

# Parish Paths Partnership Spring Newsletter 2016

With buds about to burst it is a great pleasure to welcome spring after what has been a rather long, damp winter. Thank you, as always, to the P3 volunteers who have been out and about surveying paths and considering projects for the coming year. Parish grants have now been issued and a letter confirming the sums involved has been sent to the Parish/Town clerks. If you need additional information please call 01392 – 383000 (ask for Ros Davies at the prompt) or email: [ros.davies@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ros.davies@devon.gov.uk)

For those of you who are interested in the wider financial picture regarding Highway budgets you might want to click on the following:

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/highway-maintenance-budgets-agreed/>

The link gives an insight into where the 2016/17 £64m Highway budget will be spent in the coming year. As always, if your parish is looking to join the Road Warden Scheme or Community Self Help element of Highways, please do get in touch or follow the link for more information: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/maintaining-roads/self-help-and-community-support/>



## Parish Projects and vegetation management

There is no time like the present for organising projects and programming seasonal growth clearance in your parish. If your volunteers want to get involved with strimming paths we have

organised our annual **Strimmer courses** from May onwards. We already have some names but if you know of others from your parish that want to get involved with tackling nettles and brambles with a strimmer we would be delighted to see them

on one of our friendly courses. The dates this year are as follows: **17<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> June**. All the courses are free and will be held at the Kennford Centre just off the A38 at Kennford, near Exeter. Please do phone or email to add your name to the list of attendees – we only have eight spaces on each course and demand is high!



If you are thinking of organising projects it is always wise to speak to your warden or me. This valuable talking time ensures that we have the right solution and that all the necessary parties involved are aware of what is happening and when. This is especially important when contractors are requested to undertake work with heavy plant such as diggers and dumpers. Projects involving this scale of work are costly and we need to be sure that the work is necessary and appropriate.





Ploughed and cropped paths can be a nuisance at the best of times but a problem reported now saves a lot of time later. If a path has not been reinstated within a month of ploughing a timely note from the parish/town clerk requesting the path to be rolled might be in order. We have template letters that can be sent to those concerned if there is problem in your parish. If the matter remains unresolved at a parish level please ring 0345 155 1004 and leave a message for your rights of way warden regarding the nature of the problem and the path number affected.

### Recognition and Support for P3 from the Public Rights of Way Committee

Within the Public Rights of Way section we are very grateful for all the work that is



achieved by our P3 volunteers. Without your input, maintaining the paths to the standard that has been achieved would be significantly harder. The value of P3 has been recognised by Members of the Public Rights of Way Committee. In their latest meeting, County Councillors made

the following comments:

“ The Committee noted that the access to paths and ease of use criteria was above the 90% target, which was a considerable achievement given the extent of the county s network, and wished to extend its gratitude to both Officers and the Parish Paths Partnership volunteers in helping to keep the paths open.”

Public Rights of Way Committee 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### P3 Projects Update – News from the Modbury Volunteers

It is always such a pleasure to hear how so many of our P3 parishes are celebrating the success of local projects to improve rights of way in their community. I particularly liked Modbury P3’s account of activities in recent times and thought I would share it with you all.



‘The community, already this year, have made a major contribution to the work of P3 in Modbury. Last month’s Messenger showed the work done at Swanbridge, but since then we have had two more Work Parties, one in Cottlass Lane and one in Runaway Lane. These were prompted by the town’s mountain bikers (the 29’ers), who felt the mud was getting a bit deep in places, even for their extreme activities! So some of them volunteered to help clear it and were joined by several others on two occasions – go and look at the vast improvement at both sites as a result of all the hard work. We were also faced with fallen dead trees blocking Runaway but again, with volunteer assistance, a clear passage was soon restored.

This winter the stream crossing Runaway Lane had become a pond due to a blocked culvert. Following the last Work Party, a group of over grown school children went back after lunch to play in the deep silt and muddy water to try and unblock it. Two hours of fun followed and eventually the culvert was unblocked, but a huge amount of mud remained as did the pond. The next day, after a Mother’s Day lunch, the Weeks’ family, could not resist the temptation to finish the job, so spent another afternoon as hydraulic engineers to complete the task. The stream is now back to normal providing its usual bathing facilities for ‘hot dogs’.

