

Welcome to the Winter 2013 edition of the quarterly Three Counties Bridlepaths Group newsletter.

In this issue there is a list of upcoming events, news on recent rides and events, grazing for lease, items for sale, plus our new feature 'Saddlebag Snack', a food or recipe idea for rider snacks 'on the hoof'!

In the last issue we asked member for fund-raising ideas - we haven't had any yet but are optimistic! Now that we're on the way to Springtime you'll hopefully feel newly invigorated and thinking about fun stuff for the upcoming season. If each of you just emailed one acorn of an idea it would be so helpful to raising much needed funds to keep strong our commitment to protecting our bridlepaths. The idea could be anything to fund-raise e.g. a ride in your area, and we will help organise it.

Email a thought to Shelley at shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com please please please!

The membership form now includes the group's bank details so that those of us who bank by phone or online can easily pay the 3CBG subscription/renewals without having to write out a cheque or hand over cash.

Best wishes

3CBG Committee

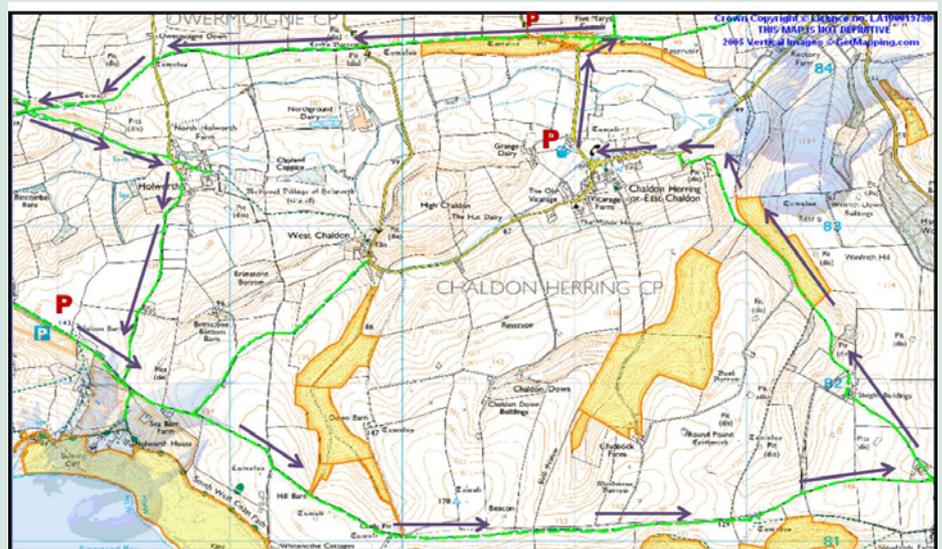
Riding on the Coastal Path - Chaldon Herring

This is a wonderful 15km ride for a still, sunny day. Park at any of the points marked with a P - these are fairly small parking places, 2 trailers at most, but there are also some wide verges near these parking spots. This description is from the parking place above Ringstead Bay, on the South West corner of the map.

Pick up the track ahead and keep straight on at the next junction of bridleways (ignoring the track to the left and the route down to the bay on the right). This takes you past Sea Barn Farm on the right with its ancient and beautiful stone barn. Follow the field boundary ignoring the bridleway to West Chaldon on your left. The route is a fairly well defined track across open farmland with fantastic views of Portland, Weymouth and Ringstead Bay. Some great gallops if you are up for it. Continue for approx. 500 metres until you meet the

edge of the cliffs where you pass through a gate onto open access downland; the views become magnificent and you have ahead of you a track of almost one kilometre interspersed with good wooden gates. If you like to ride fast this is your opportunity; if you want to meander and enjoy the stunning views then this is also for you. Ignore tracks to the left until you come to the 5th or 6th gate where at a junction of tracks you take the route to the left, signposted to East Chaldon, travelling along a concrete track, through some scary farm buildings. Continue along this chalky track until you reach another building complex, ignore a permissive track to the left and enter a field via a gate, making your way down a coombe, past a quarry on your right and picking up a defined field track after passing through another field gate on the left. Continue on this route until you meet a metalled road;

continued ...



bear left into the village of East Chaldon then right at the T junction. After about 50 metres you will see, on your right, the welcome sight of the Sailors Return, a friendly pub with plenty of space to tie up your mounts, great outdoor seating and really excellent ciders!

