Issue No. 210 December 2026

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

Autumn has arrived and we are now into short days and dark nights. It seems like a long time since we had endless days of sun and scorching heat, but the past couple of months have been mostly good walking weather. We have had a good cross section of walks across our parishes and further afield, one highlight being a walk on the Isle of Wight in October, on a bright and sunny day. We have just completed the programme of walks for the next quarter which will include two walks over the festive season, a mince pie walk at Beaulieu/Bucklers Hard on 9th December and a Twixmas walk between Christmas and New Year to High Corner Inn.

On the social side we have had two evening talks. In October a presentation by Andy Rix from the Meeting House, "A Time Travellers Walk" around the centre of historic Ringwood was very well attended, and in November a very interesting presentation by Tony Gent of ARC (Amphibians and Reptiles Conservation Trust), which included some display materials but no live exhibits! We took the opportunity at the November evening talk to thank Kelvin and Hazel Winch for their services to the society over the years, not just on the committee but countless other ways. The talk by Catherine Wright from HIOWT on Blashford Lakes had to be rescheduled to Thursday 25th February. We plan to have a guest speaker for the AGM on Monday 15th March. We are always welcome to hear what other topics members may wish to hear about, local history, nature, life in the forest etc so please let us know if you have any ideas.

However, the next social event will be the Christmas evening on Monday 14th December. This will again be a Bring and Share Supper, so please bring along savoury or sweet dishes with preferably a Christmas or winter theme. There will be a raffle and we would be grateful if you can contribute a prize. Also, there will be a quiz, no wall mounted pictures this year but a tabletop quiz with rounds based on Christmas, 2026, general knowledge and a picture round. Please see the bulletin for further details.

Membership remains healthy at about 220 members, and we have over 400 followers on Facebook. Just a reminder that the fees are now £5 single and £8 family for membership.

Finally, we have been asked to review and comment on the latest development plan for Fordingbridge. This covers all aspects of the town's development, in terms of planning for residential, retail, commercial, transport, leisure and environmental requirements and much more. Our response will be based on maintaining and hopefully enhancing our rights of way network and access to open land and the countryside.

Bill

Path News

On the work group scene, activities have continued on clearance albeit at a lower level than earlier in the year. Surveys have continued and Alan Turcan has been trained up on the "tablet" that we use to record all features and their condition which are then transferred across to HCC. In addition, four of us installed anti-slip mesh to the bridge over a side stream into the Avon river, on the AVP.

We received a request to comment on a proposal to close three footpaths and reroute a fourth at Folds Farm, Godshill. Having looked at this in detail and consulted with other interested parties in the walking community and some local residents we have responded that we are strongly opposed to the proposal.

I did note out walking last month that Dorset County Council have done some work on the Castleman Trailway, including information boards and updated signage. At a meeting with our contact from HCC they advised they are proposing to upgrade the signage and other aspects of the HCC section from Ringwood to Barrack Lane and we have offered to assist if needed.

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

Bill

SAVE THE DATES - Evening Meetings 2027

7.30pm in Ann Rose Hall, Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood

Thursday 25th February Talk by Catherine Wright from HIOWT on Blashford Lakes

Monday 15th March AGM

Details will be issued via our alert system

Membership

At a time when many organisations are experiencing a serious decline in membership it's encouraging to report that we are in pretty good shape with well over 200 members on the books. Of course, we rely on everyone to pay their subs and after Christmas I'll be contacting members who have missed their payment this year. I'll be honest, it's a tedious and time-consuming task so please help me by making sure your subs are up to date and ideally setting up a standing order payable in April each year. This is a massive help to me as well as to our cash flow. If you're not sure if you've paid this year then please pop me an email, I can easily check for you.

Thank you.

Tim Daykin, Membership Secretary, membership@rffs.org.uk



Bring & Share Christmas Supper

Greyfriars *Monday 14th December 2026*

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.

- We also ask 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.

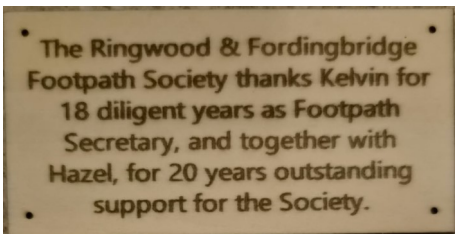
Please book by ***7th December 2026*** and if you could indicate whether you will be bringing: savoury, sweet or mixed dishes it would be helpful.

