

See back issues and get more information about Sussex Ramblers at www.sussex-ramblers.org.uk

The newsletter is now being received by people active in the Ramblers in Sussex, as well as people and groups outside the Ramblers who are interested in receiving it. They include councillors, walking groups, parish councils and others. If you have received it via someone else and you want to get the newsletter in future then you need to email Chris Smith at chris.smith@hbhelp.co.uk. (If you want to be taken off of the list then email the same address). Your email will not be given to anyone else or used for any other purpose. You can choose to have your mailing with pictures (which makes a bigger file) or without (which may be better if you have a dial up connection- you can still see the pictures on the web site above.)

NEWLY OPEN- This month material is provided by East Sussex County Council rights of way team

Village walk improvements at Three Oaks, East Sussex. We are currently working with a landowner to replace stiles with gates on several well used paths at Three Oaks, Guestling. This work was funded by the Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme, Accessing the Countryside Project and creates a route of approximately 2 miles of path without stiles. (TQ 840/148)

Accessing the Countryside is a three year project funded by the European Union that aims to promote and improve access to countryside sites and the rights of way network. It is a joint project between East Sussex County Council and three organisations in Flanders (Belgium) and runs from 2009 to 2012. (PDF plan of route is sent out as a separate PDF file)

Horam Public Footpath 12 – Following enforcement and maintenance work, this route is now open to the public. In December, the landowner installed a stile to remove the last remaining obstruction. (TQ 589/168)



Chalvington & Ripe 21 – This formerly unavailable path has been reopened to the public. In the last month, the Rights of Way Maintenance Team have cut gap in the obstructing hedge and installed a ditch bridge. (TQ 506/096) (picture left)

Forest Way - A large 11-metre bridge on the popular and well-used Forest Way (which runs between Forest Row and Groombridge) was replaced by the Council's Capital Bridge Team in December. This reopened the route to the public.

Ticehurst Public Footpath 33b – Following action in the Magistrates Court, a stile has been installed at the northern end of this path to allow public access. (TQ 662/290) (See pictures below)



Sussex House Farm – new public bridleway. To enable improved bridleway access in the area, two owners have worked together to dedicate a new near to Sussex House Farm, Hartfield. (TQ 476/403)

Hartfield Public Footpath 9 – In December, ESCC's Maintenance Team have replaced steps, a stile and signage to make access easier along this path. (TQ 466/332)

Footbridges - Two 8-metre bridges in Hellingly (on Footpaths 69c and 73) and a 6-metre bridge on Warbleton Footpath 36c have recently been replaced by ESCC's Capital Bridge Team. (TQ's 589/149, 602/154 and 643/172 respectively.)

PERMISSIVE PATHS

Let us know of any permissive paths you think could do with some publicity..

Other countryside stewardship walks can be found at <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/>

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. We also welcome short accounts of walks you have done. Bear in mind that the newsletter goes out at the beginning of each month with a deadline of 24th of the month before.

STILL CLOSED

Sadly, there are still a lot of paths that have been closed for some time.

WEST SUSSEX

Unavailable paths in West Sussex

You can see a list of these for West Sussex at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure-and-tourism/public-rights-of-way/4--unavailable-routes On this page there are links to paths that are temporarily closed and those that are long term unavailable for other reasons.

EAST SUSSEX

East Sussex currently only has available a list of paths temporarily obstructed for maintenance. This list is at <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/pathclosures.htm> This list is updated on a fortnightly basis. They hope to have a list of long term unavailable paths on their site soon.

PATH NUMBERS AND GRID REFERENCES

In this newsletter paths are identified by grid references. In some cases path numbers are used. There is no easy way to find out the path number in East Sussex but in West Sussex you can find a map of paths with numbers at www.westsussex.gov.uk/imap . The map can also provide a quick way of checking grid references as if you put the cursor over the spot you want the grid reference appears in the bottom left corner.

Otherwise visit www.streetmap.co.uk and type in the grid reference you want to locate prefixed by TQ for most of Sussex or SU for western West Sussex. You will need to go to zoom level 3 or 4 in the zoom control on the right hand side.

COULD YOU BE (MORE) ACTIVE IN THE RAMBLERS?

Throughout Sussex Ramblers volunteers are active, checking paths, reporting problems, lobbying for more access, organising walks and putting out information like this. We always need more members and, in the current financial situation your support is particularly valuable. If you are not yet a member why not join now? It's easy. For further information. Visit <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/membership/about/joinand-share-the-joy.htm> Walking groups can affiliate to the Ramblers.

If you are already a member but are not yet active could you do something practical? Sussex area is always looking for people to help by checking paths, lobbying for open access, leading walks, helping with publicity, monitoring the press, to name just a few things. If you are interested email me at chris.smith@hbhelp.co.uk, saying what you might be interested in and I will point you in the right direction.

Reporting Path Problems

Footpath problems can be reported to West Sussex County Council at

<https://secure.westsussex.gov.uk/formbuilder/showForm.do?title=Public%20Rights%20of%20Way%20Feedback%20Form>

and to East Sussex County Council at

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus/emailus/email.aspx?n=Rights+of+Way&e=rightsofway&d=eastsussex.gov.uk>

If you know that the problem is inside the South Downs area of outstanding national beauty(AONB) it may be quicker to report the problem to the South Downs Board <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/rte.asp?id=158>
The board will also deal with problems over problems with access areas on the downs.

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.

Published by the Sussex Area of the Ramblers

Ramblers - at the heart of walking

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

Visit our websites at www.sussex-ramblers.org.uk and www.ramblers.org.uk

Find your local Ramblers group at <http://www.ramblers.co.uk/groups/groupInfo.php?group=SX>