

Rogate Parish Council Chair's letter

Last month's article mentioned that the 15 monthly footpath inspection and clearance was due to be carried out by WSCC in June. With your help we submitted a number of paths that required attention. As I am not able to walk all the paths it would be interesting to learn where work has been carried out and the quality of the work.

At our last parish council meeting we heard a presentation on the Rother valley way, a proposed accessible route for walkers and cyclists between Midhurst and Petersfield. The route (based on the old railway track) would be roughly 9½ miles and would avoid the A272. This is an ambitious project supported by all the major agencies in the area. It is similar to the Centurion Way, which is currently being worked on between Chichester and Midhurst. A long-term project but it will go through some stunningly beautiful countryside.

With members of the Terwick church community we met with the head National Trust ranger to discuss improving the lupin field. A broad plan was agreed to introduce yellow rattle into the southern part of the field to suppress the grass and the hand planting of lupin seeds in the autumn to promote and increase the number of lupins. More on this over the next few months as we may need help with a couple of working parties.

Some time back it was mentioned we were looking to thin the number of Scots pine in the northeast corner of Terwick wood. We have met with the tree surgeon and agreed a plan. We are also seeking to reduce the amount of rhododendron in the wood. The work will most likely in September or October, well out of nesting season and will take a couple of days.

And finally, thanks to Sean Farron we have completed the spring tidy up of Fyning Recreation ground. It always looks great this time of year, so take a picnic and enjoy this very special place.

Max
Chair, Rogate Parish Council