

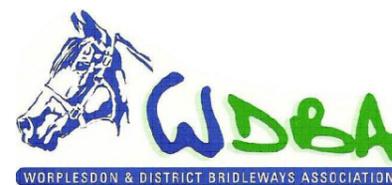
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Animal & Pet Food • Tack Shop • Country Store
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Contact: Malcolm 01483 232324



The Worplesdon Bridleways Bulletin

July 2011

Indoor Cross Country Jumping Lecture Demo

This exciting event was our third lecture demo at Parwood Equestrian Centre and, despite the economic gloom that seemed to be around at the beginning of 2011, still managed to attract a large audience. We were joined by Rokers Tack Shop, Equidorm equine bedding specialists and Jigsaw Equine promoting its Hit-Air safety jackets. Having these local companies join us added extra interest for the audience in the gallery.

Tracey Smale, our lecturer for the evening, gave the audience an informative and thrilling demo. Her experience and empathy with horse and rider was evident throughout the evening, as she guided the courageous demo participants over the jumps.

Taking part in the demo were riders of mixed abilities, enabling the audience to relate to their challenges and problems. We're sure that everyone went away feeling inspired to try indoor cross country jumping.

The event raised a healthy £466, which will go towards funding important bridleway projects in our area.

Forthcoming Unaffiliated Dressage Competition

Fancy having a go at dressage? Our fun and friendly dressage competition on Sunday 2 October is an opportunity to experience a real competition venue (Merrist Wood) and to be judged by friendly and supportive judges. Classes include a straightforward Walk and Trot test, Prelim and a more difficult Novice test. Why not try something new or have a go at the next level up?

To enter, complete the entry form in the schedule enclosed with this newsletter (or download from www.wdba.org.uk). If you have any queries or are interested in helping at this event (stewarding, scoring, dressage writing), please contact us on wdba1992@msn.com.

Dates for Your Diary

- Sun 11 Sept Horseshoe Pleasure Ride - Blackheath
- Sun 25 Sept Track Clearance Working Party - TBC
- Sun 2 Oct Unaffiliated Dressage - Merrist Wood
- Mon 21 Nov AGM - Normandy Village Hall

Your Committee

Chairman: Jo Haward Home: 01483 850476
 Treasurer: Jenni Winter Mobile: 07816 981202
 Secretary: Marian Sage Home: 01483 811778

Executive Members: Wendy Ford, Karen Lawson, Philippa Wright, Vicky Bender-Smith, Jo Baigent and Sasha Minnaar

Area Representatives:

Normandy Wood Street Linda Pike Home: 01483 811891 Pirbright Judy Williams judywilliamsdd@hotmail.com
 Ruth Young Mobile: 07807 217426 Whitmoor Caroline Diliberto Mobile: 07799 826938

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

WDBA online



For the latest news on dates, entry forms and tickets for our events, visit

www.wdba.org.uk



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

"Your support has never been more important"

From the Chair

The beginning of this year saw exceptionally dry weather conditions, which although great for enjoying the countryside, caused concern in the equine community about the rising costs of hay, bedding and fodder. It's certainly wetter now, proving that the great British weather is certainly unreliable!

Our fundraising events continue to prove popular, as you can see from the reports in this newsletter on the Indoor Cross Country Jumping Lecture Demo, the Fit or Fat Ride and the visit to Ascot Races. It's fabulous that so many WDBA members and people from outside our area are enjoying taking part and visiting new territories. Your Committee is a team of talented, hardworking folk and it's great to see their effort and dedication being rewarded in such a tangible way.

In this newsletter, your area reps, Caroline Diliberto, Judy Williams, Ruth Young and Linda Pike give updates on projects in their area, and other path-related news that might be of interest to you. Please get in touch with them if you wish to report an access-related problem in your area.

We hope to see you at the other events we have planned for this year – the Horseshoe Pleasure Ride at Blackheath, and the Unaffiliated Dressage Competition at Merrist Wood. There's also a track clearance working party planned for September. Keep an eye on our website for details and entry forms.

