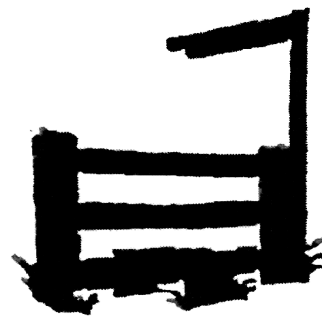


# WAYMARK



Web. [www.rffs.org.uk](http://www.rffs.org.uk) Email. [info@rffs.org.uk](mailto:info@rffs.org.uk)

## News from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society

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Vice Chairman	Vacant	
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Membership Secretary	Tim Daykin	01425 654977
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### The Way Ahead

All, every time I sit down to write my address in Waymark I think what am I going to talk about. But apart from the usual news, there is always something topical. Some good and some bad.

But let's start out positively. As we move into the New Year the days get longer, the relentless rain and storms have abated, the evenings lighter and birds are starting to sing. We have managed to do some interesting well attended walks through the winter months, and hopefully the same for the spring programme.

We have had a couple of new walk leaders but always need more people to come forward. If you are interested but a bit hesitant there are experienced walk leaders who are more than happy to mentor you. It's a rewarding experience so please give it a go.

The not so good news is that a recent report by Ramblers, showed there are 32,000 access restrictions on rights of way in 2023. This is a 4,000 increase from 2022. This clearly indicates why we should all do what we can to

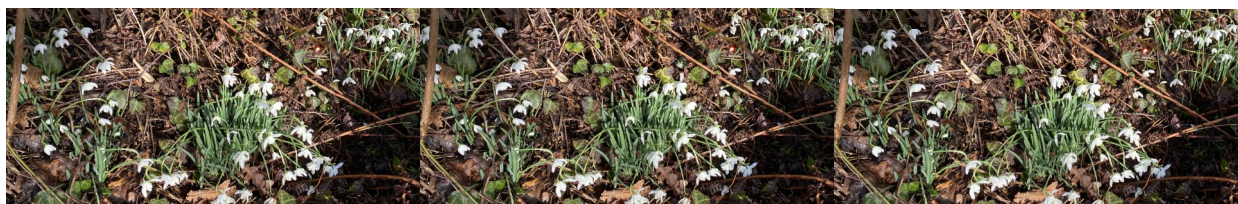
keep footpaths open, whether it is walking them physically, working on them, or writing/notifying local authorities.

We do have a small core of volunteers who work on footpath clearance activities, updating signage, etc. As the days get longer and with improvements in the weather, we hope to become more active and we would welcome more to join us. It's not as onerous as it sounds.

We have our AGM on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, preceded by a brief presentation by Jim Day, New Forest National Park Ranger starting at 7.30. Please make every effort to attend.

On a much more positive note, this year we celebrate 50 years since our society was founded. To recognize this, we are planning a celebratory lunch at the Old Beams on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, with a guest speaker. We would like as many people as possible to join in this celebration. Menu and further details are attached.

*Bill*



## Path News

The route of the proposed diversion of a section of Fordingbridge Footpath 7 has been visited twice by our Chairman. He found that the section we had objected to because of inadequate drainage has now had drainage pipes installed, which seems to have solved the problem. The other minor problems involving a water pipe on the path surface and a step down onto a vehicle track have also been improved and the path on the ground now agrees with the map of the proposed diversion.

Two paths remain closed due to bridge problems. One is on Ringwood Footpath 35b at the junction with Ringwood Footpath 40 and the other is on the Avon Valley Path from Bickerley Common to Hampshire Hatches. The boardwalk on E.H.&I. Footpath 707 From Highwood Lane to Rockford Common is also closed. It is possible to walk this path without using the boardwalk, but the mud is so deep I doubt that anyone would. Most members of the public continue to walk these paths at their own risk, but we cannot use them as members of the Footpath Society, as our insurance would not be valid.

Bill Morley and Mike Osborne have continued to carry out surveys, mainly of culverts under Rights of Way, but also on the state of the Rights of Way. They have encountered many problems, some of which seem to be software related to the surveying system, as well as the usual problems with signage, gates & stiles. In Hyde they have come across a number of fingerposts that do not seem to be HCC ones indicating Rights of Way that do not exist and/or fail to show those that do. We have not determined who erected the above posts, but will endeavor to correct them using Waymark Disks.

Surveying has been very limited, as many of our routes are impassable due to deep water, which obviously is bad for walkers as well as surveyors. Let us hope we have a dry Spring and can enjoy walking in more of our local countryside.

