

WAYMARK



Web. www.rffs.org.uk Email. info@rffs.org.uk

News from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society

President	Rowan Brockhurst	01425 653748
Vice Chairman	Vacant	
Chairman	Ruth Croker	01425 656360
Footpath Secretary	Kelvin Winch	01425 471348
Hon. Secretary	Hazel Winch	01425 471348
Treasurer	Jackie Jones	07899 666963
Programme Secretary	Catherine Avery Jones	01425 653721
Publicity Secretary	Julie Whiteing	01425 475973
Web master	Michael Osborne	07512252416
Hon. Auditor	David Knapp	
Membership Secretary	Terry Jones	07899 666963
Editor	Marion Westcott	email editor@rffs.org.uk

The Way Ahead

Our AGM was held in March. We learnt about the founding of our Society from, both Graham New our Vice President and from Rowan Brockhurst our President whose last meeting it was as Vice Chairman. Rowan remains our President. No member has agreed to take on the role of Vice Chairman. It is vital that someone does. Whoever volunteers should be prepared to become Chairman at some point in the future and ideally should be one of our younger members. Certainly younger than me.

It is possible to co-opt someone onto our Committee so that the individual can learn more about the running of our Society before taking on a specific role. A Walks Programme Coordinator is also required. Someone needs to take on this role. I am sure most of you want a walks programme. Without a coordinator there may not be a walks programme.

Please talk to me if you think you can help by taking on one of these roles. It is vital if our Society is to continue.

At the AGM, Edward Heron, the County Councillor who is responsible for the Countryside Service of Hampshire County Council spoke about the work of this service. He explained that because of the lack of resources, both manpower and money

there is an increasing need to rely on volunteers to do work on rights of way and for funding to come from sources other than the County Council.

There was some good news. Our membership numbers remain high, 300 at the time of the AGM. The walks programme offered 419 miles of walking. I don't know which of our members walked the most but I am sure that no member walked all the 419 miles.

Now a word of warning about ticks. This is the time of year when ticks are most active. I am sure you are aware that a bite from an infected tick can cause serious disease. Avoiding action can be taken. Check for ticks after walking, particularly if you have been in areas where there is long grass, bracken or heather and areas frequented by deer and livestock. Further information can be obtained from Public Health England at www.gov.uk/phe.

I did not set out to be gloomy. This is a lovely time of year to walk so enjoy being out in the countryside. I hope to meet up with lots of you on our Trig Point walk. You can go directly to the trig point if you don't feel able to do the whole walk. The Society will provide something to drink but contributions of something to nibble would be appreciated.

Ruth

Path News

HCC Map Review Team are processing the application to extinguish Hyde Footpath 746 which runs north from Lawrence Lane. This path does not connect to any other Right of Way and we previously agreed with the application.

The owners of Flood Street Farm wish to move the southern end of Breamore Footpath, Footpath 17, a short distance north onto what is a permissive path. We have objected to this as it would introduce more stiles in an area where we and HCC have been trying to remove them, also there is evidence of a Badger Set on the permissive path, with several holes that are dangerous to walkers.

The fallen tree at the junction of Ringwood Footpath 2 and E.H.&I. Footpath 738 (the path between Cowpits Lane & Highwood Lane) has finally been removed. We have been trying to get this removed for the last five years, but ownership of the land could not be determined.

HCC have recently repaired or installed many Fingerposts and repaired the odd stile in various parishes. Thanks are due to our members Bill and

Peter who, after obtaining agreement with Wessex Water and the Wildlife Trust, have opened up the view over the lake from the RFFS seat on the AVP (E.H.&I. 701). Thanks also to Denise and Jo who are refurbishing the seat. This seat and the views over the lake are much appreciated by many of our local residents and no doubt by visitors to the area as well.

I must apologise to our members who volunteer to carry out our annual surveys for the several months delay in preparing the survey documentation. By the time this edition of Waymark is printed all should have received their survey packs.

I hope to be fully mobile within the next few weeks and able to carry out some of the survey work as well as taking part in the walks programme that Catherine has put together.

It has been a frustrating time of inactivity!

Kelvin Winch - Footpath Secretary

Future Events

BRING & SHARE SUMMER LUNCH

On Sunday 7th July at GODSHILL VILLAGE HALL

There will be a walk at 10.30am from the hall. Non walking members & partners are welcome at 12md. Please bring some food to share, either savoury or sweet. No need to let us know in advance as there is always an amazing spread of both! Please bring your own plates & cutlery to save the washing up.

