‘KISSING GATES’ – To keep, or not to keep!

FEEDBACK:

Arguments for keeping –

**Parishioner 1**: Given that they have been in place for many years I strongly believe that they should be retained and repaired.  In my view it would be the easy option to remove them on a questionable requirement of access provision - the gate in the churchyard already has a set of double gates adjacent which can allow access should it be required.

These types of old gates which are a beautiful feature of rural life are becoming more and more difficult to find.  Once they are gone they are gone, with too many being replaced by structures more suited to urban parks rather than rural spaces.  They are part of the historical fabric of the village in many ways and it would be very sad to see them go.

For these reasons I feel we should be preserving ours, and I'm quite happy to volunteer to give them a coat of wood preservative now and again if this helps to make their salvation more palatable.

**Parishioner 2**: My wife and I were surprised to read [ ] that consideration was being given to the removal of the Broom Hill and churchyard kissing gates. We feel this would be a mistake, as the historic fabric of the village can't be replaced, once destroyed. The gates have a story to tell and are a reminder of past agricultural practises which need preserving, not destroying.

We feel the argument that they prevent wheelchair and pushchair access to Broom Hill isn't a fair one. Firstly, by cutting back some bushes next to the gate on Broom Hill, and removing a short section of fence by the churchyard gate, both gates could remain in place whilst allowing easier access where the bushes and fence were, if so desired.

However, I think the idea of wheelchair access in particular to Broom Hill would require far more work than removing the gates, because very few of the paths in Broom Hill are suitable for wheelchair use, being either too steep, too narrow or too overgrown to make such use safe or desirable.

Comments either way –

**Parishioner 1**: To access Broom Hill we walk up the High street and around the back. The pavement in the high street is not wide enough for a push chair, which leaves us walking the whole way up the road.

This isn’t a major problem and I do quite like the kissing gates. Although if they do need repairing or replacing, we as daily users of the footpaths would appreciate buggy friendly access and would be pro this option.

Time does fly and I’m hoping they won’t be in the buggy for too long! So happy to side with popular opinion.