



# DORSET FOOTNOTES

Newsletter of the Dorset Area of the Ramblers Association

ISSUE No. 88

Summer 2021



## Make a Difference

### Ditch Your Covid Blues and Make A Difference - Join the Area Council Team

Have you enjoyed many years of Dorset Rambling? Have you enjoyed the 3,000 miles of Public Rights of Way and the 4,700 miles of Footpath? Do you want to make a real difference to keeping these Rights of Way and Footpaths open and accessible to others? Have you the skills that match the need? Do you want to help others to enjoy the beauty of Dorset and the companionship of Ramblers? **YES?** Read on. Check out [Dorset Area Ramblers](#) to see the difference you could make through your skills and enthusiasm to Dorset Area Council.

### Get to the heart of Rambling in Dorset - Become the Area Secretary

You may be aware that Jan Wardell has been doubling up as Area Footpaths Secretary and during the pandemic as Acting Area Council Secretary. The new post-pandemic normal is on the horizon, and Area Council needs the support of a focused Area Secretary. Jan needs a rest!

Area Secretary is an engaging, varied and satisfying role at the centre of Dorset Area Ramblers. The role would suit someone who enjoys influencing, guiding and signposting to volunteers and onwards to a satisfactory conclusion. Do you have a few hours a week to spare, do you enjoy the challenge of change and do you have a curious mind that you like to stretch? **Then PLEASE consider this!** It may open up new avenues for you and spark an interest you didn't know you had! **Make a real difference to Rambling in Dorset;** It's as much about talking as walking.

Essentially the role involves supporting and advising the Area Chair, including preparing for Area Council meetings, taking and distributing the minutes and liaising with Ramblers Central Office. Boring? Anything but! To apply, please follow this [link](#), or if you have any questions about the role, please contact [Jan](#).

### Manage the Jubilee Trail – Always wanted to run a small business; here's your chance!

Twenty-Five years ago, the [Jubilee Trail](#) (JT) was put on the map by the Dorset Area of the Ramblers to celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Association. Rosemary Bramah is the current holder of the Jubilee Trail Baton, but the time has come for that tricky handover. The Ramblers in Dorset and from afar are indebted to Rosemary and her teams for the Jubilee Trails popularity. 'The times they are a changing' and working with Rosemary, the JT monitors, Area Council, and the Area Footpath Committee, a new plan has been agreed to which needs to be managed. This role will implement the Jubilee Trail Plan – yes, equivalent to running your own small business. It's yours to take forward and tweak as required into the new post-pandemic future. **Accountability?** Yes, you will periodically report to Area Council, but you do not need to attend the Area Council Meetings. **Support?** This will come from Groups, and Rosemary will be on hand as you transition into this exciting period of change for the Jubilee Trail.

You are not alone! The Dorset Area Treasurer has volunteered to oversee the sale of the JT Guidebooks, and Stacey from the Dorset Young Walkers will look after the Twitter account. Thanks go to them both, as well as the monitors, for their continuing work.

Please contact [Jan](#) if you are interested in the role and would like more detailed information.

## Ramblers General Council 2021 – A ZOOM Saturday, April 17th.

Yet again, in these Covid Times, the Ramblers' AGM (General Council) had to be held 'virtually' by Zoom conferencing rather than face to face in the NEC, Birmingham. Area delegates were confined to home territory and home wallpaper, duly fortified by sandwiches and drink for the 5 ½ + hour duration. The home weather was glorious, so I pulled down my blinds to stop that 'I want to be out walking' craving. This was also the day of the funeral of HRH Prince Philip; we gave our respects at the appointed hour with one minute's silence.



The virtual conference started with a welcome from our popular President, Stuart Maconie, and after that was guided by our outgoing Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kate Ashbrook. Kate, in turn, was ably supported by the socially distanced Honorary Treasurer Michael Penny and the invisible Simon Kellas. The conference was hosted in the Ramblers' new home at 1 Clink Street, London, which I understand is built on the original site of the 1144 'you're in the clink' prison.

Papers had been circulated in advance of the virtual meeting explaining the voting procedure for the ballots for the Chair, Trustees, and the Motion Review Committee members. The conference used the 'Mi-vote' website (a secure site managed by Mi-Voice, a third party independent company). Polling for motions used the inbuilt Zoom facility, giving instant results much faster than the traditional counting of hands. During the introduction, Kate Ashbrook reminded delegates that we were not representing our Area but the best interest of the Ramblers when voting. Several delegates questioned this during a later break, and Kate agreed that it had not been made clear for some years and will be clearly explained in the future.

