

TREASURE FOUND

There is a rather touching story attached to the 2008 metal detecting weekend:-

About 4 years ago Ruth (of Vernon and Ruth) wanted to start keeping bees in their orchard. So our resident beekeeper Ken came to set up 2 hives with Ruth...he was suitably attired and Ruth was full of enthusiasm but not so attired and got stung on her ring finger (maybe elsewhere too). Ken wisely advised Ruth to take off the ring in case her finger swelled. (This ring had sentimental value as her father had bought two rings on a trip to America for his daughters, they were simple gold rings but special, as they had been formed in Ruth's case with an "R" on the face.) Anyway to continue... the ring was placed safely on the ground and Ruth put her gloves on it to mark the spot, but as the bees were still buzzing around retreated back to the house to recover. Ken, being better protected, finished off what he was doing and noticing the gloves had been left, thoughtfully picked them up to return them to the house for Ruth, not realising they marked the ring. On return the ring was lost to the orchard....calamity! So over time the orchard was duly searched, forensic style, marking out already searched areas....flat panels made ideal vole runs and it was surmised the ring was buried and lost... Vernon even tried his own metal detector but without success.

Then came along the metal detecting weekend at the village hall. A weekend of hard work for the volunteers (thank you) but which was an excellent fundraiser for Church and Hall. Well, an enthusiast duly scanned the orchard with his special gold detecting instrument (he was Welsh and that's where the gold is!)... and the ring was found! There was considerable emotion and an end to an ongoing saga of "The Ring"

Parish Footpath Information

Temporary Closures

Twinnell Lane - Littledown Wood: At the time of writing (20-5-09) the footpath from the end of Twinnell Lane to Littledown Wood on the north side of Hawkridge reservoir remains closed following a county-wide survey of bridges. The survey found the bridge at Ebsley Cottage did not meet the County Council's safety criteria. The path itself is not closed – just the bridge. Council staff are assessing the situation and will re-open the path as soon as possible.



Blackpits Lane - Clerks Cottage: The sleeper bridge was found defective due to a gap in the timber but was repaired within a few days.

Holmes Farm Alternative Route: The definitive path runs west from Barford Rd to join the Blackpits Lane - Clerks Cottage path but the landowner has provided an alternative route avoiding the farmyard. The alternative route starts a short distance south of the drive to Holmes Farm using a newly installed gate. It then runs on the south side of the stream to join the Blackpits Lane - Clerks Cottage path.

Do Please Remember: All dogs on footpaths should be under close control and owners should pick up after them to keep the path clean for other walkers. Also where paths are cut to make access easier fouling is especially unpleasant for those doing the cutting.

John Edwards