

Members' Merit Scheme Proves a Hit

The first year of the **Members' Merit Scheme** was a success, with over 50 members earning points by helping at, participating in or running WDBA events and track clearance working parties.

Mags Lopez was announced as the overall winner at the AGM, receiving a bottle of wine and a £100 voucher to spend in Roker's Tack Shop. Runners up, **Sharon Searle**, **Gina Rossdale-Smith**, **Richard Pike**, and **Quita King**, each received a box of chocolates.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered throughout 2013 to help make our events and track clearances a big success.

The Merit Scheme will continue in 2014, so lookout for chances to earn points toward the overall prize of a £100 voucher for an equestrian retailer!



Merit Scheme winner, Mags Lopez, and Richard Pike, one of the runners up

**Remember to renew your
WDBA membership!
Subscriptions due on
31 March 2014**

From The Chair

Welcome to what has started out as a very wet and windy 2014. The soggy, mud splattered look should be in vogue — it's certainly what most of us seem to be wearing at present!

2013 was an incredibly successful year for the WDBA with too much to mention here. Although, I have to highlight the restoration of Bridleway 413 in Brookwood as it was such an achievement (the full story and pictures are in past newsletters on our website).

I'm delighted to be the new WDBA Chairperson. I know that with your support the WDBA will achieve even more in 2014. We have a great diary of activities and events lined up.

The Committee is always keen to hear suggestions, comments, offers of help, and feedback from members — after all, without you there would be no WDBA. You can get in touch via our Facebook page or via email. It would be lovely to hear from you.

While we're currently soaking wet and blown away, think ahead to those glorious sunny days enjoying great countryside access thanks, in part, to the work of the WDBA.

Please read this newsletter, "like" us on Facebook, "favourite" our website, get informed and get involved!

Pamela Mosby





Wood Street – Lisa Wright
(07776 301845)

Branches and scrub have been cleared from bridleways and PHRs on Broadstreet Common.

Riding the northern end of the Oak Hill PHR and the Applegarth Avenue PHR should be avoided until the flooding has subsided. The Christmas Pie route is partially blocked with trees and scrub.

We're monitoring the **University of Surrey's proposals to develop its land on the Hogs Back** which may affect Bridleway 447 and the PHR alongside the railway. We're in discussion with SCC and the SWT about creating a route in Strawberry Copse.

The proposal to install a playground on Wood Street Village Green has been abandoned following the WDBA notifying the Parish Council that a PHR ran across the proposed site.



Normandy – Linda Pike
(01483 811891)

There have been no blocked bridleways in Normandy or Ash reported, but if you discover a problem do let me know.

The seasonal two-week open access to the Ranges is always appreciated by riders with riding permits. However, there are more army manoeuvres on the derestricted areas, and riders are asked to leave the area if they encounter soldiers.

We may hold our annual Pleasure Ride on Ash Ranges. This could be a wonderful opportunity to ride in this area of outstanding natural beauty.

Ash and Pirbright Ranges: *Horse riders require a permit to ride on the Ranges. Contact Landmarc Support Services Ltd, HQ ATE, Longmoor Camp, Liss, Hants, GU33 6EL.*



Pirbright – Judy Williams
(judywilliamsdd@hotmail.com)

Military action on the unrestricted area at the end of Mill Lane in Pirbright has increased.

Riders must be aware that they may encounter soldiers hiding in the undergrowth.

Bridleway 413 on Sheets Heath is now a pleasure to ride thanks to the WDBA, and is well used. However, the approach to it on the Sheets Heath side is narrow and very muddy. We are looking at resurfacing this 413 extension, but there are a number of bureaucratic loops to jump through first. The land is a SSSI and a Special Protection Area, meaning that any work undertaken on it must be approved by Natural England. Woking Borough Council is happy for the route to be resurfaced, and Natural England have recently consented to the project, subject to planning permission being granted. The work is estimated to cost around £8,000, a high sum that reflects the land's status as a SSSI and SPA.



Whitmoor – Caroline Diliberto
(07799 826938)

Mark Havler from Surrey Wildlife Trust has funds to carry out work on the Summer Ride.

