

Welcome

Welcome to the May 2011 edition of the quarterly Three Counties Bridlepath Group newsletter. We are all enjoying an amazing spring; bluebells, wild garlic, trees full of leaf and hedgerows stuffed with all the plants that horses love. The updated rides list is included in this edition; please let us know if you hear of more. The next one on our radar is of course the 3CBG Golden Cap Ride - hope to see a lot of you there wearing our new bright green tabards as number vests.

You will also read about members exploits in trying to reinstate the right of way across the Marshwood Vale from Cutty Stubbs to Mandeville Stoke. If you rode this route many years ago please email Shelley.

Thorncombe riders have been very quiet recently - how about a write up of some South Somerset riding for the next newsletter in July; all contributions welcome.

Best wishes.

3CBG Committee ■

Spring Ride - May Day 2011

Well it was a little disappointing but only two of us set out of a bright and breezy spring morning from Beech Lane to ride through the Marshwood Vale. Wendy and I left our homes and stables at 10:00 and returned through warm evening air heavily scented with bluebells at 19:00. We travelled by Mill Lane, which is navigable and I would encourage you all to use in order to keep it clear - keep the vegetation down as you ride along. Bakers Cross was wonderful, views across to Wooten Manor and a bluebell woods on Conygar Hill. The Five Bells at Whitchurch Canonorum was as welcoming as ever; chips, cider and a dozed e in the sun while the horses roamed freely to graze on the overgrown beer garden. Some blissful moments.

Then came the more serious objective of the ride - to investigate the mysterious unclassified county road (green lane) that allow bridleway W19/7 to reach its destination in Mandeville Stoke. This is a beautiful bridleway that makes its way into the centre of the Vale but comes to an abrupt end when it reached its junction with the green lane from Cutty Stubbs farm to Mandeville Stoke. The rider is faced with sheep wired fields, gateways wired into the ground and river ford that is overgrown and heavily eroded. It is impossible to exit this bridleway to Mandeville Stoke and only possible to exit to

continued overleaf ...



Cutty Stubbs side by trespassing - which is not appropriate. We arrived, photographed and then exited using our initiative, enough said.



We made our way back along Mutton Street and the wonderful Nash Lane, which is a fantastic example of an accessible green lane that riders, walkers and cyclists use, following in the footsteps of countless generations of ancestors who have walked and ridden these ancient tracks across the land. Turning right at the end of the farm track we rode up onto Lamberts Castle which was beautiful with picture book hawthorn trees in full, creamy blossom. We met Alan Lankshear, a local resident who fought hard with the National Trust to include horse gates when the open land between Lamberts Castle and the Fishpond road was enclosed. A big thank you to him for, again, recognising the importance of past traditions when the land was used for horse racing.

The final phase of our ramble through the Vale took us along Stonebarrow, where the last gate onto the farm track is again off its hinges and needs to be reported to Devon ROW officer Emma Hellier, emma.hellier@devon.gov.uk, quoting bridleway Hawkchurch BR17a. Overall a fantastic day and some useful work.



Trec Taster at Higher Pound

The April weather was lovely which made this event very pleasurable for everyone concerned; organisers and 22 riders, raising about £150.00 for Bridleway funds. Thanks to Wendy and Moby Hill, Charlie Barrett, Shelley Thirlaway, Bar Briscoe and Wendy's niece and nephew for making it happen.

We laid out an obstacle course (PTV) in the ménage at Higher Pound (thanks to Claire from Higher Pound for facilitating this). This phase provided great entertainment to riders and spectators alike; rescuing Flo from a basket and carrying her across the ménage to put her to bed or to ride her rocking horse proved a real test of trust between horses and their riders.

The control of paces phase (COP) was also taxing. A big thank you to Bar Briscoe who did an admirable job of timing riders doing a fast walk and a slow canter along a marked length of track. This phase is always the most difficult to gain points on in the full competition and really does test the skill of both horse and rider.

For the orienteering phase (POR) we provided route maps which took riders through Wyld Warren then up onto Lamberts Castle (for the 9 mile ride) and back down through Charmouth Forest. Everyone enjoyed the ride immensely, everyone returned to base safely but a few did get lost on the way! For those of you who want to do the same ride - see the map below.





BRIDLEPATHS UPDATE

To resolve Bridle path issues such as: blocked or overgrown bridleways, difficult terrain, broken gates and other obstacles - **report them to your local authority Rights of Way Department**. 3CBG can support you in this but issues do need to be logged with the authority by individuals too, in order for it to be taken seriously.

Remember to include the bridlepath number and grid reference - 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>

The contacts are:

East Devon: Email Emma Hellier: emmahellier@devon.gov.uk or phone 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

West Dorset: Jill Exton, Rights of Way Officer (Operations) - West Dorset County Council, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ, Tel: 01305 221557. J.Exton@dorsetcc.gov.uk. www.dorestexplorer.com or www.dorestforyou.com/footpaths



The **Golden Cap Ride** is on **22nd May** and we still need volunteer stewards for gates - so if you would like a relaxing day in the country, with a free packed lunch then please contact Shelley McIndoe on 07780991101 or email shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com.

We hope that a number of you will be riding, it is one of the most spectacular fun rides in the country.

Events calendar:

- 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 right)
- Sunday 3rd July: fun ride for adventurous members only to the Five Bells at Whitchurch Cannonicorum. We will be penetrating the depths of Prime Copse where some dismounted leading may be required and where, legend has it, at the turn of the century three huntsmen were lost for five days. Another old track that will be lost to future generations is we don't keep it open now. Please let Shelley know if you want to come. Shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

FOR SALE

We thought this might be a useful addition to the newsletter. Please send details of any horsey items you want to sell/exchange to Shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com by 1st July 2011.

2 x Snuggly Hood saddle covers (1 purple stars, 1 pink hearts), keep your saddle warm and safe! £7.50 each. 07780 991101

1 x Navy Fleece Cooler with silver trim, 6 foot, hardly used £10.00. 07780 991101

3 Counties Bridleways Group high vis tabbards, Luminous Green reflective strip, Bold Black lettering. One size (fits 10-18) £7.50. Profits to 3CGB. Contact Chris Moore. 01297 678577

3CBG Committee contact details

Chairwoman: Shelley Thirlaway
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Events Co-ordinator: Chris Moore, 01297 678577,
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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.

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.



Three Counties Bridlepaths Group
(Affiliated to British Horse Society)

GOLDEN CAP RIDE

SUNDAY 22nd 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.

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