

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

NEWLY OPEN

Its an East Sussex month this month, both in terms of reports from ramblers and from the council. To see where these improvements are 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.

HASTINGS REOPENING

Mike Riley reports: Following an Inquiry held in Hastings on May 5th 2010 re. Hastings 420 the Inspector has confirmed that the path will be added to the Definitive Map.

The path runs from Crown Lane to Tamerisk Steps via Crown Court (TQ82640952 via various twists/turns to TQ82630955) and had been blocked since 2003 by a gate erected by the landowner/residents of Crown Court at Tamerisk Steps. The Inspector took the view that the path had been in regular use between the early 1980's when Crown Court was completed and 2003 - from the late 19th century to the late 1970's the site had been occupied by a tenement block, Scrivens Buildings, during which time it had been possible to walk a similar route to the one claimed.

Support for the path was provided by local residents, including myself, and E.S.C.C.

The path gives the public access to a very old Mulberry Tree - reputedly grown from a cutting from Shakespeare Garden and a good view of the fishing beach.

BRIDGE SAGA AT CHIDDINGLY TQ5550/1553

East Sussex area footpath secretary Malcolm Mc Donnell tells us "BW Chiddingly 7c is now open again after 4 years, following the construction of a temporary wooden bridge over the top of the ancient Stream Mill bridge. Because the stone bridge is listed, repair is estimated to cost over £70k, so the new structure will allow the bridleway to be used while funds are being sought.

It should be noted that the deterioration of the stone bridge has come about because of a long-term lack of maintenance. Ivy and other plants have been allowed to take root and prise the stones apart, and even now nothing is being done to arrest this process, thus making the eventual cost higher than ever."



The picture shows the new structure at the top of the bridge, and the cracks that remain underneath

CEREAL OFFENDERS

Action taken by East Sussex Council (ESCC) rights of way team against the landowner in the Sessingham Farm area seems to have got results. Last year the council removed crops at the landowner's expense. This year the council reports that the landowner has already cleared paths at TQ5405/0820. The area is just north of Arlington reservoir, which is a good base for circular walks in the area. The council is issuing

a press release reminding landowners of their duties. Do report any paths that have been ploughed up and not re-instated to the relevant council.

WITHYHAM SUCCESS-TQ4943/3564.

A few issues ago we reported the success Malcolm McDonnell had in claiming this footpath to Withyham church as a right of way. But his delight turned to anger when he discovered that the council planned to reopen the path, which had originally had kissing gates, by allowing the installation of stiles. A number of the local people using the path have mobility problems and Malcolm made clear his view that this was not acceptable. Thankfully new kissing gates have now been installed.



Photo by ESCC

NEWS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The remainder of the information in this section, including the photos, has been provided by ESCC rights of way team.

Hailsham FP49 –TQ5866/0806.



Following enforcement action by ESCC, this previously unavailable route, which had been blocked by fencing, is now open. The landowner has installed stiles at either end of the path. Waymarking and the installation of a small ditch bridge will shortly be carried out to improve access. (Photo below.)

Rotherfield FPs 9 and 10 – TQ5309/2690 and TQ5299/2669.

Footpath 10, which was formerly unavailable due to an obstructing fence where it met Byway 8, is now open to the public following enforcement work by the Rights of Way Team. Two stiles on Footpath 10, as well as two on the nearby Footpath 9, have also been improved by landowners following the Rights of Way Team's approach. (Before and after photos of a stile on Rotherfield FP10 below.)



Warbleton Byway 78 'Tin Kettle Lane' – TQ6221/2016

Surfacing work to reopen this byway, which had been closed for some time due to surface damage, is now complete. The path has now been stoned throughout and is now open and easily accessible for all users.

Hailsham BR68c – TQ5801/1121 - update regarding the reopening of Weald Way through Sheppey Walk.

Following the successful Public Inquiry last year, enforcement work to remove the barrier on this route will take place in early June.

PERMISSIVE PATHS

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

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 25th of the month before.

The Ramblers 75th Anniversary Baton Walk

Ramblers 75th Anniversary celebrations this year include Groups arranging "Baton Walk's". To make this a more memorable event in Sussex the Groups are arranging a sequence of walks in October & November 2010 where an actual Baton will be passed around. High Weald Walkers (HWW) is co-ordinating the sequence with the Groups.

