

# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**OCTOBER 2015**



**Oreads enjoying the Via Ferrata Punta Anna on this summer's Dolomites trip. Photo Tim Sellears – a “selfie” no less!**

## **Editorial**

First things first:

this year there is **not** an October indoor meet at the Royal Oak.

The first of the indoor lecture series will be on 3 November, and very good it will be too – see details within.

This issue brings you details of a fun competition day at Heathy Lea, the Dovedale Dash, on 1 November this year so don't blink or you'll miss it, Bonfire celebrations at Heathy Lea on 7 November soon to be followed by the Annual Dinner – at a brand new venue, comes highly recommended, and with accommodation of all grades close by – Should be a good do!

Further ahead a tribute event in memory of Gordon Gadsby then a meet to the delightful, and very conveniently positioned, MAM hut in Coniston. That will train us up for the rigours of the Bullstones, in early December. Derek assures me he has been doing strenuous research into the available hostelries – and possibly even checking out the walking route.

# What's On

Coming Soon		UK		Abroad			
October	Thur	-	1			Lundy Meet (last 3 days)	
	Fri	-	2				
	Sat	-	3				
	Sun	-	4				
	Mon	-	5				
	Tue	-	6				
	Wed	-	7		Evening meet - Yahoo group		Members will be in Kalymnos from 7 – 21 October and Majorca 9 – 19 October. Accomodation & travel arrangements are individual's responsibility.
	Thur	-	8				
	Fri	-	9				
	Sat	-	10				
	Sun	-	11				
	Mon	-	12				
	Tue	-	13				
	Wed	-	14		Evening meet - Yahoo group		
	Thur	-	15				
	Fri	-	16				
	Sat	-	17				
	Sun	-	18				
	Mon	-	19				
	Tue	-	20				
	Wed	-	21		Evening meet - Yahoo group		
	Thur	-	22				
	Fri	-	23				
	Sat	-	24				
	Sun	-	25				
	Mon	-	26				
	Tue	-	27				
	Wed	-	28		Evening meet - Yahoo group		
Thur	-	29					
Fri	-	30					
Sat	-	31					
November	Sun	-	1		Dovedale Dash – Rob Tressider		
	Mon	-	2				
	Tue	-	3		Indoor meet – Rob Tressider Blacks Rocks Film : Stonnis		
	Wed	-	4		Evening meet - Yahoo group		
	Thur	-	5				
	Fri	-	6				
	Sat	-	7		Bonfire Night Heathy Lea – Pam Storer		
	Sun	-	8				
	Mon	-	9				
	Tue	-	10				
	Wed	-	11		Evening meet - Yahoo group		
	Thur	-	12				
	Fri	-	13				
	Sat	-	14		Oread Annual Dinner Matlock Golf Club – Ruth Gordon		
	Sun	-	15				
	Mon	-	16				
	Tue	-	17				
Wed	-	18		Evening meet - Yahoo group			
Thur	-	19					
Fri	-	20		MAM Hut, Coniston			
Sat	-	21		Tony Howard			
Sun	-	22					

- See below for details of these meets.

- Use your Yahoo group to see what members are doing on a day to day basis.
- See the Oread website <http://www.oread.co.uk/> for the full meets calendar.
- Help your club by leading a meet. Contact Gil Male - tel. 07958 169389 – email [gilemale@gmail.com](mailto:gilemale@gmail.com)
- 

## **2 - 4 October DMC/Oread Competition Meet: Heathy Lea Eddie James.**

The usual family-friendly format, with easy (treasure trail) and longer navigation exercise/climbing competitions on the Saturday from 10.00 am, followed by climbing at Gardoms on Sunday, leaving Heathy Lea at 11.00 am.

Saturday evening we'll have tea and cakes from 5.00pm then the BBQ, and campfire, followed by the slackline and pudding competitions.

Eddie James, DMC President. Email: [eddiejames\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eddiejames_uk@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Tuesday 3 November Evening Meet Royal Oak, Ockbrook**

The first evening meet will be on Tuesday 3rd November when Mike Pollitt will show his new film called *Stonnis* which is about Black Rocks. A few Oreads have seen this already and speak highly of it. You can view a trailer here:

<https://vimeo.com/126981723>

I have no other performers booked for the winter so if you would like to step forward with your account of derring do or of sylvan wanderings in the hills, please do not hesitate to be in touch. Or perhaps you know of someone, a member or not, who is dying to tell their story. Ask them yourself or give me their details and I will issue an invitation.

