



A NEW BRIDGE AND A NEW PATH FOR MALDEN

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The Council and the Environment Agency have finally approved the new bridge for six acre meadow and it was installed this summer. It is due to be officially opened in the Autumn.

The new bridge is made from steel and wood and is being placed at the southern end of six acre meadow. It provides a new route for the Hogsmill Valley Walk in this section, and allows walkers to chose to either visit St John's Church or walk via the new footbridge from six acre meadow to the Hollows, an area where the Council has been working hard to improve accessibility and biodiversity. The bridge is the result of an

identified aim in the adopted Hogsmill Strategy to vary the route of the walk in order to make it more pleasant and attractive. This area still needs additional work, including negotiation with land owners to establish the route further upstream of six acre meadow, but this is an extremely positive step forward. Local resident, Barbara Webb, said *"I am delighted this long awaited bridge is in place. It is heartening to see the excellent Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy bearing fruit, with funding being achieved, especially from Transport for London, and with improvements taking place. Well done to all concerned!"*

The new bridge will be signed on the forthcoming leaflets for the Hogsmill Valley Walk and is on



the newly installed interpretation boards. The Council plans to officially open the bridge in conjunction with an event to raise awareness of the Hogsmill River and its environs, as well as encouraging community involvement early next Spring.

Learn more about the Hogsmill on your way

In order to promote a greater understanding of the flora and fauna along the route of the Hogsmill, the Council has installed seven new interpretation panels. The panels also describe points of interest along the route, with historical information on local sites and buildings. The interpretation panels have been designed in conjunction with the new leaflets for the Hogsmill river, and feature maps, pictures and text. The maps are in greater detail than the ones on the leaflet, and are designed to show each section with local amenities, and infrastructure. They clearly mark the route and show all points of interest.



Hogsmill Interpretation Board 1

There are colourful diagrams and pictures to identify points of interest and flora and fauna, and the boards finish by telling the walker how to travel to the next board.

The next phase of the strategy is to place new signage along the length of the walk. This signage will simply have the Hogsmill Logo with a directional arrow. The signs have been approved by Department for Transport and are currently being produced.

A Natural View



Brown Trout, which are native to British streams and rivers, have been seen recently in the section of river than runs through the Guildhall Complex in Kingston.

This is an exiting find because the presence of brown trout is a good indication that the water is clean and unpolluted.

Trout needs cold water (26^o C will kill) which is richly oxygenated and clear, as they feed by sight.

Few freshwater fish can match the natural beauty and grace than that of brown trout. This streamlined predator feeds mainly at dawn when insects are active, on water fleas, flies, aquatic insect larvae, freshwater molluscs and small fish.

Marie-Claire Edwards, Borough Ecology and Environmental Education Officer (020) 8547 5372.

Remember to take your litter home with you!

A tidy environment is a safe environment for everything!



A new website for the strategy is launched!

Following the launch of the Council's new website, a new page for the Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy and all associated activities has been developed.

The new website gives details about the Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy, what its aims are and identifies how important the Hogsmill is to the local community. There are links to the strategy itself, and to past and present editions of the Hogsmill News, and also "News Updates" for any breaking news on the Hogsmill.

The final section of the website has links to the Local Area Strategies which have been adopted by the neighbourhoods and will also in time contain updates on how the strategies are progressing.

The HAG (Hogsmill Action Group) website is now also linked to the overall Hogsmill website

and has links to pictures taken on community clean up days, local press releases, and information on future programmes for the HAGs.

We would like to develop a community page for the Hogsmill, so if you have any comments you would like to see on the website regarding the Hogsmill Valley walk please email them to Emma.Lamey@rbk.kingston.gov.uk.

All this information is available at www.kingston.gov.uk/hogsmill

including contact information for the officers involved with the projects.

If you would like more details on the website or any aspect of the Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy you can now contact the appropriate officers on line.

Watch out for further updates on the website as the strategy progresses!



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Hogsmill Valley Walk leaflets are on the way

The new Hogsmill Valley Walk leaflet is being prepared for printing.

It is intended to support the newly installed interpretation boards, and identifies the route from mouth to Tolworth Court Farm, where the river leaves the borough. The leaflet has been developed in conjunction with local residents, and it is intended to be published by the end of the Summer. The leaflet will then

be widely available across the borough, including from all public libraries, the tourist information office in Kingston and the Council offices.

A guided walk along the Hogsmill will be held to celebrate the launch of the leaflets and the interpretation boards, and information will be found on the Hogsmill website, in libraries and in the local press soon. For further information contact Emma Lamey on the details below.

LAS update

The next Local Area Strategy for Knights Park Bridge to Villiers Road is scheduled for the next Kingston Town neighbourhood meeting on the 3rd September. The LAS contains short, medium and long term plans for the area to match improvements with those already achieved between Penrhyn Road and Heron Court. To see the proposed strategy please look on the Hogsmill Website.

If you would like to be kept up to date with recent developments on the Hogsmill Walk and wish to receive further editions, or you have any further comments or suggestions on "The Hogsmill News", please contact the project leader, Emma Lamey on (020 8547 5337), or email her at Emma.Lamey@rbk.kingston.gov.uk. Alternatively you can fill in the form below and send it to Emma Lamey, Department of Environmental Services, Guildhall 2, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1EU.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

What's on in Summer 2003?

The last HAG clean up was centred upon cleaning up the river channel, and ran for a period of three days in the middle of August.

There will be a guided walk of the Hogsmill in the Royal Borough when the new leaflets are published.

For information on further HAG clean ups, or any other HAG queries please contact Suzanne West on 020 8547 5347.

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