

## Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of the Three Counties Bridlepaths Group newsletter.

Here you'll find a list of upcoming events, items for sale, our latest 'Saddlebag Snack' and much more!

The floods have abated and the air is feeling warmer, so we're all getting out and about more and hope that you are enjoying the longer evenings as much as we are!

Best wishes

*3CBG Committee*

## Reminder about free bridlepath gates for Dorset landowners - have *you* seen a tricky gate anywhere?

Free gate applications (yes these are still free!) can be made by Dorset landowners to Dorset County Council, due to an agreement with the council. If you know who the landowner is and you would like them to request a bridlepath gate please download the form from the 3CBG website at [www.3cbg.org.uk](http://www.3cbg.org.uk) or ask them to do so themselves. Landowners must identify the correct bridlepath and 3CBG can help with this.

Contact Shelley

on 07780991101 or

[shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com](mailto:shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com) for help.

## Reclaiming the Wylde Warren forest tracks

3CBG had a meeting with the Forestry Commission on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The trigger for this meeting was the sudden appearance of stiles and fence barriers to forest tracks and trails that have been used by riders for well over 30 years. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that all the bridleways through the forest were blocked by fallen trees.

We agreed the following:

- Access to the main forest track from bridleway W20/33 - marked A, to be restored
- Access to track below Higher Pound, marked B, to be reviewed in May (giving time for surface condition to recover)
- Access to track above Marsh Farm, marked C to be reviewed in May (ditto)
- Forestry Commission (Andy) to formally raise the issue of the obstructed (by horses) bridleway W20/32 - marked, with Jill Exton (DCC ROW officer)
- 3CBG to act as a contact point between Forestry Commission and riders for the dissemination of information for feedback on any mutual concerns (fly tipping, inappropriate access, blocked routes, safety etc)
- An informal agreement to a discrete route across the top of Wylde Warren linking W20/32 and W20/33 to avoid the Crewkerne Road

Here's to partnership working and we look forward to meeting again in May.

*Shelley McIndoe.*



# Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) - what are these?

*Shelley McIndoe*

## The definitive map

The 1949 National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act introduced the definitive map and statement of public rights of way. The aim was for local authorities to create a legal record of public rights of way to ensure that they were not lost forever. The original plan was to complete the record of historical rights within five years. It didn't happen but a number of bridleways were registered as footpaths and a number not registered at all. Many routes were lost; but the cut off date was not imposed and confusion reigned.

So, the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 ("CROW") introduced a cut-off date of 2026 for all rights of way already in existence in 1949 and not recorded on the definitive map and statement. The aim was to remove uncertainty for landowners and provide an incentive to complete the definitive map and statement before the 2026 deadline.

All County Council's and Unitary Authorities in England and Wales have a statutory responsibility to maintain and update the definitive map and statement on which all public rights of way are recorded. The recording of a route on the definitive map is conclusive evidence in law of status, position and existence of the public rights of way.

The working copy of the definitive map can be viewed at County Council offices or at your local Area Rights of Way Office. Your district or parish council also has copies relevant to their areas, but they may not be as up to date.

The definitive map is accompanied by a definitive statement which may define the position or width of a right of way shown on the map and describe limitations such as stiles or kissing gates, although the statements do vary in the amount of detail they include. The definitive statement is also held at County Council Offices and at the Area Rights of Way Offices. Both the map and statement can be viewed on request.

## Changing the definitive map and statement

We all know that there are many unrecorded public rights of way in existence whose legal status can only be determined by evidence. Anyone can make a claim to the County Council for a route that they believe to be a public right of way to be added to the definitive map by means of a definitive map modification order (DMMO). Evidence of public rights of way can come from historical documents and/or from a continuous period of public use. All County Councils maintains an online register of DMMO applications.

Guidance to the definitive map modification order process and the application forms can be found on County Council web sites, but 3CGB member can also access advice and guidance from committee members Shelley McIndoe and Clare Webber.

## Why the Urgency?

There is no central authority taking responsibility for discovering and registering lost ways so it is down to local access groups, supported in our case by the BHS, to do it.

