



23 September 2024

Councillor Mark Valladares  
Chair  
Creeting St Peter Parish Council

Dear Councillor Valladares

**RIVER GIPPING TRUST – FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT**

We are seeking your support to enable the River Gipping Trust to continue further riverside footpath improvement work in Creeting St Peter and to ask if the Parish Council would consider making a donation to the River Gipping Trust which would enable us to regularly maintain and improve the footpath alongside the River Gipping.

Suffolk County Council Rights of Way cut the grass along the riverside path three times per year, but this is not sufficient to keep the path open for general public walking during the summer months. Our experience of the path between St Mary's Road and Badley is that it needs to be cut at least every four weeks and ideally every three weeks during the growing season.

Last year (2023) Trust volunteers attempted to keep this path open but found the overgrowth too much and by July had to abandon our efforts after a six-week cutting gap. This year, with more volunteers and more equipment, despite the wet weather and abnormal vegetation growth, we have kept to a four-week cut (weather dependent) and have, in our opinion, succeeded in keeping the path open to walkers all the way to Badley. It has been our aim to maintain it so that walkers are able to enjoy the path without being stung by nettles or attacked by brambles. We are getting great feedback from local residents in your Parish, with nearly 1,900 likes and 250 positive comments posted specifically on the work done between St Mary's Road and Badley (4,500+ and 500+ Bramford to Badley - see attached FaceBook comments and likes received).

We are working on a plan to create a decent riverside footpath from Ipswich to Stowmarket within the next five years. We have used existing funds this year, now we are looking for funding for next year so we can continue this work and expand our work further towards Stowmarket with our aim to keep the path well maintained up to the Gateway 14 / Muntons access path, which we have already started on now the replacement footbridge has been installed.

To do more footpath work improvements will require more equipment and additional funds to maintain, insure and fuel them and our current equipment. Our insurance cost alone (including £10m public liability insurance) is over £1,000 a year and our lawn mower fuel cost is around £50 per month and rising.

**River Gipping Trust Ltd**

Registered in England as a charitable company limited by guarantee, Company Number 6145692

Registered as a Charity Number 1119586

Registered Office: IWA Head Office, Unit 16B, First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX

Tel: 03303 308531 **Website:** <https://rivergippingtrust.org.uk>

There clearly is still much more path improvement work to do along St Mary's Road to Badley footpath. We are working on plans to further enhance the walkers' experience and to restrict the growth of the non-native Himalayan Balsam which is now widespread in places in your Parish and Creeting St Mary. It is out-competing native plants and when it dies back in winter results in erosion of the riverbanks.

The Trust relies solely on its volunteers and as such we cannot make a 'contractual' commitment to improve the path or to keep the path open, and therefore ask your consideration for a donation for the work we have completed, which will be used to further our work in your Parish during 2025.

Attached are photographs showing the work we have done this year to demonstrate the improvements made and what can be achieved with regular maintenance carried out by the River Gipping Trust.

The scope of the Trust's work to maintain the River Gipping footpaths is dependent on financial donations and your support would greatly assist our further footpath improvement work at Creeting St Peter and help us achieve our objective of maintaining a decent usable path between Ipswich and Stowmarket for the benefit of the local community.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Signed on behalf of:

Dr John Warren  
Chair

[chairman@rivergippingtrust.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rivergippingtrust.org.uk)

Ian Petchey  
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Attachment – Facebook Comments

