

Bridleway 423 Receives a Face Lift

At long last, the middle section of Bridleway 423 on Rickford Common has been resurfaced using WDBA funds.



Caroline Diliberto, WDBA Area Rep for Whitmoor, riding the newly resurfaced BW423

The middle section of BW423 has been in a terrible state for many years, being boggy and virtually impassable in wet weather. The new surface is a huge improvement and will make a big difference to those who regularly use BW423.

This is the second bridleway to be resurfaced using WDBA funds in the last 12 months, demonstrating how committed we are to improving access in the Worplesdon area.



Work in progress on BW423

Chairman's News

The WDBA committee is dedicated to helping the local community enjoy the beautiful countryside around Worplesdon. We could achieve even more with your help!

Over the summer, branches and vegetation can block paths and there's always something that's worn or broken. Can you help the WDBA to clear a path? You could steward at an event or even join the committee. There are many ways to get involved.

Our events began with our Equine Crime Prevention morning, followed in April by the ever-popular Fit or Fat Ride on Puttenham Common. Sally Ede's Biomechanics of Riding and Margrit Coates's Healing for Horses lectures were sold out.

This autumn, why not enter the Wood Street Pleasure Ride on 1 September. By kind permission of the University of Surrey, we're able to ride on its land along the Hogs Back. Our friendly Dressage competition at Merrist Wood on the 29 September is an opportunity to win a rosette. The highest placed WDBA member also wins a photo from Captures Photography.

Remember, the more you participate, the more points you collect as part of the Members' Award Scheme. You could win the £100 horsey gift voucher!

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Lisa Wright

WDBA Goes National!

July's issue of **Horse & Rider** magazine includes a five-page article featuring the WDBA. It's a great testimony to our achievements that a national magazine chose to contact us for our opinion on equestrian access issues.



Access News

Click [here](#) to report a rights of way problem to Surrey County Council using its interactive map

Normandy – Linda Pike (01483 811891)

Landmarc Support Services is currently reviewing the issuing of **riding permits for Ash and Pirbright Ranges**. Until further notice, riders can access the Ranges using their expired permits.

The **cattle have returned** to graze on the Ranges. The large herd includes young calves and two bulls. All are docile and don't appear to pose any problem to riders.

The **faulty catch** on the wooden equestrian gate next to the cattle grid at **Stoney Castle Firing Range** has yet to be repaired.

All **access gates** to flagged areas of the Ranges are being **padlocked** for security purposes when the flags are flying.

There is an **increase in military activity** outside of the flagged areas, including soldiers on patrol practice.

Whitmoor – Caroline Diliberto (07799 826938)

The ground alongside the **Summer Ride** that runs parallel to the railway line on Whitmoor Common is extremely boggy and dangerous. Failure by Network Rail to maintain its ditches means the path is under water all year. We're putting pressure on **Network Rail** and **Surrey Wildlife Trust** to acknowledge the problem, so we can get some much-needed maintenance in this area.

Bridleway 423 has now been resurfaced — see report on page 1.

Wood Street – Wendy Ford (01483 236123)

Tracks around **Wood Street** are drying out thanks to the welcome upturn in the weather.

The **large fallen tree** blocking the bridleway at the end of **Bailes Lane** has been reported, and until it's cleared, there is an alternative route via the track leading to Passengers Farm.

The rough track beyond **Ashfield Lodge** has been resurfaced, and although more of a bonus for vehicles, it is equally a joy to ride on such a smooth surface.

Recent proposals to build a **playground** in the corner of **Wood Street Village Green**, which although not planned to be fenced, conflicted with the Permissive Horse Ride routed directly across the proposed playground area, and also raised consideration of the interests of the neighbourhood in terms of conservation and rights of way over common land. There were obviously many arguments for and against this proposal, and the preservation of every inch of common land is extremely important to horse riders as are aspects of health and safety where horses and small children are concerned. The WDBA has formally expressed concern about these matters and more information will be forthcoming after the Worplesdon Parish Council meeting on 25 July.

Pirbright – Judy Williams (judywilliamsdd@hotmail.com)

Bridleway 413 with its new surface is being used by cyclists, pedestrians and riders.

We're investigating how we might fund a **surfaced extension to BW413**, taking the surfaced route up to the horse gates onto Sheets Heath.

- 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.

Margrit Coates — Healing for Horses



Margrit Coates's Healing for Horses demonstration of communicating with and healing horses was a great success. With 25 guests and three horses, the evening was an insightful view of horses and their needs.

The three horses presented a range of conditions from sweet itch, laminitis, and stomach issues to skeletal/muscular problems. Margrit discussed the importance of listening to our horses, how to feel energy, have faith in our hunches and intuition, and to remember that horses are a reflection of us.

The first horse, a two-year-old gypsy cob, suffered badly from sweet itch. Margrit advised that the condition was likely triggered by problems at his birth when his infected umbilical cord was treated with antibiotics, upsetting his metabolic system.

The second horse had behavioural issues. Margrit quickly picked up on the gelding's laminitis and suggested that he would benefit from being kept outside rather than stabled.

Our third case, a palomino, had experienced a tough start in life and was unable to be ridden due to pelvis and leg problems. He also had a "pull back" injury.

After Margrit's healing and advice, all three horses are now receiving recommended specialist help from the relevant homeopathic vets and behaviourists.

The evening raised £300 for the WDBA's bridleway projects.



For more information about Margrit, visit www.thehorsehealer.com

Membership Update



A **warm welcome** to our new members! We hope you enjoy reading your first WDBA newsletter.