Your support has never been more important for the WDBA, as we work on the important projects mentioned in this newsletter. Please attend our events and encourage your friends to join our great group.

Happy riding!

Jo Haward

Congratulations to WDBA member Maggie Jennings (Head of the Research Animals Department RSPCA), who in June this year was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to Animal Welfare.



Behind the Scenes at Ascot Racecourse

On Saturday 7 May a group of 14 ladies and 1 lucky man had a day out at the races! 15 WDBA members met at Ascot Racecourse for a behind-the-scenes tour followed by racing and the Wine Festival.

Frank, our tour guide, showed us around the parade ring, weigh room, Royal Box (or at least the door to it!) and the racecourse itself. He had many fascinating tales to tell, and the tour enabled us to visit areas that the general public rarely gets to see.

After the tour we enjoyed picnic lunches followed by an afternoon of some fantastic racing. There were mixed fortunes in the group, but we all enjoyed the thrill of watching the horses thunder by!

Overall it was a lovely day out and the tour really added something unusual to the day. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such fun.



Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Talk

On the 2 July, Anton Phillips from the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service gave a large group of WDBA members and their friends a fascinating talk about the work of Hampshire's Specialist Animal Rescue unit. Anton and his team are pioneers in large animal rescue in the UK and are training other fire services, and developing equipment and procedures to make animal rescues safer and more effective. Anton discussed all aspects of large animal rescue using images from entrapments he's attended, including rescuing horses and ponies from ditches, trailers, lorries, swimming pools, fencing and gates. It was very interesting to see how rescue equipment has been developed and improved over the years. For fire fighters, rescuing a trapped animal is extremely dangerous, and new and improved procedures have helped to keep them as safe as possible, and improve the viability of the animals they rescue.

Anton spoke about the importance of wearing high-visibility clothing for riders and horses. Not only can car drivers see you more easily, but rescue services can locate you quickly should you be unfortunate enough to fall off in the middle of nowhere. He also advised that horses should always wear good, strong boots when travelling. In the event of an accident, a set of good quality travel boots will help prevent your horse's legs from being damaged.

Although admission to the talk was free, everyone gave generously to the collection tin and we were able to donate £73 to the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. Donations from the refreshments came to £18 for the WDBA.

Anton didn't have enough time to cover the topic of fire in the rural environment, so we'll be inviting him back to lecture on this important topic.

Fit or Fat?

During a very sunny April we held our Fit or Fat Ride, which attracted 52 entries, some from as far away as Essex. We certainly saw the Surrey countryside at its best as the weather excelled itself with blue sky and sunshine all day. The route included Wendy Ford's fields at Bailes Farm, with stunning views toward Guildford in one direction and Aldershot and Pirbright in the other. Jumps positioned around the fields were an added challenge, and many riders took advantage of the excellent ground to tackle the various brush, barrels and poles.

Taking the horses' heart rates were vet Pippa Duncan from Rivendell Veterinary Group and Maggie Pattinson from the equine distance training company On The Hoof. They answered people's queries and explained about fitness and heart rates, which the riders found interesting. Maggie also gave everyone the opportunity to trot up their horse, which is what would happen at a vetting during an endurance ride. The ride made an impressive profit of £330, which will go toward funding important bridleway projects in our area.

Special thanks to Pippa Duncan and Maggie Pattinson for providing their expert services, to Wendy Ford for her generosity in allowing us to use her land, and to Michelle, Tracey and Jenni for the loan of their jumps. Of course, we couldn't have run this event without the stewards, starters, catering, vet assistants and numerous other helpers who gave up their valuable time to help – a big THANK YOU!

Be Seen, Be Safe! WDBA High Visibility Tabards

Wearing hi-viz clothing when riding on the road can give vehicle drivers a valuable THREE seconds extra "reaction time" that could save the life of both you and your horse! To put it into context, those three seconds are equivalent to a car, driven at 30 mph, travelling the length of a full-size dressage arena!