Creting St Peter Facebook Public Support



Date	Person	Comment Made	FB Likes	Reached	Comments
<b>Hawkes Mill to Badley and river clearance work -28th March 2024</b>					
28/03/2024	Becky Rix	Your all superhero's. Thank you for your hard work and dedication	118	4,500	17
	John Woodcock	Looks fantastic, a lot of hard work there. Where is the best place to get onto the path, preferably with parking nearby?			
	Alison Russel	Great job 🍌			
	Glen Oxford	Brilliant work good people. 🍌🍌			
	Linda Price	Well done working in all this bad weather x			
	Peter Pollard	Well done together hopefully the evairment agency will appreciate your work			
	Susan Bignmore	Well done we very much appreciate all the work that you do along the river path. Have the bridge been fixed at Pippis Ford yet? Thank you.			
	Liz Walker	Really good work, thank you.			
	Sally Vale	My partner and I enjoy walking the river gipping, thank you for keeping the footpaths open and passable. Your hard work is much appreciated. 🍌🍌			
	Iain Branch	May I extend my thanks to the team from the Trust, who are working so hard to ensure that the river is accessible for all.			
	David Lodge	Well done people 🍌			
	Graham John Hart	Well done to you all, glad you got you're mowers			
	Margaret Hedges	Our green and pleasant land. thanks for taking care			
	Sharron Goddard	Thank you for all the excellent work			
	Pauline Ivatt	Amazing work everyone. Tonight we are having a meeting to see how we can raise much needed funds for some new/ more tools.			
29/03/2024	Rose Wagstaff	Great work all 🍌			
30/03/2024	Daniel Robertson	Great work all.			
<b>Badley to Hawkes Mill footpath improvements 4th April 2024</b>					
04/04/2024	Sue Raynard	Thank you so much guys!	142	1,500	18
	Alison Hembery	Thankyou			
	Pat Potter	Well done ... and thanks!			
	Kevin Ballard	Stirling work people.			
	Rebecca Loader	Well done great job River Gipping volunteers!			
	Gill Chapman	Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.			
	Liz Walker	Thank you 🍌			
	Lynne Jardine	Thanks very much - this is amazing! I hope to go down there at the weekend and do some little picking.			
	Glen Oxford	Fantastic achievement. Well done.			
	Susan Boon	Nice work			
	Sally Vale	Thank you 🍌🍌			
	Richard Gerrail	great work nice speaking to you guys wednesday at roots n shoots			
	Marion Wall	Fantastic			
	Roots and Shoots	Happy to help!			
05/04/2024	Iain Branch	Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.			
	Kare Knightwell	Great work			
	Tim Knight	Sion Oxford. your dad will be delighted to see this .			
09/04/2024	Phill Bell	Thank you.			
<b>Badley footbridges 25th April 2024</b>					
25/04/2024	Liz Smith	Brilliant news, well done!	196	925	20
	Lynne Jardine	Well done and thank you!			
	Margaret Hedges	Good job, boys. Looking very lush and tidy. We're lucky to live close and even luckier to have you taking care.			
	Bob Reason	Great Work			
	Mary Copping	Thank you all 🍌🍌			
	Karen Knighton	Good job			
	Sally Vale	Thank you, my partner and I walked this route last weekend and had to divert around the bridges. When the weather improves we are hoping to walk from Needham mkt to Stowmarket via the Gipping. Your hard work is appreciated. 🍌🍌			
	Jody Mortimer	that's great news. Thanks for that hun. Xx			
	Kathy Parks	Thank you			
	Peter Keeble	really appreciate your work.			
	Glen Oxford	Brilliant, thank you. Any idea when the ones by Pippis Ford will be fixed? Also the one between Muntons and Roots n Shoots pretty please. 🍌🍌🍌			
	Liz Walker	Very good news, thank you			
	Sue Reynold	Thank you so much!			
	Clare Williams	Brilliant, thank you!			
	Sue Holden	Well done			
	Angela Wilkin	Debbie Kibble... yay!			
26/04/2024	Jacci Sword	Thank you!			
	Bernadette Pitt	Hooray and thank you.			
	Steve Burrows	Great work thank you all			
28/04/2024	Patricia Outhwaite	Thank you for all your hard work and posting photographs which is much appreciated.			
<b>Badley footpath 1st May 2024</b>					
02/05/2024	Sonia Lovett	Thank you for all your hard work. Much appreciated 🍌	135	3,400	18
	Hermione Way	Lovely 🍌 well done			
	Nick Clark	Well done, those men,			
	Jacci Sword	Thank you!			
	Karen O'neill	🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌 Thank You xx			
	Yvonne Potter	Thank you			
	Heather Williams	Such a shame that the councils cant do the job 🍌			
	Rob Page	Fantastic job - love to run along here but can be impossible/impassable in the summer.			
	Gareth Mayes	Lovely walk if it's passable. Great job your doing			
03/05/2024	Charlotte Woodhouse	As someone that walks along there almost daily, thank you very much. Within the next few weeks the nettles will be up to head height again and almost impossible to pass when it's a single track. It's back to how I remember it being in the 70's and 80's 🍌			
	Alison Hembery	Thank you so much for all your hard work 🍌 Charlotte Emma Woodhouse we can play 40/40 in once again relive our childhood 🍌🍌🍌			
	Ruthie Cee	Look forward to trying this path and the bridges out.			
	Dawn Winder	Thanks The River Gipping Trust, so pleased you're doing this for the benefit of people and nature, I hope to get along there soon 🍌			
04/05/2024	Iain Branch	Please keep up this good work and thank you for all of your efforts.			
	David Barry	I really appreciate what you're doing. 🍌			
09/05/2024	Sue Holden	You all do a fantastic job and having lived by the river for many years and walked along it for over well over 40, I appreciate your hard work greatly.			
	David Barry	I really appreciate what you're doing. 🍌			
	Margaret Hedges	What a wonderful workspace. Thanks for your continued good work			



