



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JULY-AUGUST 2024



Chris Wilson and Mike Mowbray topping out on Grey Panther, Kilt Rock, Skye. Photo Martin Lancaster.

Editorial

A double issue to see us through the summer holiday period. Several meets to North Wales coming up plus limestone climbing and/or wonderful walking in Yorkshire and Pembroke. Local walks include the **next Geo walk** – a linear one that needs a bit of advance planning – **page 4.**

Time to book your place on the Anniversary camping meet **see page 7.**

Write ups include the Tan yr Wyddfa barbecue – a point to note – you do still need to **tell the meet leader** that you want to book onto a meet – joining the WhatsApp group is great for seeing who else is going and making plans - but it doesn't reserve a bed!

Memories of **Jack Ashcroft** on page 17.

NewsFlash – speaker announced for Anniversary dinner see page 8
camper van parking info for dinner also included.

Stephen Bashforth will be editing the next – September - newsletter – **so it would be really helpful if all future newsletter correspondence could be sent to newseditor@oread.co.uk** where both of us can access it.

Copy Deadline 22 August.

Meets List 2024 Michael Moss

Please note: **these meets will not happen unless people volunteer to coordinate them** so don't be shy – have a look and see what you can do.
 Michael Moss: email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Tel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Walk leaders are still needed for Saturday: 19 October. Wednesdays: 07 August, and 04 December. Contact Stuart Firth if you can help.
 Stuart Firth: tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx; email xxxxxxxxxxxxx

July	3rd	Wednesday walk	Hartington	Stuart Firth
	12th/13th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Charlie Taylor
	18th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	20th	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Winster to Parsley Hay	Chris Paice
	26th/27th	Sport climbing and walking, Lowstern, Yorkshire	Yorkshire Ramblers Hut	Angela Pingram
Aug	7th	Wednesday walk	Earl Sterndale	Coordinator needed
	6th-9th	Tan yr Wyddfa working party		Dave Snod Helliwell
	9th/10th	Glan Dena, Ogwen Valley, Wales	MAM hut	Dave Snod Helliwell
	12th-22nd	Austrian Alps	Otztal valley	Michael Hayes
	15th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	17th	Weekend walk	Dane Valley	Clive Russell
	24th/26th	Aug. Bank Holiday, Pembroke South		Roland Smith
	30th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	coordinator needed
Sept	4th	Wednesday walk		Janet and Nigel Briggs
	13th/15th	Oread 75th anniversary	Camping, Chatsworth, Derbyshire	
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	21st	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Parsley Hay-Milldale	Pam Storer
Oct	2nd	Wednesday walk		Charlie Taylor
	4th/5th	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Rob Beck
	dates TBD	Mediterranean trad	Morocco	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	19th/20th	Fylde hut swap	Little Langdale, Lake district	Dave Snod Helliwell
	19th	Weekend walk		coordinator needed
	28th	Summer time ends, start of Monday climbing wall sessions		
Nov	1st/2nd	Curry meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	4th-18th	Morocco		Gill Radcliffe
	6th	Wednesday walk		Rachel Walker
	9th?	Bonfire night		
	13th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23rd	Annual Dinner	Maynard, Grindleford	
	24th	Post prandial walk		

Dec	4th	Wednesday walk		Sheffield and/or Nottingham	coordinator needed
	4th	Winter wall wednesdays			
	7th/8th	Bullstones			
	11th	Black rocks evening meet			
	14th	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Milldale-Wetton Mill		Clive Russell
	19th	Thursday short walk			Ruth Gordon
	24-1 Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet			Tan Yr Wyddfa

Forthcoming Meets

Wednesday evening climbing venues.

The venues can still be changed if the weather is unsuitable but at least there will be a starting point for discussion via the WhatsApp group.