As well as bridleways and other public rights of way on the map, there are many routes which are missing from the map or only recorded as footpaths.

The focus of our work this year has to be on submitting DMMOs on a continuing basis and would welcome any suggestions of routes that are currently or in the past used by horse riders and/or carriage drivers which are not marked on the Definitive map as bridleways. We can support the preparation of the submission and on how to access the historical record but will rely on you as members to gather witness statements.

Progress will be slow, these claims will take time to be processed, but unless we do this work, routes will be lost forever.

I hope that in the next newsletter we can publish a list of DMMOs in progress.



# Notifying Local Authorities about Bridleway issues

The County Councils all provide an interactive map to help you locate the exact location of the problem you are reporting. Phone the County Council if you don't use the internet.

## Location

Dorset bridleways

Devon bridleways

(South) Somerset bridleways

## Contact

Rights of Way officer Jill Exton at  
J.Exton@dorsetcc.gov.uk or 01305 224463.

Report it online at [www.dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway)

Right of Way officer Emma Hellier at [emma.hellier@devoncc.gov.uk](mailto:emma.hellier@devoncc.gov.uk) or 0845 155 1004.

Online reporting unavailable.

Rights of Way officer Leslie Braunton

[LBraunton@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:LBraunton@somerset.gov.uk) or

use [rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk) or 0845 345 9155.

Report it online at [www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way)

## Items for Sale

From Lesley Rigby - this is a taster sample of what's available, with lots more including numnahs, girths, bits, other tack and rider clothing on the 3CBG website [www.3cbg.org](http://www.3cbg.org)

### FORAGE AND BEDDING

Bales 2013 lovely green meadow hay £3.50

Bales Miscanthus bedding £5.00

### RUGS & TRAVEL BOOTS

Masta Cooler £15.00

Under rug bib £3.00

Fluorescent exercise sheet £5.00

Padded travel boots (shaped) £10.00

Fur lined travel boots (straight) £5.00

Fur lined travel boots (straight) £3.00

### JUMPS

OCTAGONAL POLY STANDS 7 INT CPS £65.00

OCTAGONAL POLY STANDS 7 INT CPS £65.00

WOODEN POLES £70.00

### HOOF BOOTS (FOR RIDING)

Cavallo Sport hoof boots £65.00

Cavallo Sport hoof boots £40.00

Equiboots £5.00

Email Lesley [nles.rig@gmail.com](mailto:nles.rig@gmail.com)

or text 07967 522061

## Book Club

The last book club, held in February, was on Richard Barnes' 'Eye on the Hill – Horse Travels in Britain'.

Reading this book made you almost feel you were riding with the author, such was the relaxed style of writing and the

evidently laid-

back character of the author. It's certainly inspiring if you're even dreaming of heading off for an adventure with your horse. The 3CBG book club evenings happen every couple of months and all are welcome, for supper and a chat about whichever book we've chosen. The next one is on Joe Camp's 'Born Wild' (see Events). *Charlie Barrett*





# Riding Different Horses *Clare Webber*

Last summer I decided that I should take any (safe) opportunity to ride different horses, to see what I can learn.



*Me and Salty.*

My adventure began with Western riding in the USA. First in Colorado where I took an Appaloosa gelding (Salty) on a 2-hour trail ride. The pace of the ride was steady, due to the terrain (desert! climbing up and down and over rocky outcrops). Salty was comfortable and responsive, I really liked him. Next we were in Utah, where I met Nino, the grumpiest looking horse at the barn. He was fun to ride (although I was sliding around in the huge man-size saddle), and we had some exhilarating fast 'runs' along dry riverbeds. I can't remember the name of the third horse - it was a rather boring trail ride through the very beautiful Snow Valley: walk, walk, walk, nose-to-tail...

Back home, my own horse and I had some lovely autumn days out with 3CGB, before winter and the interminable rain set in.

