



New Year Ride to Charmouth Beach

Six of us met up for the ride to Charmouth Beach. We made our way over Lamberts Castle to the Little Coombe Farm bridlepath and headed out to Bakers Cross. Then picked up the bridlepath over Conegar Hill, the views from here were magnificent. On reaching the lane to Catherston Leweston Aimee met us on her horse Haffy, from here it was just a short ride to the beach.

When we arrived the weather was glorious and the tide was at its lowest so there was plenty of hard sand. Charlie and Michelle arrived with their Icelandic horses and also a couple of children on their ponies.

The horses, having had a rest and the riders some refreshments we headed onto the beach for some fun. To begin with the horses were a little wary of the sea and the waves but Wendy, riding her horse Moss and Rosa on Cinnamon were straight in for a paddle. We all enjoyed cantering on the sand.

The real fun started when Wendy and a few others decided to go for a paddle in the river. Wendy, being the first found the water a bit deeper than expected and Moss was swimming, she got very wet! Those of a more daring nature and did not mind boots filled

with water followed. Amiee and Haffy really enjoyed themselves and encouraged others to follow.

We all had a wonderful time, as well as providing entertainment for other people enjoying a sunny Sunday morning on the beach.

Jane Sherwin

And from Rosa ...

Riding to the beach and into the sea was amazing! The best ride I've done yet. We all met up at Lamberts Castle and rode all the way over to Charmouth beach. We rode along bridle routes and through lots of big fields, so there was space to really let the horses go! The scenery on the way there was breath-taking, wintery and clear.

When we got to the beach we all had a drink. Cinnamon is very affectionate and spilt my hot chocolate down my arm by rubbing her face on me. The horses seemed to enjoy the water as much as we did and actually swam at one point. The water was up past my waist and I think their feet were off the ground - I wasn't in the least bit frightened as I trust Cinnamon and it was such a wonderful experience! Lots of people were taking pictures of

continued overleaf ...

us as it's not every day you see an enthusiastic group of equestrians on the beach. Cinnamon really enjoyed herself; she was bursting with energy and excitement because I don't think she's ever been on a beach before, but she was very good. Her only trouble was stopping. We all went right into the water and I had to ride home in soaking jodhpurs, (lovely).

3CBG Committee contact details

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

Secretary: **Michelle Bowers**, bluemillymop@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 Members:

Lynn Wason, 01297 445662

Charlie Barrett, 01460 30527 or 07720 320874.



Rosa on Cinnamon – Charmouth 2012

Saddle for Sale



Barefoot Arizona treeless Western saddle for sale, inc. fenders & stirrups £495.

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RRP with fenders & stirrups around £700

Contact **Charlie** on 07720 320874 or charliembarrett@hotmail.com



BRIDLEPATHS GUIDE TO REPORTING

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	http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/countryside/reportproblem/ Very easy to use interactive map that identifies the correct bridleway numbers and location. Or phone 01305 224463	www.dorsetexplorer.com An excellent interactive map - look up bridleway numbers, eastings and northings, detailed scale. Or get advice from: www.dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway
Dorset CC (Dorset Highways) dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Lanes and Roads	http://maps.dorsetforyou.com/highways/reportproblem/ Again an interactive map that helps you identify the exact location of the problem.	As above: www.dorsetexplorer.com Will be replaced by http://explorer.geowessex.com/ 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: prow@devon.gov.uk . Tel: 0845 155 1004 Fax: 01392 381459 You can get information about the bridlepath by using the interactive map: http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=footpath	http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/public_rights_of_way/where_to_walk_and_ride.htm Really useful information and some well documented rides.
Devon CC (Devon Highways)	Lanes and Roads	Tel: 0845 155 1004 Email: csc.roads@devon.gov.uk	The web site has useful contact information and you can use the interactive map to get more detail about routes. http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transportroads/roads.htm
Somerset CC	Bridleways	Email: rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk Tel:0845 345 9155 Or report via the interactive map: 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=/guid/40054aee-0834-2c10-f197-8a92780c22ab 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: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk Tel: 0845 345 9155	Again on the Somerset CC web site: http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/services/directory/service?rid=/wpcccontent/Sites/SCC/Web%20Pages/Services/Services/Environment/Report%20highway%20problem_request%20service

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.



BRIDLEPATHS UPDATE

Whitchurch to Mandeville Stoke - the route that vanished.

