

Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter July 2015

The year is racing on as always so I thought now might be the time to get in touch regarding P3 updates.

Devon County Show Photography Competition results

Congratulations to our Parish winners for their entries in the P3 photography competition. We chose the theme of 'what does P3 mean to you' and received some lovely entries. The pictures were displayed at the Devon County Show where members of the public voted for their favourite image. Overall winner was Musbury with a great picture of an orchid next to a footpath.



Joint runners up were Kentisbeare and Bishopsteington whose entries both depicted children having fun on rights of way. The local Scout group were busy happily cutting a path in Bishopsteington while Kentisbeare's entry displayed the sheer delight of youngsters playing on a gate and couldn't help but put a smile on every face.



Bishopsteington Scouts



Children playing on a gate in Kentisbeare

A guest prize was awarded to the parish of Ashwater for their entry which included a lovely poem as well as a picture of the young poet on his favourite right of way.



Rowan Tidball (aged 9) on his favourite path

It was great to see Oakford and Buckland Monachorum's examples of work that had been undertaken on rights of way as well as group photos of happy people on walks in P3 parishes. Thank you to everyone for entering the competition.



Seasonal Vegetation

Despite a somewhat chilly summer the grass, nettles and brambles have continued to grow and the relentless task of tackling them continues. If you are busy organising cutting programmes for your paths please do remember to cut around stiles, gates and the green and white PROW signs at the end of each path. With the summer holidays approaching there is little more off-putting than having to lead small children through paths



lined with nettles and brambles. If you are venturing out don't forget to take your secateurs, a snip or two here or there can make a huge difference to the recreational experience.

Strimmer Courses

In the last few weeks we have held two very successful Strimmer courses that have enabled volunteers to undertake clearance duties in their communities. We shall be holding a further Strimmer event in August and our last course for the year in the autumn at Stover Country Park near Newton Abbot. If you need training and have not yet reserved a place do get in touch and we will see if we can provide a space for you.

Completing rights of way projects

With grants now distributed and the weather reasonably dry now is the perfect time to consider getting on with the work that was highlighted in your surveys this year. If you need help or advice undertaking a project please do get in touch and either the warden or I will visit to assess the work needed. We can put you in touch with a contractor if you need one and also source materials required.

Many of our parishes have already got to grips with the work needed and it is great to hear of projects that are nearing completion. I would like to take this opportunity to place the spotlight on Sidmouth and the work that is being undertaken on a weekly basis by Ian Collins and his team of volunteers.

Ian is a member of the Trail Riders Federation (TRF) and works hard to keep the many rights of way including unsurfaced, unclassified roads, cycleways open throughout the parish during the growing season. Each Monday evening during the summer Ian organises a meeting to undertake cutting and clearing of paths and has also cleared back the encroaching soil and debris on a number of metalled routes. The work is simple and enjoyable and there is always a chance to catch up with friends whilst working. To date, Ian and his team, have cleared in excess of 25 routes round the parish making the use of the public rights of way a pleasant experience for all to enjoy. If you would like to establish a similar working group and need to find out ways of achieving this please do get in touch and we will see what we can do to help you.



Ian Collins and the Monday night path volunteers in Sidmouth

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Autumn Events

As I am sure you are all aware we usually hold our popular P3 Autumn workshops during October and November. As you might have gathered these tend to take a significant amount of organising and require a lot of time. This year, due to long and complicated office moves that are likely to coincide with the run up to the workshops, we are going to change the format to area based 'drop in' surgery. Your local Warden, Definitive Map Researcher and I will be gathered in a village hall for a day where you can attend to discuss rights of way and P3 issues. There will be tea/coffee and biscuits and time to talk to us all regarding any matters that you might like to raise regarding a variety of aspects of rights of way. We will be announcing dates and venues in the coming weeks and there is no requirement to book a place.

Staff Changes

Following the retirement of Tim Freeman from his area in the last few weeks we are delighted to welcome Martin Caddy to the rights of way team. Martin is no stranger to Public Rights of Way having worked for Devon County Council in the North Devon Biosphere team looking after the coast path and recreational issues for several years.

The changes to personnel have facilitated a quick shifting of geographical areas that may result in one or two P3 parishes having a new right of way warden. I have attached a list of all parishes in Devon with the relevant name of the warden included. If you would like to contact your new warden please do get in touch with me and I will pass on your contact details.

Big Path Watch

The Ramblers are holding an event entitled the 'Big Walk'. This is a national survey of the state of rights of way across the country as a whole. Volunteers are being asked to walk all the paths within a grid square and record their findings on a national database. The results will be collated and local authorities advised regarding the paths in their area in 2016. If you wish to participate in the survey you can log onto the Ramblers Website and put your name down for undertaking the survey. If you would like any information regarding the scheme please follow the link to the Rambler's web pages: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-big-pathwatch.aspx>

.....And finally news on the South West Coast path

Jonathan Dimpleby has marked a significant milestone in the history of the South West Coast Path by officially opening a new stretch between

Strete and Strete Gate in South Devon. The event follows years of local residents and groups campaigning to take the route off a busy road. Thanks to Natural England and Devon County Council for providing the majority of funding and a contribution from Strete Parish Council, along with the collaboration of local landowners and the South West Coast Path Association, this hotly anticipated project is finally complete and a route that has never before seen views of some of Devon's finest coastline, can now be accessed by the public.

This project achieves a long held aim for the best possible route for walkers, close to the coast and off road. Strete has long been considered the most hazardous road sections on the entire 630 mile route, and there are no comparable road sections remaining.

Vice Chairman of the South West Coast Path Association, Ken Carter said:

"The problem of fixing the gap at Strete to make a route safe for walkers, which didn't impact on the privacy of the houses whose grounds it would run across was complex. It is of great credit to all partners involved in the project that a solution has been found and the work to re-route the Coast Path is complete."

"Thousands of people visit the South West every year to walk the South West Coast Path, which is the longest and most popular National Trail and is worth £436m to the regional economy. We look forward to people enjoying this new section at Strete for the first time and being inspired to support our work in future."



Picture from a drone of the new section of coast path at Strete, nr Dartmouth

Thank you to everyone for all their efforts with paths this summer and look forward to catching up with you all again soon.

Best wishes

Ros