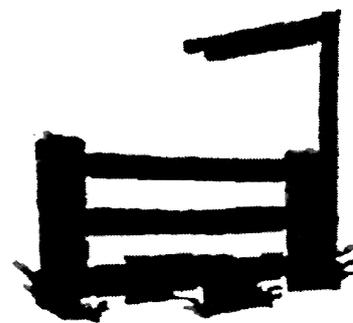


WAYMARK



News from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society

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The Way Ahead

Having just read through my editorial in the last Waymark I realise that progress has been slower than anticipated, or should I say hoped, on some things. So another update is appropriate. Progress is being made on developing the new Recreation Management Plan for the whole of the New Forest, not just the National Park. A summary of the results of the first stage consultation can be found on the New Forest National Park website. It makes interesting reading. A new revised strategy is likely to be published soon with a second stage consultation.

The strategy is important for our Footpath Society as most of our walking is in the New Forest area. I am sure there will be reports in the press when it is released. There are many interested individuals and groups, some wanting to restrict recreation and access for the protection of the Forest and others wanting more. Undoubtedly there are good reasons for encouraging people to walk and to enjoy the countryside by participating in many outdoor recreational activities. There needs to be a balanced view. If you have the opportunity you should read the consultation document and respond.

The proposed route for the England Coast Path is now due to be published on 7th March. This is also likely to be featured in the press with plenty of people being both for and against. It is important

to remember that this is a linear route for walkers, however there may be small stretches where other users already have rights.

This Waymark header will not show either a website nor email address as it is necessary to change our provider. The change is unlikely to have been completed by the publication date. Anyone wishing to be in touch with RFFS may contact me. We will inform those on the email alert system when the changes are complete.

Our AGM takes place on Monday 19th March. We require a new Membership Secretary and a new Website Manager. The current incumbents have done an excellent job but wish to retire. I think we have persuaded 2 others to take on these roles. There are willing volunteers for the roles of both Publicity and Social Secretaries. All of these positions need to be confirmed at our AGM and any of you can put your name forward for any of the Committee roles.

The new incumbents and indeed all Officers and the Committee need to be confirmed at the AGM. I hope many of you will be able to attend. Besides the formal reports we will have a talk about the Forest from Alastair Duncan, a Ringwood resident who is a Volunteer Ranger for the Forestry Commission. I think you will find this both interesting and informative.

Ruth.

Path News

I trust that the very wet weather we have experienced over the last few months has not deterred you from getting out and enjoying those paths that are still relatively dry. I cannot recall some of the water levels having been quite so high for many a year. At the end of January all the fields around Harbridge were under deep water, which we did not attempt to cross. The water meadows south of Ringwood were impossible to use in parts. Even in good walking boots, no matter how waterproof they were, particularly the section of the AVP north of the bridge at Hampshire Hatches was quite impossible.

Fortunately Ringwood Footpath 53 from Christchurch Road to Hampshire Hatches Lane is in much better condition than in previous years and provides a suitable alternative to the impassable section of the AVP. It is to be hoped that the water levels recede quickly so that the planned boardwalk repairs at Harbridge and near the Bickerley can proceed without much delay.

Walk leaders are to be congratulated for successfully finding routes that do not involve wading through deep streams, or even worse, having to remove boots to negotiate crossings.

On a recent walk led by Keith we had a couple of pleasant surprises as some of the major problems encountered when the route was used last year where no longer present. After lunch we walked from Rockbourne Church south then eastwards

using Rockbourne Footpath 8. The southern section just before the path turns to the east had been cleared whereas last year we had to hack our way through. The next section crossing crop fields was well defined and easy to use. We have complained for years about this not being left clear and last year it was completely overgrown by rapeseed plants. Further along the walk we returned to Outwick Cross via Radnall and Kiln Woods, with many walkers admiring the displays of snowdrops and the unusual fungi to be seen.

Finally we returned to Breamore using Breamore Footpath 18 alongside Outwick Cottages and at the junction with Footpath 19 we came across a new four way fingerpost and two large kissing gates, a pleasant change from the very awkward stiles topped with barbed wire that we had to cross previously. Let us hope we find more improvements on future walks.

To those volunteers willing to carry out path surveys this year, I must request a little patience. I will not be allocating routes to be surveyed until we have resolved the manner of presenting the survey results to HCC as this may well determine how the routes are to be allocated.