The Char Valley Parish Council has given us their support to provide access to bridleway 19 and as a result Dorset County Council Highways Department have give 3CBG authority to provide a crossing of the River Char at the end of Mandeville Stoke Lane. John Bridle and Shelley McIndoe have had a site visit with DCC and the Environment Agency and agreed that the only viable method of providing a sustainable crossing is to put in a bridge. We are hoping that DCC will provide an engineering plan that we can put out to tender and then start the fund raising and search for sponsors. So good news and challenging news!



Hawkchurch Routes

The Stonebarrow gate has, apparently, been fixed thanks to repeated reporting by Jane Sherwin. One of our planned rides will take this in and be able to confirm the Devon ROW report.

Evil Lane, which has become an off road race track again, concrete barriers will be installed at the Axminster end. These are designed to allow walkers, cyclists and riders through but prevent any motorised vehicles from gaining access from the Axminster end. Action here was triggered by multiple reports from users and disgruntled landowners who have put significant effort into ensuring that the track is accessible. Ditto the end of Langmoor Lane where it joins the bridleway, barriers will be installed to prevent motorised vehicles using the bridleway as part of their green lane activities.

Other Routes

Very little feedback from other riders but DCC are doing a great job on draining and resurfacing Sheepspine Lane (opposite Elmore Farm), Mill Lane (inaccessible until 12 months ago) and Prime Copse. DCC have also introduced a new scheme for landowners whereby they will replace and install gates with stock proof handles that area easier for riders and walkers to use. I have the paperwork so if

you are a Dorset landowner with a difficult gate on a bridleway know of any landowners who would participate let me know and I will send you the forms. It seems like good partnership working to me but landowners (*or guardians of the land*) need to take ownership and make the application.

I have had a number of questions from friends, members, other riders etc about how to deal with unusual animals in fields adjacent to bridleways. Alpacas, llamas, rheas, emus etc are appearing in increasing numbers as farmers and landowners diversify. Yes you should report safety issues to the relevant ROW officers - for example there was a fairly horrible accident on the track at Sadborrow when 2 horses spooked at the advancing alpacas and backed onto barbed wire that was on the bridleway boundary (*the issue here was the fact that there was no escape route other than barbed wire*). However, you also need to take ownership of your own safety; get off and lead you horse if you are uncertain about its reaction, spend some time working with your horse to overcome its fear of these unusual creatures or find an alternative route around the objects of fear. There is no silver bullet - perhaps readers could send in their comments on this for the next newsletter - or even start a web forum. Ditto horses loose in fields which have unfenced bridleways through them.

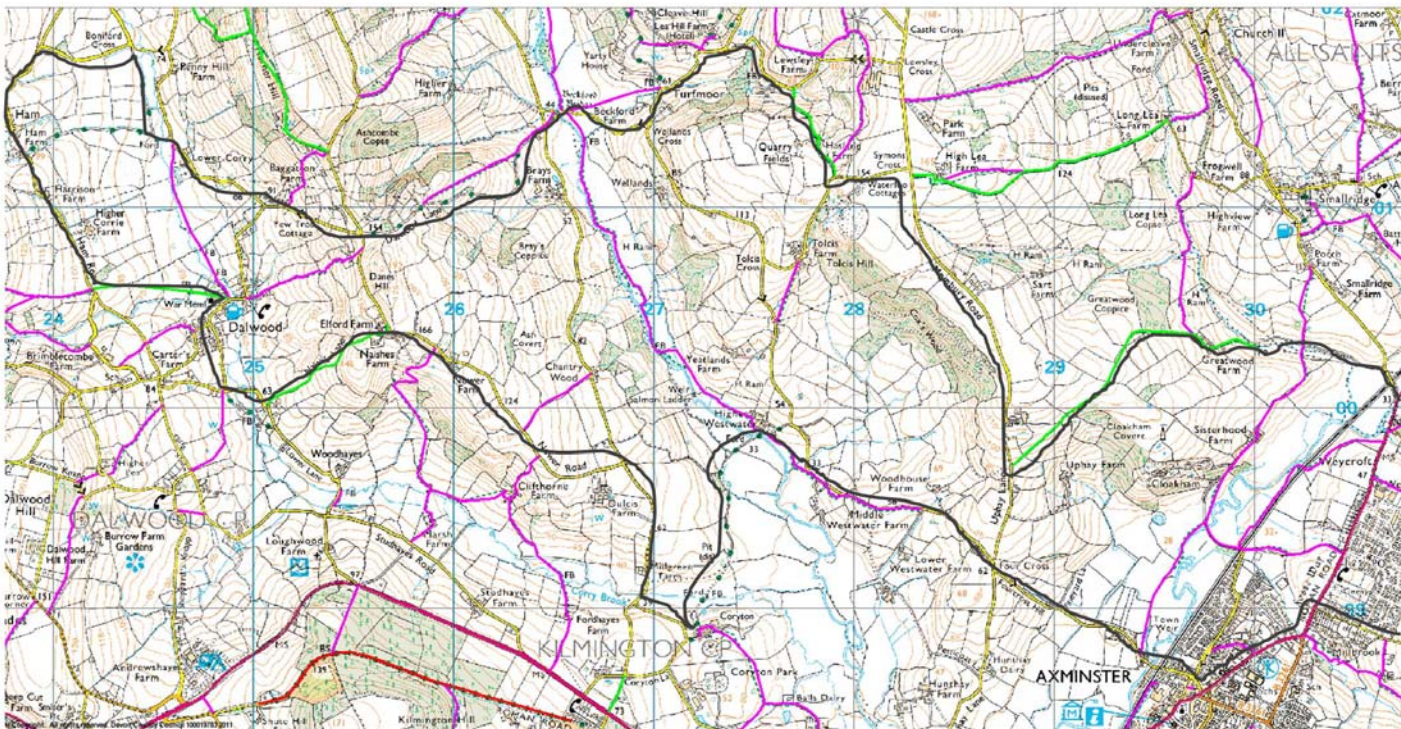
Members - this is your newsletter and it is all about bridleways and green lanes - those paths and tracks that are the echo of our ancestors movements, provide freedom of access for ourselves and will become a recollection of our lives for future generations so please send the editor (shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com) news of your local bridleway issues - good or bad.

