

VILLAGERS ASSEMBLE BY THE VILLAGE HALL FOR THE OPENING OF THE MILLENNIUM FOOTPATH



The Ibberton Millennium Footpath was the brainchild of John Kirtley, a long-time rambler and resident of Ibberton, and the Parish Council's Footpaths Officer from June 1997 until February 2000.

John's vision for the Path was that it should be level and easily accessible for the less able-bodied, that it would form an interesting route around the village using the existing rights of way, and be a decent length for a good walk.

To this end he selected a network of footpaths embracing the main features of the parish and then set about improving their walkability by replacing many of the old gates and stiles with the new pedestrian gates or kissing gates, an exercise which was funded largely by voluntary donations from generous residents.

John then ensured that the Path was easy to find and follow by fixing distinctive pink waymarks along its route, and he helped to produce a small information leaflet and map to publicise the project.

Finally, the Ibberton Millennium Footpath was officially declared to be open by the former Footpaths Officer, Miss Priscilla Houstoun, and an inaugural walk followed, ending up with tea for everyone in the Village Hall. Quiz sheets with questions pertaining to the walk were distributed. Kevin Abbott and Eliza Barrow proved to be the most knowledgeable in the junior section whilst Gwen Small and Barbara Smith scooped the prizes in the adult group.



MILLENNIUM FOOTPATH

Ibberton

Suggested Route - 2 1/4 miles
1 hour plus sight seeing time.

From parking place go to Old Johns Cottage, (A) and follow lane to Washing Pool. Immediately after gate fork right to (B) leading up to Chapel (C).

Turn left into Leigh Lane and left again at Leigh Cross.

Just before Marsh Farm go left through Pedestrian Gate (D) and cross two fields towards Kissing Gate (E).

Turn right before gate and aim for Hunting Gate in the corner of the Cricket Field.

Exit into Blacklands Lane via Kissing Gate (F) and turn left.

Continue up lane and go to Kissing Gate left of Shoemakers Cottage, then straight across two fields to Cross Farm (G).

Turn right and follow road as far as junction, then turn left towards Bulbarrow, at second opening on left go through Pedestrian Gate (H) across field to Church (I).

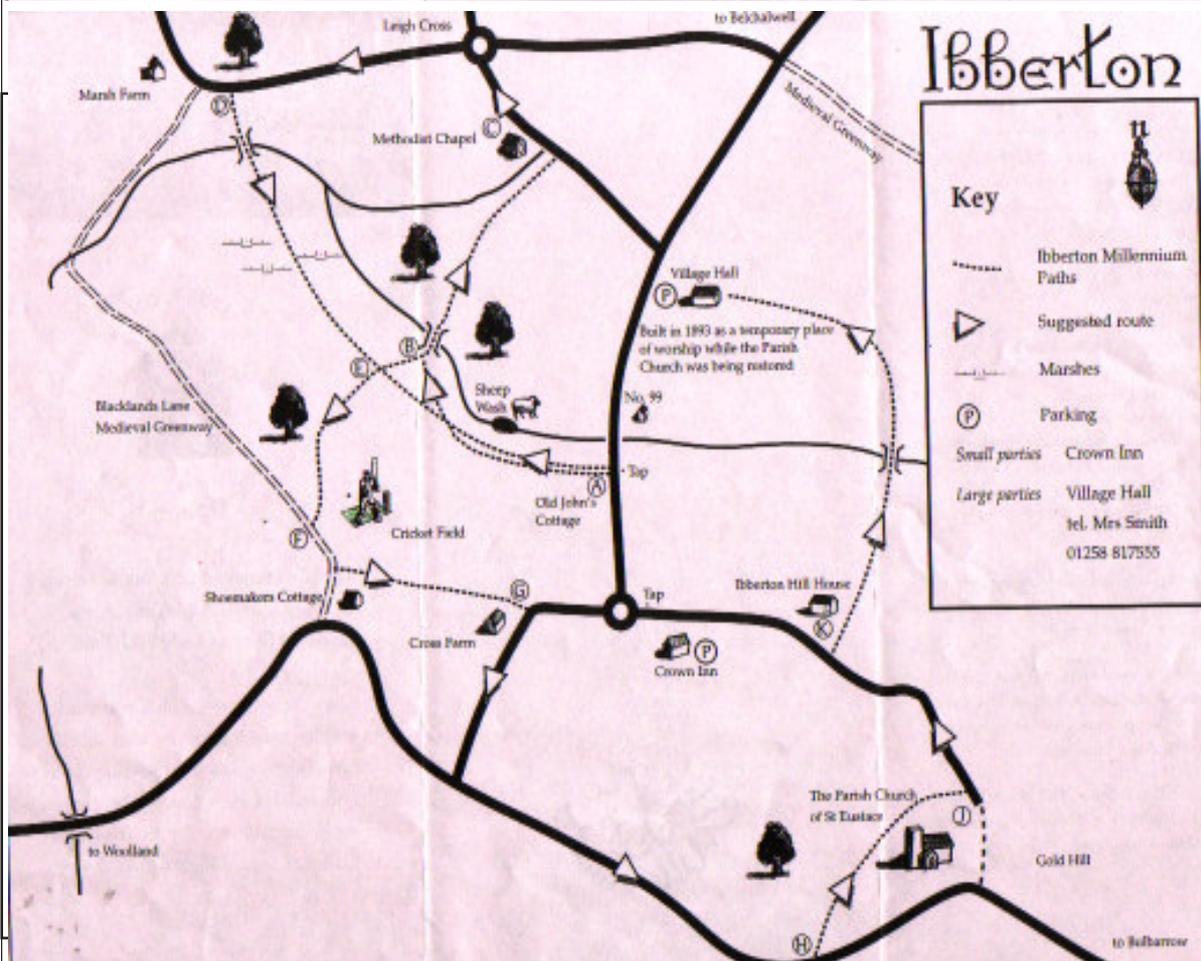
Go down hill to Ibberton Hill House (K) turn right into driveway and follow path through two fields to Village Hall.



The Millennium Paths follow existing rights of way and take in various points of interest within the Parish.

They carry a special pink waymark, and to make the route easier, all stiles have been replaced by Kissing Gates or Pedestrian Gates, donated by generous residents and installed by the Dorset County Council Rights of Way Team.

Ibberton
2000
Millennium



THE VILLAGE MILLENNIUM PARTY



The focal point of the village millennium celebrations and target for most of the fund raising was a Lamb Roast and Disco for everybody either currently living in Ibberton or who were born within the parish.

A marquee had been erected and decorated for the festivities by members of the Committee. The spits with lamb roasts were well advanced by the time villagers arrived bearing picnic baskets containing beverages, plates, cutlery, and carrying chairs. A glass of wine or fruit juice was presented to everyone as they mingled with friends and neighbours outside the Hall in the evening sunshine.



Inside the hall tables were arranged around the perimeter, and a buffet table laden with an array of salad dishes and sweets, all provided by outside caterers, was placed in front of the platform. The marquee extension edged the front of the Hall enabling diners to walk through from one area to the other without having to go outside. Tables had been set in rows and decorated with bunches of wild flowers.



Denis Holloway was booked for the Disco and the youngsters showed the way with a display of disco dancing. Some of the more mature also 'cut a rug' and it proved a memorable evening for all who attended.





***WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE
SADLY PASSED AWAY SINCE THE
CONCEPTION OF THIS BOOK***

Henry Bartlett

Nigel Carver

Norman Chisman

Bob Courage

Malcolm Dudley

Iris Gilby

Emily Guard

Priscilla Houstoun

Mary Howells

Peggy Stevens

Fred Vater

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