Following approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes and appointment of President (Stuart Maconie) and Vice Presidents, the annual report and accounts were introduced by the interim CEO, Tanya Curry and the Hon Treasurer, Michael Penny, respectively. At this point, an honorary life membership award was made to Max Grant for his work in Wales and as a national Trustee.

The slides/video of the presentation by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Honorary Treasurer can be found on the Ramblers website. The 30-minute video 'A Year like no Other'. It is worth a watch as it might answer some of your questions; I had not realised how the People's Postcode Lottery worked until listening to this. Some other the points I noted: were a 400% increase in emails to Volunteer Support during the first weeks of lockdown; £80,000 was received via crowdfunding in one week for [Don't Lose Your Way - Ramblers](#) - 49,000 miles of paths prevented from being lost forever; £160,000 saved by moving the HQ. You might enjoy 'spot the face' with some familiar faces from the South West Cluster Group in the video.

The first round of online voting saw Rebecca Dawson elected as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees and the appointment of another Trustee and members of the Motions Review Committee. The debate on the seven Motions for this year saw most decided with a clear majority apart from an unlucky number 7 – 'Approval of new footpath applications by local committees'. The Chair gave a casting vote against, subsequently overturned by a Point of Order; unlike other meetings, at GC, the Chair does not have a casting vote! Excitement over, the business moved on, and the newly elected Chair, Rebecca Dawson, drew proceedings close. I, for one, was ZOOMed out and headed off to satisfy that 'out walking craving'.

**Jan Wardell, Dorset Area Delegate 2021**

### Purbeck Plod 2021

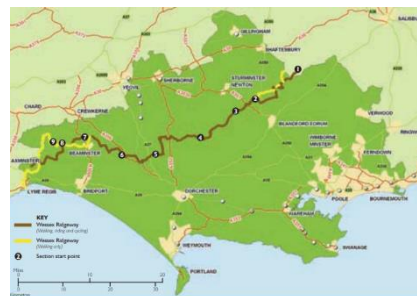
The Purbeck Plod in 2021 was cancelled owing to the uncertainty of coronavirus restrictions in force in June 2021. It is planned to hold this event again in June 2022.

## Surveying Opportunities to Wander The Wessex Ridgeway

***Do you have that get up, get out and go explore feeling? - something positive to do in your own time and at your own pace? YES! – then we have the activity for you!***

The Dorset stretch of [The Wessex Ridgeway](#) (WR) needs 'surveying'. The late Priscilla Houstoun established the WR Route. It was managed by a dedicated Council Ranger for many years but has now been subsumed into the various Regional Rangers work.

The [Great Chalk Way Project](#) has recently approached Dorset Area Ramblers with questions about the state of the WR in Dorset. Unfortunately, we do not have a good overall picture of the route condition and wish to put this right.



If you would like to volunteer to take on a 'one-off' condition survey of a section of the Wessex Ridgeway to suit your preference (length and location to suit you), please contact:

- [Jan Wardell](#), for parishes from Ashmore through to the A352 at Up Cerne, and
- [Sarah Moyle](#) for parishes west of the A352 in Up Cerne, through to Lyme Regis.

You will be given details about how to undertake the survey and record your findings.

**Jan Wardell**

### **Dorset Area AGM - November 27th 2021**

It is hoped to run a normal AGM for 2021, but this will be dependent on Coronavirus restrictions in force in November. Covid permitting the Dorset Area – AGM will be held at 14 00 (2 pm) on Saturday, November 27th 2021, in the St George's Church Hall, High Street, Fordington, Dorchester DT1 1LB or on Zoom at the same date and time

Providing a normal meeting can be held, a morning walk will be planned from the St George's Church Hall starting at 10 30 to finish by 13 00 (1 pm).

Please note there is limited car parking at the Church Hall and the Church Hall should be available for picnic lunches at 13 00 (1 pm).

It is hoped that a guest speaker can be arranged for the meeting.

### **Elections of Members of Area Council and of Officers not required to attend Area Council *All positions are open to nomination and election at the AGM***

President \*\*

*Vice President(s)* \*\* Currently Vacant (May 2021)

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Secretary* \* Currently Vacant – See Page 1

Treasurer

Area Footpath Secretary

Newsletter Editor ++

Membership secretary ++

*Publicity Officer* \*\*\*

*Representative of Affiliated Clubs* \*

Coastal Access Officer ++

Webmaster ++

Countryside Secretary ++

*Individual Members* x 3 \* Currently, two vacancies

*\*Positions in italics vacant in May 2021*

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

++ Officers of area Council who are not required to attend meetings unless they wish to.

