



## Ringwood Natural History Society Smugglers Way

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
 Walk Leaders: Theresa Holden and Steve Adams  
 Weather: Overcast with light rain showers  
 Temperature: 17 degrees  
 Attendees: 11

The New Forest has a well documented history of Smugglers (or free traders), predominant during the 18th and 19th Centuries. The forest became a haven for the smugglers to distribute their goods from the numerous coastal coves in Dorset and Hampshire. Some of their main contraband was tea, brandy and silk goods. They created a network of numerous tracks covering hubs of transfer around places such as Burley, Christchurch, Lymington and Bourne Heath (now Bournemouth). Brothers Peter and John Warne along with their sister Lovey lived in a house at Crow Hill Top called Knaves Ash. They are believed to have run the Christchurch smuggling fraternity in the first quarter of the 1800's. Lovey Warne used to wear a cloak on her walks in the Vereley Hill area. If she spotted revenue men, she would turn it inside out to reveal a scarlet red colour which warned the smugglers to avoid the area. She would also go on board the ships in the docks, undress and then wind yard after yard of expensive silk round her before redressing and making her way back to Burley. They would then either hide the contraband somewhere safe such as a pub or a church or pass it on to their clients. One of the most famous of these sunken tracks was known as Smugglers Road. It begun near the inlet village of Chewton, passed through Burley, continued onto the turnpike road at Picket Post and ended at Ridley Wood. Our walk started from Smugglers Road car park via Vereley Hill to Ridley Wood and circled back again.

Flowering Plants, etc.	Flowering Plants cont.	Insects	Fungi
Water-pepper	Marsh Cudweed	Fox Moth Caterpillar	Tawny Grisette
Creeping Buttercup	Bog Myrtle	Yellow Underwing Moth	Oakbug Milkcap
Ling	Devilsbit Scabious		Common Earthball
Bell Heather	Marsh St. John's Wort		Spiny Puffball
Cross-leaved Heath	Marsh Pennywort	<b>Birds</b>	Birch Polypore
Heath Speedwell	Redleg	Buzzard	Suede Bolete
Autumn Hawkbit	Knotgrass	Linet	Ochre Brittlepill
Common Ragwort	Goldenrod	Swallow	Hairy Curtain Crust
White Clover		Stock Dove	Spectacular Rustgill
Dwarf Gorse		Wood Pigeon	King Alfred's Cake
Wood Sage		Stonechat	Southern Bracket
Bramble			Wood Hedgehog
Common Centaury			Spindleshank
Daisy			Bay Bolete
Self-heal			Sulphur Tuft
Dandelion			Blushing Bracket
Tormentil			
Oblong-leaved Sundew			
Heath Milkwort			
Scarlet Pimpernel			
Ribwort Plantain			



*Southern Bracket fungus at Ridley Wood on Smugglers Way by Lyn Traves*