

WAYMARK



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

News from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society

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The Way Ahead

I always seem to start this column with a comment about the weather, I guess it's a particularly British thing. Well, we had a great summer, and much as I miss the sun I am enjoying the autumn. It's a great time to be out walking especially in the forest, when the leaves are turning yellow, gold and red, also a great time for spotting the various and colourful fungi we have. I know it may not suit everyone but I am hoping for some short sharp cold weather in the winter with crisp frosts that I remember from younger years.

Well, I guess the hot topic is the proposal to introduce car parking charges in the New Forest. Whilst I can understand Forestry England have a funding problem, I am fundamentally opposed to this and talking to members most of you are. So, what are we doing about it. Well, we have circulated an online petition initiated by a NFDC councillor which if you agree I would ask you sign. In addition, we have written to Forestry England stating our objections to this. Many of you have commented on the practicalities of the

proposal, but to my mind that is their problem, so the letter I drafted focused on the community at large and walkers particularly.

We have again had a full and varied walk programme, many thanks to Denise and the walk leaders. A highlight being the Bring and Share summer lunch at Godshill on 31st August which was preceded by a walk and a walk around Downton followed by drinks and supper at Downton brewery in September. As ever we welcome more people to come forward to lead walks, please contact Denise if you can help.

Membership numbers remain robust at just over 200 and we continue to pick up new members through the internet/Facebook, follow-up to Ellingham Show and by word of mouth.

A small group of us continue to work on footpath condition surveys, and clearance of overgrown footpaths. We are looking to grow the number of people participating in these



initiatives and to this end have held a successful and well received "training session" with HCC attended by 16 members. In addition, we are pursuing an opportunity to procure two battery operated hedge trimmers to increase our capability.

Finally, an update on our social programme. We had talks by Jeremy Houghton Brown and Marcus Ward in October and November. Our

Christmas party planned at Greyfriars on 8th December, will be a Bring and Share supper, with a quiz and raffle which has always been good fun. There is a mince pie walk at Anderwood on 11th December, and in the New Year we are planning an evening speaker for 9th February and also a speaker for our AGM on 16th March.

Bill

SAVE THE DATES - Evening Meetings 2026

Mondays at 7.30pm in Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood

9th February 2026 and 16th March 2026 - Society's AGM

Details will be issued via our alert system

Path News

Mike Osborne has been continuing most of the survey work and assisting Bill Morley on the clearance work. We are still having problems understanding how to use all the functions on the HCC survey tablets, which has resulted in some of our remote paths having to be surveyed again. Hopefully Mike will complete the survey of Damerham and I will be able to submit what should be my last BVPI to HCC.

We do not expect any quick response to the problems we have discovered during the survey or the many other outstanding problems, as the HCC Ranger for our area has left and the post is being advertised.

Our chairman Bill Morley has continued to organize cutting parties to keep overgrown paths clear and is working with Kate Martin our HCC Community Engagement Ranger (CER) to train more of our members in voluntary work.

I am pleased to report that the long closure of the AVP south of Ringwood has now been fixed and the path is open, but still subject to flooding

when the river level is high.

Mark Jones, Councillor for Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley, has taken up with HCC the lack of crossings over Dockens Water (see previous Waymark) as well as the extremely poor state of E.H.& I. Footpath 1.

I am attempting to compile for HCC and whoever takes over the role of Footpath Secretary, a list of our most serious and long-term problems along with their history.

Please continue to report problems, preferably to info@rffs.org.uk in the first instance, as we may be able to resolve them, or to HCC Rights of Way via their report a problem website, but please if you report them directly to HCC also inform the Society giving the details and the HCC Problem Reference, by Emailing info@rffs.org.uk or via the Contact Us pages on the RFFS Website – rffs.org.uk

Kelvin Winch





LAST CHANCE TO JOIN IN THE FUN



Bring & Share Christmas Supper

Greyfriars Monday 8th December 2025

Starts 7.00pm £2.00 per person

This year's Christmas get together involves guests bringing their own sharing platters - a mix of savoury and sweet dishes preferably with a Christmas/Winter theme.