I felt a lesson on the lunge might be helpful, to uncover my weaknesses (and hopefully some strengths) as a rider. I 'Googled' and asked around... and found Lucinda McAlpine ([www.lucindamcalpine.com](http://www.lucindamcalpine.com)). She provides what she calls 'Yoga on Horseback', on one of her specially trained horses. It was a stormy day when I ventured up to Lucinda's place at Culmstock. I was introduced to Bart, an enormously tall (17.1hh) black Russian Trakehner with a pleasant outlook. Compared to my own horse, his back was narrow and his stride long, but I soon felt comfortable. The session focussed on stretching

and relaxing my body and mind, using exercises and visualisations (for example, Lucinda told me to 'release the - imaginary - orange' I was holding under my chin). I experimented with putting my weight in the four quarters of the saddle in turn, and Bart responded by shifting his own weight, and I went round and round with one or other hand stretched up to the ceiling.

It was a stimulating afternoon, and I felt 6" taller when I slid off Bart at the end of the session. By the next morning my hips had stopped aching!

My next horse was another smart black - Felicity Mann's Racewood dressage simulator 'Eric'. He never puts a foot wrong (after all, he has no feet), but he also has very little character... Felicity is an extremely perceptive riding instructor and Alexander Teacher (BHSI, (REG) MSTAT [www.felicitymann.co.uk](http://www.felicitymann.co.uk)) and her helpful comments gave me plenty of food for thought. There were four of us at a BHS subsidised morning - we each had 20 minutes each on Eric, and also learned from watching and listening to each other's sessions. Two of us arranged to return to share an hour's lesson a couple of weeks later, as we had similar issues to resolve. Eric can be programmed in many different ways according to the rider's needs, so that problems can be broken down and better ways practised without needing to control a horse. For Felicity, he is also easier to keep sane and sound than a lunge horse, and he enables her to teach in a heated stable in the dead of winter!

Like all horse owners and riders, I am now looking forward to spring and some drier weather, and the chance to get out and about, riding in Devon (and beyond...).



*Eric's brother and not me!*

## ... EVENTS CALENDAR ...

Organised by 3CBG (*unless otherwise indicated*); 3CBG can take no responsibility for non-3CBG events; check website [www.3cbg.org.uk](http://www.3cbg.org.uk) for further events as details become available