# Attachment – Facebook Comments

Hawkes Mill to Badley 29th May 2024			177	1,600	10
30/05/2024	Gill Chapman	Thank you all for your hard work.			
	Marion Wall	We really appreciate the work you put in to keep these footpaths open for us. Many thanks for all your hard work.			
	Roots & Shoots	Well done 🍷			
	Susan Bigmore	Many thanks for all your hard work making these river paths walkable.			
	Jackie Sword	Amazing job!			
	C&D Heasley	👍			
	Wendy Porch	Thank you			
	Angie Louise	looks like a nice walk			
31/05/2024	Jane Baxter Lynn	Thank you for the work you all do for us			
01/06/2024	Sue Holden	I remember what it used to be 40 years ago, you all make such a difference			
Badley Footbridge Reinstatement and Claydon to Paper Mill footpath work 5th June 2024			308	2011	35
05/06/2024	Derek Ramsey	Fabulous - thank you so much			
	Gill Chapman	Thank you all for what you do.			
	Peter Avis	Thank you 🍷			
	Mark Mead	Brilliant!			
	Virginia Last	Great job guys.			
	Peter avis	Thank you 🍷			
	Glen Oxford	Brilliant effort. Very appreciated. 🍷🍷			
	Jackie Gillis	Thank you, it looks good.			
	Lyme Jardine	Thank you			
	Liz Walker	Thank you very much			
	Kathrine Kirton	Great work 🍷			
	Francesca Welham	Thank you so much for all your hard work 🍷			
	Jane Lynn	Thanks to the volunteers			
	Gail Gordon-Brown	Thankyou			
	Charlotte Harrison	Thank you so much for your hard work			
	Mary Playford	Thank you 🍷🍷			
	Chris John Robinson	Well done community support			
06/06/2024	Linda Price	Thank you			
	Maureen Knock	Brilliant!			
	Caz Grove	Thank you for your hard work!			
07/06/2024	Stella Saunders	Indeed			
	John Moore	Well a big thank you 🍷			
	Toni Claydon	Thank you so much... I actually slipped down into the water there on Sunday... it's deeper than you think 🍷			
	Sue Holden	Well done			
	Brenda Mitchel	Well done looks good thanks for all your hard work			
	Jasmine Ross	is there a map to show the whole route please thanks — map uploaded			
	Chuck Jezewski	Thank you for all your hard work			
	Janice Dent	Well done 🍷 and a big thank you to all involved			
	Francesca Welham	Looks fantastic... thank you for all your hard work 🍷			
	Jill Grosveynor	Thank you!			
	Emma Graham	Lovely walk along there today. Looks beautiful, appreciate your works in making the footpaths clear.			
	Heather Williams	Thanks so much looking great			
	Alan Miller	Thanks 🍷			
	Oscar Strives Miller	Fabulous! Many thanks! 🍷🍷			
	Stuart Price	Well done 🍷			
Hawkes Mill towards Badley 26th June 2024			106	1,200	9
28/06/2024	Sharon Blewitt	Looks great, thank you 🍷			
	Claire Anderson	Well done - lovely walk.			
	Jane Baxter Lynee	Thank you. #supergrateful			
	Liz Walker	Great work, thank you			
	Heather Williams	Look amazing thank alot			
30/06/2024	Lorraine Chatfield	Thank you love it so much along that path 🍷			
	Jack Sword	Thank you all so much			
	Kim Pike	Thankyou			
02/07/2024	Barbara Mathews	Great work ,I haven't done this walk yet but will do one of these days			
Badley and Claydon 3rd July 2024					
04/07/2024	Kim Pike	Thankyou to everyone			
	Glenn Oxford	Wonderful, thank you so much.			
	Gill Chapman	Thank you all very much.			
	Ann Gardner	Thanks to volunteers for their hard work 🍷🍷🍷			
	Christine Smith	You volunteers are doing a fantastic job thank you I'm sure people will appreciate all your hard work. Any chance you might challenge the walk from bramford Bridge to Sproughton, it's full of overgrown nettles ???			
	Pat Longley	Thank you all volunteers for your hard work Will definitely be taking a walk along this path this summer. I did walk to Sproughton along the river on Monday. The path is sadly eroding and there are several trees across the path so the fact you have cleared the path to Claydon is much appreciated 🍷			
	Graham Hitchcock	Thanks for the lovely people doing the clearance			
	Marion Wall	I would love to walk that route. Thank you so much.			
	Lin Foster	Well done 🍷🍷			
	Susan Bigmore	Brilliant, so grateful for all that you do to make the river path accessible.			
	Dot Sparke	Thank you looks amazing xxx			
	John Moore	Keep the good work up			
05/07/2024	Caroline Dossette	Thank you so much for your dedication			
	Heather Williams	Great work as always, thank			
	Janet Hadow	thank you xxx			
	Joyce Crawford	Walked Badley today and it was glorious. Thanks for all your work 🍷			
06/07/2024	David Strickland	Amazing work everyone, will be checking this very soon 🍷			
	Catherine Hubbard	Chloé Atkinson Samantha Jane we'll have to run this soon!			
	Julie Moos	Well done 🍷 looks amazing 🍷			