3 July Wildcat then The Boat Cromford
 10 July Horseshoe/Stony then the Derwentwater Arms Calver
 17 July High Tor then The White Lion Starkholmes
 24 July Masson Lees then The Barley Mow Bonsall
 31 July Wildcat then The Fishpond

Wednesday 3 July Hartington Walk Stuart Firth

Meet at Hartington Farm Shop and Cafe (W3W changing.florists.hunter) G.R. 129 605 at 10:00 for a 10:30 departure. Route to be revealed on the day - depends who shows up and the appetite of the party.
 (Cafe open 10:00 - 16:00)

For lift-sharing contact Stuart Firth: email xxxxxxxxxxxx; tel.xxxxxxxxxx

12-13 July Tan yr Wyddfa Charlie Taylor

Back at our club hut at Rhyd-Ddu, North Wales, there's plenty on offer straight from the door: Tremadog is just down the road and Cloggy can be reached on foot straight from the hut. There is also good climbing to be had in the Llanberis pass with Gogarth an hour up the road. For the walkers there's Snowdon and the Nantlle ridge on the doorstep.

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

Thursday 18 July Short Walk Ambergate Ruth Gordon

We will start at 11.00 am from the parking just over the river bridge on Holly Lane (the little road that goes off near the Hurt Arms and the cricket ground at SK347415. We will make our way up through Shining Cliff woods to a fine lunch spot in the fields above. Then over to Alderwasley and down to Whatstandwell where we might be tempted to stop at the Family Tree for a beer or afternoon tea before heading back to Ambergate along the canal.

Ruth Gordon email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

20 July Geo Walk Winster – Parsley Hay Chris Paice

This is another end to end walk so an earlier start time please, 9.00 so that lift shares/ parking etc can be sorted for a 10.00a.m. start to the walk.

Start:- Ore House, Winster SK 238 601 DE4 2DR

Finish:- Parsley Hay SK147 637 SK17 0DG

Distance:- 18km

Total Ascent 305m

This section of the walk is in limestone country, apart from a brief excursion on to the overlying sandstone and shale around Harthill Moor. Typical White Peak scenery is first encountered in Bradford Dale, closely followed by Lathkill Dale with its crystal-clear river.

The steep path up from the river to reach the limestone plateau provides the only significant climb of the day.

The above is not my words, taken from the Geo walk description.

There are two extensions, one 15 minute to look at tufa forming. I have homework to do!

The other is longer, up to Arbor Low/Gib Hill, an extra 45 minutes. We will consider this as group.

The following is important.

PLEASE CAN I KNOW WHO IS COMING AND WHO IS WILLING TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT. It would be good if I could know by midday on 19 July. This gives me time to ask and sort it all out. Thank you.

Christine(Chris) Paice:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

26 -27 July Yorkshire Sport Climbing (+ Trad) and Walking Angela Pingram

This was a fantastic meet last year in a gorgeous place. We had a great time on what I think is about the best sports climbing in Britain so I'm really pleased to lead a return trip. Very keen to tick off some more great routes. There's a good range of grades on excellent rock and a choice of bolted and trad limestone. It's also lovely walking and cycling territory.

We'll be based at the Yorkshire Ramblers Lowstern

hut: <https://www.yrc.org.uk/venues/lowstern/> which is ideally situated for all of the above and is a spacious and comfortable hut. Contact me for more information and to book a space (we have 10 spaces).

Angela Pingram: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx or xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

6-9 August Tan yr Wyddfa Working Party Dave Helliwell

This is a rare chance to stop at Tan yr Wyddfa for free! We plan some general maintenance both indoors and out, some cleaning, painting and tidying up. Unfortunately the guy who cut the grass has retired and so far I have failed to find a replacement so it looks like Nodge will be back on grass cutting! There is usually time available to go climbing in the afternoons and it's a jovial party so do come along and join in the fun – but

Derek Pike is still banned from chimney-sweeping – we don't need that much fun! Anyone who can spare a midweek day will be very welcome – even if it is just a few hours on Friday before joining the Glan Dena meet at the weekend.

Snod Helliwell email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx) and leave a message, mobile [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

9-11 August Ogwen Valley Dave Helliwell

This is your opportunity to climb in the Ogwen valley without an Alpine start as the parking is usually full at first light with van dwellers and early risers. We will be stopping at Glan Dena - a modern, purpose-built hut belonging to the M.A.M. <https://www.themam.co.uk/huts/glan-dena-hut>

The opportunities are endless – the Idwal Slabs, Tryfan, Glyders Fach and Fawr, Craig yr Ysfa and many other smaller crags on either side of the valley – plus magnificent mountain walking on your doorstep. My intention on Saturday will be to do Grooved Arete – it's a long time since I last did it and Sunday perhaps the Slabs and continuation walls. Proper mountaineering ending up on a summit!

