

Welcome

Welcome to the February 2011 edition of the quarterly Three Counties Bridlepaths Group newsletter. It's nearly Spring and so you may already be thinking about which local rides to attend this year, so we've included info we have so far out about **upcoming rides in 2011**; we'll continue to let you know about others as they are publicised. Among other items you'll also find

here a form for **joining or renewing your membership** (renewable in March each year), a **calendar of 3CBG events**, **committee contact details** and information on **action we've been taking** to help re-install a former green lane bridlepath in the Marshwood Vale.

Best wishes
3CBG Committee ■

3CBG member contributions

It's never too late to learn new ways *by Jane Sherwin*

Like so many, I spent many years being taught to ride by some very good BHS instructors. Then one evening I went along to a Three Counties Bridleways Group gathering, where a woman called Anna Bonnage had been invited to give a presentation about the time she spends on ranches in Arizona learning about their horsemanship skills and techniques. I then went along as a spectator to one of her clinics and was so impressed with her knowledge and what she can achieve that I asked her to give me some lessons.

Anna teaches though feel and softness to communicate with the horse and to help it feel good working with you. It is learning how to do this that I find most fascinating and rewarding. My horse Ripple has become far more relaxed which in turn has made me feel more relaxed.

Going from years of BHS instruction, and perhaps being a little stuck in my ways, I am now enjoying regular lessons with Anna, learning more about good horsemanship. I think Ripple enjoys them too - I do hope so. For more info see www.annabonnage.com ■

Woody's road to recovery *by Chris Moore*

Last spring my horse, Woody, had an inexplicable fight with the electric fence, leaving him with a serious hind leg tendon injury. Thanks to a wonderful vet, Tim Lawrence from Coombefield Veterinary Surgery, and ten weeks box rest, the leg healed. However, I was encouraged to call in an Equine Physiotherapist for some remedial therapy to help his continuing recovery. This action, I believe, saved his riding life.

The physio, Celia Cohen, manipulated Woody in various ways to help balance him up again after resting one back leg for so long. She then gave me a series of exercises to do with him, which helped to rebuild his core strength and flexibility. She has visited several times since and helped him as his recovery has progressed, increasing or altering the exercises as necessary.

Perhaps not surprisingly the damaged leg moves differently since the accident and this alters the pressures and actions on the rest of Woody's body. It has been a long slow process and it's taken a lot of commitment and hard work from both Woody and myself, but it has been worth it all because I now have a horse who is basically recovered and once again rideable.

I cannot recommend enough the help of a fully qualified person to help with the rehabilitation of an injured animal. Time is of the essence in these situations but it all boils down to the love I have for my horse. For more info see www.celiacohenphysiotherapy.co.uk and www.coombefieldvets.co.uk ■

NEW 3CBG WEBSITE

Please visit the new site at www.3cbg.org.uk for the latest news on local events and bridlepaths (thanks to Mick Upton at www.mudesign.co.uk for the website)



BRIDLEPATHS UPDATE

During the past months action has been taken on three problems in East Devon by reporting the bridlepath number, OS reference and a description of the problem. This is the way to resolve blocked or overgrown bridleways, difficult terrain, broken gates and other obstacles - report them to your local authority Rights of Way Department. Try and use these online maps in order to provide as much information as possible:

East Devon - <http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=footpath>

South Somerset - <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/>, then follow a search for "bridleways"

West Dorset <http://195.49.180.76/dorsetexplorer/?&ref=redirect>

Remember that to report an issue effectively you will need the grid reference of the problem location (and bridleway number if possible).

Contact the following with any issues you encounter:

East Devon: Email prow@devon.gov.uk or phone the East Devon Public Rights of Way officer on 0845 155 1004

Somerset: Go to the Somerset County Council website at www.somerset.gov.uk. Click on 'Services' at the top, type 'right of way' into the search box and 'Report problem with public right of way' is the third option in the results list, click this then click 'Do it online'. Or contact the South Somerset Rights of Way Officer on 01460 260354

Dorset: phone 'Dorset Direct' on 01305 221000

Good news about Uplyme bridleway!