Rob Tresidder [Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net](mailto:Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net)

## **7 November Bonfire Meet at Heathy Lea Pam Storer**

Please come and join the fun!!

A group of us will be at the hut all Saturday, building the fire, making the Guy, climbing (weather permitting) and perhaps even some archery. We might even find the arrows we lost last year.

For the benefit of our younger guests, we will have the macabre spectacle of burning the Guy at around 6.30. This will be followed by a grand display of fireworks choreographed by our very own experts, Jan and Chris. Later in the evening hopefully, we will have some musical entertainment, so bring along your instruments to join in.

Neil is brewing many gallons of his special bonfire ale, which will be available at a reasonable cost and please bring your own food. I will attempt to make the toffee less brittle this year to avoid any more broken teeth.

We are asking for a donation towards the fireworks of £3 per adult.

As I am away until 5th Nov. Mike Wren has kindly offered to take bookings if you wish to book a bed for the night.  
Contact no. 07766326949

Looking forward to seeing you all and having a great party.

Pam

## **14 November Annual Dinner Ruth Gordon**

This year's dinner will be at an attractive new venue – Matlock Golf Club. -I have been told by quite a few people that the food is excellent and, even better news, the price is pegged at £20 – same as last year. Beer and wine at sensible prices will be available until the small hours - if enough of us keep drinking! There are rumours of novel entertainments to add spice to the night and the Bent Screw award is a cut-throat competition this year -we may have to bring on the Clapometer!  
Don't miss this one!

If you are staying in Matlock, cars can be left overnight in the Club's secure car park. There are bed and breakfast options within walking distance, or a short taxi ride; plus nearby parking for camper vans - it should be a great night. See the back page for the booking form and payment details plus info on the overnight stay options.

**Please** help me out by booking early because it will be a lot of work for me on top of doing the newsletter. I must have bookings at latest by **5 November**.

It should be a really good do – look forward to seeing you there.

Ruth Gordon 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB

**Tel.** 01629 56636 07999 857 922. **Email** [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com)

## **15 November Post Prandial Walk**

The traditional walk will set off from Upper Lumsdale/Highfields School Matlock meeting at 10.00 am for a 10.15 start. It will, of course, visit a welcoming hostelry via a tour of the hidden mills and dams of the Lumsdale and Tansley area plus as much steep ascent and descent as you are up for! Easy options available.

Watch this space for details next month.

## **Tribute to Gordon Gadsby**

**Pete Amour has kindly supplied details of this event:**

Stapleford Travel & Photographs Society are to hold a tribute to Gordon at Stapleford Community Centre, Cliffe Hill Rd, Stapleford, Nottingham on 19th November 2015. Entry fee £2-00

Gordon was its president and the driving force of the camera club, he was also a

very long standing member of the Oread and had held offices in the club to its highest level. Members of the STPS and friends, which include longstanding Oread members Colin Hobday, Stuart Bramwell and Bob Pettigrew are to look back at their shared moments of great companionship with a man of copious generosity.

Gordon had during his lifetime been involved in a wide range of interests, he had a love for writing, poetry, art, photography, climbing, walking and cycling. His enthusiasm was unbounded, and his encouraging manner matched his enthusiasm, please come along and share some of the experiences and memories that others have been rewarded with.

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

### **Tales from the Dolomites Roger Gibbs**



*Party time on the Dolomites trip – but it wasn't all fun in the sun.....*

“Your whole climbing life has led up to this,” said Dave. “All those gritstone thrutches. All those off widths. This could be the pinnacle of your climbing career.”

I didn't realise I had a climbing career. I peered up at the gaping maw above me. Water dripped out of its dark interior. Smooth, compact sides leaned over above us. Occasional bits of rotting tat dangled not very encouragingly from the depths. I wondered what they might be attached to.

“Bloody hell, I hope not,” I replied and set off to tackle the Mule's Back, the unofficial crux of the Via Costantini-Apollonio, VII+, on the South

Face of Tofana di Rozes.

