# Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

## November 2026



**Changeable weather on the Langdale meet. Photo Janet Briggs**

### Editorial

Meets coming up include local walks and details of our next three winter lectures, ranging from Pakistan to Antarctica via Norway!
Draft 2027 meets list in here too.
There will again be a raffle at the Annual Dinner to raise funds for the people who lost their homes in the recent floods and landslides in Nepal – some excellent prizes - please support this - see page 5 for how to buy tickets if you are not attending the dinner.
Write ups include local walks, the Great Langdale meet and the underground trip in Ecton mine.
Sadly this issue also contains notice of the deaths of Patti Carnell and Richard Hopkinson. Details of Richard's funeral are on page 20.
**Copy Deadline 20 November.**

# Meets List 2026 - Edward Bloomfield

Ed Bloomfield email xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

| | Dates | Hut/Location/title | Description | Leader |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| November | 3rd | Royal Oak, Ockbrook | Pakistan | Janet & Nigel Briggs |
| | 4th | tbc | Wednesday walk | Rachel Walker |
| | 6-8th | Heathy Lea | Bonfire Night | Kasia Sajdok |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 14th | Bentley Brook Inn, nr Ashbourne | Annual Dinner | Chris Paice |
| | 15th | Thorpe | Post Prandial Walk | Peter Amour |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | Bentley Brook Inn, nr Ashbourne | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 25th | Brassington | Thursday short walk | Rusty Russell |
| | 26th-6th dec | Morroco Anti Atlas | Climbing meet | Ed Bloomfield |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December | 1st | Royal Oak, Ockbrook | Winter lecture; Spike Johnson: Norway | Spike Johnson |
| | 2nd | 0 | Wednesday walk | Steve Booth |
| | 4-6th | Coniston 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 |
| January | 1st | Bonsall | New Years Day walk | Peter Amour |
| | 6th | tbc | Wednesday walk | Nick evans |
| | 8-10th | Craigallan Ballahulish | Scotland winter meet | Ed Bloomfield |
| | 12th | Royal Oak, Ockbrook | Antartic survey / Llanberis MR | Ed Bloomfield |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 16th | Derwent valley HW stage 1 | Saturday walk | Peter Amour |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 21st | TBC | Thursday short walk | Ruth Gordon |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| February | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2nd | Royal Oak, Ockbrook | Climbing | Ed Bloomfield |
| | 3rd | tbc | Wednesday walk | Rob Tressider |
| | 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 |
| | 27th? | TBC | Saturday walk | Steve Booth |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | Dates | Hut/Location/title | Description | Leader |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| March | 2nd | Royal Oak Ockbrook | Photo Competition | Richard Freestone |
| | 5-7th | Roy Bridge, joint winter meet with CC | Scotland winter meet | Ed Bloomfield |
| | 11th | TBC | Thursday Short Walk | Ruth Gordon |
| | 12-14th | George Starkey hut? | Lake District walking and climbing | Roger Larkam |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 20th | Derwent valley HW Stage 2 | Pre AGM Saturday walk | John Gwyther |
| | 20th | The Bear Alderwasley | AGM | Michael Moss |
| | 21st | TBC | Spring Stride | Brian Dyke |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 28-6th | Sicily | Climbing & walking Sicily | Nigel Berry |
| April | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 7th | tbc | Wednesday walk | Richard Freestone |
| | 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 | Rusty Russel |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 24th | Danebower Hollow | Saturday walk | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May | 30-4th | Galloway camping meet | Walking 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 |
| | 22nd | Derwent Valley HW Stage 3 | Saturday walk | Steve Booth |
| | 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 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| June | 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, Newlands Valley | Lake District meet | Snod |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 26th | TBC | Saturday walk | Chris Mather |

| | Dates | Hut/Location/title | Description | Leader |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 26th-6th | Alpine Meet | Vicosoprano Bregaglia | Mick Hayes? |
| August | 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 |
| September | 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 |
| | 18th | Derwent Valley HW Stage 4 | Saturday walk | Rachael Walker |
| | 24-26 | Barmy comp | Heathy Lea barmy comp | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | TBC | Morroco Scrambling meeet | Atlas Mountains | Christian |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October | 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 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| November | 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 |
| | 27th | Derwent Valley HW Stage 5 | Saturday walk | Rob Tressider |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December | 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.

