



Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

October 2026



In the Karakoram with Nigel and Janet Briggs – see pages 9 - 10 for more.

Editorial

Meets coming up include a hut meet in Great Langdale and the annual curry meet at Tan yr Wyddfa. Plenty of local walks including the last Geo walk and details of our first three winter lectures. Draft 2027 meets list in here too.

All the info on the Annual Dinner on 14 November with **the menu and booking form** at end of this newsletter. **You must book by 22 October at the latest!**

There will again be a raffle to raise funds for the people who lost their homes in the recent floods and landslides in Nepal - see page 5.

Write ups include a trek to Concordia, an Alpine rock climb and the story of Pip and Jonathan's charity bike ride that escaped from last month's issue!

Copy Deadline 20 October.

Meets List 2026 - Edward Bloomfield

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

	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
O c t o b e r	3rd	Heathy Lea	Maintenance meet	Kevin Raisin Moss
	6th	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Derby Mountain Rescue Team	Janet Briggs
	7th	Middle Dovedale	Wednesday walk	Ngel Briggs
	9-11th	Great Langdale FRCC Hut	Climbing and walking, Lake District	Janet Briggs
	0	0	0	0
	9-18th ish	Kalymnos	Sport Climbing	??
	15th	Elgin	Thursday short walk	Chris Paice
	17th	Ecton Hill Mine Visit	0	Stuart Firth
	0	0	0	0
	24th	Upper Burbage Bridge - Robin Hood 15k	Geowalk finale Saturday	Gill Radcliffe
	25th	Barry Comp	Peak District Barry comp	Ed Bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
	30-1st	TyW North Wales	Curry meet, Climbing and walking	Tony Howard
N o v e m b e r	3rd	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Pakistan	Janet & Ngel Briggs
	4th	tbc	Wednesday walk	Rachel Walker
	6-8th	Heathy Lea	Bonfire Night	???
	0	0	0	0
	14th	Bentley Brook Inn, nr Ashbourne	Annual Dinner	Chris Paice
	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	Morocco Anti Atlas	Climbing meet	Ed Bloomfield
D e c e m b e r	0	0	0	0
	1st	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Winter lecture; Spike Johnson: Norway	Spike Johnson
	2nd	0	Wednesday walk	Steve Booth
	4-6th	Coriston YMC Hut	Bullstones meet	Jae Yeon Oh
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	17th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26th	tbc	Boxing Day walk	tbc

Draft 2027 meets list below.

	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
J a n u a r y	1st	TBC	New years Day walk	TBC
	6th	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	8-10th	Craigallan Ballahulish	Scotland winter meet	Ed Bloomfield
	12th	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Antartic survey / Llanberis MR	Ed Bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
	16th	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
	0	0	0	0
	21st	TBC	Thursday Short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
F e b r u a r y	0	0	0	0
	2nd	Royal Oak, Ockbrook	Climbing	Ed Bloomfield
	3rd	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	Dec-99	0	0	0
	18th	TBC	Thursday Short walk	Ruth Gordon
	19-21st	Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven	Scotland winter meet	Rob Beck
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
M a r c h	2nd	Royal Oak Ockbrook	Photo Comp	Richard Freestone
	5-7th	Roy Bridge, joint winter meet with CC	Scotland winter meet	Ed Bloomfield
	12-14th	George Starkey hut?	Lake District walking and climbing	Roger Larkam
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	18th	TBC	Thursday Short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	20th	the bear alderwasley	AGM	Michael Moss
	21st	TBC	Post AGM Walk	TBC
A p r i l	0	0	0	0
	7th	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	15th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	16-18th	TyW meet	Walking & climbing North Wales	????
M a y	0	0	0	0
	30-4th	Galloway camping meet	Walkingv and climbing, Galloway	Spencer Gray
	5th	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	13th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	14-16th	Heathy Lea	New members' meet & bbq	Tim Harrison
	21st	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	28-1st	South Pembroke Camping Meet	pembroke climbing meet	TBC

