

GREENWAYS AND CYCLEROUTES WORKCAMP Shepton Mallet 5 to 12 September 2026

– the one that was never going to happen

2025 was to have been our tenth and last workcamp, but somehow... So we did meet and 97 volunteers put in 341 days, with 27 camping at our base at Rock Farm, thanks to the incomparable Gavin Mayall who somehow contrives to be in five places at once with at least three vehicles and everything everyone needs.

Sadly Chris and Claire were unable to be with us this year and we missed them. However we are unbelievably grateful to Tom Blatchford and the Community Woodland Team who put together an astonishing team of volunteers to feed and water us all – particularly Patric, Nicola, Debs, Giles, Nick, Chaz and Jackie. Tom also involved a range of local businesses who seemed only too willing to supply us with provisions: including SWAG with our regular bread and fruit; Charlie Bigham with curry; and Yeo Valley with yoghurt, cheese and butter. Kate's Kitchen provided an excellent lunch on Friday. Each of the local volunteer teams prepared a fantastic supper in camp too, which provided a new opportunity to meet, and the campers all came away very well fed.



We undertook the widest spread range of projects ever – a huge logistical challenge.



On the Somerset and Dorset Railway between Forum Lane and Bath Road Viaduct we spent two days stripping back vegetation from 650m of tired railway fencing, so that the contractors could move in on Monday. Both farmer and fencing contractor were astonished at what the team including Deb, Nicola,

Laura, Rachel, Cordelia, Lucy, Barry, Jane H, Jane C, George and Liz had achieved in two days.



The accommodation bridge built into the embankment had been neglected for years. Richard A, Geoff P, Pete, Chris K, Chris G from Frome Missing Link, with help from Guy and Barney and Deb and Helen M transformed it, stripping it of vegetation and skilfully replacing missing stones, with Andy Small assisting on relaying the coping stones and David Judd ever cheerful on the mixer.



The rustic lead-in rails installed at a previous camp were replaced with more substantial steel ones manufactured by local fabricator Dave Addicott and installed by John L and Malcolm.



A not so simple Simplicity bench was installed by Will, Paul, Debs and Caroline with help from Geoff and Chris to enjoy the view opened up by the death of ash trees.



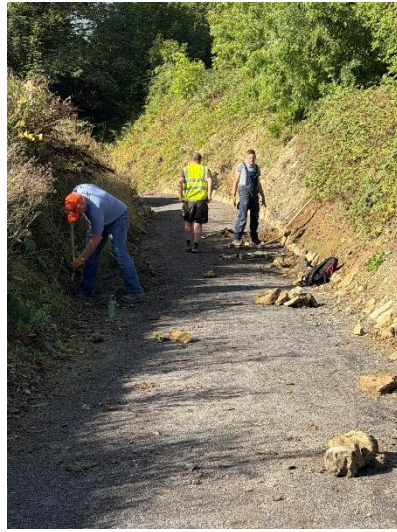
Tim and Jane C replaced the steep track up the embankment with a ramp and two flights of steps and fitted a handrail, helped by Andy W, Alban, Flo, Tim A and Nigel, Stephen, Pete, Josh, Guy and Malcolm.



The new access route was completed just in time to be enjoyed by a crowd of artists taking part in the Shepton Walking Festival.

Further along the track on Bath Road Viaduct the vegetation was cleared from path surface and parapets by Ross and Kat, John Barnes, Rachel, Deb, Lucy, Jane C, Liz, Toni, Nikki, and Kelly.





In town the formidable team of Liz, Jane H, Cordelia and Jean with Richard J, John G, Andy H, Dan, Jude and Gary, assisted by Samuel Turner, Dave Ford, Daniel Penny, Jade Kinsey, Dylan Brooks and Alice Gouldbourne from Tor Works

peeled back vegetation from the path edges, and created a kerb on the link between the Sidings in Shepton and the recreation ground, over the blue bridge installed in 2024. This will enable contractors to enable effective job tarmacking shortly.



Three years since Steve investigated the side arch at Ridge Road, Andy S, John L, Malcolm, Alan P and Chris S cleared out a great deal of material to create a passageway through and reveal the structure of the arch ready for its inspection by Historic Railway Estate on 18 September.



Loose rocks were prised out of the faces of the approach cutting by Andrea and Tiziana, Izzy, Caroline, Andy H and Shane.



While Paul surveyed the bridge, a little further down the slope towards Summerhill Lane and Wells the nearby view point over Glastonbury Tor was given a bench by Peter, Will, Paul, Debs and Caroline.



Furthest from camp at Summerhill Lane the Strawberry Line combined forces came together to construct an astonishing 450m of fencing in just a week. Thanks to : Steve Turner, Mick F, Richard J, Mike T, Mike B, Drew , Simon, Helen, Richard J, Richard W, Sara, Jason, Tony, Chris H, Chris S, Gareth, Lou, Emma, Andrew, Angus, Charles, Jenny and Gary.



They even managed to take a break





At Camp Geoff F, Debs, Katy, Caroline and David prepared the benches and Kat and Ross sourced step fronts for the new route in Chilcompton.

Katy, Debs and Caroline put together the throne to be installed in Ashton Court designed by Katy Hallett and provided David Judd with a place to sit.

Chris and Claire came to visit



54 guests and day volunteers came to camp for curries cooked by Roger. John showed slides and videos of all we had done; and John and Caroline were delighted to be given drawings made by Steve Cobbin of the Ridge Road bridge and cutting.



Nicola had a birthday, and Lily presented her with Rachel's roses

John had a haircut



Quinn learned to drive



It would all have been impossible without Tom and Team

and Gavin was Gavin...

