

Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

April 2026



Stuart and Emily Young and John Gwyther on Hartsop above How, Patterdale meet. Photo Pip Leach, see page 12 for the story.

Editorial

Meets coming up range from Wales, Cornwall to Scotland, local walks including the next Geo walk and further ahead, details of the summer alpine meet and a sun rock trip for February 2027!

Write ups include local walks, the Patterdale meet and the Photo Competition with links to view the whole show on YouTube. There are also photos and memories of Gil Male and sadly, news of the recent death of Peter O'Neill.

Copy Deadline 20 April.

Meets List 2026 - Edward Bloomfield

Ed Bloomfield email edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com tel. 07990 066362

	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
J a n u a r y	1st	Youlgreave	New Years Day walk	Richard Freestone
	6th	Royal Oak, Ockbrook, OMC	Winter Lecture	0
	10-12th	Mlehouse Cottage Kingussie	Winter Climbing Meet, Cairngorms	Edward Bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	22nd	ashover	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	24th	0	Saturday walk	John Gwyther
0	0	0	0	
F e b r u a r y	3rd	Royal Oak, Ockbrook, OMC	Winter Lecture	Aaron Wgley
	4th	tbc	Wednesday walk	Steve Eboth
	6-8th	Inverandran Cottage	Winter Climbing, Orianlarich	Steve Christian
	Dec-99	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	19th	chatsworth	Thursday short walk	Chris Paice
	21st	Milldale- Wotton Mill (15km)	Saturday Geowalk	Stuart Firth
	0	0	0	0
28-1st	Heathy Lea	Maintenance meet	Kevin RM	
0	0	0	0	
M a r c h	4th	Edale/Kinder	Wednesday walk	Simon Pape
	6-8th	George Starkey Hut Patterdale	Winter Lake District meet	Pip Leach
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	12-17th	Toubkal Alpine walking/ climbing	Atlas Mountains	Nigel Berry
	12th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21st	Matlock	Pre AGM Saturday walk	John Gwyther
	21st	the bear alderwasley	AGM	michael moss
	22nd	tbc	Spring Stride Post AGM Sunday walk	Nigel Briggs
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	
A p r i l	1st	Ecton	Wednesday walk	Nigel Briggs
	0	0	0	0
	16th	monyash	Thursday short walk	chris paice
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	25th	Birchen Clough - Fairholmes	Geowalk Saturday	Louise Amandini
24-26th	Edale	Pennine Way in stages (stage 1)	Neil Weatherstone	
24-26th	TyWNbrth Wáles	Climbing & walking, North Wáles	Nigel Berry	
0	0	0	0	
M a y	1-8th	Cornwall camping meet	Climbing and walking, Cornwall	Edward Bloomfield
	13th	Charnwood Forest	Wednesday walk	Mike Rittig
	15-17th	Heathy Lea	New members meet	??
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	21st	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	23rd	tbc	Saturday walk	Louise Amandini
0	0	0	0	
22-26th	Scotland	Walking and Climbing meet	Michael Moss	
0	0	0	0	
J u n e	3rd	tbc	Wednesday walk	Nick Evans
	6th	windgather rocks	picnic and ear defenders	Daniel Boast
	12-19th	Fairhead (Belfast)	Ireland	Kevin Raisin Moss
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	20th	Fairholmes - Upper Burbage	Geowalk Saturday	Jan Wilson
25th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon	
26-28th	Little Langdale Fylde MC Hut	Climbing and walking meet, Lake District	Snod Helliwell?	