J u n e	3rd	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	4-13th	Pabbay climbing meet	application	Alan Monks
	4-13th	Glen nevis	Climbing and walking	Michael Moss
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	17th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18-20th	Stair Cottage	Lake District meet	Snod
	0	0	0	0
	26th	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
J u l y	29-4th	TYW	TYW Maintenance meet	Snod
	7th	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	15th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	16-18th	Beudy Mawr Hut	Rucksack club hut Nant Peris	Ed Bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	23-25th	Heathy Lea family meet	Heathy Lea Baslow	??
	26th-6th	Alpine Meet	Vicosoprano Bregaglia	Mick Hayes?
A u g u s t	0	0	0	0
	4th	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	19th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
	27-30th	North Pembroke camping meet	Sea cliff climbing	Mike Hayes
S e p t e m b e r	1st	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	0	0	0	0
	10-12th	0	TyW meet	???
	14th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	16th	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24-26	Barmy comp	Heathy Lea barmy comp	0
	0	0	0	0
	TBC	Morroco Scrambling meet	Atlas Mountains	Christian
	0	0	0	0
O c t o b e r	6th	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
	7-10th	Karn House Aviemore	Walking and climbing in Cairngorm?	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	14th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	16th	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	29-31st	High House Borrowdale	and climbing	0

3rd	tbc	wednesday walk	tbc
6th-7th	Heathy Lea	Bonfire meet	tbc
0	0	0	0
13th	TBC	Annual Dinner	???
18th	tbc	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
20th	TBC	Saturday walk	TBC
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
10-12th	TBC	Bullstones	????
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
26th	TBC	boxing day walk	?????
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

Oread Raffle 2026 Christine Renouf

Those of you who attended last year's Annual Dinner will know we had a raffle in aid of Mountain Rescue and raised £453 which the club rounded up to £500. This year we have decided to raise money for the Rasuwa District of Nepal where many homes and lives were lost in the recent floods. We will be donating the money we raise to Community Action Nepal (CAN), the charity established by the late Doug Scott. CAN has been asked by the Nepalese government to assist with relief and recovery in the area. Immediate relief efforts have included food supplies and assessing initial health requirements in the affected areas. In the medium to long-term they will be involved with the reconstruction of healthcare centres and schools. I and others in the club know this area well and I have friends there who have lost close family members. Survivors of the disaster are currently living in hostels in Kathmandu, they have lost their homes and all their belongings.

Last year we had excellent prizes provided by local outdoor businesses and I am optimistic we will have the same this year. More details of actual prizes to follow.

In order to allow everyone the opportunity to buy tickets and to give generously to the families in Rasuwa we are organising a system so tickets can be bought before the dinner. I will be accepting orders by email or WhatsApp. Please send me a message giving the number of tickets you require.

Tickets £1 each but I would like to suggest orders are £5 or more.

Please pay the amount directly to the Oread bank account using the following details:

Bank account: **Oread Mountaineering Club** – Community Account

Sort code: **30-98-97** Account Number: **62584068**

Please add a reference: **Raffle**

I will match your order to the payments in early November and issue you with your ticket numbers electronically.

Tickets will also be for sale on the night of the dinner as in the past. After the draw I will advise those of you not present at the dinner if they have won a prize

and arrange to get it to them. Once again please dig deep - the people of Nepal deserve all our support at this desperate time.

Christine Renouf: email crenouf88@gmail.com tel. 07727 005021

Forthcoming Meets

3-4 October Heathy Lea Maintenance Kevin Raisin-Moss

It's time again to ask not for what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club. Help maintain Healthy Lea as a club asset. No particular skills required, we can find tasks to suit all willing hands.

Same format as last time. Work on the Saturday, climb on the Sunday, get accommodation free on Saturday evening and a meal thrown in to boot.

Kevin Raisin Moss: email mapperleysamurai@gmail.com tel. 07920 522691

Tuesday 6 October 8.00 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

ROBIN KNOTT

THE WORK OF THE DERBY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

Join **Robin Knott** for his talk about the work of Mountain Rescue.

Derby Mountain Rescue Team is a 24-hour emergency service run entirely by volunteers, 365 days a year, working with the emergency services across the Peak District and surrounding areas.