This meet is always very popular – and this year follows straight on from our own hut working party (to which you are cordially invited!) We only have 10 beds reserved but if I get firm bookings in good time we can reserve another six. Please note – in the week preceding the meet I will be at Tan yr Wyddfa with only occasional access to phone signal or internet so do make your booking before!!!

Snod Helliwell email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx) and leave a message, mobile [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

Wednesday 7 August Earl Sterndale Shortie Straw

Meet outside the Quiet Woman (W3W admits.tripped.mothering APPROX GR 090 670) at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure - pub currently shut and being extensively refurbished.

Unless a volunteer emerges, route and leadership to be fought over by attendees.

12 – 22 August Austrian Alps Michael Hayes

Come and join us in Austria this August in the wonderful Otztal valley just South West of Innsbruck.

We were last there in 2019 and had a fantastic couple of weeks sport climbing, mountaineering, walking, hut to hutting, mountain biking and enjoying this wonderful area.

We are staying at the campsite in Umhausen so If you want to come along then just book yourself onto this campsite [Ötztal Camping Tyrol \(oetztalescamping.com\)](http://oetztalescamping.com)

and contact me if you want any more information.

Michael Hayes Email: xxxxxxxxxx Tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thursday 15 August Short Walk Kirk Ireton Ruth Gordon

We will start outside the Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton at 11.00am. Parking usually available along Main Street. The walk will take in a trig point, "The Mountain" which is only a gentle ascent but gives stunning views all round. Then we descend, steeply at first, to Biggin by Hlland and on to Carsington Reservoir. Around the edge for a bit and return to Kirk Ireton via Hays Lane. Around six miles but no steep ascents. Annoyingly the walk is split between the White Peak and Derby O.S. Maps.
Ruth Gordon email xxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Saturday 17 August Dane Valley and Lud's Church Clive Russell

This is another fine bit of the western Peak District albeit with a parking problem. The terrain is somewhat less verdant and more rugged than on my recent walk from Alstonefield, gritstone plays limestone. We shall have to find informal parking somewhere along the road leading to Roche End where we shall meet on foot at ref **SJ996 645** This is adjacent to the 407 spot height on the map and just west of Bearstones Rock. I propose to start at 10.00am sharp, not because the walk is unduly long but in order to park first. It is especially important to share vehicles for obvious reasons and, as always, first comers are welcome to travel with me. Text me on 07895 761615. (Blue Skoda Octavia if you want to recognise me at the meeting point).
I propose to descend from the meeting point at the apex of the ridge and then pass through Gradbach to take a path alongside the River Dane to Danebridge. We shall then painlessly gain height and return along the top of the ridge on a parallel path and include a trip through the noisome depths of Lud's Church, a steep gorge with historic significance.
Clive "Rusty" Russell email xxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

24-26 August Bank Holiday Pembroke South Roland Smith

If you have been to South Pembroke before, you will no doubt agree that it contains the best trad' limestone climbing in the UK. The Oread will be heading there for the August bank holiday this year, with the tides looking good for the weekend and the preceding few days. If you haven't been before, then you are in for a treat.
As long as you are happy on VS's there will be enough classic routes to keep you busy for a first trip. It is better if you are a competent abseiler as there are limited opportunities for walking/scrambling to the bottom of the crag, but there are some.

Most of the climbing takes place within the Castle-Martin firing range, but the MOD aim keep it open for the whole of August and the bird bans will have finished, so it is probably the best time to go.

It is a wonderful coastline for walking the sea cliffs, with the flora and fauna being improved by being closed to the public for most of the year. There are several decent cafes in Pembroke and good quality pasties are available in nearby Tenby.