Please continue to enjoy the Rights of Way and if you can, clear any minor problems you encounter. If they cannot be cleared please continue to report them to me.

Kelvin Winch Footpath Secretary

Our Christmas Celebration.



We had a very enjoyable Christmas Party in early December. Super savouries produced by ladies of the Committee, helped by some of the men. The sweets provided by many of you were scrumptious and most party goers enjoyed a number of them. No thoughts of sticking to a diet! After all, calories can be walked off!

The quizzes were challenging. The raffle and the bar contributed to our funds. Thanks to everyone who helped. Thanks in particular to the caterers. Well done.



Ruth

Future Events

AGM MONDAY 19th MARCH 2018

Notice is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Greyfriars, Christchurch Road, Ringwood on Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.30pm when your attendance is requested. Forms for the nomination of Office and Committee Members are available from the Hon. Sec. and should be returned to the Hon. Sec. by Wednesday 14th March 2018. Mrs H Winch (Hon Sec); 10 Gypsy Lane; Ringwood BH24 1QW Email winchk@waitrose.com

SUMMER LUNCH on JULY 22nd at IBSLEY VILLAGE HALL

Please BRING & SHARE a savoury dish or a sweet.

There will be a walk from the hall at 10.30am & non walkers can arrive at 12noon
It was a great success last year & we hope to see more present & past members this time.
Please contact Julie if transport is required.

Cranborne Walk



A group of us met at Holwell Farm on 21st November for a lovely walk to Boveridge via Burwood and Boveridge Church, then on to Jack's

Hedge Corner with panoramic views, before returning via Cranborne Farm and Manor Farm which brought us back to Cranborne along the stream in front of Cranborne Manor.

Sixpenny Brewery are now based at Holwell Farm and those that had time stopped off for "liquid refreshment" in the Tap Room followed by a tour of the brewery. The Tap Room is open every day and there is also the Orchard Bay Bakery and Jeremy Freeman Wood Turning, so well worth a visit. Thank you, Peter for organising.

Debbie Baverstock

Obituary David Seymour

We are sorry to record the recent death of David Seymour who was for many years a good supporter of the Society and its aims, a member of our Committee and a regular walker with us. Ringwood born and bred, David Joined the Society in 1991 and was elected to the Committee in 1999. His principal role on the Committee was in helping with the Society's calendar of social activities - particularly the skittles! We missed his ready humour when he left the Committee only a year or two ago. We send our condolences to his family.

Rowan Brockhurst.

A Retirement Challenge.

When recently re-reading, as I collated back numbers of Waymark for binding, the report of Robert Forrester-Addie's successful completion of his Ben Nevis Challenge, I was reminded of my own post-retirement challenges.

The first of these had been to walk from the southernmost point of the Isle of Wight to the Scottish border - to which I had been inspired by a

second reading of Nicholas Crane's excellent account of his own somewhat similar journey, "Two Degrees West." By the route I chose my journey, as it transpired, would be a distance of 616½ miles. I had anticipated that sort of distance when I originally planned the route and I reckoned that that would mean some seven or eight weeks walking. I knew that I did not want to commit

myself to that amount of time away from home to tackle it as a single journey and decided to complete it bit by bit - but working to strict rules: The whole distance would be covered on foot, there would be no gaps and the whole would be walked in the correct sequential order. Thus each time I returned home at the end of a section of the walk I would pick it up again later at exactly the same point as that at which I had left it.

My start and finish points for this walk did not easily enable me to link existing long distance paths so I had to plot my own way between such existing established routes as I did plan to use. An Isle of Wight Trail took me across that Island and a Red Funnel steamer then transported me across the Solent (the only part of my journey which my "rules" exempted me from walking!) whence I walked to Winchester via Portchester. From Winchester to the valley of the Kennet I used a route of my own devising. Then, following the towpath of the Kennet Navigation through Newbury, I picked up the track of the old Lambourn Valley railway and took to the downs and the gallops to reach the Ridgeway and the Uffington White Horse. I went through the Cotswolds to the centre of England at Meriden and on through Lichfield and Cannock Chase to the Peak District. Here I joined the Alternative Pennine Way at Ashbourne and followed that through the Bronte village of Haworth to Ilkley.

