

## OXFORD FIELDPATHS SOCIETY

(Oxford and District Footpaths, Bridlepaths and Commons Preservation Society)

President Sir Hugo Brunner

Vice President J Trumper

### Honorary Officers and Executive Committee, 2012-2013

Chairman J Parke

General Secretary D Godfrey

Minutes Secretary Mrs S Crisp

Treasurer Dr. M Wykes

Social Account A Willett

Membership Secretary Mrs G Tyson

Walks Organiser Dr. E Adams

Publicity Miss M Jones

Website A Willett

Members J A Eyre

Mrs L Fraser

Mrs J Ure

#### District Secretaries

Cherwell D Godfrey

City of Oxford vacant

South Oxfordshire N Moon

Vale of White Horse J Asbridge

West Oxfordshire vacant

Scrutineer of Accounts Joyce Dawson

Website address: "www.ofs.org.uk"

Enquiries should be addressed as follows:

Details of the Society's work

Membership

Walks – specific dates

Website or Membership Secretary

Membership Secretary

Leader named in programme

Details of footpath problems should be reported to John Asbridge (above) or directly to Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Access Team at Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TL, tel. 01865-810226. Please ensure that details of the location are as accurate as possible. This can be done by using the Inter-Active Map on the Countryside Access Team website page under the heading - 'How to report a problem'.

Renewal subscriptions (when not paid by Bankers' Order) should be sent to the Membership Secretary. Cheques should be made payable to "Oxford Fieldpaths Society". Taxpayers are asked to sign a Gift Aid declaration if they have not already done so.

Members wishing to assist the Committee by inspecting specific rights of way may offer their services by writing to the appropriate District Secretary. For information on public paths and general topographical detail, sheet 164 of the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 Landranger series is recommended (scale 2cm to 1km, roughly 1.25" to the mile). For fieldwork greater detail is shown on the 1:25000 Explorer series (scale 4cm to 1km, roughly 2.5" to the mile), available from many booksellers, stationers and outdoor clothing suppliers.

The Society is affiliated to:

The Ramblers' Association

## **1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

In my first report as your chairman it is my privilege to thank my predecessor, Liz Adams, for her leadership of the Society over the past four years. During her time in office the Society introduced the policy of making grants to replace stiles with kissing-gates at a number of footpaths throughout the county, in particular those on the d'Arcy Dalton Way and the Oxfordshire Way. Grants totalling some £3280 were made to the Chiltern Society, the Cotswold Wardens and the Countryside Access Team of the County Council to purchase gate materials which enabled a total of 18 of these gates to be installed. In this activity the society is furthering one of its principal objectives which is to improve the quality of access to the County's Public Rights of Way network and access to open spaces. Also under Liz's watch and encouragement, the Society embarked on a detailed survey of the d'Arcy Dalton Way and the circular walks associated with it. Information on the state of the route was passed to the Countryside Access Team, and it has been pleasing to note that improvements to the path infrastructure have been so as made to remedy the relatively few problems which the survey identified. Liz has also organised some very enjoyable day excursions to historic towns and locations, in which a morning's walk was followed by free time to explore a new environment. If this was not enough, she has been an active walks leader, particularly on the footpaths situated in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and this summer organised a three-day linear walk along the Ridgeway National Trail.

The Society was saddened by the death of its long-serving President and former Chairman, Jack Ibbott in December 2012. Jack was a doughty fighter on behalf of all walkers in the countryside. The Executive Committee considered who should be invited to replace him and the name of Sir Hugo Brunner, former Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, was our unanimous choice. Sir Hugo, even with his multitude of other commitments, generously accepted to take on the Presidency. In that capacity he came to introduce himself to the large turn-out of members who assembled at the start of the first Jack Ibbott Memorial Walk at Dorchester-on-Thames on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee has seen a number of changes of personnel and of duties this year. We were sorry indeed to lose Peter Ewart from the Committee earlier this year. Those who know Peter can vouch for his often trenchant views on issues and Committee discussions were enlivened by his contributions to the matter under consideration. Peter was one of the Society's representatives on the County Council's Rights of Way Monitoring Group. He was also spokesman for the OFS in the Planning Enquiry of the Chiltern Railway's upgrade of the Oxford to Bicester railway line where a number of Public Rights of Way were under threat. He also initiated the survey of the d'Arcy Dalton Way and was a contributor on behalf of the OFS to the Local Transport Development Plan.