After a relaxing lunch, continue up the road for about 100 metres until you see a bridlemway gate on the right, hidden in the hedge on a sharp left hand bend. Follow this up a steep incline until you reach a series of barrows (the Five Marys) where you bear left (ignoring the enticing route to the right), crossing a minor road and then following a grassy track for about 500 meters. Cross another minor road passing through a metal gate and continue along the field edge for another 500 metres, crossing another minor road via another metal gate. Once in this field follow the hedge line to the left, through a small field gate and down into a steep coombe, on reaching the next field gate turn very sharp left (hairpin bend) and follow the hill contours (don't be tempted to ride down the coombe), into a patch of bushes and very rough land, you will see a small metal gate ahead of you, continue on the hedge line and you will come to a gate onto a metalled road, turn right and continue down this dead end lane onto a farm track. Follow this well-marked track south for about 500 meters until you arrive at a bridlemway junction bearing right back to the start of your ride.

Reminder about FREE bridlemway gates for Dorset landowners - have you seen a tricky gate anywhere?

Free gate (yes free - really!) applications can be made by Dorset landowners to Dorset County Council. This is a new agreement with the council. If you know who the landowner is and you would like them to request a bridlemway gate please download the form from the 3CBG website at www.3cbg.org.uk or ask them to do so themselves. Landowners must identify the correct bridlemway and 3CBG will help with this. Contact Shelley on 07780991101 or shelley.mcindoe@btinternet.com for help.

Book Club

The last book club in December was on Clare Balding's autobiography 'My Animals and Other Family'. The 3CBG book club is a fun meeting once every couple of months. We have supper, everyone brings a dish to share and we talk about a horse-related book. The next one is on Weds 27th March (see Events) and is on 'My Friend Flicka' by Mary O'Hara.



GUIDE TO REPORTING BRIDLEPATH ISSUES

Reporting Problems and Using on-line Maps

There are over 150 affiliated Bridlemway 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 **bridlemways** 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.

... EVENTS CALENDAR ...

Organised by 3CBG (*Events in brown italic are not organised by 3CBG*); 3CBG can take no responsibility for non-3CBG events; check website www.3cbg.org.uk for further events as details become available

| Date | Event (Rides dependent on the weather) | Contact |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Sun 10th Feb | Chardstock via Tatworth, returning via Churchill and Smallridge. Leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:30 and home by 16:00. Roads, tracks and bridleways. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Wed 13th Feb | DVD Night, 'Hidalgo' 7pm at Chris Moore's. Bring a dish to share and please let Chris know you're coming. | Chris Moores - 01297 678577 chris.moore1@live.co.uk. |
| Sat 16th Feb | BHS Access Course (level 2) - learn how to keep Bridleways open and re-open old ones, St Andrews Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth DT6 6LH from 10:00 to 16:00, £5 per person. Bring a packed lunch; tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Sun 24th Feb | Checking out some underused bridleways : leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:30, pick up at the Bottle Inn at 10:30, lunch stop at the Squirrel at 13:00 and home via Thorncombe. Opportunities for a canter but will be guided by the riders. Horses must be confident with traffic. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Sun 3rd Mar | A working ride, bring secateurs. Uplyme (lunch at the Talbot) via Harcombe , back via Hole Common and Mill Lane. This ride involves crossing the A35 and riding on the verge for approx 200 yards so horses and riders must be confident in traffic. Leave Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 10:00, home by 16:00. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Wed 6th Mar | Three Counties Bridlepath Group AGM . 7.30pm at The Old Inn at Kilmington, on the A35 near Axminster, guest speaker, Karen Ruggles. | 3CBG committee |
| Sun 17th Mar | New route to Dalwood (the Tuckers Arms) and home via Westwater. This is an adventurous ride on roads and tracks with some steep hills. Meet at the Tuckers Arms at 13:00 for non riders. Leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:00, home by 16:30. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Sun 24th Mar | Celebrate Spring with our 3 Hills Ride : Lamberts Castle, Pilsdon and Lewesdon with lunch at Stoke Abbot (approx. 13:30) - this is a long ride but very rewarding, with some controlled canters on tracks. Leaving from Lamberts Castle at 09:30 and back by 16:00 | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Wed 27th Mar | 3CBG Book Club . Venue TBC. Book <i>My Friend Flicka</i> by Mary O'Hara, ISBN-13: 978-1405230308. | Charlie Barrett - 07720 320874 charliembarrett@hotmail.com |
| <i>Fri 29th Mar</i> | <i>Good Friday Lamberts Castle fun ride</i> | <i>Event Secretary 01297 560416 or 678203</i> |
| Sun 7th Apr | A really excellent day ride to Axmouth , leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:00 and pick up at Trinity Hill at 10:00; Rousden at 12:00 and lunch at the Ship at Axmouth at 13:30. Home by 16:30 via the golf course. Mostly walk and trot but some controlled canters up tracks. Horses must be confident in traffic. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| <i>Sat 13th Apr</i> | <i>Hawchurch Ride in aid of the Hawchurch church Bells and the Cotley Hunt</i> | <i>Neil Ransford 01297 678285 or 07977 446992</i> |
| Sun 14th Apr | A picnic ride via Woodmead to the permissive route through Great Trill Farm; leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:30, returning via Trinity Hill. Horses must be confident in traffic as there is a very short stretch of riding on the main road. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Sat 27th & Sun 28th Apr | 3CBG Camping Weekend at the 5 Bells*, Whitchurch Canonorum Arrive on Saturday (or Friday afternoon) with a tent, horse, corralling and food for your horse. | For more info and to book a place email Shelley or phone her on 07780 991101. |
| Sun 5th May | A ride through Shute woods , setting off from Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:30, or meet at Kilmington at 12:00; lunch at the New Inn at 13:45. Home by 16:00 | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Sun 19th May | Offwell and environs - picnic ride exploring some well-maintained green lanes in this beautiful part of East Devon. Please contact Clare for parking details. Meet at 10:30, home by 16:00 | Clare Webber - 07773 597862 c.webber58@btinternet.com |
| Sun 26th May | A working ride via Prime Copse to Whitchurch Canonorum (The Five Bells) back via Nash Lane. This will be a long day with stops to remove vegetation and photograph gates. Leaving Beech Lane EX13 5UF at 09:30, Whitchurch at 13:30 and home by 17:00 | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 shelley.mcndoe@btinternet.com |
| Sun 2nd Jun | Guest Ride : open to offers, | Clare Webber - 07773 597862 c.webber58@btinternet.com |
| Sun 16th June | Ride to Branscombe ; lunch at the Fountain Inn. Details later. | Shelley McIndoe - 07780 991101 |

