

## Welcome to the Autumn 2012 edition of the quarterly Three Counties Bridlepaths Group newsletter.

In this issue there is a list of upcoming events, news on recent rides and clinics, items for sale as well as info on reporting bridleway issues (give it a go - it's easy!) and requesting a bridleway gate if you're a landowner.

We're still on the look-out for ideas from you for new events, either for members only or as an open invitation fundraiser. Any ideas, it could be anything e.g. a ride in your area or a fund-raising breakfast at your house? Email them to Shelley at [shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com](mailto:shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com). This is to boost 3CBG funds so that we can continue to improve local paths, e.g. offer to help fund rider-friendly gates or crossings.

*Best wishes*  
3CBG Committee

## New events website

[www.HorseEventsUK.com](http://www.HorseEventsUK.com) was launched a few months ago to help riders find horse events in their area. Lots of events in the South West especially as this is where the site began.

## 3CBG Colyton Weekend

Friday 15th of June was a wild and stormy day. The Met Office warned of 70mph winds and heavy rain, and the 'sleep-over' at Colcombe Abbey Farm was nearly postponed. As it was, a small group of members braved the dire forecast, and had 2 fantastic days riding. The Voysey family were our very kind hosts. Toffee and I set off from Offwell to the West, while the rest of the group (Shelley, Wendy, Emma and Dave) approached from Hawkchurch to the East. I decided to take a direct route because of the strong wind, and apart from a slight worry that Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's wind turbine might whizz off its stem and fly across the road as I passed, I had an uneventful journey.

The horses quickly settled in for the night. Sylvie and Emma were delighted to see their stables full of horses again, and the horses were content to share the barn with goslings and calves. The party doubled in size as friends and partners joined us for an Indian takeaway supper. Ordering and delivering the order proved problematic, as we discovered that a large oak tree had fallen across the drive, bringing down the phone wires and blocking our exit. Thank goodness for mobile phones – a man with a large chainsaw came to our rescue, the meal was brought in through the neighbour's entrance, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our beds were dotted around – a barn conversion, a caravan, a sofa bed and a sofa, but despite the howling gales we slept well and after a proper farmhouse

breakfast, we were on our horses and ready to explore the beautiful area around Colyton and Southleigh. Brenda joined us for the morning and we set off down the drive, impressed by the girth of the oak which was now neatly cut through and ready for planking.

Sylvie and Emma's ride took us through Colyton centre and out to Holyford, then onto a bridleway across fields on Pratt's Hill, where some of us took the chance to pop over some jumps. We went on through beautiful woods around Southleigh, and then into Wiscombe Woods. Here we were in single file, and some low branch dodging was involved. We dismounted while our faithful horses ducked under a fallen tree, and then Brenda's horse Iris decided that her rider was too slow on foot so she trotted on down the path without her. Remounted, we all had an exhilarating canter along the track, following each other over a couple of jumps as we went.

Wendy and Dave swapped horses for a stretch through Southleigh, and we continued past Moorplash Farm, along Blackacre Road and Purlbridge. At Rockerhayne I was an hour from home, so I continued along the road while the others turned right along the track to Lawdeshayne and back towards Colyton. Toffee's ears swivelled as we trotted along, wondering why his friends had gone the 'wrong' way. Once he was reunited with his companions at home I drove back to Colcombe, where Sylvie was

*continued ...*

...serving up wonderful homemade soup. We had been amazingly lucky with the weather so far, and we lingered over lunch, but the skies were threatening and there was a long ride home still ahead for the others. I collected my sleeping bag and Sylvie and I waved them off. They were home (but not dry) by 7pm, having stopped for ice-cream and apples at Weycroft. We had a fantastic time, thank you Sylvie, Emma, and all the Voyseys for your generous hospitality and good company. We look forward to accepting your invitation for another weekend! - **Clare Webber**

## Bridlepath gate requests for Dorset landowners

Free gate applications can be made by Dorset landowners to Dorset County 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 3CGB will help with this. *Contact Shelley on 07780991101 or [shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com](mailto:shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com) for help.*