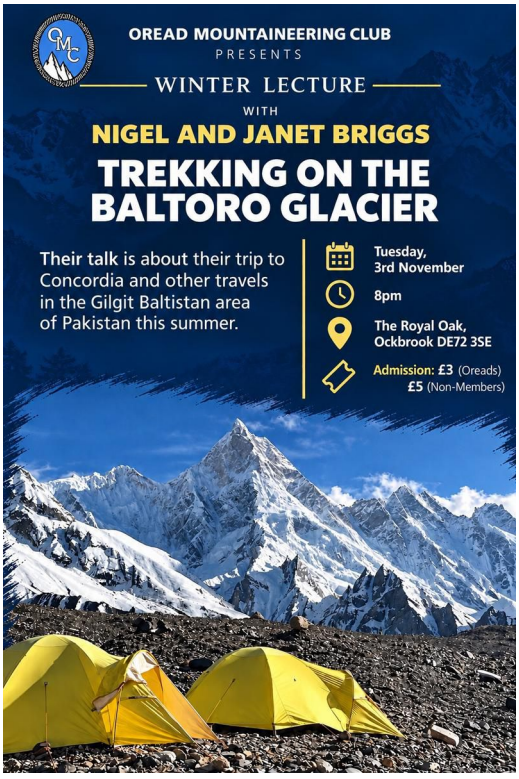
We have some excellent prizes provided by local outdoor businesses and club members including
Awesome Walls Taster voucher for 4 people.
£50 Altberg voucher.
6 Rockfax guides: Lake District, Scilly Isles, Pembrokeshire, Kalymnos, Lofoten, El Chorro.
Water bottle from Outside, Hathersage.

Climbing accessories: crushed chalk, ledge brushes, Stone tape, Mojo skin repair wax.
Edelweiss Flashlight 50m 10mm climbing rope.
A magnum of French white wine.

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. We are accepting orders by email or WhatsApp. **Please send a message to Ruth Gordon 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**
We 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.
Email orders to alistair.ruth@btinternet.com WhatsApp or text tel. 07999 857922

# Forthcoming Meets

## 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.

## Wednesday 4 November Padley Gorge and Higger Tor Rachel Walker

Start: Longshaw Estate Car park, 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. xxxxxxxxxxxxx email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Saturday 7 November Bonfire night Heathy Lea
## Kasia Sajdok

I will be organising bonfire night this year. The activities will highly depend on the weather although we have been very spoiled this year so everything is possible. Plenty of amazing walks as well as plenty of climbing around.
I will be there by noon at latest to prepare for the bonfire and all are welcome to come and join in. I am planning to start the fire just before sunset. There are beds available in the hut so feel free to book it through the club website as it will have the updated number of beds available.
There's a WhatsApp group you can join or be in touch.
Kasia Sajdok email xxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Saturday14 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. Camper vans should be parked discreetly in the upper car park – they do not want to know they are there!
Chris Paice email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Sunday 15 November Post Prandial Walk Thorpe Peter Amour

Following on the theme of the annual dinner the walk will be biased towards socialising with a steady walk of just over six miles, culminating with making use of the Old Dog pub in Thorpe. A circuitous walk will initially head north to then swing east and pass through Tissington Village before skirting Wibben Hill, and on through Lea Cottage and Woodeaves Farms. The latter section will see us pass through Fenny Bentley and on to the car park
The 10-45am start will be from the car park about 100 metres from the pub. Unfortunately like so many others these days it is pay & display, so car share if you can. I have advised the Old Dog that we will arrive about mid afternoon. Anyone wanting to go beyond having a drink should book a meal, giving their own details, and also the Oread as a reference. They do operate an on-line booking system. Should anyone wish to telephone the pub, they can speak to David, Chloe or Ross on 01335 350990. I look forward to seeing you.
Peter Amour tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## 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).

