**NEWSLETTER - December 2019**

**Oadby Hillwalking Club** [www.oadbyhwc.com](http://www.oadbyhwc.com)

**ohwcmail@gmail.com**

**OHWC Committee 2019-2020**

Chair: Jenny Fox 0116 2911491

Secretary/Newsletter: Catherine Gwinnett 07941855762

Treasurer: Alison Beckett 07557199247

Walks Co-ordinator: Geoff Mattock 0116 2395381

Membership Secretary: Carol Hinks 0116 2592144

**Monthly Club Meetings**

Monthly club meetings are held on the Wednesday following the Sunday walk at the Wigston Conservative Club, 38 Long Street, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 2AH at 7.30pm. All club members are welcome.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 8th April 2020

**December mid-month walk**

Catherine is leading an 7-8 mile circular walk starting at 10am on Sunday 15th December. Meet at the Black Boy pub in Hungarton. Park at the pub or in the street.

**Boxing Day walk**

Meet near the church/Black Horse pub in Foxton (LE16 7RD) for a 7-8 mile walk with Keith Yeomans. Park in the street and be ready to start at 10am.

**New Year’s Day walk**

Start 2020 with a 7-mile walk led by Colin New, starting at 10am from The Green in Great Glen, opposite the Pug and Greyhound pub (LE8 9GF). Park by the Green.

**News**

The monthly coach walks have been so popular in recent months that the decision has been made that Members will have priority. From January, guests will be contacted in the week leading up to each walk if there are spaces on the coach. Please remember that mid-month walks also count towards the 3 walks before becoming a member.

**Social events**

**Casepak Recycling Reminder**

Jenny has received very little response to the suggestion of a visit to Casepak Recycling (see last month’s Newsletter). The visit is likely to be from March 2020. **We need to know if it is worthwhile pursuing this idea so please send your expressions of interest to Jenny Fox.**

**Visit to the House of Commons Reminder**

If you’d be interested in a trip to London, **please contact Jenny**.

**Charity Walk Support**

If you are taking part in a charity walk and you would like to have information in the Newsletter, email OHWC.

You will need to have a JustGiving page or a similar fundraising page – no collections on the coach, please.

**December walk report from Howard & Jenny Freeman**

**Carol Hinks' walk to Monyash 1st December, 2019**

The bus dropped us on the A6 at Haddon Barn at about 10:15 on a bright and cold morning, ready for an 8-ish mile walk with a total ascent of around 1750ft. Our start was a gradual easy climb, passing glorious views of low-lying mist rising around Alport.

After about half an hour we dropped down to the river at the southern end of Lathkill Dale. The river was swollen but not overflowing and the many weirs we passed were full of noisy bubbling white water. Crossing the river on an old slabbed bridge we turned south along the dale to the outskirts of Alport, pausing in confusion at a sign to Conksbury pointing the way we'd come. There we turned south west until we reached the southern edge of Youlgreave and followed the river Bradford along its hooked dale, finally climbing out after a lunch break to meet Adam's group sunning themselves in the pretty village of Middleton.

Contouring north for a short distance we then went gently west, paralleling the great cleft of Lathkin Dale and heading for One Ash Grange Farm. So far, so good, an easy walk passing the heaps and shafts of past industry, walking over grass and the dark purple of fallen leaves and steely limestone outcrops.

But Cales Dale had a little surprise in store: a very steep descent down around 100 well-formed concrete steps. The steep climb out was very different - a slippy, rocky and short but sharp grind upwards. After a short breather it was an easy walk into Monyash under a waxing crescent moon in a pale blue sky and the expectation of a mug of tea and a toasted teacake at the Old Smithy.

Everyone enjoyed the walk thanks to the able and good-natured leadership of Carol and Mike Hinks.

**Next monthly walk – Sunday 5th January Ambergate, Peak District**

**Please remember that when walking as part of a group it is essential that the group stays within sight of the leader.**

**Coach departs:** Oadby Central Car Park (adjacent to the Trinity Methodist Church) at **8.00am.** Please note the coach will leave at **5**pm. **Finishing point**: The Hurt Arms, Ambergate.

**Coach Route:** M1 (J28), A38, A615, A6.

**Boot stop:** Trowell Services

**Maps:** OS Landranger 119

**Walk Leaders:** Carol (long) Geoff (12) John (11) Adam (10) Jenny (8)

**Please contact Carol ohwcmail@gmail.com if you would like to book a place on the coach or if you are unable to go and need to cancel.**

**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 [**oadbyhwc.com/essential-information/**](http://oadbyhwc.com/essential-information/)

**Walk Route Map**

*Please go onto the News section of the Club website,*[www.oadbyhwc.com](http://www.oadbyhwc.com/)*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.*

**Prospective walkers – please contact the group email address to book a seat on the bus this month:** OHWCmail@gmail.com. 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 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.

**Bus Fares –** preferably by cheque payable to “Oadby Hillwalking Club” or simply “O.H.W.C.”

Adult Members £12, Junior/Student Members £5, Guests/Visitors + £3. (subject to review at the AGM)

**Cancellations - members and guests *- Cancellations up to Tuesday Midnight before the Sunday walk - no penalty. Cancellations thereafter - full cost of the bus fare due. (AGM 2011).******Please send fare due to the Treasurer, Alison 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.

***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.***

**Interested in being a Walk Leader?** Please speak to any Committee Member, who will gladly arrange this for you – or better still come along to our Club Meetings.

**Safety**: The club walk organisers are not qualified guides. You join them at your own risk and of your own free will. 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 - N.B. 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

❖ 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.

Please do not wear dirty boots on the coach.

Only Registered Assistance Dogs are allowed on club walks, except on mid-month walks at the discretion of the walk leader.

**Sunday Monthly Walks by coach: 2019/2020**

Return departure is at 5pm during GMT and 5.30pm during BST.

**2020**

5 Jan Ambergate – Peak District

2 Feb Bradwell – Peak District

1 Mar Blockley – Cotswolds

5 April Symonds Yat - Wye Valley

10 May Hadfield – Peak District

**Almoner’s Report**

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