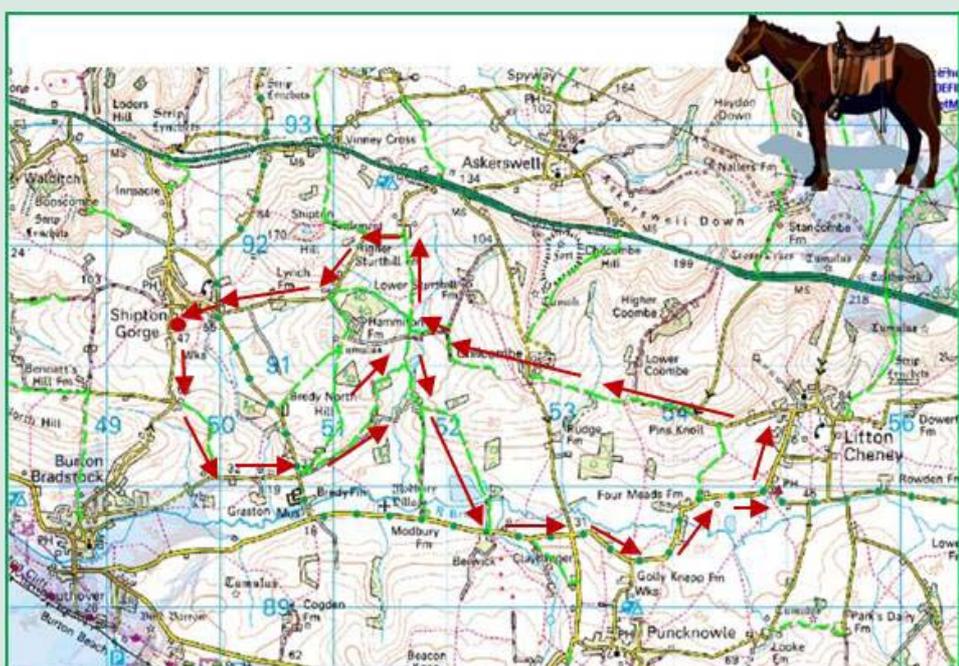


## 3CBG Camp at Shipton Gorge (August 2011)

A group of us spent a wonderful seven days exploring the bridle paths and green lanes of the Bride Valley.

We camped with our horses in a sheltered field south of Shipton Gorge thanks to the kindness of Jean and Bob Ayres who were the most amazing hosts; providing a huge barbeque, hay for the horses, eggs for the campers and clearing piles of horse droppings! The pictures tell the tale and we will have a full slideshow running at the Table Top sale in November (see Dates) and the AGM in March 2012.

In general we found the state of bridleways to be reasonable with good signage; yes there were problems and we found green lanes that disappeared into pheasant shoots but overall the bridleway network in the Valley is excellent and the scenery spectacular.



Our favourite ride was from south of Shipton to Litton Cheney, lunching at the excellent White Horse where horses are always welcome, and back via Chilcombe. See map for the route. One day we ventured north of the A35 up to Eggardon and back via the Marquis of Lorne at Nettlecombe - another horse friendly pub where we lazed while our horses grazed in the midday sun. Bliss!

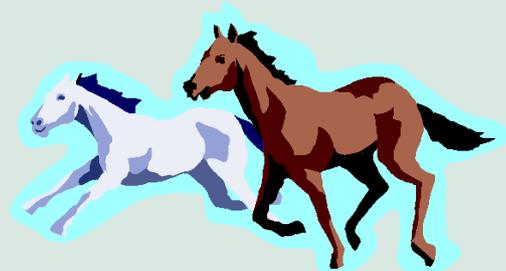


# Free Rider

I remember those years following the second world war when horses and their riders were treated well. Most people who drove cars had experience of horses and knew them for what they are, sensitive flight animals that have a low pain threshold. We, horse and rider, were treated with courtesy, Once I met a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce with what my father used to call 'toffs' in the back that stopped to let me pass by. We did not have the helmet and clothing that is common today, instead we wore second hand clothes- clothes rationing finished in 1949 but we still made do and mended. Headgear for ladies was a head scarf in winter and in summer a hairnet or they let their hair just blow in the wind. Young men tried to acquire a peaked cap, wore normally for most of the time but reversed for a canter to ensure it did not blow away at speed. We used to ride ponies across Dorchester to new grazing bareback using a simple head collar and leading rein for control. Maiden castle was a playground, we centrifuged around the rings one behind another, not room of course, side by side. Some years later I experienced a sense of melancholy and loss when I revisited this ancient earthwork to find that horse movement was very constrained.

Freedom to ride anywhere is no more. In 1992 I think I was the last person to ride to the top of Golden Cap, now you can't do it; perhaps sensible, it was frightening coming down. At times a landowner may block a bridleway or intimidate riders from using it. There is law to protect the horse and rider. An important function of the 3CBG is to make sure that landowners who, receive through DEFRA, a subsidy from Europe to the tune of £190 an hectare appreciate their responsibilities. For example, electric fences are supposed to be marked with warning signs every 50 metres and only placed at a safe distance from where the horse is supposed to walk. Indirectly, the farming subsidies come from you and me. I am sure that if the Government would pass a law to restrict payments until bridle paths are 'put right' the horse world would be a happier place. If you see a problem don't approach the landowner directly, it is best that you contact a member of the 3CBG committee who will approach the person at County Hall for appropriate action to be taken.

Sadly, I think the future will be bleak for our children and their children. I want to be wrong but think hacking horses will become a rare sight. My premise is that energy, not money makes the world



go round and brings prosperity; and energy has been cheap. Now everyone in the world expects their share and we will have to pay the market price. I hope that the working population are capable of the superlative creative thinking necessary to make our economy grow.