## Thursday 25 November Brassington Short Walk Rusty Russell

As time goes by, the Oread have traversed much of the obvious local ground for easier walks and a certain amount of duplication is inevitable.
In the wintery period of late November it seems that there will be a better attendance for an easy walk near to the homes of most regular walkers and so we shall meet at 10 45 for 11am at the car park at the dead end road on the RH side of the road leaving Brassington uphill (map ref SK 237548).
The route will skirt the village of Brassington and head for the High Peak Trail via Pinders Rocks. Thereafter we shall head North West as far as desired before dropping down to the road from Royston Grange. The return will be via the footpath near Ballidon Church and the lane to Brassington Village
The distance will be in the range of 6 to 7 miles, capable of being adjusted according to the condition of the party and the climate.
Clive (Rusty) Russell email xxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Tuesday 1 December 8.00 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook



**Spike Johnston: My Coldest Birthday and Kayaking in the best of Baltic weather.**
The December Lecture includes photos and videos from two adventures that Helen Griffiths and myself had this year. We decided to go ski touring earlier than usual this year to avoid the warm temperatures and melting snow that we have had recently in March. February 2026 was one of the coldest in recent years, and I enjoyed my birthday at -28C in Espedal. It turned out to be another fantastic adventure, we met up with Pam Norris briefly, and made some new friends. In August this year we went on a sea Kayak trip in the Baltic off Finland, and experienced the best of Baltic weather and even kayaked with Elk! Navigation between hundreds of islands when you are at sea level is not easy….

## Wednesday 2 December Little Eaton Walk Steve Booth

Start point: Little Eaton, village hall car park on Vicarage Lane. 10.00 am.
SK 36050 41546 Distance 11 miles
Pub stop available, Dead Poets or Holly Bush Inn.
The walk wanders through Little Eaton village to observe the Clock House at the terminus of the Little Eaton branch of the Derby canal. The walk then takes the Little Eaton green way as far as Toad Lane before a short climb up to Moor Lane. It continues to Brackely Gate before visiting Horsley Castle (Horeston Castle). No entry fee required!!
Following this we would continue on to Day Park, Holbrook, Makeney, Peckwash Mill, then Heron's Wood before returning to the start.
Steve Booth email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## 4-6 December Bullstones Coniston Jae Yeon Oh

For this year's Bullstones, we're heading to Coniston, with an overnight camp on Friday followed by a Saturday walk and a night at the Yorkshire Mountaineering Hut.
We will meet at the Crown Inn, Coniston, on Friday evening, with dinner booked for 8:15 pm. Food needs to be pre-ordered, so please let me know in advance if you're coming and I'll circulate the menu closer to the time. You can leave your cars at the YMC car park on Friday and it's a 30 minute walk to the pub.

After dinner, we'll head out for our Friday night camp somewhere on the surrounding fells. On Saturday morning, we'll de-camp and set off for a walk, the route depending on the weather. We're well-situated to tackle nice hills including The Old Man of Coniston, Swirl How and Wetherlam among others, so fingers crossed for the weather! If the weather isn't helpful, we'll do a low-level walk, perhaps a visit to Tarn Hows.
Saturday night will be a more sociable affair at the hut. We'll either put together a communal meal or arrange a takeaway, depending on numbers and what seems practical. Most importantly, don't forget your whiskies!
On Sunday, after breakfast and packing up, we'll do a shorter walk, again depending on the weather.
Please let me know if you plan on joining. A WhatsApp group has been set up.
Jae and Michael:xxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxxxx

## New Year's Day Walk Bonsall Peter Amour

Yes, another ring in the tree trunk of life. The walk has more of a social get-together focus than any other meaning to it. Slightly less than six miles, with options to avoid some of the distance if desired.
The late lunch stop will be The Boat, Cromford, I have advised Nicola Briggs of The Boat that most will probably choose liquid rather than a meal.
Should you fancy food, please pre book with Nicola, I expect us to arrive at around 1-00 to 1-30pm.
To make a booking, the number is 01629 362590, or e mail onto their website :- theboatinn1772@gmail.com
Start Point/time, 10-45am for a sharp 11-00am departure.
Bonsall Car Park, GR SK 27978 57963, payment by donation box.
Route :- Bonsall car park - North and east to Masson Lees - Heights of Abraham - Ember Fm - skirting Bonsall - Town End Fm - Harp Edge - Boat Inn - Slinter Wood - Via Gellia Mill- Bonsall Car Park
5.7 miles, 604ft uppy-downy.
I hope to see you there for a convivial jaunt. Cheers, Pete tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Tuesday 12 January 8.00 pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook

**The grass is always greener…….. Simon Verspeak**
Working as a mountaineering instructor has taken Simon Verspeak around the

world. Most recently he's worked as a Field Guide for British Antarctic Survey supporting scientists carrying out research in one of the World's most inhospitable environments.
Closer to home, he's based in Llanberis in Northern Snowdonia where he's been an active team member of Llanberis Mountain Rescue since 2008. During that time the voluntary emergency service has gone from less than 100 rescues per year to over 400.
His talk will cover mountaineering and work in Antarctica and then briefly how a small group of volunteers cope with managing rescues on the UK's busiest mountain, Yr Wyddfa.

