

BEST KEPT FOOTPATH 2016

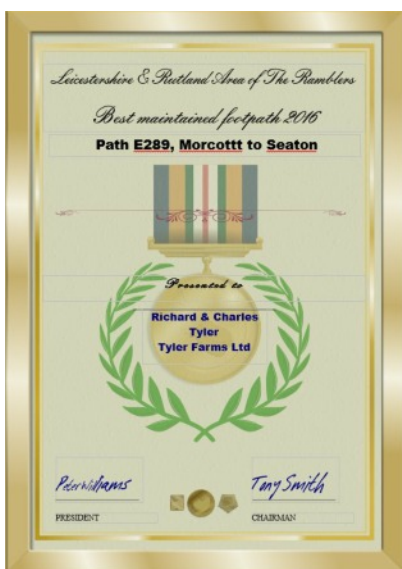
The winner of this award for 2016 was a farming family from Barrowden. Charles and Richard Tyler have over 2600 acres with 2000 arable and 600 acres for their flock of 2000 sheep. They look after a large section of the Welland Valley stretching from Rockingham to Morcott and Seaton and have an excellent relationship with the Ramblers whom they class as responsible walkers and welcome to their land, long may this continue

When we visited them they were three weeks into the lambing and despite this were perfect hosts when the presentation was made early in March.

Present were The Tyler brothers and family members plus John Pitt the Rutland Ramblers new Chairman and John Williams the footpath officer. Presenting the award was Area Chairman Tony Smith assisted by the Area President Peter Williams.

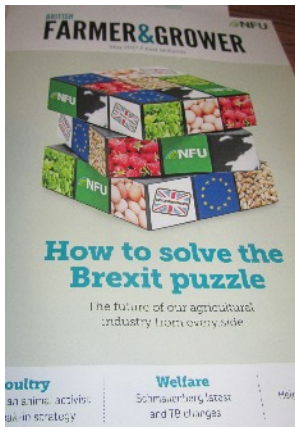


The brothers were very pleased to receive the award and assured us that all paths will be maintained to ensure ease of access throughout the year



This years
Highly
Commended
award went to
Patrick Arnold
for his stretch
of path M91 by
Peggs Green





Those churches:

Glenfield

Rearsby

Oaks in Charnwood

Breedon

Ravenstone

Bottesford

SNIPPETS

LLAF

John Howells our Treasurer and former Chairman has just been elected as Chairman of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum, based at County Hall. The forum is an independent statutory body, set up as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000, and exists to represent the interests of everyone concerned with access to the countryside and the public rights of way network including footpaths, bridleways and byways, cycleways and areas of open access. It is in effect a QUANGO

Section 94 of the CROW act makes it a statutory function of the forum to give advice to a range of bodies, including local authorities, on access issues in respect of land use planning matters. The Secretary of State advised that in particular forums were to focus on the impact and options for minimising possible adverse effects of planning policies and development proposals, in respect of future public access to land. Forums are tasked with identifying and expressing support for opportunities to improve public access, or associated infrastructure, which might be delivered through planning policies or new developments.

The Ramblers Area have always had members active in the Leicestershire Forum. Roy Denney your Walking Environment Officer was Chairman for its first 13 years and has been Vice Chairman since then. Michael Parr for many years our Area Secretary was a member and Stan Warren serves on both the Leicestershire Forum and the Leicester City Forum. Roy Denney has also held the Chairmanship of the Forum's Planning & Travel Committee for many years, overseeing and advising on planning applications and requests for footpath diversions and extinguishments which fits nicely with our aims as the Ramblers. That committee also deals with local, regional and national consultations. Stan Warren also chairs one of their committees; the Unrecorded Ways Committee. This looks for paths in use which do not have legal protection or paths lost on the ground which are still legally in existence. Once paths are identified it works to collect evidence to have them formalised.

We are well placed to ensure the Ramblers interests are pursued.

LEICESTERSHIRE ROUND

A new edition of the guide to The Leicestershire Round has now been published; produced by the Leicestershire Footpaths Association, an affiliate of the Ramblers. It should be available from good local book shops and other outlets and from Amazon. (ISBN 978-1-5272-0622-9)

The Leicestershire Round is a router of 100 miles around the county taking in many highlights of Leicestershire including Charnwood Forest, Bradgate Park, Burrough Hill Iron Age Fort, Foxton Locks, Burbage Common and the Bosworth Battlefield Centre. It visits pretty villages, varied countryside and passes through a part of the National Forest.



