

# Oread Mountaineering Club Magazine

**February 2025**



**The team approaching the hamlet of Housley on 8 January – story page 21  
photo Peter Amour.**

## **Editorial**

A bumper issue with meets coming up to the Lakes, Wales and Scotland as well as lots to do locally.

In this issue: Page 5 paying your subs. Also an urgent plea for volunteers to help with essential roles – Secretary, Hut Custodian, Membership Secretary, Web Manager - **please read this - there are little jobs you could do from home.**

Last chance to order a hard copy of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal page 6.

Notice of the A.G.M. and how to order your pie and pea supper. Pages 19-20.

Meets write-ups include the Bullstones, and a trip to the Balkans.

Tributes to founder member, Dave Penlington, page 24.

**It would be really helpful if all future newsletter correspondence could be sent to [newseditor@oread.co.uk](mailto:newseditor@oread.co.uk).**

**Copy Deadline 20 February.**

## Meets List 2025 - Edward Bloomfield

The 2025 meets list still has some blanks where there should be a meet coordinator. I need more volunteers to step forward!

Ed Bloomfield email [edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com](mailto:edwardlbloomfield@gmail.com) tel. 07990 066362

2025				
	Dates	Hut/Location/title	Description	Leader
<b>F e b r u a r y</b>	0	0	0	0
	4th	Royal oak Ockbrock omc Winter lecture	Emma Hayes lecture Norway 2024	Rob Tresider
	5th	Blore Pastures car park	Wednesday walk	C Russel
	3-17th	Benidorm	winter sun sport climbing	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	15th	Wetton Mill - Upper Hulme	Saturday walk	Stuart Firth
	16th	Cratcliffe	Peak District bouldering meet	Michael Moss
	20th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21-23rd	TYW	Weekend scrambling & walking meet	Nigel berry
	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	
<b>M a r c h</b>	1st	Curbar	Peak District bouldering meet	???
	5th	Bamford Edge - Stanage Edge	Wednesday walk	Chris Mather
	7th-9th	George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Walking and climbing in Patterdale	Roger Larkam
	13th	Fishpond matlock -Dmc Winter lecture	Roger Mear - Big Wall Climbing	dmc
	14-16th	Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven	Scottish winter climbing	Mick Hayes
	20th	Hartington	Thursday short walk	C Paice
	22nd	Pre AGM Longshaw	Saturday walk	C Paice
	22nd	Matlock FC???	Saturday AGM???	Jan Wilson
	23rd	(Spring Stride) Curbar Gap	Sunday Post AGM Walk (Spring Stride)	P Armour
	0	0	0	0
28-30th	North York Moors camping meet	Climbing and walking N Yorks	Wilson	
<b>A p r i l</b>	2nd	Wednesday climbing outdoors starts	Harborough Rocks	N/a
	9th	Dimmingdale, Alton	Wednesday walk	Peter Amour
	4th-6th	TYW hut meet North Wales	Walking and Climbing in North Wales	????
	17th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th-27th	Font camping meet	Bouldering meet in Fontainebleau	Nuno Gomes
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26th	Upper Hulme - Flash)	Saturday walk	Peter Amour
27th	Millsbne	Crack School climbing coaching	Simas Jermosenka	
0	0	0	0	

<b>M a y</b>	2nd-11th	Cornwall or pembroke camping meet?	Camping, walking & climbing	Ed Bloomfield
	0	0	0	0
	7th	TBC	Wednesday walk	J Gwyther
	15th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	16th-18th	New members' meet Healthy Lee	Climbing and bbq at the hut	Kevin Moss
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24th	TBC	Saturday walk	J Gwyther
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	23-31st	Scotland	Climbing and walking W. coast	Mike Moss
<b>J u n e</b>	0	0	0	0
	4th	Dovedale	Wednesday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	6th-8th	Lowstern North Yorkshire	Walking & climbing N Yorks	Pete Amour
	0	0	0	0
	15th	Peak District women rock	Meet to celebrate women climbing	Emma Hayes
	19th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	21nd	Geo Walk - Flash to Brierlow Bar	Saturday Walk	Peter Amour
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	21-6th	Saas Grund, Pennine Alps Switzerland	Alps meet	Steve Christian
26-28th	Little Langdale/Stair TBC (Fylde hut)	Climbing and walking meet	Snod	
<b>J u l y</b>	2nd	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	04-6th	Rock Hall Roaches	Climbing at the Roaches	Charlie Taylor
	30-Dec	0	0	0
	12th	Peak District pinnacles meet	0	???
	0	0	0	0
	17th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	18th-20th	Anglesey camping meet	Sea cliff climbing & camping	Lianne/Dave Mason
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26th	Shuttingsloe	Saturday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
0	0	0	0	
<b>A u g u s t</b>	1st-3rd	MAM Coniston	0	???
	0	0	0	0
	6th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8-10th	Healthy Lea family meet	0	Rob Beck/Nuno Gomes
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	16th	Geo Walk - Brierlow Bar to Tideswell	Saturday walk	???
	0	0	0	0
	21st	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	22-25th	Pembroke camping meet	Sea cliff climbing, Pembroke	???
30-6th	Ailefroide, Ecrins	Alps trip	Nigel Berry	
<b>S e p t e m b e r</b>	3rd	TBC	Wednesday Walk	???
	5-7th	Glan Dena (Ogwen valley)	North Wales climbing and walking	???
	TBC 2/3 weeks	Ailefroide Ecrins France	Alps meet focused on Rock routes	Nigel Berry
	0	0	0	0
	18th	TBC	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	19th-21st	Peak District BARMY comp	BARMY competition camping meet	?????
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	26-28th	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

<b>O c t o b e r</b>	1st	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Christine Paice
	0	0	0	0
	11-13th	High House Lake District	Walking & climbing meet	Tony Howard
	0	Med Sport??	0	Em Hayes
	16th	TBC	Thursday shortwalk	Ruth Gordon
	18th	Geo Walk - Tideswell to Edale	Saturday Walk	???
	19th	Froggat Slab School	Peak District Slab workshop	???
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	24-26th	TYW - North Wales	0	???
0	0	0	0	
<b>N o v e m b e r</b>	0	0	0	0
	5th	TBC	Wednesday Walk	Stuart Firth
	8th	heathy lea	Bonfire night	Kasia?
	0	0	0	0
	7-16th	Desert Rock	Destination to be confirmed Kea Rock , vvaai Rim or Tafaroute	Kev/Ed
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	20th	TBC	Thursday shortwalk	Ruth Gordon
	22nd	Annual dinner	Bentley brook	Christine pace
	23rd	Post prandial walk	0	0
	23rd	Post dinner climb ,	0	0
0	0	0	0	
<b>D e c e m b e r</b>	3rd	Goyt	Wednesday Walk	Rusty (Clive Russell)
	6-7th	Bullstones	0	Mike Mowbray
	0	0	0	0
	13-15th	Mannood dry tooling	Dry tooling meet hut to be confirmed	Rob Beck
	18th	TBC	Thursday shortwalk	Ruth Gordon
	0	0	0	0
	20th	Geo Walk - Edale to Birchen Clough Bridge	Saturday Walk	???
	0	0	0	0
24-1 Jan	0	Christmas and New Year hut meet	??	

