



Registered charity 1167675

What does the Watercress Way mean to you?

A Children's Competition 2018

Create a poster

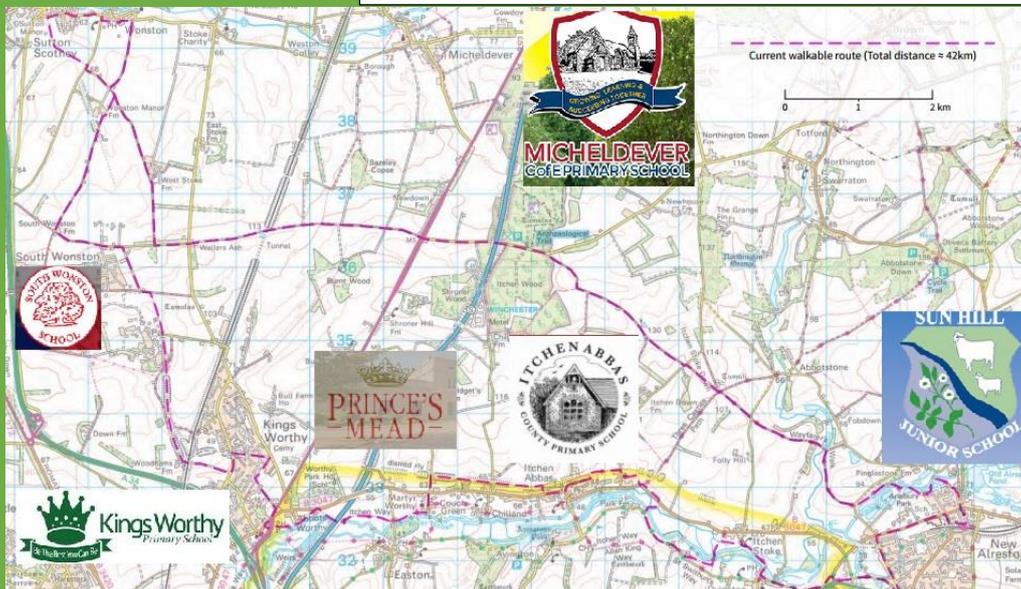
Can be word processed or by hand

Age groups 4-6 and 7-11

Contact: info@thewatercressway.org.uk

Closing date April 20th

The winner will be announced on 29th April at our Dawn to Dusk Day Event

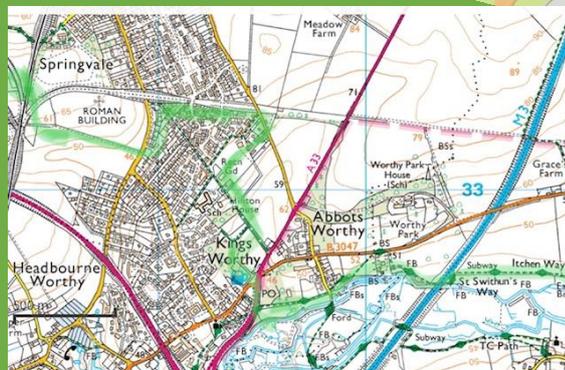
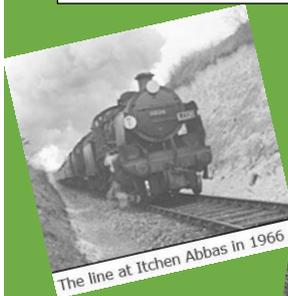


The prize- a month's supply of Jude's ice cream. Entries will be posted on our webpage, Facebook and Twitter pages (anonymously if preferred or with just the name of your school)

<http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watercressway/>

<https://twitter.com/WatercressWay>



Some background information to The Watercress Way and the competition.

The 26 mile circular **Watercress Way** for walkers follows parts of two old disused railways linked by existing paths, tracks, and bridleways between Sutton Scotney, South Wonston, Kings Worthy and Alresford. Many sections are already open for cyclists and horse riders.

The charity's main aim is to increase access to as much of the old railways as possible, but we depend on sponsors and volunteers since we have minimal official funding.

The old railway lines and linking droves which pass near your school are:

- The **Didcot to Southampton line**. The sites of some of its old stations or 'halts' are in Sutton Scotney and Kings Worthy. Over a mile of the old track bed can now be followed.
- The **Mid Hants line**, fondly called **The Watercress Line**, was partly restored by The Watercress Line charity from Alresford to Alton after its closure in 1973. We are trying to open more of the abandoned line from Kings Worthy to Alresford. About a mile has been opened for the public so far at Itchen Abbas
- **The droves**, such as the Oxdrove, are very ancient routes taken by shepherds and drovers used to take cattle and sheep to market. Many are now bridleways or have been tarmacked over and are roads

The trustees are keen to increase local awareness of the whole trail and its many shorter route options. The Watercress Way sections along the old railways are particularly suitable for families because of their low gradients and enclosed nature.

Our webpage has details of the trail, its history and ecology, and how to become a supporter. We rely mainly on **donations** with minimal grants unlike most other long distance routes and disused railway lines. We self-finance waymarking, interpretation boards, benches, some of the maintenance, publicity as well as larger projects gaining access to land, clearance, and trail building.

We are very grateful for the support of **local sponsors**, including local families, Rotary clubs, local businesses like Meridian food, most of the local pubs along or near the trail and Avington Park. Itchen Valley Parish Council has kindly allocated some of Boomtown's community fund to the charity. Sponsorship can be general, or specific such as sponsoring an old sleeper, a way marker, a bench, a leaflet holder, or interpretation board. The website has a 'My donate' link.

Jude's ice cream is sponsoring us through its products- and the winner of the competition can choose their usual brands or their lighter children's range. Depending on entries, we will create age range groups.

Time and enthusiasm is also needed: there are many opportunities to get 'hands on' in helping develop the trail. The Ramblers have been very helpful in waymarking. We need more '**line managers**' to be effectively wardens of short sections of the trail and alert the trustees of any issues, or when our leaflet holders run out. There are also opportunities to become a **trustee**.

We run various **activities and walks** through the year, such as the **Dawn to Dusk Day**, this year scheduled for Sunday 29th April. There will be an early walk to listen to bird song, a children's mouse hunt, talks on local history, botany, and birds, including an owl demonstration, and guided walks.

See <http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk/> for more details.

Come and meet the trustees at **The Watercress Festival** in Alresford on May 20th. Also at **Kings Worthy and Gratton Fetes and Alresford show**.