We will be staying at the St Petrox campsite, on the way to Bosherton. It is fairly basic but it does have hot showers and decent washing up facilities. They didn't seem to want me to book, but they said that if I can turn up a few days before the weekend with a good idea of numbers then they will rope off an area for us, so please let me know if you intend to join us. We will probably arrive on the Tuesday or Wednesday beforehand.

The last time the Oread had a meet there, the most important facility of the campsite was a tractor to tow us all out of the mud, but we stayed there a few weeks ago and it was fine.

Roland Smith; email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, tel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Wednesday 4 September Walk Nigel and Janet Briggs

Details not yet available as Nigel and Janet are on holiday. Look out for updates in the September newsletter and on the WhatsApp walking group. Any queries Janet Briggs email:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx

13- 15 September 75th Anniversary Celebration Camp Chatsworth Jan and Chris Wilson

It's time to commit to being there or being square!!!!

This is your chance to meet and compete with lots of old friends and new or just kick back and relax in a wonderful spot with amazing company. All welcome, bring the family!!!!

This is just a brief update to give you the latest on the Celebrations at the Camping Meet in Baslow this September. We visited the site with Chatsworth and can now confirm we have a fabulous flat field behind the Pavilion Café in Baslow on the edge of the estate. This is within easy reach of all the Baslow amenities including pubs and a shop. The café is happy to do breakfasts and to provide either their own food or a barbeque on Saturday night including a bar. Opportunities like this don't come along every day so get motivated.

A team of Oreads has been beavering away to make this a really memorable event. We just need a few more of you to commit to some or all of the weekend so we can confirm our food and beer arrangements.

So, drop an email or WhatsApp to

Chris Wilson email xxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Sunday 15 September Anniversary short walk

Chris Paice

Among the activities on offer at the anniversary camp I will be leading a short walk on the Sunday starting and finishing at the Chatsworth campsite.

We will go into Baslow and then over the bridge to pick up a footpath that takes us steadily uphill to Wheatlands Lane.

A short road stretch will bring us to a footpath that takes us through Bank Wood, cross the road and it becomes Bramley Wood.

We walk into Calver at Fold Farm and drop down to the river. (Not in it!) It's then a steady river walk back to Baslow. About 5 .5 miles. A 10.30 start so no rushing.

As this is part of a weekend of activities and something different, I propose that at Calver we have a lunch stop and not a packed lunch.

The café is very welcoming to groups and have, in my experience, set up the outside marquee. However, they will need a rough idea of numbers which I can CONFIRM on the day. So it would be really helpful if you could let me know in advance if you are likely to be joining me.

(You are, of course, more than welcome to bring your own packed lunch, drink etc and eat by the riverside if you prefer.

Should you wish to look up what they offer/prices etc it is 'The Eating House'/ The Derbyshire Craft Centre. S32 3XA.

Chris Paice: email:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

4 - 18 November Morocco

A few members are going to the Anti-Atlas in Morocco at the beginning of November. If you want any more details please contact Gill Radcliffe by email:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

23 November Oread 75th Annual Dinner at the Maynard Arms

We are delighted to confirm that the legendary Johnny Dawes has agreed to speak at our Anniversary dinner.

His ground-breaking first ascents in places close to Oread hearts include Britain's first E8 - Gaia on Black Rocks "a true member of gritstone royalty" and on Cloggy, Britain's first E9 - Indian Face - at the time, considered to be the hardest and most dangerous trad route in the world.

This will be inspirational – do not miss it!

Save the date in your diary now.

Oread Annual Dinner Saturday 23 November Campervan Parking

We have found somewhere to park up to seven vans close to the Maynard Hotel in Grindleford where this year's dinner is being held!

Grindleford Station Café have agreed to let vans park on their land overnight for about £10 each. We've said arrival time will be about 18.00 and that anyone not having breakfast in the café will depart before they open at 9.00.

If anyone wants to use this facility they will need to book in advance to ensure it is not oversubscribed.

If you are interested, please send the following details to Rachel Walker email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Name:

Vehicle Registration:

Vehicle Type and Colour:

Be prepared, payment will be required in advance nearer the date!

3 – 17 February 2025 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 - or just enjoying a change of scene and not having to cook for a couple of weeks!

