

# OADBY HILL WALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



February 2026

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# Club Announcements

## March's Coach Trip to Bradwell, Peak District

Martin Beckett will not be attending March's coach trip as he is on holiday in New Zealand. As he is the registered holder of the Square Card Reader, payment by card will be unavailable on the coach itself.

Therefore, Martin has kindly suggested that:

- All club members who normally pay by BACS are to pay at least one week before the walk on 1<sup>st</sup> March to give the other committee members time to check the club bank account. Can you also email the club to indicate you have paid please.
- Any members on the trip who wish to pay on the day are to bring the correct amount in cash only please (£18 for OHWC members, £20 for non-club members).

## OHWC Annual General Meeting

### Conservative Club, Wigston - 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026

This year's OHWC Annual General Meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Wigston & District Conservative Club at 38 Long Street, Wigston. All members are encouraged to attend to make sure your voice is heard with the running of the club and also voting on new members of the committee.

A hot buffet will be served on the night, consisting of:

- Pork sausages
- Faggots in onion gravy
- Cheese & potato pie
- Chips
- Mushy peas
- Baked beans
- Crusty Bread

Any attending club member with dietary requirements (e.g. allergies, vegetarian, vegan etc) are to contact the OHWC before 11<sup>th</sup> April so we can inform the Conservative Club who will then cater for your requirements.

After the AGM there will be a skittles night for you all to enjoy. Individual cost is £8.50 pp. Can everyone who is coming please email the club to indicate your attendance (and any dietary requirements) and pay by BACS to the club account, marking your payment with '*your surname* – AGM'. Payment and confirmation of attendance is required no later than 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

## Walking Routes

Can all club members look at the walking routes available on the OHWC website [here](#), and also on the club WhatsApp group 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.

## 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](mailto: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 [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@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 [ohwcmail@gmail.com](mailto:ohwcmail@gmail.com), or through Martin's mobile at 07748 674223.

## **Treasurer**

Martin Beckett is considering stepping down as Treasurer for the OHWC so he can concentrate on being the Club Chair. The OHWC treasurer acts as the club's financial custodian, responsible for managing the organisation's money, maintaining accurate records, and ensuring financial transparency. Key duties include:

- Budgeting,
- Collecting membership dues,
- Collecting and reporting monthly bus trip dues,
- Paying invoices,
- Managing the OHWC bank accounts,
- Providing regular financial reports to the committee.

Any OHWC member who is interested in taking on this key role within the club is to contact Martin Beckett via the club email.

## **Almoners Report**

### **Lesley Gill**

Lesley has been absent from club trips recently as she has badly injured her hip. We wish her the best in her recovery and hope to see her on club walks as soon as she is fit enough to do so.

### **Fern Barrell**

Fern has recently been in touch with the OHWC to pass on her thanks and good wishes to everyone who has wished her well after her injury due to a car crash the other year. She says she is very much looking forward to returning to the club at some point, hopefully later this year. In September last year, she had further surgery on her leg as the bone had failed to heal correctly.

She still has a lot of weakness in her leg despite her best efforts, and this coupled with the bone failing to heal so far has meant she has not been given the green light to do anything particularly in intensive cardio wise. She can walk but hill walking is beyond her at this time.

This has been a long recovery for Fern, and the OHWC wishes her well and is looking forward for her to rejoin club activities as soon as she is fit enough to do so.

### **Carol Clarke**

As some club members may be aware, Carol has been quite ill in recent months, suffering from cancer. She had radio Surgery on the tumour late last year and is now on a regular scan to check her progress. She says she will never be free of the tumour, but she says she will just have to live with it and do the best she can.

Her walking has improved tremendously, and she has full use of her arm again. She is having physiotherapy to help build up her leg strength and balance, but she says that unfortunately it will be a long time before she is fit enough to join us on our monthly walks.

The OHWC wishes Carol all the best with her ongoing recovery and hope she will eventually be fit enough to join us on club walks.

### **Janet Long**

Janet has not been coming to club walks in recent months as her husband fractured his hip in late 2024. Her husband was beginning to get to the stage where Janet could leave him, but he was recently re-admitted to Hospital for further surgery which has delayed things.

Hopefully this time he will recover quickly and not develop pneumonia, sepsis and all the other infections he's had over the last 15 months due to his injury.

We all wish Janet and her husband all the best with his recovery and hope to see her on the hills soon.

## February's Mid-Month Local Walk with Colin New

**Kibworth Beauchamp – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

Colin New has kindly offered to lead February's Mid-Month walk of approximately nine miles distance.

Club members should meet at the free car park in Kibworth Beauchamp LE8 OJE at 9.30 am.