An updated AGM Notice and Area Council Report and further details will appear in the next issue of Dorset Footnotes.

**Mike Heckford**

## Tubular Tales with Hazel

The ubiquitous Telescopic Aluminium Stick (TAS) is available in various combinations at gear shops or down-market outlets; the one thing they have in common is that they cost you money!

Squashed down a TAS fits on or in a Big Derek rucksack; rucksack sizes restrict the in-option, but the on-option requires an apprenticeship in matching loops, buckles and bungee cords.

All TAS transporting options require removing the rucksack, usually on a narrow path, a steep slope, or surrounded by nettles and brambles. Alternatively, unbundling transitioning, whilst still free walking, to 'cash' assisted Nordic walking requires multitasking skills. Buy a TAS if you don't intend to stop walking and talking for a view or two. Buy one TAS first, a cheap TAS, as on the first couple of outings together; you are likely to forget to pick it up after a banana break.

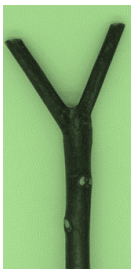
TAS Strength is up and down the apparatus, not against the grain. This knowledge can be helpful when frustration creeps in. I have seen them bent, chopped in two and left disassembled; visible evidence that TAS frustration has led walkers to forget the Countryside Code on Littering.



All TAS assistance packages require a good tip and basket, the plastic bit on end, for bog hopping. Mud attrition, bog bits in the telescopic adjustment paraphernalia, can lead to TAS joints sticking at different lengths, walking with a lean and ibuprofen addiction. Bog bits left to dry results in severe mud attrition and un-sticking with tools that you can't buy, a wet rag cleaning kit and an understandable temptation to use Vaseline to restore the full TAS action. Using Vaseline will, of course, put you on the slide to failure. Taking the Long-life view and varnishing or painting the TAS can lead to Rigor Mortis, the extreme form of mud attrition and a 'TASit' acceptance of a permanent length relationship or breaking up and leaving it all behind you.

Big D is a foliage slasher, a cutting motion rather than a watering can action. He does not like slashing foliage with a TAS; there are too many posts, strands of wire and bramble timber hidden from view. A TAS is not recommended for displacing electric cattle wire up or down; unless you are with a TAS basket case; a bit of slippage can be a shocking experience.

TAS prices and quality vary. They can be colour coordinated to your walking attire, rucksack and mobile phone case. The black basket on the end spoils the streamlined look but can be removed in drought conditions. The tungsten tip provides you with a defence or attack option but brings with it the dreaded TAS gap sticking risk and headbutting terra firma. Big D's Scottish trekking experience advises him that kilts, sporrans and wet plastic handles are also best avoided.



**ES** there is an alternative to the ubiquitous TAS? YES! A DIY combo of Hazel Nettle Slasher and Electric Fence Pusher; available wherever there is a Hazel tree. All you need is a Coppice, a keen eye and access to a person with a knife who loves whittling on; several options are usually available on any Ramblers walk. Use that keen eye to spot a vertical stem with a 'V' or a 'Y- end' for the pedantic. Why a 'Y'? It's not for your thumb but to push away the electric cattle wires, brambles and Adders that are intent on hurting you (while en route to world domination). A green hazel helper may give you a therapeutic tingle if crossed with an electric fence.

A Y-end also provides a practical 'sink in the bog' resistance without risk of Mud attrition; bog materials can be wiped off or left to dry until bramble slashing efficiently removes all traces. The only thing to watch out for is that your hazel helper may take root if you have a long lunch stop.

Hazel helpers are of a maximum fixed length; once cut shorter by a whittler, there is no going back. They are better kept long, adjusting your hand position as required; this also facilitates Big D style double-handed action for robust brambles or confirming a rite of passage on a bridge.

A one-inch diameter (approx.) hazel helper can support Big D (he does not do metric) and provides him with all the slashing options he needs. A variety of diameters are available for wimps and whittlers, with a minimum half-inch diameter recommendation.



Colour-wise, hazel helpers come in various natural greeny brown shades and combos; they can be varnished and painted without damaging their internal workings. If you forget it after the banana break, there will be another one freely available on your walk. If it gets cold, your hazel helper can start a fire or act as a shelter pole with its Y-end.

