

WAYMARK



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News from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society

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The Way Ahead

We have again had a full and varied walks programme, so thanks to all who have contributed. Unfortunately, because of the exceptionally adverse weather conditions some have had to be cancelled/rescheduled. Hopefully as we move into spring these problems will be behind us.

For similar reasons, and the festive break, we have not really made much progress on surveys or clearance activities, but hopefully this will also improve in the coming months.

Car parking charges look to be going ahead and recently in the Salisbury Journal newspaper according to New Forest Councillor David Harrison this would be commencing on 20th April. There is evidence in the forest that Forestry England are progressing with works in preparation for this though some doubt they will be ready as early as that. There is still a lot of opposition to the proposal from many walks of life including cyclists, walkers, horse riders, nature lovers and volunteers. The New Forest National Park Authority also raised concerns, and have posed four specific issues for Forestry

England, these being:

- All income raised in the Forest to be reinvested in the Forest
- Robust measures to counteract displacement parking
- A local concession scheme
- Minimal infrastructure that would impact the character of the Forest

It is my understanding that these issues have still not been fully addressed, but I will endeavour to get some more definitive information before the AGM.

On a more cheerful note, we had a very good Christmas event, well attended and I would like to think a good time was had by all. This was held in Ann Rose Hall which is quite a bit smaller than Greyfriars Hall but is probably better suited to our numbers, and we have a few ideas to further improve the layout. Thanks to all who contributed to making the event a success.

We entered a team into the Greyfriars Quiz Night and against stiff competition, Keith, Ann,

Nicki and Deborah came up a creditable sixth. With reference to guest speakers following our committee meeting on Monday 9th February we had a presentation from Philip Benstead on the Castleman Railway. Also following the AGM in March, we will have a brief presentation from Ann Sevier from the Verderers.

It's always a challenge to find speakers, and ones that don't overlap too much with the other Greyfriars Societies eg Natural History, History or Ringwood Society. Any ideas from members would be welcome.

Finally on a completely different tack, I confess to being a bit old fashioned and like to read my

news in a hard copy paper rather than online. I read a recent article titled "Make your walk do more for your body". There were ten recommendations, some more relating to endurance walkers ref: increasing pace, carrying weights, uphill training, etc. However, the article went on to talk about the physical and mental health benefits of walking for all, particularly if it is in green or blue space (countryside and sea). Even as little as a fifteen-minute walk is beneficial especially if with friends. So, the answer is despite probably the wettest winter in memory as our slogan says " keep walking" and stay positive.

Bill

Path News

The prolonged periods of rain have rendered many of our rights of way impassable or only usable with great difficulty. We would ask our members, please do not report any problems with surface water until the overall water levels reduce to a normal level, unless the high water level is due to a specific problem, such as a stream or culvert blocked by debris.

Despite the weather, Mike Osborne and our Chairman Bill Morley have managed to get out and survey our paths and put right some of the problems they encountered.

On the 20th February we received notification of a made order for the diversion of part of Breamore Footpath No. 10, which is alongside Marshlands on the northern side of Breamore Marsh. We have until the 20th of March to object to this order. We will be objecting, as this order diverts a normally dry section of the path onto permanently wet ground.

HCC Rights of Way CER Kate Martin has repaired the Boardwalks and bridges on Damerham Footpath 2. This path is to the west of Alderholt Mill and connects the Hampshire Rights of Way to those of Dorset at Hawk Hill Mill Farm.

HCC Rights of Way South West have recruited a new Ranger and are now fully staffed. Let us hope they can now make some inroads into the large backlog of problems in our parishes.

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



RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE FOOTPATH SOCIETY

The Society's 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held at Greyfriars, Christchurch Road, Ringwood on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7.30 p.m. Your attendance at this meeting will be appreciated.

The Agenda will be as follows:-

1. To read the Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting and to deal with any matters arising therefrom.
2. To receive the Chairman's Report.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report, to adopt the accounts and to fix the subscription for the current year.
4. To elect the Society's Officers – viz Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor.
5. To elect up to seven Committee Members.
6. To deal with any other business at the Chairman's discretion.