The hall is not licenced so bring your own alcohol or soft drink, plus a glass!

Coffee or tea will be provided.

If any members need transport to the hall, please phone Julie: 01425 475973

The Hall will be open at 10am for walkers to leave their contributions. We hope as many members and past members can come and join us! Looking forward to seeing you, whatever the weather!

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE THIS YEAR

SUMMER SHOWS

This year we have decided to be represented at :

The Fordingbridge Festival on Saturday 20th July. 10.30am -5pm.

It was a new format last year and was well attended.

The Ringwood and Ellingham Show on Saturday 10th August 8.30am-5pm.

The same RFFS members have represented us at both shows for many years. We would be pleased if we could have a wider band of helpers. We man the gazebo for two hour sessions, give out our flyers and promote interest in the society. We often gain new members at the shows.

It is also a good opportunity to visit the rest of the exhibits and watch the varied activities. The club is happy to reimburse helpers with the entrance fee.

Please could you contact Ruth 01425 656360 or Julie 01425 475973 if you are interested.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN

I could not have imagined that, back in the dim and distant past of 1974, a year of two prime ministers and two general elections, that the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society would be formed and 45 years later still be going strong with over 200 active members and still influencing local authority and national park policies.

It was early in 1974 that I spotted a notice in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Journal looking for support to preserve local footpaths and rights of way. Having been brought up near Henley-on-Thames I was no stranger to the countryside and the idea interested me. The telephone number put me in touch with Rowan Brockhurst who, as it turned out, lived but a few hundred yards away. We met up and together with the late Brian Jordan and Gillian Habbin (the manager of Greyfriars Community Centre) and formed the Society.

At an open meeting on the 8 May at Greyfriars chaired by Rowan we were delighted that about 100 members of the local community turned out to support the cause and formed the core of the Society. So, over the years, members have come and gone, officers of the Society have changed and priorities altered but the one person who has never deviated from the original concept and stayed the course from then until now has been your President, Rowan Brockhurst.

Rowan has been a walk leader, footpath secretary, Vice Chairman, Chairman and President at various times throughout the ensuing 45 years. In days when it seems increasingly difficult to recruit people to voluntary positions we have been incredibly lucky to have had someone with the tenacity, patience, imagination and sheer bloody mindedness to keep going when times have been difficult and resources rationed.

Further, I know how much he has appreciated the help and support he has always had from fellow officers and successors without which things may have been very different. So when, at the most recent AGM, Rowan decided that the time had come to relinquish his Vice Chairmanship of the Society he did so in the confidence that the organisation he created was in good hands and that the Chairman, officers and members will continue with the fight to keep our rights of way open and accessible. He remains our President and will, no doubt, be available to offer advice and guidance when it's needed.

So, thank you, Rowan for the work you have done and the hours you have put in to the benefit of our members and the community at large. We look forward to seeing you around and about and no doubt you'll be watching future developments of the Society closely.

Graham New



A presentation at the AGM to Rowan Brockhurst on his retirement as Vice Chairman



The River Stour Loop Walk on 16th May.

This was a delightful walk to an area on the outskirts of Bournemouth not previously visited by any of the participants, except the leaders. There were many things of interest including *kingfishers* (circled.) We were all very amused when a dog called Archie stole the sandwich of one of us. A very crafty move by the dog. We compensated by purchasing refreshments at the Visitor Centre at the end of the walk. Delicious cake enjoyed in a super setting. Leaders Denise and Jo. Photographer Denise. Thank you for introducing us to this area.

Ruth.

KEITH DAVIS 1929 - 2019.

We are sorry to report the recent death of Keith Davis, for a long time the Society's Honorary Treasurer. Keith and his wife Pat joined the Society at the time of their retirement from business in Ringwood as the owners of the Market Place outfitters Cox & Hicks and Keith later volunteered to take over as our second ever Honorary Treasurer in 1993. He remained in post until 2010 - with never any of his figures out of place! Keith also often joined our walks and was an enthusiastic leader of some of them. As a "son of Ringwood" and a knowledgeable frequenter of the New Forest he was, on his walks, always a source of what he termed "Useless Information" about places we visited and things we saw - information which those walking with him always found both interesting and very much better than "useless." We will remember Keith, his service to the Society and the walks he led for us. *Rowan.*

Keith Davis

Members always enjoyed the stories told by Keith Davis on the walks he led.

