

DORSET

FOOTNOTES

Newsletter of the Dorset Area of the Ramblers Association

ISSUE NO. 75

Autumn 2016

A National Park proposed for Dorset and East Devon



Corfe Castle Village, Dorset by Dr Rob Jayne

Interest is growing in a proposed National Park first suggested in 1945. The National Park would include the World Heritage Coast from near Exmouth to Poole Harbour, the Dorset and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and what remains of Thomas Hardy's "Egdon Heath." The Ramblers Association nationally, as well as in Dorset and East Devon, have welcomed this initiative.

The Team which submitted the proposal to Natural England (the relevant Government agency) say a National Park would benefit the economy and local communities as well as the environment.

A recent report for Dorset County Council emphasises that Dorset's environment is its greatest economic asset, worth around £1.5bn a year. A National Park, and the National Park brand, would add even greater value. A healthy and well looked after environment goes hand in hand with a thriving economy and thriving local communities.



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Area Annual General Meeting – 19th November 2016

The Area AGM will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday the 19th November 2016 in Stourpaine Village Hall, Havelins, Stourpaine, DT11 8TJ. The OS Grid Reference ST 8579 0955.

This link may also be useful to some <http://www.stourpaine.info/villagehall/>

There will be a morning walk starting at 10.00am via Hod Hill, Stour Valley Way and Jubilee Trail with splendid views (weather permitting). The walk will be 3 to 4.5 miles with the intention of returning by 1.00pm. Please consult your walk programme for further details.

Catering

In a change from previous years the AGM will be different to try to encourage more members to attend. Following the walk there will be an “American Lunch” at 1pm. For those not familiar with these events the idea is that we each bring along a plate of food to share with other members. There is complete free choice as to what you bring - sandwiches, cakes, salad, etc. Not too much but enough to share with a few others.

Even if you don't come on the walk please come for the lunch. The hall will be open from 9am so food can be left there. We will be providing wine and soft drinks with the lunch.

As usual there will be tea/coffee and cakes at the end

Elections of Members of Area Council and Officers not on Area Council

Positions which will be available for nomination and election at the Annual General Meeting are:

President ** Vice President ** Chairman Vice Chairman Secretary Treasurer

Area Footpath Secretary

Newsletter Editor++

Coastal Access Officer ++

Publicity Officer ++

Webmaster ++

Countryside Secretary ++

Individual Members (3)

Representatives of Affiliated Clubs

Note: All positions are open for nomination at the AGM

++ Officers who are not necessarily required to be Members of Area Council

** Honorary Positions where the holder is not a member of Area Council

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker this year will be Dave Stewart, a local archaeologist talking about Hod Hill and geophysical survey results which we expect will be of interest to many of our members

Area Council Report

This report gives a summary status of Dorset Area Ramblers' Association. A full report will be available at the AGM or can be obtained by writing to the Area Secretary enclosing a C5 size (162mm x 229mm) SAE after November 1st 2016. It will also be available for download from the Dorset Area Website <http://www.dorset-ramblers.org.uk>

Overview

This has been an interesting year with the following worthy of note:

The introduction of **Big Pathwatch** as a method for checking the state of the Rights of Way in England and Wales appears, from the preliminary results, to have been successful. The full report has been delayed until November so may perhaps be available by the time of the AGM. We will add a link to the News section of the Area Website.

The England Coast Path project is progressing albeit somewhat slowly with the section between Brean Down and Minehead in Somerset opening in March and two sections in the West of Dorset being progressed.

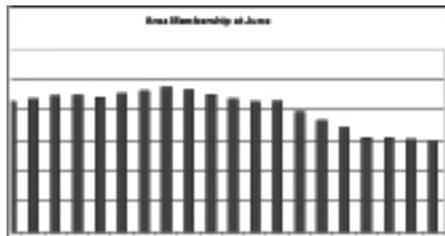
Vanessa Griffiths, our new Chief Executive

Our Chief Executive Benedict Southworth announced his resignation at General Council this year. Vanessa Griffiths has been appointed our new Chief Executive. Vanessa joins the Ramblers from National Trust Wales, where she was responsible for leading the Trust's North Wales team of staff and volunteers.