For thirteen years John Eyre has been custodian of the Society's financial affairs as Treasurer, and therefore a key member of the Society. I must pay tribute to the meticulous manner in which he managed the finances and kept the books, and there was great concern when John announced that he wished to stand down as Treasurer. Fortunately a name was put forward as a possible replacement and we were very pleased when Mike Wykes agreed to become the Society's Treasurer. We were also relieved that John was willing to remain on the Committee as the benefit of his wide experience would be lost if he were to resign from it.

For the past ten years Sue Crisp has been our Walks Organiser, annually producing the winter and summer walks programmes. This is a major task, first encouraging members to volunteer as Walks Leaders, and then organising a coherent and interesting programme. The number and variety of walks has grown over the years and this is due to Sue's careful management and attention to detail. This summer there were some 70 walks in the programme. There cannot be many walking groups who can equal this tally. Sue has also organised walking weekends and week-long walking trips in various parts of the country. These are invariably popular and well-attended and early booking is always necessary. Finally Sue has played a leading role in codifying and updating our Health and Safety procedures to satisfy the requirements of our Insurance Company. This involved discussions with OFS Walk Leaders who assisted Sue in producing the appropriate guidelines. From January 2013, the role of Walks Organiser and Health and Safety Officer has passed to Liz Adams. Sue has agreed to take on the recording of the Minutes of the Committee meetings.

Nick Moon and David Godfrey continue to act as Footpath Secretaries. These are very important roles in that the OFS is consulted by the County Council's Countryside Access Team on any diversions or modifications to the path network. This area of work harks back to the original *raison d'être* for the founding of the Oxford and District Footpaths, Bridlepaths and Commons Preservation Society in 1926, which was to ensure that footpaths did not disappear from the Oxfordshire landscape. With the continuing large-scale expansion of settlements such as Didcot, Banbury and Bicester and other smaller developments this task is as relevant now as it ever was in the past. Every opportunity must be taken in the planning of these developments to ensure that the connectivity of the path network is enhanced and that Public Rights of Way are not lost to us. John Asbridge regularly updates the Committee with the reports of footpath problems he has sent to the Countryside Access Team. It is noteworthy to record that he has logged over a thousand of these reports since 2008.

Other Committee members look after different aspects of the Committee's activities. I am grateful for the meticulous work of Gwyneth Tyson, (Membership Secretary), Adam Willett, (Treasurer of the Social Fund and Website Officer) and Margaret Jones, (Publicity Secretary). This year the Society took stalls at four fairs in the County: Abingdon Air Show, Burford Fair, the Vale of White Horse show and Wychwood Country fair. These allow us excellent opportunities to introduce our Society to interested members of the public, many of whom have never heard of the OFS, or knew anything about its work. I am very grateful to those members who have given their time to man the stalls.

We welcome two new members to the Committee, Lesley Fraser and Janice Ure. I would point out that there are still vacancies and it is very important that we have volunteers from the Society's membership to fill these positions.

A report this year must make mention of the vagaries of the English weather. A bitterly cold winter with floods impaired the winter walks programme, with some cancellations and diversions necessary in the New Year 2013. It was followed by a long cold Spring turning almost seemingly overnight in May to Summer. The Summer programme itself consisted of walks that were invariably undertaken in beautiful sunshine thus making up for the inclement weather of the first five months of the year. The summer was followed by a mild dry Autumn and excellent walking weather.