## Coombefield Vets Equine facilities now open

Mid-June saw the open evening of the Coombefield Vets equine facilities at Summerlease Farm, Kilmington, near Axminster. Here they will offer routine and preventative health care services (from vaccinations and microchipping to ultrasound scanning etc). About 400 people arrived to see the new facilities, which look fantastic. The evening was informative and entertaining, with lots of fun and games and an impressive jumping demo by local rider Tim Rogers, who amazed me by jumping while speaking calmly through a microphone at the same time, even bareback! To find out more about Coombefield see [www.coombefieldvets.co.uk](http://www.coombefieldvets.co.uk) or ring 01297 630500 - **Charlie Barrett**

## Ken Faulkner clinic

A few of us went along to a Ken Faulkner demo on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Hitts Barton Equestrian Centre at Whimple. Ken is an Australian horseman, a 'natural' one for want of a better word, who has a refreshing straightforward approach with horses (and people!). He also involved the audience a great deal, making sure you concentrated by asking afterwards what you had learned - that woke a few of us up from our reveries! - **Charlie Barrett**

## Agility Day

Michelle, Shelley, Chris and I went along with our horses to an Agility Day near Cullompton on 10 June, run by the Horse Agility Club. You have probably seen Border Collies having fun and doing amazing things over jumps and see-saws and hoops, but horses? I wasn't sure what to expect, but arrived with my Icelandic horse Snuggur to find the instructor Heather Seems pretty much on our wave-length and sympathetic to Snuggur's history as a Spook Master and bolter. However I needn't have worried that his past would interfere here, as he took to Agility like a duck to water, and amazed me every step of the way. He stood calmly beneath an arch adorned with a curtain of flapping coloured plastic, walked nonchalantly over a see-saw bridge, shimmied through a hoop of noisy blue plastic pipe and sauntered through a 'scary' corner. Having been hopeless at TREC together only the previous month (you may have read about our unimpressive attempt in the last newsletter!), I was delighted to find that we won the afternoon competition, but even happier to feel that my previously troubled little horse was really 'with' me. For more info on this upcoming sport see [www.thehorseagilityclub.com](http://www.thehorseagilityclub.com) - **Charlie Barrett**



# EVENTS ... EVENTS ... EVENTS

## September

■ **Sunday 9 Sept - Monkton Wylde/Charmouth Forest.** 10:00 from Beech Lane, EX13 5UF via Beavor Grange and Newlands (this bridleway is under threat) to Monkton Wylde, then Charmouth Forest Lamberts and lunch at The Bottle Inn (hopefully). Back via Marshwood, Grigshay and Elmore. Contact Shelley 07780991101.

■ **Sunday 9 Sept- Forton Fun Ride, nr Chard - Julie Butterfield** 01460 66740, 07779 254120

■ **Saturday 15 Sept - Axmouth and Rousden.** (weather permitting): Axmouth (The Ship Inn) via Rousden and back via Bulmoor and Trinity Hill. Leaving from Beech Lane, EX13 5UF at 09:30 (or Trinity Hill at 10:15), home by 18:00. Contact Shelley 07780991101.

■ **Sunday 16 Sept - Somerset Levels Ride, Thorney Lakes, nr Langport - B Burne** 01460 240360

■ **Friday 21 September to Monday 24 September.**

### **3CBG Camping Weekend at the 5 Bells, Whitchurch Canoncorum**

Arrive on Friday afternoon with tents, horses, corralling and food for horses. There may be an opportunity to do some schooling and X Country jumps on Friday afternoon/evening. Supper in the pub on Friday night. Betsy and Marion will lead a ride to Waytown (Hare and Hounds) on Saturday. Sunday an option for a short ride combined with a harvest roast at the village hall or a longer ride to Golden Cap and Eype Down, lunch at Symondsburly

and returning via green lanes to Ryall and Whitchurch. If you wish to book a place email Shelley or phone on 07780991101.

■ **Wednesday 26 Sept - 3CBG Book Club.** Venue TBC. Book *The Faraway Horses* by Buck Brannaman, ISBN-10: 1585748633

■ **Sunday 30 Sept a working ride** via Prime Copse to the Mandeville Stoke green lane crossing to cut back vegetation and attempt to ford the River Char; lunch at Shaves Cross and back via Nash Lane. Secateurs essential! Leaving Beech Lane, EX13 5UF at 09:30 and home by 16:30.