Our hi-viz tabards have been designed with the WDBA logo on the front and are available in small, medium and large sizes.

To order a tabard, please complete the form below and send it to:
Wendy Ford, Bailes Farm, Bailes Lane, Normandy, Surrey, GU3 2BA.

Name: _____ Membership Number: _____
Qty of Tabards @ £7.50 each: _____ Size (S, M, L): _____
I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (cheques payable to WDBA)

Area Reports

Pirbright area – Judy Williams (judywilliamsdd@hotmail.com)

Bridleway 413, which links Sheets Heath in Brookwood with Stafford Lake in Bisley is an on-going saga which, thanks to Linda Pike's excellent work with Surrey County Council (SCC), has moved a step closer to a happy conclusion. Currently it's impassable to riders and walkers, and the WDBA is applying for "Awards for All" Lottery funding to reinstate the bridleway. SCC has written a long and detailed letter in support of the WDBA to accompany our application for Lottery funding. If our application is successful, the Council will provide the construction specification for the works to be undertaken on the bridleway.

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.

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, and the WDBA has appealed to CALA Homes to allow horse riders onto this new area. The WDBA has also asked to be consulted on the style and positioning of horse gates, should riding be allowed on the Country Park. Full details of the proposals can be found on www.brookwoodfarmwoking.com. There is also an opportunity on this website to comment on the proposals. The consultation period ends in Autumn 2011.

Wood Street area – Ruth Young (07807 217426)

We're investigating improvements to the path on Backside Common which runs adjacent with the Park Barn Estate. It's badly overgrown and boggy during the winter, so we're hoping to organise a track clearing party to cut back the weeds. We're also looking at how to improve the poor signposting on the tracks north of Broad Street.

Normandy area – Linda Pike (01483 811891)

Bailes Lane to Passengers Farm Permissive Ride Since 2009, we've negotiated, form filled and attended meetings with the various people concerned in an attempt to resurface the permissive ride from Bailes Lane to Passengers Farm. Sadly, it seems that we're going to be unlucky. Since the passing of the Countryside Act in 2006, planning consent must be obtained from the Secretary of State as well as the local authority. Surrey County Council have explained that, in their experience, planning permission would not be forthcoming from the Secretary of State as there is a passable alternative route (the unmade road from Passengers Farm to Bailes Lane). Although the unmade road at the Farm end has a notice saying "No Riders", this is not a permitted sign and will be removed. Therefore, if the permissive ride becomes wet, boggy and unsafe, riders are allowed to use this unmade road.

The Lottery-funded Normandy Common path It is standing the test of time and probably rides better now than when first resurfaced. It's also very well used by walkers and cyclists. The path is a good link to the Pirbright Ranges, although the compulsory permit to ride here is expensive. We contacted the MoD to discuss a permit sharing scheme for WDBA members, but were unable to agree how to facilitate this. We'll keep trying.

Whitmoor area – Caroline Diliberto (07799 826938)

Whitmoor's landscape is changing weekly, as Surrey Wildlife Trust clears trees around the sandy tracks that run parallel to Salt Box Road. Two paths on Whitmoor Common need resurfacing: a 30-foot section of the Summer Ride permissive horse ride, between the wooden bridge and the Jolly Farmer Pub (in winter, this section floods and is very boggy, taking a long time to dry out in the summer. The WDBA may fund this project); and the bridleway on Rickford Common, a section of which gets boggy in the winter. We've reported the problem to Surrey County Council, and hope that it will consider making the necessary improvements to this bridleway.

**Horseshoe
Pleasure Ride**
Blackheath, Guildford
**Sunday 11 September
from 10am**



Pleasure ride of about 8 miles over the bridleways, heathland and picturesque areas surrounding Blackheath and Albury, with views overlooking the Surrey Hills
Pleasure Ride - £10 members, £12 non-members
Lead Rein Ride - £5 members, £7 non-members
Closing date: Monday 5 September 2011