

On your way, you will pass a cattle grid and then reach a staggered crossroads. It's here, to the left of the 'FORD' sign, where you will find an old village bell used up until WWII, when bells came to indicate enemy invasion.

9. *The bell's name is the answer to this clue – and hints at what it was originally used for.*



Continue down Brookley Road until you're standing on the very spot marked "X" in this 1930s photo. The bakery which once stood here was badly bombed during WWII, after which Reg Purkess (the owner) put out a sign proclaiming:

"Don't let Hitler spoil your appetite, bread and cakes as usual" !!



From the X you should be able to spot a remnant of the old village forge across the road, which was demolished in 1915. In 1988, the impressive discovery was unearthed, giving proof of the forge's former existence.

10. *What large, cast iron object did they find?*

Now you have collected all the codewords, go to the nearby place their crossword reveals. Only then will you be able to solve the FINAL RIDDLE:

*As you come to the end,
Find hope and love a friend
On a cottage facing this place:
Its name will close the case!*

PASSWORD: _ _ _ _ _

The correct PASSWORD is written on the "New Forest Basics Bank" Donation Box in the Co-op. If you enjoyed the trail please feel free to make a small donation there to help support our local community during these difficult times.

If you've successfully completed the Brockenhurst Treasure Trail then

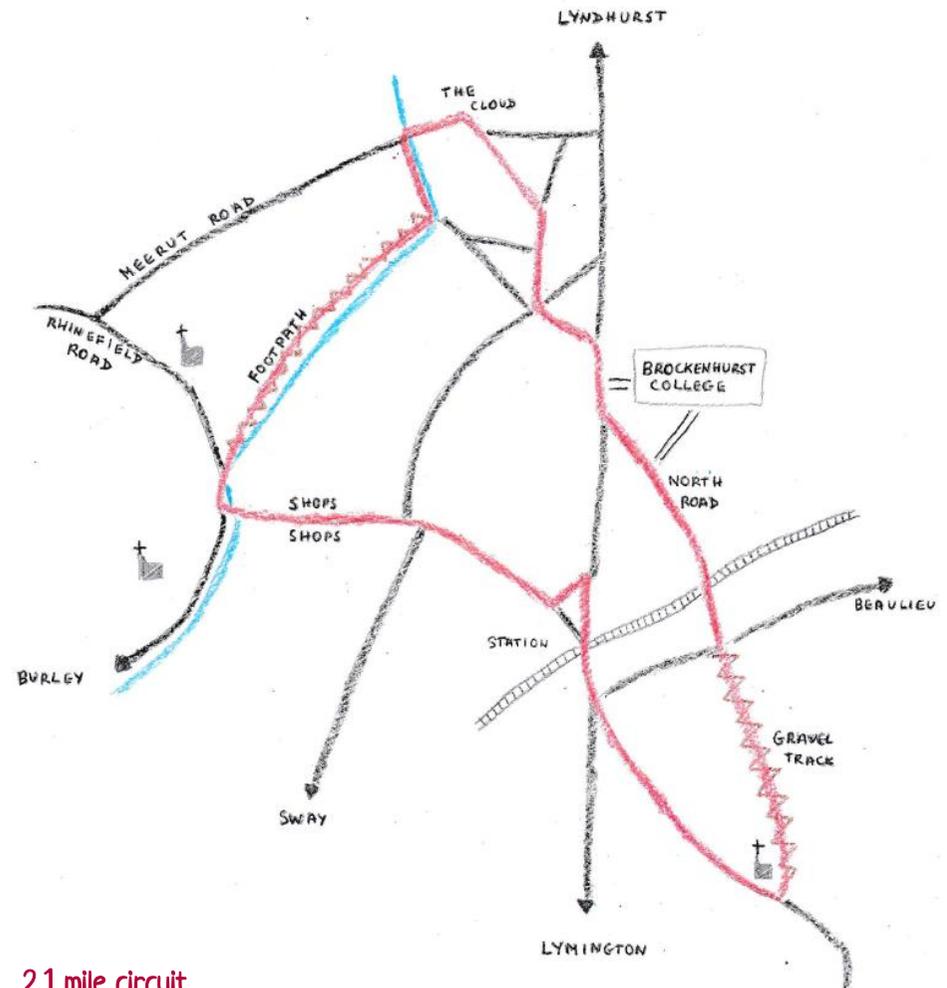
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

This is the first draft of the Trail so please do let us know what you thought for future production at: vicar@brockenhurstchurch.com

THANK YOU!