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: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) and leave a message if I'm not at home.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets

Environmental Issues sub-group

Following discussion at the A.G.M. a small group now exists to look at the environmental impact/sustainability issues relating to our club and to report to the main committee. If there are any interested Oread members who would like to join the group or just contribute with any good ideas please join the WhatsApp group 'Environmentalists' or, if you don't want to do WhatsApp, email Jan Wilson: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx to be put in touch with the group.

Oread 75th Almanac Nigel Briggs

The 'Almanac' is mainly concentrating on the events and changes over the last 25 years, however this it is not exclusively the case. If you wish to contribute an article about anything related to the Oread, or Mountaineering in general, it would be welcome. The piece could be about a specific event, it may be a reflection on past events from today's viewpoint, personal thoughts about how 'things' have changed (for better or worse) or it could be predictive as to how 'things' may progress. **I am looking for someone to write an overview of the summer Alpine meets, particularly over the last 25 years, and how they have changed through the years. If you are interested please get in touch.**

There is room for all. **I want everyone who would like to contribute to have the opportunity to do so.**

Over the last few months I have asked some of you for material to go in the publication, thank you to those who have already sent it to me. I am now starting the compilation; **I would like any promised articles in as soon as possible.**

I am also going to need photographs to break up the text, so if you are contributing please could you include a photograph or two.

From the contributions already received it should be an interesting read!

Nigel Briggs email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Wednesday 5 June Alstonefield Walk Clive Russell



By a supreme mental effort I counted myself once only and decided that there were six present on a fine day at Alstonefield.

We strolled up to Wetton and thence South West-ish along the top of the river bank and after the first few meanders I suggested that the view on offer was the best available in that valley. Although this was only a subjective opinion from a cantankerous eccentric there was a measure of agreement from the troops.

The prospect of a corresponding view over the Dove Valley nearby invigorated us and we were soon past Castern Hall and down to eat our sandwiches in sunshine on the grass beside the river in the grounds of Ilam Hall. Despite appearances there seemed to be a measure of energy and determination in this ageing group and the steepish ascent of the flank of

Bunster Hill was soon overcome.

We passed St Bertrams Well which is only a trickle at ground level but I have always believed that this water feeds the Manifold just upstream from the hall grounds (the river never runs dry at this point).



We again enjoyed the view, over the top of the Dove Valley from Air Cottage and agreed that this was scenery of the highest order.

In warm conditions with heavy vegetation the steep path down to the River Dove at Ilam rock was a touch tedious but was overcome by a party in seemingly good spirits, the ritual admonition of the meet leader was surprisingly muted.

Thereafter the short distance to Milldale village and cafe was easily completed and refreshments by the Packhorse Bridge fortified us for the fairly steep ascent back to Alstonfield

Those present John Green, Nick Evans, Stuart Firth, Peter Amour and last but seemingly on the wrong planet in this company, the fair Sue.

Cratcliffe Walk 13 June Ruth Gordon

In fact this proved a most lucky day for a walk! The forecast was for rain coming in the afternoon but it was a pleasant sunny morning that tempted seven to risk a soaking. The views were superb – the Derbyshire countryside at its best.

The riverside stretch from Youlgreave to Middleton was teeming with baby ducklings and coots (and lost Duke of Edinburgh's Award hopefuls!) Stuart greeted the latter with a bracing “Are you having Fun?” None of them actually dared answer “No!”



A few spots of rain appeared in the last hour – but we persuaded Chris to don a particularly virulent lime green cycling waterproof that frightened it off until we had made it back to the cars – and then it poured! Thanks to Stuart Firth (Event Photographer), Chris Radcliffe, Rusty Russell, Reg Squires, and guests Heather and Gill for your company.

Kinder Downfall Circuit - Saturday 16 June 2024 Stuart Firth

We're doomed! I tell you, we're doomed!

The original meet leader thought his time was better spent by decamping to the sunshine in Devon. Others undoubtedly enjoyed themselves at the TyW BBQ. Another team was on its way to the Lofoten Islands in Norway whilst one of the most astute members adjudged the weather forecast too inclement to justify the risk to life and limb in the Dark Peak.

