



TO: Bournemouth Echo, Swanage & Wareham Advertiser, Purbeck Gazette, Poole Community Magazine, Poole, Dorset Lionheart and Purbeck Council publications

Press Release: Poole Harbour Trails Walk and Ride

On Saturday 21 March in fantastic sunshine around 50 people, including our local MP Annette Brooke with local town and parish councillors, the Ramblers, cycling representatives, council staff from Dorset, Poole, Bournemouth and Purbeck tourism and public rights of way, the Urban Heaths Partnership and many others celebrated the launch of the Poole Harbour Trails leaflets. The concept, viewed as an excellent idea by all the area's councils, was the result of the ideas and research of local walkers Peter Strudwick and Bernard Corby, many walks, and discussions with Councils. The Poole Harbour Trails Community Group was set up in 2006 to take the project forward. Bernard introduced the launch and thanked all involved in the realisation of the idea. MP Annette Brooke outlined the great benefits of using our outdoor gym on our doorstep, a great new asset for all in the area. She extended her thanks to Bernard Corby and Peter Strudwick and said that she was looking forward to the next part of the project.

The routes make use of existing rights of way and access land around Poole Harbour going through both Poole and Purbeck. All leaflets show routes accessible on foot and provide information about walking.

These walks are all linear ones of around 7 or 8 miles in length, each starting and ending at a bus stop. Bus links include Wilts and Dorset Buses 9 Poole/Hamworthy/Turlin Moor and the 50 and 40 Poole/Swanage buses. All but one of them meet bus routes on the way and so could be cut to shorter walks for those who prefer walks of 3 or 4 miles. There are also details of circular routes off the trails available on the www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk website.

Funding to design and print the leaflets was granted by Purbeck Heritage Committee, the Royal Naval Cordite Factory Association, Sunseeker and Poole Council. Each walk leaflet (1, 2, 3, 4 and 6) offers a detailed guide to routes, indicating status (footpath, bridleway), local history, helpful photographs and viewpoints. Local Graphic Designer Maria Burns designed the leaflets and used a local printing company.

The Poole Harbour Trails Community Group believes there is still work to be done. Walk leaflet 5 is not in production, yet. The group identify a 'missing link', dubbed the 'Lytchett Gap', between Sandford and Upton as there is no convenient public right of way between Holton Heath and the shore of Lytchett Bay nor a pedestrian bridge over Lytchett Bay and the alternative is a long way inland. The Community Group would be interested to hear of anyone walking the route that might be an unrecorded public right of way dubbed 'The Cordite Way' along the old railway line at Holton Heath.

A nominal charge of 25p for each leaflet, or £1.00 for the current set of 5, will ensure reprints can be made in future and slight changes, such as bus route numbers, can be kept up to date. The details of this missing link and the group's work and history collated about the route is available on their website, updated with the launch, on www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk. Leaflets of Poole Harbour Trails Walks 1-4 and 6 are now available at local Tourist information centres.

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