Nominations for officers and committee members should be made on the form below which when completed should be returned to me no later than 2 March 2026. Please note that the consent of nominees must be obtained.

14 February 2026

Jan Brian (Honorary Secretary)

E-mail: janbrian22@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07856 899169



Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman			
Vice Chairman			
Hon. Secretary			
Hon. Treasurer			
Hon. Auditor			
Committee (up to 7)			

SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK

Anne and Keith are organising a Summer Solstice Walk on Sunday 21st June, meeting at Abbots Well car park at 4.45am.



After watching the sunrise, there will be a 5 mile walk, followed by breakfast at The Potting Shed. More details to follow.....

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has brought their subs up to date in advance of our AGM.

At last year's AGM it was agreed that there would be an increase, so the new rates are:

Individual Member £5 and for a couple £8.

This applies from the AGM until further notice. Standing Orders really help with the record keeping as they save a huge amount of time reminding members that their subs are due so, please consider setting one up ideally for 1 April each year. If you already have a Standing Order, please amend it to pay the new rates.

If I can be of any help with membership matters then please contact me. Thank you for your support. The Society has a very healthy membership and that really does matter to the work we do.

Tim Daykin membership@rffs.org.uk



Members enjoying a couple of dry walks at the end of 2025 including our Mince Pie walk - hence the Christmas headgear on display!

