



NOW OPEN!

APRIL 2009

OUR FIRST ISSUE

Welcome to this first issue of "Now Open"- a new initiative from the Sussex Area of the Ramblers. The aim of this newsletter is to publicise footpaths and other places to walk in Sussex that have recently become open and easy to use and to encourage walk leaders and other walkers to plan walks using these ways. After all, there is no point in the Ramblers campaigning to open footpaths and no point in council rights of way teams working to maintain paths and get obstructions removed if no one goes and uses them!

The newsletter is being sent monthly, by email only, to people inside the Ramblers and outside it. For data protection reasons individuals need to opt in to receive it regularly. If you have been sent it direct from Chris Smith either we think you have opted in or you have a published email address. If you have received it via someone else and you want to get the newsletter in future then you need to email me at chris.smith@hbhelp.co.uk. (If you want to be taken off of the list then email me at the same address). Your email will not be given to anyone else or used for any other purpose.

The first issue has a bit of an East Sussex bias. News from West Sussex is welcomed.

NEWLY OPEN

Please send details of any path or other walking area in Sussex that has recently been opened up. There are no clear rules about what "recently" means. Tell us about any path that has been closed for some time and now reopened and that walkers from outside the immediate area might not know about. Don't forget brand new paths and access areas too! Please give grid references and a general idea of where the path is. It is helpful if you can give some idea of good walks that can be done using the path.

Arlington

Bridleway between 535085 and 538082 just north of Arlington reservoir now open giving more circular walks from the reservoir and a through bridleway route. (The picture shows the start of a walk on recently re-opened walks in Arlington)



Footpath between 540082 and 545082 open with new bridge in the middle although sometimes planted with crops.

Footpaths at Camberlot Farm between 554111/2 and 552114 cleared and obstructions removed offering the possibility of more circular walks around Camberlot Wood avoiding busy Camberlot Road

Footpath 544083-538088 near the Cuckmere north of Arlington Village open with new stile although sometimes planted over with crops at the east end. Possibility of circular walks from Arlington village or reservoir.

Footpaths 534067-534068 and 537067-538068 open giving a more direct and safer route between Berwick and Arlington Village.

Bexhill

Bexhill 11a (near TQ708/082) was recorded as blocked by fences and barbed wire on the original 1950's Rambler's Association survey that helped to draw up the definitive map.

Through notice serving by ESCC, landowner liaison and maintenance work, obstructions on the route were recently removed, stiles and gates were improved and a small ditch bridge was installed. Therefore, with this work completing last month, this route is now hopefully open for good after apparently being blocked for around 50-60 years.

Work by the council maintenance team involved : One stile repair, one footbridge installed, roadside way marker installed. As a result of enforcement action the landowner provided a new stile in a barbed wire fence, improved roadside access and removed earth obstruction from in front of a gate They also installed a new stile installed alongside gate off their own back.

East Hoathly

Footpath through Crockstead Farm off of the A22 around 493177 now open (and the north end of this path, at High Cross, the famous Hoogstraaten footpath is open too)

Hailsham

Following a recent prosecution by East Sussex County Council (well done them!), Hailsham footpath 45 is now open. It can be found at TQ 600078. The path runs north from Rickney Lane through Downash Farm.)

It offers the possibility of a number of circular walks south of Hailsham or linear walks between Hailsham and Westham. Misleading notices, a portacabin and other obstructions have been removed.



Hellingly

New bridge at TQ568133 means that it is now possible to walk from Dicker up to Worlds End Farm and beyond (see picture left) avoiding what was a very lengthy diversion.

Path now re-opened through Fontmills at 583143 where it leaves the road, but no signposting. Possibility of circular walks from the Cuckoo trail

WALKS ON NEWLY OPENED ROUTES

Are you organising a walk that takes in a recently opened path? Send us the details. Please say what new path(s) you are using, a brief description of the walk, the time date and meeting point, mileage and how to contact the organiser if people want to come. Bear in mind that the newsletter goes out at the beginning of each month with a deadline of 24th of the month before.

Sunday 19TH April Southease

Meet at Southease Station (Grid reference TQ431054) at 11.10

(Train leaves Brighton at 10.39, Lewes at 11.03 and London Victoria at 9.47(change at Lewes)

Roughly 4.5 miles with the possibility of extension mainly over access land opened up under recent "right to roam" legislation. For details contact kim at kim.icity@googlemail.com

STILL CLOSED

Sadly, there are still a lot of paths that have been closed for some time. You can see a list of these for West Sussex at: <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/content/environment/the-west-sussex-countryside/public-rights-of-way/4-unavailable-routes/unavailable-paths-list.en>

But in East Sussex, where up to 45% of paths are not open and easy to use according to recent statistics there is, as yet, no comprehensive list although the rights of way team hopes to have one in the next 6 months. For the time being please let us know of any paths. that you know have been obstructed for more than a year and we will list them here. Please let us know the grid reference of the problem(s), what the problem is and the footpath number if you know it. We hope that East Sussex County Council will soon produce its own, more comprehensive list. For starters here are:

Chiddingly

Path at 547119 obstructed by Hawthorn hedge where it leaves the A22 to go north.

Bridleway blocked by closed bridge at Stream Mill, at TQ555155. Diversion possible for walkers but not for horseriders.

Footpath completely blocked at TQ568143 by house & garden where it leaves lane. Possible diversion via another path to the south.

East Chilmington

Path between 366145 and 367146 obstructed by quarry. Possible to make a diversion to the north west if you know where you are going.

East Hoathly

Obstruction by zoo at Prices Farm just north of the A22 around 512146. Paddocks, odd animals, the lot!

Hellingly

Path at Lower Horsebridge 573117-573118 obstructed by fence at one end and barbed wired gate at the other- but an easy diversion is possible on a bridleway to the west.

Path north of A22 near Lower Dicker between 556120 and 567124 Obstructed by hedge at south end and in the middle and usually ploughed up.

Paths through Boggy Wood at 565126 and 569126 trashed by regular motocross events

Path at Knightsbridge Farm which leads north West to Cralle Place obstructed by hedge at 600153 where it leaves the road, but alternative stile about 100 metres north of here.

Herstmonceux

Path to the east of the Road at Foul Mile, 621155 entirely obstructed by garden to house.

St John Without

Path at Chapel Farm, Chilmington 393146 obstructed by garden, fences and hedges. Possibility of diversion via track to the north.

Telscombe

Cliff path obstructed by Water company at 394013. The path is has been dug out to form a road down to the pumping station and obstructed at both ends of the property by fencing. (See right) The water company have erected a sign saying that there are no rights of way on the land, although this is not the case.

If you would have used any of these paths on a walk and think that a particular path is important please tell the county council.

WARNING

This information was compiled from usually reliable sources, but mistakes get made and things do change. Please let us know about any mistakes or changes.



Ramblers - at the heart of walking

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