In 2025, the Team responded to **99 call-outs.**

 Tuesday, 6th October

 8pm

 The Royal Oak, Ockbrook DE72 3SE

 Admission: £3 (Oreads)
£5 (Non-Members)



Wednesday 7 October Middle Dovedale Walk N and J Briggs

This walk explores Middle Dovedale, the area between Rocester and Mayfield. Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start on the B5033 near the bridge over the River Dove between Lower Ellastone and Norbury, there should be ample roadside parking (GR SK119424). The walk is about 19 km but only with 300 m of height gained. There is the option to shorten the route to 14 or 16km depending on conditions and enthusiasm.

The route follows the Dove Valley past Calwich Abbey to Church Mayfield where we cross the river to Clifton. We will then climb up, going above Snelston Hall to cross the B5033 near Roston Common. At this stage anyone wanting a shorter

walk can return to the start by 2km of road walking. Those continuing will pass through parts of Roston, then descend again to the Dove Valley near Rocester. At Rocester we will pick up the Limestone Way at its start and follow it back to Ellastone. Please bring a packed lunch. Please let us know you are coming. Nigel Briggs email nigel.briggs@btinternet.com tel. 07939 660369

9 – 11 October Great Langdale Raw Head Janet Briggs

What could be better than an Autumn weekend in Langdale? We will be based at the FRCC hut Raw Head. This is in a great position with more than enough climbing and walking from the hut. Climbing covers every taste from mountain routes to bouldering and for the walkers most of Lakeland's central fells are accessible. Get in touch to reserve your bunk!

Janet Briggs email janet.briggs@me.com tel.07713 177283

Thursday 15 October Biggin short walk Chris Paice

Start 10.45 for 11.00 a.m. set off.

Roadside parking at Biggin near The Waterloo, SK17 ODH, the only pub at Biggin. Map ref 152 596

We set off from Biggin to Wolfcotes Dale, possibly taking in the access to the trig point, and on towards Hartington. Route back from Hartington to be determined on the day as there are several, dependent on weather, group needs etc. A good opportunity to walk, talk and enjoy fellow Oreads' company. Very often laughter for good measure, do join if you can.

Distance between 6 and 7 miles. Total ascent approx. 172m, 566ft.

Chris Paice email walking.paice@hotmail.co.uk tel. 07773 045838

17 October Ecton Hill Mine Visit Stuart Firth

This meet is currently fully subscribed.

However, in case of cancellations I have opened a reserve list. Should you wish to be added to this reserve list, please let me know.

I also know that some people weren't able to make this particular date. I guess if there were enough "extras" a second visit could be arranged.

Details of the trip can be found in the September newsletter.

For more background info: www.ectonmine.org.uk and www.ectonhillfsa.org

Stuart Firth: email stuartmfirth@btinternet.com tel. 07977 458048

Saturday 24 October Geo Walk - Upper Burbage Bridge to Robin Hood Gillian Radcliffe

<https://visitpeakdistrict.com/trails/the-peak-district-geowalk>.

Start: Upper Burbage Bridge Car Park. SK 260 830. **Walk starts at 10 am**

. End: The Robin Hood Inn (Baslow) SK 280 721

- . Distance: 10 miles (16 km)
- . Please bring your own food and drinks
- . Time: 5 hours approx
- . Difficulty: Moderate, with uneven, rocky paths and some boggy moorland
- . OS Explorer maps OL1 and OL24 1:25 000
- . White peak and Dark peak maps

This, our final Geo walk, follows the classic climbing edges of Burbage, Froggatt, Curbar and Baslow; descending into Padley Gorge and Bar Brook en-route to our end point at the Robin Hood Pub. Here we will have a celebratory drink. By this time in October we should have some beautiful autumn colours to admire and great views across to Higgarr Tor, the Longshaw estate and the Derwent valley. As this is a linear walk car sharing will need to be arranged beforehand. Please let me know if you are coming so I can facilitate this.

Gillian Radcliffe tel. 07816 072138 email gill@farfields.co.uk

25 October B.A.R.M.Y. Competition Ed Bloomfield

There will again this year be a day of mad racing around the Peak District gathering points for all sorts of activities, places visited and routes climbed. Rules and details to be circulated nearer the time.

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

30 October – 1 November Tan yr Wyddfa Curry Meet North Wales Tony Howard

The basic format will be as before. Some of you will be familiar with our Welsh hut and with the curry meet format, but for those who are not, the hut is based in Rhyd Ddu just south of Snowdon. This gives easy access to most of the best walking and climbing in Snowdonia. Rhyd Ddu is well situated for climbing and walking right across Snowdonia, Tremadog being a favourite for rock. Even Gogarth is accessible in less than an hour normally.