# Attachment – Facebook Comments

Badley to Hawkes Mill 24th July			200	1700	34
25/07/2024	Bob Reason	Absolutely brilliant! Yesterday evening the Stowmarket Striders trail runners went along the path from Needham to Badley and it was so appreciated. Lovely to run and no stings! On Saturday several hundred runners and walkers will be following that route for the LDWA Rodent Wriggle. Thank you!			
	Glenn Oxford	Absolutely amazing. Thank you 🙌🙌🙌🙌			
	Brenda Mitchell	Well done all of you amazing job			
	Charlotte Woodhouse	Seriously it's amazing to walk along there this year - thank you all so much 🙌			
	Duane Hawes	Well done all involved			
	Elton Baker	Well done All.			
	Roger Holland	Well done guys.			
	Debs Lawton-Abbot	Great work, thank you for all your efforts			
	Wendy Cracknell	Can you do roots and shoots to stowmarket next.			
	Clair Hayes	Yes, thank you... A tremendous effort to keep to his path clear, especially with the weather we have had recently. I was out my first ever trail run with the Striders yesterday along the banks of Gipping over the boardwalks and wooden bridges and up to Badley and it all looked very beautiful. I know the Himalayan Balsam is invasive and needs controlling, but it did look beautiful reflected in the water in evening light, just like a Monet painting.			
	David Lodge	Looks lovely apart from the Himalayan Balsam 🙌			
	Hugo Craggs	It looks like the Himalayan balsam has really taken hold, and great job on the paths			
	Mary Narey	Thank you River Gipping Trust! I ran the path from Needham Market to Badley yesterday evening and it was absolutely beautiful! I'd given up using the path as it is usually totally overgrown but the path you have cut was just fantastic. Thank you so much!			
	Breda Mitchel	Well done all of you amazing job			
	Janet Vaughan	Thank you			
	Peter Burrows	Fabulous much appreciated			
	Keith Borret	Fantastic work guys! thank You			
	Oli Draper	my wife and I regularly walk our dog along the different sections between Stowmarket and Great Blakenham. The way you keep the paths clear is brilliant - huge thanks to everyone involved. the only good thing about the access from Gypsy Lane being almost nonexistent is we have explored a lot more of the route - hopefully the council gets on with their alternative access route from gypsy lane.			
	Helen Jacobs	A big, appreciative thank you to you all 🙌🙌			
	Andrew Horsman	Well done and thank you so much.			
	Heidi Hogg	Thank you 🙌			
	AJ Frank	Great 🙌 job many thanks all!			
	Allison Hembery	Thanks so much			
	Alison Booth	You are brilliant 🙌			
26/07/2024	Clanger Jill	Oh, great stuff... had I known Himalayan Balsam was growing there, I'd have foraged some.			
	Sue Raynard	Thank you so much!			
	Gary Coombs	Great work guys! Thank you!			
	Stephen Sword	great stuff			
27/03/2024	Kevin Wright	Thanks for doing this, such a great walk from Great Blakenham to Needham and an easy bus ride back for the less energetic.			
	Jane Baxter Lynn	Thank you for doing this			
	Bonitas Wholefoods	Fantastic work!			
	Super clean Window	Wow, what a transformation from last year! Big thanks to the team and Roots and Shoots Garden Center 🙌. Can't wait to see the progress near Paper Mill next week!			
29/07/2024	Mark Oliver	shouldn,t you cut it back further to allow more room for like cyclist and pedestrian			
02/08/2024	Debbie Cadman	Well done all			
<b>Claydon and Hawkes Mill 31st July 2024</b>			121	1700	18
01/08/2024	David Strickland	Amazing job by the volunteers!!! Looks great 🙌			
	Paul Chapman	Great work guys			
	Linda West	Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to our river.			
	Janice Dent	Well done all concerned 🙌 xx			
	Jill Grosvenor	Great work! Thank you.			
	Sally Webb	What a fantastic job you do! I really appreciate your efforts. Stanley and I love our dog walks along these paths! Thank you. 🙌🙌			
	Pearl Attwood	Looks amazing guys we'll done			
	Allan Miller	Many thanks 🙌			
	Pauline Steggall	Thank you 🙌			
	Pauline Young	Thank you.			
	Clr Chris Chambers	You guys do such amazing work!! 🙌			
	Ann Liddle	Thank you to all volunteers . You do a great job .			
	Phil Moore	Brilliant job volunteers.			
	Claire Anderson	Great job 🙌			
	Jo Cox	Thank you 🙌			
	Francesca Wellham	Looks great thank you 🙌			
	Charlotte Woodhouse	I walked along this morning 🙌 Thank you 🙌			
04/08/2024	Ashlypungs	It's been so much easier now it's been maintained. You lot do a good job 🙌			