They also liked the fact that he usually stopped after a gentle ascent which allowed people to pause and catch their breath.

His most frequently told story was about Lovey Warne and it was usually recounted in the Burley Street area. An area Keith knew well. Lovey was well known for the warnings she gave to smugglers when revenue men were in the area. Keith always said that Lovey stood on high ground and

displayed her red petticoat. Others say it was the red lining of her cloak. Showing her petticoat also showed the silk fabrics being smuggled which were wrapped around Lovey's waist.

Another story was of the smugglers contraband being sold at informal markets in Ridley Wood. There were also many stories about the Castleman Corckscrew railway.

I am sure there are other stories some of you can remember. Please let me have them or send them directly to our Editor.

Ruth

Walk on Martin Down. 27th February 219.



It was a beautiful day and a lovely walk. The view from the top of the earthwork, part of the WW1 era firing range was great. Photographer Peter Kell. Walk led by Peter Hedgecock. Thanks to both Peter's, Ruth.

A Wet Walk in Breamore and Whitsbury



After many hot and sunny days in April our 5 mile walk on 24th was rather wet! There were only a few drops falling when we set off but after half an hour the rain set in. Despite this we saw lots of bluebells and enjoyed their perfume. We also saw cowslips and primroses. There were a lot of young foals at the Whitsbury stables. A walk we all enjoyed. Leader Ruth. Photographer Keith.

Terry's Sense Of Humour

They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds..

I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!

Broken pencils are pointless.

2019 SUMMER 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.

Thu 6 June 10:00am	<u>Rhinefield-Ober Heath</u> Meet at Whitefield Moor CP. A level walk across open heath and on forest woodland tracks most of which are gravel. Short section of verge walking along Rhinefield Road. No stiles.	Andy 01425 472422	(OL22) SU274027 6 miles
Sun 9 June 10:30am	<u>Great Wishford—Grovely Wood: SCW continued</u> Meet on the northern edge of Barford St Martin. Parking at the end of Groveley Road. Follow the track around a sharp bend to the left: parking area is visible on the left. Woodland, fields and village. Lunch stop at Great Wishford. Share cars please.	Keith 01425 479239 07932 394553	(Exp130) SU054325 8 miles
Tu 11 June 6:30pm	<u>Trig Point</u> Meet at Moyles Court sandpit CP for a walk to our adopted trig point near Whitefield Plantation where we will partake of a glass of wine and light refreshments.	Pat and Julie 01425 475973	(OL22) SU163082 3.5 miles
Tu 18 June 6:00pm	<u>Avon Country Park</u> Park on the Ringwood Service Road (N of and parallel to the A31) near the SE end of St Ives End Lane. We cross the footbridge to the country park where there is a chance to see rare breed cattle, sand lizards and the bird hide.	Marion 01425 477153 07786 825778	(OL22) SU121037 3 miles
Sun 23 Jun 10:00am	<u>Rhinefield – Bank</u> Meet at Brockhill CP. This walk passes the Portuguese Fireplace, Knightwood Oak and the Reptile Centre. Some gentle hills, no stiles, possibly wet in places. Bring lunch.	Bill 01425 480245 07709 180329	(OL22) SU266057 10 miles
Thu 27 June 6:30pm	<u>Fordingbridge Circle</u> Meet at the entrance to the library (Central CP is free after 6pm). Walk around the outskirts of the town to include the new conservation area on the Whitsbury Road. Footpaths, tracks and some pavements.	Tim 01425 654977	(OL22) SU147142 4 miles
Thu 4 Jul 10:30am & 1:45pm	<u>Whitsbury - Figure of 8</u> Two walks from Whitsbury Village Hall – walk either or both. Meet at CP at the rear of the village hall (£1 donation to hall funds) for track, field and woodland walks. Morning walk: 4.5 miles, 9 stiles. Afternoon walk: 3.5 miles, 1 stile. Lunch at start point or Cartwheel pub.	George 01425 653299 07811174681	(OL22) SU128188 4.5 miles and 3.5 miles
Sunday 7 Jul 10:30am	<u>Bring and Share Summer Lunch</u> At Godshill Village Hall – the lunch is preceded by a walk from the hall. Non-walkers welcome at noon. Bring food to share, crockery, cutlery and drinks. Coffee and tea available.	Pat and Julie 01425 475973 07587 058702	(OL22) SU175150 3 miles
Wed 10 Jul 10:00am	<u>Holt Heath</u> Meet at Whitesheet Plantation CP (BH21 7DB). The walk explores this heathland. This time we cross the road to explore a higher point of the heath.	Marion 01425 477153 07786 825778	(Exp118) SU048037 5 miles
TIME	<u>TO SUBMIT WALKS FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME (Autumn: September-November).</u> Walks in October should be within our local parishes.	Catherine 01425 653721	csaveryjones@ yahoo.co.uk

