

South Wilts Paths Group

Progress report

31 July 2014



Abby Sullivan, our newly recruited Volunteer Coordinator, works 2 days a week and started on 27th May. Since then she has begun to make an impact. This short report sets out what has been achieved so far.

About Abby: *“I have both a practical and academic background in wildlife conservation and countryside management which I hope will give me a good base to get this already successful project on the move. I hope to help local communities to get involved with the improvement of their local paths and get people more out and about in the lovely landscape that is South Wiltshire! My role will also make sure that there are toolkits in place if the local communities want to run their own path improvement projects in the future.”*

Outdoor activities:

- The next activity day is on 4th August in Downton. Email Abby if you are planning to come along. info@southwiltswalksgroup.co.uk
- *Circular Walks:* Alderbury Circular walk project is well underway. So far there have been two resurfacing work parties organised by the SWPG amounting to over 25 volunteer hours. From attending these several volunteers went back on their own accord and finished the task themselves putting in over 20 more volunteer hours. These volunteers are now looking to set up their own Alderbury path group. Waymarks have been ordered for this project too. See *example*.
- Waymarking improvements on the Avon Valley Path from Salisbury to Downton.
- One kissing gate installed at Winterslow.



Links and communication:

- Developing a new website www.southwiltspathsgroup.co.uk . Abby's new email address is info@southwiltspathsgroup.co.uk .
- Mailing system fully up and running with a total of 75 recipients which is growing weekly.
- Tools and materials have been ordered.
- Sparsholt College have agreed to use their students to install around 6 kissing gates/stiles over the next academic year with the hope that this relationship can continue in the future as their students need to do these types of tasks as part of their studies.
- A lot of emails and meetings with different user groups such as horse riders to get everyone involved.
- Attending important meetings such as the Wiltshire Access forum, which was an ideal opportunity to showcase the project which the Access Forum have actioned that they will write to other Area Boards advising that they consider using a similar project.
- Attending local walking groups to get the word out there about the project and drum up enthusiasm.

Future work parties:

The next work party will be held on the 4th August in Downton. Get in touch if you would like to get involved. Details and location are to be confirmed closer to the date. All our work parties will be held on the first Monday of the month. Also there will be additional sessions as the circular walks projects develops. The aim of the project is to help local communities improve their local paths so it would be great to see more people involved in the work parties from the Parish that we are working in.

- Monday 4 August 2014
- Monday 1 September 2014
- Monday 6 October 2014
- Monday 3 November 2014
- Monday 1 December 2014

Interested in getting involved and you can make any of these dates? Then contact:

info@southwiltspathsgroup.co.uk