of the bath and spray them with cold water for 15 minutes at the end of each day to bring the swelling down. His gentle down-to-earth sense of humour was unfailing and his kind common sense eased many a fraught moment! To me, he typified everything that made the Oread such a great club to be part of.



Derek, pictured by Gordon Gadsby in June 1973, with his dog, Brandy.

Dennis Gray writes:

Oh dear... Derek was such a major figure of the Notts/Derby climbing fraternity. I had many good experiences/days with him and Nat Allen.
Please pass on my condolences and respect to Patti and all of his friends.

Derek Carnell - Personal Memories - Stuart Firth

Sea-cliff climbing in Pembroke in the 1970s was one of Derek's passions. He was knowledgeable, confident and enthusiastic in equal measure and kept copious notes for later incorporation into guide books. He always had a dimpled smile on his face and encouraged rookies - such as myself - to have a go. In those days opportunities for new routes were extensive - even at the lower grades that suited my ability. There were many Oread camping meets in Pembroke and we had a lot

of fun.

Derek was a big buddy of Nat Allen and mixed with members of the Rock and Ice fraternity. He had many practical skills and turned his hand to developing and making rock protection. This was in the era when “nuts” were just that - drilled out fastenings. He made “wires” and was generous in giving away samples, one of which is still in my possession and shown here:



Also in the 1970s, Derek was keen on the Pyrenees and I fondly remember a camping / climbing trip with him, Patti, their friend Les Peel and Jonathan(?). We did the Grande Vignemale, at 3298m the highest peak in the French Pyrenees, and also something at Gavarnie which involved a stay in a cold hut, rendered sleepless by co-habitees lying on constantly rustling aluminium foil. A small price to pay for a memorable time in good company.

In more recent times, although my contact was restricted to Oread dinners, Derek's warm rapport was unchanging. I continue to value his influence.

Information on Member Activities

Current Provisional members Dave Farrow and Phil Sturgeon have applied for full membership. If you would like to comment on these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle

What was the date and location and occasion when this photograph was taken?
(Bonus points for the names of the cast).



Oread Annual Dinner Order Form

The dinner will be on the **22nd November** and will cost £30 per person (2 courses) or £35.00 (3 courses). Tea or coffee is included in the price.

Please write your name and the name of your guest(s) in the boxes on the top line and tick one item per course per person and ensure it is clear re: dietary needs.

Either post your completed form to Ruth Gordon, 4 Lumsdale Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock Derbys. DE4 5LB

or **scan and email** your form to

xxxxxxxxxxxxx to arrive by 28th October at the latest.

I will acknowledge your form and if that doesn't happen within reasonable time, please let me know.

Payment can be made in one of 2 ways:

- **By cheque payable to Oread MC**

- **By bank transfer to Oread A/C No.: 62584068; Sort code 30-98-97.**

Please state *Your Name-Dinner* in the reference.

I must have the completed forms by 28th October AT THE LATEST!

Name:				
Payment Method:	BACS / Cheque			
Starter:				
Butternut squash and sweet potato soup (VE) (DF) (GF*)				
Chefs home-made smoked mackerel pate, Scottish oatcakes and chutney				
Chilled fan of melon with fruit coulis (VE) (DF) (GF)				
Main Course:				
Roast chicken, sage and onion stuffing, sausage and bacon				
Baked loin of cod with a tomato and mascarpone sauce				
Roasted pepper stuffed with Mediterranean cous cous, tomato passata and roasted vegetables (V)(VE) (DF)				
All served with a selection of seasonal vegetables	((((((((((((	((((((((((((	((((((((((((	((((((((
Dessert:				
Homemade sticky toffee pudding and butterscotch sauce				
Fresh fruit pavlova with Chantilly cream (GF) (DF*)				
Vegan vanilla cheesecake, fresh red berries,dairy free ice cream(VE)				

Tea/ coffee and mints

Please note here any preference for who you would like to sit next to.

*Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. Email newseditor@oread.co.uk*