



**Oxon
Weekend
Walkers**

Oxon Weekend Walkers

Committee meeting 19 April 2026

Woodstock Museum Garden

Minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Vice Chair, Publicity, w/o Portfolio 1, w/o Portfolio 3, Area, Web and Treasurer.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting in January 2026 were agreed as accurate.

3. Matters arising - to be discussed at relevant agenda item

4. Chair

OWW now has 27 qualified walk leaders and some new walk leaders are taking up the role and leading walks. John Hawthorn is now also registered to lead for OWW (as well as his own group, H&G) and he has offered to lead a walk. All walk leaders are invited to join the walk leaders WhatsApp group.

5. Walks

- Since the last meeting, there have been 13 walks, with 11 different walk leaders including two new walk leaders.
- The average distance was 11 miles, and the average number of walkers was 12 which is lower than previous averages.
- It was noted that with the current number of walk leaders, each leader would only need to lead two walks a year to have a full schedule.
- There was a reminder that the WhatsApp group can be used to propose/discuss upcoming walks, including avoiding doing two in a row in the same area. It can also be used if a walk leader wants to ask for help in doing a recce.

6. Weekends away

- There are 22 booked on the Dunster trip in May. New routes will be added for three of the four walks. The Selworthy walk will be repeated. Everyone has paid the required amount including an optional tip for hotel staff.
- It was suggested to rebook at Hereford Warners for a pre-Christmas break. The cost would be approximately £300 for three nights.
- For summer 2027, HF may be a possibility. They are acquiring a new hotel in Buxton which could be good for OWW. Chair suggested OWW join HF as a member (£100) as this would result in a discount for all. Chair to investigate further. A group committee vote on this would be taken if it is decided to try HF.

7. Socials

- Social Secretary reported a good uptake for the Bodleian tour.
- There was a suggestion to have a walk leaders social in June, perhaps a meal in Oxford.

8. Membership

Since November, OWW has welcomed 8 new members and lost 11, though two rejoined. The current number is stable at 154.

9. Committee

There were no items to discuss here.

10. Finance

Treasurer reported that at 16/4/2026 the account balance was £3920.47, of which the Dunster weekend away payments are £3285, leaving £635.47 of OWW funds. It was noted that we still need to buy a "thank you" for Peter Ransom for auditing the accounts.

11. Web

The Web Manager had nothing to report.

12. Publicity

Publicity Secretary posts on Facebook each week after the walk with walk summary and photos. If he is absent one of the other OWW walk leaders post instead. We still get the occasional request for a lift on the Facebook group which are removed as soon as possible.

13. Ramblers guidance/policies

There were no items to discuss here.

14. Area

The Area meeting was rescheduled to 20th April, after the OWW meeting. The Area secretary was therefore only able to report on correspondence since the January meeting:

General Council 25th April 2026

- Will be attended by Chairman and Membership Sec
- Chairman has asked for guidance before 20th April on which 3 of the people putting themselves forward as trustees Area should vote for (video can be found at the end of <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/about-us/general-council> and vote sent to Area chair via <https://forms.gle/ThBcVc4uFqEvHejG6>). Could our group provide input?
- Proposed revised Articles of Association and Standing Orders will be voted on
 - Anyone who has been a member for at least 12 months will be able to vote in election of trustees, approve and propose resolutions at the Ramblers AGM, online
 - Number and nature of trustees and the processes for their election and appointment
 - Areas and groups will be discussed from autumn 2026
- Oxfordshire has submitted a motion regarding the walk leader ratios cited in the Handbook

Cluster Meeting for South and South West, 2nd April

- Requested support for Access Denied campaign that will run for 18 to 24 months. It aims to improve and open up paths and expand the path network
- Over 16,400 walk leaders have completed the training. There are plans to produce a 3 yearly refresher course

30th Anniversary Thames Path Relay Walk

- National Trails running the series of walks from 9th to 18th June.

- It's too late to offer to lead a section but there's a form to complete if you wish to join one [Sign Up Form – Fill in form](#)

Let's Lift the Curfew Walk/This Girl Can campaign

- Ashley Chapman, co-ordinator of Heath & Wellbeing Walks for the Vale and South Oxon, is looking for a female volunteer to be the main leader for a series of confidence-building walks for women in Abingdon. The idea came from Abingdon PCSOs who were inspired by the Let's Lift the Curfew programme in Aylesbury.
- Could we circulate a message in case someone would be interested?

Area Picnic

- 7th June, Combe Reading Room

Next Area Meeting

- 20th April
- 13th July

15. Any other business

- Committee discussed possibilities of offering an extra shorter walk, maybe on a different day, or also on Sundays, or possibly an evening walk, in order to accommodate the group as we all age. It could be something to consider for the future. Maybe it could be started and see what the uptake is.
- Next meeting will be 19th July after the Sunday walk. Agreed to stick to in person meetings in summer and Zoom in winter.