Thu 18 Jul 10:00am	<u>Burley</u> Meet at Burbush Hill CP, car share please as the CP is popular. A walk along the old railway and forest tracks across Kingston common. Several short steep climbs and a stile. Some pavement walking through Burley.	Denise and Jo 014255479339 07816962999 07969633830	(OL22) SU202017 4 miles
Sat 20 July	<u>FORDINGBRIDGE FESTIVAL</u> The Society's tent will be at this event. Please support us.		
Wed 24 Jul 6:30pm	<u>Burgate</u> Meet outside the main entrance to Burgate School. Parking available on road. Circular walk in the Avon Valley and the Forest.	Ruth 01425 656360	(OL22) SU152155 5 miles
Sat 27 July	<u>FROGHAM FAIR (12:30PM) and DAMERHAM FAIR (11AM)</u>		
Wed 31 Jul 10:30am	<u>Fritham</u> Meet at Fritham CP for a walk around Sloden Inclosure, mostly on forest paths.	Charles/Marlene 01425 838534	(OL22) SU230141 4 miles
Sun 4 Aug 10:30am	<u>Cerne Abbas</u> Meet at the picnic CP near the river and opposite the village hall for walk to Sydling St Nicholas via Wessex Ridgway returning via Nether Cerne. Valleys and hills, good views. Bring lunch.	Cynthia 01300 320346 (07498604486 4 August only)	(Exp117) ST664015 10 miles
Tu 6 Aug 10:00am	<u>Keyhaven</u> Meet at the Woodside Playing Fields CO. Mainly flat, couple of stiles, good views of Solent and IoW. Optional drink or lunch at The Chequers Inn afterwards.	Bill 01425 480245 07709 180329	(OL22) SZ321942 5 miles
Sat 10 Aug	<u>ELLINGHAM FAIR (9AM-6PM)</u> The Society's tent will be at this fair. Please support us.		
Wed 14 Aug 9:30 am	<u>Martin Down Nature Reserve</u> Meet at large CP on A354, 1km N of Woodyates. Route via Marleycombe Hill and Middleton Down. Possible café stop at Broadchalke. Some hills. Bring lunch. NB 9:30am start	Peter H 01425 470792	(Exp118) SU037201 9 miles
Sun 18 Aug 10:00am	<u>Lower Woodford Valley</u> Park in Middle Woodford CP (beside the school playing field) for a walk along the River Avon: footpaths and roads, good views, stiles and hills. Dogs on leads – grazing stock.	Peter R 01425 839191 07985 028536	(Exp130) SU121363 8 miles
Thu 22 Aug 10:30am	<u>Brinken Wood</u> Meet at Brock Hill CP for a walk across heath and through woods – no hills.	Charles/Marlene 01425 838534	(OL22) SU266057 4 miles
Tu 27 Aug 10:00am	<u>Woodlands</u> Meet at Busketts Wood CP. Gentle walk through woodland and quiet country lanes, no significant hills, 2 or 3 stiles.	Bill 01425 480245 07709 180329	(OL22) SU312105 5 miles
Sun 1 Sep 10:30am	<u>Upper Woodford to Stonehenge – SCW contd</u> Walk through 5000 years of history. Meet in the CP opposite the Bridge Inn.	Keith 01425 479239 07932 394553	(Exp130) SU124372 8.4 miles
Tu 3 Sep 6pm	<u>Charlton /All Saints</u> Meet outside the Coop store on The Borough, Downton. An almost flat circular walk to Charlton All Saints.	Ruth 01425 656360	(Exp130) SU173214 3.5 miles
Thu 12 Sep 10:00am	<u>Exbury</u> Meet in Lepe Country Park CP (charges apply so car share): foreshore, field and woodland paths. Some quiet roads and stiles.	Jo & Denise 07969 633830 07816 962999	(OL22) SZ455985 6 miles

We still need more volunteers to lead walks. If you feel you can take on this task, please contact Catherine (telephone number in walks programme or email csaveryjones@yahoo.co.uk). We also need a new walks programme secretary as Catherine is retiring: phone Ruth Croker if interested.