Apps for Riders

Let's start with the definition of an "app", which is an abbreviation for application. An app is a piece of software which can run on the internet, on your computer or on a mobile device such as a phone or tablet device like an iPad.

With the advent of the SmartPhone, iPad and equivalent Android and Windows devices, Apps have come of age. There are apps for everything, and yes there are apps for horse riders. We have reviewed a few of them in this article and will make it a regular slot - so please send us details of any apps you have useful, entertaining or awful and tell us why.

'Dixtance': this is an app available on iPhones and iPads and will track your journey, telling you how far you have travelled, how long it took, your average and maximum speed, the height you have ascended etc. It can store your route on a satellite map for later use and email it to friend. Easy to use, very cheap and useful for storing good rides.



'Horse Rider SOS': this is a safety app that lets you set 'buddies' who are contacted by email or phone in the event of you being immobilised for a period of your choice from 1-15 minutes. Quite clever and useful if you are a lone rider venturing on a risky journey. You need to make sure your buddies are aware of their role; I have tested the alerting and it works. Pricey for an app at £5.99.



'Endomondo': this free app is great for riding and indeed running, cycling, walking or any other distance-based activity. It tracks your route so that you can see it on a map afterwards (excellent for recalling which route you took) and records your distance, the elevations you went up/down and even the calories burnt and your heart rate if you want it to! You can also share workouts with your friends and challenge each other (e.g. most miles ridden in a month). - *Shelley Thirlaway*

Gripping the Road - tools for the job.

The wise men responsible for managing the network of rural roads in Dorset have unfortunately created treacherous surfaces for all riders who venture out for leisure, pleasure or to make a living. This is because despite advice and guidance from the BHS and lessons learned by other local authorities they have chosen to use untreated 'SMA' as the surface to treat these country roads. Yes we have complained, lobbied and threatened legal action, but while this wrangling continues we still want to ride safely.

To help us all use the roads more safely some options are:

Barefoot horse: although this does not always prevent slipping and not all of us have barefoot horses it does seem that an unshod horse rarely slips on tarmac.

Use a) road nails or b) road pins: these provide the safest option to riders. But many are unaware of the subtle difference between a road nail and a road pin - and the remainder of this article attempts to clarify this.

a) A road nail (or stud nail) can only be placed in shoes where a nail is used and therefore only a very small element of tungsten (the hardwearing element that grips) can be used. These tend to wear very quickly and soon become ineffective at giving the horse added purchase on slippery mastic surfaces. However, they are quick and easy for your farrier to put in as he does not have to drill an additional hole in the shoe; this obviously makes them cheaper to use.

b) A road pin is a tapered pin made of tungsten. A hole is drilled in the shoe and the pin (which is larger and more effectively shaped than the nail) is tapped into the hole. These pins have distinct advantages: they are larger pieces of tungsten and can be placed anywhere in the shoe from toe to heel - therefore stronger and providing the optimum position for individual foot balance. However, the farrier has to drill an additional hole and the pin is larger, therefore this is a more expensive option which can cost up to £2.00 more per hoof.