And, of course, **welcome back** to those members who have renewed their membership this year.

By joining and renewing, you're enabling us to continue to work towards improving access in the Worplesdon area.

I'm delighted to report that current membership is nearly at 100 members.

Members' Award Scheme

Your points are adding up, and there are several front runners!

Remember, up for grabs is a £100 voucher for an equestrian retailer.

Points are earned by helping at and participating in WDBA events, running a WDBA event, and helping at a track clearance working party.

We Need Your Help!

August - We're clearing the Applegarth Avenue Permissive Horse Ride in Wood Street in preparation for September's Pleasure Ride. If you can help, please email wdba1992@msn.com.

Sally Ede's Biomechanics Demo Proves a Hit

Sally Ede presented the **Biomechanics of Riding** to over 50 guests at Lord Pirbright's Hall. Sally specialises in teaching riders how to use their body as a tool to change the horse's body. To help demonstrate how the rider's posture, tone, alignment, symmetry and breathing are all mirrored by the horse, she had the audience participating in a few exercises to demonstrate correct positions!

As a follow up to the lecture, Sally gave two ridden clinics to WDBA members, where nine very different riders and horses put theory into practice. Each session was tailored to the individual horse and rider, and gave interesting results. Sessions were videoed before and after, so the riders could see the results and practice any points again. However, the highlight has to be the "on the ground" afternoon session, which saw a group of mature women running around the yard wearing bridles!

The event raised £400 toward future bridleway projects. Thanks to those who participated in the clinics, and to Sally for so generously giving her time to our members.

Photos from the evening lecture are on the WDBA's [Flickr](#) page.



Fit or Fat Ride Raises Over £1,000

Riders, young and old, and horses, fit or fat, took part in the WDBA's 10-mile ride over Crooksbury and Puttenham Commons on 7 April.

Of the 77 riders who took part, ranging from adults to family groups with children, all completed the course, in an average time of two hours and 30 minutes. The ride started and finished at Elstead Riding Club's field, where Maggie Pattinson from [On The Hoof Distance Training](#) took horses' heart rates when they left and on their return.

The Ride raised a record-breaking £1,172, which will be used for bridleway improvements in the Worplesdon area.



Thank you to our sponsors: [Riding Minds](#), [Woking Print](#), [Rokers](#) and TjF Services.

Thank you to Elstead Riding Club for generously providing its facilities.

Photographs by [ALM Picture](#).

2013 Diary Dates

- August*** Track Clearance, Applegarth Avenue, Wood Street
- Sun Sept 1** Pleasure Ride, Wood Street
- Sun Sept 29** Open Unaffiliated Dressage, Merrist Wood
- October*** Track Clearance
- Mon Nov 18** AGM, Lord Pirbright's Hall, Pirbright

See www.wdba.org.uk/events for confirmed 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](https://www.facebook.com/wdba.org.uk)



Events You Don't Want to Miss!

The Pleasure Ride at Wood Street on 1 September is an 11-mile ride that includes the farmland and woods along the Hogs Back. We hope to see you and your friends there. Entry forms available from our website.

Dressage — Why not give dressage a go? Held at Merrist Wood on 29 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 Philippa Wright on wdba1992@msn.com.

Annual General Meeting — Join your committee on 18 November for an evening catching up on WDBA news, meeting old friends and greeting new faces, and enjoying our captivating guest speaker.

WDBA Committee Protects Rider's Access

The **WDBA committee** are in regular contact with local **Councils** and **Rights of Way Officers** to help protect our riding. Here's what we're working on in 2013:

- ❖ Preventing an important Permissive Horse Ride from becoming part of a children's playground
- ❖ Resurfacing a section of BW423 on Rickford Common
- ❖ Increasing accessibility on Sheets Heath, Brookwood
- ❖ Repairing the Permissive Horse Ride on Broadstreet Common
- ❖ Linking Puttenham with Wood Street Village via a safe crossing over the A31
- ❖ Helping the Ash Resident's Association protect riding rights in Normandy

Member's Benefits



5% discount for WDBA members



10% discount for WDBA members
Contact Malcolm on 01483 232324

Your Committee

Chairman: Lisa Wright 07776 301845
Treasurer: Jane Martin 07917 802124
Secretary: Marian Sage 01483 811778

Executive Members: Sarah Ainley, Jill Green, Jo Haward, Tracey Smale, Philippa Wright
Membership Secretary: Stef Roulet (01252 673036)

Area Representatives:

Normandy Linda Pike 01483 811891
Wood Street Wendy Ford 01483 236123

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

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

The End of an Era at Steadman's Mead Stables



The 1 June was a sad day in Wood Street, when **Steadman's Mead Stables** closed its doors for the last time.

Nuala and Leon Crampin moved to Wood Street 28 years ago to run the riding stables situated on the Green. Two years of cold winters, wet summers, frozen water and muddy fields have made looking after eight horses very hard work, and they decided that there were other activities they wanted to pursue.

All the horses have been found homes, some with those who rode regularly at Steadman's. Nuala and Leon have kept three horses for their own use, as they will now have time to enjoy the pleasures of equitation for themselves.

Many WDBA members will have benefitted from the expert tuition given by Nuala and her staff during this time, and will no doubt feel a pang of nostalgia as they remember "sit back", "heels down", and "canter, canter, canter!" as they tried to become the Charlotte Dujardin of their day!

If you have any memories you would like to share, please email philippa_wright@hotmail.com.