Work Parties, as the name implies, are sometimes hard work but taking part always seems to be an enjoyable experience. It is fun working as a group, doing something very different from your everyday activities, and we usually finish with a pasty lunch, hot drinks and cakes and time to relive the experience, sometimes round a bonfire. We always welcome new volunteers, so keep your eyes open for our adverts in the future and come and join in. We may even play in the stream again!!!’

Mike Oakins and Brian Weeks – April 2016

## Parish Maps in Electronic Format and Parish Websites

We are delighted that so many of you are getting involved with promoting your rights of way through parish websites. As you will be aware there are Ordnance Survey copyright matters that need to be considered but the process is simple and there are no costs. Due to the frequency of this request I would like to thank Briony Moon, our Technical Officer who has kindly supplied the following text to assist you with this task should you wish to consider it.



### Ordnance Survey Public Service Mapping Agreement

- Parish maps can be supplied in pdf format, but there are copyright issues regarding the data owned by Ordnance Survey (OS)
- To enable the use of OS data, parishes should start by applying to the OS for a Public Service Mapping Agreement (PSMA) (it's all free), then they can do what they like with the mapping (websites, leaflets etc.).
- The parish will be issued with its own licence number, which can easily be incorporated into the copyright/acknowledgement statement (which is a condition of the agreement) on the parish map.
- We are happy to work in partnership with parishes to produce parish maps, but only when they have a PSMA.
- The link to the relevant section of the OS website is <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-and-government/public-sector/mapping-agreements/index.html>

### The Legal Angle

- Because the public rights of way (PROW) dataset is evolving all the time (diversion orders, modification orders, creation orders, extinguishment orders etc.), the PROWs displayed on the parish map won't necessarily be up to date
- For this reason, we ask that the map is used only for leisure/recreation purposes; reliance should not be placed on the data for legal or commercial purposes
- A disclaimer should be included, worded as follows:

The public rights of way information on this map is updated periodically but Devon County Council can give no guarantee that it represents the position of a right of way recorded on the map. Reliance should not be placed on this data for legal or commercial purposes

- It may be useful to include a "Last updated....." date adjacent to the map

## P3 Photo competition winners and local Crafts people mark the way forward

Following the success of last summer's photo competition Musbury P3 group decided to reinvest their winnings in the local community. Janet Albano, P3 Co-ordinator for the parish, wanted to celebrate the success of being a winner in the competition by adding waymarkers with a very local touch. Janet combined her idea with the work of a local potter to create some truly beautiful decorative waymarkers. Depicting scenes of flowers, insects and birds the circular plaques add an attractive and colourful way of showing the definitive map numbers on the legally recorded paths. The ceramic pieces, when complete, will be mounted by volunteers on oak offcuts from a family business before being located on the rights of way signposts round the village. The project combines volunteering with supporting a local crafts person and adds a truly distinctive touch to the paths round Musbury.



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## News from the Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF)

Two new members have been recruited to the DCAF in recent times. They are Linda Lee, who represents the interests of carriage drivers, and Simon Clist who carries forward the views of landowners. We welcome Linda and Simon who are both experts in their fields and bring extensive knowledge to help with policy guidance and countryside access issues alongside our existing members.

From a community perspective, Hilary Winter, DCAF Officer has asked me to pass on the following information that may be of interest to you and your parish.

Naturally Healthy Month runs throughout May and is promoting outdoor activities in Devon. There are a number of campaigns to encourage more people to enjoy the countryside. Lots of events are happening and people are being asked to share what's wonderful about these and Devon generally. Please do take a look on the website: <http://www.naturaldevon.org.uk/naturally-healthy-month-2016/> for a full list of what's happening and details of how to add your activities.

If you would like more information and indeed a toolkit of contacts for your nature based community projects then please click on the following link:

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/devon-community-toolkit-for-the-natural-environment-feb-2012.pdf>

## Devon Trail Riders Fellowship

Does your parish have trouble maintaining the byways and unsurfaced unclassified roads network? If it is a clearing team that you require then help might be at hand in the form of volunteers from the Devon Trail Riders Fellowship. In recent times there have been several projects achieved that range from bridge and surface repairs to major vegetation clearance. Here's just one tale of a lane in Teignbridge.



### Lane Clearing: Windmill Lane Near Kingskerswell

#### **There is a lane in there... somewhere?**

Let's face it, badly overgrown lanes are not much fun, there's little enjoyment to be had being scratched and snagged by every bit of overhanging vegetation and results with you have to ride the lane with your head down, keeping as low as you can, simply trying to protect yourself from injury in a sort of Trail riding forward limbo dance style!