We will have the curry on Saturday night, as usual. I will cook a couple, but the plan is to persuade one or two (or more) of you to also cook a curry. I will reimburse you for the ingredients you need **for the curry itself**. I will provide **all** the ancillary stuff, rice, naans, samosas, Indian sweets, fruit salad etc.

The cost for the food will be **about** £10 per person, for everyone who signs up.

Payment will normally be during the meet. Bring your own wine and beer etc.

These meets have always been a well-attended warm social occasion. So, if you've not been before, come and join us.

If you would like to come along **& particularly if you would be willing to make a curry**, please let me know ASAP, indicating what you would like to cook. In that way we should be able to provide a balanced menu.

Tony Howard: email tony.howard46@btinternet.com Home: 01332 273307
Mobile 07762 268181

Tuesday 3 November 8.00 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Adventures in Pakistan. Nigel and Janet Briggs will be sharing the story of their trek to Concordia. Entry £3.00 Oreads. £5 non members. To whet your appetite for the evening see page 10 for a taste of the trip.

Wednesday 4 November Padley Gorge and Higgar Tor Rachel Walker

Start: Longshaw Estate Carpark, 10.00 am

An Autumn Walk through the deep wooded ravine of Padley Gorge to see the ancient oak and birch trees in their vivid Autumn colours, and in contrast the exposed moorland along Millstone Edge, Higgar Tor and Burbage Edge.

Distance 9.6 miles, Ascent 1585 feet.-

Rachel Walker tel. 07944 200579 email catherinerachelwalker@gmail.com

Saturday 14 November Oread Annual Dinner Chris Paice 6.45pm for 7.15 pm

The Annual Dinner will again be held at the Bentley Brook Inn, Fenny Bentley DE6 1LF. Tel. 01335 350278. The pub is offering a 10% discount on rooms booked direct with them. Telephone and mention the Oread to secure your room and discount. Rooms are limited and will be released for general sale by mid October so don't leave booking to the last minute. Camper vans should be parked discreetly in the upper car park – they do not want to know they are there!

The menu choices and booking form are at the end of this newsletter.

Chris Paice email walking.paice@hotmail.co.uk

Please complete and post/email your form to arrive by 22 October at the latest.

Sunday 15 November BritRock Film Tour 2026 at Tansley

A stunning line-up of the UK's best climbing and adventure films is coming to Tansley Village Hall 7.30pm. For the full information about the programme and to book your tickets see ticketsource.com/TansleyFilm paying £10.84 (including fees) by card and choosing your seats. You can cancel yourself if you need to, getting a full refund for the ticket price (not the fees).

25 November - 6 December Anti Atlas Morocco Ed Bloomfield

We plan a return to the Anti Atlas – if you are interested join the WhatsApp group or be in touch.

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

Tuesday 1 December 8.00 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

Managing the Cold in Espedalen Spike Johnston

After a string of ski tours in Norway during March and April, with high temperatures and melting snow, we decided to go earlier in the year. In February 2026 Helen and myself went to Espedalen for an easy trip and spent ten days in challenging conditions with temperatures reaching -27C and white-outs. It was a very memorable trip.

July 2027 Pyrenees mountain walking/climbing Mark Hipwell

Time to make your mind up! The huts open for 2027 bookings in December and they fill up quickly. So – if you want to go on this trip be in touch with Mark now. If interested, please contact Mark Hipwell on the club WhatsApp or tel. 07706 451717.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Tan yr Wyddfa news



We now have a new Hitense electric cooker installed and working, thanks to Derek Pike and Snod's work to find and fit a compatible model and to local electricians, Jones and Whitehead for wiring it in as soon as it was delivered.

Thanks also to Derek for making a new lid for the coal bunker.

Adventures in Pakistan Nigel Briggs

Concordia has been place I have wanted to visit for at least 50 years. Ever since reading expedition books back in the 70's and seeing the pictures, it was the place to go. In the 70's I had dreams of climbing the peaks beyond, as youth receded and reality dawned the idea of climbing the peaks was replaced with the more

realistic aim of trekking to Concordia and taking a look.