We weren't even supposed to be doing the "Pilastro". Our warm up on Via Paolo Rodela, VIII, on Punta Fiammes hadn't quite gone according to plan, we'd encountered poor rock and spaced gear, so we had traversed off onto the much more pleasant classic Via Dimai, IV+. It had been a good day out, but not the big challenge we'd hoped for. As we free wheeled the bikes back to Cortina from Punta Fiammes I wondered what was next.



*The Tofana di Rozes*

We soon decided on a super classic: Via Del Drago, the route of the dragon, on Lagazuoi Nord. The route was created in response to Messner's famous essay "The Murder of the Impossible" which lamented the bolt protected slaying of the traditional dragon of risk. It took a fine line on a reasonably accessible buttress at a fairly amenable VI. It looked good. The day drew near and the weather was set fair. Something niggled though. Had we picked something a little too comfortable? I pushed this thought to the back of my mind and enjoyed a fine family day at Cinque Torre, fitting in some short sport routes in between the loud explosions of the World War I re-enactment. It was time to head down. Sitting on the chair lift, gazing across the valley at the massive bulk of Tofana I caught sight of the mighty pillar. I've got to climb that. Back in the campsite, I hurried over to Dave's van.

"Dave, I've been thinking." So had he. Game on. Now all we needed to do was work out how to get there and back without a car. Oh and climb the thing, complete with two crux rooves and the overhanging chasm of doom. Oh and 22 pitches. The descent path had been swept away by rockfall too but we'd worry about that later.

Mike kindly offered us a lift up to the hut, en route to his own massive adventure,

and we reckoned we could cycle back without pedalling. After creeping off the campsite before dark, we hit our first little challenge. A low barrier prevented Mike's van from getting onto the track to the hut. We unloaded the bikes, waved Mike off with our thanks and started the 40 minute slog up hill. The tarmac gave way to a rough track and a little later we arrived at the hut complete with large car park. With the bikes safely locked up, we headed off on foot towards the giant face looming above.

While stashing spare food and water for the descent, a tidy looking team appeared, raced past us and headed in the same direction. Another team were visible at the base. Oh dear, we could be staring at some big queues. We hurried on. Fortunately there was only one party on our route, two friendly young Hungarians and they kindly offered to let us past: did we really look that competent? Or did we now look like those gnarly old blokes I used to be in awe of too? Must have been Dave's wild eyed stare!



*Dave below the first roof.*

The early pitches passed pleasantly enough, with typical butch Dolomites style cracks and a smattering of exciting compact slabs. We passed a few pegs but the gear was mostly wires and slings. I glanced at the topo as we approached the first crux: "challenging but well protected climbing" and it was Dave's lead. Winner. If you believed the guide, this was the hardest pitch and as Dave battled over it, I was starting to feel more confident. I hauled over too, gasping for breath and checked out the long sustained crack which links the two roof pitches. It was very well protected but steep and I was glad to reach the belay. It was a hanging stance and rather cramped; above the second roof looked smaller but blanker

than the first.

Forceful undercutting gave access to big holds, more gear and a broad terrace. The guide advised “there is a possible bivouac on the right if daylight is running short”. I checked my watch, it wasn’t yet noon. Right then, time for the Mule’s Back. Clipping the dangling bits of tat, I teetered out, legs bridged wide. Ahead the chimney narrowed to a crack, offering the hope of jams but the angle leaned ever more alarmingly. Water dripped disconsolately. Grabbing a handful of grotty tat, I aimed a fist into the Mule’s groin and lurched up, feet dangling uselessly. Hooking an arm over the chockstone, I strained upwards. Then I noticed the “chockstone” was a wooden wedge, looking a lot like it dated from the first ascent (1944). It’s probably best to draw a veil over what happened next, involving as it did an old peg, some wet dry humping and a lot of panting. Eventually the rest of the chimney succumbed and I strapped myself to quite a lot of the mountain.



“Manly,” Dave said, when he eventually joined me. We were about half way up.

Later I managed to get the ropes stuck and we got a bit off route as the angle eased but I’m claiming that was just to make the story sound good. The reported demise of the descent path was exaggerated but I did have to pedal a bit on the way down.

