

Stiles removed on footpath

Members of Sandbach Footpath Group (SFG) have completed the transformation of one of the town's paths to make it more user-friendly.

The group have removed the stiles on a 3.5-mile circular walk and replaced them with kissing gates, which allow greater access for wheelchairs and prams.

The walk begins at the Military Arms near Sandbach Commons and goes via Congleton Road and Claymore Road, then into open country through the Fisheries and passing Bradwall Manor Farm to Pillar Box Lane. It then passes along farm fields to emerge onto Cookesmere Lane, leading back into Sandbach.

SFG chairman Trevor Boxer said: "We hope that the new stile-free walk would encourage people of most abilities, dog walkers and people with worn hips and knees to appreciate the open countryside without having to climb stiles.

"A grant from Sandbach Town

Council made the project of converting stiles to gates possible. I'd also like to thank the Cheshire East public rights of way department and local landowners for their help and co-operation."

The Bradwall Manor walk forms part of the Sandbach Walking Festival, which has been organised by the group and is held from 29th June to 7th July. A total of 37 guided walks will form the basis of the programme, which will be spread over the nine days.

Mr Boxer said: "If people want to get started on walking straight away, then this walk and many others are available to download free from the group website.

"Go to sandbachfootpaths.org, click the local footpaths tab and look for the Bradwall Manor walk. For full information on the festival, click the tab titled Sandbach Walking Festival."

Sandbach Walking Festival leaflets are now available from Sandbach Library, WOW, The Real Thing and Godfrey C Williams and Son.