
OHWC Committee 2022 - 2023

Chair: Mike Hinks 0116 259 2144

Treasurer: Martin Beckett 07748 674223

Walks Co-ordinator: Geoff Mattock 0116 239 5381

Facebook & Website: Elaine Leaper 07443 833506

Secretary: Clare Savage 07818 185506

Membership Secretary: Mike Hinks 0116 259 2144

Social Secretary: Shirley Parsons 07540 719311

Newsletter Editor: Andy McQuaid 07932 430530

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

There was a total of 39 on the coach trip to Holmfirth, which was an increase on last month's walk. As a result, the club trip takings matched the cost of this trip.

Following the AGM there has been a healthy renewal of membership, with 40 so far making their payments and registering with the club. Previously, there was 88 members so there is still some more to meet the deadline of 31st May 2022 plus, of course, those guests who have now completed their three 'trial' walks. These membership fees are designed to cover our fixed costs such as, The Ramblers affiliation, insurance, etc. So please, if you haven't done so already, and intend to do so, register now.

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 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 – the next meeting being on the **15 June 2022**. 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 took place on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Conservative Club, 38 Long Street, Wigston, LE18 2AH.

The meeting heard how the club's reserves had fallen by around 50% since 'pre-covid' days and whilst the start up of walks in September last year resulted in a big loss, gradually things have improved as we emerge from the covid restrictions.

Membership fees were suspended as a result of the lockdowns, but the meeting decided to charge them again so that the club remains solvent. Because of the current financial difficulties and increased coach costs fares will increase from the June walk to £15 for members and guest (a reduce rate for minors and students will apply), whilst Membership stays at £15.



Left to right are Suzanne, Sue, Ana, Penny, Ken, Lynda, Martin and Janet. Missing are Glenn and Andy

Another important aspect of the AGM is to elect the officers of the committee. These are confirmed as:

Chair: Mike Hinks	Treasurer: Martin Beckett
Secretary: Clare Savage	Membership Secretary: Mike Hinks
Walks Coordinator: Geoff Mattock	Facebook & Website: Elaine Leaper
Newsletter: Andy McQuaid	Social Secretary: Shirley Parsons

THE APRIL WALK REPORT

Holmfirth, 8 May 2022, by Karl Pochin. Our walk started along the Trans Pennine Way which had been turned into a construction site. The electricity company were in the process of removing seven pylons and burying the cables underground to improve the visual landscape of the area.

This soon gave way to us passing the first of what seemed like many reservoirs on our journey as we continued along roads, tracks and fields. We occasionally took an alternative route to the planned course, requiring a navigational



recalibration but the weather was good and the mood was jolly.



The sights and sounds of nature were in abundance on our walk. The lambs in the fields bleating loudly and following their mothers. The distinctive sounds of the curlew on the moors and the sight of swallows in the villages with their characteristic long forked tail. It gladdens the heart to be surrounded by the wonders of nature on such a beautiful day. Thanks Geoff for leading an enjoyable walk.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Geoff Mattock, our Walks Co-ordinator, is organising a club trip to **Snowdonia on Friday 17th to Sunday 19th June**, walking on the Saturday and Sunday.

As in the past, we'll be staying at the Dolgam Campsite near Betws-y-Coed. The site offers tent camping, motorhome hook-ups or bed and breakfast. There is a toilet and showers block on site. See dolgam-snowdonia.co.uk for more details. Breakfast and evening meals are available in the local village and pubs. Hotel accommodation is also close by.

The trip will give club members the opportunity to climb higher mountains/hills than those offered by the Peak District including Snowdon and/or other less well known '3,000 footers' in the area. However, the time is your own, so if you fancy doing something else, you can.

So far, 11 walkers have put their names forward, so please email ohwcmal@gmail.com as soon as possible if you are interested in coming. Club members will need to organise their own transport and accommodation.

NEXT MONTHLY WALK

The **Sunday 12th June walk is to Stokenchurch**, in Buckinghamshire. Departing from the Oadby Car Park at 8am prompt and leaving Stokenchurch at the new Summer Time of **5.30pm**. Please note the 12th June is the second Sunday in the month, the first Sunday being a Bank Holiday weekend. There are four walks on offer ranging from 8 to 15 miles and led by Glenn McPhail, Geoff Mattock, John Bastow (welcome back John!) and Mike Hinks.

The coach route is: M1 to J15A, A43 and M40 to J5 then A40. The boot stop is in Cherwell Valley services on the M40.

On last month's coach 22 put their names down for this walk so if you want to join this walk, please contact Mike Hinks on ohwcmal@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 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 Steve McEwen on Sunday 22nd May. Please meet at the red phone box by the pub (Heathcote Arms) in Croft for a 10am start. There is street parking on Hill Street. This is a circular walk of about 9 miles visiting Croft Hill, Croft Quarry, Huncote New Hill Nature Reserve, Thurlaston and Potters Marston. Bring a packed lunch. Dogs on leads are welcome. Steve doesn't mind people contacting him directly either 07432 603 507, so please let him know you are joining him by texting or calling.

Dates for your Diary

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

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

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.