



THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

Chairperson Report for 2026 AGM

Meetings

One of the challenges we always have is that the route is over 100 miles long, so a physical meeting anywhere on the route means someone having a long journey. If anyone would like to arrange a walk (or ride) and tea (or pub) anywhere along the route during the year, we could supplement the AGM with “meet ups” along the route throughout the year.

Committee

May I thank all the committee for their work over the year. We are a small band of individuals each with other interests and calls on our time and therefore I wish to record my thanks to Chris, Lesley, Doug, Tim and Laurence for the time and effort they have put into the IWA over the past year. As has already been noted I am stepping down from the Chairperson role after taking up the role in 2011, although I plan to remain on the committee focusing on the website, guidebook and anywhere else where I can assist.

If anyone would like to get involved in any way, whether on the Committee or not, then please contact Laurence or anyone on the committee.

Wardens & Route

Thanks to all the dedicated folk who keep an eye on the route. We welcome the new wardens that have taken on the role. The wardens are essential in identifying problems on the route and for investigating/responding to questions from users. We welcome new potential wardens to take on any part of the route or work together with another warden – two heads are better than one!

Activities over the past 15 years

Over my 15 years, we have done a lot – kept the rider's route in existence, rewritten the guidebook, sold hundreds of copies, , revised the Icknield Way Path and Trail websites. Created the Great Chalk Way. Updated the logo, replaced all the finger signs in Central Bedfordshire and installed many waymark discs. Lobbied stakeholders through meeting and at Local Access Forums, Highway Authorities and MPs about the Icknield Way and latterly the Great Chalk Way. This has taken considerable time and effort by the Committee – I thank them all. As well as those present the past committee includes the late Sue Prigg, Phil Prigg, Gill & John Boardman and Clive Beckett.

What we have failed to achieve – so far...

- National Trail status – been at that for 42 years!
- Revise the maps in the guidebook – continues as a challenge
- Increase engagement with riders

Finally, let me send my best wishes to all our members who wish to support the promotion of the Icknield Way and the longer Great Chalk Way, please get out and walk or ride some or all of the Icknield Way – and tell your friends about it!

Tom Chevalier Chairperson 9th Oct 2026

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