Other teams climbed Via Finlandia at Cinque Torre, the Micheli Stroboli Via Ferrata on Punta Fiamma, the Punta Fiamma arête, the Punta Anna Via Ferrata, Via del Diedro on Cinque Torre, the Degli Alipini on Col de Bos, Delago Kante on Punta Cassin del Formin, the Hexenstein South Arete (*shown left*) and lots more. We cycled to Misurina for apfel strudel and beer, swam in the lake and watched as small boys poured water down their pants.

Exploring the World War I fortifications was an education and the cheese was splendid, if outrageously expensive.

Undeterred by Tom Hayes

thoughtlessly not turning up, we had his birthday party for him anyway with pizza and beer all round.

A technical note: one would think that if you're going to copy your guidebook rather than check the routes yourself it would be fairly easy to get small details like pitch lengths, abseil lengths etc correct. Apparently not. Take care.

Also don't follow Pete and Sue. It turns out there are two Cortinas and they are quite long way apart; only one of them is surrounded by stunning rock climbing. The other one has nice peaches though apparently.

Thanks to Mike, Alison, Emily and David, Simon and Maggie, Pete and Sue, Tim, Callum, Dave, Victoria and Tullan, Sharon and Ben for a splendid set of adventures.

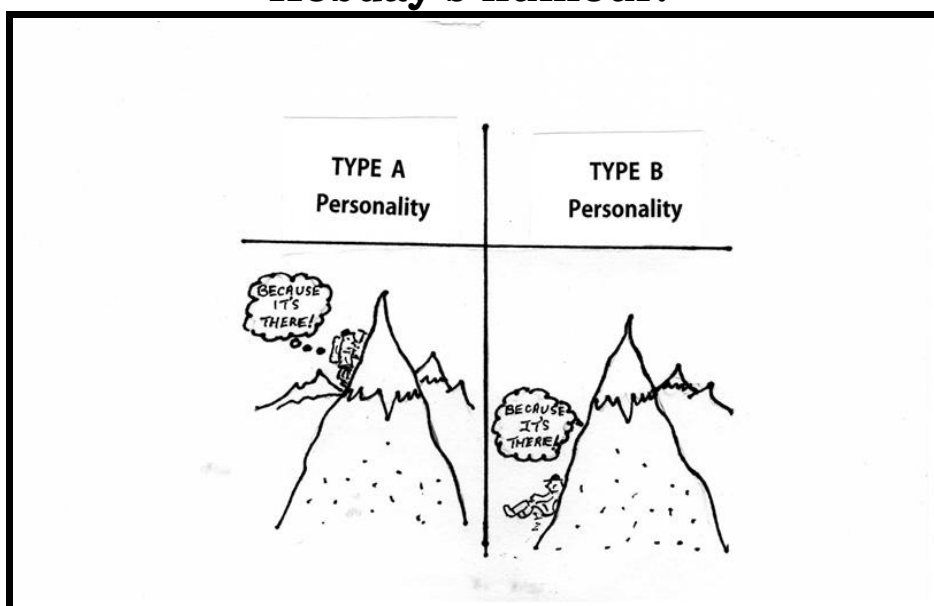
## Information on Member Activities

An application for full membership has been received from Spencer Gray, tastefully decorated in mud from the Pembrokeshire meet camp site at St Petrox. Spenser also made it, on crutches following a bouldering mishap, to the Curry Meet last week – we wish him a speedy recovery. Would anyone who has any objection to his application being approved please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Welcome to new provisional member, Pippa Leach. We look forward to climbing with you and getting to know you both better on future meets.

Your Hon. Ed recently had the great pleasure of meeting Jill Westrick, (Theobald) at Buxton Opera House. Jill and Rob have many happy memories of old friends in the Oread and send their best wishes to you all.

## Hobday's humour:



## Hut Bookings.

### TAN-YR-WYDDFA

2-3 October Brian Rollins Outdoor Club  
6- 7 November Aylesbury C.C.  
13-14 November Scunthorpe M.C.  
20-21 November Derby M.C.

### HEATHY LEA

3-4 October Joint DMC/Oread meet  
8-10 October Roy Sawyer  
16-17 October Croydon M.C.  
23-24 October Loughton M.C.  
30-31 October Royal Veterinary College  
7 November Oread M.C.  
13-14 November Chelmsford M.C.

