

# NOW OPEN!

January 2010

See back issues and get more information about Sussex Ramblers at [www.sussex-ramblers.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.)

## FESTIVE GREETINGS!

And we hope you manage to get out on at least one walk in the Ramblers "Festival of Winter Walks" which takes place between December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are over 30 walks in Sussex alone.

Further details at <http://www.ramblers.co.uk/walksfinder/festivalofwinterwalks2009.html#58>

And for your new year resolution to walk more find walks every weekend and often during the week at [http://www.ramblers.org.uk/areas\\_groups/groupswalksfinder.htm](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/areas_groups/groupswalksfinder.htm)

Happy walking in 2010!

## NEWLY OPEN

### Thakeham public footpath 2463/1



Works have been completed on this footpath near Abingworth Hall following a significant bequest to HF Holidays for investment in the local footpath network. New steps and fence line have been installed, clearance works have widened what was a very narrow path and new surface materials have improved conditions under foot.



### East Grinstead BW19EG, FP21cEG

One contract replacing two footbridges and refurbishing one bridle-bridge.

BW19cEG

Bridlebridge – a new steel and timber construction spanning tributary of River Medway with bagwork set within the channel to protect bank

seats. There are ramps at both ends of the bridge. This replaces the former structure, which had rotten deck timbers, corrosion to steelwork, scour within channel undermining bank seat partly caused by concrete foundations of previous structure. We required EA consent to prevent pollution of watercourse from abrading the steel and painting. Two trees removed to prevent any future damage to the new bridge and new trees were planted in mitigation.

FP21cEG:

Two footbridges - suffering from rot and scour, and beyond economic repair. Replaced with 6m and 7m span timber footbridges.

### Billingshurst FP1466/2



Recent works by WSCC have successfully reopened an 'unavailable' path on the edge of Billingshurst parish. These works suffered some vandalism, which have now been put right. This path had long been unusable, having no structures to cross fences and significant vegetation preventing use of part of the path's 1.2km legal line. WSCC has now cleared the path through woodland and installed kissing-gates and plank-bridges to safely provide for walkers. The path runs through attractive semi-natural ancient woodland, where several examples of Butchers Broom can be seen, and should offer a wonderful walk when the bluebells flower in spring - certainly an improvement on the windy and narrow road that has had to be used in the past.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

### Burton & Chingford Ponds Nature Area – hazard

John Ford reports “ The above area has a board walk. I was leading a party of walkers around the area on Saturday and used the board walk. Just over half way along I came to a section of boards where there was no wire netting. The surface was like oiled glass. My feet went from under me and I went nearly horizontal

into about 3 feet of water. I had to stand in near waist deep water to get out. I even wrung water from my woollen hat. Luckily I had a pair of waterproof trousers to change into." John is now recovered.

### **Petworth, Rotherfield bridge on bridleway 3251**

Bridleway No.3251 is closed by WSCC as " the bridge structure that crosses the River Rother is no longer fit for purpose". The path runs from Petworth to Duncton . The GR is SU967202. It is closed until June '10.

## **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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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*

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