*Kelvin Winch*

## Final call for this year's subs

The annual subs for membership of the society are due from the AGM. Please can I ask those members who have yet to contribute for the current year 23/24 to do so as soon as possible so we can close the list. The most effective way is by bank transfer direct to the Society's account:

Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society, Lloyds (Ringwood)

Sort code 30-97-08

Account Number 01734444

If you would prefer to send a cheque that's fine, please e-mail me [membership@rffs.org.uk](mailto:membership@rffs.org.uk) and I'll send details.

Subs for the year 24/25 will be due from the AGM on 18 March 2024 and remain at £4 for an individual and £6 for a couple. Thank you for your support during the last year.

*Tim Daykin*

## Somerley Tip

Hampshire County Council is considering the closure of the Somerley Household Recycling Centre as a cost cutting initiative. I know councils are under pressure with tight budgets and trying to cut costs. But I and many others think this is a very bad move. It will most likely result in increased fly tipping in the forest and neighbouring areas, with a detrimental impact to the environment, wild life and life in general. Plus, those who want to dispose of waste materials responsibly will have to travel to Efford (Lymington) or Romsey.

Do we really want all that extra traffic through the forest? Not really environmentally friendly. There is a consultation period that runs to the end of March, the consultation can be found at: [www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation) there are also on-line petitions. So, I would ask you all, even if you do not personally use the facility to contest its closure for the sake of our environment, and sign up to a petition.

*Bill*



## AGM - March 2024

Monday 18th March at 7.30pm - AGM at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood

Guest Speaker - Jim Day, New Forest National Park Ranger

A selection of photos taken of Members enjoying a range of walks during the winter where we experienced a variety of terrains and weather conditions.



Members enjoying mince pies and refreshments on our walk from Beaulieu to Buckler's Hard. You can see the marina on the river Hamble in the background .



Walking around Woodgreen and Hale we encountered icy conditions but had good views of the flooded Avon valley.



During our Lindford Bottom walk we encountered a cow separated from its herd and duly reported it to the New Forest Rangers.



A beautiful but cold day in January. We began our walk at Rockford Common and strode up to the remains of the Huff Duff high frequency directional station, and the ruins of an air raid bunker.



## SPRING 2024 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 desperately need more volunteers to lead walks. Help and support will be provided. Please contact walks secretary, Denise Chesterman on 01425479339/07816962999 or email [denise@chesterman.co.uk](mailto:denise@chesterman.co.uk)

Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00am	<b><u>Woodlands</u></b> Meet at Busketts Lawn CP. Gentle walk through woodland and quiet country lanes. No significant hills, 2-3 stiles and could be wet in places. <b>Book!</b>	Bill 01425480245 07709180329	OL22 SU311111 5 miles
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.30am	<b><u>One Way Walk from Breamore to Fordingbridge</u></b> Meet opposite Breamore Village Hall. There is no parking so take X3 bus from Ringwood (10.01), Fordingbridge (10.13), or Downton (10.10). Some stiles and could be muddy. <b>Book!</b> (Last time Tim planned this walk he came down with covid so was unavailable to lead.)	Tim 07973657527	OL22 SU159180 5 miles
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7.30pm	<b><u>AGM @ Greyfriars</u></b> Followed by speaker, see Waymark for details.		
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00am	<b><u>Ebbesbourne Wake and the Chalke Valley</u></b> Meet at village hall CP, Pound Street in Ebbesbourne Wake, SP5 5JD <i>W3W dentures.building.tops</i> for a lovely walk exploring the picturesque Chalke Valley. Gradual hills passing through mixed terrain including farm tracks, fields, scrubby woodland and some quiet roads. Could be muddy. Excellent views. <b>Book!</b> The Horse Shoe Inn is worth a visit at the end. Booking advised for lunch.	Chris Text please 07773218173	Exp 118 ST994243 4.5 miles
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.30am	<b><u>Badbury Rings</u></b> <i>W3W funky.hike.bluff</i> Meet at Badbury Rings NT CP (NT members free) for a walk across the rolling countryside of King Down to Witchampton. No steep hills. Bring lunch. <b>Book!</b>	Liz and Andy 07949608633 01425472422	Exp 118 ST959031 7 miles approx
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00am	<b><u>Gussage All Saints</u></b> Meet at CP of Drovers Inn (BH21 5ET) for a walk along Ackling Dyke, footpaths, bridleways, tracks and a little bit of road. Gentle slopes, good views, 1 or 2 stiles, no livestock. May be muddy. <b>Book!</b>	Clare 07967483761	Exp118 SU003106 5 miles approx
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> April 10am	<b><u>Circular Walk around Hale Purlieu</u></b> Meet at Godshill CP for a walk over to Millersford Bottom, on through the Copse and around Hale Purlieu. Will be muddy in places. <b>Book</b> by text please.	Di and Phil <b>Text</b> 07780797499	OL22 SU176160 6 miles
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	<b><u>Ringwood</u></b> Meet at Jubilee Lamp in Ringwood Market Place (parking on street) for a parish walk. The route will depend on ground conditions nearer the time but will be muddy in parts. Bring lunch. <b>Book!</b>	Denise 07816962999	OL22 SU145053 approx 7-8 miles
<b>TIME</b>	<b><u>TO SUBMIT WALKS FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME</u></b> We need more volunteer walk leaders. You will receive all the support you need. See right for contact details.	Denise 01425479339/ 07816962999	<a href="mailto:denise@chesterman.co.uk">denise@chesterman.co.uk</a>

Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	<b>Linford</b> <i>W3W records.admiringly.mural</i> Meet in Linford Bottom CP for a walk on forest tracks. Mud is likely. <b>Book!</b>	Jo 07969633830	OL22 SU181072 Approx 5 miles
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	<b>Dockens Water</b> <i>W3W editor.ranted.conquests</i> Meet at Rockford CP for a walk following the valley formed by Dockens water to Ogdens Purlieu where crossing may be wet. Mainly on forest paths. With luck we hope to see apple blossom at Appleslade. <b>Book!</b>	Liz and Andy 07949608633 01425472422	OL22 SU164083 5 miles
<b>Sun</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>10.30</b>	<b>Cheriton/Hinton Ampner</b> Meet at Cheriton playing fields CP for a walk that takes in the historical battlefield of Cheriton, Hinton Ampner (NT) and includes parts of Wayfarer's Walk, South Downes and Itchen Way. A mix of gravel tracks and grassy paths over open downland with a few hills. Bring lunch. <b>Book!</b>	Bill 01425480245 07709180329	OL32 SU580284 10-11 miles
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	<b>Wilverley Plain and Hinchelsea</b> <i>W3W motivate.method.ghosts.</i> Meet at Wilverley Plain CP for a mainly heathland walk, some woodland; on paths and tracks including part of disused railway at Set Thorns. Some great views! <b>Book!</b>	Steve 07703351354	OL22 SU253010 5 miles
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 10.30am	<b>Cranborne Castle (Bluebells???)</b> Meet in lay-by on B3078 Alderholt to Cranborne Rd near Mill Farm. Some undulating views, stiles, possible mud and weather dependent Bluebells! <b>Book!</b>	Peter 01425839191 07985028536	OL22 SU076124 5 miles
<b>Sun</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>10.15am</b>	<b>Dorset Hill Forts</b> <i>W3W encrusted.tweaked.revised</i> Meet at Stourpaine Village Hall CP (DT11 8TJ) for a walk through woodland beside the River Stour and over 2 hill forts. Mainly gentle undulations with one steep section. Extensive views. No stiles. Chalk surface potentially slippery so stick recommended. Bring lunch. <b>Book!</b>	Denise 07816962999	Exp 117 ST858095 8.2 miles
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00am	<b>Hatchet Moor, Hatchet Pond, Furzey and Hawkhill.</b> <i>W3W plots.equality.hexes</i> Meet at Hatchet MOOR CP for a varied walk across open heathland, forest paths, gravel tracks and some quiet roads. No stiles. May be mud. Visible remnants of Beaulieu wartime airfields. A pretty spot for a picnic after the walk weather permitting. <b>Book!</b>	Sue 07857642855	OL22 SU365012 5 miles
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am	<b>Corfe to East Creech</b> <i>W3W mistaking.superhero.visitor</i> Meet at Corfe Castle NT CP (NT members free. Non members max 4hrs. Alt parking nearby, details on request) A woodland walk to East Creech with coffee stop at farm cafe. Return via Knowle Hill along the ridge with good views, hills and stiles. Bring lunch. <b>Book!</b>	Liz and Andy 07949608633 01425472422	OL15 SY959824 6 miles
<b>Sat</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>RFFS 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration</b> See Waymark for details		
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Broomy Walk</b> Meet Broomy Walk CP for a gentle walk across Broomy Walk, Amberslade Bottom and Broomy Plain. No stiles but could be wet in places. Possible drinks in Red Shoot after. <b>Book!</b>	Bill 01425480245 07709180329	OL22 SU196099 3.5 miles
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00am	<b>Fritham</b> <i>W3W centuries.seagulls.overdrive</i> Meet at Fritham CP for a mixed woodland and heathland walk. May be muddy in places, no stiles. <b>Book!</b>	Charlie 07951130863	OL22 SU229140 5.5 miles