Using a grid reference or bridleway number is helpful.

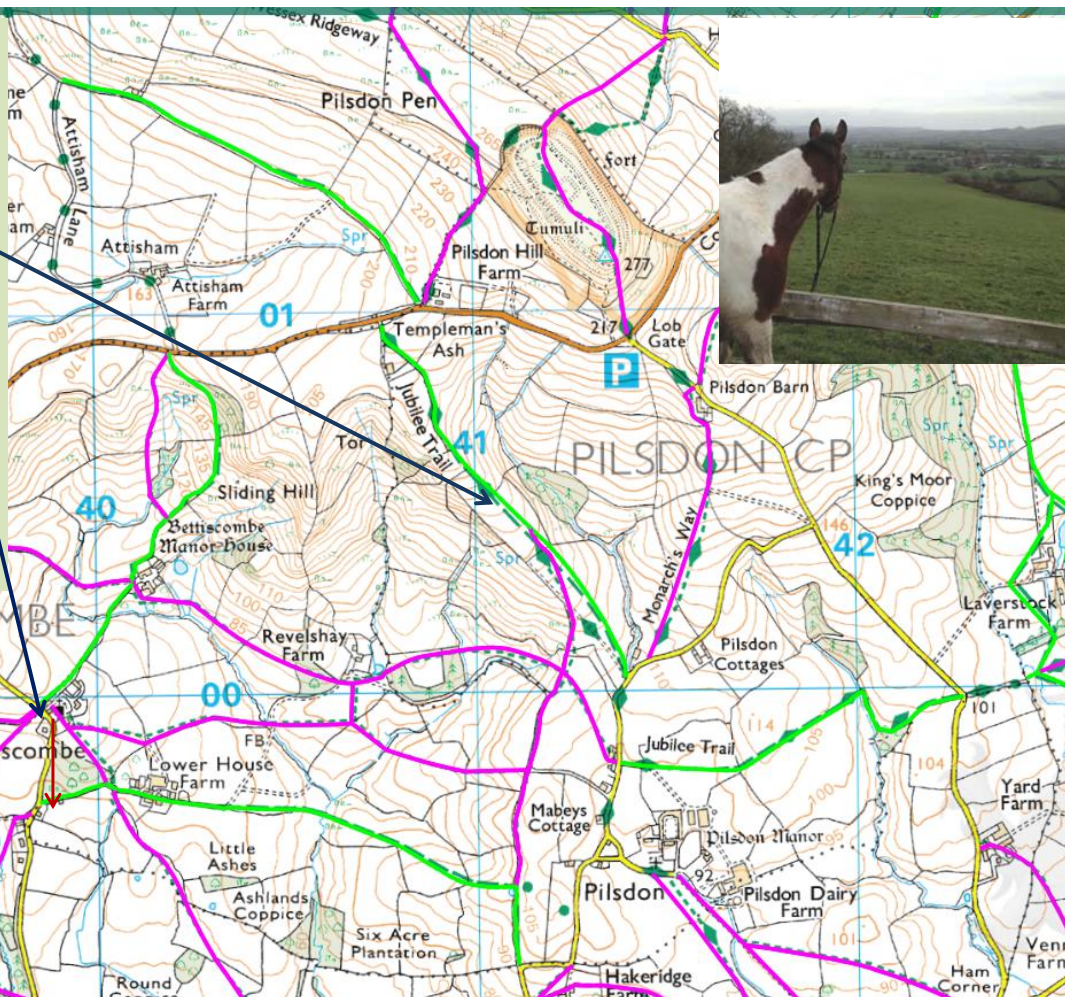
Recommended Routes: Dalwood (18m) / Bettiscombe (4km)



