

Highworth and Swindon Walking Club Newsletter

April 2026

It is really good to see sunny weather again and to experience much drier paths. It is lovely to be out and see spring happening.

It is membership renewal time and it is good to see the many rapid response renewals. Pat is busy delivering the new membership cards using various methods. Welcome to our new members – it is good to meet you.

April- June Walking Schedules

It is good to see that most gaps have been filled and that we have an attractive range of walks. Thank you again the walk leaders. You will have noticed that the walk coordinators needed to ask for quite a few walk proposals. Please do consider volunteering to help with leading a walk – either on your own or with a friend. Help is available – just ask.

Coach Trip

Because of fuel worries and nobody volunteering, the committee have decided that there will not be a coach trip with associated walk this year unless circumstances change. If you have an idea, please volunteer and assistance will be found.

Walking Weekend Away

I am pleased to confirm that there will be a long weekend away with associated walks. I am currently planning the location, dates and walks and will announce via email fairly soon. It is likely to be an October weekend.

Ramblers Affiliation

You will probably recall that the committee decided to renew our Club affiliation with Ramblers and the implications were discussed in open forum at our AGM. Ramblers have made some of the obligations more explicit and extended the scope slightly. It is good news that HSWC is well positioned in this regard, but we will need to increase activities in a few areas.

Our liability insurance is one of the Ramblers recommended policies. We have an incident reporting process (form available on our web site). It is important that the form is filled in if we have a medical incident or if there is damage or negative interaction with any public/landowner. It is only part of the system to have a form available! – it needs completing and passing on to the Chair for discussion with the committee.

We have run navigation skill workshops and intend to run some more along with some leadership considerations. These will be ‘advertised’ when we have them sorted out. If you would like to help with running one of them please let a committee member know. Help is much appreciated and sharing your experience and knowledge is good for the Club.

On a similar vein we intend to run some self-help first aid workshops using Club resources. We will also organise a first aid teaching session that is outdoor activity focussed using an external tutor. We have polled for interest in the past but will do so again do ensure that we maximise our

skills in this area. We want to be able to help our friends and cannot leave it to just a few. Keep your eyes on your emails for when we announce these things.

'Call of Nature'

We all know that we cannot generally go out for a walk of multiple hours and not feel the need to 'seek relief'. Please do show consideration for other people and landowners who may not appreciate witnessing a little local irrigation. I am sure I do not need to write more on the topic!