This is a golden opportunity for Groups to use one of those "Now Open" paths as well to make it a double celebration event.

A few details of the planning:-

- The Sussex Baton walks will take place in October & November 2010.
- Groups will either use one of their normal walks and call it the "Baton Walk" or organise a special once off walk.
- The next Group in the sequence will send along a representative to take over the baton for their walk.
- Photos and should be taken and sent to the RA 75th organising group and Chris Smith for publicity purposes.
- An actual 'baton', supplied by HWW, will be taken on the walk and passed onto the next Group.
- Each Group will advertise its Baton Walk to other Sussex Group and invite them to send representatives. HWW will co-ordinate the sequence for the Groups.

Questions and queries? Contact Clive Grumett Secretary High Weald Walkers. Tel 01342-825518.

Walk on newly gained access land at Rodmell, Saturday 12th June

Organisers, Action for Access say "The walk will be on the Iford, Rodmell and Southease Downs on Saturday 12th June. We will meet at 10.36am sharp at Southease rail station. The total walk will be eight to nine miles, but there will be a natural break after 2.5 miles from which people can return if they do not wish to cover the whole distance. There will also be a later point from which a quicker return can be made.

The **SECOND** part of the walk will traverse some of the most beautiful, tranquil and under-used Downland on the central South Downs, including much aboriginal flowery down pasture, much of which has SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status. The views are absolutely gorgeous. Skylarks, Orchids, butterflies, and much that is buzzing, scented, humming, creeping, furry, feathery, chirping and singing will be seen. Maybe we'll even sing a song too... (editors note- please not the Manchester Rambler- however it is my birthday so.....)

The **FIRST** part of the walk is more important, though, and will involve an event and rally on a lovely site which is statutory Access Land, but from which the public are presently banned for wholly spurious reasons. The event will not take too long and will involve absolutely no criminal activity, harm to property or intrusive acts. Indeed, walkers can participate in the walk without taking part in the event or entering the disputed Access Land site. We want no confrontations, but we do want to make our case loudly and colourfully. "

I'm told that well known Ramblers activist Kate Ashbrook will be in attendance.

The walk is timed to meet the trains from Brighton (depart 10.10) and Lewes (depart 10.28) and in the other direction from Seaford (10.25) and Newhaven Town (10.32). There are connections at Brighton and Lewes from other parts of Sussex.

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.

OTHER THINGS

CHEAPER BY TRAIN

With the main rambling season upon us its worth reminding you that the best way to get to walks can be by train. It's better for the environment and allows you to do linear walks. Here are some details of tickets that can make it that bit cheaper. Details can be obtained at the Southern Railway web site

Daysave- costs £10 for one adult and £20 for up to 4 adults. Children are £1 each. Available for travel on any Southern Railway train after 10.00 Monday to Friday and all of Saturday and Sunday. There are restrictions on trains leaving London in the evening rush hour. Details at <http://www.southernrailwaytickets.com/buytickets/daysave/DaySave.php?sEvent=TicketDetails>. Although the web site tells you that you can only buy this ticket on line at 7 days notice you can in fact buy it from most tourist offices in Sussex on the day! (Check that yours offers this service) No railcard discount

Downlander- costs £10 per adult and £2.50 per child. Available for travel from 9.30 Monday to Friday and anytime at weekends. Must be bought on line at least 2 days in advance. Covers any Southern train south of Horsham and Haywards Heath plus most buses running on routes between Brighton and Eastbourne. Details at http://www.southernrailwaytickets.com/ticketing_promotion.php?iTicketPromotionId=5 No railcard discount. If you want to travel north of Horsham or Haywards Heath an "all network downlanders" is available for £12.50.

Groupsave- available on most tickets (although not downlanders) 3 or 4 people can travel for the price of 2. Until the end of June you can also book supergroup tickets on some Southern routes. Details at <http://www.southernrailway.com/offers/supergroup/> For each single journey 2 people can travel for £8, 5 people for £15 and 10 people for £20. However this offer is not as good as it looks because the offer only applies on certain routes, you have to nominate your trains and you all have to travel together all the time.

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 Joint Committee

<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/rte.asp?id=158>

The committee will also deal with problems over problems with access areas on the downs.

If you know who your Ramblers local footpath secretary is please also report it to them.

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.

This 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 chose 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.)

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Ramblers - at the heart of walking

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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>