

Historic Well Path: open for business after 4 year campaign

11th June 2008



After a 4-year closure, residents and campaigners alike are celebrating the re-opening of a well-used path steeped in religious and historical significance in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

The Well Path, part of an ancient pilgrim trail from Corsham to Glastonbury and well-used modern thoroughfare that connects Newtown to Tory, provides a route from Bradford on Avon town to St. Laurence School. It partially runs

on a viaduct over the Ladywell springs, which are a sacred site thought to date back to pre-Roman times. The path was closed 4 years ago on safety grounds, after the Bradford on Avon Preservation Society pointed out that the arches were beginning to collapse.

The alternative route, which lacked hand rails and lighting, raised concerns for the safety of pupils travelling to St. Laurence School as well as for local residents. The Ramblers Association and others lobbied the Council for repairs to take place and to re-open the path. Following the settlement of various legal and financial matters, the path re-opened in February this year, and on 30th May 2008, as part of the Ramblers' Association's national 'Get Walking Day', a celebratory walk was held to mark the occasion.

Sarah Perry, Rights of Way Campaigns Officer for the RA, who attended the walk, said "The re-opening of this well-loved, well-used path restores a huge chunk of cultural history to the community again. We all look forward to walking along this lovely route for many years into the future, too!"

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