## October

■ **Sunday 7 October: Membury ride via Weycroft -** early start at 08:30 from EX13 5UF, aiming for lunch at the Cotley Inn (if its open, The George if not) and home via Burr ridge and Tytherleigh. This is long ride (about 18 miles) but through some of the most beautiful countryside in East Devon. Home before dark (by 18:00 at the latest). Shelley 07780991101, shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

■ **Sunday 14 Oct - Taunton Vale Foxhounds Ride -** Helen Foster - 01823 480449, 07787574873

■ **Sunday 21 October: guest ride -** open to suggestions (Contact Shelley if you can offer a guided ride on our 3CBG patch)

■ **Sunday 28 Oct - West Somerset Vale Ride from** Stockland Lovell - Deb Cossey 01278 733011

■ **3CBG EVENTS**

■ Other events



# GUIDE TO REPORTING BRIDLEPATH ISSUES

## Reporting Problems and Using on-line Maps

There are over 150 affiliated Bridleway Groups throughout the UK and Ireland working on behalf of all riders and carriage drivers to campaign for improved off-road riding. 3CBG is one of these, helping to promote equestrian access, monitoring local equestrian rights of way and working alongside local authorities and other groups. We also have fun and provide a sociable way of getting groups of local riders together. Members of the group have an individual responsibility to report problems that they encounter whilst out riding and I hope that the information below will help to make what can seem

to be an intimidating undertaking into a straightforward task. Many of our members ride and/or live ride across the three counties, Devon, Somerset and Dorset; the common factor is that:

■ you report all problems and/or suggestions about **bridleways** to the County Council Rights of Way (ROW) officers

■ you report all problems and/or suggestions about **green lanes and country roads** to the County Council Highways Department

In the table overleaf I have tried to simplify the process and provide specific contact details.

Owner	Route Type	Reporting Method	On Line Map/Advice
Dorset CC (ROW officer Jill Exton) J.Exton@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Bridleways	<a href="http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/countryside/reportproblem/">http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/countryside/reportproblem/</a> Very easy to use interactive map that identifies the correct bridleway numbers and location. Or phone 01305 224463	<a href="http://www.dorsetexplorer.com">www.dorsetexplorer.com</a> An excellent interactive map - look up bridleway numbers, eastings and northings, detailed scale. Or get advice from: <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway">www.dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway</a>
Dorset CC (Dorset Highways) dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Lanes and Roads	<a href="http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/highways/reportproblem/">http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/highways/reportproblem/</a> Again an interactive map that helps you identify the exact location of the problem.	As above: <a href="http://www.dorsetexplorer.com">www.dorsetexplorer.com</a> Will be replaced by <a href="http://explorer.geowessex.com/">http://explorer.geowessex.com/</a> which is simpler but not quite as useful.
Devon CC - (ED ROW officer - Emma.hellier@devoncc.gov.uk )	Bridleways	Report a problem by email to: <a href="mailto:prow@devon.gov.uk">prow@devon.gov.uk</a> . Tel: 0845 155 1004 Fax: 01392 381459 You can get information about the bridlepath by using the interactive map: <a href="http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=footpath">http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=footpath</a>	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/public_rights_of_way/where_to_walk_and_ride.htm">http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/public_rights_of_way/where_to_walk_and_ride.htm</a> Really useful information and some well documented rides.
Devon CC (Devon Highways)	Lanes and Roads	Tel: 0845 155 1004 Email: <a href="mailto:csc.roads@devon.gov.uk">csc.roads@devon.gov.uk</a>	The web site has useful contact information and you can use the interactive map to get more detail about routes. <a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transportroads/roads.htm">http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transportroads/roads.htm</a>
Somerset CC	Bridleways	Email: <a href="mailto:rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk">rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk</a> Tel:0845 345 9155 Or report via the interactive map: <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/wpcccontent/Sites/SCC/Web%20Pages/Services/Services/Environment/Report%20problem%20with%20public%20right%20of%20way">http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/wpcccontent/Sites/SCC/Web%20Pages/Services/Services/Environment/Report%20problem%20with%20public%20right%20of%20way</a>	<a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/guid/40054aee-0834-2c10-f197-8a92780c22ab">http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/guid/40054aee-0834-2c10-f197-8a92780c22ab</a> Good web site with easy access - guidance notes and leaflets plus access to the interactive map
Somerset CC (Somerset Highways)	Lanes and Roads	Roads and Transport team Email: <a href="mailto:roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk">roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0845 345 9155	Again on the Somerset CC web site: <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/wpcccontent/Sites/SCC/Web%20Pages/Services/Services/Environment/Report%20highway%20problem_request%20service">http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/wpcccontent/Sites/SCC/Web%20Pages/Services/Services/Environment/Report%20highway%20problem_request%20service</a>

The County Councils all provide an interactive map to help you locate the exact location of the problem you are reporting. Dorset and Somerset have the facility to report via the map but in all cases you can access the bridleway or lane number together with a grid reference which is the minimum data required. If you don't have access to a computer or just don't like using the internet then please, please report problems using the phone numbers provided above. You will need to provide location details and a grid reference from an OS map is the best one to use.