## Thank you Stuart Firth from Peter Amour

As most of you will know Stuart has been central to creating an active and interesting walks programme for some years now, and is now deservedly stepping away from that position. When he took on the role we had just a few people wearing Vibram soled boots. His enthusiasm, encouragement and organising has significantly raised the numbers participating in, and leading shared days in the hills. The hillwalking programme today offers regular and varied activities with a great bunch of people, so I (and I'm sure others) want to thank you Stuart - and Sue for your much appreciated efforts. From January I am taking on the walks co-ordinator's position and hope that I come somewhere near to matching Stuart's achievements. Cheers Stuart!

## Locks at the huts.

**There is now a padlock on the barrier at Heathy Lea to prevent unauthorised access to the area. The code is 1949 – the year the club was founded. You**

**should lock the barrier once all your party has arrived/left.  
The door lock on the main side entrance to Tan yr Wyddfa has been changed. It now locks when you shut the door. The keys are unchanged. During your stay do not leave without knowing the code or having your key with you – or you will be locked out!  
The current key codes are available on the website to logged in members in the Members section under Club Information.**

## **Oread Membership 2025**

It's time to renew your membership for 2025, this year we have unfortunately had to increase our fees to reflect the 20% increase in the fee we pay to the BMC for each member.

- £50 for Full Membership
- £40 for Senior Membership
- £40 for Provisional Membership
- £25 Voluntary contribution for receiving the paper newsletter

If you have already set up a GoCardless mandate then you should have received an email from Janet Briggs in early January, and you don't need to do anything apart from logging in to the members' part of the Oread website to make sure your details are up to date.

If you have not signed up to GoCardless yet here is how to pay, there are 3 ways;

1. Our preferred method is to set up GoCardless direct debit by setting up a general mandate using these links:

Provisional member and Senior member,

£40 :<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0004BWYZEHS9>

Full member, £50:<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0004BWZ2FGNQ>

You will be notified by email before any money is transferred.

2. By bank transfer to Oread Mountaineering Club Sort Code 30- 98-97 Account 62584068 with Subs and your name in the reference field. Once the payment has been made, please email [michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com) with confirmation.

3. By Cheque made payable to the Oread Mountaineering Club and then posted to Michael Hayes, 179 Starkholmes Road, Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA. As of this year we have to pay bank charges per cheque paid in so bank transfer is our preferred method if not using GoCardless.

Michael Hayes and Janet Briggs.

## **Nomination of Officers Jan Wilson**

The upcoming AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March marks a turning point in the Club's Calendar and in particular a change of President. Before leaving post, I wanted to encourage you to consider volunteering some of your time to support the club.

**We need volunteers to become members of the committee. Without these the club can't function. We are also happy to talk about help outside of Committee to share workload if you can't attend meetings.**

In particular we really need a new **Secretary**.



We have also highlighted the need for a new **Heathy Lea Hut custodian** as the current officer has been a temporary appointment. The job isn't onerous, and you can see the description on the website. There is a hut sub-committee which does the day-to-day stuff like checking the facilities and replacing consumables or getting the septic tank emptied. They will continue to operate but we need a point of focus for discussions with Chatsworth and organising working parties or budgeting etc. If you feel you could help, please come forward even if it's for a trial period. If we fail to appoint, I must advise you that we are approaching the decision point where we will be forced to plan around surrendering the lease and losing the hut.

Our **Membership Secretary** is resigning this year after ten years in office doing a splendid job. If you feel you can help, please come forward.

Finally our **Website manager** has had to stand down but will be doing emergency tasks for a period of time.

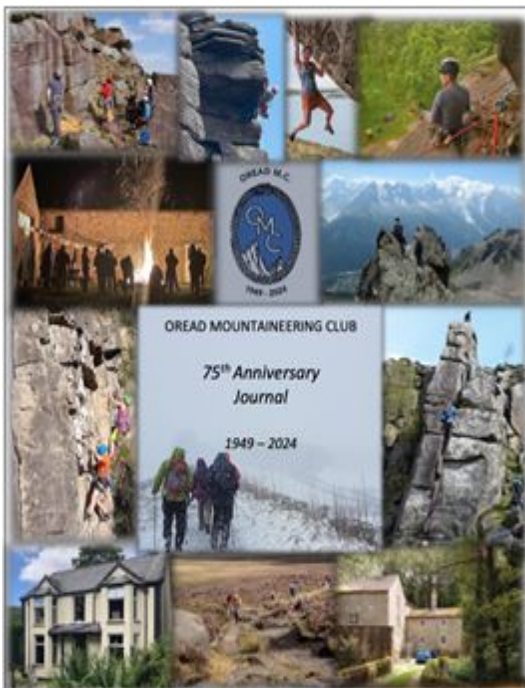
We have job descriptions for all of these posts and will consider offers of help for all of the job or a part share to suit your skill set. If you want the job descriptions, please contact me or get in touch with the current post holder who will assist with any questions.

In a similar vein we need new people to plan for the long-term future of Tan yr Wyddfa and the management of the club.

We had an amazing 75<sup>th</sup> Year which proved we are an active and growing organisation. In the spirit of this why not come forward and offer your services. Please feel free to contact me or any other committee member if you have any questions. We will welcome you with open arms.

Jan Wilson email: [jan.lumsdale@gmail.com](mailto:jan.lumsdale@gmail.com) tel. 07769 186041

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal**



The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal is now available on the club's website as a pdf document.

### **75th Journal**

We are getting 'hard' copies of the Journal for those who request them.

We will have two options available, the first is a hard copy of the Journal that is on the website.

It contains summary versions of four articles.

The full versions of the articles are available as appendices on the website along with some additional photographs. The second option is to have a hard copy with the appendices included (this more than doubles the size).