An amazing ride through the Axe, Yarty and Corry vallies – stop for lunch at the Tuckers Arms. Its about 18 miles and took me 7 hours with an hour for lunch. Be prepared for traffic thro Axminster and the crossing at Weycroft plus a deep (1metre) crossing of the Yarty at Westwater.



You can reach this 4 km triangular ride on the edge of the Marshwood Vale from a number of directions (ride or drive) – its well worth doing and there are some issues to be reported (fallen gates, a very tricky gate at the top of a steep hill which could be made kinder and a blocked route). The views across to the sea at Charmouth and West Bay are spectacular and there are a couple of hunt jumps for the adrenaline fix. The roadwork on the B3164 is minimal with plenty of visibility. You can easily park a trailer at Bettiscombe and extend the ride across the B3164 to pass below Pilsdon and down Attisham Lane. Our solstice ride (see events) will take in a bit of this route but continue on the Jubilee trail towards Stoke Abbot for a pub lunch.



EVENTS ... EVENTS ... EVENTS

■ Sunday February 26th

Dalwood Ride - a ride to the Tuckers Arms in Dalwood. Roads, green lanes and tracks. Meet at Beech lane, EX13 5UF at 09:30 - aiming to arrive at Tuckers Arms at 13:00; home by 16:00. Horses must be calm in traffic as we will ride through Axminster Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780991101 shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

■ Sunday March 4th

Fun ride - checking a few bridleway issues in the locality of Hawkchurch, Lamberts and Charmouth Forest in preparation for the TREC event in April. Meet at Beech lane, EX13 5UF at 10:00, bring a picnic. Home by 15:30. This will be a quiet meander along lanes and tracks with a few optional jumps and obstacles. Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780991101

shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

■ Sunday March 11th

Axmouth and back - via Trinity Hill, Shapwick Hill and Rousden, back via Hay Lane, Bruckland and Bulmoor. Meet at Beech lane, EX13 5UF at 09:30 or meet at Axmouth (The Ship or The Harbour) at 13:15. Home by 16:30. Long but quiet ride along roads and tracks. Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780991101

shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

■ Weds 7th March 2012

AGM in the small bar at The Old Inn at Kilmington. Meeting will start at 19:30 followed by a talk from Kirsty Wiscombe about Endurance riding. Raffle. Food can be ordered from the bar. Please confirm your attendance with Shelley or Lesley Rigby

■ Sunday 25th March

Solstice Ride around the environs of Pilsdon Pen and Lewesdon Hill - lunch at the New Inn Stoke Abbott at about 13:00. Starting from Northay Farm at 09:30 - but riders from the East or South can meet us at the New Inn in Stoke Abbott at 13:00. Make a star ride of it! Home by 16:00. This will be a long, fast, but safe ride across some beautiful bridleways and very ancient tracks in the Vale and Lewesdon Hill. Wendy on 07508609175 or Emma on 07828475973

■ Sunday 15th April

Fun TREC at Higher Pound, DT6 6DD. Refreshments will be available. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Obstacles in the arena and options for a 3 mile or 10 mile ride in an optimum time. Come and join us for the relaxed event that everyone can participate in. Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780991101

shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

■ Saturday April 21st

Hawkchurch Fun Ride organized by Neil R - fund raising for the bell tower of St John the Baptist in Hawkchurch. This will be a 12 mile (plus shorter option) ride with the New Inn in Hawkchurch open for refreshments. More details will be available in the next newsletter - but **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Contact *Neil Ransford* on 01297 678285

■ Weekend of 5th/6th May

Further Afield on a long distance route - a weekend ride (either Colyton or Beaminster Down). The idea is to travel further afield on roads and tracks, staying overnight in a friendly barn. Detail to be agreed - but keep the weekend free if you are interested. Contact Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780991101

shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

■ Sunday May 20th

Golden Cap Ride Details will be sent out once we have agreed a venue. Shelley McIndoe, shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

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£50 per day (collected)

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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.**