## Three Rivers Ride - to Dalwood and back

This is an extraordinary day ride that takes you across the Axe, Yarty and Cory rivers, exploring hidden valleys and ancient tracks between settlements. Set out from Beech Lane, EX13 5UF where there is plenty of roadside parking. Follow the signed bridleway that goes down a track towards Southmoor Farm; continue on this route ignoring the right and branch of the track. The bridleway takes you past Southmoor Farm and up through woodland emerging on a paved road where you turn left and then right onto Sector Lane. Continue down Sector Lane for about 700 meters and take the first right hand metaled road (marked as a dead end). Follow the road for about 200 meters past houses until a gravel track (a marked bridleway) appears on the right; this is Evil Lane and out take this track following it down hill through a gate until you meet a metaled road. Pass through the bridleway gate and take a left following the road into Axminster. You are now at 1 on the map below. Continue to the roundabout taking the second exit toward the town center where you follow the one-way system to a T-junction turning right then right then left onto Castle Street. Ride down the steep hill, crossing the railway and make your first river crossing across over the Axe on an old stone bridge at 2.

The tension of urban riding over, you continue on the quiet metaled road though farmland and rising up the valley until you reach Four Cross where you take the road signposted to the Westwaters (straight across on an elongated cross road). This road takes you through a series of very small hamlets (now just single farms) starting with Lower Westwater then Middle Westwater and Higher Westwater where you turn left down a dead end road (the sign is crumpled in the hedge). Follow this track down to the Yarty (3) where your method of crossing will depend on how full the river is. The ford on the lane is only safe to use if you can see the river bottom and avoid any deep holes. If the river is in spate, go through the farm gate on your right (signposted as a footpath) and cross the river at the field edge then aim for the 5 bar gate ahead of you where you will rejoin the green lane. Travel along this delightful track which links the ancient settlement of Higher Westwater with the equally historic Corryton Park; there is a great cantering lane that brings you up out of the Yarty Valley and to an intriguing view over the Corry Brook water meadows. Pass through the gate and down another ford crossing over the Corry at 4. Continue through the farmhouse - lots of barking dogs, bearing right at the yard wall and then right again onto a metaled road. After about 300 meters bear ride over the Corry and continue up hill past Dulcis Farm on your right taking the next left onto Nower Road, spending time here to look back at the amazing view. The very quiet road passes the sophisticated barn conversions of Dulcis Farm and then the traditional



farmhouse and yard of Nower Farm. Just after this look for a steep track the left (5) and take this (hairpin bend) passing a cottage on the right and picking up the narrow, overgrown but delightful bridleway on your right. Ride down this ancient track, through a gate and sunken lane emerging into an open field with a view the village of Dalwood to the right. Follow the hedge line on you left to a hidden gate and continue on the left hedge line to the next gate (there is a water tough here for equine refreshment), which brings you onto the edge of a very tidy farmyard. Bear right then right again at the metaled road, which you follow to the crossroads taking a right to Dalwood (the green lane on your left is, sadly, not safe to ride). This village road brings you the center of the village where you turn right again arriving at the very welcoming and horse friendly Tuckers Arms (6). Just beyond the pub there is a track to the left leading into a small paddock planted with millennium trees; out of courtesy let the landlady know that you are tying up your horses. Enjoy your lunch!