As an indication the price of the Journal is expected to be in the £15 - £20 region and the price of the Journal including the appendices about £40. The final cost depends on the numbers ordered.

If you wish to get a copy please let me know as soon as possible if you have not already done so. I will send out an email with definite prices as soon as I have them available.

Thank you. Nigel Briggs email [nigel.briggs@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel.briggs@btinternet.com)

## **Forthcoming Meets**

### **Tuesday 4 February 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**



**Emma Hayes: the Lofoten trip.** Nine campervans, 4000 miles of driving fuelled by many yummy skolebrøds, the Oread ventured to Lofoten to climb, walk, fish, swim, bike, oh and kayak! The evening will highlight some of the group's experiences travelling to the top of Norway, and life on Lofoten where the sun never sets.

The Royal Oak, Ockbrook DE72 3SE

Rob Tresidder tel. 07951 625378 email: [rob61.tresidder@icloud.com](mailto:rob61.tresidder@icloud.com)

### **Wednesday 5 February Blore Pastures Walk Rusty Russell**

Please meet at the car park on Blore Pastures (SK136 497 between Ilam and Blore) for a 10.30 start. Those wishing to avoid the usurious car park fees may be able to park in Ilam which is about 15 mins walk away, We shall ascend to Musden Low and then head for Calton and thence the ruined Throwley Hall which is a pleasantly scenic spot. Thereafter we shall drift down the west side of the Manifold Valley, possibly taking top up refreshment at Ilam Hall. I have not measured the distance in either light years or angstrom units. However I judge it to be a suitable winter's day outing for the usual participants and short cuts are available in the event of adverse conditions.

Rusty Russell: email [zrussell2@googlemail.com](mailto:zrussell2@googlemail.com) tel. 07895 761615

### **Saturday 15 February Peak District GeoWalk - Wetton Mill to Upper Hulme Stuart Firth**

This is a one-way walk starting at Wetton Mill and will need some car shuffling. Start: Leave at 10:30 from lay-by car park Wetton Mill at GR SK 096 561 - DE6 2AG - W3W tight.perch.unhelpful. The National Trust tea room may or may not be open. Volunteer(s) required to help by leaving one or more vehicles at Upper Hulme at 10:00 and travelling to the start in another. I shall identify a descriptive

landmark for volunteers' parking beforehand.

Finish: Upper Hulme GR SK 011 609 - ST 13 8TY - W3W inert.table.stared.

"This section leaves the limestone-dominated lagoonal setting behind and instead traverses over shale, limestone and sandstone that were deposited in deeper water. The route crosses an interesting geological structure as it follows the River Hamps, before climbing to the Mermaid Inn with its wonderful panoramic views. A gentle descent over landslipped terrain to reach the Churnet valley and Upper Hulme concludes the walk."

12 km; 350m ascent. OS Explorer 24 White Peak Please let me know if you're coming / volunteering so that I can organise suitable logistics. Alternatively one could walk both ways!

Stuart Firth: tel. 07977 458048 email [stuartmfirth@btinternet.com](mailto:stuartmfirth@btinternet.com)

## **Thursday 20 February Short Walk Rusty Russell**

Please assemble at my home, Slate House, Smithy Lane, Parwich (DE6 1QD) SK185 548 in time for an 11am start. The first four applicants may park in the yard. It would be best to share vehicles where practicable. The walk takes in some of the pleasant field paths in the area, taking in Eaton Dale and possibly a section of High Peak Trail although we may loop round to return on a parallel path slightly to the South if appropriate. There might even be a cup of tea on completion for those who have organised suitable weather.

Rusty Russell: email [zrussell2@googlemail.com](mailto:zrussell2@googlemail.com) tel. 07895 761615

## **21-23 February Tan y Wyddfa Walking, Scrambling and Mountaineering Nige Berry**

Whatever the Welsh weather has in store - if there is interest, opportunities for looking at efficient decision making and use of ropes in the mountains. For further info contact me. Book your bed nights online as usual and let me know you are coming.

Nige Berry: email [nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk) tel. 07939 073394

## **Tuesday 4 March 8.00pm Lecture Royal Oak Ockbrook**

Stevie and Laura of SteLa Tandem will talk about their record breaking round the world tandem ride. It may not be mountaineering as we know it, but expect some big hills!

Rob Tresidder tel. 07951 625378 email: [rob61.tresidder@icloud.com](mailto:rob61.tresidder@icloud.com)

## **Wednesday 5 March Stanage Edge Walk Chris Mather**

We will meet at Cutthroat Bridge car park on the A57 SK2160 - 8150 at 10.a.m for 10.15 departure.

(Parking start to be confirmed - watch What'sApp or be in touch with me if you don't do WhatsApp.) We walk south to join the main path along Stanage edge before turning east to Stanage Pole and down to the Redmires reservoirs and



Hallam moors, then turning north towards Moscar and back to the start.  
Approximately 14 Km.

Chris Mather: email [chrismather@icloud.com](mailto:chrismather@icloud.com) tel. 07983153144

## **7-8 March George Starkey Hut Patterdale Roger Larkam**

Consulting the Oread chronicles there seems no period since at least 1985 when an annual Patterdale meet has been omitted. This record of location continuity is surpassed only by Black Rocks on the WBWBXmas meet.

Hailing the start of spring, March in the Lake District guarantees a variety of Enjoyable Conditions. Based in a scenic valley in the Lakes, the area offers something for everyone, with a multitude of explorations of Helvellyn, Fairfield and High Street and their ridges, potential for snow and ice routes, and scrambles onto the high fells all to be considered. Perhaps plot a water borne excursion Glenridding to Howtown pier (departures 9.45, 12.05 daily) and return via the lakeside, or Boredale. Have you been to Pinnacle Ridge St Sunday Crag, Lanty's Boulder or if you have had sufficient on Striding Edge, approach Helvellyn via Ruthwaite Lodge and Nethermost Cove?

Let me know via phone, email or the meet WA group if you will be attending, all welcome. Hurry while stocks last. The 10 initially anticipated beds are already booked out but another 12 can be available.

George Starkey Hut (<https://george-starkey-hut.com/>) in Patterdale, on the A592, post code CA11 0NL, GR NY 39412 16085

Roger Larkam email [roger.larkam@gmail.com](mailto:roger.larkam@gmail.com) tel. 07936 634 021

## **14-16 March Scottish Winter Climbing Meet Waters cottage Kinlochleven Michael Hayes**



We have 15 places booked at the Fell and Rock Hut in Kinlochleven in the western Highlands. The hut's in a great position with close access to all the main climbing areas including Glen Coe and Ben Nevis.