The route has seen several minor changes over the years and the LFA have done a complete rewrite to take in all the changes

The guide offers a detailed description of the route alongside maps taken from the popular Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps. Photographs and text invite the reader to points of interest along the way. The book is spiral bound for ease of use in a protective map case.

The walk was originally devised by members of the LFA to mark the centenary of their organisation in 1987, one hundred miles to mark one hundred years.

The Round is on the doorstep of a large urban population including Leicester, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Hinckley and Coalville.

The route has always had the support of Leicestershire County Council and is well maintained by them with the installation of gates, yellow topped posts and ditch crossings. Distinctive waymarking is now carried out by wardens, coordinated by the LFA.

DIGGING A HOLE

If you fancy a walk round Calke Abbey you might wish to consider the weekend of 29/30 July. There is to be an archaeological dig to discover the layouts of the old formal gardens and the National Trust is happy for people to see what is going on and engage with the archaeologists.

There will also be some hands-on opportunities - you can do some sand excavation, try putting pottery back together or identify bone remnants.

UNUSUAL ANIMALS

As we wander the wilder places in Britain we may increasingly spot something different.

At the end of last year the Scottish Government decided that beavers be classed as a native species despite having been absent from Britain for many years.

Those which have been released and are living in Argyll and Tayside will now be free to wander at will and presumably create populations in other parts of the country.

Polecats are making a come back and can now be found in many locations and a colony of pine martens has been discovered in Shropshire. Landowners are working with the local wildlife trust to encourage them and re-establish this animal in England. Many of us visit the Long Mynd area and if we are in the Clun Valley and very fortunate we may sight them.

THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

When the National Parks were created they were supposed to protect our wilder places and most such authorities do a pretty good job but they are increasingly becoming bureaucratic and virtual planning authorities and this with funding challenges means that actual conservation of the places we love to walk is not as proactive as we would wish.

There is however good news about one classic part of the Lakes; Glenridding Common is likely to be managed in future by the John Muir Trust. This Trust is a conservation charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing wild places. They campaign to keep wild places free from inappropriate development and open for all to enjoy and work to restore natural habitats and native species, to help nature flourish.

They own and/or manage large blocks of wild land in Scotland and some in Wales but this will be their first venture into England.

Glenridding Common takes in much of the land to the east of the summit of Helvellyn including Swirral and Striding edges.

NETWORK RAIL RETREATS

Following a Ramblers petition to stop Network Rail from closing level crossings in East Anglia, 15 of the proposed closures have been removed from the programme. Cambridgeshire CC is objecting to others and it will now go to a public enquiry.

This will be something of a test case and can give us an indication of the best way to fight similar proposals here in our patch

Footpath Changes

Blaby District

R98, T74 Leicester Forest West - Diversions round Pendlewood Farm to help improve security following several issues with footpath users.

Harborough District

A1 Husbands Bosworth - Minor diversion to correct the definitive map to show the line currently walked.

W70 Leire - Addition of path, used on Leicestershire Round, onto the definitive map to give it a legal protection.

Q25 Appleby Magna - Small diversion to allow for development.

Z97, A88, A89, A99 Kibworth Beauchamp - A group of changes to assist landowner with management of land but also clears up a long term issue and creates a more linked up network.

Y45 Mowsley - A small diversion which corrects the definitive map to show the line which has been in use for some time.

Y106 North Kilworth - The addition of a path between Hawthorne Road and Lutterworth Road.

Hinckley & Bosworth

U18 Earl Shilton, Potters Marston - A small diversion to correct a discrepancy on the definitive map and to provide separation between footpath users and a course used for trial bikes.

U65 Burbage - A very minor diversion to correct the line of the path onto that which is already used.

Melton District

D77 Burrough On The Hill - Small diversion to take path around a pond and out of a garden development. New route is quite pleasant.

North West Leicestershire

Q45, O104 Normanton le Heath - Addition of two bridleways; Q45 between O39 and O55. and O104 between Q45 and Heather Lane.

N50, N51, N52 Battleflats - Series of diversions and extinguishments around the new Amazon site. New paths all multi-user routes.

Q45, Q65, O105, O106 Ravenstone, Heather - 4 new routes dedicated as public footpaths

Q21 Appleby Magna - A small diversion to allow for a housing development.

L59 Kegworth - Small diversion around new housing estate.

P30 Boothorpe - Latest temporary diversion around the old Albion Landfill Site.

M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M24, M25, M28, M35 Breedon on the Hill, Staunton Harold - A group of changes around Scotlands Farm. Confirmed by Sec of State Inspector.

For more information on any of these diversion email: martin@langsett1.com