We hope the work will improve the area near the bridge that floods so badly. We're committed to ensuring this path is improved, and we hope work will begin in the spring or summer.

Tell us of problems you encounter so we can report them to SWT.



- To report an incident visit: www.horseaccidents.org.uk.
- Read "[Look at it from my point of view](#)" — dogs and horses leaflet provided by the BHS in conjunction with The Association of Chief Police Officers and the Blue Cross.



Membership Update

Hello WDBA members past, present and future. I'm **Stephanie Good**, your new **Membership Secretary**.

I share a horse named Fonzi at Victoria Farm in Brookwood, and we enjoy hacking, jumping and dabbling in dressage. I look forward to meeting you at a WDBA event or meeting, and please get in touch if there is anything I can do for you in the meantime (wdba1992@msn.com or Membership Secretary, 16 Helmsdale, Woking, Surrey GU21 3HT).

We're now accepting membership renewals for 2014. Subscriptions are due by 31 March 2014, so renew before then to continue supporting the WDBA and its excellent work to provide safe and accessible off-road access to our countryside. Subscription rates for 2014 remain unchanged:

- **£10 individual**
- **£7 junior (16 years and under)**
- **£20 family (up to 3 family members including 1 adult)**
- **£5 associate (non-riding)**

Renewal reminder forms will be posted to you shortly. Membership forms can also be found on www.wdba.org.uk/join_us or you can request one in writing from the email or postal addresses above.

In addition to supporting the ongoing work of the WDBA, there are many benefits of being a member, including:

- **Reduced entry fees to WDBA events**
- **5% Discount at Roker's Tack Shop**
- **10% discount at Act Fast Pest Control**
- **10% discount at Clipper Supplies**
- **Opportunities to win prizes in our Members' Merit Scheme**
- **A chance to meet other like-minded equestrians in your area**

So please help spread the word — we hope to welcome returning and new members in 2014.

We Need Your Support...

The WDBA Committee works with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, local Councils, and Rights of Way Officers to protect your riding.

Here's what we're working on in 2014:

- ❖ **Increasing accessibility on Sheets Heath, Brookwood**
- ❖ **Repairing the Summer Ride on Whitmoor Common**
- ❖ **Protecting Bridleways and PHRs on the Hogs Back**
- ❖ **Creating a Bridleway in Strawberry Copse, Hogs Back**

Please support us by renewing your membership!

Pleasure Ride in Wood Street Raises £1,450

Fine weather and glorious views over the Surrey countryside accompanied 80 riders and horses on a Pleasure Ride organised by the WDBA on Sunday 1st September 2013.

Riders aged from 11 to pensioners, and all types and ages of horses, including a pony aged 27, tackled the 11-mile route along bridleways and WDBA permissive horse rides around Broadstreet and Backside Commons. Thanks to the University of Surrey, and the Surrey Wildlife Trust, those taking part were also able to ride the fields and woodland along the Hogs Back, giving far-reaching views across to Ash Ranges.



As well as numerous local riders, many travelled from as far afield as Reading, Reigate, Liphook, Windsor and Teddington, such is the popularity of this annual event, held by the WDBA to raise funds.

On the ground, ten volunteers manned checkpoints and ensured the smooth running of the event. Photographer [ALM Picture](#) provided those taking part with a lovely record of a memorable day; Driven by Coffee supplied delicious refreshments, ACEquines sponsored the rosettes that were given to all riders and the [Holistic Horse and Pony Centre](#) and Woking Print sponsored the schedules.

Dressage Competition Raises £630

Classes were oversubscribed, with many WDBA members scooping rosettes and prizes! The highest placed WDBA member in each class was awarded a photo taken by Captures Photography. Many thanks to our sponsors: **Nicks Garden Services**, **Victoria Farm Stables**, **On The Hoof Distance Training**, **NECD**, **Woking Print**, and **Captures Photography**.