With longer daylight hours March is an ideal time to make the journey north in search of snow and ice.

**Places are limited so get in quickly and book your place by emailing me:**  
[michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com)

## **20 March Short Walk - Hartington Chris Paice**

Starting at the area of green space opposite the Charles Cotton pub (SK17 OAL) grid ref SK127 604. There is limited street parking here but 45m away is pay and display parking where the toilets are. Setting off at 11.00 we start on streets past the youth hostel and then take Highfield Lane towards Dale End. This then leads into Biggin Dale which we take and find the River Dove at Wolfscote Dale. A lovely walk along the river to Beresford Dale. At the weir we go through the wood and then over the fields and return to the start. A relatively easy walk, Biggin Dale is a little rocky in places but otherwise good paths and tracks. A few places of interest along the way. Three dales, one river and tea shop at the end (if open). Always good company. Do join us. 9.5km (5.92 miles). Total ascent 164 m (538 ft)  
Chris Paice: email [walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk) tel. 07773 045838

## **22 March Longshaw walk (pre AGM) Chris Paice**

A 10 a.m. start from the National Trust car park at Longshaw. Free for National Trust members and Scottish National Trust members. Toilets at the visitor centre and café which is a short walk from the car park. Alternative free parking on the A6187, the same road which the Fox House is on.

Longshaw map ref 261,800 S11 7TZ

We then go onto another map to travel in a northerly direction and then westerly towards Higger Tor. Continuing this path in a roughly southerly direction to Over Owlter Tor. Crossing the A6187 we walk alongside Oxhay wood and through Bolehill Wood to Upper Padley. It is now southerly to Grindleford and then we walk up Padley Gorge. Eventually we cross Burbage Brook and the B6521 to walk alongside Granby Wood and return to the start point.

12.5 km (7.81 miles), total ascent 487 metres (1597ft)

Chris Paice: email [walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:walkingpaice@hotmail.co.uk) tel. 07773 045838

## **Saturday 22 March 8.00pm Annual General Meeting Matlock Football Club**

The forthcoming AGM will be held at the Matlock Town Football Club in the centre of Matlock. There is parking on site with overspill at the Cricket Club next door. We hope to make it a good social occasion so have organised some food (**see below**).

In the meeting we will approve the minutes of the 2024 AGM, consider the accounts and officers' reports for 2024, elect a new committee, elect the hut committees, consider the proposed amendments to the constitution and consider any other proposed business.

The officers' reports and the accounts will be circulated prior to the AGM, early in March. Questions are requested to be submitted in advance of the AGM and the responses will be provided at the AGM. Questions asked during the meeting will also be answered.

Nominations for Officers of the club and members of the committee are welcome and must be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> March to the Secretary. Each nomination must be in writing and supported by two full members of the club along with the consent of the nominee, who must be a full member. Nominations can be made for any

position. In the event of multiple nominations for the same position a vote will be held.

Any motions and/or changes to the constitution for consideration need to be sent to the Secretary, Simon Pape, email [simon.pape66@gmail.com](mailto:simon.pape66@gmail.com), 41 Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, DE4 3RH by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and be supported by two full members of the club.

### **AGM Food Orders**

The AGM will start at 8PM. If you want to have the pie, chips and pea supper this will be served at 7:30PM. The choices are steak, chicken or vegetarian. The price is £10.00 per person. They can get something gluten free if necessary but haven't confirmed a price. The football club require orders and payment four weeks before the event. **If you are having food, please submit your order in writing to me before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March.**

Email [jan.lumsdale@gmail.com](mailto:jan.lumsdale@gmail.com)

Payment must be made via BACS to the club account reference AGM food. Please ensure you receive an acknowledgement from me within a few days.

The club has real beer on offer including session ale. There is a small window up to one week in advance of the meeting to add the odd latecomer. Please make my life easy and get your orders and payments in promptly.

Account name: Oread Mountaineering Club

sort code: 30-98-97

account number: 62584068

### **23 March Spring Stride Curbar Gap Peter Amour**

Full details next month.

### **28 – 30 March North York Moors Chris Wilson**

A venue with a lot to offer, from trips to the café, a pub crawl, walking, cycling, climbing. All in a lovely setting. The days will be long and the weather, whatever it chooses to be, will enable you to have a great weekend.

**Climbing.** There are over 100 crags in the area, although some are rather small and somewhat esoteric. Others are excellent. Hard sandstone crags, soft sort of limestone crags, perfect rock, adventurous rock. Bouldering and trad climbing prevail. Fantastic views abound.

Driving times from Osmotherly to some of the better known crags: 10 minutes to Scugdale ("great quality, sunny setting"), 30 to Wainstones ("extensive repertoire of excellent climbs, superb views"), 25 to Whitestone Cliffe (allegedly formed by a landslip and has the feeling at times that this is still happening, but well worth a visit if only to do Nightwatch).

There's White Stones Crag, giving lonely moorland bouldering in an evening suntrap, described as heaven! Or Tranmire with over 165 routes (on good rock and you will be the only climbers there). How about Roseberry Topping, the Matterhorn of Cleveland, or Clemitt's Crag with around 400 boulder problems.

**Walking.** Osmotherley has been famed for the walking in the area since the early 1800s. Wonderful short and long walks abound. Circular walks and long National Trials – your choice.

**Cycling.** Lots of mountain biking trails in the area, some short, some long. How about a 10 km circular moderate route (3 hours) from the village, or an 8 hour circular from Black Hambleton. If that doesn't grab your attention, there's plenty of road cycling on quiet lanes.

**Other activities.** Abbeys, castles, a White Horse, museums, farms. It's all there in abundance.

**Campsite / Camping Barn / Hostel** - <https://www.coteghyll.com/book/>

We are staying at Cote Ghyll Campsite, Osmotherley. Make your own booking via their web site. There are various camping options from £29.00 per night, a cottage sleeping 8 with hot tub etc, and the hostel (shared rooms or en-suite private rooms) from £40 per night. It's a 15 minute walk to village centre.

The lovely village of Osmotherley caters for many tastes. It has three pubs, a newsagent, a village convenience store and an antique shop as well as a yoga centre, at least three churches and a few B&Bs. If you're planning on coming along let me know.