Membership

Dorset Area Membership continues to decline but only very slowly so perhaps there is hope that it may stabilise or indeed increase in the future.



Annual Area Picnic

This is now an annual event and the venue this year for the Area Picnic was the Mary Baxter Memorial on Knowle Hill. After last year's washout we were rewarded with a lovely day and stunning views. A record of eight group walks took part and a total of 89 ramblers met at the picnic site.

General Council 2016

There is a full report in this edition of Dorset Footnotes but for me the main thing to come out of it is the dropping of the Governance Review which wasn't supported by the volunteers nationally and is a great relief to the many volunteers in Groups and Area in Dorset.

Area Footpath Committee

It has, as always, been a busy year for the Dorset Area Footpath Committee and a brief report on this will be included in the full report previously mentioned.

Group Activities

I have not reported on Group activities. The formal report, available at the AGM, will report on individual group activities.

Jim Scott, Area Secretary

Ramblers General Council – A Mixed Bag

This year's General Council (GC) was held at the University of York on its Heslington Campus. York University was founded in 1963 with 230 students, it now has approximately 15,000.

The main business of GC was on Sunday 23rd April, although delegates were asked to arrive by 16.00 on the previous day. Delegates from Dorset were Peter Evans and Mike Heckford.

Saturday's agenda was described as informal but started with a presentation from Benedict Southworth on the previous year's work of the Ramblers and his announcement that he was leaving the Ramblers as Chief Executive (CE) [in July 2016].

The CE's report was followed by Candidate Hustings. Luckily this year there was no controversy and only four nominees for three vacancies on the Board of Trustees (B of T). Allowing time for nominees to inform GC for their reasons for applying is fair enough, but the following question session is in my opinion time consuming and totally useless.

After 'Dinner' we were requested to attend an informal meeting to discuss the Governance issue as this was likely to dominate GC the following day. However, instead of the expected discussion and debate, we were asked just to carry out a survey on the Governance proposals and as the results were not to be announced at GC, this exercise seemed to me to be pointless.

The highlight of CG for me was an evening walk arranged by the local York Group around the snickleways (lanes and alleyways) of York centred on York Minister. 90 minutes of sheer delight.

As already mentioned, the main agenda for GC was on Sunday and started with 90 minutes of formality - apologies, appointment of various people including the Auditors, Minutes of 2015 GC, the Agenda Committee Report and finally the Ramblers Annual Report and the Accounts, this included verbal reports from the Directors of the Ramblers Welsh and Scottish Offices. Their achievements sounded impressive with a low level of staffing, money and resources.

After voting had taken place for the B of T and the Agenda Committee, two hours had passed before we got to the meat of GC, the motions, with only 2 ¾ hours left to debate and vote on the 12 motions listed plus a further emergency motion. Clearly this would not be enough time and so it proved with the final seven motions being remitted to the B of T for consideration.

Owing to the change to the timetable of GC this year, Peter and I had to leave early to get home at

a reasonable time that evening, even so, when I left with only 45 minutes left for debate, only six motions had been dealt with. Two more were dealt with in the final 45 minutes.

The first motion debated was to accept a revised, but admittedly unfinished, version of the Ramblers' Memorandum of Articles and Standing Orders, this was carried. There were two motions to amend Standing Orders, one was lost and one carried. Then there were three motions on Governance; 'Getting Governance back on track', carried by one vote. The vote from Dorset were against. A motion on 'Governance of area and groups' was carried but this asked the B of T to recognise that areas and groups were run by volunteers not paid officials. The final motion on governance was a call on the B of T 'to end the Governance review', this was also carried. Apart from a procedural emergency motion to re-introduce background notes for motions, also carried, the final motion to be debated and carried was about 'Communication'. This requested a scheme be introduced to improve communication between the B of T, Areas and GC members. The remaining seven motions were remitted, all important to the Areas that were to move them, but as expected time had run out. The subjects were on Rights of Way Network, Rail Crossings, Policy Guidance, Lost Ways, Family Membership and finally a Barcode on membership cards.

To summarise, not a very impressive GC, the work being bogged down by the few who feel they have to speak on almost every subject and a chair (not unique to this GC) that feels that it does not matter if the business on the agenda is completed.

