



NEWSLETTER

December 2022

OHWC Committee 2022 - 2023

Chair: Mike Hinks 07947 026424

Treasurer: Martin Beckett 07748 674223

Walks Co-ordinator: Geoff Mattock 0116 239 5381

Newsletter Editor: Andy McQuaid 07932 430530

Secretary: Clare Savage 07818 185506

Membership Secretary: Mike Hinks 07947 026424

Social Events & Media: Elaine Leaper 07443 833506

Email: ohwcmail@gmail.com Website: www.oadbyhwc.com

Facebook: [Oadby Hillwalking Club group](#)

Bank details for coach payments: Barclays Bank, Account Name. **OHWC**, Sort code. **20-49-08**, Account. **50124990** (Please quote surname and month of walk.)

MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

The monthly meetings are held at the Conservative Club, 38 Long Street, Wigston, LE18 2AH at 7.30pm on the Wednesday after our monthly coach walk. If you want to know more about the group and perhaps join in on the discussions, please just come along.

The Treasurer was pleased to announce that, because of the increased numbers, this month's trip made a small, but welcome, profit of £65.90.

As it's coming up to the New Year there are two additional walks planned for January (aside from the usual coach trip on the 8th January – see below). Colin New has kindly agreed to lead the New Year's Day walk and we will confirm details of this by email, to all members. Then, at 10am on the 22nd January, is the Ex-Chairman's Walk of 10.5 miles from Earl Shilton – more details will be in January's Newsletter.

Outdoor walking groups help one to reconnect and socialise with others and has wide-ranging health benefits including reducing blood pressure, body fat, total cholesterol and the risks of depression. Hill walking and travelling to the picturesque location chosen by OHWC enhances these benefits and makes for a very enjoyable day out. Together we can ensure that next year the walking club reaches its 50th year.

THE MONTHLY WALK REPORT

Baslow, 4th November 2022, by Steve McEwen. Nine of us signed up for Martin's 11 mile walk. The bus had been like a sauna when we left Leicester but had very much gone the other way by the time we got off so we were well acclimatised for a cold November's day walking in the Peak District.

Initially, the walk was in typical Derbyshire farmland. Grassy fields, with sheep or cows, bordered by rough dry-stone walls. We then followed the River Lathkill for a bit. The water in the river was amazingly clear, something it's famous for.

Despite the weather looking fairly intimidating on the drive up, the rain was mostly holding off other than occasional short spells of very light drizzle.

We hadn't seen many people until we reached Haddon Hall. The Christmas artisan market there certainly seemed popular. We stopped for lunch beyond the hall. Although the weather had been reasonable, everything was damp. It must have been really wet overnight! We hadn't found a dry spot for a coffee break and even lunch was a standing affair.

Up to this point, the walk had been pleasantly and gently downhill. What goes down...

After lunch, we gradually climbed up from the valley floor through mixed woodland to a high pasture. Plenty of the trees still had their red, yellow or orange autumn leaves. All very pretty. And, of course, the advantage of getting up high was that we got some lovely views. This was my favourite bit of the walk.

We then dropped down to the pretty custom-built village of Edensor on the edge of Chatsworth Park before walking through the Park itself. We passed quite close to Chatsworth House. I haven't been in it myself but it certainly looks impressive. Soon after, we were back at the bus in Baslow, changed and having refreshments in the Devonshire Arms. Their own ale was particularly refreshing. The weather turned a quite nasty at this point, so the walk timing was perfect. A very enjoyable walk all round.

NEXT MONTHLY WALK

The **Sunday 8th January walk is to Pomeroy, Derbyshire**. Departing from the Oadby Car Park at **8am prompt** and leaving **Pomeroy at 5pm**. There are five walks on offer and led by Glen McPhail (long walk), Geoff Mattock, Adam Wakley, John Bastow, and Mike Hinks (short walk).

The coach route is: M1, J26, A610, A6, A515. The boot stop is at Trowell Services. The pub at Pomeroy is the Duke of York, where the coach for the return journey will be.

If you want to join this walk, please contact Mike Hinks on ohwcmail@gmail.com as soon as possible in order to ensure we have a big enough coach and that you have a place and make your payment via bank transfer (see above heading) or debit card on the coach. (Cheque or cash is acceptable as a last resort.)

Walk Route Map: Go onto the News section of the Club website, www.oadbyhwc.com a few days before the monthly walk, to see a map showing the walk routes. This will speed up selecting your walk when signing up on the coach.

MID-MONTH LOCAL WALK

Sunday 18th December. Meet at the Village Green in Great Glen at **12 noon** (street park nearby). It's an 8 mile circular route: Great Glen - canal path - Fleckney - Wistow - canal path - Great Glen.

If you're going to join the walk, please contact Catherine Gwinnett by text 07941 855762 or email cgwinnett@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

The OHWC Christmas Meal at the Taste restaurant on Wednesday 7th December was a great success and the Committee's thanks go to Keith Davies for organising this.

The Committee's thanks are also extended to Zahra and Shabina for bringing and sharing the lovely mince pies and (alcoholic) drinks throughout this month's coach, on our return journey. This was a kind, seasonal and very welcome gesture.

The Committee will be planning the Club's 50th Anniversary soon, so if you have any ideas, please let us know.

CHARITABLE ENDEAVOURS

If you want to promote your charitable work or seek sponsorship for an activity you're involved in, please let us know.

GENERAL NEWS

Limit on Walk numbers

For safety purposes there is a need to limit the numbers on each walk to a maximum of 12, but this is at the walk leader's discretion. To help keep walk numbers to a manageable level have introduced a range of shorter, less steep, walks as well as maintaining the option of longer walks too.

Walk Leaders needed

We need more walk leaders, particularly for the shorter walks. You can 'buddy up' to find out how it's done using paper maps, OS maps on-line or GPS tracking devices. It's easier than you think, and you will never be left on your own - unless you want to that is. Guidance, training and support on leading walks will be provided. Please email us or speak to any of the existing walk leaders if you'd be willing to get involved. You are not making a commitment until you say so.

Please make sure that you are carrying your up to date and completed Club Safety Form in the top of your rucksack - it will help you in a difficult situation. This blank form is available on the Club Website oadbyhwc.com/essential-information/

Prospective walkers

Please contact ohwcmal@gmail.com to book a seat on the coach. You will receive a reply confirming the availability or otherwise of a seat. You are reminded 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 members at various places on the Ring Road who have already booked a seat.

If you wish to be picked up on the way to the M1, 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.

Bus Fares

Please try to pay before the trip by BACS (see bank details above), otherwise you can pay on the coach by contactless card or exceptionally by cash or cheque payable to "Oadby Hillwalking Club".

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. Please pay the fare by BACS or to the Treasurer, Martin Beckett, 5 Spinney View, Great Glen, Leics, LE8 9EP

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 "Bin Liner" and then take it onto the coach; thus negating having to search for your kit in the bus Luggage Locker.

Safety

The club walk organisers are not qualified guides. You join them at your own risk and of your own free will. When you sign for a particular walk you are also signing to accept any risks. You are part of an autonomous group, responsible for your own safety and happy to accept the discretion and actions of any or all the participants on that organised walk or activity in the event of injury to you, the need to have you rescued or otherwise.

Essential Wear

Jeans and/or trainers/sandals are **NOT** suitable.

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

- ❖ suitable walking boots (not shoes or trainers)
- ❖ waterproof coat and over-trousers
- ❖ warm clothing
- ❖ an appropriate rucksack.
- ❖ food and drink for the whole day
- ❖ a First Aid Kit is recommended

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