Chris Wilson email [c.wilson.48@talktalk.net](mailto:c.wilson.48@talktalk.net) or WhatsApp 07881 698758

## **Oread Alpine Meets 2025**

**21 June – 5 July Saas Grund, Valais, Switzerland**  
**Steve Christian**

Our first alpine trip of the year will be to the lovely 'Saastal' based at Camping Schönblick in the village of Saas Grund. It is the eastern region of the Swiss canton of Valais, north of the Monte Rosa group. There is a concentration of thirteen peaks exceeding 4000 metres that include technically easy normal routes along with some classic snow and rock ridge traverses. It is a perfect venue for new or experienced alpine mountaineers alike. There are also lower altitude classic rock traverses and some good multi pitch rock climbs. Half and full day walks are possible to a number of alpine huts, lakes and cols, which can include ascents of smaller walking peaks.

The campsite should soon be open for the winter season. They have reserved 25 camping places for us and we will be able to book directly with them from mid-March onwards.

Steve Christian: email [climbersteve@hotmail.com](mailto:climbersteve@hotmail.com) tel.07467 329175

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

The second confirmed venue is Ailefroide in The Ecrins National Park, France for the first week of September i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September. There is an option to extend this for a further week after the proposed finish date depending upon people's preference. It will also be possible for people to independently go a week earlier. It will be based from the campsite in Ailefroide [Camping Ailefroide \(Vallouise-Pelvoux\) | Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Tourism](#)

This venue works well at the end of the season August / September (when the French finish their holidays) perfect for families, great campsite, no telepheriques

to pay for and possibilities for booking huts. Conditions can be mixed for snow alpinism but still possible with the Pelvoux traverse or Dom de Neige / Barre des Ecrin.

It has many bolt protected multi pitch granite routes, either from the campsite or in the surrounding mountains, along with many bolted valley crags in adjacent areas. There are nearby options for bouldering, canyoning and via ferratas. The local and nearby walks are also varied and extensive.

Nige Berry: email [nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigebmic@yahoo.co.uk) tel. 07939 073394

## **\*SAVE THE DATE\* 22 November**

22<sup>nd</sup> November will be the Annual Dinner at The Bentley Brook Inn, Fenny Bentley, DE6 1LF. Save a room, there are 12 of various sizes and prices. Further details to follow.

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets**

### **Seeking Simple Shelter 2024 Appendix Richard Genner**

Richard has produced a 30 page appendix to his book on the history of mountain bothies. It contains some great accounts of adventures in the hills and some splendid photos from the collection of Bernard and Betty Heath. If you would like a copy of the pdf just email Richard on [rgatrg11@gmail.com](mailto:rgatrg11@gmail.com).



Among the photos is this one of an unidentified Peak District shooting cabin. If you can provide any information as to where it was please be in touch with your Hon. Ed. or direct to Richard.



## Derwent Edge walk 6 November Rachel Walker

Very Autumnal until we walked up into the mist. Not a bad age range – from under two to over 80 and nice to see some new faces.



*A look back to Autumn – Rachel and team heading upward. Photo Peter Amour.*

## A Tale of Two Walks Chris Radcliffe

November 21. Thursday Short Walk.





## November 24. Sunday Post Prandial Walk

The stars aligned in such a way that I found myself leading two walks just a few days apart. They were in completely contrasting conditions.

For the Thursday Short Walk I was joined at the parking at the top of Hells Bank Plantation above Beeley by Ruth G, Rachel W, John G, Peter A, and Mike H. Snow had fallen earlier in the week and after a couple of very cold nights we enjoyed brilliant conditions with clear blue skies. Descending through the plantation we followed the farm track to Fallinge, field paths to Beeley and climbed up to Beeley Hill Top. We continued to Hob Hurst's House to enjoy the expansive view in all directions. It was a remarkable day with superb winter conditions. (Reg Squires arrived too late to join the party after a difficult, icy journey but enjoyed the walk in solitary splendour.)

How quickly our weather can change! On Saturday, the day of the 75th Celebration Dinner, Storm Burt brought sustained rain, strong winds and very warm temperatures so the snow almost instantly disappeared. Hence for the post prandial walk on Sunday it was overcast and very soggy ground conditions. The rain held off to late afternoon, but the clag was down and accompanied by a strong blustery wind from the SW. Fifteen Oreads joined me at Grindleford Bridge to start the walk along the Derwent Heritage Way before climbing to Bole Hill, Lawrencefield, Millstone and up to our high point at Carls Wark. We descended to Toads Mouth and across to the cafe at Longshaw for refreshments. The return was via White Edge Lodge and The Grouse back to Grindleford Bridge.



Thanks to Chris and Jan W, Nigel and Janet B, Rachel W, Michael P, Spike and Helen, Mike H, Peter A, Tony R, Gill R, plus Pete and Ali K and Pam N who peeled off at Lawrencefield, for joining me on an uninspiring day but ensuring we had a sociable walk.

## **The Little Grey Rabbit Walk aka The Defections Walk 4 December Rob Tresidder**

No one at Cromford station had any Oasis memories they wished to share so as soon as Janet and Nigel had stepped off the train, we walked down the steps to pass under the railway before immediately climbing steeply up through the trees. I need to perfect the skill I thought I had mastered of ensuring that my walking neighbour does all the talking as I struggle uphill. We came in sight of Hilltop Farm but, sadly, interest in the physicist, children's author and time traveller born there was minimal, so most passed without murmur or hesitation. The leader called for a halt for refreshment near the top. Sadly the memorial seat had collapsed under the weight of memories, but we were able to pick out the Pape residence on the other side of the valley.

We passed through the farm that has now been turned into a self catering holiday complex and it was here we experienced our first defection. Grandad claimed he needed to take Sammy home for a rest but it could have been Grandad who needed the rest. On to Riber Castle where some were able to summon memories of the zoo that used to be there. Building work seemed to be proceeding at glacial pace.

Steeply down on the gritstone paved path that leads eventually to St Giles Church. Here more defections as some declared the projected walk far too short and headed for the high level path on the Heights of Abraham which had recently been traversed on my walk in October and by Peter's Geowalk before that. Three continued to Riber where there were yet more defections by the under exercised who opted to take a more direct route back to Cromford. So it was that only the leader made it to the scheduled finish in Matlock Bath. Thank you for the company of those that emerged on a dankish sort of day.