J u l y	1st	Monsal Head	Wednesday walk	Peter Amour
	3-7th	Tyw	Maintenance meet	Snod
	10-12th	Ynys Etws, CC Hut, Llanberis Pass	Climbing in Llanberis Pass	Mike Mowbray
	0	0	0	0
	17-19th	Cader Idris	Wales	Nigel Berry
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	23rd	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
25th	Mow Cop 23km	Saturday walk	Nick Evans	
A u g u s t	31-2nd Aug	Coniston Copper Mines, YMCHut	Climbing and walking meet, Lake District	Tim Harrison
	5th	Danebower Hallow	Wednesday walk	Rusty Russell
	8th-15th	Val Cenis Vanoise national park	Alpine meet	Steve Christian
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	22nd	Upper Burbage - Robin Hood	Geowalk Saturday	Rachel Walker
	27th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Chris Paice
28-31st	Pembroke camping meet	Climbing and walking meet	0	
S e p t e m b e r	2nd	tbc	Wednesday walk	Chris Mather
	5-12th	Lundy Island	Climbing meet	Kevin Raisin Moss
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	26th	tbc	Saturday walk	Stuart Firth
25-27th	Hblyhead, Rhoscolyn	Climbing & Camping weekend	Alan Monks	
0	0	0	0	
O c t o b e r	3-4th	Heathy Lea	Maintenance meet	Kevin Raisin Moss
	7th	tbc	Wednesday walk	Nigel Briggs
	9-11th	Great Langdale FROCC Hut	Climbing and walking, Lake District	Janet Briggs
	0	0	0	0
	9-18th ish	Kalymmos	Sport Climbing	??
	15th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24th	Upper Burbage Bridge - Robin Hood 15k	Geowalk finale Saturday	Gill Radcliffe
30-1st	TyWNbrth Wales	Curry meet, Climbing and walking	Tony Howard	
N o v e m b e r	4th	tbc	Wednesday walk	Rachael Walker
	6-8th	Heathy Lea	Bonfire Night	???
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	14th	Annual Dinner tbc	0	0
	15th	Walk	Post Prandial walk tbc	???
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	25th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	26th-6th dec	Wadi Rum Jordan	Climbing meet	Ed Bloomfield
0	0	0	0	

D e c e m b e r	2nd	0	Wednesday walk	Steve Booth
	4-6th	Bullstones Meet	0	??
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	23rd	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26th	tbc	Boxing Day walk	tbc

Heathy Lea temporary restriction on overnight stays

A lot of hard work is ongoing by committee members, the hut committee and some very much appreciated volunteers to ensure that Heathy Lea will reopen for overnight use as soon as possible. The fire exit and fire alarm system should be completed by 10 April if all goes according to plan, allowing normal bookings to resume. Updates on progress will come via the newsletter and email.

New Reciprocal Rights with the Rucksack Club

Ed has managed to negotiate kindred club status with the Rucksack Club. Well done that man.

They have three huts, at Ballachulish, near Glencoe, at Seathwaite in the Duddon Valley, Lake District, and at Nantperis. He will be booking them for next year's meets list but if you wish to use them on your own you should use their website to contact the relevant Hut Warden, telling them you are Oread and you will receive a discounted rate for kindred clubs. <https://rucksackclub.org/>

Forthcoming Meets

Wednesday evening climbing venues

Apr	Apr 1	harborough rocks	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	Apr 8	Mason Lees quarry	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	Apr 15	wilersly	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	Apr 22	Crattcliffe	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	Apr 29	wildcat	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
May	May 6	Burbage North	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	May 13	Curbar	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	May 20	Gardoms Edge	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside
	May 27	Lawrencefield/Millstone	Whats app to coordinate	Spring Outside

Wednesday Walk - 1 April Around Ecton Nigel Briggs

Yes, there really is a walk on April Fools Day!

Meet at the car park by Weag's Bridge (SK099542) at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure. The route takes us through Wetton, to Ecton Hill, passing by Warslow before heading first south and then east to Wetton Mill, where afternoon tea could be taken, before strolling down the Manifold Valley, enjoying the spring sunshine, back to Weag's Bridge. The distance is about 14 km with about 500 m of ascent.

As we are in Staffordshire expect it to be muddy.

Please let me know if you will be joining.

Nigel Briggs email – nigel.briggs@btinternet.com, tel. - 07939 660369.