Congratulations to the following WDBA members who were placed in their classes:

Walk & Trot:

Katie Pressler (4th), Pamela Mosby (6th), and Jill Green (9th)

Prelim 7:

Pamela Mosby (1st), Lucy Devon (4th), Michelle Norris (6th), Vicky Bender-Smith (7th), and Amy Wetherall (8th)

Prelim 18:

Lorraine Holloway (5th), Beth Atakan (=8th), Tina Pendle (=8th), and Emily Baigent (9th)

Novice 24:

Desma Stier (1st), Georgie Smith (=2nd), and Emily Baigent (7th)



2014 Diary Dates

- February*** Track Clearance
April* Fit or Fat Ride
Sun Sept 28 Open Unaffiliated Dressage, Merrist Wood
Sun Oct 26 Ash Ranges Pleasure Ride
October* Track Clearance
Mon Nov 17 Members' Meeting and AGM

See www.wdba.org.uk/events for dates and entry forms.

* Date to be confirmed



WDBA Online



For the latest news on bridleways and events visit www.wdba.org.uk

Find us on
Facebook



New Venues for our Events!

Fit or Fat Ride — Chobham Common and Crooksbury Common are being considered as potential venues for our popular early season ride. Watch this space!

Ranges Pleasure Ride — Ash Ranges is the venue for our annual pleasure ride, held this year in October. This will be a fabulous ride!

Dressage — Why not give dressage a go? Held at Merrist Wood on 28 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. Schedules and entry forms available from our website.

Track Clearance — Does a track near you need some TLC? 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 us on wdba1992@msn.com.

Members' Meeting and Annual General Meeting — Join your committee on 17 November for an evening catching up on WDBA news, meeting old friends and greeting new faces, and enjoying our captivating guest speaker.

WDBA Committee Meeting Dates 2014

Members are very welcome to attend any committee meeting - contact the Secretary on wdba1992@msn.com.

Wednesday 5 February
Friday 4 April
Thursday 5 June
Monday 4 August
Friday 3 October
Thursday 4 December
(Dates subject to change)

Member Benefits



5% discount for WDBA members



10% discount for WDBA members
Contact Malcolm on 01483 232324

clipper supplies (2008)

10% discount for WDBA members

Your Committee

Chairman: Pamela Mosby 07973 165479
Treasurer: Jane Martin 07917 802124
Secretary: Marian Sage 01483 811778

Executive Members: Sarah Ainley, Wendy Ford, Jo Haward, Tracey Smale, Philippa Wright

Membership Secretary: Stephanie Good (07717 532682)

Area Representatives:

Normandy Linda Pike 01483 811891
Wood Street Lisa Wright 07776 301845

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

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

Bluebells in Memory of Ted Stephens



WDBA members **planted 600 native bluebell bulbs** along the newly resurfaced **Bridleway 413 on Sheets Heath**.

Local resident and keen gardener, **Ted Stephens** made a donation toward the project before passing away last summer.

We thought it would be a fitting way to mark his generosity by planting his favourite flower for all to enjoy.

Members' Meeting and AGM End a Successful 2013

At the well-attended Members' Meeting and AGM, **Mark Havler** from SWT spoke about his planned improvements in Worplesdon, of which the Summer Ride is high on his list. We welcomed **Guy Kent**, Assistant Ranger for SWT, and **Luke Dawson**, the new Countryside Access Officer for SCC, who we'll be working with on various access projects in 2014.

Outgoing Chairperson, Lisa Wright spoke about the seven events held during 2013, forthcoming projects and thanked the ever increasing list of members, sponsors and entrants who make our work possible.

The Members' Merit Scheme winners were announced, with the £100 Roker's Tack Shop voucher and a bottle of wine going to Mags Lopez. Mags attended all our events and track clearances. Runners up Sharon Searle, Richard Pike, Quita King and Gina Rossdale-Smith each received a box of chocolates for their significant contributions.



Guy Kent (Assistant Ranger, SWT) and Luke Dawson (Countryside Access Officer, SCC)

Maggie Pattinson from On The Hoof Distance Training spoke about her involvement with the Mongol Derby. The incredible fitness required from horses and riders to complete such a strenuous and challenging adventure was awe inspiring. We look forward to seeing Maggie at our Fit or Fat Ride in April.