## Bullstones December 2024 Chris Wilson

The meet leader's plan was to meet at the Strines Inn and stroll up the hillside in a westerly direction on Friday night. Saturday involved wandering around 20 miles over to the elusive site of the Bullstones cabin and on towards a camping barn near Hathersage. Meals and parking were arranged at the pub and the barn booked. After the 75th dinner, on a damp day, Jan and I walked up to find a bivi site and returned unimpressed. As Friday approached, so did Storm Darragh. The landlord contacted Jan and suggested that we might want to cancel the event, which received a suitable reply. On the Thursday evening our granddaughter was rushed into hospital and Jan went to lend support after instructing me to lead the meet.

And so it was that at closing time 13 Bullstoners exited the pub and prepared for battle. Most then walked up Foulstone Moor for a couple of kilometres towards Lost Lad and selected a spot of partially cleared heather as a suitable hotel for the night. The rain and wind got heavier as tents and other shelters were being prepared, ensuring that many of us started the night a bit damp. Not everyone had come properly prepared - one veteran of multiple Bullstones found he had no tent or bivi bag! (Thank you Michael and Jae for ensuring he lasted the night.) Once tucked into our abodes the rain intensified and the wind increased. This kept the game keepers and farmers away and we all survived the night relatively unscathed.



*Photo Michael Hayes.*

At dawn we walked up to Bradfield Gate in the rain, meeting Pete Amour who had walked from Cutthroat Bridge and along Derwent Edge to join us. From here it was on past Back Tor to Lost Lad, then down towards Howden Dam. The option of heading to the Bullstones cabin was quickly discarded and we instead walked along beside Derwent reservoir to the café at Fairholmes and rewarded ourselves with tea and bacon cobs for breakfast. Damp but in good spirits we proceeded

south alongside Ladybower savouring the light rainfall. After enjoying bowls of soup in the Ladybower we emerged to somewhat heavier rain as we made our way further south. The party split, some going left up to Cutthroat Bridge and then along Bamford edge whilst the remainder turned right. Our numbers fragmented further at the dam, two continuing along the Derwent Valley Heritage Way to the west of the Derwent and four popping into the Yorkshire Bridge before continuing to Bamford. Most of the team regrouped in the Anglers Rest, warmed up and tried to dry out before the final trek to Thorpe Farm Barns.



*In the Anglers Rest. Photo Kev Fidler.*

There are two obvious routes, one following lanes and tracks (followed by most) and another which is shorter across the golf course. Four of us chose the latter. After a walk in November 2021 Pete Amour's write up mentions "entering Sickleholme Golf Course, going into committee mode to navigate what seemed like 18 holes and two bunkers before exiting the park". Well, in the dark an additional 9 holes were added, as well as two more bunkers. Crossing the knee-deep stream next added enjoyment and cleaned the boots but the best was kept until last, with calf deep mud up the track to the barn providing a fitting end to many wet and windy miles.

During the day Kev Fidler had turned on as much heat as possible, but duvets seemed to be the preferred clothing as we sat under the three (unfortunately only one worked) bar electric fire mounted high up the wall. Most of us had pre-arranged a curry to be delivered from Hathersage. With this and the odd beer and wine our attention turned to the whisky tasting, with Neil's unique Glen Hilton being a clear winner.

Sunday's weather turned out to be not as bad as forecast but it was distinctly windy. Most of us walked back to the Strines Inn via Stanage. The wind at times made progress troublesome but dried our clothes and the rain remained fairly light. A quick soup with tea or beer wound up another memorable Bullstones weekend. Wonderful type 2 pleasure with the only thing remaining being to clean the boots and dry the kit. This account is written from the substitute meet



leader's perspective. As is traditional there was no prescribed route and alternative sleeping arrangements were enjoyed on Friday night, on Saturday different starting points and routes were taken and on Sunday it was the opposite. What everyone had in common was a great feeling of camaraderie, a car full of wet gear and relief that it was all over for another year.

Many thanks to all who came and especially Kev who brought James down from Scotland (it's wonderful to see you both on this annual pilgrimage) and made sure the camping barn was left clean and tidy; Jan who organised it; Michael and Jae who rescued Mick Hayes (who we must thank for his early 2025 Bent Screw entry); Mike Mowbray for transport, enthusiasm and an offer to lead it next year, Neil for the whisky; Simon P for setting the pace in the Strines (although he wasn't keen on having Mick in his small single-man tent), John Green who as usual went his own way, John Gwyther who persevered despite the weather, Pete Amour whose earlier recce encouraged me to walk across the golf course and not forgetting Roger who helped with navigation across the greens and through the bunkers.

## **Geo Walk 15 December Rusty Russell**



A day free from extreme weather although more suitable for mud bathing than sun bathing saw approximately 12 brave souls assembled at Milldale after return transport had been deployed.

As is my wont the journey started with a little used path heading away from the destination pro tem and following the river by the Staffordshire bank from where others could be seen using the boring surfaced path across the river. Near Ilam Rock we headed up Hall Dale to Stanhope and then North West with a short leg of South West thrown in.

At this point doubts about my judgement were brought into the open although my intention was to avoid mud by joining the highway at Highfield mine.

From this point we strolled along a quiet surfaced road to Wetton and thence the Manor House and South West down the pleasant dry valley to Wetton Mill where we sat beside the River for sustenance, A couple of fallen trees proved insufficient to occasion the slightest difficulty to this young and agile group.





Those present: Stuart escorting two ladies, Sue and Angela.  
Peter and Pippa ( Beauty and the Beast)  
John G. Nigel and Janet B. Linda D. Chris and myself.  
Another fellow was seen hovering nearby at the start but was abandoned en route.  
(This list is totally random without heed to gender, origin or seniority and probably inaccurate)

## **New Year's Day Peter Amour**



*Burning off the puddings near Cocking Tor. Photo Peter Amour*

I did my very best to get no participants by giving the wrong start point grid



reference, AND stating the 1st January as a Sunday, when it was a Wednesday! Fortunately 13 other brains managed to compensate, enabling us to correctly leave Wirestone Lane car park, and on time. The ever energetic Pip rang in asking for a rendezvous point as she'd ridden from home and was heading towards us on foot over the very sodden terrain. After a zig-zag descent past Robriding all met up and headed through meadows to Peglant, complete with the sight and sounds of what appeared to be Hobby. A short and unpleasant bit of the A632 was despatched, and followed by the none too pleasant Marshlane bridle path, with its swollen ford, which caused non-member Neil to take a diversion to The Crispin in Ashover. It was good see Brian West, John Gresty, his partner Martina, Roger Larkam, and long time Oread associate Hank within the pub. After a mix of dining and drinking the party split with Pip, Rachel and Neil off to various causes. The remainder departed and headed steeply upwards towards Cocking Tor, to be rewarded by easier terrain through meadows and forest to a greeting of the rains, which for the most part had stayed away for us. Thanks to those who got the correct place, and on the right day, John Gwyther, Rachel Walker, Simon Pape, Stuart Firth, Sue Todd, Richard Freestone, partner Sheila, Richard Hopkinson, Christine Renouf, Jan and Chris Wilson, Pip Leach, and friend Neil.