2-6 April Easter Peak District climbing

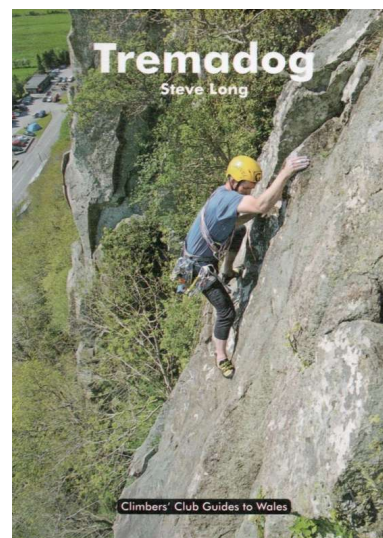
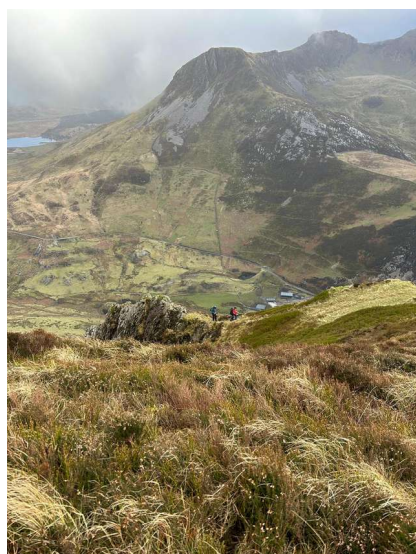
As nobody has volunteered to lead a meet we hope the weather will be kind and we can organise some sociable local climbing days in the peak via the WhatsApp groups. Ed Bloomfield email edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com tel. 07990 066362

Thursday 16 April Short Walk Monyash Chris Paice

Beginning at the car park west of Monyash, near the school, café and pub. Free. Grid Ref: SK150 667. Meeting at 10.30a.m. for a 10.45 a.m. start. NOTE EARLIER THAN USUAL DUE TO POTENTIAL LACK OF SPACE IN THE CAR PAK AND ROADSIDE. The plan is to walk along Derby Lane towards Arbor Low. Whilst in the vicinity, we'll go to Arbor Low. Returning to the footpath to take us to Cales Dale, One Ash grange, then footpath towards Ricklow quarry. This brings us to the upper part of Lathkill Dale and we return to the cars via Bagshaw Dale or the road. Approx 10km (6.5 miles), not much ascent, 1760m (512 feet) but this doesn't include Arbor Low. Bring your usual supplies of food and liquid and join a happy, steady walking group of OREADS.

Contact Chris Paice: tel. 07773 045838 email: walkng.paice@hotmail.co.uk

24-26 April Post Easter Meet Tan yr Wyddfa Nige Berry



HILLWALKING - SCRAMBLING - CLIMBING

Ideal weekend for Tremadoc/ Moelwyns;

Walking and scrambling on the western/southern side of Snowdonia.

Based at the club hut.

Something for every Oread member, prospective, family and friends.

Join the Whatsapp group or contact Nige B. email: nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk

Pennine Way in Stages 24 to 26 April - Section A Edale to Hebden Bridge (3 days, 46 miles / 75 km) Neil Weatherstone

The aim is to complete the Pennine Way in sections over 5 or 6 long weekends over several years, using public transport to get to the start and end of the sections. It'll be a relaxed pace as we have much to carry and all day to arrive at our end point for the night.

Day 1: Edale to Crowden (18 miles / 29 km)

Starting at Edale 09:00 from the Nags Head, I'll be arriving on a train at Edale station not long before at 08:47. The first day will take us up Jacob's Ladder, up on to Kinder, across Featherbed Moss, over Bleaklow and down to Crowden where I plan to camp at the Camping and Caravan Club site (?12.75 for members).

Day 2: Crowden to Standage (12 miles / 20 km)

A climb to start the day past Laddow Rocks and on to Black Hill and across Wassenden Moor, as we approach Standage I suggest a detour to Diggle to stay overnight at the Diggle Hotel or just call in for food and drinks and head back up for a wild camp on the moors.

Day 3: Standage to Hebden Bridge (16 miles / 26 km)

Following the remainder of Standage to White Hill then crossing over the M62 to reach Blackstone Edge and hopefully a lunch stop at the White Horse. Passing reservoirs on the way to Stoodley Pike before dropping down hill into Charlestown and Hebden Bridge where I plan to catch a train back to Derby.

A few people expressed interest last year when I suggested the idea of completing the Pennine Way in bitesized chunks. Hopefully you are still up for it. Please let me know if you intend to join me and we can make finer arrangements for the accommodation etc on the OMC Whatsapp group called 'Pennine Way 24 to 26th April'.

