O DBY

**NEWSLETTER**

**April 2022**

HILLWALKING CLUB

**OHWC Committee 2021 - 2022**

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| Chair: Geoff Mattock 0116 239 5381 |  | Membership Secretary: Mike Hinks 0116 259 2144 |
| Secretary: Catherine Gwinnett 07941 855762 |  | Newsletter Editor: Andy McQuaid 07932 430530 |
| Treasurer: Martin Beckett 07748 674223 |  | Social Secretary: Shirley Parsons 07540 719311 |
| Walks Co-ordinator: Geoff Mattock 0116 239 5381 |  | Co-opted member: Jenny Fox 0116 291 1491 |

**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**

A group of people posing for a photo on a grassy hill

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThere were a total of 30 on the coach trip to Warslow, although the walk ended with a loss of £52.24 this would have been greater if it wasn’t for the 10 guest walkers that joined us. This illustrates the benefit of advertising the club trips through Facebook so, please, if you have access and are part of a group, please share our walks, both past and future, with your followers. You can see photos and text on the club’s own Facebook page [here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1784798828245565) for this purpose.

(To follow us on Facebook use the above link or search **Oadby Hillwalking Club**. This will help to keep you up to date on all past and future walks.)

In order to break even the Club needs at least 41 walkers to join the coach trip each months. Later this month you will each be asked to renew your membership, please take this opportunity to do so and even better, why not join a future monthly walk, it’ll be great to see you again.

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. If we all work together we can ensure that next year the walking club reaches its 50th year of existence.

Our 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 - everyone is welcome.

**AGM**

The Club’s AGM is set for Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Conservative Club, 38 Long Street, Wigston, LE18 2AH. Everyone is invited and are very welcome to attend, even if only to listen.

On 8th April an email was sent to all members inviting them to join this event and included as attachments the Agenda, Audited Accounts and the AGM Minutes from last year. Please check that you’ve received this and get in touch on [**ohwcmail@gmail.com**](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com) if not.

**THE APRIL WALK REPORT**

**Warslow April 3rd 2022 by Ann Branson -** Just after ten o’ clock Martin and his ten walkers got down from the coach in Warslow and started a downhill walk across the damp fields to the south of the village. Seven of the ten were on their first OHWC walk and I was on my second.

In the fields the yellow flowers of Lesser Celandine were still tightly closed, and the trees and hedgerows were largely bare. Pristine new and recently polished old boots alike met some muddy patches and one poor walker was held back by the sharp prickles of an enormously long dog rose stem which arched out of the hedge.

A group of people walking on a road

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOn request, Martin gave a few map reading tips. We climbed our first steep slope and soon came to a roadside where we saw the dry stone walls of the limestone country and, across the next fields, the spire of Butterton Church. The sun came out, we had blue skies and we could admire fantastic views to the hills across the Manifold valley and shed a few layers. One walker got down to his t-shirt. The yellow celandines began to open.

The village of Butterton was delightful, with a ford in the middle of the village. The main street was laid with large stone cobbles and formed the stream bed in parts. We followed Pothooks Lane up out of the village.

Next, at Hillsdale we navigated through a working farmyard with the cattle’s eyes following our every step. Another climb and we could aim for the next church spire, in Grindon. It was cold again and we shivered a little as we ate our lunch and moved on quickly. Two of the group rushed into the village playground for a go on the old fashioned see saw.

A person and person holding a flag

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWe were a jolly group and had fun deciding how to get through or over some extremely narrow stone stiles. A recurring theme was to watch those at the front clamber up and over the excellent wooden stiles, only for someone nearer the back to walk up and calmly open the adjoining gate.

Fig. . Unfurling the Mexican flag near Warslow.

Now it was time to descend into the beautiful Manifold Valley and start heading back north. Soon after we started strolling up the riverside a huge bird flew towards us and over our heads: a magnificent heron. We reached the honeypot of Wettonmill in sunshine and the lure of an ice cream was strong for us and some of the rest of OHWC whose more demanding routes dipped down to the riverside here.

Some of us refreshed our feet in the Manifold and others stopped to admire the beautiful pink flower spikes of butterbur and the fresh green and yellow golden saxifrage growing in the river shallows. We set a slightly faster pace up the lane from Wettonmill, with cattle bellowing at us from their sheds and wild strawberries flowering in profusion on the verge.

After some more ups and down high above the Manifold we crossed Ecton Bridge and tackled our steepest ascent yet, up towards Warslow. Achieving the top led to an unfurling of the Mexican flag by two of the group (see Fig.1 above). Hurrah! And it was now not far to go to the Greyhound Inn where it was just about warm enough to enjoy our refreshments outdoors. Thanks Martin, and fellow walkers, a grand day out.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITY**

Shirley Parsons, the clubs Social Secretary, is looking into arranging two events for members to get involved in. These are a ‘Skittles and BBQ Evening’ and an ‘Escape Room’ activity. Once more is known about these Shirley will send out and email with details, so look out for this.

If you have any suggestions for a social get together, please let Shirley know.

**NEXT MONTHLY WALK**

The **Sunday 8th May walk is to Holmfirth**, in West Yorkshire. Departing from the Oadby Car Park at 8am prompt and leaving Holmfirth at the new Summer Time of **5.30pm**. There are four walks on offer ranging from 8 to 15 miles and led by Carol Birch, Geoff Mattock, Alison Beckett, Mike Hinks.

The coach route is: M1 to J35A, A616 and A635. The boot stop is in Woodall services on the M1.

If you want to join this walk, please contact Mike Hinks on [**ohwcmail@gmail.com**](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com) as soon as possible in order to ensure we have a big enough coach and that you have a place. Prior payment is preferred and can be made via bank transfer (see above heading) or debit card, cheque or cash on the coach.

**Walk Route Map:** 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. This will speed up selecting your walk when signing up on the coach.

**MID-MONTH LOCAL WALK**

This month’s walk will be led by Martin and Alison Beckett on **Sunday 24 April 2022**. Please meet at The Church, Hallaton Road, Medbourne, LE16 8DR for a 10 am start. This is a circular walk of about 9 miles through the villages of Drayton, Great Easton and Blaston. Bring a packed lunch. Dogs on leads are welcome. Please confirm if you are attending by email to [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com).

**Dates for your Diary**

Planned walks for the future which you can be pencilled in your diary. More details to follow nearer the time.

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| **2022 Walk Programme** | |  | **2022 Walk Programme** | |
| May 8th | Holmfirth, West Yorkshire |  | August 7th | Bollington, Cheshire |
| June 12th | Stokenchurch, Bucks |  | Sept 4th | Youlgreave, Peak District |
| July 3rd | Church Stretton, Shropshire |  | Oct 2nd | Northleach, Cotswolds |

**Limit on Walk numbers**

For safety purposes there is a need to limit the numbers on each walk to a maximum of 12. We 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/](http://oadbyhwc.com/essential-information/)

**Prospective walkers**

Please contact [**ohwcmail@gmail.com**](mailto:ohwcmail@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 £14, Guests/Visitors + £1, Junior/Student Members £5 (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. 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.