



**Oxon
Weekend
Walkers**

Oxon Weekend Walkers AGM 4pm Sunday 26th November 2023

The Plough, Wolvercote

MINUTES

1. Apologies received from Sara Bu, Sheena D, Mark M, Helen O and Lyn R. Twenty-two members present.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th November 2022 were accepted.
3. Reports from current Committee

a. Chair

Our last AGM was on Sunday 20th Nov 2022 here in the Plough.

We will be hearing the reports from committee members of activities during the last 12 months however, here is a brief reflection on the last 12 months.

We have had an excellent year and thanks to members initiatives and volunteering between us all, we have managed to:

1. Offer a full programme of walks almost every Sunday through the year.
2. Welcome new walk leaders who have led us on new adventures.
3. Enjoy a number of summer evening walks by various leaders.
4. Share a summer Picnic with the 20/30s group "Hike Oxfordshire."
5. Offered a choice of walking holidays in Cardigan Bay and the Elan Valley.
6. Have many more social events on offer including theatre trips, music concerts, outdoor theatre, a summer music festival and some Ska music dance nights!



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So many members have contributed to this year, that there are too many names to mention individually, however you know who you are and thanks to you all.

As with every year, the cornerstone of our success in 2023 has been the fantastic volunteering of our walk leaders. Walk leading can be great fun and we always need new walk leaders so please do consider offering walks in 2024.

So, in summary for 2023, my personal thanks go to the committee, the walk leaders and all the individuals who have worked together to make the group so successful.

We can all look forward to the next 12 months.

Today I am standing down as Chair of the OxonWW after 4 years.

These 4 years have been a tremendous privilege for me.

The work has been made easy by 3 three main factors:

1. I have stood on the shoulders of our previous Chairs; Gavin, Vanessa and Helen B
2. The committee have done all the work whilst I can soak up the glory.
3. The committee has been steered and kept on the straight and narrow by our club secretary Kevin, who is also standing down this year having served in his role since Nov 2018. Also in 2018 Pam started her role as Walks secretary and deservedly progressed to walks director then Walks Tsar. Pam is also standing down from her role. So, I would like to propose a massive thanks from all of us to both Kevin and Pam.

My heartfelt thanks goes to all those individuals and of course to you the members for making it all such fun.



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b. Walks Programme Secretary

- No big statistics this year – for a number of reasons including the change to the Ramblers walk manager meant all our history disappeared, and because once again I had the help of both Jane and Laura with the walks management role – each of us taking a third of the year. That meant I wasn't collating the numbers quite so closely. However, Jane was very diligent and highlighted the 4 evening walks so generously offered, plus a return of the summer pub walk crawl- thank you Sara!
- Overall, a great year with walks every single week except one, we must have delivered around 60 walks this year.
- Particular thanks to the different walk leaders who volunteered to lead walks, and to Chris who led his first walk this year. Not only that, but Chris was also the first to submit a walk through the new walks manager. All very much appreciated.
- Some great photos too have appeared on our Facebook page and in the Oxfordshire area site – this all helps demonstrate our enjoyment of walking and hopefully encourage others to join us.
- I am going to be stepping down this year after 5 years managing the walks programme, and just want to thank all my committee colleagues for supporting me over the last few years – it really is a team effort. I am confident that whoever takes this role over will be equally well supported, and of course I will work with them to ensure a smooth handover.

Thanks to everyone who walked with us over the year, and please do think about ways that you could help us keep our successful group going, with your ideas, suggestions and if you have a few hours to spare a few times during the year why not join us on the committee.



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c. Membership Secretary

Our membership has remained pretty steady around 150. We don't have any major recruitment drives or campaigns, we just seem to be able to maintain this healthy number. Not all groups in the Area are so successful.

Over the years that I have been acting as Membership Secretary I have realised that recruiting new members is not a job for one person, but a job which we ALL carry out.

Maybe the most important and initial aspect is attracting the potential new member to try one of our walks. So here credit is due to Ian for his creative postings on Facebook and the website. Credit is also due to all the walk leaders for posting attractive walks which appeal to a potential new walker and also to our photographers in particular Kerry and Carolyn who regularly post lovely pictures which illustrate and promote the beautiful countryside which we walk in.