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 wooden fingerpost and stile a facsimile of our logo, was crafted by Paul Martin and presented to Kelvin and Hazel Winch in recognition of their services to the Society.







Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to everybody for the unexpected presentation made to us at the November evening meeting.
The flowers & wine are lovely & most enjoyable, but the highlight has to be the beautifully crafted model of the Society's logo.
It has pride of place in our hall and reminds us of the good times spent walking & surveying. We will continue to support the Society in any way we can and thank you all again for such a lovely thoughtful gift.

Hazel & Kelvin

A selection of photographs taken during the last three month's walks showing members enjoying a wide range of different landscapes and the gorgeous autumn colours.

Whilst walking on the Isle of Wight the group shot is taken at Tennyson Down. The granite Celtic cross was erected in 1897 and is dedicated to the Victorian Poet Laureate, Lord Tennyson.



The Needles can be seen in the background.











WINTER 2026/27 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 leave enough time to travel and get ready so that the walk can start on time.**

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 07816962999 or email denise.chesterman@gmail.com

Tues 1st Dec 10.00am	**Sandleheath** Meet in the lay-by on Court Hill between Sandleheath and Damerham for a winter walk. **Book**.	Tim 07973657527	OL22 SU118154 5 miles
Sat **5th Dec** **10.00am**	**Wherwell, Chilbolton and Longstock** *w3w* ***fakes.sanded.hound*** SP11 7JN Park at Wherwell Cricket Club, Longparish Rd, for a walk through some of Hampshire's prettiest villages and through Longstock Park. Paths along River Test chalk stream and old railway line. No stiles. Bring lunch. **Book.**	Andy J Text 07880498021	Exp 131 SU395414 9.5 miles
Wed 9th Dec 10.00am	**Mince Pie Walk - Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard** Meet at Beaulieu pay NFDC CP behind car saleroom. A gentle walk on gravel tracks to meet with non walkers at Bucklers Hard for a mince pie and mulled wine, only those in festive gear! Other refreshments to share welcome. **Book.**	Bill 07709180329	OL22 SU386021 4.5 miles
Mon **14th Dec**	**Christmas Party Event** Greyfriars. More details in Waymark. **Book by 7/12**	Bill 07709180329	
Wed 16th Dec 10.00am	**Denny Wood** *w3w* ***spun.inflict.ruling*** Meet at Mately Wood pay CP for primarily a woodland walk, along gravel tracks and forest paths. Few muddy patches, no stiles, a few gentle slopes. **Book.**	Sue 07857642855	OL22 SU332074 5.5 miles
Tues 29th Dec 10.00am	**Twixmas Walk** *w3w* ***coolest.bookcases.nurture*** Meet at Appleslade pay CP for a relatively flat walk to The High Corner Inn for coffee where non walkers are welcome to join us at about 11.00am. Some stiles. **Book.**	Andy and Liz 01425472422 07949608633	OL22 SU184093 4-5 miles
Fri 1st Jan 11.30am	**Barney Memorial Walk** *w3w* ***skillet.blanks.officer*** Meet at Ashley Walk pay CP for a walk on gravel and forest tracks. Some hills, no stiles, could be wet. Everyone welcome at Fighting Cocks for post walk refreshment. **Book.**	Ruth 07593783925	OL22 SU186156 3-4 miles
Thurs 7th Jan 10.00am	**Setley** w3w ***exact.stability.surpassed*** Meet at free small CP south of Filly PH. Lift share if possible. Gravel paths, fields and quiet roads. 1 stile, mostly flat. **Book.**	Alan 07901686777	OL22 SU302002 about 5 miles
Sat **9th Jan** **10.00am**	**Corfe Castle to Swanage** *w3w* ***ally.splits.speedily*** Start NT Visitor Centre, NT members free. Alt free parking nearby, details from leader. Walk from Corfe Castle to Swanage over Nine Barrow Down and Ballard Down. Steps up and down, some steep. Stiles and some cattle. **Get bus** back to car so bring payment or bus pass. Bring lunch. **Book**.	Keith 07776483958	OL15 SY959825 9 miles
Thurs 14th Jan 10.00am	**Ashley Walk** *w3w* ***skillet.blanks.officer*** Meet at Ashley Walk pay CP, nearest post code SP6 2LN for a New Forest walk with some hills. **Book.**	Deborah Text only 07708876680	OL22 SU186156 5 miles