A trek had been on the cards for a few years, events got in the way to prevent it actually happening until this year. During 2025 the stars seemed to be aligning for a 2026 visit. The original plan was to trek up the Baltoro Glacier to Concordia then up to K2 Basecamp, before going over the Gondogoro La to descend the Hushe valley.

Early June saw us arriving in Islamabad before flying on to Skardu. If you take that flight get a window seat on the righthand side of the plane to get magnificent views of Nanga Parbat.

In Skardu our trekking group assembled before the following day's drive to Askole. We were now entering the world of names I was familiar with. One night in Askole and then the trekking began. Three days of trekking took us to the snout of the Baltoro Glacier and a further four days to just short of Concordia. The mountain scenery 'en route' was just sublime, walking through the pages of numerous expedition books gazing up at the Trango Towers, Lobsang Spire, Masherbrum, Muztagh Tower, Broad Peak, the Gasherbrums and numerous other peaks which, if you asked the staff, had no name as they were 'too small'.

On the walk up it became apparent that we could not get over the Gondogoro La due to late season snow and even getting to K2 basecamp would not be possible. From our top camp an early start took us up to Concordia. We were the only group there, we were told in the full season there could be hundreds camped there. We had it to ourselves.

Plan B swung into operation and we returned back down the way we had come. At least this gave us another chance to take in the surroundings again. As we headed down more groups were heading up including large climbing groups as well as other trekking groups. We were back in Askole after 16 days of adventure on the Baltoro Glacier.

The second part of our trip was a 'jeep' trip over the Deosai Plateau, a visit to one of the Nanga Parbat basecamps, and into the Hunza Valley before driving over the Babusar Pass before arriving back to Islamabad and finally home.

If you would like to hear more about the trip and see the pictures come along to our evening talk on 3rd November at The Royal Oak, Ockbrook.

Pip and Jonathan Leach: the write up that got away!

Due to some weird email misbehaviour your Hon Ed received the photos from Pip last month but not the accompanying article – so here it is with the brilliant final total of money raised:

Land's End to John O'Groats (Le-Jog) June/July Pip Leach



First of all, I want to say a massive and heartfelt thank you to all of the Oreads who sponsored my brother and me on our adventure. We have been really touched by the kindness and generosity shown by so many people, from friends, family, colleagues, complete strangers en route, and of course, Oreads.

As things stand, we have raised over £5000 now for the Alzheimer's Society, and by the time Gift Aid is added on, this will be approximately £6000. The Just Giving page is still open, if anyone wants still to sponsor us, but some time in September, funds will be passed on to the charity.

I'm not going to give you a blow by blow

account of the trip, other than to say, this was actually my brother Jonathan's initial idea, and he thought I was probably the only person mad enough to do it with him – about right! Having said that, I loved it, and Jonathan and I haven't spent so much time together (three weeks) since we were children, and no, we didn't fall out.

There was a lot of planning, we did the trip independently, so this required the booking of accommodation in sequence, trains, hire vans and even ferries, as we went onto Orkney afterwards, in order to get the bikes back, as bike spaces on trains were full. I only messed up on one booking of accommodation, I'm surprised there weren't more! Thankfully, it was something I could easily rectify. The bikes were well serviced, a few new purchases made and panniers were

packed and heavy, due to the necessity of carrying tools, some food and lots of drink. Jonathan used a classic steel framed Dawes bike and mine was a lighter, Specialized Tri-Cross Sport, which I use for touring.

At Land's End, the weather was cool, cloudy and breezy. Thereafter, a heatwave started to gain momentum. At this point, thankfully we were moving north and ahead of it. Cycling around the Howgills and crossing the border into Scotland was a bit too hot, and necessitated early starts. By the time we were further north in Scotland, we had mixed weather and heavy rain (remember that?) particularly, the afternoon of getting into Inverness.

We mostly used the Cicerone Guide on Le-Jog, with our own variations, stopping off at our own homes for example. The various landscapes we passed through were so varied and glorious, mostly, but not entirely missing out the busiest of roads.

Highlights – the kindness of people en route, such as the lovely elderly couple in Devon, who invited us into their garden and got out the cushions, and brought out tea and biscuits. What a coincidence that the gentleman was a collector of vintage bikes, mostly in bits, but one dating back to 1890!