The choice is yours but in my experience road pins are far more effective because they provide grip for the life of the shoe. Make sure you ask your farrier about their use and safe riding. - *Shelley Thirlaway*

3 Acre Field in Hawkchurch for rent

Long level paddock, parking and stables. Beautiful bridledpaths on Devon/Dorset border. Phone Moby Hill on 01297 678450 or 07973846352. Email mobyhill@btinternet.com



South West Equine Fair Report, 8-9 Dec 2012

Chris and I went to the Equine Fair at WestPoint on Sunday 9.12.12. It was well attended, but maybe not as busy as it has been in previous years. We enjoyed browsing the usual stalls, meeting old friends and watching a couple of displays in the small arena. We were disappointed that most of the participants in the Native Pony stallion parade were overweight, but Tim Stockdale was as entertaining and informative as ever: we particularly admired his lightness on the reins and his secure seat on a young horse.

Amongst the new stalls, a few struck us as innovative and potentially useful for 3CBG members. My favourites were:

- NaTierBlue - retro-reflective stretchy hats and helmet covers. No website yet, but see <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NaTierBlue/489768807717653>
- On My Way Equestrian - 'Leg-its' stylish fleece and lycra leg wraps for travelling and in the stable. Soft, secure and no risk of pressure points. No website yet, info@onmywayequestrian.co.uk or tel 01803 875893. I suggested a tail wrap would be useful too (for travelling, or hi-viz), and this is in the pipeline.

- Soft Horse - Idolo tether tie, which can help teach a horse to tie safely and confidently using graded pressure and release www.softhorse.co.uk. It can be carried with you to ensure you always have something safe to tie up to (although it's rather heavy, being stainless steel).

All in all a very pleasant day out - thanks Chris!

- Clare Webber

CHARD & DISTRICT RIDING FOR THE DISABLED are looking for volunteers to help with the children's ride at Forde Abbey on Tuesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 pm from May to October 2013.

Must be familiar with ponies and be able to run as you may be asked to react quickly to a problem.

Contact: Marie Parker on 01460 220411, or marie@greghams.eclipse.co.uk

3CBG Committee contact details

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

Secretary: Clare Webber c.webber58@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Chris Moore 01297 678577, pat.moore1@btopenworld.com

Newsletter/website: Charlie Barrett 01460 30527 or 07720 320874 charliembarrett@hotmail.com

Committee Members:

Jane Sherwin 01297 35811 or 07920 776798 jane_sherwin@hotmail.co.uk

Liz Lane 07890 517049, klizlane@aol.co.uk

Brenda Lunt tg.lunt@homecall.co.uk

Lynn Wason 07778 969279, seaseeker68@gmail.com

Saddlebag Snack

This easy to make flapjack will keep you going on long rides, and your horse will like it too!

3 cups oats (porridge oats)
1 cup flour
½ lb butter (250g)
1 cup caster sugar
1 tablespoon golden syrup
1 handful sultanas/currants/candied peel/
sunflower seeds - whatever you fancy



Melt the butter and syrup together in a saucepan. Add the dry ingredients and mix well.

Press the mixture into a brownie tin (for chunky portions) or a swiss roll tin (for more delicate servings).

Bake in a medium oven for 10-20 mins, until golden brown.

Cut into pieces while warm, but leave in the tin to cool.

Pack into your saddlebag and enjoy your ride!
- Clare Webber

Items for Sale

From Clare Webber:

1x Wintec wide with 5 exchangeable 'gullets' in good usable condition - offers invited

1x 17" Champion Hack leather mediumish saddle, old but in good condition, has been kept indoors, free to a good home

Also various horse books for sale - contact Clare Webber for list and about the above saddles, at c.webber58@btinternet.com

From Lesley Rigby:

Black English leather cob size bridle, inc cavesson noseband, no reins. £20

5" SS eggbutt French link snaffle £7.50

5" SS Half moon snaffle £5

5 1/2" SS single joint hanging mouth snaffle £5

1 pair Cavallo Sport horse boots, size 5, used once (wrong size bought as horse incorrectly trimmed) £65

Black Aerborne Humane girth 42" £6

All excellent condition.

email Lesley nles.rig@gmail.com or phone 07967 522061

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. To pay membership subs by phone or online please use the following: Lloyds TSB sort code: 30-90-37, Account number: 001391011. Please use your surname as the reference.