

Footpath Officers Report 2019-2020

At the beginning of Lockdown Worcestershire Countryside Services informed all footpath officers that they should no longer tend the rights of way. With all the spring grown this has resulted in many gates, stiles and footpaths becoming overgrown and difficult to access. Once we get the green light, we will begin to rectify this, but it will take some time so please be patient. Do feel free to engage in a little snipping yourself when out for a walk.

Previous to this we had a very productive period.

A big willow tree that had fallen across the bridge on Bridle Way 572 {by the Hanbury border} was cleared.

A new gate was ordered and delivered to the Parish Charity Chairperson for installation where Path 550 joins Church Lane {by Cider Mill Lane}.

Another gate was obtained for Path 531 behind The Old Rectory, Church Lane.

New posts were installed, and the gate rehung on Path 549 at Fields Farm.

A post has been ordered for Path 556 {from the church yard into Old Church Farm} which Mark has volunteered to install.

The replacement and renewal of the signposts which had been removed from our jurisdiction has still not materialised for the third year running.

We experienced two more serious events which I handed over to the Countryside Services as we are instructed to avoid any possible confrontation. Firstly a new fence had been erected along Bridleway 559 from Church Lane to Upper Bean Hall which made it dangerous for passing horses. Secondly a dispute had developed between the landowner and a local resident about access to a stile for his dogs on Path 517.

As usual I would like to thank all your footpath officers, Kate and Roger Pask, Barbara and Brian Palmer, James McPherson and Anna and Michael Butcher, for their continues dedication to keeping our 19 km of rights of way in good condition for the enjoyment of walkers and riders. If you have any concerns or queries do feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Margaret E Fish