

OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



April 2024

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Cotswold Outdoors Discount Card for Club Members

Once again, Cotswold Outdoors has allowed all Club members to apply for a Discount Card. This discount is for the personal use of club members only and must not be shared with others.

Club members benefit from:

- 20% discount in-store and online,
- Expertise, advice and guidance,
- Sustainability services,
- Explore More membership.

OHWC discount:

OHWC Club Members will receive a 20% discount on full-priced items (excludes electronics and selected lines) both in-store and online with Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Need and Snow+Rock. The code to use is **AF-RAMBLERS-E9**.

This discount is strictly for personal use only and must not be shared with non-club members. Cotswold Outdoors reserve the right to amend or cancel it with immediate effect if they find this code has been leaked to unauthorised persons in any way.

Explore More:

Club members will need to be signed up for their free Explore More benefits scheme to use the discount. This comes with its own benefits such as a 3-year extended warranty, a 100-day returns policy, Price Match Promise and much more! Members can sign up through any of the following brands:

- [Cotswold Outdoor](#)
- [Runners Need](#)
- [Snow+Rock](#)

Expertise, advice and guidance:

The best way to tap into their outdoor expertise is for Club Members to book an in-store appointment at Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Need or Snow+Rock. These ensure one of our store specialists is on hand to help you get the best kit for your adventure.

Alternatively, Cotswold Indoor have a whole host of blogs online in our Advice & Inspiration areas. These include kit guides, itinerary ideas, inspirational stories and suggestions on how to be more sustainable. You can find these below:

- [Cotswold Outdoor](#)
- [Runners Need](#)
- [Snow+Rock](#)

Sustainability Services:

For us the outdoors is everything, and across our three brands, we do everything we can to look after it for generations to come.

As a company, Cotswold Outdoors are working to become more sustainable, and they want to help their customers do their bit too. The services they offer to help with this are available across all their stores:

- [Make The Right Choice](#)
- [Care and Proofing](#)
- [Recycle My Gear](#)
- [Recycle My Run](#)
- [Our planet](#)

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

OHWC 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 of food will be £7.50 per club member, payable on the night.

Please note that parking at the Conservative Club is limited. Can all members find alternative parking in local public car parks please.

Proposed OHWC to Snowdonia 26th to 28th July 2024

Geoff Mattock has volunteered to lead a club trip to Snowdonia in Wales, staying at the Dolgam campsite [here](#). The campsite has spaces for tents and motorhomes with electric hook-up if required.

There are shower and ablution facilities on site. Dolgam also B&B facilities, as well as 'Chicken Coops'. All details on the website above. Can anyone interested in this trip contact the club secretary so we can have a record of numbers 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 ohwcmal@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 ohwcmal@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.

April's Local Mid-Month Walk – Sunday 28th April, to Tilton-on-the-Hill

Led by Alison & Martin Beckett

Meet outside Rose & Crown pub on Main Street in Tilton LE7 9LF for 10am start. There is street parking close by.

Circular route, taking in Owston, Somerby and Burrough-On-the-Hill.

Approx 12 miles with 1450 ft of ascent & descent.



April Walk Report, by Helen Everett

Sunday 7th April 2024 to Chinnor

We set off from Great Kimble at a steady climb along the edge of Great Kimble Warren, deviating from the Ridgeway path temporarily through woods along a muddy track to try to catch a glimpse of Chequers through the trees, but did not get close enough.

Continuing round Pulpit Hill down near Longdown Farm, then through Ninn Wood in sunshine and round the Hangings to Whiteleaf Hill and the viewpoint on a tumulus with a view across the Vale of Aylesbury where we posed for the group photo.



We had in our group two expert botanists, Ann and Louise, whose keen eyes were constantly scanning the verges for plants of the beechwoods on the chalk hills of the Chilterns.

These included Sanicle or Wood Elder: *Sanicula Europaea*, a member of the Carrot family, Town Hall Cock *Adoxa Moschatellina*, and Sweet Woodruff, *Gallium Odoratum*.

From Whiteleaf Hill we descended a steep path to the road and crossed into Brush Hill Nature reserve, emerging near Princes Risborough and taking the Icknield Way Trail which skirts the town to the south. Crossing the railway line first by a bridge to Saunderton, we found a field further on where we stopped for lunch, relaxing whilst watching a pair of kites above us.





The rain just held off. Over the railway again, we picked up the Icknield Way Trail once more heading for Lower Wainhill and a footpath parallel to the Chinnor and Princes Risborough steam railway line, hearing and seeing the steam train on its way into Chinnor as we crossed the line into Chinnor and headed for the Crown pub.

Next Monthly Walk: Sunday 12th May to Chipping Camden

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: M69, A46, A439, A422, A429, A44, Buckle St, Kingcomb Lane, B4081

Boot stop: Stratford upon Avon

Pub: To be confirmed

Map: [OS Explorer 45 1/25000](#)



Walk Leaders:

- Andy McQuaid (long walk)
- Catherine Gwinnett – 14 miles
- Adam Oakley – 10 miles
- Geoff Mattock – 12 miles
- John Bastow – 9 miles

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 ohwcmal@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.

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

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

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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
Newsletter Editor	Tim Akers	07855 969183