At the time of writing this report Oxford and the countryside is once again subjected to severe flooding - a repeat of last year. Rivers and streams throughout the Vale have overflowed their banks. The effect on the path network can be serious. Many bridges are at risk because their foundations and footings can be eroded away by the fast flowing water. Last year this resulted in many footpaths in the network being closed because the bridges on them were deemed unsafe. The footpaths could not be re-opened until a bridge had been checked by engineers and repairs made. In a few cases the Countryside Access Team had to remove key bridges damaged beyond repair. All this work involved additional and unexpected expenditure on a budget that has been reduced. We wait to discover what damage has been done this year.

## **2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee met six times during 2013.

We still have two vacancies for District Secretaries. This job involves reporting footpath problems, responding to requests for diversions, and checking possible claims for new footpaths. Most of the documents for checking claims are in the County Records Office in Cowley. We badly need people to undertake this work, as it is one of the main planks of our charitable status; also we will at some time need a new General Secretary, as the present incumbent won't last for ever. Ideally the position would be occupied by someone who has been a district secretary for long enough to learn the ropes.

John Eyre has resigned as Treasurer but will remain on the committee; Mike Wykes has agreed to act as Treasurer in his place. There are three vacancies for ordinary members on the committee in addition to the vacant District Secretary positions. As stated above, Peter Ewart has also resigned for health reasons; we wish him all the best for the future.

Jim Parke has become Chairman in place of Liz Adams, who has replaced Sue Crisp as Walks Organiser; Sue has become Minutes Secretary replacing Jim Parke. Adam Willett has revamped the website during the year.

## **3. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Our work in protecting rights of way is a general public benefit. Our walks programme, as a health benefit, is also open and advertised to the public.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 our total membership was as follows:

Life members	38
Annual members	<u>276</u>
	314

During the year 17 new members joined, 8 informed us of their intention to resign and 19 did not renew their subscription. During the year 3 of our long serving members were awarded Honorary membership.

Thank you again to those who pay their subscriptions promptly. There is no need to fill in a new application form but please enclose a slip with your name, address,

telephone and e-mail or just write these on the back of the cheque. It helps us to contact everyone much more quickly if we do have an e-mail address.

We are still receiving a few payments at the old subscription rate of £4 though we no longer include these in the membership figures.

## **5. FINANCE???**

### **Main Account???**

The Abstract of Accounts and Balance Sheet are appended in the report. They show how the Society's income has been used and to what extent funds are now being carried forward to meet future liabilities. There was a net increase of Expenditure over Income of £54; this was offset by gains on Investments of £892 making total revenue increase of £838. The accumulated balance now stands at £28,294.

During the year the Society made two grants totalling £1,248. The Cotswolds Conservation Board received £468 towards the provision of five kissing gates to assist in their programme of replacing stiles with gates to ease access to the countryside. The Countryside Services of the OCC received £780 for similar replacements. It is hoped that this will become an ongoing commitment.

The value of stocks and shares has shown a slight rise throughout the year; this is reflected in the market value of our M&G Charifund Units.

Our thanks are due to Joyce Dawson for stepping in as Scrutineer at the last moment to take over from Janet Isaac, whom we wish a speedy recovery after her spell in hospital.

### **Social Fund**

The balance of the social account at 31st December 2013 was £1319.58 with the following liabilities:

£620.00 for the Cornwall Holiday

£214.00 for the Oxford Golf Club meal

The balance after deducting the liabilities is £485.58 which is a decrease from the equivalent balance of £525.58 on 31st December 2012. This loss resulted from the financing of the picnic in August. The turnover for the year was £17071.00. The loan from the Society's main account has been repaid.

### **Gift Aid???**

The number of members signing a Gift Aid Declaration has steadily increased. This is most gratifying and is clearly shown by the increase in tax recovered from the Inland Revenue. The percentage refunded has decreased with the reduction in basic rate of Income Tax to 20%. A Gift Aid form now appears at the back of this report; perhaps you would consider filling one in if you have not already done so, provided that you pay more tax than the amount claimed by the Society.