SPRING 2026 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**



Thurs 5 th March 10.00am	Frogham w3w <i>tapes.intruders.emerald</i> Meet at Abbots Well CP for a walk via Hampton Ridge and Pitts Wood Inclosure mostly on gravel tracks. Book	Alan 07901686777	OL22 SU178129 4.5 miles
Wed 11 th Mar 10.00am	Verwood and Stephen's Castle w3w <i>rural.printers.teams</i> Meet at Potters Wheel CP for a walk to Stephen's Castle viewpoint. Book.	Anne and Keith Text 07585703088	OL22 SU087091 4.5 miles
Sun 15 th Mar 10.00am	Winchester/Cheesefoot Head Meet at East Winchester Park&Ride (St Catherine's) CP area 1&2. Challenging, including a long uphill walk. Takes in parts of South Downs, Monarch's and Itchen Ways. No stiles. Could be wet/muddy in parts. Bring lunch. Book.	Bill 07709180329	OL32 SU488282 SO23 9NP 12.5 miles
Mon 16th Mar 7.30pm	<u>AGM and Presentation</u> Greyfriars Presentation: Ann Sevier from the Verderers.	Bill 07709180329	
Wed 18 th Mar 10.00am	Millyford Bridge w3w <i>restores.eyeliner.rebounds</i> Walk through Millyford Bridge Inclosure mostly along gravel tracks and up across Acres Down. Some gentle slopes, wet and muddy patches. No stiles or roads. Book.	Sue 07857642855	OL22 SU268078 4.5-5 miles
Thurs 26 th Mar 10.30am	Holmsley w3w <i>sprains.servants.exactly</i> Meet at Holmsley CP (BH24 4HX) for a walk through enclosure and open moorland. Not too hilly, could be wet in places. Book.	Deborah Text only 07708876680	OL22 SU222011 5 miles
Thurs 2 nd April 10.00am	Langley Wood and Hamptworth Park in layby/rough ground opposite The Cuckoo Inn SP5 2DU Mixture of footpaths, gravel track and minor road through woodland and fields. 4 stiles, some mud likely. Book.	Clare Text 07967483761	OL22+ Exp 131 SU244196 5 miles
Wed 8 th April 10.30am	Badbury Rings w3w <i>funky.hike.bluff</i> Meet at Badbury Rings NT CP (members free) for a walk across the rolling countryside of King Down. Track and paths, no steep hills. Book.	Liz and Andy 01425472422 07949608633	Exp 118 ST959030 5 miles approx
Sun 12 th April 10.00am	Horton BH21 7JA w3w <i>jobs.recent.rave</i> Meet at Horton and Chalbury Village Hall. Circular walk through open countryside and woodland. Some hills and stiles. £2 per car donation to VH. Bring lunch. Book.	Bill 07709180329 01425480245	Exp 118 SU032075 8 miles
Thurs 16 th April 10.00am	Hale's Ancient Tree Walk w3w <i>spires.rush.genius</i> Meet at Hale Village Hall CP for a walk to enjoy the ancient oaks, beech, yew and a rare black poplar tree. Walking along Lady's Mile to Higher End Farm, over Archers' Bridge and back up through Hale Park. Stiles and some mud. Book.	Di and Phil Text 07780797499	OL22 SU193191 5.5 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
Wed 22 nd April 10.00am	<u>Barton Common</u> <i>w3w typified.tricky.mile</i> Meet at Barton Common CP for a walk to Downton and back through the golf course. Limited parking so please car share if possible. Book.	Anne and Keith Text 07585703088	OL22 SZ247932 5 miles
Sat 25 th April 10.00am	<u>Linford/Oakly Wood</u> <i>w3w turned.boring.allowable</i> Meet at Linford CP for a heath and woodland walk, some ancient. No significant hills. Bring lunch. Book.	Alan 07901686777	OL22 SU181072 10 miles
Friday 1 st May 3.00pm	<u>Sixpenny Brewery, Bluebells, Beer and Pizza</u> <i>w3w coughed.will.listen</i> Park in brewery CP. For a walk with some hills and stiles. Buy drinks after from the brewery and pizza from Orchard Bay Bakery. Book.	Peter Text 07985028536	OL22 SU066133 4.5-5 miles
Tues 5 th May 6.00pm	<u>Three Ponds Walk</u> <i>w3w taller.episodes.bond</i> Meet in CP by Janesmoor Pond for an evening walk. The route is fairly flat via Oknell Pond and Cadman's Pool. Book.	Jo 07969633830	OL22 SU247136 5.5 miles
Wed 13 th May 10.30am	<u>Studland to Ballard Down</u> <i>w3w link.beards.swims</i> Meet at Studland Village NT CP (members free) for a coastal walk via Old Harry. Some hills, stunning scenery. Picnic after. Book.	Liz and Andy 01425472422 07949608633	OL15 SZ037825 5.5 miles
Sun 17 th May 10.00am	<u>Fordingbridge</u> <i>w3w waxer.estimate.format</i> Meet in Fordingbridge Recreation Ground free CP for a circular walk around Fordingbridge. Stiles, muddy paths possible. Bring lunch. Book.	Denise Text 07816962999	OL22 SU150138 Approx 8 miles
Wed 20 th May 10.00am	<u>Cadman's Pool</u> <i>w3w alien.dips.testy</i> Meet at Cadman's Pool CP. A walk through Holly Hatch Inclosure, up Ragged Boys Hill & through Sloden Inclosure. Back across Fritham and Ocknell Plains. Two climbs, no stiles, forest paths and gravel tracks. Book.	Phil W Text 07801621818	OL22 SU229123 6 miles.
Thurs 28 th May 6.00pm	<u>Hyde</u> Meet at Hyde School for a short evening walk. Book.	Deborah Text only 07708876680	OL22 SU169125 3 miles
Sun 31 st May 10.00am	<u>Dinton, Baverstock and Compton Chamberlayne</u> Meet at NT CP St Marys Rd, Dinton. The walk will take us through Dinton Pk, with views of Philipps House and crosses the River Nadder. Fields, paths and quiet lanes. Undulating. Bring lunch. Book.	Andy J Text 07880498021	Exp 118+130 SU009315 8.5 miles
Wed 3 rd June 10.30am	<u>Pitton Circular</u> <i>w3w edge.assembles.mimics</i> Meet at Pitton Village Hall (SP5 1EB) opposite Silver Plough pub for a circular walk taking in Clarendon Palace ruins. No stiles or difficult terrain. Book	Chris Text 07773218173	Exp 131 SU212312 4.8 miles
Sun 21 st June 4.45am	<u>Summer Solstice Walk</u> Meet at Abbots Well CP. Walk followed by breakfast at the Potting Shed. More details to follow.	Anne and Keith 07585703088	OL22 SU178128 5 miles