On leaving the paddock after lunch bear right down a narrow alley (signposted as a bridleway) and follow this through a bridleway gate and on up the hill across a ford. At the paved road turn right and continue for about 100 meters bearing right at the next junction and turning right at the next junction. This very quiet lane skirts a run down farm and just before the next junction turn right along a green lane (7). Travel along this lane for approx. 500metres rejoining the pave road over a bridge crossing on the right;

continue along the road bearing right up a steep hill at the next junction and then continue straight ahead down another green lane (8) (this is a section of the Blackdown Hills Dalwood ride) and brings you out at Beckford Bridge where you bear right and left to cross the river Yarty again. Continue up the hill turning left then right (9) and in about 300 meters take a well hidden bridleway to the right through 2 field gates and follow the field boundary up the hill and to the right passing through a small bridleway gate, along a stony track emerging through a backyard onto a paved road where you bear right. At the next T junction turn left then right onto the Membury road; continue down the road for about 1500 meters and look for a filed gate with bridleway sign to the left (10). This lovely bridleway takes you through secluded farmland ending up on the Smallridge road near Weycroft. You may find difficulty getting through the farmland (which is the correct route) but the farmer has agreed that we can use the filed behind the farm to access the gate onto the farm track (11). Once you reach the paved highway turn right over the railway bridge and then right onto the Chard Road - negotiating traffic lights with care! Once over the river bridge turn left up Lodge Lane and onward along this winding road until you reach the bridleway the end of the road; take the right path and follow bridleway signs, which take you past Southmoor Farm. Upon reaching the concrete track turn right and you will find yourself back at your starting point - probably about 8 hours later. It's a full days ride but well worth it!

## 3CBG Committee contact details

Chairwoman: **Shelley Thirlaway** 01297 678182 or 07780 991101. [shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com](mailto:shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com)

Secretary: **Clare Webber** [c.webber58@btinternet.com](mailto:c.webber58@btinternet.com)

Treasurer: **Chris Moore** 01297 678577, [pat.moore1@btopenworld.com](mailto:pat.moore1@btopenworld.com)

Newsletter/website: **Charlie Barrett** 01460 30527 or 07720 320874 [charliembarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:charliembarrett@hotmail.com)

Committee Members:

**Jane Sherwin** 01297 35811 or 07920 776798 [jane\\_sherwin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jane_sherwin@hotmail.co.uk)

**Liz Lane** 07890 517049, [klizlane@aol.co.uk](mailto:klizlane@aol.co.uk)

**Brenda Lunt** [tg.lunt@homecall.co.uk](mailto:tg.lunt@homecall.co.uk)

**Lynn Wason** 07778 969279, [seaseeker68@gmail.com](mailto:seaseeker68@gmail.com)



## Book Club

The 3CBG book club is a relaxed meeting once every couple of months. We have supper, everyone brings a dish, and we chat about our latest book. The next one is on Weds 26<sup>th</sup> September (see Events) and is on Buck Brannaman's 'The Faraway Horses', the true story of

Buck, a horseman who had a truly appalling upbringing but who has used it to the good, becoming an inspiring horseman. Some of us are listening to it as an audiobook and really enjoying it – give it a go and come along on 26<sup>th</sup> when we'll watch the DVD too!

## Items for Sale

A Korrektor saddle pad/numnah as new. Bought to fit my beautiful Arab who I had to have put down a couple of months ago and never used. The saddle pad is black and is complete with the four air bags and pump. Any saddle can be used to make a perfect balanced fit. It cost a small fortune but I will accept £65 ono. Contact Heather Lee at pilsdonkennels@aol.com on 01460 220914

- 2 Rambo Duo turnout rugs each one comes with two detachable liners of differing weights and with detachable neck covers - both size 6'9

- o One 2 years old - £100 including 2 liners and neck cover
- o One 1 year old - £150 including 2 liners and neck cover (approx. £260 new and liners approx. £30 each)
- 2 Stable rugs 6'6 £10 each
- 1 Turnout rug (checked colour) with neck cover 6'6/6'9 £40
- 2 lightweight turnout rugs (one purple, one navy) 6'6 - £10 each
- Turnout rug (blue) 6'6 - £5
- Equafleece exercise sheet 6'9 florescent - £10
- Equafleece florescent numnah/saddle cloth (full size) £5

- Black numnah/saddle cloth (full size) - £3
  - Equi Chaps (large) - £5
  - 2 Leather GP Saddles 17" - £75 - £100
  - Synthetic GP Saddle 17" - £50
  - Leather GP Saddle 17" - £50
  - 2 Leather Bridles (full size) one with breastplate £20/£25 each
- All rugs and tack was used/worn by a 6'2 Thoroughbred and a 6'2 Irish Draught. (Rugs have not been professionally cleaned, just brushed off, hence competitive prices). Telephone: 01837 54886 (after 6pm)

## 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.