### **Standing Order???**

The Society is most appreciative of those who pay their annual subscription by Standing Order. This method greatly assists cash flow at the start of the fiscal year. This year was yet another record with the January bank statement running to an impressive nine pages.

## **6. PUBLICITY**

A key aim of the Executive Committee this year is to increase a greater awareness of the Society to the General Public. As well as being listed on the Society's website, details of the walks are included in the weekly Events Planner section of 'The Oxford Times'. To assist with publicity the Society has purchased a display stand and a pull-up advertisement stand. The stand includes the words 'Oxford Fieldpaths Society - Enjoying and Preserving Our Footpaths' – with photographs to show walks in different seasons. The display and pull up stands have been used at four exhibitions and fairs throughout the County. These included the Abingdon Air Show in May, the Burford Festival Heritage Day Fair in June, the Vale of White Horse Show in August and the Wychwood Project Forest Fair in September. The Society's stall at these shows has been manned by members of the Committee with assistance from Susan Matthew and Siobhan Steed-Ellis.

As one of the UK's oldest walking groups we are looking forward to maintaining a strong society. In 2 years we will celebrate 90 years of OFS which we look forward to celebrating in force. Our membership currently stands at 314; however, not only the more the merrier but the more people involved in the Society the stronger we will be to fulfill the aims of the Society to protect the footpaths, bridleways and commons in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

## **7. WALKS PROGRAMME**

I took over from Brian Colley as walks organiser in October 2003, producing my first programme for the winter 2003/4. For 10 years I have enjoyed working with a wonderful team of leaders, who give their time and energy voluntarily. The Society couldn't function without them, so I send my grateful thanks for all the walks that have been submitted over the decade. As from January 2014 the role of walks organiser will be filled by Liz Adams.

In 2013 there were 122 walks covering a huge 813 miles. This gives an average of 6.6 miles for each walk. The early part of the year saw some walks diverted or even cancelled because of flooding or slippery snow. Members should always check the website or contact the leader if there is any doubt about the walk going ahead. At the AGM Clive Jones gave a fascinating talk with slides about some unusual sights in Oxford and this was followed later by two very well supported city trails. Lyn Watkin led an enjoyable two part distance walk along the canal from Oxford to Banbury. Over the late May bank holiday Michael Payton and Liz Adams led a three day long distance walk along the Ridgeway from Ivinghoe to Nuffield. On 29<sup>th</sup> June John Eyre led the Jack Ibbott memorial walk from Dorchester with tea afterwards in the abbey teashop. On August bank holiday Monday the bi-annual picnic was held at Horspath village hall. Two walks of varying distances were led by Adam Willett and Liz Adams. The annual outing this year was to the St. Albans area with a pleasant morning walk of five miles along the river Ver, and in the afternoon there was time to visit the cathedral and Roman remains. Thanks go to Liz and Michael.

There were two successful residential walking breaks to HF houses, the first in April to Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight and the second to Holnicote House on Exmoor. Wonderful, dramatic coastal walking was experienced on both holidays by the 25 members on each trip and thanks go to the organisers Alison Broadbridge and Sue Crisp. Other social events included the new venture of a meal at Kirtlington Golf Club, organised by Val Forsdyke and the skittles evening at the Red Lion, Islip,

organised by Michael Payton. Both events were popular with members and thanks go to the organisers.

Over the year an OFS Health and Safety policy has been fully implemented with all walk leaders being given formal guidelines in a standard brochure, devised by a sub-committee and revised by the executive committee. The brochures were given out and explained to leaders at a meeting held at Horspath village hall this July. A Health and Safety Officer has been appointed and is a member of the executive committee, with a brief to keep a record of all H&S matters, including recording any incidents and accidents. The situation is not “set in stone” and policy will be reviewed as the need arises.

Thank you for your support on walks over the past decade and I now pass the baton to Liz Adams.