# Attachment – Facebook Comments

Badley to Creeping St Mary 21st August			83	307	11
23/08/2024	Charlotte Harrison	Thank you so much. I will talk to my team at work and see if we can have a team day helping out.			
	Claire Anderson	That's a great job 🙌			
	Janice Dent	Doing a great job 🙌 thank you 🙌			
	Jane Baxter Lynne	Thank you.			
	Susan Bigmore	Sounds like a super idea, I would b willing to help.			
	Francesca Welham	I would be happy to help and can rope in some friends who regularly use the river paths for walks too 🙌			
	Tim Hunt	You guys are doing a wonderful job, thank you! Having today fought our way from stowmarket through stingers, brambles and the closed bridge it was a delight to see a clear path.			
24/08/2024	John Harvey	Well done, I think what you do for the greater good of others is highly commendable.			
	Margaret Rose	Well done!			
25/08/2024	Gabriel Howard	🙌			
	Sally King	Brilliant work thank you 🙌			
Badley to Creeping St Mary and Gateway 14 - 18th September 2024			191	984	39
20/09/2024	Mark Mead	Great job			
	Dawn Winder	Thank you volunteers 🙌			
	Steve Burrows	superb work..I will definitely make sure I do a work party sometime. ..			
	Sue Raynard	Fabulous, thank you so much!			
	Bob Reason	Absolutely brilliant!			
	Marc Ruse	Great news, well done all.			
21/09/2024	Sonia Lovett	Thank you so much. I've really missed walking Needham to Stow and you have cleared the last impassable			
	Andy Aylott	Amazing work, thank you so much, will use this weekend, and also share on Creeping St Peter village site so it increases footfall			
	Charlotte Harrison	Thank you so so much			
	Jane Baxter Lynn	Thank you all as always			
	Sarah Thompson	Walked it yesterday was great just need ppg to clear their bit now as very overgrown ther			
	Gemma Langridge	Well done for all your hardwork, to enable this lovely walk again.			
	Yvonne Potter	Thank you all so much			
	Claire Williams	Fab!			
	Sharron Goddard	Really appreciate all your work and looking forward to walking this again in the autumn			
	Trudge Yule	Fantastic work :-)			
	Jeanette Daraha	Thank you, walkies time needham 2 stow.			
	Roger Bell	Great work.			
	Jenny Stenning	Great news!			
	Marlene Rush-Knights	That's wonderful thank you			
	Hermionie Way	Have done that walk a few times			
	Jenny Hall	Thank you!			
	John Law	Good work, thank you all concerned!			
	Heather Foster	Great bit of hard work for the benefit of all			
	Rosie Wagstaff	Great work 🙌🙌🙌			
	Heidi Hogg	Thank you 🙌			
	Sally Coppel	Well done to you all			
	Karen O'Neill	Thank you, my favourite walk with my pooch 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌			
	Dawn Winder	Thank you volunteers 🙌			
	Mark & Linda Mead	Great job			
	Jenny Hall	Thank you!			
	Rita Offord	Great job.			
	Marlene Rush-Knights	Looks beautiful			
	Colin Lay	Thank you all for your hard work. Very much appreciated			
	Sharron Goddard	Thank you			
	Glenn Oxford	Absolutely brilliant. Waited over 2 years for this. Thank you so much 🙌🙌			
	Terry Lee	Well done 🙌			
	Caroline Shield	Thank you			
	Paul Mark	Well done, excellent work			





Attachment – Photographs



Badley to Creting St Mary  
August 2024





Attachment – Photographs



Badley to Hawkes Mill  
July 2024



Hawkes Mill towards Badley  
June 2024





Attachment – Photographs



Hawkes Mill to Badley

May 2024



Badley to Creeting St Mary

April 2024



Refuelling





Attachment – Photographs



Three Creeping Footbridges

April 2024



Before.....after