So it was that a small, select, environmentally-conscious party car-shared to Hayfield. En route the conversation became quite animated as we discussed the sorry state of the world and the imminent self-destruction of the human race. Would it be: climate change; world war; nuclear annihilation; some bug escaping from a laboratory in a distant land; the PTSD follies of Brexit; political trauma of the imminent election; or simply a good soaking on Kinder? Whatever - we were doomed.

In any event, the driver became distracted and we were well on our way to Manchester when Richard chirped up and told me we should have made a turning a few miles back. A quick about-turn and we were soon leaving Hayfield and walking up William's Clough. We were able to resist most - but not all - of Richard's fell-running instincts to take steep "shortcuts". As we reached the Kinder rim, it became evident that we were in counterflow to dozens of earnest athletes of various shapes and sizes undertaking a run from Edale to Hebden Bridge.

Lunch was taken in fair weather with good visibility but with an unusual ominous cloud lurking in the middle distance. This would later give us a bit of a soaking on our descent. We reached Hayfield safely to be faced with one of life's existential questions: why do cafes in outdoorsy places seem to shut before outdoorsy people are likely to have completed their day? Fortunately, Sue had baked some scones so we were able to enjoy a cream tea on our return to home base.



Pippa, Sue, John and Richard being overshadowed by the Cloud of Doom in the background.

Thanks to Pippa, Sue, John and Richard for their cheerful company - despite the worldwide gloom and doom.

Tan yr Wyddfa BBQ 14 – 16 June Tony Howard

This was my first leading of a meet under the new arrangements; that is one would book a bed and pay using the Oread website, then communicate with those intending to come along via a purpose-built WhatsApp group for the meet. The old system put the responsibility and control with the meet leader. I had not signed in to my own meet! I was also not aware of the WhatsApp group that Ed Bloomfield had specifically set up for me! Richard Hardwick told me about this. I had quite a few people intending to join me! I was now getting somewhere!! Nine people eventually contacted me, though some did not identify themselves so I could only recognise those who were already in my phone's contact list – progress, but still some way to go.

As the weekend approached the weather forecast was for rain on both Saturday and Sunday. Of the nine, seven dropped out in one sense or another. On Friday evening there were just three of us: Nick Evans, Richard and me, plus Andy Birtwistle and his wife Sue who had been at TyW for a few days and would leave before our carnivorous evening. After dark two more arrived who I did not know about, James Pike and his neighbour Emily. So, we were a cosy little group of five.

Rain was forecast for Saturday morning, but James and Emily walked up Snowdon and Richard, Nick and I chose a 4.5 mile walk from Criccieth to Llanystumdwy and back. This involved a superb coastal path for about a mile and a half outbound and about a mile on the return leg. We set off with a squall of rain and hail but after about half an hour, the weather brightened up to blue skies, blue sea, the lovely scenery. James and Emily had similar conditions on Snowdon and we all had a thoroughly good day. When we began cooking it was sunny but not too warm. Nonetheless the meat and the wine went down well.

On Sunday we had mild and sunny weather all day. Nick and Richard went plant hunting on Cloggy and after ascending Eastern Gully they continued to the top of Snowdon, coming down via the Rhyd Ddu path. I walked the new local route, that is, round Llyn y Gadair, southwards on the Snowdonia Slate Trail to the main road then returning past Ffridd Uchaf farm and the Rhyd Ddu path from Snowdon. James and Emily departed after a late breakfast. Dave Mason and Lianne came out to Wales on Saturday and although they did not join us, they did keep in contact, staying on Anglesey and climbing Dream of White Horses, a dream of a route.

An enjoyable weekend was had by all. Wales always offers something! Well, it usually does.

The Don Whillans Memorial Hut Roaches Meet 21-22 June Ed Bloomfield

Twelve of us met at the hut on Friday evening after pairing off and doing a few routes on the upper and lower tier of the Roaches. Mike had prepared a feast for us all and Angela and Roland had baked a french cheesecake; we were all in awe of the hut and its rugged beauty. We sat down for dinner in

the cave and reminisced about yesteryear when mad Doug Moller, the axe wielding, eye patch wearing resident of the hut in the 70s and 80s used to chase climbers away or offer them the beta. Everyone was mystified by his friendly then unfriendly demonour back in the day but as the weekend unfolded it all became apparent.