The choice is yours; go technical, spend money and hours maintaining a TAS or go natural, save money and meet someone with a knife and a love of whittling.

**Derek Watkinson and Doug Pigg**

### **Online or Offline, that is the Question?**

Lockdown has worked in mysterious ways for a swath of older people who found themselves engaging with technology in ways they would never previously have countenanced. Before the pandemic, it might have been "a bit of email", but the lockdown has forced social media's learning curve to shop, bank, socialise, and see the family. Increasing confidence has led to online banking, booking holidays, using comparison sites etc.

When a semblance of normality returns, who will be the pro-covid 19 normality returners and who will see the attraction of online convenience win-out? Are you reading this copy of Footnotes on paper, or have you joined many Dorset Ramblers now receiving E-Footnotes?

Figures from Age UK reveal that younger retirees in England are widely adopting digital technology, with almost 90 per cent of 50-64-year-olds and three-quarters of 65-74-year-olds categorised as "everyday" internet users. They are also using the internet more now than before the pandemic: recent usage has centred on email, online shopping, management of finances and video calls to family and friends.

It's a somewhat less rosy picture among those over 75. Under half are everyday internet users, and only a quarter of them report increased usage since lockdown. Tellingly, that increase is driven mainly by existing users going online more often than digital newcomers. More than 40 per cent of over-75s still do not use the internet at all.

#### **Online basics**

The internet for older people during lockdown has been very much about the basics — the capacity to shop, manage finances, and meet friends and family online. But those willing and able to get to grips with the technology are also in a position to access a host of superior financial services deals unavailable to phone-based customers. The best online savings accounts pay up to 10 times the best interest on the high street.

Similarly, many insurance companies offer preferential online premiums for home insurance and travel insurance. Insurance, utility and phone bills can be further reduced online by simplified "shopping around" through comparison sites that round up quotes from dozens of providers.

For the brave, there is online investing. Hargreaves Lansdown reports enormous growth in older clients trading online: 90 per cent of those aged 75-plus now trade through the website or app, up from about half ten years ago — though of course that still leaves 10 per cent who don't, despite much higher fees for transactions by phone.

As Age UK observes: "While it's true that increasing numbers of older people in the UK are online, there are still almost 2m over-75s [about a third of the total] who are offline, and risk being excluded from an increasingly digital world.

What's stopping them? Many believe that it is the fear of the unknown that is the biggest issue. Support in setting up technology, "little and often" internet classes (formal or informal) and plentiful written notes can all help in that respect. The only way forward with the internet, as with any scary-looking tool, is to become familiar with it.

Web entrepreneurs and designers also need to change their perspective. For individuals over 65, it's not often as simple as picking up a device and inherently understanding how to navigate technology like their younger counterparts.

The problem is not that older people are 'out of touch' with technology, a stereotype which persists, but instead, that inclusivity is not always a consideration in the early construction of websites, apps or digital services."

Doug Pigg

### Changes to Rights of Way in Dorset

Orders affecting changes to the following rights of way have been confirmed since DFN Issue 86. Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs) are again being processed by Dorset Council and can be found [here](#).



#### Confirmed Orders (# identifies any New Numbers)

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Dorchester FP5 (part):       | Modification.  |
| Gillingham FP45 (part):      | Diversion (TCPA 1990, S257)                                    |
| Piddlehinton FP9 (part):     | } Diversions (HA 1980, S119)<br>(rearrangement at Muston Farm) |
| Piddlehinton FP22:           |  |
| Piddlehinton BR7 (part):     |  |
| Piddlehinton BR8:            |  |
| Piddlehinton BR23:           |  |
| Puddletown BR32 (part):      |  |
| Piddlehinton BR26#           |  |
| Poole BR125 Longfleet Drive: | Modification   |
| West Stour FP13 (part):      | Diversion (HA 1980, Section 119)                               |

Please note that unless otherwise stated, the above Orders are also made/confirmed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(Section 53A (2)) #New number.