## **8. THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND RIGHTS OF WAY MONITORING GROUP**

The Oxfordshire Rights of Way Monitoring Group met twice in 2013 as intended.

In addition to the ongoing impact of the cuts on rights of way maintenance, in particular the repair and replacement of defective footbridges, where backlogs of work are starting to build up and several dangerous structures have been closed and/or removed, topics discussed included the reorganisation of management of national trails, the development of the Countryside Access Management Plan for Oxfordshire and the creation of a reasonable basic standard of management for Oxfordshire’s public rights of way. As the latter included a prioritisation of various categories of public rights of way, user groups emphasised that this must not lead to no-go-areas developing and that the aim should remain for all routes to be passable. While the practical interpretation of the policy remains to be seen, the County Council at least seemed to accept these points in principle and so we must hope for the best.

## **9. OUT ON THE GROUND**

### **Development of the parish path warden network**

This year the Society is working in partnership with the Oxfordshire Area Ramblers and the County Council’s Countryside Access Team to establish a network of Parish Path Wardens throughout Oxfordshire. At present about 52% of the 320 parishes have a Warden in place so there is still some way to go. The role of a PPW is relatively straightforward – regularly to walk the footpaths in his/her parish, equipped with secateurs to clear overgrown vegetation at stiles, gates or bridges, and to report any significant problems to the Countryside Access Team using the County’s on-line system. Twice a year, a PPW will receive a report back from the Team so that a check can be made that the landowner or farmer has resolved any outstanding issues in his parish. The PPW will then inform the County Field Officer whether or not a problem has been resolved. In this way the PPW acts as the ‘eyes’ of the Field Officer.

In November 2013 I was invited to give a talk to the Annual Conference of Oxfordshire Parish Clerks. This included information on the history and activities of the Society as well as progress on the development of the Path Warden network.

Last year there were three one-day workshops organised for PPWs attended by a number of OFS members who had volunteered their services as a Warden. This year two workshops have been arranged. The first is on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at



Tiddington Village Hall, the second on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> at East Hanney Memorial Hall.

If any OFS member is interested in becoming a Parish Path Warden please contact me by email [jmh.parke@btinternet.com](mailto:jmh.parke@btinternet.com).

## **Cherwell**

The Chiltern Railways dualling of the Bicester line will go ahead, having overcome objections concerning the effect on bats. HS2 will affect about six paths in Mixbury, Finmere, Newton Purcell and Godington, including two at Finmere Quarry where infill of the land HS2 is due to cross will not end until 2039 because of lack of infill material, caused by increased recycling. The plans for the HS2 paths have been published; these involve minimal diversion and minimum disruption; the recent draft legislation has not changed this.

Also in Newton Purcell, the claim to vary the route of Newton Purcell BR15 closer to the parish boundary (where the original order of the 1980s should have put it) has been confirmed and the path cleared. The path (Banbury FP7) through the Prodrive site has been diverted nearer the motorway, and two further Banbury diversions in the Thorpe Road estate (FP58/60) are pending. The gates on Hampton Gay FP1 south of Bletchingdon have been replaced and are no longer tied with Gordian knots, but there are more horse-paddocks on this land. A diversion at the south end of Swalcliffe BR7 at Ushercombe Farm has been confirmed. The estate on the NW side of Bletchingdon, which is to contain a new school and village hall, has been redesigned so that Bletchingdon FP1 can remain on its existing line. We have agreed a diversion of Piddington FP6 round to-be-extended paddocks at Chilling Place. Finally, there is a claim for Mixbury FP25 to be routed through the churchyard instead of the rectory drive, and an extinguishment order in Westbury (Bucks), where a path through a private school has a gap in it where it goes into Mixbury, has not been proceeded with by Bucks CC after several objections were received; further research into this area is needed to see if there is evidence for the connecting path.

## **Oxford City**

2013 has not seen as much progress on the City's paths as in previous years.