### 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. xxxxxxxxxxxxx.

## News, Articles and Reports from Meets

### Middle Dove Valley – 7 October Nigel Briggs



*By the Clifton Shrovetide Goal. Photo Janet Briggs*

After a particularly good fair weather start to October, we assembled by the bridge over the River Dove near Lower Ellastone in damp conditions. The walk followed the river upstream first passing Calwich Abbey (which is now behind fences and in a considerable state of decay) and then meandering alongside the river. By Church Mayfield the skies were brightening, after a quick inspection of the Shrovetide Goal in Clifton we turned to head downstream on the hillside to the east of the river.



*Negotiating the Clapper Stile. Photo Janet Briggs*

An unusual clapper stile was crossed in the grounds of Snelston Hall near a rather fine stand of Araucaria (Monkey Puzzle Trees) before we continued down to Rocester. On the way we were escorted through one field by a herd of frisky bullocks, who seemed emboldened by their numbers and were keen to see us off their territory.

Rocester was the southernmost point. Here we joined the Limestone Way at its start (or end depending on the direction you are going) and followed it back to Lower Ellastone.

I have cycled through this area often but never walked it before; it was interesting to see a bit more of the area from paths rather than the road and that good walking could be had 'close to home' (well close for us at least).

Thanks to Janet Briggs, Nick Evans, Charlie Taylor, Richard Hopkinson, Pete Amour and Brian Dykes for coming along.

Unbeknown to all of us this was to be Richard's last walk with the Oread, it was good to have his company.

I will finish with the note Richard posted on the WhatsApp group after the walk
"Thank you everybody. Good walk, always good to visit a new area."
Thank you Richard, you will be missed.

*Richard taking a 'mugshot' of the bullocks who had escorted us through their field. Photo Nigel Briggs.*



## Langdale Meet – 9 -11 October Janet Briggs

A group of 10 or possibly 11 people were booked onto this meet, however illness, injury and a domestic water leak depleted the group to seven. We stayed at the FRCC hut, Raw Head Barn, just down the valley from the New Dungeon Ghyll. It was a very good hut, it will be even better once they get the showers fixed. We enjoyed the company of a concurrent FRCC meet, mostly consisting of some very enthusiastic university students, they were a breath of fresh air. Most of the Oreads, being retired, were able to extend the prescribed two nights to a Thursday to Monday meet.
The weather forecast was mixed, with showers, strong winds and longer periods of rain all on the menu, however we enjoyed a lot of sunshine between the showers, a plethora of rainbows and a glorious Autumn day on the Sunday. Only Monday was a write off, we all retreated home without setting foot on the hills.
We suggested in advance that this could be a good 'ticking' meet, with lots of Wainwrights, and an abundance of high quality rock routes within easy reach of the hut.
Friday was a Wainwright ticking day, with Simon heading towards Grasmere, taking in Blea Rigg, Tarn Crag, Calf Crag, Steel Fell, Helm Crag, Gibson Knott and Silver How. Pip, Nigel and I went for the classic Langdale Pikes, Pavey Ark via Jack's Rake, followed by Harrison Stickle, Loft Crag, Pike of Stickle and then in

miserable wet and windy conditions, Thunacar Knott.
Saturday, we had discovered, was the day of the Langdale Skyline fell race, two of our fellow hut occupants were taking part. We all decided to head out of Langdale so as not to get in the way. The morning lived up to the forecast of a somewhat wet day, with strong winds high up. This did not deter last man standing of the climbing team, Tim, who headed to The Works, described as 'a scenic hole in the ground close to Hodge Close quarry'. Here he found some fellow advocates of the curious cult of dry tooling, and completed Cerberus and a self confessed dogged ascent of First Blood as well as taking a rather fine photograph of a fellow climber.



Pip had two of the lower Coniston Wainwrights to tick off, Black Fell and Holme Fell, both approached from Tarn Hows. She had a very enjoyable day, they may not be very high but are excellent viewpoints of the Conston and Windermere areas, and also very good for photographing rainbows.