The weekend was epic in every sense of the word, Saturday mid morning after the crag had dried out a little we went on the ascend - Dolorosa, Valkyrie and Mincer were directly behind the hut so that seemed like an obvious place to start, although there was a team that went on an excursion to Five Clouds, Skyline and beyond. There was bloodshed by the first team on Valkyrie, a single tear shed for the second team, and a marooned leader with two ropes jammed on the Mincer. "Chris Wilson to the rescue:" - the epics had begun as he lowered a rope down to the "minced".

We were in and out of the hut all day having coffees and sandwiches as more and more Oreads arrived. It was then that we started to understand Doug's demeanour more: - every walker passing by was wandering in and out of the hut trying to use the toilet or buy a coffee.

After lunch the hunt for the Sloth was on and two successful leads began to turn the tides, Pincer, Hawkwing and Diamond Wednesday soon succumbed to the Oread.

The day drew to a close and we retired to our cave. Another two uninvited visitors walked in while we were serving dinner and proceeded to take their self guided tour without a word. The penny had dropped, Roger suggested we ought to bring our own axe next time we book the hut!

Sunday the weather played ball again and some of the group tramped off to Hen Cloud and others the Upper Tier. The epics returned - a team from the Clogwyn club had got a second stuck on Black and Tans, "Dave Mason to the rescue": climbing up and unzigging the z clipped gear. The Sloth fought back while a leader tried to wrestle a whole rack in the roof crack. "Lianne Sellors to the rescue": storming through the roof to bring up the pumped rackless leader on second. (Lianne's second successful lead of the Sloth the weekend!)



Lianne on her first lead of The Sloth.

It was a successful meet I promise. We all had our moments in the spotlight and we all went home for tea and medals at the end of it. Thanks everyone for making it an experience to remember! I think we will be seeing the hut in the meets list again sometime! And hopefully Angela's and Roland's cheesecakes coming to a hut near you.

Hut Bookings.

Hut bookings are now made online at the Oread website www.oread.co.uk. The system allows you to see up to date bed availability details and make your own bookings.

Please remember to sign in as members first before making your bookings as you get access to the Oread beds and rates and you don't have to enter lots of details required for external bookings.

All queries and outstanding payments should be addressed to Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA Mobile 07771 700913. Email: michaelhayes6688@gmail.com

Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer to our Lloyds account – Sort Code 30-98-97 Account number 62584068. Please use the 'Reference' box to say what the payment is for. **In particular please say which hut, ie Hut fees HL, or Hut fees TyW.** Your name is not necessary

in the reference, unless it is different from the bank account name. Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread M.C. to the above address.

Information on Member Activities

Welcome to new provisional members, Nuno Gomes, Rhiannon Grant, Phil Sturgeon and Vera Venancio, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread. Current provisional member Ian Ferguson has applied for full membership, If you would like to comment on this application please contact a member of the committee.

John “Jack” Ashcroft 13 October 1931 – 22 May 2024



Jack Ashcroft, happy in the mountains, portrayed by Gordon Gadsby.

This tribute, compiled by David Ashcroft and the family, with the help of members of the several mountaineering clubs he belonged to, was read at Jack's funeral on 11 June.

Named as John but known by most as Jack Ashcroft was born on 13th October 1931 in Barrow in Furness. At the age of nine years old he, together with his mother and his younger sister Joyce, moved to Plealey near Shrewsbury after being bombed out of Liverpool during World War II. After finishing school, he went to the technical college in Shrewsbury and went on to qualify as a civil engineer. He worked as a civil engineer all of his life. He enjoyed his work but his true passion was what he called “the great outdoors.” Walking, climbing, running, cycling, anything to get out in the open air.

While still at college he met his wife Janet and they enjoyed 64 years of

marriage together until she passed away in 2021. They began married life in a caravan, with a Bantam 125 motorcycle and a cat to their name. When Jack passed away, he was living in a five-bedroom house in a relatively affluent area of Sheffield. Despite this he was never interested in great wealth. As long as he could live close to nature, he was happy.