- ♦ *Not essential that you bring your own crockery, cutlery and glasses*
- ♦ There will be a cash only bar serving beers, wines and soft drinks
- ♦ We will be holding a quiz, with a prize for the winning team
- ♦ As there will be a raffle guests are asked to donate a prize

Guests will be responsible for clearing their own sharing platters, crockery, cutlery and glasses

As food is not provided the cost this year will be just £2 per ticket.

Please book by calling or emailing Jan Morley on: - 01425 480245 / 07870487171 janmorley@gmail.com

Bank transfer details: - Sort Code 30 97 08 Acc. No. 01734444 Ref. Party



The Vereley walk took in the seat and memorial to George Shaw Lefevre, 1st Baron Eversley a founder of the Open Spaces Society which began as the Commons Preservation Society which merged with the National Footpaths Society in 1899.



WINTER 2025/26 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.

If it is safe to do so, 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 lunch and drinks especially for the longer walks.

PLEASE BOOK WITH THE WALK LEADER BEFORE ATTENDING A WALK or you may miss vital information e.g. a walk may be cancelled at short notice or a start point changed.

We still need more volunteers to lead walks. Help and support will be provided. Please contact Walks Secretary, Denise, on 01425479339/07816962999 or email denise.chesterman@gmail.com

Wed 3 rd Dec 10.30am	Balmer Lawn Meet at Ivy Wood CP for a walk through Perrywood Inclosure. Gravel tracks and gentle hills. Possibly a drink in Brockenhurst after. Book	Bill 01425480245 07709180329	OL22 SU316025 4.5 miles
Sun 7 th Dec 10.30am	Salisbury Circular Walk <i>w3w wealth.spends.teeth</i> Meet at Hudson's Field overflow CP. Discovering off the beaten track and familiar paths around Salisbury. Crossing the rivers Avon, Nadder and Wylie, the water meadows and through Cathedral Close. No stiles. 1 short ascent. Bring lunch. Book	Andy J Text 07880498021	Exp 130 SU141320 SP1 3SA 7.5 miles
Mon 8 th Dec	Christmas Party at Greyfriars Details in Waymark. Book		
Thurs 11 th Dec 10.00am	Christmas Mince Pie Walk Meet at Anderwood CP for a walk mainly on cycle tracks out to Blackensford Brook and round South Oakley then back across Lucy Hill and Burley New Inclosure. Some mud, no stiles. Returning back to Anderwood picnic area for mulled wine and mince pie (provided), maybe bring some nibbles to share. Book	Di and Phil Text 07780797499	OL22 SU249058 4 miles
Wed 17 th Dec 10.15am	Highcliffe <i>w3w visitors.rant.smiling</i> (BH23 5JA) Meet at Highcliffe Top CP (free) for a linear coastal walk via Highcliffe Castle and Steamer Point Nature Reserve to Mudeford Quay. It is possible to shorten the walk by stopping at a beach cafe and we will pick you up again on our way back. Book	Denise 07816962999	OL22 SZ216932 5 miles
Tues 30 th Dec 10.00am	Twixmas Walk <i>w3w reserve.horseshoe.finely</i> Meet at Broomy Walk CP for a festive walk through Milkham Inclosure to The High Corner Inn for coffee at about 11am followed by a walk through Broomy Inclosure. Non walkers are welcome to join us for coffee. Book	Liz and Andy 01425472422 07949608633	OL22 SU197099 2.25 +3.25 miles
Wed 7 th Jan 10.00am	Spring Bushes <i>w3w film.geek.monday</i> Meet in Spring Bushes CP for a walk across Broomy Plain, through Holly Hatch Inclosure, across Splash Bridge and up into Sloden Inclosure to return via Holly Hatch Cottage. No stiles. A couple of steep climbs. Book	Phil W Text 07801621818	OL22 SU202102 5 miles
Sun 11 th Jan 10.00am	Ebbesbourne Wake <i>w3w scrambles.dreamers.crimson</i> Meet in small RSPB Garston Wood CP nr Sixpenny Handley. A walk on open country and wooded footpaths plus half mile of quiet road via Ebbesbourne Wake. One hill. Bring lunch. Book	Alan 07901686777	Exp 118 SU003194 10 miles
Tues 13 th Jan 11.00am	Castlepoint Loop (BH8 9UW) Meet at top of escalator outside Sainsbury's for a flat walk, tarmac, muddy paths and river side. 4 hrs free parking at Castlepoint or catch bus X3 to Royal Bournemouth Hospital then M1 to Castlepoint. Book	Elaine 01202761564	OL22 SZ111947 3-3.5 miles