## **White Wanderings on Longstone Moor 8 January**

### **Peter Amour**



*Photo Michael Hayes.*

I stated a prompt start at Monsal Head for a trek over the Longstone Moor area. Believing fully in “Do as I say, not as I do” I arrived with two passengers thirty minutes late having had an adventurous Citroen C4 ice climb on Sue Todd’s drive. The departure was prompt, and the route amended to take in a) the reduced time now available, b) the numbers taking part (15), and c) the wonderful

snowy surroundings. We left Lt Longstone via an icy Moor Lane and got warmed up tackling the snow dressed gradient upon to Longstone Moor. When on easier undulating ground Jan bade us farewell to us to deal with other priorities. Revelling in the extensive white scenery we navigated north over the semi crusted snows, some of which were untouched by big boots. At the hamlet of Housley the party turned sharply SE in the direction of Cavendish Mill (a known area for impressive Starling murmurations), took an outdoors refreshment break, and covered more of the virgin snows onto Black Harry's roller coasting lane. During the wanderings Stuart Firth was in touch with us by text to enable a rendezvous, having had to miss the start. It was on the highest, and snowiest part of this bridleway that Stuart spotted (heard!?) the gang, and contact was made minutes later. The final stint took us down the steeper slopes of Longstone Edge's thickets, and on into Gt Longstone, where Stuart and Sue collected their transport, leaving the rest to wander the flatter snowy pastures and the obligatory mud to our cars in the next village. Thanks all for a great attendance, and for the light-hearted banter,

### **Tissington Walk 16 January Chris Paice**

A lovely bright, blue-sky day saw eight Oreads set off on a wander from Tissington. Tarmac lulled everyone into thinking there would be no mud, but this was soon dispelled as we weaved across muddy fields. Fenny Bentley church provide seating for a coffee stop and discussion about Thomas Beresford's wife, Agnes, having 21 children. The whole family being immortalised in shrouds in the church. Downwards and upwards and onwards including walking past the pub whilst varied conversation flowed. I confess to getting a bit lost on Rusty's information about the telling the time re: degrees and relating that to the sun's position. At times I wasn't quite sure if I was with the correct group, innuendos seemed to be a plenty! People stayed upright, always good, we crossed the A515 twice with no loss and had time to sit in comfort with hot drinks at the end of the walk. Thank you, Sue, Stuart, Chiz, Ruth, Rusty, Peter and Rachel for your good company and supporting the walk.

### **Travels with a Charlie Chris Mather**



The Balkans cover much of the old Yugoslavia and offer good trekking, climbing and skiing. September is usually a quieter month and the weather cooler. It is also a better month for a holiday for me so I booked a flight to Dubrovnik from Manchester with Jet 2 and met up with nine other adventurers. We were met by our local guide and traveled by bus (three hours) to the capital of Montenegro, Podgorica, originally part of the Ottoman empire. You can fly direct to Podgorica from London I think.

After a good dinner and night's rest we set off on a two hour drive and short walk to our accommodation in the eco village of Katun Stavan at the base of the Komovi mountains. After dropping our bags we set off for a beautiful walk between the peaks of Kucki om and VasojevackiKom which offer some good climbs. We trekked further down the valley of Medjukomovi for a late lunch offered us at a remote hut before returning to our very pleasant wood cabins with beautiful views of the mountains. For most of the trip I teamed up and shared accommodation with a custody sergeant so felt in safe hands!

There were three or four huts and a dining room where we enjoyed excellent food, company and a little alcohol. I was most fortunate with my companions who were all great fun and although most were at least 30 years younger than me managed to put up with me! I was reassured to discover we had two Americans with us, one of whom was a cardiac surgeon and his wife a nurse!

After breakfast we set off to trek into the Bjelasica mountains to Katun Vranjak (1750). The Biogradska Gora national park was volcanic and now quite green with plenty of trees, seeing few people. The weather changed dramatically from being 25 deg. and blue skies the day before to rain and even a little snow. We walked for about 20km. My companions were all extremely fit and walked at a good rate however I managed to keep up, just! Rather wet and sodden we arrived at our new wood cabins where we were served with a good stew.

After breakfast, usually of alpine cheeses, jam and mountain tea, we set off again further into Montenegro's first national park which includes deer, wolf and bear but we did not see any. After 12 k we arrived at Biogradsko lake before taking our bus into Serbia where stayed in the Mileseva monastery. Montenegro is a beautiful country with a 200 mile coastline in the Adriatic and a population of only 633 thousand. It consists of rugged mountains between 1000 and 2000m. Roads can be fairly rough although there are new motorways being built.

Serbia has a low plain in the north but hills up to 2000m. in the east bordering Bulgaria again with plenty of tree cover.

From the monastery we took a look at the Sopotnica waterfall before a 14 k. hike to Kanjon via the medieval Hisardzik fortress housing one of the oldest copies of the Quran. The following morning we walked the Uvac Canyon, a reserve for griffon vultures. In the afternoon we transferred to Zabjak which is a ski centre in the winter. Serbia does seem to be trying to open up its skiing opportunities and building lifts and hotels.

The next day we walked 16k. in the Durmitor national park established in 1952 and home to 17 glacier lakes.



We ascended the Previja Pass (2145m) below the peak of Medjed (2287m) watching chamois. This area is covered with gentians, anemones, violets and strawberries.



*In Serbia.*

The weather was still not great so we headed for Bosnia and the sun which I thought a beautiful country of limestone mountain terrain around 2000m. often with forested plateaux. The trip was arranged with K..E. Adventure holidays. n.b. we returned via Croatia where some of my new friends continued on bicycles down the coast and over a number of the islands for a further two weeks.

## **Steven Clegg**

Older members have been saddened by news of the recent death of Steven. After moving to the Derby area for work in the mid 1970s he joined the Notts Club and was well known to and climbed with Oread members.

On a climbing trip to the Costa Blanca in December he was returning from Murla crag when his companions realised he was no longer following them. They returned to find him fatally injured at the bottom of the drop below the path. His funeral took place in Spain on 26 December 2024.