Oxford FP57 through the site of the proposed Barton West development from the Oxford Northern Bypass to the City boundary, part of an important link from Headington to Elsfield which had become blocked by vegetation, has been cleared and thus reopened to use.

It has also been agreed to divert Oxford FP111 north of the Churchill Hospital out of a car park to run through a strip of nearby woodland, but it is not known when this will be realised on the ground or when the necessary paperwork will be undertaken.

There have, however, been no applications for diversions or modifications to the Definitive Map, but a short footpath (Oxford FP152) has been dedicated at Headington Quarry.

At the time of writing, it remains to be seen whether recent flooding has done any serious damage to public rights of way in the City, notably the Thames towpath, which, in recent years, has had considerable sums spent on remedying years of neglect.

## South Oxfordshire

In South Oxfordshire, 2013 has been another busy year on the public rights of way front.

Despite the apparent general slowness of the building industry, inexorable progress is being made with the Great Western Park development at Didcot and this has led to a whole rash of diversion consultations and orders. As far as the details of the proposals are concerned, we have continued to be disappointed by the piecemeal way in which some have been brought forward as this makes it more difficult to see them in the context of the final network and to obtain the best solutions and a difference in philosophy from the planners as to how footpaths should fit into the development and a reluctance by OCC to accept footpath dedications in compensation for routes “diverted” along roads (because of the financial implications of future maintenance) have also made it harder to reach satisfactory solutions, but regular meetings with the developers have fostered a greater understanding on their part of what we are trying to achieve and have persuaded them to incorporate some of our ideas into the layout of the path network and to rectify several proposals which had initially been unsatisfactory.

Other diversions have been proposed for Highmoor FP5, which would take the path out of a former farmyard converted into a garden and Goring Heath FP30, which would bypass a long-standing industrial site in woodland created on a hardstanding remaining from a wartime army camp. The proposed diversion of Sydenham BR7 at Sydenham Grange Farm has been delayed by disagreements as to the best route, while the legalisation of the long-standing unofficial diversion of Ewelme FP22/38 round the perimeter of RAF Benson married quarters, which arose from the emergency fencing of the site at the time of the IRA bombing campaign, has been delayed by the need to improve the new route and ensure its future maintenance. Diversion orders to straighten Rotherfield Greys FP23 at Cowfields Farm and provide a new segregated route for an unofficial path through the site of a new house at Haywards Close, Henley (which also secures its public status!) have, however, gone through largely without difficulty.

A Definitive Map Modification Order was made to add Great Milton FP22/Waterstock FP13, against the rejection of which the appeal had been upheld, but unfortunately an Inspector subsequently refused to confirm this order. An order has also been made to add the claimed public right of way across Chippinghurst Stepping Stones linking Chippinghurst to Little Milton, which was also the subject of a successful appeal, as Cuddesdon & Denton FP28, but, as objections have been made, this will have to be sent to the Secretary of State for determination.

Towards the end of 2011 a number of support struts were found to be protruding from the underside of the River Thames bridge on Drayton St. Leonard FP6 and a subsequent inspection by the County Council resulted in its being ‘condemned’ as unsafe and fenced off until a new bridge can be built. As this would be too expensive to come from the normal bridge maintenance budget, it is to be paid for out of capital spending and has been promised for 2013/14, so we must just hope it does not fall victim to further cuts! Other bridges were also damaged by the wet and cold weather in the winter of 2012/13 and further damage is to be expected following recent flooding, so that with cuts in the maintenance budget a backlog of repairs and replacements is starting to build up and we hope that no further bridges will have to be closed in South Oxfordshire as they have been elsewhere in the County.