TIME	<u>TO SUBMIT WALKS FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME</u> We need more volunteer walk leaders. You will receive all the support you need. See right for contact details.	Denise 01425479339/ 07816962999	denise. chesterman@ gmail.com
Thurs 22 nd Jan 10.00am	<u>Telegraph Hill</u> Meet at Telegraph Hill CP for a walk across to Amberwood Inclosure and over to Fritham. Down to Eyeworth Pond and then back through Eyeworth Wood. No stiles, some mud. Small CP so car share if poss. Book	Di Text 07780797499	OL22 SU228166 5.5 miles
Saturday 24th Jan 10.30am	<u>Priests Way and SW Coast Path</u> Meet in CP at Worth Matravers, donations. Mainly foot paths. Fairly level with one steep climb down and one up at the end. No stiles. Dinosaurs' footprints. Hopefully good views. Bring lunch. Book	Clare Text 07967483761	OL15 SY974776 Approx 12 miles
Wed 28 th Jan 10.00am	<u>Buckland Rings and Lymington</u> <i>w3w opera.nervy.formless.</i> Meet at Woodside CP. Mostly flat footpaths with some urban walking through Lymington. No stiles. Book	Anne and Keith Text 07585703088	OL22 SZ321942 6 miles
Tues 3 rd Feb Start time is bus dependent	<u>Charford Lions to Breamore Village Hall</u> Take the X3 bus to Charford Lions (stop is Lions lodge). Dept R/wood 10.04, F/bridge 10.17, Downton 10.28. Take great care and meet by the Lodge House on N side of A338. The walk ascends to Breamore Down then to the village hall to catch the bus back to your car/home. There is NO parking at Charford Lions. Book	Tim 07973657527	OL22 SU166199 5 miles
Sun 8th Feb 10.30am	<u>Amesbury/Stonehenge</u> <i>w3w sunroof.comply.drift</i> Meet at Bonnymead Recreation Park SP4 7BE for an undulating walk on paths, tracks and minor roads to Salisbury Plain/Stonehenge. Bring lunch. Book	Peter Text 07985028536	Exp130 SU150411 8 miles
Mon 9 th Feb	<u>Evening Meeting</u> Greyfriars		
Wed 11 th Feb 10.00am	<u>Pondhead Inclosure and Mately Ridge</u> (SO43 7DA) <i>w3w staple.irritate.rose</i> Meet in lower CP @ Boltons Bench, Lyndhurst for a walk on open forest and through Pondhead Inclosure. Mix of forest tracks and gravel paths. No hills or stiles. Book	Sue 07857642855	OL22 SU305082 Approx 5 miles
Wed 18 th Feb 10.00am	<u>Tinkley Bottom and Rushmore Park</u> <i>w3w joys.cluttered.sleeps</i> Meet in small CP by gatehouse/gates to Rushmore Park. Downland tracks and paths, some woodland, golf course. One short steep climb. Book	Steve 07703351354	Exp 118 ST957195 4.5 miles
Sun 22nd Feb 10.15am	<u>Shaftesbury/Donhead St Mary</u> <i>w3w puppy.shun.fire</i> Meet where Wincombe Lane turns to track. On road parking nearby. A circular walk. Hills, stiles, mud and views. Bring lunch. Book	Denise 07816962999	Exp 118 ST874237 Approx 9 miles
Thurs 26 th Feb 10.00am	<u>Bere Regis</u> <i>w3w verb.chew.sourcing</i> Park in Wild Woodbury Nature Reserve (Courts Farm) for an undulating walk over Black Hill. Panoramic views. Option to bring lunch to eat at end, or pub. Book	Jo Text 07969633830	Exp 117 SY 849947 5.5 miles
Thurs 5 th March 10.00am	<u>Frogham</u> Meet at Abbots Well CP. More walk details to follow on Spring Programme.	Alan 07901686777	Approx 4.5 miles
Sun 8th Mar 10.00am	<u>Horton</u> Meet at Horton and Colbury Village Hall. More walk details to follow on Spring Programme.	Bill 07709180329	8 miles
Mon 16 th Mar	<u>AGM and Presentation</u> Greyfriars	Bill 07709180329	