His passion for outdoor activity gained him respect and friendship from many people from the mountaineering world. He was involved in numerous mountaineering clubs and associations including the Oread Mountaineering Club based in Derby, The Castle Mountaineering Club in Sheffield, the Midlands Association of Mountaineers, the British Mountaineering Club, the Alpine Club and was a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

In 1961 he was part of an expedition to the Himalayas with the Oread Mountaineering Club. Led by his long-time friend Bob Pettigrew they made the second ever ascent of a mountain called the White Sail, a 22,000ft mountain in the Kulu region of Punjabi Himalaya. Jack took a bronze plaque that he hammered into the summit block. Bob told me that it was approximately 20 years until anyone else climbed the White Sail. Unfortunately, the third ascent was done by the Indian Airforce who decided to take the plaque down. Being a skilled cartographer, one of Jack's roles in the expedition was to be the first to survey and produce mountaineers' maps of the area.

In 1973 he was elected to the Alpine Club, to gain membership of this club you have to have led a minimum of 30 alpine peaks.

In the 70s he joined the Castle Mountaineering Club in Sheffield. With either the Oread or Castle clubs I believe he walked/climbed all the classic long-distance walks including the Pennine Way, Coast to Coast and the Welsh 14. He also completed all the Scottish Munros. There are very few mountains in the U.K. that he had not climbed. He returned to the Himalayas with the Castle club on a number of occasions for less severe climbs than the 1961 expedition. His last trip was to celebrate his 70th birthday.

He introduced his three sons to the mountains. While other families were going on holiday to the seaside, Jack would put his family into a car, drive to the lake district, Scotland, Wales, and on one occasion the Italian Alps. Put up a tent and spend a few weeks climbing mountains. They were introduced to skiing, canoeing and numerous other activities to enjoy in the "great outdoors".

While he spent as much time as possible in the mountains, he also ran a number of marathons including the Sheffield, London and a number of the Barnsley marathons. He was involved in numerous cross country runs and enjoyed cycling. He was also an enthusiastic photographer and loved growing his own veg. He often talked about becoming a vegetarian, but enjoyed his meat too much to succeed in that challenge.

He retired at the age of 63 but continued with his outdoor activities. In 2001, at the age of 70, he joined the County Set walking club, a local group of retired county engineers who shared his love of the peak district. He joined them for a number of local walks. Becoming more selective, choosing less strenuous walks as his age increased. Eventually just meeting what he called "the Lads" in the pub at the end of the walks.

Unfortunately, He had a fall in his late 80s while walking in the local area where he broke his neck. Being the resilient man he was he was back home within a couple of months. But a combination of the fall and his wife's death in 2021 took its toll. He spent his final few years at home being helped by family and friends with the odd outing at Christmas with people like "the lads" of the County Set.

Jack could be very stubborn. If you didn't want to do what he suggested or go his way he would, usually politely, agree to disagree and go his own way anyway. He spent his life doing what he loved, when and where he wanted to do it, as long as his wife would let him!

Further tributes, memories and photographs will be most welcome for future issues.

Paul Gardiner writes:

This is my favourite photo of Jack, taken some time in the 1960s. We weren't doing anything very serious, just wandering around in the Great Gable area.



Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:

A great climbing pioneer suffered a minor fall whilst exploring a new route and later remarked that the fates had chosen a safe place to teach him a lesson. Who was the climber and what was the name of the route when later completed?

(This was a climb I have done myself and so was clearly not in the highest order of difficulty.)

Last month's puzzle solution:

The bridge with pedestrians aboard is the packhorse bridge North of Hollinsclough, over the River Dove, and the one with a full view of the arch is at Panniers Pool, and spans the River Dane.

Surprisingly, they are only 4.25 kilometres apart as the crow flies; (surprisingly because it would be a tortuous journey by road if undertaken). The waters of the Dove enter the North Sea via the Rivers Trent and Humber whereas the Dane enters the Irish Sea via the Mersey so the lovelorn molecules of water would only meet after an impossible distance through the worlds great oceans.

I find this of interest as it is on a major watershed.

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