

OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



February 2024

Contents

Monthly Club Meetings	2
Club Membership	2
Announcements.....	2
February Walk Report, by John Bastow.....	4
Next Monthly Walk: Sunday 3 rd March to Malvern Hills	6
Club Media and Bank Details.....	8
OHWC Committee 2023 – 2024	8

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

February's Local Mid-Month Walk – Hallerton, Leicestershire – Catherine Gwinnett

Meeting at **10 am on 18th February** at The Fox Inn / duck pond in Hallaton, LE16 8UJ. This walk will be led by Catherine Gwinnett and is 11.5 miles long. Bring a packed lunch.

There are some great views along the way and hopefully lots of snowdrops in the verges and in churchyards. The route is mainly through fields with a few short sections on lanes. The route starts at Hallaton, northwest to Keythorpe Hall Farm, south on the Midshires Way to Cranoe, southeast to Medbourne, then north to Blaston and finally back to Hallaton.

Please contact Catherine by text 07941 855762 or email at: cgwinnett@gmail.com if you'd like to join the walk.



Patterdale and the Dolomites

We're pleased to report that twenty club members have booked into The Patterdale Hotel from 14 to 19 April 2024 for some fellwalking in The Lake District. We know that a few others are interested subject to sorting out room sharing. A couple of members need a lift. If you can help, please confirm on the club WhatsApp.

There are now thirteen club members going to the Dolomites from 25 June to 4 July. All UK and Italian transport, hotels and flights have been booked. Subject to currency fluctuations the trip has come in at a pleasing £14 over the estimated base cost of £1,200 per person. We had a meeting at Martin and Alison's to finalise details. Everyone seems to be getting quietly excited about the trip!

Safeguarding

The OHWC Safeguarding Policy and Guidance document is now on the club website at <http://oadbyhwc.com/safeguarding>. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of the OHWC to safeguarding our club members and to ensure that everyone involved in OHWC is aware of:

- a) The policy and procedures for safeguarding our club members.
- b) Their role and responsibility for safeguarding our club members.
- c) What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult or young person.

The OHWC Committee asks that all club members read the Safeguarding document to ensure everyone knows the club's policies regarding this matter.

If anyone has any safeguarding concerns that involve the club, club activities, or club members, report in confidence by email, any safeguarding concerns to the club at OHWCsafeguarding@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. 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 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 1st 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.

February Walk Report, by John Bastow

Sunday 4th February 2024 to Hathersage, Peak District



3 walks started near the Robin Hood Inn. Once the other groups had headed for the hills, the remaining walkers, who formed the short walk, set off at a more leisurely pace towards Birchin Edge.

After a short but steep ascent we gained the Edge from which we had clear views over Baslow and Chatsworth Park.

Soon we came to Nelson's Monument, erected by a local man in 1810 in memory of Admiral Lord Nelson and to commemorate the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Nearby stand the 3 ships rocks inscribed Victory, Defiance, and Royal Soverin (sic).

Walking above Jack Flat we passed a small herd of Highland Cattle grazing serenely beside the footpath.

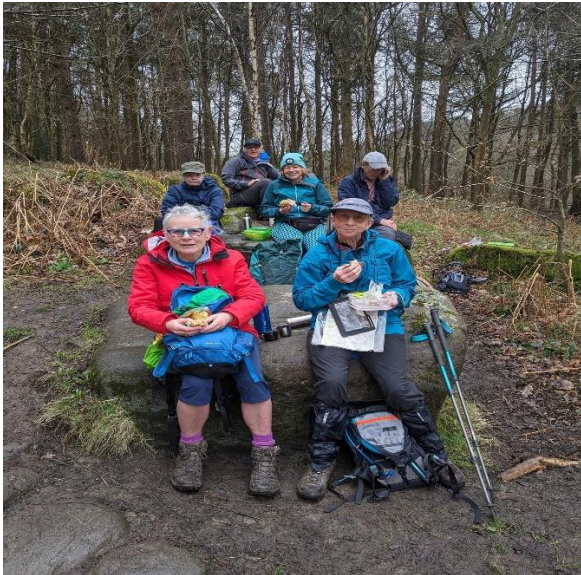
A mile and a half after Nelson's Monument, we then reached Wellington's Monument; erected to remember the Battle of Waterloo which took place in 1815.

We stopped here to enjoy our elevenses and the view (which is not blocked by tree leaves at this time of year).

Passing the Eagle Stone, we crossed Eaglestone Flat to Curbar Gap with superb views to the west.

Throughout the day visibility was generally very good and, except for a couple of minutes of drizzle, the rain held off.





Along Curbar Edge we stayed on the path a little way from the edge and clear of the howling wind blowing up the rock face.

Towards the north end of Froggatt Edge we passed close to Stoke Flat Bronze Age Stone Circle.

Upon entering Hay Wood we took the path which descends towards Nether Padley. After a short distance we stopped for lunch in a sheltered spot beneath a cliff.

We then descended Tumbling Hill (nobody did), crossed the road and went down the stone staircase to Grindleford Station.

Rather than go up the main path to Padley Gorge, we went instead through woodland towards Bole Hill, before contouring to meet Burbage Brook a little higher up.

There was plenty of white water flowing through the gorge, but the light was not good for photography. We arrived at Longshaw Visitor Centre with plenty of time for tea and (chocolate) cake.

Finally we walked the few hundred yards to the Fox House Inn. Apparently the coach was parked some distance away, so time for a pint (thanks Janet) before changing out of our boots for the journey back to Oadby.



Next Monthly Walk: Sunday 3rd March to Malvern Hills

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

Please note the coach will leave Wynds Point at 5.00pm.

Coach Route: M69, M6, M42, M5 to J7, A4440, A449 to just south of Malvern (Grid Ref 764 404)

Boot stop: Hopwood Services.

Pub: Malvern Hills Hotel, WR13 6DW

Map: [OS Landranger 150](#): Worcester and The Malverns, Evesham and Tewkesbury 1:50,000 map



Walk Leaders:

- Andy McQuaid (long walk)
- Karl Pochin
- Geoff Mattock
- Catherine Gwinnett
- John Bastow (short walk)

Walk Report to be provided by John Bastow

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.

Prospective Walkers

If you have not put your name down on the last coach trip, please contact 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.

Almoner's Report

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

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 Social Events

Club AGM

The OHWC will hold its Annual General Meeting at 7pm on Saturday 27th April 2024 at the Conservative Club in Wigston and will be combined with hot food and a skittles night for club members.

Club Media and Bank Details

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

OHWC Committee 2023 – 2024

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