

# Rambles around the Island

## in association with the IW Ramblers

**Description:** Varied and attractive shorelines, with views across Spithead, are teamed with rural and village interest. A lifeboat station, Nelsonian naval connections, and a rare telephone box are also featured.

**Distance:** 4 miles

**Start:** Foreland Fields Road Car Park, off Howgate Road.

**Access Information:** Fairly level, but not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs. Rough tracks and shingle beach.

**Refreshments:** Long Ledge Cafe, Crab & Lobster Pub, Life Boat Cafe, Toll Gate Cafe, Windmill Inn plus more in village centre.

**Toilets:** By lifeboat station car park Opposite Pilot Boat Inn, Bembridge Harbour (closed Winter)

**Route:** Take footpath down steps by cafe to sea wall.

Turn left along sea wall (or beach if low tide), below Crab and Lobster, turning left up slipway to follow Paddock Drive to its end. Turn right.

Turn left along Foreland Farm Road, a rough track, following the Coast Path and turn right at a footpath crossing. At the road which leads to the Warners Hotel, turn left along the cliff top to the lifeboat station pier.

Continue on along sea wall. Pass "Beach House" and turn left up steps to reach Swains Road, rejoining the Coast Path.

At crossways turn right on footpath, bearing right onto the Coastal Path at a junction of paths. Turn right on footpath BB5 where metalled road turns left. On reaching broad track (Ducie Ave) turn right and then left opposite a tall tree stump onto an unmarked footpath between houses.

Go past house on right to find a three-sided overgrown area bordering path. This is where Nelson's Navy used a well to get "sweet" water.

Continue on along Pump Lane, turning right at end onto Beach Road to reach the shore again.

Turn left along shore, noting remains of St. Helens church across harbour mouth, where Nelson's Navy acquired "holystones" to clean the decks of ships.

Continue round shore to reach road on the left of Toll Gate Cafe. Turn right along road. Cross road where you see baulk of timber (reputedly from the "Victory").

Behind this, find steps leading down through trees and over a boardwalk. At "T" junction of paths turn right, then immediately left up path to road.

Cross road and turn right, passing

end of Ducie Ave, turning right at corner past "Coop", to pass a rare 1929 telephone box. Cross Foreland Road to enter High Street, noting Rose Cottage on the left where David Niven was born. Turn left down Dennett Road, then right and left at end to enter Mitten Road. At end cross Steyne Road, and take path to left past the Windmill Inn.

Turn first right along Walls Road, continuing straight on along footpath when the road turns left to reach Howgate Road. Cross road, bear left and turn right down Foreland Fields Road to find your starting point at the car park.

ramblers  
at the heart of walking

Around  
**BEMBRIDGE**

