



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE:

NOW OPEN!

July 2009

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HIGH SUMMER!

Here is the latest 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.

The newsletter is now being received by nearly a hundred 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 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. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

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.

Catsfield, Crowhurst, and Icklesham

Rachel Holtom writes "just a small piece to say that walking around Hastings is a real pleasure, thanks to all the wonderful new stiles, bridges and gates. A huge amount of time, effort and money has clearly been put into work on the paths I walk regularly especially round Catsfield, Crowhurst, and Icklesham. Fantastic."

EAST SUSSEX NEWS

The East Sussex Rights of Way team reports: "Over the summer months, ESCC's Rights of Way maintenance teams focus primarily on clearing overgrown paths and carrying out bridge replacement work due to dry ground conditions making for easy access."

Bridge work in June 2009

These are some of the bridges that have been replaced during June:

Footpath Westfield 45 - TQ 8202/1521

A 6-metre bridge has recently been replaced on this well-used route (see photos below.)

Footpath Northiam 2 – TQ8145/2457

A rotten 7-metre bridge on the Sussex Border Path has been replaced in June – making access along this route safe again.

Bridleway Ticehurst 14b - Round Bewl Water Bridleway and cycle route – TQ6960/3120

During the week starting 29th June, a rotten 9-metre bridge will be replaced with a culvert on this very popular circular route.



Footpath Mayfield 90/91 –TQ5903/2622

A 14.5 metre bridge has now been installed to make public access along this recently claimed route easier.

Footpath Wadhurst 13 – TQ6191/2855

This useful link has one again been made available by the replacement of an 11m.



Footpa
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n 14b –
TQ609
4/2456
A 4
metre
bridge
and
stile
have

been replaced on this route making it safe for public use.

Area news from June 2009:

Weald Way – Maresfield – TQ4719/2882

A section of the Weald Way at Duddleswell Crossroads will now be safer for the public from this autumn. Following a request from the Rambler's Association, ESCC Officers asked the landowner to allow the creation of a permissive link between two public footpaths. This link would substantially reduce the need

for road-walking. The landowner is happy for this link to be created once land-management considerations allow – most likely in the early autumn.

Footpath Hartfield 10 – TQ4635/3364

Following a request by the Area Officer, a landowner on this route has now removed two derelict stiles on this path – making it more accessible for all users.



Footpath Herstmonceux 40 – TQ6244/1117

This whole path has now been made accessible. Two stiles have been removed, a cropping problem resolved and new ditch bridge and signposts installed. (Photo below.)

Footpath Ashburnham 14b – TQ6740/1207

Due to a landowner ignoring our requests to clear crops on this route, our Enforcement Officer recently serviced a legal notice. This has now prompted the landowner to clear the legal line of the path. Waymarking has also now been installed on this route. (Photo below.)



Warbleton 96b – 6571/1371

This cropped path was recently cleared by the landowner following an initial approach from the Rights of Way Team's Enforcement Officer. Both Ashburnham 14b and Warbleton 96b form part of an 'Argus' newspaper walk.

Footpath Longman 25b – TQ5320/0402

Temporary electric fences were reported to be obstructing this footpath. Following contact by the Area Officer, the landowner has now installed 'hooks and handles' to enable public access along the legal line.

Other Rights of Way Team news:

Tim Squire has now been appointed as Access Officer, overseeing the ESLAF, ROWIP implementation and our

diversion caseload.

We are currently recruiting for an additional Enforcement Officer. This has been made possible through extra funding and they will be in post for 12 months – primarily dealing with improving stiles and gates on the RoW network. This extra post will double our enforcement capacity over the next year.

PERMISSIVE PATHS

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

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.

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 currently only have available a list of paths temporarily closed 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 in the Autumn.

Please let us know of any paths that have been unavailable for at least a year which are not on these lists. Please let us know the grid reference of the problem(s), what the problem is and the footpath number if you know it. Here are reports which came in this month:

Catsfield

Rachel Holtom reports that Path no. 5 at 722146 remains blocked with brambles and a broken stile.

OTHER NEWS

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 ref appears in the bottom left corner

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.

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Ramblers - at the heart of walking

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