

# OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



January 2024

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## Monthly Club Meetings

Unless otherwise stated in this Newsletter, monthly club meetings are held on the Wednesday following the Sunday coach walk at the Wigston Conservative Club, 38 Long Street, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 2AH at 7.30pm. All club members are welcome.

## Club Membership

As you are aware, having walked with the club on three occasions, guests are normally invited to join Oadby Hillwalkers as a full member. This requires an annual membership subscription of currently £15, or a lower pro rata payment if joining mid-year.

The key benefit of membership is that members are covered by the clubs Public Liability policy, which means that in the unfortunate event of an accident and subject to a successful claim, they may benefit from a compensation payment. A key element of this insurance is that members are also covered if they accidentally cause injury to a third party or another club member.

It is for the above reasons that membership becomes mandatory after three walks under the club's constitution.

## Announcements

### January's Local Mid-Month Walk - Market Harborough Leicestershire – Lesley Gill

Meeting at **9.30am on 20<sup>th</sup> January** in the Commons carpark in Market Harborough at the Tesco end (free on Sunday days).

This walk will be led by Lesley Gill and will be approximately seven miles long (so no lunch break required). The Walk is mainly tarmac but there are three fields on the route, two of which may be muddy depending on the conditions this week.

The route starts from Market Harborough, walking up to the canal basin; then along the towpath to the new development (this section has recently been hard surfaced); through the estate & across three fields to Lubbenham.

Walk through the village then out to East Farndon on a single-track road. Finally, back down into Market Harborough & through Welland Park.



## **Safeguarding**

The club now has two safeguarding leads (of both sexes). If anyone has any safeguarding concerns that involve the club, club activities, or club members, there is a confidential email address to report in confidence any safeguarding concerns to the club.

The email is: [OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com)

## **Volunteer Required**

At next year's AGM, Mike Hinks will retire from his position as Chair and Membership Secretary of the OHWC. Martin Beckett has volunteered to take over from Mike as the Club's Chair, but we require a new Membership Secretary.

The role will entail:

- Responding to emails,
- Answering enquiries,
- Keeping track of members,
- Tallying up the numbers for coach trips.

We require someone who is IT savvy and will have time to spend on the role.

If anyone within the club would like to volunteer for this role, please contact the committee via [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com).

## **OHWC WhatsApp Group**

At November's committee meeting it was decided to introduce an OHWC WhatsApp group chat for all club members. The Patterdale WhatsApp account created specifically for the last Lake District trip will therefore be renamed OHWC Chat (please come forward with other alternatives if you wish!). Some basic ground rules are:

- a) Please continue to book coach places on [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com). Do not try to book using WhatsApp
- b) Keep it light and friendly. No bad language.
- c) Keep it on theme i.e., OHWC matters, hill walking, trekking, climbing, mountaineering etc
- d) No politics or campaigning
- e) Selectively share photos, please don't swamp the group with all your holiday snaps !!

Please email the committee with your name and mobile number at [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com) should you wish to join the group chat.

## **OHWC Facebook Groups**

The OHWC club has two Facebook groups; one for members only, and the other for members of the public. Please feel free to search these groups out and add photos of our club walks. By doing this, it advertises our club activities and will help to attract new members to the club.

## **Winter Timings for Monthly Walks**

From 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 the OHWC has reverted to its winter timings for our monthly walks. Pick up in the morning remains the same as summer timings. However, the bus leaves for home at **5pm sharp**.

At the end of the day's walk, would everyone ensure they are on the bus, ready to leave before the 5pm deadline please.



# January Walk Report, by Catherine Gwinnett

Sunday 7th January 2024 to Bakewell, Peak District



After seeing a fair amount of water lying in the fields on the way to Bakewell it was good to see the town itself was no longer affected by the recent floods. We quickly warmed up as we climbed the long hill out of Bakewell, soon reaching open countryside.

From Over Haddon we had good views into Lathkill Dale and Karl was persuaded not to climb the tree in the car park (this time).

A discussion of the pros and cons of using a SheWee kept some of us entertained as we continued to climb through fields and over stiles towards Bole Hill, near the spoil heaps of Magshaw Mine, an old lead mine.

From the top, where we had a short flurry of snow, the impressive remains of the chimney and the Cornish engine house at Magpie Mine could be seen in the distance. It was there we had the first of our two lunch stops (as requested by Andy) but we didn't stay long as the temperature had dropped noticeably.





A couple of the group managed to squeeze through an impossibly narrow gate into the quiet village of Sheldon - the rest of us used a far more suitably sized alternative. Not long after leaving the village we skipped gazelle-like down the steep path through Great Shacklow Wood to meet the swollen River Wye which we followed for a while, passing the abandoned buildings of Ashford Mill.

We stopped to take photos from the bridge next to the sheep wash before going through Ashford in the Water, a pretty village which only the previous week had been Ashford under the Water.

We left the village via a narrow path behind the cottages and climbed towards the parkland of Churchdale Hall where we had our second lunch stop and several well deserved fruit pastilles.

Then it was another climb through the lovely Cracknowl Wood and across open fields before descending to the sodden Scott's Meadows alongside the river and into Bakewell with plenty of time to empty the shops of all their remaining tarts and puddings.

I'm happy to report nobody fell over, everyone got back in the daylight and no, Geoff, we didn't get lost.





## Next Monthly Walk: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Hathersage, Peak District

**Coach departs:** Oadby Central Car Park (adjacent to the Trinity Methodist Church) at **8.00am sharp**.

Please note the coach will leave Hathersage at **5.00pm**.