Date	Event (Rides dependent on the weather)	Contact
Sun 6 April	A lovely ride on the Dorset Coast, parking near Ringstead Bay by 10:30, lunching at the Sailors Return at East Chaldon; some good galloping country and the most amazing views. Details nearer the date.	Shelley McIndoe - 07780991101 shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com
Fri 18 April	Lamberts Castle Ride	<a href="http://www.lambertscastleridingclub.co.uk">www.lambertscastleridingclub.co.uk</a> 01297 560416
Sun 27 April	Dartmoor ride from Hay Tor car park at 10:00, lunch at the Rugglestone Inn and back to the car park by 18:00. If you are interested please let me know.	Shelley McIndoe
Sat May 3rd	A Bluebell ride - tba	VOLUNTEERS ?
Sun May 4	Trec SW Taster day, Lovehayne Farm, Southleigh near Colyton EX24 6JE. Have you ever fancied trying TREC? Didn't know where to start? £25 per rider - entries in advance. Open to riders of ANY age (riders under 14 must be accompanied by an adult on the ride). A chance to learn how to use a compass and basic map reading skills. A ride of about 10KM (6 miles) to put your new map reading skills into practice. Instruction over a selection of TREC obstacles.	<a href="http://www.trecsouthwest.co.uk">www.trecsouthwest.co.uk</a> or email: <a href="mailto:trecciemad@yahoo.co.uk">trecciemad@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Sun May 11	A working ride via Prime Copse to Whitchurch Canonorum (The Five Bells) returning via Nash Lane. This will be a long day with a visit to the proposed ford at Mandeville Stoke to improve access across the Vale. Leaving from Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:30, Whitchurch at 13:00 and home by 17:00	Shelley McIndoe
Sat May 17	3CBG Barbecue at Shelley's, £5 pp, bring your own drinks	Shelley McIndoe
Sun May 18	A day ride to the Cotley Inn via quiet lanes and bridleways. This is a lovely but long ride through some very isolated tracks. There will be field and track cantering. If you plan to come then please let me know because I will have to book at the Cotley Inn. Leaving Beech Lane at 09:00 sharp and home by 18:00	Shelley McIndoe
Sun May 18	Trec SW Level 1 competition, Lovehayne Farm, Southleigh near Colyton.	<a href="http://www.trecsouthwest.co.uk">www.trecsouthwest.co.uk</a>
Sun May 18	Axe Vale Pleasure Ride (Axe Vale hunt), Branscombe, Devon	Nicky Ralph 07773 426708 or Jacqui Stokes 07507 071756
Sun May 25	Guest Ride - offers please for a short, local ride	Clare Webber <a href="mailto:c.webber58@btinternet.com">c.webber58@btinternet.com</a>
Sun June 8	New route to Dalwood (the Tuckers Arms) and home via Westwater. This is an adventurous ride on roads and tracks with some steep hills. Meet at the Tuckers Arms at 13:00 for non riders. Leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:00, home by 16:30.	Shelley McIndoe
Thur June 12	South West Riders' 'Annual Bash' 7pm, social for SWR members, includes quiz, raffle, refreshments, Sourton Village Hall	<a href="http://www.southwestriders.org.uk">www.southwestriders.org.uk</a>
Sun June 22	The 3 Hills Solstice Ride: Lamberts Castle, Pilsdon and Lewesdon with a picnic on the hill (approx. 13:00) - this is a long ride but very rewarding, some controlled canters on tracks. Leaving from Lamberts Castle at 09:30 and back by 17:00.	Shelley McIndoe
Sun June 29	Trec Agility Event at Lamberts Castle - details to be announced by email - but will be advertised to non members as a fund raising event. Volunteers to set up and a judge will be needed	Shelley McIndoe
Sun July 6	Guest ride - offers please for a short, local ride	Clare Webber
Sun July 13	Dalwood (the Tuckers Arms) and home via Westwater. This is an adventurous ride on roads and tracks with some steep hills. Meet at the Tuckers Arms at 13:00 for non riders. Leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:00, home by 16:30.	Shelley McIndoe
Sun July 20	The Hawkchurch Ride: a circular ride around Hawkchurch, lunching at the Old Inn. Leaving from EX13 5UF at 10:00. Home by 16:00.	
Sun July 27	Guest Ride - any offers?	Clare Webber
Sun Aug 3	Axevale Pleasure Ride (Axevale Hunt), Farway Countryside Park	Nicky Ralph 07773 426708

*More events on next page ...*

## ... EVENTS CALENDAR ...

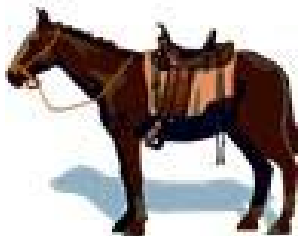
Sun Aug 10	A really excellent day ride to Axmouth, leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:00 and pick up at Trinity Hill at 10:00; Rousden at 12:00 and lunch at the Ship at Axmouth at 13:30. Home by 16:30 via the golf course. Mostly walk and trot but some controlled canters up tracks. Horses must be confident in traffic.	Shelley McIndoe
Sun Aug 17	The George at Chardstock, via Burr ridge and home via Smallridge. Leaving at 10:00 from Beech Lane and home by 16:30. Some road riding so horses must be calm in traffic.	Shelley McIndoe
Sun Sept 7	Hawkchurch to the Royal Oak at Drimpton/or tea rooms via Magdalene Farm (an amazing bridleway), back via green lanes and quiet roads. Meet at Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:45, pick up at Sadborow triangle at @11:00 home by 17:00	Shelley McIndoe
Sun Sept 14	GUEST RIDE - ANY OFFERS?	Clare Webber
Sun Sept 21	Trinity Hill to the Talbot and home via Holes Common and Mill Lane - crossing the A35 and walking along it for 100 yds so horses must be safe in traffic. Leaving form Beech lane at 09:30 home by 16:00.	Shelley McIndoe
Fri 26 Sept	3CBG Book Club on Joe Camp's 'Born Wild', at Charlie's (Bridge, nr Forde Abbey)	Charlie Barrett - 07720 320874 charliembarrett@hotmail.com
Sun Sept 28	A ride from Courtenay Farm (EX13 5UF) to check some local issues as far as Stonebarrow farm. Leaving at 10:00 and home by 14:30 for late lunch at Courtenay Farm. Let me know if you are coming	Shelley McIndoe
Sept, date tbc	Camping weekend at 5 Bells, Whitchurch Canonicorum	Shelley McIndoe