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

“Sole use – children present” means you may not stay overnight, even in the Oread room.

All queries, payments and bookings should be addressed to Derek Pike, the Hut Bookings Secretary:

Derek Pike, 19 St. Johns Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD

Tel. 01332 670459 Email: [hutbookings@oread.co.uk](mailto:hutbookings@oread.co.uk)

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

**This month's puzzle:**



**On which Peak District crag will you find this cheeky chappie?**

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

The structure was of course Barmouth Bridge, spanning the Mawddach Estuary. This can be seen in the far distance from the summit of Cader Idris on a clear day. As many know, Cader is a delightful summit and a comfortable ascent by the Fox's path. It is however completely exposed to the coast, and I have been caught in extremely fierce squalls on two occasions. Oreads Doug Cook and Ray Handley, plus probably others, were involved in early ascents of some of the routes on the north facing crag above the Tarn. I am hoping to explore the slopes on the Tal y Llyn side when time permits. I am told that Snod has knowledge of insect or fungal attacks on the timber piles supporting the bridge which threatened the viability of the bridge, and so the coastal railway. All seems to be well now though.\* Roger Chapman also identified the location with ease and astonishing speed. His newsletter reached him at 23.15 on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and his reply was in your Hon. Ed.'s inbox at 06.39 on the 24<sup>th</sup>!

\* Snod says "The bridge was designed by Benjamin Piercy and Henry Conybeare and opened in 1867 by the Cambrian Railway. Made largely of timber it was attacked by marine woodworm and in 1980 could have closed. Repairs cost 2.5 million pounds funded by a EEC grant."

### **Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

If your correspondent Mr. Fisher is aggrieved by any of my justifiable observations in a recent newsletter then he is at liberty to seek satisfaction in the usual way. I am sure my friend Uschi would be prepared to act as my second. (Fisher might be in some difficulties in this matter, but by the law of averages he must have a friend of whom I am unaware).

Fisher did in fact precede me at my old school, although at the time the establishment was in retreat from the regular premises to a camp at Amber valley during the Boer or Zulu wars. Here, his studies in chemistry and other matters, furthered at Birmingham University, led to his profession as a dentist. His presence at these seats of learning also helped his colleagues in linguistics to define and refine the term "curmudgeon". (Concise Oxford Dictionary Fifth Edition, p234 item 6).

It would be better however, if he joined the other pensioners and showed his mettle on the fearsome precipices of the Western Peak District, and I hereby extend the invitation to him to get in touch and make the necessary arrangements.

Yours etc.  
C. Russell

### **Annual Accounts**

As the audited Annual Accounts were not available for inspection at the A.G.M. as normal they are reproduced below for your information.

**OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
2014 ACCOUNTS  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS**

15/03/2015

K Gregson

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Membership subscriptions		6,294		4,485
Welsh Hut fees		8,722		8,076
Derbyshire Hut fees		3,287		3,262
Annual dinner		1,224		0
Indoor meets		0		68
Bank interest		0		10
Miscellaneous		280	19,807	176
				16,077
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
Welsh Hut:				
Utilities	1,478		185	
Rates	316		503	
Insurance	966		869	
Coal	330		463	
Maintenance	1,445		2,315	
Consumables	90		0	
Other	53	4,678	182	4,517
Derbyshire Hut:				
Utilities	949		874	
Rates	0		0	
Insurance	773		869	
Rent	2,724		2,724	
Maintenance	400		680	
Consumables	108		0	
Other	12	4,966	0	5,147
Newsletters and printing		706		628
Annual dinner		1,224		84
BMC Club membership		1,918		1,610
Indoor meets		173		0
Bank charges		212		186
Miscellaneous		684	14,561	162
<b>NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>			<u>5,246</u>	<u>3,743</u>

## OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

ASSETS	2104		2013	
	£	£	£	£
Balance at Bank - Current Account	23,693		18,444	
Deposit Account			3	
		<u>23,693</u>		<u>18,447</u>
Funded by:				
<b>ACCUMULATED RESERVES</b>				
Balance 01/01/2013		18,447		14,704
Add: (Deficit)/Surplus for Year		<u>5,246</u>		<u>3,743</u>
		<u>23,693</u>		<u>18,447</u>

**NOTES**

These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis and do not include any amounts owing to or owed by the club at 31 December 2014.