Simon, Nigel and I headed to Ambleside and walked a circuit including Wansfell Pike and the Wainwright Wansfell, otherwise known as Baystones. An unfortunate incident involving sitting down hard on a flat slab rather limited Simon's activity the following day, the pain was numbed by an excellent pint (or two) in the Golden Rule before returning to the hut.

Sunday was always forecast to be the best day of the weekend and so it proved, the winds dropped, the rain stopped and mostly the sun was out. Tim teamed up with some of the students in the hut to go to Gimmer where they climbed Bracket and Slab and Asterisk. We had been joined on Saturday evening by John and Sylvia. Sylvia went into Ambleside by bus to stock up on beer for John as he had drunk his full weekend quota on Saturday night. John headed to Pavey Ark where he completed a slow but steady ascent of Jack's Rake, something which may have rekindled an enthusiasm for doing some more rock climbing.
Simon, Pip, Nigel and I went up the valley, firstly to tick off Rosset Pike. After this Simon left us to descend, finding walking uphill painful after his slip of yesterday. Pip, Nigel and I continued via Esk Hause to Esk Pike, where mist descended, then Bowfell, by which time the mist had cleared and we shared the summit with about 30 University of Lancaster Hiking club members. Pip left us after this as she had to head home. Nigel and I continued over Crinkle Crags, Cold Pike and, after much moaning by me about the 'off piste' descent to Red Tarn, we finished off with Pike of Blisco in the late afternoon sunshine.



So the weekend tally ended up with 21 different Wainwrights, 4 rock routes, one of them a 'Classic Rock' route, and an iconic climb/scramble. Not bad for a depleted group. Thank you to Simon Pape, Pip Leach, Tim Harrison, John and Sylvia Green and Nigel Briggs for your good company.

# Biggin Walk 15 October Chris Paice



*The team at Heathcote Mere. Photo Stuart Firth.*

Nine folks assembled at Biggin for a 11 a.m. start in dry weather. Tracks and roads duly walked. Along the way some changes to the proposed route were made and we all carefully went down to Frank-i-th-Rocks bridge. This was a time to ponder the life of a hermit and the benefits of air conditioning of cave life in hotter weather.

The party of nine temporarily became eight…not that the leader noticed until alerted by other party members. Ooops! Reunited we continued along the babbling River Dove and the whirlpool remains whirly.

Only one longer stop at Hartington by the much-depleted pond then steadily upwards past the YHA and a much longer road section. Heathcote Mere provided the photo opportunity and a new point of interest for some, memories for others. Stiles negotiated and friendly horses met on the last part of the walk with an excellent pub stop at the end. We had own area to partake of tea, coffee, pints with some having puddings.

At some point we had rain, but we also had blue skies. Weather never stops the friendly chatter, the helpfulness and encouragement to all along the way. Thank you to Rusty, Pam, Ruth, Heather, Rachel, Sue, Stuart, John and Hamish for joining me and trusting my judgements about the route.

# Ecton Mine Underground Visit 17 October Stuart Firth



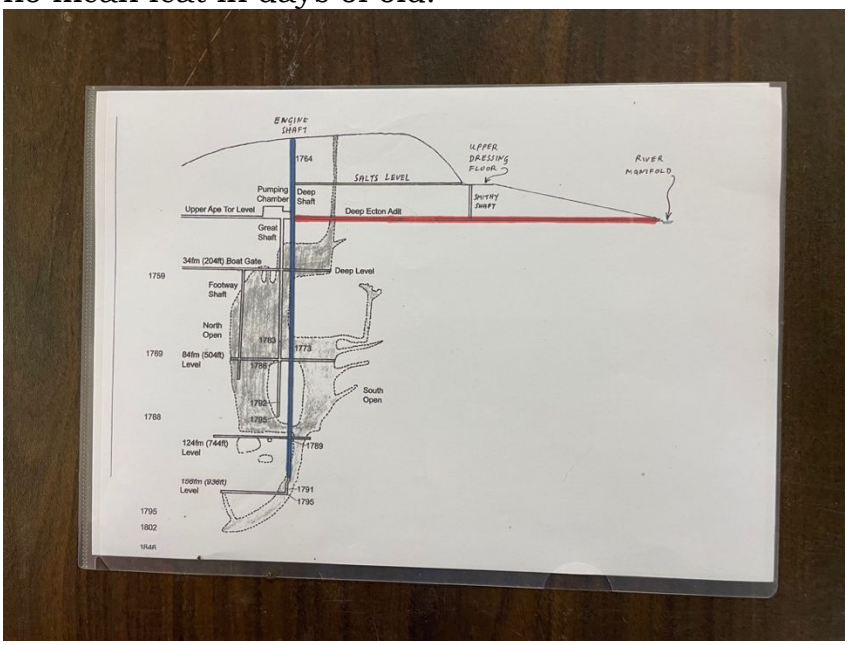
*Richard Shaw (Tour Guide) and part of the team all geared up.*