Mike Heckford



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The Ramblings of Three Rusty Zips

An occasional series on the meanderings of three late middle-aged gentlemen and a cross channel swimmer through Dorset and beyond.

With Cathay the Papillion now unable to walk long distances we found another, occasional, companion who in his youth swam the channel and still competes in the 'Round Brownsea Island' swimming competition. Due to his swimming commitments he is an occasional companion and, unlike Cathay, is not fawned over in our lunch time hostelryes.

With summer fast disappearing we decided to walk the South Downs and Clarendon Ways making a complete walk from Shoreham-by-Sea to Salisbury.

Stage 1 South Downs Way Link – 15/08/13 Shoreham-by-Sea to Amberley (17 miles)

The original three rusty zips set off at 07:30 in Peter's van to meet Tim's brother at Amberley for onward carriage to Shoreham town centre where we had completed the Monarch's Way in August the previous year. The weather was cloudy with some sun, warm but not oppressive. We found amazing views across Steyning Bowl then past acres of free range pigs, many of whom had dug pits to sun bathe in. With the highest point being only 746 feet there was no excessive climbs. We partook lunch at The Frankland Arms in Washington with a baguette and Sharp's Doombur, finally completing our trip in Amberley at 17:30

Stage 2 South Downs Way – 29/08/13 Amberley to Harting Down (20 miles)

Due to personal reasons Peter called off at the last minute so only two left Dorset at 06:30 to drive to my old school friend's house at Rowlands Castle. After a full English breakfast we were driven to Amberley to start the next stage. Lovely sunny day and surprisingly warm. We stopped for coffee on Bignor Hill and could see from Brighton to The Isle of Wight. Ascents and descents not too onerous the highest point being 767 feet. We stopped for lunch at the 'five boots' hostelry The Bluebell where we were joined by Roy for the last eight miles to Harting Down. Here we were met by his wife to be driven back to our car at their house and then back to Dorset.

Stage 3 South Downs Way – 05/09/13 Harting Down to Exton (16 miles)

The three rusty zips and Bob drove to Exton where we were collected by taxi and driven to Harting Down. Hot, sunny day and fairly level walking to Queen Elizabeth Country Park where we stopped for a welcome ice cream before the long climb to the top of Butser Hill. After a picnic lunch we enjoyed easy walking with Hyden Wood giving welcome shelter from the hot sun. After another climb to Wether Down we descended to Whitewood Farm for tea and cake at Meon Springs Fly Fishery. Suitably refreshed we walked past Old Winchester Hill to Exton for a much needed pint of 6X at The Shoe before driving home to Dorset.

Stage 4 South Downs Way – 15/09/13 Exton to Winchester (12 miles)

Just the three rusty zips drove to Winchester to be collected by the same taxi driver on stage 3 to be driven to Exton. A good hard climb to Beacon Hill where we met the Monarch's Way. Here we stopped for coffee before continuing to The Milbury's pub in Beauworth. Nice country pub but an eccentric landlord who decided to remove a birds nest from the chimney as we were eating lunch. Soot and dust everywhere. I found the situation rather amusing but the other rusty zips were not amused and insisted we left the pub without a second beer! The pub was awarded 'zero boots'. The last eight miles were via Gander Down and Chilcomb to Winchester city centre where we stopped for a welcome pot of tea before commencing the drive back to Dorset.

Stage 5 Clarendon Way – 15/10/13 Winchester to Broughton (16 miles)

Due to personal reasons Peter had relocated from Dorset to Surrey. Tim, Bob & I caught the 07:15 train from Wool to Winchester where we met Peter for a cup of coffee at the station buffet. We then set off on a three-mile trek around the outskirts of the city then on a long straight Roman road via Farley Mount to The Crown at Kings Somborne. Here we enjoyed a good lunch washed down with plenty of real ale. The pub was awarded 'five boots'. We then found ourselves walking The Monarch's way in reverse for a short way to The Tally Ho! Inn, Broughton for tea and cake and collection for the drive home by spouse Diana.