TIME	**TO SUBMIT WALKS FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME** We need more volunteer walk leaders. You will receive all the support you need. See right for contact details.	Denise 07816962999	denise. chesterman@ gmail.com
Wed 20th Jan 10.00am	**Downton / Charlton All Saints** *w3w* ***lofts.hawks.neater*** Meet at Moot CP, Moot Lane, Downton. Walk along footpaths including part of AVP. Some quiet roads, couple of stiles, fairly level. Could be some mud. **Book**.	Clare Text 07967483761	Exp 130 SU182214 approx 4.5 miles
Sun **24thJan** **10.00am**	**Mottisfont** *w3w* ***pram.witty.those*** Meet at Spearywell Wood CP. Small, so please car share. Walk woodland and field paths, some quiet roads. Some hills but no steep climbs. Few stiles. Bring lunch. **Book**.	Denise Text 07816962999	Exp 131 SU316277 9-10 miles
Thurs 28th Jan 10.00am	**Kingfisgher Barn** *w3w* ***cloud.urban.sings*** Meet in Stour Valley Nature Reserve CP for a flat walk along the Stour via Parley Green and Throop Mill. A couple of stiles and mud! **Book**.	Jo Text 07969633830	OL22 SZ096959 7 miles
Tues 2nd Feb 10.00am	**Broad Chalke** *w3w* ***camp.bulbs.hill*** Meet at The Hut/Lodge Farm byway off the Martin to Broad Chalke Rd for a walk of good views, 1 gentle hill, no stiles and some road walking. **Book.**	Peter Text 07985028536	Exp 130 SU039224 6 miles
Sat **6thFeb** **10.00am**	**Child Okeford** *w3w* ***worksheet.rags.plant*** Meet in Child Okeford opposite The Bakers Arms PH and possibly church CP for a circular walk via Hod Hill and Iwerne Minster. Mostly grassland. 2 hills. Bring lunch. **Book**	Alan 07901686777	Exp118 ST834127 10 miles
Wed 10th Feb 10.00am	**Milkham** *w3w* ***vase.concerned.overlaid*** Meet at Milkham pay CP. Walk across Milkham Bottom, through Roe Inclosure and back through Milkham Inclosure. **Book.**	Phil W Text 07801621818	OL22 SU101218 approx 5 miles
Wed 17th Feb 10.00am	**Moyles Court** *w3w* ***editor.ranted.conquests*** Meet at free NT 'Sandpit 'CP. Walk includes Rockford Common and Appleslade and Great Linford Inclosures. No stiles, could be a bit muddy. 2 slight inclines. **Book**.	Alison and Mike 01725511000 07786870442	OL22 SU164083 4.5 miles approx
Sun **21stFeb** **10.00am**	**Fritham** *w3w* ***alien.dips.testy*** Meet at Cadman's Pool pay CP for a woodland and heath walk around Fritham. A couple of moderate slopes. No stiles. Bring lunch. **Book**	Liz and Andy 01425472422 07949608633	OL22 SU229123 Approx7 miles
Wed 24th Feb 10.00am	**Keyhaven** *w3w* ***rural.applied.assurance*** Meet at Woodside Playing Fields CP (Pennington). Mainly flat, couple of stiles. Good views across Solent to IoW. Plenty of birds, bring binoculars. ? Chequers at end. **Book**.	Bill 07709180329	OL22 SZ321942 Approx 5 miles
Thurs 25th Feb 7.30pm	**Greyfriars** Presentation on Blashford Lakes. See Waymark for details.	Bill 07709180329	
Thurs 4th Mar 10.00am	**Burley** *w3w* ***tight.perplexed.hidden*** Meet at Burley Cricket Pitch pay CP for a New Forest walk with some hills. **Book.**	Deborah Text only 07708876680	OL22 SU215029 5 miles
Sun **7th Mar** **10.00am**	**Great Wishford and Grovely Wood** Meet at Grovely Wood CP, Great Wishford, more details to follow on Spring Programme.	Andy J Text 07880498021	6.5 miles
Mon 15th March	**AGM** At Greyfriars. More details to follow in next Waymark		