

GISLINGHAM FOOTPATH WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2024

I endeavour to keep everyone up to date with what is happening with the footpaths through my articles in 'the Messenger', so I trust everyone has found this of assistance.

My role is to ensure that our footpaths are free from obstructions which I regularly check and from the help of villagers who contact me. I report any issues to the Parish Council and also to Suffolk County Council who will facilitate any necessary work.

Last Summer, we did experience an issue with the footpath cutting by Suffolk County Council and the Parish contractor, which necessitated several emails to and fro. The footpaths were finally cut and walkers were able to use the footpaths without obstruction. I am hopeful that this Summer, we will not get a repetition of delay in cutting.

The atrocious weather we have had has made several of the footpaths quite muddy, but as the warmer and drier weather is upon us, they are easier to walk.

I continue re-numbering the waymarkers with the FP number, so if you do have an issue you can quote the number, which will help me identify the location much quicker. If any have faded, please let me know.

You may have noticed that several footpath posts have rotted and fallen over or disappeared, however, all have been reported to SCC and they are slowly being replaced.

There was a recent discussion regarding horses using footpaths and the Charity Meadow. Hopefully, a compromise has been reached and that we all have a better understanding of the situation. There are not many bridleways in the parish and it can be hazardous to ride on the roads safely.

In the past we have had many comments about dog fouling on the footpaths, but I must say, this has been much better, however, there a few lazy dog owners who do not clear up, so please remember, you can be fined if you do not clear up after your dog.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the residents of Gislingham who do contact me to report any concerns which is really helpful. My details are on the PC website.

Martyn Bryant.