Freehold and leasehold property, fixtures, fittings and equipment are not included as fixed assets in these accounts and are written off in the year of purchase.

P Storer  
President

*P. Storer*

K Gregson  
Treasurer

*K. Gregson*

**AUDITORS REPORT**

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet set out on pages 1 and 2 and confirm that they are in accordance with the books and records of the club.

R G SQUIRES  
Hon. Auditor

*R G Squires*

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## Forthcoming Meets:

**Note there are some changes from the list published last month.**

**2015**

<b>October</b>			
2-4 <sup>th</sup>	Heathy Lea	Joint with DMC	Eddie James, DMC president
7 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> approx	Kalymnos/Mallorca	Sun Rock trips	Individual bookings.
<b>November</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Dovedale Dash	Fell Race	Rob Tresidder
7 <sup>th</sup>	Bonfire Night	Heathy Lea	Pam Storer
14 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Dinner	<b>Matlock Golf Club</b>	<b>Ruth Gordon</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Coniston	MAM Hut	Tony Howard
<b>December</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	<b>Derek Pike</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> (eve.)	Black Rocks	Night cragging	Rob Tresidder
25 <sup>th</sup> - Jan 1	Christmas/NY	Tan-y-Wyddfa	Rock Hudson/Ruth Gordon

## Annual Dinner Information

There are several bed and breakfast options within walking distance of Matlock Golf Club, or a short taxi ride. Closest are The Duke of Wellington tel 01629 582299 or via [www.laterooms.com](http://www.laterooms.com) and Dane Cottage, 111 Wellington St. 01629 55910 [www.danecottagematlock.co.uk](http://www.danecottagematlock.co.uk). Both are less than 10 minutes fairly level walk from the Golf Club. A longer walk away, but downhill on the night, are The Old Sunday School, New St. tel 01629 583347 and the Red Lion, Matlock Green 01629 584888.

For the Camper vanners and those requiring more basic accommodation there is a good camp site at Packhorse Farm 01629 580950 [www.packhorsefarm.co.uk](http://www.packhorsefarm.co.uk). This is around 25 minutes walk away but it does involve footpaths across fields in the dark so we hope to be able to fit most people in at the Wilson and Gordon residences, 5 minutes walk from the venue. We can offer van parking, tent and floor space (maybe a bed if you are lucky) - first come first served - so book early! Chris and Jan have kindly offered to coordinate the overnight stays so please contact them on 01629 580521, mobile 07881 698758 email [c.wilson.48@talktalk.net](mailto:c.wilson.48@talktalk.net)

Booking Form with menu options and payment information below.

Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB  
**Tel.** 01629 56636 07999 857 922. **Email** [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com)

## Oread Annual Dinner Order Form

The dinner will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> November and will cost £20.00. Tea or coffee is included in the price.

Please write your name & the name of your guest(s) in the boxes on the top line and tick one item per course per person.

Post your completed form and payment to Ruth Gordon, 4 The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock Derbyshire, DE4 5LB, to arrive by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November at the latest.

**Payment MUST be by cash, cheque or postal order, payable to Oread MC. Bank transfers will NOT be acceptable sorry.** This is because we are having difficulties identifying who has paid by this method; I don't have access to the account & the treasurer has enough to do at present.

**I must have the completed forms by 5<sup>th</sup> November**

*(V) = suitable for vegetarians.*

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Starter</b>				
Greek salad (V)				
Seafood pate				
Tomato and red lentil soup (V)				
<b>Main Course</b>				
Baked Salmon				
Braised beef and onions				
Vegetable Wellington. (mushrooms and pine nuts in pastry) (V)				
<b>Dessert</b>				
Rich chocolate torte				
Sicilian lemon cheesecake				
Fruit salad				

If you have any special dietary requirements please state them below (e.g. gluten/wheat/vegan). The Golf Club is used to catering for special diets. Please contact them directly on 01629 582191 to be certain that they can cater for you and for your peace of mind.

*If you have a strong preference to be seated next to others, please state this below & we will do our best to accommodate you.*