## **Hut Bookings.**

Hut bookings are now made online at the Oread website [www.oread.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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 member Emma Thurston and Full Members Cathy Luffman and Caroline Boast. And welcome back to long term member Gil Male. We hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread.

We have new full membership applications from Sally Ames, Daniel Boast and Andrea Doyle. If you would like to comment on any of these applications, please contact a member of the committee.

## **Dave Penlington**

### **David Penlington – a reflection:**

Those of you reading this, and many who have gone before, will know of David as an Oread founder member and outstanding mountaineer, but where did it all come from? One of four children, he was brought up at South Hill, in the village of Rolleston-on-Dove in a house adjacent to the railway station, his father being employed on the railway. David's early education was at Rolleston school and we first met at senior school in Burton at the age of eleven. This was then called the Intermediate School, which, over our time there, reorganised itself into Burton Technical High School where one had to choose between Engineering, Building or Commerce.

David and I ended up in Engineering and during our time there he took part in football, cricket and athletics but he had this emerging desire to get out and explore. Trent buses, noisy and unreliable, did not suit Dave, he needed independent transport at a time, not long after the war, when new bicycles were almost impossible to obtain. David solved the problem, got hold of a lightweight frame and shopped around for all the parts to build a bright red tourer, then assisting two others and me to do the same.

So began our explorations into Derbyshire, David, Dennis Minns, George Peart and me. We cycle camped, fancying ourselves as cavers with oddments of clothing and a rope of the sort that one might use to tie down a rick sheet. Only by dint of joint saving did we eventually purchase a hemp rope, much better but heavy when wet. We explored old lead mines on the Via Gellia and old caves on the Winnats Pass.

During the last long school holiday in 1947, following the great freeze, David and I packed our kit, stood on the old A38 outside Burton and hitch hiked north by a large assortment of transport and a devious route to eventually arrive and camp

in Glen Nevis.

Following school David had obtained an apprenticeship with a local engineering company. Tours in Derbyshire continued and eventually the red bike went into the shed, to be replaced by the 500cc Norton Dominator. Then, in 1949, George Sutton's advert appeared in the Burton Mail regarding "Burton Mountaineering Club" and Dave and I went down to a meeting to see what it was all about. So, the Club was inaugurated and Dave was on the first committee. The rest, of course, is well recorded. Dave's desire to explore became a lifelong passion and, for those now enjoying Tan yr Wyddfa, and before that, the lease of Bryn-y-Wern, he was a prime mover in their acquisition.

Rest on Dear Friend

"They don't make 'em like that no more".

**Paul Gardiner**

## **David Penlington 1931 – 2024**

David Penlington, who came from Rollestone-on-Dove, in the late 'forties was of that small group which formed the Oread M.C. Clad in ex W.D. gear, hemp ropes and nailed boots the first meet was at Black Rocks. Soon, Dave's ability on rock showed in new climbs on Gardoms, Birchens and Chatsworth edges which contributed to Eric Byne's Vol. 2 of Gritstone Climbs (1951). Later he was very active in the Froghall area with the club and first led the fine but unprotected Helix on Harston Rock. In 1950 Peter Harding's excellent guide to the Llanberis Pass heralded a jump in climbing standards and it was not long before Dave had led most of the routes on Cloggy described there. The strenuous walks were a feature of life in the O.M.C. and Dave did most of them.

The first Alpine trip was to Chamonix with Ken Griffiths in the early 'fifties and over the years, with various people and clubs, he had climbed all the 4,000 m. peaks by 1997. By then only about half a dozen people in this country had done so. It goes almost without saying that he also completed the Munros. Our first meeting was in 1951, he an instructor at Longland's Whitehall Centre and myself a pupil so to speak which led to me joining the Oread.

National Service then stepped in with two years in the R.E.M.E. in West Germany. Employed as an engineer with Pirelli he spent most of his life with that firm in the factories old and new in Burton and Carlisle. To be frank, I never knew exactly what Dave did as he was not of the chatty type but he clearly became quite senior. In 1958 he married Janet and in a long marriage produced two sons, Nigel and Roger, with whom Dave and I did the Haute Route on foot some time in the late 'eighties. Both Dave and Janet skied and travelled abroad. Janet was particularly interested in sport, especially hockey and tennis, to County standard.

While I think he went to far flung mountains before retirement, after doing so, often with club members and probably those of the Fell and Rock, he did a great deal – as listed in the O.M.C. 50<sup>th</sup> journal page 303. These included Himalaya, the African high ones, Tien Shan and Peru. In those notes John Hudson recalls that Dave thought his best day in the Alps was the Morgenhorn, Weissfrau,

Blumlisalp traverse. This was done in about half the guidebook time in excellent weather and conditions. The two man party was rewarded by the accolade of a free cup of coffee on arrival by the most strict guardian of the Blumlisalp hut. Undoubtedly a rare event.

Dave was a true servant of the club and with Mike Moore organised Bryn-y-Wern in the Pennant as a club hut. Many good memories there. He was also well connected, where to go and to whom if that is not too obtuse.

Wise or not a kindly exploration of the idiosyncrasies of the individual is always of reader interest and D.P. had one or two. His companions in the Alps were given no rest. Usually folk went up to a hut, did a climb or two and came down to rest and eat. If you were with Dave you went up and stayed up and invariably a lot was done. Wider experiences than mine confirm this. Another curiosity was that as a natural leader he tended not to discuss a route or its difficulty with the party. Some even suggested he hid the guidebook so as not to worry the timid. Maybe, but I was obliged to say no on the odd occasion when a proposition became clear. To give him credit he never grumbled and anyway confrontation was never his style. Having said all that I had some of my best climbing experiences with him.

To end in lighter vein, Dave travelled to the Pirelli works in Milan via the roads of the Alps and I often wondered if he could be described as the man (as in Bateman's cartoons) who climbed an Alpine four thousander on his way home from work. He probably did, and modestly, as that too was his style.

**John Fisher**

## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

### **This month's puzzle:**



Name the climb (easy) and the climber (less so). For a bonus point what memorable historic event took place on the day he did the climb?

### **Last month's puzzle solution:**

The mountaineering activity in question was of course the ascent of Lockwoods Chimney and the description abstracted from the original humorous addendum in the Climbers Club Guide. Correct solutions were received from your Hon Editor in person, Rob Tresidder and, belatedly Snod Helliwell.

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