Enjoy your riding and to quote Herrick, not in the context of the poem but rather in a horse sense: *"Gather ye rosebuds while ye may."*

John Bridle - long standing member of 3CBG and founder of the Golden Cap Ride.

## Emma Voysey Photography

I can capture what you love most!  
I will come to your property to do a photoshoot of you and your horses/pets.  
The session will be fun and enjoyable.  
Very reasonable prices, please contact me with any questions or to book a date!  
Emma Voysey - 07828 475973 - 01297 678591



*(Wendy Hill & her horse Moss)*



# BRIDLEPATHS UPDATE

**Bridleway Updates – if you provide the information, it will be published here:**

■ **Whitchurch Canoncorum (19/7)** – a helpful letter from Andy Ackerman (DCC) to the Char Valley Parish Council (CVPC) which suggests reinstating the ford and providing stepping stones for ramblers at Mandeveille Stokle Farm. Oliver Letwin is prepared to encourage DCC to undertake this work providing CVPC support the idea.

■ **Hawkchurch** - new gate on **Bridleway 44** – excellent and easy to use. Devon CC have done some good work on this bridleway. The only real problem here is the Clay Pigeon shoot but I heard that this may no longer be an issue. **Bridleway 17a** (Stonebarrow Farm) – the new gate still flops against the remains of posts which the owner is digging out as part of works to create a new entrance to adjacent fields. Please report this one every time you have to get off your horse and shift the gate.

■ **Axminster** – the sale of Cuthays Farm on **Bridleway 16** is likely to mean that attempts will be made to reroute the bridleway; please report any problems you incur whilst riding this route.

## Riding with a Bump

During my pregnancy I became very frustrated at the lack of maternity jodhpurs in the shops, though my husband pointed out that the market probably wasn't huge (yes it is I thought, that's why it needs bigger jodhpurs). So maternity jeans it was, and on my trusty Icelandic horses I toodled around in them for months on what became known in our house as my 'Pregnancy Rides'.

By four and a half months along I had defined these rides as 'only on Harri', my rock, the horse I always say I would ride up a motorway on if necessary, and by six months they also became routes which were fairly short and not too fast. Before long they simply had to be picturesque if nothing else, as the bump bumped rather uncomfortably at anything other than a walk - even the super-smooth Icelandic tölt felt too bouncy! (Check it out on YouTube, for example at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7rWeWymJDw>).

Riding whilst pregnant may not be for everyone, but for me it felt really special. It confirmed how much I trust my horses (especially the inimitable Harri), and it got me out and about for far longer than I could have managed once walking became rather tiring. Our three month old son has already sat on both of my horses and I'm hoping that his introduction in the womb to the soothing clip-clop and ra-ta-ta-ta (tölt tempo) of an Icelandic horse

will draw him to the wonderful world of Iceys too. Find out more about them at the breed society website [www.ihsgb.co.uk](http://www.ihsgb.co.uk)

*Charlie Barrett (and Sascha)*



*Sascha on Harri*

## ■ Sat 12th November

Your Horse Live - minibus trip to Stoneleigh. Shows and shopping galore. £45.00 for travel and an entry ticket to this excellent event! Chris on 07971533337 or 01297 678577

pat.moore@btopenworld.com

## ■ Wed 15th November

DVD Evening at Clare Webbers house 07:30 - cosy up on a winters evening with something horsey. Bring a dish and a tippie - contact Clare to discuss and get directions - Clare on 07773 597862

## ■ Sunday 20th November

Pub Ride to The Squirrel Inn, Laymore via Holditch and back via Sadborrow - roads, tracks and bridleways (Weather permitting). Early start 09:15 from Beech Lane, EX13 5UF, pick up at Courshay by 10:00 Back home by 15:45. Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780991101 shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

## ■ Sunday November 27th

Table Top Sale at Woodbury Hall, Axminster from 11:30 to 16:30 - see the poster with this Newsletter - PIN IT UP Horsey stuff, Christmas stuff, any stuff! £5.00 per table, refreshments all day. Book a table with Lynn on 07778 969279. Help with refreshments - contact Wendy on 01297 678450 or 07508 609175 wendyjoy123@gmail.com

## ■ Sunday December 11th

Tinsel Ride to the 5 Bells, Whitchurch Canoncorum. Tinsel and Christmas hats are mandatory! (Weather permitting). Leave at 09:30 from Beech Lane EX13 5UF, via Charmouth Forest and Spence Farm. Back via Coneys and Lamberts Castle by 15:45 Wendy on 01297 678450 or 07508 609175

wendyjoy123@gmail.com

## ■ Wed 21st December

DVD evening by the fire at Shelley's (Courtenay Farm) - a frivolous horsey movie. Arrive at 19:30; bring a dish with an oriental theme and your favourite tippie. Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780 991101

shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

## ■ January 2012

New Year Beach Ride - from Northay picking up at Beech Lane and Higher Pound. Date tba. An early morning ride to Charmouth Beach for breakfast and a play in the sea. Contact Jane on 01297 35811 or 07920 776798

jane\_sherwin@hotmail.co.uk

## ■ February 2012

Book Club - venue tba (volunteer for a venue please). Plenty of warning to read the book The Fox in the Cupboard: A Memoir by Jane Shilling. Available from Amazon - a good read. Shelley on 01297 678182 or 07780 991101

shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com

## 3CBG Committee contact details

Chairwoman: Shelley Thirlaway  
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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.



Navigation courses aimed at riders, especially those involved in TREC. The next course, which can be tailor-made if there is enough interest is scheduled for Spring 2012.

For more information or to reserve a place, see [www.whererwe.co.uk](http://www.whererwe.co.uk) Or call Mick on 07710 626653

## 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.