

OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



January 2026

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Club Announcements

Walking Routes

Can all club members look at the walking routes available [here](#) prior to joining each month's coach trip, so the walk list can be passed round the coach more efficiently please. Each month's walk routes are put up on the club website in the week before the monthly walk.

Walking Boots

Club members are reminded that when joining club walks, they must wear walking boots with ankle support. The only exception to this rule is if club members have a valid medical reason for not wearing boots with ankle support.

OHWC Annual General Meeting

Conservative Club, Wigston - 25th April 2026

This years OHWC Annual General Meeting will be held on 25th April 2026 at the Wigston & District Conservative Club at 38 Long Street, Wigston. Same as last year, food and skittles will be provided.

All OHWC members are encouraged to attend so they can vote on matters pertaining to the club's running etc. Further details regarding the agenda, food, and skittles will be provided closer to the time.

Safeguarding

The OHWC is committed to safeguarding in line with national legislation, and national and local guidelines. We ensure safeguarding by ensuring our club is run in a way which keeps our club members safe.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard adults and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse and neglect.

The OHWC is committed to creating a culture of zero tolerance of harm to our club members which necessitates:

- the recognition of club members who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk.
- knowing how abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself.
- and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

The OHWC Safeguarding Policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals who are involved in the OHWC, including the committee and the walk leaders, to all concerns about the safety of club members whilst taking part in the organisation, its activities and in the wider community.

All club members are encouraged to report any safeguarding concerns, no matter how trivial they seem to the club at OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com. All such communications will be treated as strictly in-confidence and will be investigated thoroughly.

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

Committee Retirements

Social Events and Media Secretary

Elaine Akers has informed OHWC that she intends to retire from the Committee at the AGM in April this year. The OHWC is looking for volunteers to take over her position. Her role includes:

- Maintaining and updating the OHWC [website](#),
- Maintaining and updating the OHWC social media presence on Facebook and Instagram,
- Organising social events throughout the year (tends to be only the annual Xmas dinner).
- Attending OHWC monthly committee meetings and the yearly AGM.

Any OHWC members who are interested in this position, can you please let our club Chair know via email at ohwcmal@gmail.com, or through Martin's mobile at 07748 674223.

Newsletter Editor

Tim Akers has also announced his retirement from the Newsletter committee member position effective from this year's AGM in April. His role includes:

- On a monthly basis, writing the OHWC newsletter and publishing it via email to all club members,
- Ensuring Social Media Secretary has a copy of newsletter to put on OHWC website,
- Attending OHWC monthly committee meetings and the yearly AGM.
- This position would suit someone who is MS Office literate.

Any OHWC members who are interested in this position, can you please let our club Chair know via email at ohwcmal@gmail.com, or through Martin's mobile at 07748 674223.

Almoners Report

OHWC members Penny and Carol met with Andy Quaid for coffee the other day to see how he is getting on since his MND diagnosis.

Andy wishes all OHWC members a very Happy New Year, and he thanks everyone who has messaged him and their kind words and thoughts.



January Mid-Month Local Walk with Gala Suarez

Watermead Country Park – 18th January 2026

Gala has kindly volunteered to lead this months Mid-Month walk. It will be approximately nine miles long and will be between 10 am and approximately 3.30 pm.

The meeting point is at the main entrance gate to Belgrave Rugby Club (Thurmaston Road, LE4 2QG). Can everyone be present and ready to walk by 10 am please?

Parking is available along both sides of Thurmaston Road (LE2 2QB). The route is proposed to be through Ellis Meadows, Little Mead, Watermead Woodland Habitat, Mammoth Hill, Mammoth Lake, Keys Lake, Birstall Nature Reserve, King Lear's Lake, John Merrick's Lake, Meadow and Grebe pools, Meadow Lane, White Horse pub, Nature lake, and then return to Little Mead.

If anyone is interested in joining Gala on her walk, please note that Gala does not do WhatsApp, so text her on 07810 063353.

January's Walk Report by Gala Suarez

Rise End, Middleton, Derbyshire, Sunday 4th January 2026



After a lovely bus ride which started from an icy Leicester, all the groups got off the bus at the same spot, by the "Hurt Arms" Pub in Ambergate, hoping the name was not a prediction of things to come!

Alison's walk started up a steep hill, which was a really nice way of warming up in the sub-zero temperatures. We eventually reached a house with a flag which we were all wondering about until Google helped us solve the mystery: It was the Derbyshire County Flag (of course!).

By this point, half of our layers came off. We passed the Shinning Cliff Woods; which for some strange reason sparked many conversations about big shopping malls; and arrived at the Shinning Cliff itself.

It was here where I thought "not again!" as we saw a horse...but this was a nice one. We continued along woods, hills and more hills. When our lead Alison ran across the road, I thought she had enough of us, but she was just motivating us to cross the road "pronto".

We walked along Sandhole Lane (which sounded like Sandal Lane to me), and then Alison kindly allowed us to have a coffee (and eggs) break in a field in Coal Ashton. After our well-deserved break, we continued along Rough Piece Lane (you couldn't make it up), from where we could see the Crich Memorial Monument in the distance.

Colin also told me about the Tramway Village that is next to it, where they store trams that are no longer in service, and you can get on a working vintage tram and go up and down the railway tracks.