Neil Weatherstone (07946825798)

Saturday 25 April Geo walk Birchen Clough – Fairholmes Louise Amandini

This is section 11 of the official Geo walk. It is approximately seven miles from Birchen Clough to Fairholmes car park. I would suggest starting at Birchen Clough and doing a car shunt as when I did a recce it was impossible to start at Fairholmes as no parking and tricky to park at Birchen Clough. Therefore I feel we need to aim for a 9.30 am start and try and car share where possible. I looked at a circular walk - proved very tricky without being really long. Depends on who is coming - we can be a bit fluid on the day and go with the flow as there are possible options or could just extend the Fairholmes end to the dams a little! If folks want to let me know if they are coming I will do my best regarding figuring out logistics. It would help if you let me know how many cars/people in cars.
Louise Amandini tel. 07876 543171.

1 - 8 May Cornwall Ed Bloomfield

This meet is fast approaching and the Kelynack campsite near St Just needs booking in advance: <https://kelynackholidays.co.uk/> It's a great spot for an early summer holiday with walking and climbing opportunities galore. Join the WhatsApp group or be in touch.

Ed Bloomfield email edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com tel. 07990 066362

Wednesday 13 May Charnwood Forest Walk Mike Rittig

This walk links some of the small pockets of country parks in the Charnwood Forest, a very unique landscape between Leicester and Loughborough, famous for displaying some of the oldest rocks in England where the first published discovery of Precambrian fossils took place. We will meet at the Outwoods Woodland P&D car park at 10am (OS Grid Reference SK514159, W3W \\form.signature.tripling, nearest postcode LE11 3YG) This is a large car park with cafe and toilets, £2 fee for the day. We will walk through the bluebell carpets of the Outwoods via Woodhouse Eaves to Swithland Woods, Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and Buck Hill back to the Outwoods, 12ish relatively easy miles with 600m ascent.

Please let me know whether you would like to join the walk.

Mike Rittig: either text me on 07484 114 996 or email mike.rittig@gmail.com

22-26 May Ben Nevis/Glen Nevis Michael Moss

Lots of opportunities for climbing, scrambling and walking here. I'm planning to camp at the Glen Nevis campsite which is walking distance from Fort William and close to the climbing on the Ben and Glen Nevis. The hope is to do some mountain rock routes on the north face. If the conditions aren't right then lower level routes in Glen Nevis are an alternative.

Michael Moss email mamoss@btinternet.com tel. 07932 420414

8 -15 August The Vanoise National Park Alpine meet Steve Christian

This year's summer alpine meet takes us to the Val Cenis in the Vanoise National Park. We'll be staying at Termignon, a small alpine village that has everything you need and is also the terminus for the summer access bus to the higher valley car parks that give access to the inner mountains (NB access road closed in the summer to tourists). We'll be staying at camping Les Melezes, which has good facilities and plenty of shade, [link here](#).

[Les Mèlèzes à Val-Cenis Termignon en Savoie](#)

The campsite in Termignon is now open for bookings for the Oread summer alpine meet on the 8th to 15th August, see the link below. Some members are arriving earlier or staying longer.

The message from the site manager is:

"When booking, you can add comments and in this case, fill in "oread" so that we can make sure to assign you places close to each other.

Note that the pitches measure at least 80m² and that it is possible to accommodate up to 6 people on them, so it is possible for the members of your group to reserve 1 single pitch for several tents and several people so that it is more economical for you"

https://thelisresa.webcamp.fr/list.php?camping=melezes73&lang=en&PHPSESSID=fj18brs0b76lcdhl6lgn7405rs&begin=2026-08-08&duration=7&end=2026-08-15&nb_pers=1&type=1

There is walking, mountaineering, via ferrata, valley cragging, mountain cragging, mountain and road riding all within easy reach. It's good for active families and I have holidayed there many times in the last decade.

There is general information about the area in the link below.