**Coach Route:** M1 to J29, A617, A619, A623, A625 to pub

**Boot stop:** Tipshelf Services.

**Pub:** Foxhouse Inn, S11 7TY

**Map:** OS Landranger 119  
1/50000 [map link](#)  
OS Landranger 110  
1/50000 [map link](#)



**Booking Trips:** When booking onto monthly and mid-month walks, please **only** use the club email rather than phone, text or word of mouth.

**Coach Fare:** Preferably by BACS to the bank details given at the end of this Newsletter.

- Adult Members and Guest £15
- Junior/Student Members £8

### Cancellations - members and guests

- Cancellations up to Tuesday Midnight before the Sunday walk - no penalty.
- Cancellations thereafter - full cost of the bus fare due.



### Walk Leaders:

- Catherine Birch (long walk)
- Richard Hough
- Geoff Mattock
- Catherine Gwinnett
- John Bastow (short walk)

Walk Report to be provided by Catherine Birch

### Prospective Walkers

If you have not put your name down on the last coach trip, please contact [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com) to book a seat on the bus this month, prior to making a payment. You will receive a reply confirming the availability or otherwise of a seat. Please note that it is first come first served.

If you delay booking, you may not get a seat. Please do not turn up without booking and receiving confirmation that you have a place. You must book a place on the coach in advance, or you may not be allowed on as it picks up at various places on the ring road members who have already booked a seat.

If you wish to be picked up, at other places than the Oadby Car Park, please mention where when booking and please be aware that very occasionally another Woods coach may go past before ours arrives.

Members can book for the next month's walk on the return journey back to Oadby. You don't have to wait for the Club meeting or the Newsletter.

### **Walk Reminder**

Please make sure that you are carrying your completed Club Safety Form in the top of your rucksack - it could help you in a difficult situation. N.B. Don't forget to keep the form up to date. The form is available on the Club Website [here](#).

### **Walk Route Map**

Please go onto the News section of the Club website [here](#) a few days before the monthly walk, to see a map showing the walk routes. Hopefully, this will speed up selecting your walk when signing up on the coach. The club has four OS maps available for Walk Leaders to use when leading walks.

### **Boot/Toilet Stop**

**Members are urged to keep the time taken at the boot stop to a minimum.** At the end of the walk members should change their footwear and place dirty boots and rucksacks in the luggage locker before getting onto the coach, thus avoiding any congestion and mud in the coach.

**Please do not wear dirty boots on the coach.**

**Those getting off the coach at Fosse Park and the Ring Road, may alternatively put your dirty kit into a plastic bag and then take it onto the coach; thus, negating having to search for your gear in the bus luggage lockers.**

### **Essential Wear**

Members and guests must be suitably equipped. As a minimum this must include:

- Suitable walking boots
- Waterproof coat and over-trousers
- Warm clothing
- An appropriate rucksack.
- Food and drink for the whole day
- A First Aid Kit is recommended.

### **N.B. Jeans and, or trainers/sandals are NOT suitable.**

If you are not properly equipped for hillwalking, you may not be able to participate.

Only Registered Assistance Dogs are allowed on club walks, except on mid-month walks at the discretion of the Walk Leader.



## Club Social Events

### **Patterdale, Lake District**

After the club's successful trip to Patterdale in the Lake District in April of last year. It has been proposed that the club organises another trip to this area.

The trip will be in April 2024 (no confirmation of dates yet). To date we have had 34 club members showing an interest in this trip. If anyone else would like to go, can they email the club at [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com) please.

### **Club AGM**

The OHWC will hold its Annual General Meeting in April 2024 (no date confirmed yet). It is proposed that this meeting will be held at the Conservative Club in Wigston and will be combined with hot food and a games night for club members.

### **Dolomites, Italy**

Twelve members of the club have already signed up for next year's Dolomites trip. Flights and hotel accommodation have been booked for these members.

If there are any other members who wish to come but haven't yet booked, they are very welcome. However, they will now need to arrange their own travel and accommodation.

If you are interested, please book through the club email [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com).

## Almoner's Report

Two members of the OHWC Committee, Mike Hinks and Martin Beckett, are either waiting or recently had hip replacement operations. Because of this, they are unable to join us on OHWC walking trips until they have recovered from their operations.

I am sure you all will be wanting to give Mike and Martin your best wishes for a full recovery from their medical procedures, and we are all hoping to see you both in the hills at some point in 2024.

If anyone knows of any member who is poorly or unable to walk for any reason, please let one of the committee members know.

## Club Media and Bank Details

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://oadbyhwc.com/">http://oadbyhwc.com/</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com">ohwcmail@gmail.com</a>
<b>Safeguarding Email</b>	<a href="mailto:OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com">OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="#">Oadby Hillwalking Club group</a>
<b>Instagram</b>	<a href="#">Oadby Hillwalking Club</a>
<b>Bank Details</b>	Barclays Bank
<b>Account Name</b>	OHWC
<b>Account Number</b>	50124990 Please quote surname and month of walk (i.e., Smith July)
<b>Sort code</b>	20-49-08

## OHWC Committee 2023 – 2024

<b>Chair</b>	Mike Hinks	07947 026424
<b>Treasurer</b>	Martin Beckett	07748 674223
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Mike Hinks	07947 026424
<b>Secretary</b>	Clare Savage	07818 185506
<b>Walks Co-ordinator</b>	Geoff Mattock	0116 239 5381
<b>Social Events &amp; Media</b>	Elaine Leaper	07930 122030
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Tim Akers	07855 969183