



**Oxon
Weekend
Walkers**

Oxon Weekend Walkers

Committee meeting 28 January 2024

Punchbowl, Woodstock

Minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Secretary and Social Secretary.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the meeting of 22nd October were accepted.

3. Matters arising (not elsewhere on agenda)

No matters arising.

4. Chair

- a. Welcomed new post holders to the committee and thanked them and the officers who have stayed. Thanks went to too to committee members who had handed over their previous role and to Webmaster and Publicity for their progress with the website.
- b. Stated that the aim is to ensure that OWW continues as happy walking group.
- c. **Chair to be added as a signatory.** Secretary and Treasurer are existing signatories.
- d. The navigation course is fully booked with 8 people and there's a waiting list of 3 or 4. If it is successful, we'll consider scheduling another.
- e. Trips away
 - i. It would be good to increase the number of trips away. There must be a clear line between private and group trips.
 - ii. We have one group trip on the programme, the Elan Valley for 9th – 11th August this year. Details have to be finalised before places can be booked.
 - iii. The Chair is seeking alternative venues and has asked other groups. H&G provided information on accommodation in Devon and the Peak District. Other ideas from the committee were Youth Hostels, activity centres used by schools, university accommodation, and individuals booking their own

rooms. It was noted that the YHA only required the person booking to be a member but the fee must be paid up front. Experience with universities has been of frustration. **Committee to look out for venues for large groups.**

- f. Facebook
 - i. Publicity was thanked for posting a photographic review of 2023 on Facebook.
 - ii. The committee decided not to instigate a separate members-only Facebook page, something that had been suggested outside the meeting. Experience in other organisations had shown it required a lot of administration for little benefit.
- g. OS is discontinuing group subscriptions and ours expires on 7th February. If users want to keep any routes, they need to download them before this date. Free alternatives have drawbacks. Individual subscriptions are currently £25 compared with the group rate of £100 and they are expected to rise to £35. It was proposed that we might fund individual subscriptions to encourage the leading of more walks. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting. **The Chair has emailed walk leaders to let them know about the end of the group subscription.**
- h. Walk Leaders Handbook will be a major feature of 2024. Chair attended on online meeting on 25th January.
 - i. Although the handbook has been slimmed down to 8 pages, it will require new walk leaders to read online documents and attend two online training courses, which could be off-putting. Existing leaders on Assemble will not be affected.
 - ii. Individual risk assessments will be replaced by a generic assessment for the area.
 - iii. The handbook suggests that walkers carry ICE information. **Chair to investigate options such as keyrings that could be attached to a rucksack.**

5. Walks

- a. Since the AGM there have been 8 walks with 8 different leaders but no new leaders. The average length was 9.5 miles and, after the Woodstock walk, the average number of walkers was 18.
- b. There are several future walks on the programme but many gaps. One idea was to ask people to commit to a date, as has been done before with some success.
- c. Ideas to encourage new leaders, such as buddying, were discussed. Scheduling a day in the summer for several existing leaders to invite members to join a recce was suggested. **Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.**

6. Socials

No report but there was a reminder that anyone can post a social.

7. Membership

- a. 151 members with 6 joining, one of whom was a reinstated member, and 6 leaving.
- b. All except the newest member has walked with us.
- c. Membership Secretary sends a welcome email to new joiners and invites them to the next walk.
- d. Two enquiries received but neither has walked with us.

8. Finance

£420.37. Less from Ramblers than last year.

9. Web

Webmaster now has control of the website. The ex-Chair, now Publicity, has helped and there is a supportive contact in Ramblers-Webs.

- a. Work done:
 - i. Forwarding addresses for committee members have been updated. Using the webmail interface ensures replies are not sent from a private address.
 - ii. The website has been updated to Joomla 4 and changes made by Ramblers accommodated.
- b. Work ongoing:
 - i. Committee page to be updated. Only Chair, Membership Sec. and Webmaster need be listed and just as first name plus initial of surname. No photos or email links will be displayed.
 - ii. Twitter feed to be removed although the icon will be kept.
 - iii. Log-ins to website to be updated using roles rather than names. Access restricted to Social Sec, Secretary and Publicity.
 - iv. **Chair and Publicity will update the text for our landing page on the Ramblers site.**
 - v. **Publicity will ensure that our contacts are updated on the Area site.**
- c. OWW owes money to the ex-Webmaster. **Chair will try to contact him** so that he can be paid and to ensure he cancels payments to Groups.io.
- d. Can the phone divert be paid directly from group funds by direct debit? Webmaster to be given access so that he can see if he can understand the settings in case changes are needed.

10. Publicity

The video will be kept as, although out of date, it still attracts new members.

11. Area

- a. Area Rep attended the Area Council Meeting on 8th January, 2024, and Chair and Area Rep attended the Area AGM on 20th January, 2024
- b. The Walk Leaders Handbook was a major topic at both, but the online meeting attended by the Chair supersedes these.
- c. The AGM started with a talk by a member of the Board of Trustees, who told us that:
 - i. the improvement of the Walks Manager continues and Assemble is being reviewed.
 - ii. The new strategy has been voted in and it will affect the targeting of funds.
- d. At the AGM, Area Footpath Secretary stood down and was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a bottle of wine. The secretary for the northern area will work with group footpath secretaries and parish path wardens to look after the south.
- e. First Aid courses have resumed and are being organised by the groups in conjunction with St John's Ambulance.

- f. Groups encouraged to suggest uses for funds.
- g. Hike Oxford will continue to exist rather than closing or merging, e.g. with OWW.
- h. Area Chair is emailing group chairs to ask them to advertise walks in Oxford as joint walks with the Oxford Group.
- i. OWW will host the Area AGM in 2025. **We need to provide a date by the next Area Meeting 8th April and a venue by the July meeting.** It was provisionally agreed that we'd look at Wytham Village Hall. The AGM is usually on the 3rd Saturday in January.
- j. **OWW will host the Area Picnic in June 2027.** This year T&W are leading all walks to encourage mixing.

12. AOB

No other business raised