[Vanoise National Park - Haute Maurienne Vanoise](#)

There is a Cicerone selective guidebook in English that covers the many activities (link below), along with French language and topo guides for more detail on rock climbing in the area.

https://www.cicerone.co.uk/mountain-adventures-in-the-maurienne?srsId=AfmBOooDTQXwE_1-V9r-MOE1iefgcU_Uh1BckP5QxX_or5HVekfzJrEN

If you have any questions about the activities in the area, I have spent several summers here in the last decade, undertaking family activities like rock climbing, via ferrata, MTB, walking and easy mountaineering, so don't hesitate to contact me. Any queries you can reach me on climbersteve@hotmail.com, there is also a WhatsApp group in the Oread Community you can join to express interest, keep up to date or ask questions.

Steve Christian

25 November - 6 December Desert Rock 2026 Wadi Rum Ed Bloomfield

Due to recent events Wadi Rum may not be a suitable destination this year – but we will go somewhere adventurous – at the moment it's wait and see.....

An adventure awaits on the sandstone monoliths of the Wadi rum desert. The grading has been done in alpine grades and climbing here should not underestimated, a rescue is very unlikely and the remoteness adds to the overall seriousness of the climbing. However for those with good mountaineering nous some of the world's best rock climbing awaits. Robert Durann has a done a wonderful article on UKC see link below for more information. There is a good range of climbing from HVS-E3 and a good selection of relatively easy from a technical point of view but very committing and adventurous Bedouin hunting routes. Get in touch if interested. We will be flying out from Luton to Amman and traveling down to Wadi rum via Petra. There are many climbing and walking opportunities straight out of the accommodation in the village of Rum.

https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/destinations/wadi_rum_-_a_desert_sandstone_wonderland-8747

Ed Bloomfield email edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com tel. 07990 066362

29 January – 12 February 2027 Sun Rock Benidorm Ruth Gordon

It's a long way off but some of us have already booked our annual trip to the Costa Blanca in search of sunshine, bolted limestone and beautiful mountain walking. We have booked a few days earlier this time to avoid the mid February weekend which gets fully booked very quickly. However the hotel is very popular and early booking is advisable.

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 but we will organise that nearer the time when we know how many are coming. Any questions please be in touch.

Ruth Gordon email: alistair.ruth@btinternet.com tel. 01629 56636 and leave a message if I'm not at home.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Cromford Circuit 4 February - Correction

In the March issue the photo on page 12 has a spelling error in the caption. "Chris Pierce" is, of course, our very own Chris **Paice**. Apologies for the mistake.

Chatsworth Short Walk 19 February Chris Paice

OREADS, six, geared up for cold and wet,
Aimed for a walk on the Chatsworth Estate,
Wet and soggy fields negotiated,
Followed by fields with a smattering of snow,
Leader observation saw many black and white
birds,
Only to be corrected, molehills with snow!
Stoop and companion stones joined us for lunch,
Don't forget the random shoe,
Precipitation was minor, cold was more major,
The six chatted, laughed and supported each
other,
The café beckoned,
Coffee, cake, tea, scones all arrayed the table,
A fitting end to another OREAD gathering.
Thank you Sue, Stuart, Rachel, Richard and Chris R for joining me.



Photo Competition 3 March



The first Oread Photo Competition 1950 by Paul Gardiner, winner of the Club Interest category

A big contingent of Oreads turned out on a cold March evening to both celebrate the end of an era with the departure of one of our characters and to have a photographic competition. Rob Tressider has spent more than twenty years organising our indoor meets programme giving us an amazing range of mountain activities and a mixture of famous names together with some of our own homegrown talent. Mike Moss thanked him on behalf of you all.

As ever with Oreads submission of photos got off to a slow start. By the closing date we had well over 100 photos with a good spread of categories and content. The standard was exceptional giving our judge Richard Freestone a tough job to allocate points. I would like to thank him here for all the time and effort put into preparing the presentation and allocating the points in a clear and coherent manner. The results are as follows:

Nature	1st P Bingham	2nd P Bingham	3rd R Beadle
Action	1st Ruth Gordon	2nd R Beadle	3rd P Kennington
Character	1st P Amour	2nd R Gordon	3rd P Amour
Landscape	1st P Amour	2nd P Kennington	3rd P Kennington

The final category, Club Interest, was judged by audience participation and won by Paul Gardiner with this classic shot (above) of the very first Photo meet. Rob Tressider presented him a very elegant peacock trophy used for this category for many years and sadly showing signs of wear.

