

South Wilts Paths Group

Progress report

January 2015

Outdoor activities:

- The next activity day is on 2nd February (venue tbc). Email Abby if you are planning to come along. info@southwiltswalksgroup.co.uk
- Circular Walks:
 - Alderbury Circular walk project is progressing well with a newly formed paths group leading the way. The Alderbury paths group have already been out improving the waymarking around the circular path and with the help of the SWPG and Rights of Way team have been able to resurface another two boggy sections of path since the last update. See pictures below.
 - Downton Circular path and group are now underway and have been equipped with tools from the SWPG to start waymarker improvements.
 - There has also been a lot of interest in Firsdon to start a footpath group which we will be perusing over the coming months.
- Kissing gates:
 - Two new gates installed in Downton on the Avon Valley Path.
 - One new gate installed in Farley.
- Other
 - Sparsholt College students visited Whiteparish fixing and replacing four stiles. The College are happy to help with similar tasks in the future.
 - Working with the British Horse Society (BHS) Access & Bridleways Officer Myra Bennett we were able to run a bridleway vegetation clearance work party. The day was a great success with 15 people attending mainly BHS members and some of our volunteers to clear one of the bridleways in Winterslow. We hope to run another one in the next few months with the help of Myra.



As you can see the above path was rather boggy and impassable without wellies. Thanks to the Alderbury paths group and SWPG Volunteers with help from the Rights of Way team the path is now resurfaced and useable by all throughout the year.

Links and communication:

- Developing a new website www.southwiltspathsgroup.co.uk.
- Mailing system fully up and running with a total of 130 recipients which is still growing weekly.
- Tools and materials have been ordered and tested out on our work parties and some given to our newly formed parish path groups.
- Creating a working relationship with the New Forest National Park Authority and securing funding from them for future works.
- Attending local walking groups to get the word out there about the project and drum up enthusiasm.
- A lot of emails and meetings with different user groups such as horse riders and parish environmental/footpath groups to get everyone involved.
- Attending local events such as the Nomansland Summer Fayre and entering articles into local magazines such as The Fountain magazine.

Future work parties:

The next work party will be held on the 2nd February in **tbc**. 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 2nd February 2015
- Monday 2nd March 2015
- April 2015 TBC
- May 2015 TBC
- Monday 1st June 2015

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

info@southwiltspathsgroup.co.uk