Having ridden Windmill Lane a number of times I knew that it was getting badly overgrown. I called in on it as I was passing one day and soon realised that it was virtually impenetrable on foot, I managed a few yards in and thought better of it and retreated to take the photo showing the lane entrance above. As I was taking that picture a van stopped and the driver politely asked what I was up to? (I guess it must of looked a bit odd) I explained to him that I was a member of the Trail Riders Fellowship and that we are active in helping to keep old lanes like this open for use. It turned out the person I was speaking to was the farmer whose fields ran alongside part of the lane, we had a good chat about the lane with him explaining that he could not get his modern tractor down such a narrow old lane to cut it back. He asked me to let him know when we'd be clearing the lane and he finished by saying that he'd try and cut as much of the hedge as he could from his side of the field.

The following day I made a quick call to Devon County Council ROW department to discuss the best way forward and they were in agreement for Devon TRF to go ahead and clear this lane. We've worked on a number of projects with Devon PROW now and they have confidence in our ability to complete all manner of work on green lanes. With a clearing date set a post was put on the Devon TRF forum with a request for help and with fingers very firmly crossed for lots of volunteers, oh and some good weather! Lane clearing is completely reliant upon the goodwill of our fellow members who

are prepared to give up their time and put the effort into making it happen, especially so in this case as it's both a very overgrown lane and also pretty long at 0.4 of a mile... I didn't relish the idea of doing this with just a few people! One issue that was raised was the lack of parking as there simply wasn't anywhere nearby to park safely; fortunately the farmer came to the rescue and offered the use of his field near the top of the lane.



**In this picture is Ian's dad, who is affectionately known by us all as 'Pops'. He is a very active 80yr old man as you can see!**

On the clearing day I arrived 20 minutes early to find 5 people already there working away and two of them had already cleared another short lane before they'd arrived at Windmill Lane! Within a short while there were 10 of us all working away and making good progress.



**A Three Dog Powered Bike**

You never know who is going to be the first to use a lane you have finished, but how about this? As we were walking back up the lane, along came someone who was enjoying our



freshly cleared lane... on a very unusually 'powered' two wheeled bike! The last job was to put a sign up, just to inform users about the work we do, this unexpectedly resulted in some people looking up our Devon TRF Facebook page to thank us for doing this work. It's always nice to be



appreciated, but it's even better to be able to enjoy an old green lane again!  
John Harvey – Devon TRF Member

The TRF operate with a strict code regarding responsible use of byways and the unsurfaced Unclassified Roads network. If you would like more information please follow the link: [www.trfdevon.org.uk](http://www.trfdevon.org.uk)



## Funding Opportunities

With P3 grants in place many of you will want to make a start on improvements to your network. If you wish to fund schemes that include the wider community, now is the time to have a think about additional sources of money to help make things happen in your parish. In last autumn's newsletter we mentioned the Tesco bag scheme - the supermarket chain has combined forces with the Groundwork Charity to improve



outdoor spaces. The application process is simple and there are several good news stories regarding successful projects.

If you have an idea that would benefit your community now is the time to see if you can make it happen. Why not click on the link below to see if you have a project that is eligible for funding?

<http://www.tesco.com/carrier-bags/>

The closing date for the next round of applications is June 2016 so there is still time to apply. Don't forget that your P3 grant can be used as match funding if you are considering upgrading a path in your community that could give greater access for all.

Likewise, you might like to consider promoting a circular trail that encourages locals to be more active within your locality. The grants can extend to over £8000 so it is worth looking to see if you can make a difference in your locality.



For information on a range of funding

initiatives please follow the link to the Devon Funding News

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/category/environment-funds/>

..... And Finally

As always a huge thank you to everyone involved with the Parish Paths Partnership. The public rights of way team all greatly appreciate the work and energy that you put into making P3 a success for your community. We are always looking for text and photos of projects that you have completed or walks that you have led – please send any articles or updates you might have to [ros.davies@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ros.davies@devon.gov.uk) and we will add them to our webpages and newsletters. Devon is a great place for getting out and about in the countryside – thank you for your help in keeping it maintained and available for all to use.

Ros and the Public Rights of Way Team