The APW was undoubtedly the most challenging part of my journey and on the day on which I should have reached Haworth the weather was so adverse that a bus was actually briefly called in aid - in the knowledge, of course, that my rules would

mean a revised start point next time! Once I reached Ilkley, from that revised start point, the splendid Dales Way led me through Grassington, Buckden and Dent to the Lake District at Bowness. Then more paths of my own choosing saw me walking through Windermere, Ambleside and Caldbeck - and some of the higher ground in between - to reach my objective - Liddel Water and the Scottish border at (the suitably named) Rowanburn.

I had walked on 50 separate days, covered my 616½ miles in just over 230 hours, had a longest day of 21½ miles and a shortest of 3, climbed to a high point of 2157 feet and enjoyed chatting with some of those I met along the way - the stable lads on the Lambourn gallops who reckoned their mode of transport was far better than mine, the doctor and the retired army officer, at each of whose B&Bs I had stayed, both of whom obviously thought a chat with their guests while they were eating their breakfast was an essential ingredient of good hosting. The B&B lady proprietor who told me much of her news while I was putting on my boots and was rather more eager than she realised to be on my way, the knowledgeable locals who told me about the Trent and Mersey Canal as I walked its towpath and about the wild life of Cannock Chase as I walked across the Chase and the one such who on my last day asked me how far I had come and, when I told him, paused for a moment said "You'll have had plenty of time to think then." But above all I had enjoyed every step of the way.

Rowan Brockhurst.

Church Bulletins:

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'

2018 SPRING WALKS & EVENTS PROGRAMME

WALKERS:

Start times vary: please check for each walk.

You walk with us at your own risk and are responsible for your own health & safety issues.

Please arrange to share cars to minimise parking space used. Do not leave any items visible and nothing of value in parked cars. Bring your own picnic lunches and drinks especially for the longer walks.

For enquiries about specific walks and walk details e.g. **meeting point, hills, mud or stiles**, telephone the walk leader for more information.

Sun 4 Mar 10:30am	<u>Windmill Hill: SCW continued</u> Meet at Rose & Thistle CP in Rockbourne. From the enchanting village of Rockbourne proceed back a few thousand years in time to where our bronze age ancestors constructed the fortifications of Grim's Ditch on high ground. Enjoy the views from our lunch stop at Windmill Hill, the hill with no windmill. Cross Toyd Down passing several Neolithic long barrows and return along a farm track past the barn where pigs are reared to the sound of music.	Keith 01425 479239 07932 394553	(OL22) SU113184 6.5 miles
Tue 6 Mar 10:30am	<u>Dibden Inclosure</u> Forest and coastal paths – may see some ships. Linear walk to Hythe: return by bus (don't forget your bus pass!).	Reg 02380 844540	(OL22) SU406057 5 miles
Thu 15 Mar 10:00am	<u>Breamore</u> Meet near church for a circular walk using footpaths and tracks (maybe some road walking) through mainly agricultural land and some woods.	Ruth 01425 656360	(OL22) SU 153188 4.5-5 miles
Sat 17 Mar 10:30am	<u>Godlingston Heath and Ballard Down</u> Meet at South Beach NT CP – near Bankes Arms. Open heath and chalk downland. Great views of Old Harry Rock etc. Aggleston Rock is a feature of this walk. A couple of stiles and a bit up and down (as Dorset is). Short road stretches.	Mike & Alison 01725 511000 07786 870442	(OL15) SZ038825 6 miles
Thu 22 Mar 10:00am	<u>Forest Walk</u> Meet at Moyles Court sandpit CP. This walk is mainly on forest paths.	Hazel & Kelvin 01425 471348	(OL22) SU164083 4-5 miles
Mon 19 Mar	<u>7.30PM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT GREYFRIARS</u> See elsewhere in Waymark for details.		
Thu 29 Mar 10:00am	<u>Sopley</u> Meet in the CP for the Woolpack Inn, Sopley. Walk includes footpaths, fields (possibly livestock) and short sections on quiet roads. A couple of stiles and narrow footbridges: possibly wet in parts. Please buy a drink (or lunch)!	Bill 01425 480245 07709 180329	(OL22) SZ157969 4.5 miles
Sun 1 Apr 10:00am	<u>Easter Walk</u> Meet at Godshill Cricket CP. We follow footpaths and forest tracks. Some stiles, hills and MUD. Rabbits?	Hazel & Kelvin 01425 471348	(OL22) SU181150 9-10 miles
Tue 3 Apr 10:00 am	<u>Pentridge</u> Park at Sillens Lane CP, Martin Down. Walk to Pentridge Village. Good views, hills and stiles	Peter R 01425 839191 07985 028536	(EXP118) SU058191 5 miles
Tue 10 Apr 10:00am	<u>Woodgreen</u> Meet in Godshill (Wood) CP. Walk in through Godshill inclosure and around Woodgreen, mainly on tracks but with short distances on roads. Some hills, outstanding views across the Avon Valley towards Breamore.	Bill 01425 480245 07709 180329	(OL22) SU176160 5 miles
Sun 15 Apr 10:30am	<u>Back to the Bronze Age: SCW continued</u> Meet at Martin Down (free) car park off A354. This walk will complete the third leg of the Salisbury Country Way between Martin Church and Bokerley Dyke.	Keith 01425 479239 07932 394553	(EXP118) SU037201 7.5 miles

