

FOOTPATH REPORT SINCE MARCH 10TH 2014

- 1) A new wooden finger post has replaced a stolen one on Ashover 97, off Wirestone Lane. Volunteers also helped to replace the adjacent sign on 98. Further replacements were near Littlemoor on Footpath 29 (to Alton) and from Littlemoor to Tinkley Lane (Bridleway 151). A fallen finger post with a rotten bottom on 43 on Hill Road has been replanted and is now shorter.... There are now about half a dozen posts that need replacing, for one reason or another. With budgets tightening they are now put on a list, that are processed through an annual contract: the process will take much longer!
- 2) A tree was removed from across Vernon Lane near Kelstedge.
- 3) A new bridleway gate has been fixed near Demonsdale Farm on Abraham's Lane.
- 4) Thanks to the generosity of local horse riders, a new horse latch has been fixed to the gate at the top of The Coach Road near Overton Hall.
- 5) Brambles grew so well that they blocked the short path off Berridge Lane (path 81). The path is now re-established but could do with a few regular walkers – wood anemones are worth seeing!
- 6) The owner of Roughclose Farm on Ashover 135 has kindly built a short bit of path so that he can enclose his dogs, which have put off some walkers in the past. This does not alter the definitive line.
- 7) Another section of wall has fallen down on The Fabric. D.C.C. started repairs within three days of the report going in.
- 8) Three walks were complete under the name of our committee during the recent Walking Festival. Another two walks came to Ashover and the total number of walkers was well over 100. A high proportion of walkers were unaware of the area and will return!
- 9) A plaque has been situated, by a local farmer, at the junction of footpaths 128/129 (off Highashes Lane) to commemorate the crew of a Blenheim bomber that crashed on April 7th 1943, during the Second World War.

10) A hand rail has been fitted on the old clapper bridge across Hodge Lane Brook on Vernon Lane.

11) Thanks to a local riding group (MADBAG) and the landowner, there is now a useful concessionary bridleway between Vernon Lane and Kelstedge Lane near Kelstedge.

12) The Countryside Service has repaired a difficult stile at the eastern end of Ashover 82. This could be the last repair for some time, as the workforce have all been warned that their jobs are in danger and no more similar work will be authorised.

13) Tuesday night's walks have resumed, leaving the post office at 6.30 p.m. We average about 25 walkers – the youngest being 6 weeks old! A measure of the age spread of walkers across the parish is that a 70+ year old has just resumed walking with her friend from The Miners' and up and around Overton. Her friend is 90!