New bridleway gates have recently been installed at Uplyme by the new owner of the field, on BR 54 (this branches off BR55 - Smokey Hole - and runs parallel to 55 to Woodhouse Lane).

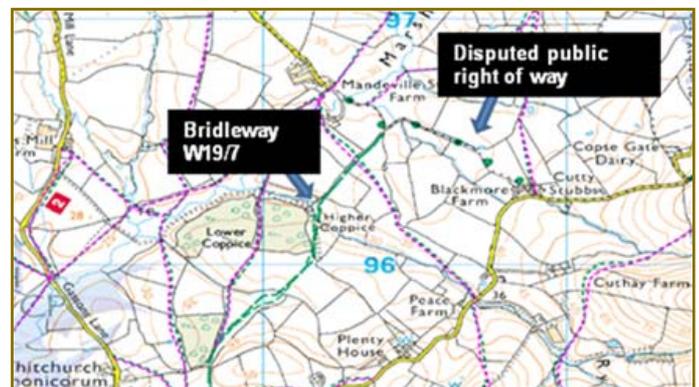
Two metal hunting gates with monkey tail handles have been hung. One replaces the wooden gate at the Smokey Hole end (top of steep narrow track), and the other alongside a field gate (which was always difficult and had to be lifted), separating the field from the wide track down to the road.

Marshwood Vale green lane campaign

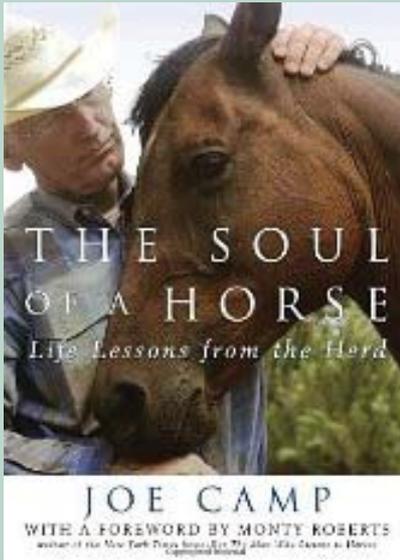
We had a useful meeting at the Shaves Cross Inn to start a campaign to open the green lane (a public highway) that goes from Cutty Stubbs Farm to Mandeville Stoke Farm in the Marshwood Vale.

The objective is to compile evidence to show that the route has been ridden and propose a plan to DCC Highways Authority. The proposal will be to reinstate it by clearing the track, providing field gates and resolving the exit and entry point with small but pragmatic diversions.

If you are interested in joining this campaign then come to the next meeting at the Shaves Cross Inn on Tuesday 1st March at 20:00.



Book Group



At the December session we had a delicious supper (thanks Shelley!) and discussed Joe Camp's *The Soul of a Horse*, which divided opinion, with some thinking Camp rather arrogant or patronising, and others finding him incredibly brave and inspiring.

On 9th February we had a fabulous tapas evening at Shelley's (thanks again!) and talked about Kathleen Lindley's *In the Company of Horses: A year on the road with horseman Mark Rashid*. There was more consensus about this book than the last, with everyone finding Kathleen's journey with horses very honest, an account leading from the time when she "showed up at one of Mark Rashid's horsemanship clinics, she told him that she didn't know who he was and didn't really care, as long as he could fix her horse. In the course of working with him and learning about his way of training horses, not only was Kathleen's horse "fixed," her life was changed". The book "documents her time spent with Mark Rashid and the deeper appreciation and knowledge she gained for horses and life".

The next book group will feature Anna Sewell's classic *Black Beauty*. We'll email round the date and venue when these have been confirmed.