On April Fool's Day 2026, Nigel Briggs led a walking meet that incorporated Ecton Hill and its fascinating overground mine-workings. It was on our lunch stop at the Education Centre that I floated the idea of an underground trip and was met with an enthusiastic response. A little research soon established that visits could be organised under the aegis of the charitable trust which owns the mine.

So it was that party of nineteen members and guests assembled at the mine on a lovely sunny morning. We walked up to the Education Centre for a fascinating briefing by Nick Hardie who was to be our main guide for the visit. The mine is of great importance geologically, historically and scientifically. Mining was first undertaken here four thousand years ago and it was unusual for Derbyshire in that copper rather than lead was the most important metal mined. At one point it was the largest copper mine in Britain and Europe. In its heyday the Duke of Devonshire made a fortune from the mine and invested it in the development of Buxton and the paying off of his wife's gambling debts.

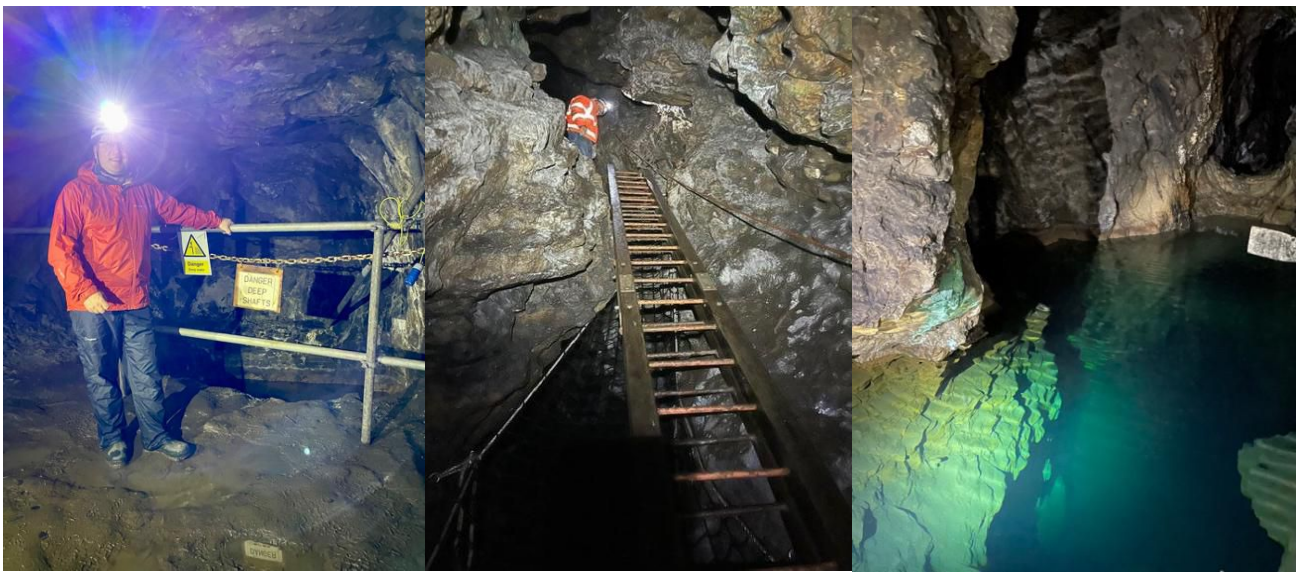
The copper ore was found in a vertical "pipe" which goes from the surface at

c300m above sea level to c300m below river level. A horizontal tunnel several hundred metres long was dug to intersect with the pipe to allow ore and spoil to be extracted - no mean feat in days of old.




