



Celebrate the WDBA's 20th Birthday!



Happy New Year and welcome to our new look newsletter! Believe it or not, 2012 is the WDBA's 20th birthday! Since 1992, the WDBA has achieved great things and I hope that this year will be no exception.

At the AGM in November 2011, Jenni Winter, Ruth Young, Vicky Bender-Smith, Karen Lawson, Sasha Minnaar and Jo Baigent stepped down from the committee. Many thanks for their outstanding commitment to the WDBA over the years. Welcome to Lisa Wright, Tracey Smale, Sarah Ainley, Jill Green, Heather Tabram and Debra Woodmason who were voted onto the Committee (details below). Changes to the membership categories and subscription rates were announced at the AGM and approved by the majority of the membership (for details of the new rates, see later in this newsletter). While regrettable, the increases are necessary if the WDBA is to remain financially healthy. The Committee will focus on reducing our expenditure throughout 2012.

In this newsletter, Area Reps, Caroline Diliberto, Judy Williams, Lisa Wright and Linda Pike give updates on projects in their area, and other interesting path-related news. Please contact them if you wish to report an access-related problem in your area.

This year, two Track Clearance days are planned, and we hope that you'll suggest potential paths and join the clearance parties. Exciting fundraising events include our Fit or Fat Ride, Unaffiliated Dressage, Natural Horsemanship Demo and Clinic, and the Wood Street Pleasure Ride. Keep an eye on our website for details and entry forms.

With grants and funding becoming increasingly hard to secure, your support is vital if the WDBA is to continue to successfully champion safe off-road access to the countryside. Please attend our events and encourage your friends to join our great group.

Jo Haward, Chairman



New Faces on the Committee



Sarah Ainley



Heather Tabram



Jill Green



Tracey Smale



Debra Woodmason



Lisa Wright

Your Committee

Chairman: Jo Haward Home: 01483 850476
Treasurer: Heather Tabram Mobile: 07900 588282
Secretary: Marian Sage Home: 01483 811778

Executive Members: Sarah Ainley, Jill Green, Tracey Smale, Debra Woodmason, Philippa Wright
Membership Secretary: Wendy Ford (01483 236123)

Area Representatives:

Normandy Linda Pike Home: 01483 811891
Wood Street Lisa Wright Mobile: 07776 301845

Pirbright Judy Williams Email: judywilliamsdd@hotmail.com
Whitmoor Caroline Diliberto Mobile: 07799 826938

Contact your Committee or Area Representative on wdba1992@msn.com or use the phone numbers listed above



Pirbright – Judy Williams

(judywilliamsdd@hotmail.com)

Bridleway 413 is an impassable right of way between Sheets Heath in Brookwood and Stafford Lake in Bisley. Unfortunately, after a considerable amount of work, our second application for "Awards for All" Lottery funding to reinstate this bridleway was rejected. The reasons given were that we don't own the land, nor do we have a five-year lease on it. Due to the huge number of applications for Lottery funding, the rules are particularly strict. All is not lost, as we are approaching a number of other funding bodies.

The Pirbright Heathland Restoration Scheme is a scheme planned by Guildford Borough Council to clear large areas of woodland on Pirbright Common, Bullswater Common and land adjoining Dawney Hill to restore heathland. Large areas of heathland will be fenced, to allow grazing. The areas are very popular with horse riders and the WDBA has consulted with Guildford Borough Council about these proposals, and has asked that we be involved in choosing the design and position of horse gates. This project is EU funded and at the time of writing there is no up to date information.

Brookwood Farm Country Park is a proposal by CALA Homes to create a new country park as part of a housing scheme at Brookwood Farm, which runs parallel with the A322, from the Basingstoke Canal northwards. Around 19 acres will be taken up with housing, while the proposed Country Park will cover more than 140 acres. The Country Park will link up with Sheets Heath, which is used by many horse riders. I attended a consultation event in September and reiterated the WDBA's wish that horse riders be allowed into this new park. I also asked that, if this was approved, the WDBA be consulted on the style and positioning of horse gates. The consultation period has now ended and the plan as a whole will go before Woking Borough Council's planning committee sometime in 2012.

Wood Street – Lisa Wright (07776 301845)

There's been fantastic riding around Backside and Broadstreet Commons since last autumn. The ground's been good to firm, the views spectacular and the horses and humans well behaved. Now winter's here, Backside Common is holding up well, but Broadstreet and the recently refurbished Applegarth permissive horse ride are wet so please be cautious and keep it steady. If you haven't visited Wood Street before, park near the green, ride up Pound Lane then go east along the Christmas Pie cycle route to join Bridleway 447. It's great riding! Or, go west through the woods for a steadier ride and pop into the White Hart pub for a drink. On a cautionary note, please wear your hi-viz at all times.

Normandy – Linda Pike (01483 811891)

All bridleways and permissive horse rides are clear and riding well. In Ash Green some Byways have been restricted by Surrey County Council (SCC) to allow vehicular access during the summer months only. This has made a big difference to the Byways' condition, and it's now possible to ride safely along without sliding into the deep gullies made by four-wheel drive vehicles. Please report damage done by vehicles on paths, as SCC is in favour of creating restricted Byways where possible. You can report damage to the WDBA and we'll pass it on to SCC, or contact SCC directly.

For those of you lucky enough to ride on Ash and Pirbright Ranges, Christmas was a great time as the Army had a two-week break and there was open access over the whole 2,000 acres. The last two weeks of August is the next time we'll enjoy a similar opportunity.

The "No Riders" sign on the unmade road at the end of Bailes Lane leading to Passengers Farm has now been removed and SCC has confirmed that it's okay to ride on this track.