The Brockenhurst TREASURE TRAIL

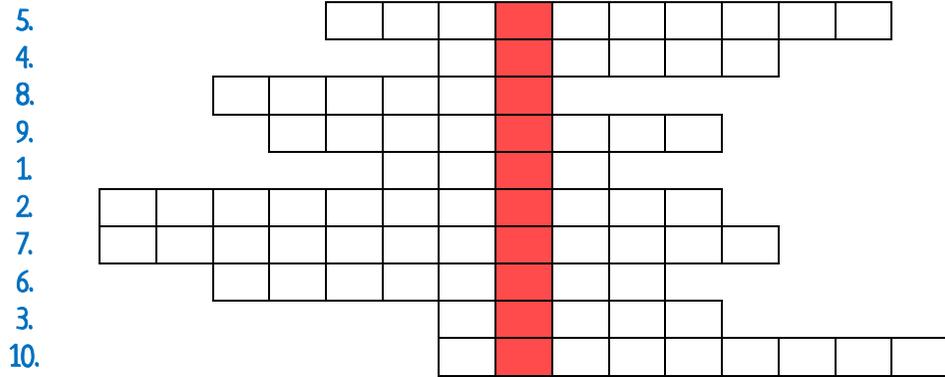
We really hope you enjoy this trail around Brockenhurst. The map below should help you find your way if you need it. If it has been wet the footpath and gravel track may be muddy.



2.1 mile circuit

INTRODUCTION

To complete this Treasure Trail, follow the directions and crack the clues to collect 10 CODEWORDS, to be placed in this crossword next to their numbers:



Once you have collected all the codewords, they will reveal the place where you can solve the FINAL RIDDLE.

GOOD LUCK!

START

We begin our Treasure Hunt in the historic centre of Brockenhurst: Brookley Road. At its western end, find the old “Watersplash”, where hardworking horses used to earn a drink.



Hopefully it isn't flooding today!

1. *But if it is, what's the highest reading (in feet) the taller river gauge would show before vanishing entirely (which it has been known to do!)?*

Follow the flow of the stream to find a footpath through a kissing gate (installed “for the benefit of the ladies”). You will now be in Angel Valley – watch carefully and you might glimpse a kingfisher! When it finally leads you directly to the village's second, lesser known ford turn left with the stream.

2. *What can you now find inside the red box directly ahead of you?*



Turn right, pass a cloud and continue right again around the corner.

3. *What colour is the water in this area you're now in?*

Go straight across at the crossroads and over a cattle grid. (The house on the right of the cattle grid, Bridge Cottage, was the old workhouse which provided simple mass work for the poor – an idea which began as a medieval solution to a nationwide labour shortage after roughly a third of the British population died of the Black Death).

Turn right opposite Brockenhurst College and continue up the main road.

4. *Which house on your right used to contain hymn books?*

Turn up North Road (opposite the holy home). At the end of the road go over the railway bridge and continue until you can solve the following clue:

5. *What impressive gothic gatehouse might be home to a beaver?*

Take care as you cross the road, turn right and then left up the track between Reynolds and Mulberry Cottages. You will reach an open space at the top – the car park of St Nicholas' Church (the oldest in the New Forest!) and it's here you can solve the next clue:

6. *What else can you see cut in to the metal leaf of a commemorative plaque?*



Go through the church gates and follow the path to a magnificent Yew tree which, at over 1000 years old, makes it the oldest living thing in the New Forest and one of Brockenhurst's best kept secrets! Follow the path around the back of the church into the graveyard and then continue on the path down the hill.

Directly in front of and a few rows from the Commonwealth War Memorial, find the large white gravestone of “Brusher Mills”

7. *What was his bizarre job?!*

Continue on the path downhill and you will come to a gravelled ‘crossroad’ in the lower, flat section of the graveyard. Turn left and walk past 6 rows of standing headstones on your right. On the 7th row you will find the resting place of a celebrated animator, marked by a well known and much loved wintry character – her most famous work!

8. *What was the animator's first name?*

Continue to the end of the path and then turn right, following the road downhill. Keep going, over the train tracks, until you reach a pub named in honour of *Brusher Mills* (from clue 7) – for it was there he lived out the last of his eccentric days. From there, cross the road and walk down Brookley Road to where you began.