On a more positive note, however, despite the cuts, the County Council and others continue to do sterling work to remedy serious and often long-standing problems on the path network. An eroded section of the Thames Path near Sonning Bridge (Eye & Dunsden FP20) has been reconstructed. With the assistance of a donation from the Society to replace stiles with gates the County Council has improved a whole network of paths in the notorious blackspot of Tetsworth including part of the Oxfordshire Way, also replacing defective footbridges and filling muddy hollows with aggregate. At Watlington Hill, Watlington FPs 4, 25 and 26 have been cleared and largely restored to their definitive lines, which had been choked with scrub for decades; the drainage of the Wallingford bypass underpass on Crowmarsh BR8 has been improved to make it less susceptible to flooding; a barrier has been erected on Cholsey RB8 to prevent fly-tipping on the Fairmile; obstructions to Long Wittenham FP19, which had made it virtually impassable since it was added to the Definitive Map in the 1980s have been removed and numerous other small improvements have been made, notably in the Chilterns where the Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers have obtained funding from the Trust for the Oxfordshire Environment for the purchase of gates to be erected by volunteers.

### **Vale of White Horse**

Surface repairs have been carried out to Abingdon FP25 at the footbridge next to the weir after a serious injury to a member of the public. A new bridge has been installed in Bagley Wood along Kennington FP3.

Current applications include the addition of a bridleway between Duxford and Great Pine Break, a variation to the line of Drayton FP24 and extending it to join up with Abingdon FP3 as well as an upgrade of Blewbury FP19 to a bridleway.

Discussions are ongoing with Network Rail concerning the First Great Western Railway electrification programme. West Challow FP6 has already been diverted and other crossing points may require repositioning or even closure.

Planning permission has now been granted to the proposal for the Abingdon Hydro scheme at Abingdon weir. However, there is still much discussion to take place between planners, local council members and the Environment Agency before work is likely to be started.

### **West Oxfordshire**

The claim at Wootton has been confirmed with the widths from the Tithe Award. The extension of Watery Lane, Charlbury has been confirmed as a byway open to all traffic at one end, a restricted byway at the other, and a footpath in the middle; a claim has been made to upgrade the footpath section. The order at Idbury FP4 to connect a cul-de-sac with the network has been made; there are local representations to connect the path to the village street. The claim for vehicular rights on the Oxfordshire Way at Stonesfield, made by someone who has since left the district, has been rejected. There is a claim for a path past the Fire Station; there has also been a dedication elsewhere in the village. Consultations for a diversion of Hailey FP6, to incorporate the copse into the school grounds, and for a proposal to divert Sandford St. Martin FP11 at Hobbshole Farm (which has been practically rebuilt, with, apparently, no expense spared), to a grass track rather than wriggling through the farmyard, are in progress.

## **10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We again would like to thank all those members whose hard work and support have helped make a useful contribution to rights of way work in the county. We also thank those who go out unheralded with secateurs, and clear out the rampaging weeds that block paths in summer. We are also grateful for the work of our colleagues in the Chiltern Society, Open Spaces Society, CPRE and Ramblers' Association.

**OXFORD FIELDPATHS SOCIETY**

**BANKER'S ORDER FORM**

Please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary, to start a new Banker's Order. To change an existing order this form should be presented to your own bank branch.

To.....  
(name and full postal address of your bank)

Sort Code..... Account Number.....

Please pay to Santander UK plc, 2 Triton Square, Regent's Place, London NW1 3AN, for the credit of the account of the Oxford Fieldpaths Society (Sort Code 09-01-52, Account 85394908) the sum of

£..... (.....)  
(amount in words)

on January 1<sup>st</sup> ..... and thereafter on the same day of each year until further notice.

SIGNATURE.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

Please complete this form only if you have not already given us a Gift Aid Declaration or your tax status has changed.

Name  
Address

Postcode

Please tick one of the following options

I wish the Oxford Fieldpaths Society to treat as Gift Aid Donations all donations (including membership subscriptions) I have paid since 6 April 2000 and all donations (including membership subscriptions) that I may pay from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I understand that I must pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax retained by the Society.

OR

I am not a UK taxpayer

Print FULL name

Signed

Date

Please print your full name; we need your first names to claim tax from Inland Revenue.