

[OUEC] Trinity Week 1 Newsletter

Sun 23.4.23 02:28

Oxford University Exploration Club Trinity Week 1

Tues 15/04/23



Week 1 Meeting

Reunion at the Pub, Trinity Plans, and More

Join us for a pint at The Lamb & Flag as we reconvene, swap stories of adventures over the break, and begin planning for Trinity and beyond.

Just as we focused on planning and funding expeditions in Michaelmas, and organizing logistics and fieldwork in Hilary, Trinity will see a soft focus on what to do when you come back home. How do you take raw data and transform it into a report, a film, or an article?

We will also be sending a number of our members on their own expeditions at the end of Trinity. Make sure to check in with their progress, ask questions, and learn from their experience.

When & Where: [The Lamb & Flag](#), April 25, 2023, 19:30



Kendal Mountain Festival

Are you interested in attending Kendal Mountain Festival in November 2023? Kendal Mountain Festival is the UK's biggest adventure festival, taking place in the beautiful Lake District. The adventurous weekend includes incredible talks, workshops, music, and parties - all surrounded by other outdoorsy people. We are working on a discount for tickets for OUEC members, and having an idea of potential participants would be helpful. Please express tentative interest in the poll below if you are keen!

Poll:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tF8-cAxL6Xn6b0e0u01v26_tWNAdkc0IWNquB-LZaTM/edit

Read more about the event here

www.kendalmountainfestival.com



Stash Incoming!

Keep an eye out for OUEC branded stash! Details are being finalized, but we will share information on what's available and how to order it soon!



In Praise of Whimsy

A review of *The Living Mountain*, by Nan Shepherd (1977)

by Michael Murphy

It is a rare phenomenon when the reader of a book and its writer are so intimately of the same mind that it seems one is reading their own thoughts printed on the page. The words flow like a river. The reader and writer finish each others' sentences as only those who have shared life-changing experiences can. I do not know Nan Shepherd, but if I'd been born only a little earlier, I think that we might have been close friends. She was born and died in Scotland, though she did travel extensively. She attended Aberdeen University and did most of her writing in a six-year window. Her profession was as an English lecturer. Her passion, though, was the mountain.

Likewise, I have never been to the Cairngorms—although I imagine many of our members have. Yet, I know the passion Shepherd felt for them—a euphoria like being drunk, a fever to go, and see, and do, and run, and feel, and climb—what Shepherd calls 'a bit of the fey'. A sense that one is so deliriously connected with their surroundings that one is "transparent... The body is not made negligible, but paramount. Flesh is not annihilated but fulfilled. One is not bodiless, but essential body" (Shepherd

1977,106). This is the titular focus of *The Living Mountain*. Shepherd's love of the Cairngorms gives way to a close examination, a devotional practice of seeing the wonder in the most minute of details: the shape and color of water flowing over rocks, the feather-like frost that grows from thin air, the stone and what lies beneath it, the life that grazes above it, and even the mountain's own air above that. Shepherd harnesses the detailed concentration of Gilbert White, and the grand vistas of John Muir in just over thirty thousand words of synthesized poetry, field journal, diary, and whimsy.

As adventurers and explorers, we are naturally prone to both this delirium and close examination. The first law of ecology, after all, is that 'everything is connected to everything else'. It is inherent in us, a curiosity to study the smallest of details (often for countless hours) and to marvel in euphoric wonder at its place in the greater ecosystem. You will find no lists of taxonomy in *The Living Mountain*. "But why should I make a list? It serves no purpose, and they are all in the books. But they are not in the books for me—they are in living encounters, moments of their lives that have crossed moments of mine," (67). What you will find is a dreamlike and rapturous celebration of all things natural, all things that make one great mountain range, a whimsical and adoring ode to the Cairngorms.

Find *The Living Mountain* here:

<https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/permalink/f/89vilt/oxfaleph021891101>



Call for Book Reviews!

Do you have a good book recommendation concerning exploration or your subject of interest? Let us know! Send a one-paragraph summary of the book and its importance to Michael Murphy at m.w.murphy2015@gmail.com. We will post the review on our social media, other members will know to look it up, and we may even add it to our new and growing OUEC Library!



OUEC Platforms

Finally, please find all of our social media platforms and website below. This is the most up-to-date listing.

[OUEC Linktree](#)



Many thanks to all of the members, new and old. We look forward to seeing you next Tuesday!

Michael Murphy, Social Media Secretary

On behalf of...

James Kempton, Chairman

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