Happy hacking!

Whitmoor – Caroline Diliberto (07799 826938)

I thought I'd update those of you who were unable to attend our AGM about the tracks and bridges that Mark Havler from [Surrey Wildlife Trust](#) (SWT) plans to improve in 2012.

This summer, Mark hopes to replace the bridge on the Summer Ride and to obtain funding to surface the 30ft to 40ft section of the track leading up to the bridge that can be very boggy in the winter. Some trees will also be cleared in the immediate area. I hope he'll tell us when the work is due to start so we can warn you to avoid that area for a few days!

Mark has asked that we report any equine-related "incidents". SWT want to build up a picture of possible danger areas for riders so they can try and prevent further incidents. For example, if you fall off on the common, or if anything else happens to you that is a cause for concern, let Mark know so he can log it in the SWT system. Mark has already tried to block the path running parallel to the sand track to stop walkers spooking the horses by appearing without warning at the end of the track. He's also trying to keep the gorse hedges low so riders and walkers can see each other. Mark's email is mark.havler@surreywt.org.uk, or contact me and I'll pass the information to Mark. Lastly, we remain in communication with Surrey County Council (SCC) regarding Bridleway 423 on Rickford Common. We've offered to help fund the resurfacing of this track and hope to meet with SCC later this month to discuss this. We'll keep you updated.

Member's Benefits



Animal & Pet Food • Tack Shop • Country Store

Offers members a 5% discount



Offers members a 10% discount
Contact Malcolm on 01483 232324

2012 Membership Changes

Last year we decided to establish the true administration costs of the WDBA. Our findings revealed a shortfall in excess of 100% of the actual subscription income. This means that our fundraising efforts are subsidising the running costs of the organisation rather than maintaining our bridleways and permissive horse rides.

Our proposal to adjust the subscription rates to a realistic level was recently approved by the membership and will be implemented at the next renewal in March 2012. This is the first increase for 12 years and we sincerely hope that you will continue to support the WDBA to ensure safe off-road riding and access to our countryside. The new membership categories and subscription rates are:

- £10 individual
- £7 junior (16 years and under)
- £20 family (up to 3 family members including 1 adult)
- £5 associate (non-riding)
- For members without email, add £4 to the above rates

Membership renewal details and forms will be sent to you in February. **For membership enquiries, renewals and applications, contact Wendy Ford on 01483 236123.**

Amateur Photographic Competition

Polish up your camera lens and submit your best shots for a chance to see your photograph in print in our very own local "Countryfile" calendar. The best photograph in each class will feature on its own page in the 2013 calendar. There are seven classes to enter:

- Local Event
- Wildlife
- Water
- Plants and Trees
- Rural Crafts
- Enjoying the Countryside
- Landscape

Your photograph must be taken within an approximate six-mile radius of Worplesdon village and posted to Marian Sage, WDBA Secretary, The Haven, 52 Glaziers Lane, Normandy, GU3 2DG to arrive no later than 1 September 2012.

Entries must state the class and location together with your name, address and telephone number. If you wish your photo to be returned, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your entry. Your photograph will need to be available in electronic format if it is selected for the calendar.

This "must have" local calendar will be available for purchase at the WDBA AGM on 20 November 2012 and afterwards by post.



2012 Dates for Your Diary

February	Track Clearance
Sun Apr 1	Fit or Fat Ride, Elstead
Sat July 14	Natural Horsemanship Demo and Clinic
September*	Pleasure Ride, Wood Street
September	Track Clearance
Sun Sept 30	Unaffiliated Dressage, Merrist Wood
October*	Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch, Imber Court
Tues Nov 20	AGM

Visit www.wdba.org.uk for confirmed dates and entry forms.

* Date subject to change.

Events You Don't Want to Miss!

Pleasure Rides — Back by popular demand is our **Fit or Fat Ride!** The 10-mile ride will be held on Crooksbury and Puttenham Commons, with the riders starting from Elstead Riding Club's field in Seale Road, Elstead. Maggie Pattinson from On the Hoof will be on hand to check the horses heart rates. This area of Surrey has superb hacking and we hope that you'll join us on the 1 April for what promises to be an exciting and fun-filled day.

Closer to home, the **Pleasure Ride at Wood Street** later in the year will include some new routes around this beautiful area. We hope to see you and your friends there.

Dressage — Our first **open unaffiliated dressage** event, held at Merrist Wood in October last year, was a great success. In fact, it was so successful we're running it again this year, on the 30 September!

There will be the same mix of classes as last year – Walk and Trot, Prelim, and Novice – with the same friendly and fun atmosphere. If you'd like to try dressage, then this is the perfect opportunity.

Natural Horsemanship — UKCC-approved Level 2 Western Equestrian Society instructor and natural horsemanship practitioner, Paul Gallagher will be at Bailes Farm, Normandy on 14 July to demonstrate this method of communicating and building a relationship with your horse. The demo will be followed by three separate one-hour clinics where Paul will teach you the principles and techniques of natural horsemanship with your own horse. Clinics limited to four horses per session, so book early to avoid disappointment. For bookings, information, and clinic prices, please email Vicky on vicky.bender@btinternet.com.

Track Clearance — Does a track near you need some TLC? February and September are ideal months for tackling overgrown paths. If you have a path in mind and/or would be interested in joining a track clearance working party, or would like more details on what's involved, contact Philippa Wright on wdba1992@msn.com.

WDBA Online



For the latest news on bridleways, events and entry forms, visit

www.wdba.org.uk

And you can now find us on **Facebook**