We continued rambling through Peat Lane and passed by Alport Heights, which is part of the National Trust, to soon reach amazing views where we took a photo of the group. As we came down, I realized that people were giggling, pointing and calling me to look at a road sign.

It all became clear as I approached and realised that we were all turning into Knob Lane (a clear contender for Nipple Hill back in our Bromyard walk). Rosie marked the occasion with a photo.

Several "Size Zero" stiles later, we stumbled into a lovely, wooded area. It started snowing as we passed by Lane Head Farm in Alderwasley and, as we approached our lunch stop, Joshua and I either saw the biggest "Give Way" sign in the world or we suddenly both shrank.

We stopped for our lunchbreak by the "Malt Shovel Inn" Pub. Firstly, a friendly "Do not use the toilet if you don't order" notice welcomed us at the door. Secondly, they asked us to move away from the tired wooden benches where some of us sat right outside the pub's door. To top it all, the "charming" barmaid got out and moved a few of us off the tables that were totally empty at the pub's carpark...while the snow kept on falling.

Two people bought a couple of drinks just to use the toilet and defrost their hands in the warm fire inside the pub, whilst the rest of us sat down on the side of the road eating our lunch and staring at the pub in disbelief. Trustpilot will hear all about the least friendly pub in Derbyshire!

We continued towards Whatstandwell Crich and saw a couple of friendly farmers installing fence poles using a Pile Driver, as well as a wooden post with a woolly hat on (hope it doesn't get cold!). Shortly after, we bump onto Karl's and Catherine's groups.

The snow was replaced by blue skies and glorious sunshine. We passed Llamas and Alpacas, as well as many quarries, and more amazing views as we approached the Black Rocks in Wirksworth; which Colin informed me are made of grit stone; and hiked to the top of a massive rock to look at the beautiful landscape, where a climber was getting ready to abseil down.



February's Monthly Walk: Blockley, Gloucester

Sunday 1st February 2026

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 **5.00pm**.

Coach Route:

M69, A46 to Evesham, A4184 south, A46 south, B4078 south, Becketts Lane east, B4632 north, A44 east, B4479,

Boot stop: Evesham bus stop

Pub: [Great Western Arms, Blockley](#) (bus will be parked at Lower Lane, GL56 7DN)

Map: [OS Explorer OL205](#): 1:25000 OS Map of Stratford-upon-Avon & Evesham

[OS Explorer OL45](#): 1:25000 OS Map of The Cotswolds



Walk Leaders:

- G. McPhail (approx. 15 miles - Long)
- K. Pochin (12 miles)
- A. Wakley (11 miles)
- R. Davis (10 miles)
- H. Everett (8 miles - Short)

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 **£18**
- Guests **£20**
- Junior/Student Members **£12**

Cancellations - members and guests

- Cancellations up to Tuesday midnight before the Sunday walk - no penalty.
- Cancellations thereafter - the full cost of the bus fare is 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 to go 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 from other places than Oadby Car Park, please mention where at time of booking and please be aware that very occasionally another Orbit coach may go past before ours arrives.

Walk Reminder

Please make sure that you carry your completed Club Safety Form in the top pocket 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 waterproof walking boots that have adequate ankle support

- Waterproof coat and over-trousers
- Warm clothing
- An appropriate rucksack.
- Food and drink for the whole day
- For winter walking, all members are to carry a serviceable head torch in their rucksacks.
- A First Aid Kit is recommended

N.B. Jeans and 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.

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:

- 15% discount in-store and online,
- Expertise, advice and guidance,
- Sustainability services,
- Explore More membership.

OHWC discount

OHWC Club Members will receive a 15% 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-W9C**.

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 sign up for their free Explore More benefits scheme to use the discount. This comes with its own benefits such as a 3-year 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. This ensures one of our store specialists is on hand to help you get the best kit for your adventure.

Alternatively, Cotswold Indoor has 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](#)

Cotswold Outdoors Discount Card

This year, Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Need and Snow+Rock have requested that OHWC Club members provide some sort of Club Membership Card to receive their discount. To that end, the club committee have decided to produce a Membership Card for club members to use if they want to take advantage of the discount offered.

Please print off this page and cut out the Card illustrated below. Please note that last month's Newsletter inadvertently displayed the wrong discount. This year's discount is 15%.

OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB

This Membership Card entitles this OHWC Club Member to 15% Discount from Cotswold Outdoors, Runners Need, and Snow+Rock.

OHWC Club Members receive a 15% discount on full-priced items (excludes electronics and selected lines) from these stores.

The 2025/2026 Discount Code is:

AF-RAMBLERS-W9C



Meetings

Unless otherwise stated in this Newsletter or via email, 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 OHWC club members are welcome.

Club Media and Bank Details

Website	http://oadbyhwc.com
Email	ohwcmal@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 2024 – 2025

Chair	Martin Beckett	07748 674223
Treasurer	Martin Beckett	07748 674223
Club Secretary	Ann Branson	07726 334583
Membership Secretary	Mike Hewitt	07484 731419
Walks Coordinator	Adam Wakley	07720 328700
Social Events & Media	Elaine Akers	07930 122030
Newsletter Editor	Tim Akers	07855 969183