Stage 6 Clarendon Way – 29/10/13 Broughton to Salisbury (12½ miles)

Companion Bob drove to Salisbury central car park where we met Peter and then continued to Broughton. From Broughton we walked 7½ miles to The Silver Plough at Pitton. A lovely pub with good food and a range of well-kept real ales. Unanimously awarded 'five boots' and with reluctance we eventually left for the last five miles to Salisbury cathedral. Peter then drove us back to Broughton where we had tea and cake at The Tally Ho! Inn before driving back to Dorset and Surrey.

Laurie Fairhurst

<p>Zip's Boot Rating for Hosteleries - The scheme has a maximum of five boots that can be awarded with five criteria: One - Is it papillon friendly? Two - Is the ale of good quality? Three - Is the food good? Four - Is it friendly and welcoming? Five - The overall ambience.</p>
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Changes to Rights of Way in Dorset

Orders affecting changes to the following rights of way have been confirmed since Issue 74 and effectively cover the period from May to August 2016. If you would like more details please send a DL (9"x4¼") stamped, self-addressed envelope marked ROW to the Area Footpath Secretary (address on page 7)

Note: PINS is the abbreviation for the Planning Inspectorate – the Government agency that deals with opposed Orders which are seeking to either:-

- create, divert or extinguish rights of way
- modify the definitive map and statement for an area

They also deal with unopposed orders which require modification in some way.

Please be aware that the planning inspectorate website is now incorporated into the gov.uk website. The link for Rights of Way and Access is: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/outdoor-access-recreation/rights-of-way-open-access>



Confirmed Orders

(# identifies any New Numbers)

Anderson BR7:] Modification to upgrade to RBs (same numbers.)
Winterborne Kingston BR22:	
Ashmore FP10 (part):	Extinguishment (HA 1980, S118)
Batcombe BR24:] Following Interim Decision by PINS to confirm upgrade to RBs, with modifications, Final Decision by PINS to confirm BRs.
Leigh BR63:	
Iwerne Courtney FP14 (part):	Stopping Up (T&CPA 1990, S257)
Long Bredy BR38 (part):] Modification to upgrade to RBs. The short section of BR38
Long Bredy BR39:	to be re-numbered as a continuation of RB39
Swanage FP102(part):	Diversion (HA 1980, S119).

Unless otherwise stated, the above Orders are confirmed under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(Section 53A (2))

Long Term Temporary Closures/Diversions under Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984: Section 14(1) (Note that unless otherwise stated, the following Orders are Under Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984: Section 14(1))

Blandford Forum FP2:	From ST 88375 06266 to ST 88317 06302. From 01.07.16 for 6 months. Construction work. Anticipated completion by 26.08.16. Alternative route available.
Hurn FP3 (part):	From SZ 10723 97305 to SZ10772 97323. From 16.05.16 for 26 weeks. Wessex Water work. Anticipated completion by 28.08.16. Alternative route available.
Shroton FP14:	From ST 85976 12650 to ST 85900 12631. From 12.09.16 for 6 months. Anticipated completion by 04.12.16. Alternative route available.
Symondsburry FP33 (part):	From SY 4568 9062 to SY 4527 9095. From 29.08.16 to 19.09.16 EMERGENCY ORDER - will be extended for a further 6 months after the 18.09.16 as the footpath is unsafe. Alternative Route is the SWCP signed route.
West Parley FP26 (part):	From SZ 075 983 to SZ 074 982. From 30.05.16 2016, for a period of 26 weeks. Wessex Water sewer works. Anticipated completion by 12.08.16. Alternative route available
Weymouth FP25 (part):	From SY 705 818 to SY 710 818, from 27.05.16 to 26.11.16. Landslips, making path non-existent. Alternative route using SWCP.

News: just heard that there is to be a Public Inquiry into the Abbotsbury stretch of the Lyme Regis - Rufus Castle section of the England Coast Path (Dorset's second stretch) on November 1st at Dorchester Town Hall.

Please Note: All the above closures are for Health and Safety reasons. Any person who uses or permits the use of the footpaths in contravention of any of the above orders will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.)

Jan Wardell

A date for your diary - Ramblers - East Dorset Group

Purbeck Plod - Sunday 25 June 2017

25 miles starting and finishing in Swanage - Details in Footnotes 76

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