Thu 19 Apr 10:00am	<u>Ringwood Zig-Zag</u> Meet at Lord Eversley's seat on Hightown Common for a circular walk using many footpaths. Some stiles. Parking limited. Please share cars.	Hazel & Kelvin 01425 471348	(OL22) SU180055 4.5 miles
Thu 26 Apr 11:00am	<u>Rockbourne to Whitsbury – Bluebells?</u> Meet at Rockbourne Roman Villa CP for a walk on field paths, woodland bridleways and tracks with some stiles. A small donation for parking or a purchase from the Rockbourne Villa shop is requested.	John/Catherine 01425 653721 0798905974	(OL22) SU120171 4.5 miles
Sat 28 Apr 1:00pm or 2:00pm	<u>Ringwood Community Association 60th Anniversary Picnic and Walk</u> Picnic (bring your own) on Greyfriars Community Centre lawn or join us just for the walk at 2pm. Returning about 3.30pm to buy tea and cakes provided by Greyfriars Committee. If you plan to join us for tea please let the leader know before Wednesday 25th April: leave a message if no reply.	Rowan 01425 653748	Greyfriars 44 Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW 3.5 miles
Sun 6 May 10:00am	<u>Martin Down Nature Reserve</u> Meet at Martin Down (free) car park off A354. Country walk via Marleycombe Hill, Broad Chalke, Knighton Hill, Venditch Chase. Some hills and stiles.	Peter H 01425 470792	(EXP118) SU037201 10 miles
Wed 9 May 10:00am	<u>Hamptworth and Langley Wood</u> Meet in Tinney Firs CP (on L when descending Whiteshoot Hill)	Claire & David	(OL22) SU204197 5 miles
Wed 16 May 6:30pm	<u>Ringwood: local history walk</u> Meet at Ringwood Gateway. This evening walk around Ringwood illustrates the impact of the railway and the motor car on the town.	Keith 01425 479239 07932 394553	(OL22) SU147053 4.5 miles
Wed 23 May 10:00am	<u>Ox Drove</u> Meet at The Hut/Lodge Farm (off the Martin to Broad Chalke road) for a walk with good views to Broad Chalke. Hills and stiles.	Peter R 01425 839191 07985 028536	(LR184) SU042224 5 miles
Sun 27 May 10:00am	<u>Old Sarum to Lower Woodford</u> Park in Old Sarum CP for a walk around the fort and on to Lower Woodford. Some stiles and roads. Dogs on leads as sheep, llamas and camels feature.	Peter R 01425 839191 07985 028536	(LR184) SU139327 8 miles
Tue 29 May 6:30pm	<u>Harbridge</u> Meet at St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge: parking available in the Glebe Field behind the Rectory. Walk the Avon Valley Path to Harbridge returning through Midgham Wood.	Tim 01425 654977	(OL22) SU145138 4-5 miles
Wed 6 Jun 6:30pm	<u>Hyde</u> Meet at Hyde Cross CP (opp Hyde School). A circular walk mainly on forest/heath paths and tracks. Some hills. No stiles.	John/Catherine 01425 653721 0798905974	(OL22) SU169125 4-5 miles
Sun 10 Jun 10:30am	<u>Durdle Door</u> Meet at East Chaldon (CP just outside village) for a walk to Durdle Door and return by coastal path. Hilly at times. Cynthia's mob no is for use on morning of walk only: 07498 604486	Cynthia & Ruth 01300 320346 01425 656360	(OL15) SY796835 9 miles

A big thank you to all who offered walks for this programme. And a welcome to those leading walks for the first time: thank you for responding to the call for new walk leaders.

If you feel you can take on this task of leader, please contact Catherine. We still need more volunteers. You will receive support: 01425 653721.