

Group Email for end of Feb 2023

Well the crocuses are beginning to show their colours, and though the wind is still mithering, there is enough warmth in the sun to start thinking about Spring walking, and even the prospect of longer days and the chance for S40s evening walks!

A few items of news from the committee, about: the walks programme, sharing a walk you know, an OS Maps course, weekends away and footpath and web officers.

WALKS PROGRAMME

“Thankyou” to walk leaders who have stepped up and offered walks when there were gaps in the programme. Please keep doing so. All types of walk welcome. Don’t forget to offer your evening walks so Keith can fill up the programme with some weekday delights. And remember that lots of members live in places other than Sheffield ... So if someone wants to do an evening walk accessible to members living in Chesterfield, for example, I’m sure there would be some takers.

Apart from evening walks we are keen to offer more short walks (from 4-8 miles) at weekends.

You may be aware that bus fares are limited to £2 a ride until June. There are a few of us who are going to try to offer some walks which are accessible by public transport to take advantage of this offer. More broadly, we are aware that many of our walks are hard for people to access without a car and we are looking into how we can address this.

IS THERE A WALK YOU KNOW WELL WHICH YOU COULD SHARE?

If there is a walk you know well and do with friends and family, why not share it with the group? You don’t have to read maps to lead a walk, just to know your way and to help people feel comfortable! You can also place a limit on the number of people signing up if you would prefer to start with a small group. If you are interested in leading a walk for the first time but want some help just send a note to the group email (sheffield40swg@gmail.com) and we can set you up with an experienced walk leader to talk you through the process and to support you on the day. Also remember that walk leaders can claim transport costs for reccying a walk, as well as some costs for equipment such as a contribution to your OS maps subscription.

OS MAPS COURSE

There is the potential to provide a course to support people in using OS maps app for navigation and route planning. We would like to know numbers, so if you are interested, please email sheffield40swg@gmail.com with ‘OS maps course’ in the subject line. Anyone who does a maps course has to commit to leading a walk in the next 6 months.

WEEKENDS AWAY

Those keeping an eye on the web site will have seen that our weekends away are very popular. Thank you to the vast majority of those signing up who pay promptly within the time limit. The few who miss the deadlines do create work for committee members who give their time voluntarily - so please try to avoid it!

If you are planning on going on one of our weekends away but booking your own accommodation, please let Mandy know so you can be part of communications about group meals and walks.

Any member is welcome to organise a weekend away or social event, please contact the committee via the group email if you would like to put something on.

FOOTPATH AND WEB OFFICERS

A big thank you to Lucia Contrino who has volunteered to be our new footpaths officer. Very much appreciated! Watch out for updated information on the Path Issues tab of the web site to come soon!!!

The committee are still on the lookout for someone with the skills and interest to manage our website, something which I'm told is very well designed and largely manages itself. If you are interested please speak to a committee member on a walk or email the group.

Finally, I wanted to say a special thank you to Mandy (for the organisation) and Mick (for handling the finances) of the group's Xmas festivities which were wonderful, as always!!

Happy 2023,

Liz (chair) on behalf of the Sheffield Walking 40s Committee