Colin aims to start the walk at 9.45 a.m. Please bring a snack with you. Colin aims to head south to the fields aiming for the villages of Smeeton, Westerby and Gumley before crossing a narrow bridge over the canal and following a route along the tow path turning left at Debdale Lane. At the Grange Colin will take a footpath over the fields towards the canal, heading back to Kibworth hub. Anyone interested in joining Colin on his walk, please message him on 07939 076486.

## February's Walk Report by Ann Branson

**Blockley, Gloucestershire, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

The short walk, ably led by Helen Everett, got off the coach last just outside Bourton on The Hill. After a short walk along the road, we plunged down an old sunken path lined by Beech trees. Clearly it was a route people had followed for many years and very atmospheric. In a short distance we went down 150 ft, and of course we all knew that what you go down you have to go up again soon if you are in the Cotswolds. Helen wanted us to see the typical stone village of Bourton on the Hill, and we all tugged our forelocks at the Big House. There were 12 of us, a very good turnout for the short walk, old friends and acquaintances, some who were returning after a break, new faces.





That's one of the joys of OHWC, chatting away to each other as we go. We made our way up the inevitable hill to Bourton Woods which were misty and dripping. A bit of mud avoidance was attempted for a while, some patches more successfully than others. Then we came to a stream which a family, someied would go over their kid's wellies. We found various ways to ford it, with not much difficulty, indeed for some it was a chance to wash a bit of mud off their boots. Our botanist member Louise was itching to figure out what green things were growing in the stream and its little ponds, but decided she better keep up. We saw snowdrops and yellow winter aconite, but it was still too early to see any more first spring flowers unlike on our slightly later Cotswold trip in spring 2025.

We skirted Blockley still in woods, within a big private estate that kept us on the straight and narrow by putting up PRIVATE signs if there were ever a turning or crossroads. Many of the tracks we followed had scatterings of the distinctive warm yellow oolite limestone which is the local building stone. It was formed in warm Jurassic seas. We found no fossils.



Eventually we were in open fields, at height, giving us lovely views. We joined the Monarchs Way and went down to Broad Campden. The rain had held off; it was time for lunch and there was the Bakers Arms with a suitable number of 'Chelsea Tractors' in the car park. So, we all agreed to sit outside for our packed lunch and sample their refreshments. No one spotted any politicians or celebrities as we queued at the bar nor were we challenged on picnicking there... all the locals were cosily inside.



As we got up to leave there were a few spots of rain, so it was waterproof jackets on. Most of us gave no thought of over trousers or covering rucksacks.

decisions we later regretted. The rain was gentle but persistent. We left the village by following the Heart of England Way across lovely green fields with ,...lots of molehills, gradually making our way up the valley back to the beautiful Cotswold Limestone Campden Hill Farm and once again crossed the Five Mile Drive we had seen earlier.

Perhaps I should admit that soon after leaving the pub Karl's 12.5-mile walkers strode past us, confirming we had joined the right group.

Only two more ups and downs and we were in Blockley, where they film the popular TV series Father Brown, the priest detective, a character created by GK Chesterton.

We peeled off lots of wet clothes at the coach and headed for the Great Western Arms. Another great day. Thanks go to Helen for planning the walk and leading us; to colleagues for all the lovely chats (and for waiting for me at the top of hills) and the photographers.



## March's Monthly Walk: Bradwell, Derbyshire

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 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:

M1 to J29, A617 to Chesterfield, A619 west, A621 north, B6054 west. A6187 through Hathersage, B6049 south.

**Boot stop:** Tibshelf Service Station

**Pub:** [White Hart Inn, Bradwell](#)

**Map:** [OS Explorer OL1](#): 1:25000 OS Map of The Peak District - Dark Peak Area





### Walk Leaders:

- K. Millard (Long)
- C. Gwinnett
- Karl Pochin
- A. Wakley
- S. Thomas (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**

### Cancelleds - 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](mailto: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 Outdoor 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 Outdoor 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 Outdoor 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

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://oadbyhwc.com">http://oadbyhwc.com</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:ohwcmal@gmail.com">ohwcmal@gmail.com</a>
<b>Safeguarding Email</b>	<a href="mailto:OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com">OHWCsafeguarding@gmail.com</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="#">Oadby Hillwalking Club group</a>
<b>Instagram</b>	<a href="#">Oadby Hillwalking Club</a>
<b>Bank Details</b>	Barclays Bank
<b>Account Name</b>	OHWC
<b>Account Number</b>	50124990 Please quote surname and month of walk (i.e., Smith July)
<b>Sort code</b>	20-49-08

## OHWC Committee 2025 – 2026

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