New Accident Reporting website

Letter from Sheila Hardy, Senior Executive, Safety Department, The British Horse Society
I am writing to let you know that www.horseaccidents.org.uk the new BHS dedicated accident reporting website, is being launched at Your Horse Live on Saturday 13 November. We hope that everyone who is involved in any equestrian related incident, regardless of the part they play, will go directly to the website and report their issues. The main forms on the website cover equestrian related road accidents, slippery road surfaces, dangerous dogs, low flying, fireworks, wind turbines and bridleway gates. There is also room to report any other incident so that we can monitor other issues and include additional reporting forms as they become necessary. There is also a plethora of other useful equestrian safety information, advice and guidance for all riders and carriage drivers, plus a host of other useful stuff.

We all know that without hard statistical evidence, we are not in a position to lobby those in a position to make changes. 'Statistics Make a Difference - Help us make a change' tell us about it at www.horseaccidents.org.uk and we will take matters forward.

Please tell as many people as you can about this brilliant new website and ask them all to use it whenever they have a problem and if you issue any newsletter, please include our new website information in there, we would be most appreciative.

Getting involved - Volunteers NEEDED please!

We very much need volunteers please to help during the Golden Cap ride on Sunday 22nd May. The Golden Cap ride is a fabulous ride, coinciding with BHS Access week, and this is an opportunity for you as riders to contribute to the mission of sustaining, maintaining, improving and opening bridleways and tracks across West Dorset, East Devon and South Somerset. Please volunteer to help us with stewarding (you will get fed!) or do the ride, which is stunning, solo or with your friends, or contribute a raffle prize (to help with fundraising for gates, clearing etc) Please contact Shelley on 07780991101 or email shelley.mcindoe@dchft.nhs.uk

3CBG Events calendar:

- Wednesday March 30th, 7.30pm at Hunter's Lodge, 3CBG AGM - business followed by a guest speaker and raffle, plus demo on how to use an online system to report bridlepath issues. Contact Shelley (details below)
- Saturday 16th April 2011, Higher Pound, TREC taster day. Contact Shelley (details below)
- Sunday May 22nd, Golden Cap pleasure ride - stunning ride through Bluebell woods and along the coast on National Trust land and bridlepaths. There will be 3CBG fluorescent tabards for sale on the day and a special package for anyone joining the Group on the day. See entry form at the back of this newsletter. Contact Chris Moore (details below)

■ Volunteers still needed to offer horse and rider B&B along or near the East Devon Long Distance Route

Please contact Shelley on 07780991101 or email shelley.mcindoe@dchft.nhs.uk

Please consider becoming a committee member at the March AGM at 7.30pm on 30th March at Hunters Lodge as the positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor will need to be filled for the coming year

3CBG Committee contact details

Chairwoman: Shelley Thirlaway
01297 678182 or 07780 991101.
shelley.mcindoe@dchft.nhs.uk

Secretary, Web & Newsletter Editor: Charlie Barrett, 01460 30527 or 07720 320874.
charliembarrett@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Lesley Rigby,
01297 442522,
nlesleyrigby@yahoo.co.uk

Events Co-ordinator: Chris Moore, 01297 678577,
pat.moore1@btopenworld.com

Events Co-ordinator: Jane Sherwin, 01297 35811 or 07920 776798

jane_sherwin@hotmail.co.uk

Committee Member: Lynn Wason, 01297 445662

Committee Member: Celia Cohen, 07967 688063

Membership Form: Three Counties Bridlepaths Group

(Affiliated to the British Horse Society)

Application for Membership/Subscription Renewal 2010/11

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: Lesley Rigby, Bridlepath Lodge, Woodhouse Hill, Uplyme, Lyme Regis, Dorset. DT7 3SL. Please do not send cash through the post.