The overall and very worthy winner was Pete Amour, so congratulations to him. He was awarded a fabulous silver trophy presented by the redoubtable Paul Gardiner.



Above Pete Amour being awarded his trophy – photo Stuart Firth and right Rob Tresidder receiving a photo of his son Esmond, taken by Richard Freestone, as a token of appreciation of his long standing commitment to the winter lectures. Photo Tony Howard.

For those who were unable to come Spike Johnston videoed the whole show and it can be seen using the links below, or, as the videos are public, they can also be found by searching YouTube.com or using Google. Search for **Oread Photo Competition**.

First Half.<https://youtu.be/nXhrhAZhel8?si=2eU7zKKcEdL6B6aA>

Second Half.https://youtu.be/j_IdpUW522k?si=WNrOm_OWoMYCiVb6

Thanks to Spike for these.

Mam Tor and Kinder 4 March Simon Pape

I thought that ten miles over the moors and a long climb might put people off, but 15 Oreads and a dog assembled in Edale car park. Perhaps it was the fine spring weather! We took the easy way up to Hollins Cross to give aged knees a chance to warm up, before joining the crowds on Mam Tor. Despite the blue skies, a chill wind meant that coffee was taken down at Mam Nick, in the sunshine.



We continued over Rushup Edge and a surprisingly dry Brown Knoll, to a late lunch, again in the sun and out of the wind, at Edale Cross. The rest of the afternoon took us along the southern edge of the Kinder Plateau. Richard demonstrated his perfect memory of race routes through the Woolpacks before time for final photos on the top of Grindslow Knoll. 13 of the party (and the dog) found their way back to the car park. A search for the missing two found them sitting in the sun outside the Ramblers; it seemed rude not to join them. Thanks to Nigel, Janet, Nick, Steve, Cathy, Richard, Rachel, John, John, Kate, Phil, Alan, Chris, Chris and Woody for your company,



and to Kate (Dakin) for the photos. I can only apologise for the poor weather; apparently perfect blue skies don't make for competition winning photographs. Next time, I need to organise a few more fluffy white clouds!

A Sunny Saturday in Patterdale (Sunday wasn't too bad either!) Pip Leach

There were no snowy slopes on our Patterdale Meet this year, unlike previous year. Just a smattering of snow fell early on Friday, which melted away quickly, leaving only those tiny patches of snow on north facing slopes. However, no complaints, as Saturday was glorious, with early morning mist, clearing to a predominantly blue sky and sunshine.

Maybe an improving weather forecast had resulted in a really good turn out, with 20 Oreads turning up for the weekend. A former Oread, Peter Masters, arrived for the day by motorbike, with his visor iced up due to the initial freezing fog.

Saturday saw climbers, namely Roger Larkam and Snod, heading for Glaciated Slab, in Borrowdale, where, I hear, the south facing rock was actually warm to touch. Gill Radcliffe and Dave Ward went scrambling on Eagle Crag, from Grizedale, using this as an alternative way onto Helvellyn, meeting Laura and Pete Wragg on the way back down.

Meanwhile, Chris R pulled in three full days of off-road e-biking, including the Askham Moor loop, Skiddaw House and Mungrisedale and even out to Lowther Castle. Brian Dykes had also been cycling on the way up on Friday, a loop

incorporating Lancaster and the Forest of Bowland. I believe Brian was heading for the Eden Valley on Sunday.



Rachel, Arniston Crag.

Most Oreads however, were fell walking/Wainwright bagging. On Saturday, the walkers roughly divided into those individuals and couples who headed out in the direction of High Street, such as Mick and Helen Hayes, Brian and Simon Pape. Others, on the other side of the valley, had Helvellyn, St. Sunday Crag, Fairfield areas in their sights.



Gill on Eagle Crag, photo Dave Ward.