## Saddlebag Snack

This easy to make brownie from Riverford is absolutely delicious and keeps for a few days longer as the beetroot makes it really moist. *Tried and tested by Charlie Barrett!*

### Ingredients

- 250g dark chocolate, chopped
- 200g unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 250g beetroot, cooked (you can buy this pre-cooked)
- 3 eggs
- a drop of vanilla extract
- 200g caster sugar
- 50g cocoa powder,
- 50g rice flour (ground rice)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 100g ground almonds



Pack into your saddlebag and try not to eat it too soon!

### Method

1. Put the chocolate and butter in a large bowl and place it over a pan of simmering water, making sure the water doesn't touch the base of the bowl. Leave to melt, then remove from the heat.
2. Purée the cooked beetroot in a food processor. Add the eggs one at a time, followed by the vanilla and sugar, and mix until smooth.
3. Sift the cocoa powder, rice flour and baking powder into a bowl and stir in the ground almonds. Stir the beetroot mixture into the melted chocolate and then fold in the dry ingredients.
4. Use baking parchment to line a rectangular tin, roughly 28 x 18cm. Pour in the mixture and place in an oven preheated to 180°C/Gas Mark 4. Bake for 30-35 minutes, until just firm to the touch. It's important not to overcook brownies; a skewer inserted in the centre should come out slightly sticky. Leave to cool in the tin and then cut into squares.

## Benefits of Membership:

The Three Counties Bridlepath Group covers East Devon, South Somerset and West Dorset. Our aims are to monitor the bridleways within a 15 mile radius of Lyme Regis, Dorset, and to work with the respective County and Parish Councils to improve them. This can involve improving surfaces, replacing gates or making gates easier to open. Many of the bridleways are ridden or walked regularly by our members which helps us monitor them.

As the roads become more and more congested, as farmers sell up for housing development and solar farms, as land owners become increasingly protective about their boundaries, so the bridleway network shrinks. Hacking, trekking, exploring, walking, enjoying the land we live in are all under threat unless we actively manage these routes and make bids for new ones. Join us now, re-join if you haven't already and be part of the action!

We also organise fun rides and other events to promote the bridleways and raise funds for the group; members can join the rides for free, non-members cannot join the rides; members get 50% discount to events, non-members pay full price. Join today!

### 3CBG Committee contact details

Chairwoman: **Shelley Thirlaway** 01297 678182 or 07780 991101. shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

Secretary: **Clare Webber** c.webber58@btinternet.com

Treasurer: **Chris Moore** 01297 678577, chris.moore1@live.co.uk

Newsletter/website: **Charlie Barrett** 01460 30527 or 07720 320874 charliembarrett@hotmail.com

Committee Members:

**Jane Sherwin** 01297 35811 or 07920 776798 jane\_sherwin@hotmail.co.uk

**Liz Lane** 07890 517049, klizlane@aol.co.uk

**Sara Ballarano** saraballarano@gmail.com

**Anne Carstairs**

**Clare Pitfield**

**Lucy Sommers**

### Membership Form: Three Counties Bridlepaths Group

(Affiliated to the British Horse Society) Application for Membership/Subscription Renewal 2012/13

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Area where you ride/keep horse if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBERS:** Joining fee £10 per household, which includes 1st year's subscription of £5 for 1 adult. Additional adult members £5 each. **EXISTING MEMBERS:** £5 per adult. Children 16 and under in same household FREE. Subscription is renewable by March (AGM) each year, or joining fee applies.

Please send your completed application form with cheque made out to Three Counties Bridlepaths Group to: Chris Moore, Woodhouse Cottage, Hawkchurch, Devon EX13 5UF. Please do not send cash through the post. To pay membership subs by phone or online please use the following: Lloyds TSB sort code: 30-90-37, Account number: 001391011. Please use your surname as the reference.