



Footpaths Sub-Committee Report for 2007-08

Many of you will recall the report I presented last year on the work of the Footpaths sub-committee. Amongst other things, I commented on our aspirations to improve the paths structure within Creech Woods and of our desire to promote “Healthy Walks” using the network of paths in the area.

So I have great pleasure in reporting the successes achieved by this committee with regard to both of the above.

With the assistance of Pam Eastwood of the Forestry Commission the committee successfully applied for a grant from the National Lottery “Awards for All” scheme. The purpose of this grant was to completely refurbish the main path structure within Creech Woods East. Planned in three phases we are now in the position of having phases one and two complete with another grant application in place to finance phase three.

Please take some time to venture up to Creech Woods so that you too are able to enjoy this wonderful refurbishment.

Our other major achievement is undoubtedly the successful launch of our “Healthy Walks” initiative. We have now held two such walks and have attracted people who would not necessarily have undertaken such a walk on their own. The success of this can be measured by the number of enquiries for future walks. By the time you read this report there should be notices around the village advertising the next walk.

Just look for the “Happy Hare Hiking” artwork that accompanies all our notices.

The committee meets on average once every six weeks to discuss amongst other things the condition of the footpath network, their way markers and also ease of access to them via stiles and gates. I would again like to thank Elaine Crelin, Robin Dawe, David Blomfield and Paul Stallard for all their efforts in walking and the detailed way in which they reported what they saw.

I would also like to thank my fellow council members of the committee Greta Bendall and Neil Lander Brinkley for all their help and support throughout the year.

The committee looks forward to some new challenges in the coming year. We have assigned our budget to improving the condition of some of the more heavily used paths. Increased access for the disabled is also something that we would like to concentrate our efforts upon.

Once again I look forward to working with my friends over the coming year in making our rights of way more accessible for those parishioners who like to enjoy the peace and beauty of our local countryside.

Brendan Gibbs
Chairman Footpaths sub-committee
March 2008