As mentioned, complete strangers donated money, a pensioner for example, who gave us a couple of quid out of her purse, or a member of a cycle club doing the Preston Guild Wheel, who took a copy of our Just Giving Page, and instantly donated £30. It can re-establish your faith in human nature, given all of the bad news stories we are dealing with right now.

Lowlights, the traffic as we deviated into Ironbridge, or going into Glasgow. There are only minor tweeks, I would have done differently, with hindsight.

The accommodation was varied, hostels, travel-lodge, B&B's, airbnb's. Some accommodation was quirky and fun, such as a farm stay, some pristine and clean, others we wouldn't return to!

Scenically, of course I loved Scotland the most, especially north of Altnaharra, going towards Betty Hill. Jonathan's was the Somerset Levels, not least because we could relax after the relentless ups and downs of Cornwall and Devon.

For anyone thinking of doing Le Jog, I am happy to share my experiences further, but there are several Oreads who have taken on this challenge and will have their adventure in a different way.

Once again, thank you so very much for your good wishes, messages of congratulations and for anyone who was able to donate.

Oread Alpine Meet 2026 Pur et Simple Steve Christian



After a memorable multi pitch rock climbing day, I was to message home, “been out on an 8 pitch route in the valley with Nigel Berry. A very enjoyable few hours out climbing “Pur et Simple” TD 6a 240m at Plan Chatel, Haute Maurienne. We reckon the first three big climbing pitches are obligatory F6a”. This, for me at least, the rock climbing highlight of the week.

It all starts with a faint guidebook map or, as is the way nowadays, a QR code link to a destination on Google Maps for the parking area. Like the climbing community has lost the will or skill to interpret the written word or printed images. Proceeded by the walk up into the woods, following a well walked trail, cobbled in places, we admire the rising crags through the trees. Handily Nigel spots the small cairn in the undergrowth indicating a faint climber’s path and between us we sniff out the crag base, traversing under overhanging walls around fallen trees, through recently fallen leaves mixed in amongst old and dry detritus. We spy route names painted nicely on smooth pebbles, nothing random about these acts of kindness for the climber, which leads us on until names run out and there’s one last line of bolts, leading left up the steep buttress but bizarrely with no name. “I reckon this is it” and scrambling around the base of the cliff over recent rockfall reveals nothing else of note and so we dutifully rope up below the line.

Nigel bags the first pitch, I tie onto the solitary bolt at the base, he clips it as a first runner and we’re protected from a tumbling fall down through steep wooded

undergrowth. The first steep ten metres go okay, then he's into the meat of the pitch, entry into a vertical groove by pulling hard on



small holds. There's some to-ing and fro-ing as the necessary courage is found to get into the groove a few metres above the bolt, making tricky moves to get balanced and established so as to be able to reach up in control and clip the next bolt. Despite the huffing, puffing and odd expletive, it goes fine and then he's lost from view, moving faster to the stance. I follow, it's great to get started, the initial apprehension gone with the focus on the need to climb. I

flow through the moves into the groove, no worry of a fall on the second end of the rope. I reach Nigel then scramble across through the trees to the base of the next groove and clip the stance. Nigel scuttles over and informs me it's my pitch.

It's a vertical corner groove with an apparent long way from bolt 2 to bolt 3. Nigel gives me the cams in case I need an intermediate runner and I set off. Easily to start, then I'm into the corner groove, layback on first digit holds in the corner, bridging feet where I can, eventually wedging my back across from my feet to rest my arms. There's a bolt in front of my face, hidden from below and I clip it with relief, no need for a hastily placed cam in the smooth crack. Throwing my right foot out onto a sloper has held me in the corner and the bolt gives me confidence to push up and rock over my weight onto my right leg. The crux is cracked and I enjoy steep but easier climbing up to the stance.

