

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY MANCHESTER

May Day Bank Holiday Walk and Lunch

Monday, 6 May 2019

Middlewood Way, Bakestonedale Moor,

Bollington and Macclesfield Canal

Walk Starting Time: 9.45am



UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD
ALUMNI NETWORK
MANCHESTER

This year's May Day walk starts at The Windmill car park in Whiteley Green, a hamlet just north of Bollington near Macclesfield. The lunch will be at [The Windmill](#), a restaurant and bar which has been managed by the same family since 2012 – quite a record in these volatile times. Mary and I had a very enjoyable lunch there recently – we had good food within nice surroundings and were looked after by a pleasant staff. The Windmill is close to the Middlewood Way (an old railway track) and the Macclesfield Canal, both of which form parts of the walk.

As usual, all members and their relatives and friends will be most welcome to join us for the walk, for the lunch or for both.

The walk is just under seven miles, with the first part being along the canal and the Middlewood Way. It then turns eastwards towards the foothills of the Pennines, crossing a series of meadows before it passes the Coffee Tavern, a converted chapel that produces very good coffee and cakes. (We shall not be stopping there.) At this point we start the ascent to Bakestonedale Moor along a private drive and then a moorland footpath. This 550 ft ascent over about a mile is the only significant part of the route that requires a bit of effort but, with appropriate short rests, it should not be a problem. (I recently walked this route with a small party including two people who were just over 80 and two who were almost 80 and we had no problems, apart from trying to keep up with one of the octogenarians.)

After the ascent we walk along the side of the ridge, which affords very good views over the Cheshire Plain and into the Pennines, before descending into Bollington, a small, pleasant, former mill town. Finally, we walk back, along the canal, to Whiteley Green.

There are no awkward stiles. In fact there are very few stiles, the great majority having been replaced by gates in recent years.

Those not wishing to join the walk may wish to have a stroll along the canal or the Middlewood Way – suggested routes can be provided in advance if required.

At The Windmill, we shall have an area to ourselves, and it is expected that the walkers will sit down to lunch at 1:30 pm or soon thereafter. Those coming to only the lunch may wish to arrive somewhat earlier and have a drink and/or sit-down beforehand. A copy of the current menu is attached. As soon as possible, I shall send participants a copy of the menu that will be current on the day of the walk and would be grateful if they could let me know their choice of main dishes so that I can inform the restaurant a few days before the event. Please note that The Windmill welcomes walkers on the condition that they change out of their muddy boots.

If you would like to join us, please let me know, preferably by email (cwj_hirst@hotmail.com), the number in your party and whether you will be walking, lunching or both. A reply by 22nd April would be much appreciated. If you have not received an acknowledgement of your reply within a week, please contact me as your message may have gone astray. Your mobile phone number would be useful, particularly if I need to contact you at the last minute. Also, let me know if you would like a lift or to be picked up, and dropped off, at Macclesfield or Poynton stations.

Finally, as with previous walks, there will be a small charge for walkers of £2 for Group funds which will be collected on the day.

Kind regards



Chris Hirst

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Directions from the Manchester area:

- Take the A523, which starts at Hazel Grove, towards Macclesfield;
- From the "Shared Space Roundabout" in Poynton continue for about four miles;
- About 200 yds after passing under a railway bridge, turn left into Holehouse Lane;
- After just over a mile you will see The Windmill, a white building, on the right. (Please don't expect to see a real windmill – I am told that it was pulled down many, many years ago.)

Chris Hirst's contact details

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Mobile : 07725 665022

Windmill contact details

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