Everyone had a great day, notable was Simon's eleven Wainwrights, in one go! Similarly, Charlie Taylor made us laugh by saying, having headed west from Helvellyn, he ran out of mountains, so thought he'd better descend back into the valley. Interestingly, nobody accompanied either Simon or Charlie, I wonder why. Sunday was forecast as the more inclement of the two days, but hopes were raised as a sunny morning seemed to be in the offing. Oreads again headed out for more fun in the mountains. Em and Stu Young went bouldering, others were climbing, cycling, or walking high level or lower level lake-side walks. It was a deteriorating day but the rain didn't really arrive until 5pm. Chris Mather joined

us on the Sunday, and he, Rachel and John Gwyther ascended Hartsop Dodd and Caudale Moor.



Nigel and Janet Briggs are now a year into their official ticking of Wainwrights and well on target. On Sunday, I joined them for Angletarn Pikes, Brock Crag, Rest Dodd, The Nab and Beda Fell, the latter being number 79 for them, so far. We set off with Gill and Dave, who had a shorter day, and saw Charlie, on another massive round of peaks.

Over their long weekend, Nigel and Janet totalled 16 Wainwrights, a creditable number.

Thanks to all who came along, it was lovely to see everyone.

Nigel and Janet on Brock Crag.

Spring Stride 2026 – 22 March Nigel Briggs

The Spring Stride was kept local to the AGM this year, we essentially circumnavigated ‘The Bear’.



Straight from the start, at Black Rocks, it was uphill, to the trig point above Black

Rocks. (Photo above). New territory for me as I had been no further than the crag before. Once the high point was gained it was promptly left and we plummeted down into Bolehill before we tacked our way along paths and quiet lanes to Shining Cliff Woods. After a lunch stop here the first of the party, Chris Radcliffe, turned to return to Black Rocks without dropping down to the Derwent.



Lunch in the woods. Thanks to Janet Briggs for both photographs.

The main group headed down past the old Youth Hostel (now an Independent Hostel) and the cliffs and through the woods to (almost) the banks of the Derwent. Here the next contingent abandoned the walk to collect their strategically placed vehicle in Ambergate.

We bade farewell to Ruth, Snod and Stuart before climbing back up through the woods to join the Midshires Way by Alderwasley Hall. We followed this back to where it joined the High Peak Trail. Here the fifth member of the original group, Simon, left us as this was the closed point of the route to his house. The remaining three returned to Black Rocks whence we started.

All in all an enjoyable Spring Stride which found a different route through a relatively familiar area. Thank you to those who joined me on the walk and maintaining the tradition for another year.

The team that started, Chris Radcliffe, Ruth Gordon, Snod, Stuart Firth, Simon Pape, Chris Wilson, Janet and Nigel Briggs.

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.

Hut Door and Barrier Codes

Note – these are available on the website in the Club Information section under the Members tab section **when you are logged in as a member.**

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new provisional member Emma Roe and full members Nuno Gomes and Vera Venancio. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the club. Current provisional members, Bex Orme, Mark Hipwell and Martin Hooper have applied for full membership and we have full membership applications from Laura Booth, Alex Bradley, Douglas Hobbs, and a new one from Tim Sellears. If you would like to comment on any these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Peter O'Neill

Peter O'Neill, a member since 1976, died in the early hours of 24 March. He was in his early 90s. Photographs and memories would be very welcome for future issues.

Gil Male

Gil passed away in Ashgate Hospice on the evening of 5 March, with Andrea beside him. She, and all his family would like to thank everyone for their offers of support and kind words.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no funeral service. Instead, there will be a chance for his closest, long-standing friends to gather, share their many happy memories of Gil over the years and remember him with fondness, fun and photographs.

This celebration of life will take place at Holymoorside Village Hall on the evening of Friday 26 June. To help give us an idea of possible numbers, please let us know if you would like to attend by emailing jan.lumsdale@gmail.com or sending a WhatsApp message to 07769 186041