Once a potential new member has found our website, they often contact the walk leader before joining their first walk. So thank you to those welcoming walk leaders who reply to the enquiries and encourage new folk to come along.

Then, once that potential new walker plucks up courage to give our group a go, it's thanks to all you lovely friendly members who make them feel so welcome and immediately part of the group. So many of our new walkers do sign up after one or two taster walks, so that is a measure of our success as a group. Well done everyone!



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d. Group Representative to the Area Executive

Our meetings are held online every three months.

Issues that have been raised over the last year include the launch of the new Walks Manager, membership, (in general Ramblers membership seems to be declining but in Oxfordshire Henley & Goring are still increasing their membership and ours is steady). Finding a replacement for David G, who is now retiring from the role of AREA Footpath Secretary, remains on the agenda of most of our meetings! First aid courses are also requested and arranged. If any of our members would like to do a first aid course please let me know and we can start arrangements. Budgets and funding are distributed by AREA.

In July we had the AREA picnic which was held in Shotover. We joined with Hike Oxfordshire again with Ian leading the morning walk, and Callie R, the Chair of Hike Oxfordshire, leading the afternoon walk. We had a great turnout. It was a hot day and lunch was spent in the shade of the trees.

Members of the AREA committee attend the General Council meeting each year during which national issues are raised and discussed. More details on the Ramblers website.

The AREA AGM will be in Charlbury on January 20th. There will be a walk in the morning before the meeting of about five miles. More details to follow.

Next year the AREA picnic will be on June 22nd.

e. Social Secretary

We've had regular social events over the past 12 months, with live music proving particularly popular.

A huge thanks to Peter R, who has kindly hosted several of these socials, from Scottish folk, American Big Band, to inventive Welsh cello music. Huge thanks too to Gav, who has hosted one live music event (Skandials), co-hosted another with Sarah Ba and hosted the Oxford Beer and Cidre festival. (Sarah Ba, thanks for your live music event).

Ian enjoyed the Charlbury Riverside festival along with several other group members, and similarly the Mikron Theatre annual event in August. Thanks also to Petra for bringing people together for The Inflatables in Witney earlier in the autumn.



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Meeting socially is a great way to get to know people (or see familiar faces in a new environment!), and it can be as straightforward as letting people know you'll be at an event with the open invitation to join (the model for some of the social events just mentioned).

It's also a good way of doing something you might not want to do by yourself!

Submitting a social is easy – just see the OWW webpage.

And you also need to check the OWW homepage regularly to see the socials.

To finish, I also want to mention that some walks this year finished with optional drinks in the local pub. (This was a regular occurrence pre-Covid, enjoyed by many!) So in winter when walks will naturally finish earlier, do think about visiting the local pub or café. It's a great way to end a Sunday afternoon.

f. Webmaster

Richard M continuing systems set up by previous webmaster.



Finance Report: 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023

[illegible]

Notes



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- 1) Possible IT/communications costs due to Dave F.
- 2) Group allocation for 2022/23: standard group formula (£255.00)(2021-22 was £228).
- 3) AGM expenses include drinks, tip to venue and gifts and prizes.
- 4) Still need to get accounts audited
- 5) Bank signatories: Peter R, Kevin H, Sara Bu.

4. Walk Leaders draw

A thank you prize for leading a first walk was given to Chris. Further prizes were distributed by raffle.

5. Stand down of current Committee

6. Election of new Committee

Post	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Nicola C	Ian	Pam
Vice Chair	Pam C	Caroline	Laura
Walks	Bob P	Pam	Kerry
Social	Lyn R	Kerry	Jane
Membership	Petra N	Nicola	Sarah
Webmaster	Richard M	Ian	Nicola
Secretary	Laura T	Kevin	Jane



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Treasurer	Sara Bu	Laura	Kerry
Publicity	Ian M	Nicola	Jane
Area Rep	Jane	Nicola	Kevin
W/O Portfolio 1	Anne B	Pam	Laura
W/O Portfolio 2	Dave W	Sheila	Kerry
W/O Portfolio 3	Milly F	Chris	Kerry

The new committee was accepted.

7. AOB

The newly elected Chair thanked the outgoing Chair and Secretary.

End of meeting 4.45pm.