Recent Orders and Confirmations can also be found on the Dorset Council website at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/rights-of-way/definitive-map-and-statement/current-definitive-map-modification-orders-and-public-path-orders.aspx>

#### Long Term Temporary Closures/Diversions under Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984: Section 14(1) or 14/2 (unless otherwise stated)

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Gillingham FP45 (part):    | From March 10th, 2021, for 26 weeks, for 100 metres, for construction on a new development (planning application 2/2019/1649/REM) Alternative walked route.   |
| Hazlebury Bryan FP20:      | From April 19th, 2021, for 26 weeks, to allow trenching, laying and connecting electric to a new development. NO ALTERNATIVE  |
| Shaftesbury FP32 (part):   | From April 05th for 6 months. To allow construction. Alternative route Signed.  |
| Stourpaine FP13:           | From May 03rd 2021 for 26 weeks, to construct dwellings with granted planning permission. Alternative route.  |
| Sturminster Newton Various | Paths: From March 22nd, 2021, for 26 weeks: [i] N48/35 between the junction with The Common, Okeford Fitzpaine and N48/36; [ii] N48/38 between N53/25 and N48/36; [iii] N53/25 between N48/38 and N53/26; [iv] N53/24 between N53/26 and N48/37; [v] N53/26 between the junction with New Road to N53/27. To facilitate Wessex Water to install a water main to the south of Broad Oak. Anticipated completion July 16th. |
| Symondsbury FP21:          | } From December 28th, 2020, for 26 weeks. To strengthen and re-profile<br>The western riverbank of the R Brit adjacent to West Bay Holiday<br>Bridport FP26: Park. NO ALTERNATIVE   |
| Symondsbury FP14:          |   |
| Bridport FP23:             |   |
| Wimborne FP8 (part):       | From Cowgrove Rd to E49/5, approx. 110 metres. From November 01st for 26 weeks. Extension granted to August 31st, 2021. Excavations on building site. Alternative route.  |
| Wimborne FP9 (part):       | From August 10th, 2020, for 26 weeks. Extension granted to August 31st, 2021. Active construction site. Alternative route signed.   |

(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**

## Notes

I have been asked to let people know that If you didn't receive the Christmas E-Footnotes (no printed edition) and would like a copy, email me at [douglas.pigg@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.pigg@gmail.com) . Also let me know if you wish to be on my direct E-Footnotes E-Mail List – add a note to say that you are happy for me to keep your E-mail address for the sole purpose of sending you E-Footnotes - General Data Protection Regulations.

**Footnotes is available by email.** Just send me an email at [douglas.pigg@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.pigg@gmail.com) and also tell me to which Dorset Ramblers Group you belong. Until the E-Footnotes numbers reach a level where separation from the general mailing is worthwhile, those electing for E-Footnotes may continue to receive both versions

The Ramblers' Association Dorset area is a part of the Ramblers' Association, a registered charity (England and Wales number 1093577, Scotland SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (number 4458492). Registered Office: 2nd Floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

## Coronavirus Walking Advice

All advice on this page was reviewed on **Monday, May 17th**. Please check the following link to see changes to the [Ramblers Latest Coronavirus Advice](#)



Walking for exercise and mental wellbeing is more important than ever. To make sure we can all enjoy it safely, it's essential to keep up to date with current coronavirus restrictions.

You'll find an overview of the different restrictions across England, Scotland and Wales and what they mean for you on this page.

Wherever you walk, it's essential to be safe, considerate and responsible. Always follow the [Countryside Code](#), and avoid busy areas which may make physical distancing difficult. Remember, you can explore [Ramblers Routes](#) to discover local walks close to home.

**Are you a member of the Ramblers or an affiliated group?** You can find more information about how these restrictions affect you on the [Members & Affiliates](#) page.

The UK government roadmap for lifting lockdown means **people in England** can now walk outside in groups of up to six or two households. Ramblers group walks and volunteer activities can also resume, following Covid-secure guidance. You should continue to minimise travel.

- **Walking with family & friends:** Groups of **up to thirty can get together** for informal walks.
- **Ramblers group walks:** Covid-secure group walks are classified by the UK government as 'organised physical activities and can **take place in any number – please check with your local group. Car-sharing and coach rambles can resume.**
- **Path maintenance:** Covid-secure path maintenance can take place – please check with your local group.
- **Path maintenance:** Covid-secure path maintenance can take place – please check with your local group.
- **Other Ramblers activities:** Covid-secure activities can take place – please check with your local group. Events, training, and committee meetings should be held outdoors or online where possible.



**TOGETHER**

A moment to pause. Breathing in clear air. Sharing interests and conversations as you ponder the hills ahead. We have your passion for exploring worldwide and in the UK.

Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through **The Walking Partnership** to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

Book a great value holiday: [ramblersholidays.co.uk](http://ramblersholidays.co.uk) or call **01707 386804**  

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