

Trailway News July 2017



Some of the picnics at the Trailway Picnic

This is the summer Trailway News. The next one will be in September. In this news letter there is the Trailway Picnic, North Dorset and the Trailway, Date of the AGM, our annual get together, and who is retiring.

The Trailway Picnic was very entertaining for those who came. Dilys Gartside provided an agility course which included cycling under a low bar, around cones, stops and starts; some were faster than others and some younger than others. (There are some pictures at the end of the newsletter). Charles and Sammy Upton entertained us with popular and unusual folk songs; one was called *poisoning the pigeons in the park*. There were teas, cakes and ice creams for sale. Fifi the Ice cream van did a roaring trade in the hot weather. At the end, we had races of all sorts for children who were not used to these sort of races and landed in heaps of tangled legs and arms in the three legged race and the wheelbarrow race. The picture at the end is of the egg and spoon race. I was asked if we would do this again next year . I do not know. There were fewer than we had hoped but great fun for those who were there.

North Dorset and the Trailway As you all know Dorset is becoming a unitary authority and I fear for the funding of North Dorset projects especially the Trailway. Dorset County Council tends to fund projects related to tourism especially along the South Coast where most of the tourist income is generated. North Dorset is the poor relation. If no money is spent on things like the Trailway and it does not link the ends of the county especially Poole to Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge it cannot compete with all the other attractions. It is important that we keep the Trailway in the minds of those who sit in Dorchester making decisions and remind them that the Trailway is not just a lovely place to walk dogs but a real tourist attraction which can and could in the future benefit North Dorset to a much greater extent.

The AGM is to be held in the Shillingstone Church Centre on Monday 27th November at 7.00pm. There is ample parking at the Church Centre and as usual after the business of the AGM the Rangers will give a presentation. There will be refreshments and a chance to find out what lies ahead. The Railway Trust will be invited to explain what plans they have for the station and the their trains. The Trust is now under a new set of Trustees who are anxious to work with the Trailway Network.

Retiring at the AGM Graham Rains the Vice Chairman and myself intend to retire at the next AGM. We have worked on the Trailway for over ten years and think it is time for us to step down. We do not want the Trailway to stop where it is; a link between Blandford and Sturminster Newton. It has the potential to stretch North beyond Stalbridge and South of Blandford to Poole. It is a wonderful asset but without pressure to improve it and maintain it, it could become just another bridleway . We are putting this in the news letter so that by the time November comes and we have the AGM one or more of you, our Trailway, supporters will realise that this is something that is

important to you and to your community that cannot be left to the weak interest of Dorset County Council. Please think about joining the committee and helping to grow and improve the Trailway.

Have a wonderful summer holiday

Lesley Gasson



Figure 1 Sammy and Charles Upton



Figure 2 The cyclists agility course



Figure 3 Fifi's Ice cream van with a customer



Figure 4 The egg and Spoon Race