I eye the only line of bolts leading rightward across the lower lip of a slab above the yawning void. When Nigel arrives he eyes it too, it's a blimey moment. The initial small foot ledge gives way to sloping hand and foot holds on a steepening and gently rising line. Nigel takes his time



having a look. He comes back to the ledge to ponder, survey and think before committing to the holds. The lichen on the slab still seems a little damp from yesterday evening's rain and it leaves a chalky residue on his rock shoes. "I'm not lichen this" he retorts "do you get the joke?" I confirm I do and thankfully we're not yet beyond the point. The steadiness of an experienced hand gets him across the lip and up onto a steep wall under a bulge. He's left and right, muttering to himself and finally cracks the bulge in the right hand crack with a leftward stride. It puts him on the stance.



I follow gingerly across the lip, feet on slopers and the bigger finger holds always just out of reach, causing a repositioning of feet or a stretch up on tip toes. The rock shoes hold, I'm impressed with my own foot work. Under the bulge I quiz Nigel about the line to follow but find my own way straight over using the splitting crack, feet braced out with finger tips searching above. The small holds are enough to mantle onto the ledge with some effort. The buttress above immediately leans back and we later find the route becomes four slab pitches to the top of the cliff. Though there's some technical slab climbing above, with some 5c foot 'padding', we agree that the thrust of the route is the first three big pitches, all feeling like obligatory 6a to us. Heading up the final slabs now in sunshine, we enjoy the views around the valley until the top and a wander across through woods brings us to the descent path back to the car and an opportune return to the campsite for lunch.

High Edge, Chrome Hill, Parkhouse Hill, Hollins Hill

22 August Rachel Walker

After a long hot summer, it was a delight to have a walk on a day with pleasant temperatures and a gentle breeze over four dramatic Peaks. Seven of us wandered up through the Health and Safety Executive's Science and Research Centre at Harpur Hill, keeping to the path to avoid the surrounding area used for explosion testing. A gentle climb led to High Edge at 1516 ft with its limestone pavement

and the remains of a concrete gun pillbox, remnants of an RAF station from which there were 360 degree views including the jagged limestone ridge of Dragons Back and the gentler gritstone Hollins Hill - our return route.



Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill were enjoyed by the mountaineering spirits we have in our group - taking delight in scaling the ridge and scrambling up and down the jagged limestone meanwhile drinking in the breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.

A brief stop at a convenient honesty shop for ice creams then up our final hill. Hollins Hill was a new one for me, across the valley from the previous hills with a nice long gentle ridge culminating in a bowl shaped pit on the summit, a Bronze Age barrow. Thanks everyone for a perfect day and a very pleasant walk.

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 Matt Baker and to new full members Tim Harrison and Stuart Young. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the club.

Ron Sant writes from New Zealand:

Over the years, we have had a number of OMC members calling in or staying with us at our old property in the Far North near Kaitaia. Unfortunately, none of us are getting any younger and we felt the time was right to move from a very remote area to a more urban area where public services are readily available.

Our new address: - Unit 32, 94 Boundary Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei, 0112, New Zealand

Our email addresses remain the same, but we do have a new landline telephone number: - 0064 (0) 9 435 4212

Ron ronsant50@gmail.com

Yvonne vonsant52@gmail.com

Whilst we are not located in the main climbing or mountaineering areas we may be able to offer some local advice if anyone is travelling this way.

Oread Annual Dinner Order Form

The dinner will be on the **14th November** and will cost £32.90 per person (2 courses) or £38.90 (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. Phone the Bentley Brook if you need further information re special 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

walking.paice@hotmail.co.uk to arrive by 22nd 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 22nd October AT THE LATEST!

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

Name:				
Payment Method:	BACS / Cheque			
Starter:				
Carrot and coriander soup, bread and butter (VE) (GF on request)				
Chefs home-made chicken liver pate, ciabatta croutes, ale chutney (GF on request)				
Sauté Garlic mushrooms on pesto rubbed sourdough (VE) (GF on request)				
Main Course:				
Braised blade of beef Bourguignon, horseradish mash, seasonal vegetables (GF on request)				
Pan fried Cajun salmon, crushed new potatoes, Mediterranean roast vegetables (GF on request)				
Butternut squash and beetroot Wellington, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, vegan gravy (VE)(GF on request)				
Dessert:				
Homemade treacle sponge with crème anglaise				
Fruit meringue with Chantilly cream, seasonal fruits, fruit sauce (GF on request)				
Chocolate brownie, chocolate sauce, vanilla icecream (GF on request)				

Tea/ coffee.

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