2011 RIDE LIST

Please note this is not a comprehensive list of all local 2011 rides as there will be others as yet unpublicised - 3CBG aim to let you know of others as they are confirmed

March

Sunday 27 MBBA Cranmore Ride - Ginnie Jones 01749 831276

May

Monday 2 Trails Trust Heart of the Mendips Ride. Priddy
(Bank Holiday) Jill Tovey 01761 453705

Sunday 8 BHS Dorset Tarrant Valley Ride
carolshoopman@btinternet.com 01258 880318

Sunday 15 MBBA Faulkland Ride, nr Radstock - Ginnie Jones 01749 831276

Sunday 22 TDBA Neroche Ride, nr Bickenhall
Margaret Robinson 01823 480092

Sunday 22 Golden Cap Ride, nr Morecombelake
Chris Moore 01297 678577, 07971 533337 or
pat.moore@btopenworld.com

June

Sunday 5 Hinton Park Ride, nr Hinton St George
Julie Butterfield 01460 66740, 07779 254120

Sunday 19 Trails Trust Mells Valley Ride, Buckland Dinham
Jill Tovey 01761 453705

July

Sunday 17 Trails Trust White Horse Ride, Faulkland - Jill Tovey 01761 453705

August

Sunday 28 Dinnington Ride, nr Hinton St George
Michael Holloway 01460 54430

September

Sunday 11 Forton Fun Ride, nr Chard
Julie Butterfield 01460 66740, 07779 254120

Sunday 11 Trails Trust Blackdown Pub Ride, Priddy - Jill Tovey 01761 453705

Sunday 18 Somerset Levels Ride, Thorney Loakes, nr Langport
Belinda Burne 01460 240360



Three Counties Bridlepaths Group
(Affiliated to British Horse Society)

GOLDEN CAP RIDE

SUNDAY 21st MAY 2011

during BHS Access Week

http://www.bhs.org.uk/Riding/Riding_Off_Road/Fight_for_your_Bridleways/Campaign/Access_week.aspx

This is a marvellous trail ride of approximately **12 miles** (with shorter alternatives). It is a rare opportunity to participate in **Access Week** and ride across National Trust land not normally accessible on horse back. The majority of the ride is off road on tracks and across fields and there are glorious views of coast & countryside from Golden Cap, Eype Down, Chardown, and Stonebarrow.

Venue: by kind permission of the National Trust, **Filcombe Farm, Morecombelake**. (OS GR SY407929).
From the West – A35 towards Chideock, just after passing through Morecombelake along a short stretch dual carriageway - turn immediately **right** and ****follow the road downhill approx 500 metres, then left** along a track to the farmyard. **From the East-** A35 through Chideock and up hill. At the top of hill turn **left** and then continue from ******.

3CBG Members £5

all others **£10** in advance, **£12.00** on the day

Refreshments will be available

Start times for those planning **12 miles: 09:30 to 10:45**

Start times for those planning a **shorter ride 10:00 to 11:00**

We would prefer you to **pre book** but if you would like to enter on the day then please contact Chris Moore (01297 678577 or 07971533337 or pat.moore@btopenworld.com) on Friday 20th May to make sure there is still space. Places will only be restricted in the event of wet ground conditions.

Please return entry form to: Chris Moore, Woodhouse Cottage, Hawkchurch, Axminster, EX13 5UF.
Please enclose cheques payable to: **Three Counties Bridlepaths Group**, by **18th May**.

Hard hats to PAS 015 1998 /EN1384 1996/7 must be worn, and suitable, safe footwear with heel. Children 16 years & under must be accompanied by an adult. All persons attending do so at their own risk and the committee accept no responsibility for loss, damage or injury to persons, animals or property howsoever caused. No horses/ponies under 4 years old and no dogs. Please shut all gates and treat other track users with care and courtesy.

Name:	<input type="text"/>	Emergency contact	
Address:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Email:	<input type="text"/>	Member £5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Trailer <input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile:	<input type="text"/>	Other £10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Lorry <input type="checkbox"/>