

OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



March 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.

Safeguarding

The OHWC Safeguarding Policy and Guidance document is now on the club website at <http://oadbyhwc.com/safeguarding>.

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

Announcements

Patterdale

If any club members would like to lead walks during the Patterdale trip, would you contact the club through ohwcmail@gmail.com giving details of your proposed routes please.

There are still a few members struggling to get up to the Lake District; if any club members are able to car share, can you make yourself known on the OHWC WhatsApp group please.

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.

February's Local Mid-Month Walk – Sunday 17th March, to Croft Hill, Narborough

Karl Pochin has volunteered to lead this month's walk which will be an 8 mile circular walk up Croft Hill.

Start time: 10 am

Meeting place: Junction of Hardwicke Road & Copt Oak Road in Narborough, LE19 3LZ

What3words

///committed.records.unlocking

Parking: Street park nearby. Please car share if possible.

Bring a packed lunch.

Please contact Karl by text on 07907 396988 if you'd like to join the walk.



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.

March Walk Report, by Andy McQuaid

Sunday 3rd March 2024 to Malvern Hills

It was a glorious but cold and frosty day when we set off from Oadby – and it remained so when we got to Malvern.

Leaving the coach early just south of Powick on the borders of Worcester, Penny and Glenn joined me as we set off on the Long Walk and the first 7 miles of the route, heading South to the Malvern Hills.

It was heavy going, wet and muddy all the way, with the paths disappearing in places. In the distance, always in sight and spurring us on, were the snow-capped hills of Malvern.





We reached the village of Leigh Sinton, where we made our first stop. Only a slight detour took us to a quiet park bench, where we sat cosily enjoying our first snack of the day.

Setting off through the muddy quagmire, but clean horses (!), of Pudge's and Halfkey Farms we headed through an orchard plantation to pick up the Worcestershire Way. At the end of which, we started our climb.

It was tough going climbing the many steps up the cliff side between houses built precariously, clinging on to the edges of the hill. Taking the road, we skirted North Hill and found a perfect picnic spot with tables for our second stop, and a glorious view across Malvern and as far as the Cotwolds.

Suitably refreshed, we set off along to Geopark Way heading for the Worcestershire Beacon. After a long and arduous climb, we reach the top of this hill where Penny took a picture of Glenn and me posing at the Trigg point. Continuing along the Geopark Way to the peak of Summer Hill we headed down to cross the B4232 - and a welcome toilet break!



We then climbed again up a steep path to reach the top of the aptly named Perseverance Hill. Ahead of us was the site of our next peak, Jubilee Hill, which we conquered with great alacrity.

Next was Pinnacle Hill and Black Hill, which we met with equal style, joining the footpath down to the hotel and the end of our walk. However, there was time before a drink for Penny to take a photo looking back over the last section of our walk.



Next Monthly Walk: Sunday 7th April to Chinnor

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

Please note the coach will leave the pub at 5.30pm.

Coach Route: M1, J15A, A43, M40, J9, A41, A413, B4009, A4010, A4129, B4009

Boot stop: Cherwell Valley.

Pub: The Crown, Station Road. OX39 4EX

Map: [OS Explorer 181](#): Chiltern Hills North 1:25,000 map



Walk Leaders:

- Glen McPhail (long walk)
- Geoff Mattock
- Catherine Gwinnett
- John Bastow (short walk 1)
- Helen Everett (short walk 2)

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 club, Janet Long and Robert Colclough have both picked up injuries from long distance running. Because of this, they are unable to join us on our walking trips for the time being.

I am sure you all will be wanting to give Janet and Robert your best wishes for a full recovery from their injuries, 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. Cost will be £7.50 per club member.
Leicester Three Peaks	The committee has proposed that we tackle the Leicester Three Peaks at some point this summer. More details to follow.
Snowdon	We are also hoping to do a weekend trip to North Wales in either June or July to climb Mt Snowdon. Again, details to follow.
Via Ferratta	Another possible trip being thought about is to Via Ferrata Xtreme at Honister Slate Mine in the Lake District. Details to follow.
Evening walk around Rothley	It is proposed in either May or August, we have an evening walk around the village of Rothley culminating in a slap up meal at the fish and chip shop.

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
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