**Elevation of a small part of the mine**

We entered at Deep Ecton, visited many interesting features over a three-hour period and exited at Salts level after climbing nine ladders and descending one. We had covered just a small fraction of the immense workings. Although the copper has long been exhausted economically, the mine is still used for scientific research. A recent joint European project used a remote piloted vehicle to map the mine to a depth of 200m below river level. Research on muons (elusive nuclear particles) has led to a new technology to find potentially troublesome gaps between native rock and stonework linings in Victorian railway tunnels.




*Neil Weatherstone. One of nine ascent ladders. Peering into the depths of the pipe.*

All-in-all, this was a very enlightening visit and the geological timing was especially fortuitous as we come to the end of our Peak District GeoWalk series. I must thank our guides Nick Hardie, Richard Shaw and Ian for sharing their knowledge and hospitality.

Attendees in top photo L to R: John Entwistle, Sue Todd, Roger Gibbs, Jane Entwistle, Brian Reynolds, Ellie Reynolds, Kevin Wagstaffe, Janet Briggs, Nigel Briggs, Neil Weatherstone and Ian Ferguson geared up for the visit. Also in attendance were Dougie and William Gardiner, Joanne and Max Askew, John Green, Rob Tresidder and Rachel Walker. And a bat (out of hell?).

## 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 members Matt Hill and Matt Bonser. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the club.

## Patti Carnell

Patti died peacefully in her sleep on 28 September. Patti became a club member in 1978 but she and Derek were part of the club scene well before that and those of us who were pjoined in the regular meets to Pembroke in the '70s to mid '80s have fond, happy memories of them both, sharing with us their knowledge of area. Photographs and memories will be very welcome for future issues.

# Richard Hopkinson



The news of Richard's death on Tuesday 13th October came as a huge shock to everyone who knew him.
**Tony Howard's** response was typical of many:
“What a shock! Richard was a real character and particularly likeable. He was an ever-present member of our club for years. He will be sorely missed. My memories of him include Oread meets to Wales and the Lakes, Curry Meets, Annual Dinners

and a trip to the South of France maybe 10 years ago when I travelled with him in his van.
I send my condolences to Christine and Richard's family."

**Dave Wright** wrote to explain what happened:
"I was supposed to be walking with Richard on Sunday. In the morning I had a text from Christine saying she had been unable to communicate with him since 13.00 on Saturday. She asked me to go and look for him as he goes for a walk in the afternoons. She said a neighbour had looked around the house but couldn't find him.
I went and borrowed the neighbours' key and went into the house. No sign of him, but I went into the garage and the back door into the garden was open. With some trepidation I went into the garden and found him lying by the side of his house. He was breathing but was completely unresponsive and had been in the garden overnight in the pouring rain.
I dialled 999 and a fast responder turned up along with the Police. Ten minutes later the ambulance arrived and they put him inside. After 15 minutes they called an Emergency Doctor to attend to put him in a coma prior to taking him to hospital. One of the ambulance team said they thought he had had a major neurological event."

Richard had suffered a massive haemorrhage on his brain on Saturday afternoon. Because of the extent of damage to his brain Christine and his sisters knew very quickly that he was unlikely to survive. He never regained consciousness. With their consent his life support machine was switched off and he died two hours later. Christine and one of his sisters was with him. As everyone who knew him would agree he would not have wanted to live if he could not be outdoors, walking in the hills or cycling.

Many people in the club will have memories of happy times spent in Richard's company. Recollections and photographs will be very welcome for future issues.
**A Ceremony to Celebrate Richard's life will be held at Amber Valley Memorial Park & Crematorium, Swanwick, on Tuesday 17th November at 2.00pm.**
Richard's Ceremony will be livestreamed: https://watch.obitus.com
Username: **jusu852.** Password **231655.**
Please join us after the ceremony at The Gate, Tansley, Matlock DE4 5FN Please let me know (message xxxxxxxx) if you will be joining us at the Gate for catering purposes.
In Memory of Richard donations may be given to Community Action Nepal at the ceremony or online: www.jepsonfunerals.co.uk/donations to support the survivors of the recent flood disaster in the Rasuwa area of Nepal.

Richard was a casual dresser so please wear what you feel comfortable in to his ceremony.
Please pass these details on to others who may wish to attend Richard's funeral.

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