



Welcome to the latest edition of the project newsletter. A lot is happening this spring with archaeology on the Ridgeway and planning for some big events later in May and July. I hope you can join us.

The Inland Coast Path has been re-named the South Dorset Ridgeway.

This 17 mile trail between West Bexington and Osmington Mills is now known as the South Dorset Ridgeway.

The South Dorset Ridgeway provides the opportunity to explore one of the UK's most important ancient ceremonial landscapes. With dramatic views across coast and countryside the route remains part of the family of National Trails that are waymarked with the acorn symbol. New distinctive 'South Dorset Ridgeway' waymark discs have been put in place but it will take some years to phase in new oak fingerposts along the route's entirety, so for the time being users will find the trail signed as both the South Dorset Ridgeway and the Inland Coast Path.

Over the coming months you may experience some disruption and a diversion at Ridgeway Hill owing to the construction of the Dorchester to Weymouth relief road. Once this is completed a new 'green' bridleway bridge, currently under construction, will make for a much easier road crossing on the route. For further information contact John Hayes at the Dorset Countryside Ranger Service on 01305 756790 j.hayes@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

Broadmayne has the first word...

The South Dorset Ridgeway Project's Oral History strand Ridgeway Voices was marked with a special tea at Broadmayne Church Hall. The local team of interviewers met with villagers to hear clips from stories that have been recorded so far and to discover what else is to come. Interviewers are also working in Sutton Poyntz, Osmington and Martinstown. If you'd like to find out more about Ridgeway Voices and how you can get involved please contact Sarah.

Ridgeway in print ... your help needed

We are working with Dovecote Press to publish a guide to the South Dorset Ridgeway in May 2011. The book will include a large number of photographs of the Ridge, so please consider us if you are out and about this spring and summer with a camera. Any good quality high resolution views on or around the South Dorset Ridgeway will be considered for inclusion in the book. We have also commissioned local photographer Sue Macpherson to record the Ridgeway over a year. Email your photos to s.e.harbig@dorsetcc.gov.uk



Monument surveys – get involved...

Bournemouth University's research programme into Round Barrows on the Ridgeway will continue this summer. The 2008 survey of Bronkham Hill is already published and last years work at Clandon Barrow is awaited. This year the project will explore the area around Clandon Barrow near Martinstown more widely. If you are interested in taking part and would like to find out more please contact John Gale at Bournemouth directly at jgale@bmth.ac.uk.

live IT love IT film IT

Are you aged between 14 and 25? Have you ever wanted to make a film? You might be interested in taking part in a project to capture the spirit of the South Dorset Ridgeway in a 3 minute film. As part of the South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project we are working with PVA MediaLab and artist Jorn Ebner to create four 3 minute films during 2010.

We are starting with a half day taster workshop during the February half term holiday to introduce the project and to think about how to begin making a moving image. There are three workshop venues to choose from; 17th February in Osmington, 18th February in Dorchester, 19th February in Portesham. For booking please contact Sarah. More information about Jorn and the project can be found at our website

www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway/get-involved/270-live-it-love-it-film-it.html

Get to know the Dorset History Centre Saturday 20th March, 10.00am

We have organised a 'getting to know you' session at the Dorset History Centre, to find out more about what the centre has to offer and the sources available. We will also have a short Q & A session after our tour. To book a place contact Sarah, and if you have any particular queries then please let us know and we will try to get them answered.

Roman Revels - Dorchester Roman Festival 20th to 23rd May 2010

Roman living history group Legio II August will be visiting Dorchester in May to help celebrate the area's Roman past. Events planned include two days of workshops for schools at The Roman Town House on the 20th and 21st May and two days for all the family at Maumbury Rings on the 22nd and 23rd. There will be displays by legionaries and gladiators, demonstrations of everyday life and opportunities to join in. For more information about the event please visit www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway/events-listing/280-dorchester-roman-festival-may-2010.html.

The South Dorset Ridgeway Festival 16th to 31st July 2010

Join us to celebrate the wonders of the South Dorset Ridgeway this July. The two week long festival includes a varied programme of performances, talks, workshops and guided walks. Explore the Ridgeway with poets, archaeologists, storytellers, artists and geologists for a very special experience. For a full events listing please visit the website at www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway/events-listing/260-south-dorset-ridgeway-festival.html

Events include:

- **Ridgeway Uncovered Saturday 17 July**

Join archaeologists who have recently studied the South Dorset Ridgeway for a day Symposium at Weymouth College.

- **Tell a Tale Gladly, Storytelling 24/31 July**

Create your own stories at digital storytelling workshops with the Dorset History Centre's Pippa Brindley on Saturday 24 July and again on Saturday 31 July. Listen to Tim Laycock share his collection of local tales in Portesham on Saturday 24 July

- **The Ridgeway Challenge: Coast to Coast on the South Dorset Ridgeway Sunday 25 July**

We dare you to take this challenge and walk or run from Weymouth Bay to Lyme Bay through some outstanding scenery and in support of the British Heart Foundation. Follow the South Dorset Ridgeway, part of the National Trail Network. Choose from 17 miles, 7 miles or 2 miles.

Other News & Events

Archaeological Finds from the Relief Road

There is to be a public exhibition at the Weymouth Pavilion Ocean Room to show some of the archaeological finds from the relief road construction. The exhibition will be open at the following times: Sunday 21 March, 10am - 5pm Monday 22 March, 9am - 8pm Tuesday 23 March, 9am - 8pm Representatives from Oxford Archaeology will be at the exhibition to answer questions and discuss the significance of the finds. More information is available at the www.dorsetforyou.com

Events from Dorset County Museum

The Dorset County Museum is holding a number of this spring and summer which relate to the South Dorset Ridgeway:

- 5 March, 7.30pm Lecture *The Dorchester Neolithic Henges – new light from recent work at Avebury & Stonehenge* Dr Joshua Pollard, Bournemouth University
- 9 April, 7.30pm Lecture *Dorset Barrows and the dead – the final frontier where everyone has gone before* John Gale, Bournemouth University
- 4 June, 6.00pm Walk *Walking the South Dorset Ridgeway- the Big Wood Barrow Group*
- 2 July, 6.00pm Walk *Walking the South Dorset Ridgeway – White Hill*

More information on the County Museum Website: www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/events.htm

For more information about the South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project contact:
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www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway.html