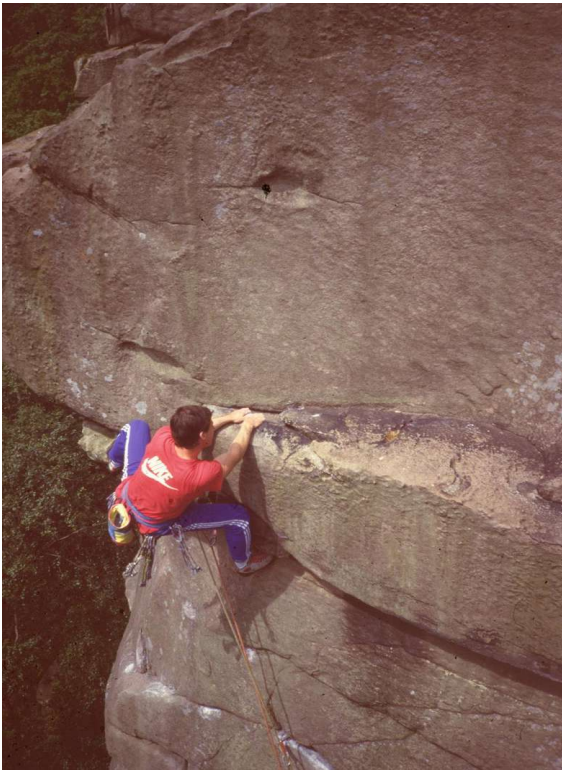


Memories of Gil - Chris Wilson

When you're asked to write a few lines about a good friend who you've known for over half a century where do you start?

How about memories of driving through France. Gil, maybe 50 miles ahead, sending ever more risqué jokes by text, typed by his very young daughter Jo and read to us by a very young and impressionable Frankie in the back of our car. Gil had a large stock of jokes for all tastes and kept them up to the end!

Gil could walk, fast. We were walking up to a Lakeland crag at a steady pace with Chris Radcliffe in the lead. Gil following quietly said "watch this", caught Chris up but stayed just behind. The tempo increased faster and faster until a worn-out Chris took a tumble. It was sad to see Gil's walking so diminished in later life – he never got the benefit he deserved from a pair of knee replacements but still enjoyed taking Andrea's dogs out.



He could also climb, incredibly well. Slabs were a speciality but he was also very strong, tenacious and competitive. He accumulated an impressive tick list. Gil was always happy to help those less gifted and just loved getting out climbing. He was active in the Burton and Nottingham clubs as well as the Oread. Gil's career included work for the Coal Board at their research establishment at Swadlucote and later as an expert specialising in fork lift trucks. Living further north near Wigan he became an enthusiastic member of the Fell and Rock before moving to Elton then Matlock.

This photo of Gil in action at Cratcliffe which appeared in the recent photo competition demonstrates his strength, skill and determination – as Richard Freestone said “Looking at it though - I haven't a clue what he's going to do next!”

He loved cricket, although playing for Elton when not a youth did result in the occasional injury. His love of fast motorbikes never left him – there was always another ride to do or better bike to get. He enjoyed cycling. One of his more amusing tales involved cycling around Ireland a few days after a vasectomy! Gil could be a little stubborn but that was easily forgiven, especially when he played his guitar and sang from his songbook. This is not an obituary, it is just a short note to hopefully jog your memory so that you will write one. Please do, Gil deserves a good one.



Pete Kennington took this photograph of Gil at the Stair hut in May last year. He writes “I found this one of Gil jamming with Bott – he was happy and in his element.”

Rusty's puzzle corner

Rusty asked

Where in the U.K. are the most caprine and ovine mountain features, that is to say upward trending and suitable for climbing or scrambling (absolute verticality is not insisted upon)?

Stuart Firth offered:

According to Google AI:

Wild caprine (feral goats) and ovine (sheep) populations thrive in the UK's mountainous regions, specifically in Eryri (Snowdonia), the Scottish Highlands, and the Cheviot Hills of Northumberland. Key herds include the Great Orme Cashmere goats and Snowdonia's ancestral herds, while sheep breeds like the Welsh Mountain graze the Cambrian Mountains.”

But I somehow doubt that's the answer Rusty is looking for...

Snod said Answer is Borrowdale which has Shepherd's Crag and Goat Crag.

Rusty says

Snod is correct – crags rather than specific routes but it fulfils the requirements of the question.

The more specific answer which I had in mind was Herdwick Buttress in Langdale and Goats Gully somewhere in Cheddar Gorge, the latter probably has a namesake or two scattered about.

This puts me in mind of an occasion in the Alps somewhere near Solden when I was ascending some scree and rocky ground, not too serious but I had just decided to play it safe and rope up when a goat ambled nonchalantly past.

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