

# HODGEMOOR RIDER

## Audrey's Ride Raises over £3000

Audrey and her kids have done it again, but this time they have done even better. In November 2001, they raised £2000 showing our potential sponsors that we were trying hard to raise funds on our own. Now they have raised over £3000 which is a tremendous achievement. Hodgemoor Association funds now stand at about £6000, which is halfway to the cost of the proposed new trail in Hodgemoor Wood. The great support that these young riders have had shows how important parents and friends feel it is to have safe off road hacking.

Amber Gunn, 10, raised an amazing £345 and the new route will be called "Amber's Trail". Four other girls, Chelsea Flemming, Alexandra Jones, Harriet Kebble and Hazel Kebble all raised over £100 each, as did local taxi driver Peter Gladwyn.

## £2000 Grant from Brett

The Brett Environment Trust has kindly awarded us another grant. It was Brett who two years ago gave us £40 000 which enabled us to do so much trail improvement. We are very lucky to get this further grant, as the Landfill Tax Credit rules have recently changed reducing the funds available. Furthermore, Brett doesn't normally donate to the same project twice.

An application has also been made to Chiltern District Council for a Community Grant. They also funded the Association two years ago. Their decision will be known by early June.

## Starting the Next Phase: We need your Support!

To remind members, the next phase involves upgrading a 260-metre length of footpath to a horse trail to create a link - to be known as "Amber's Trail"

- to the Spring Link Bridleway on the east side of Hodgemoor Wood. This would avoid a narrow and dangerous stretch of road along Bottrells Lane. In this phase, we also plan to resurface 150 metres of the existing horse trail that would connect to "Amber's Trail".



To do "Amber's Trail", we need another £1000. Subscription renewals are due this April, so if the more than 100 members were to renew quickly, that would solve our shortfall. We are also organising several events so if these were well-supported, it would obviously help.

The kids at Aescwood have worked so hard to raise that £3000, it would be a pity if we could not do the new trail this year.

## Well-Attended AGM

We were all pleased 50 people came to the AGM last October. The Chalfont St Giles Reading Room was standing room only, reflecting the fact that membership is now well over 100, including many juniors and 10 family memberships. One of the clear messages from the AGM was to improve communications with the 14 local livery yards. Now a committee member is responsible for 3 or 4 yards, and deals on a regular basis with each of them. We will also now be featuring one or more livery yards in each newsletter, starting with Oldefields in this edition. Sadly Stone-dean in Jordans is no longer on the livery list since it was sold to Ozzy Osborne - anyone for quad-biking?

Two new committee members Georgina Blair and Georgie Fincham were voted in at the AGM, adding to Marcus and Susie Bicknell (Chairman and Secretary), Robin Richards (Treasurer), Heather Black, Judith Broadley, Audrey and Terry Holbrook.

At the AGM, Brenda Wickham from the British Horse Society presented the Association with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Bucks County Committee for our work in improving bridleways. The

March 2004

BHS has never honoured a club in this way: let's hope it inspires riders in other areas to improve facilities.

## Renewals due April: Form Attached

It's great that we have more than 100 members now, but there must be another 200 to 300 riders out there, and it would be nice to have their support too. 300 members would bring in £3000 p.a. in subs, which is 100 metres of new trail! Around 30 members did not renew membership, which probably reflects the turnover at livery yards. Luckily well over 30 new members joined.

Subscriptions are due by the end of April. Rates remain the same: £10 for adults, £5 for under 16s by April 1<sup>st</sup>, £20 for family membership. There is a new £5 sub for walkers or non-riders. Members will get new map with bridleway and footpath numbers to make identification easier

Just to remind you why we exist... and why we implore you to get other riders to support us by joining. We realised at the AGM that many of the newer members did not know Hodgemoor Woods in the bad old days when Forest Enterprise threatened to ban horses because of damage caused to the trails. Conditions are now greatly improved and the threat has been averted so it is perhaps harder to convince local riders to join. The Association's main objective is still fundraising, so that we can continue to improve riding facilities not only in Hodgemoor Wood but also in the area in general. **If we don't continue, in a few years, there might be a threat to close the Woods again.** We don't want to be a Riding Club and we hope members will come to fund-raising events realising that these are organised by volunteers firstly to raise money but also to have some fun.

## Ideas for Fund-Raising

Our most successful fund-raising events have been demonstrations (Sue Edwards and Joni Bently) and we plan to do more of these. We are really grateful that Lana Junak at Waylands has offered to do a show-jumping demo and that three yards have volunteered either to organise an event or to allow their facilities to be used for the benefit of the Association. See the **Calendar of Events** below.

## New Signs

These signs that recently give the an official the Wood and riders to join. these may walkers and join, as well as welcomed our walker member



## in Wood

went up association presence in exhort It's hoped encourage cyclists to riders. We first dog-last

of support for the new grant applications. The three other signs that contain membership forms are still up, and several new members were recruited with these.



## Improving Access to Hodgemoor from South

In the last few months there have been several very dangerous incidents involving riders and traffic along Twitchells Lane leading from Jordans

Village up towards Chalfont St Giles. The Association is currently trying to get either of two footpaths upgraded to bridleways that would avoid this stretch of road. One route bringing riders out into Seer Green looks easier practically: the principal landowner has been contacted and the Association hopes to get

the backing of the Jordans Residents' Association, which has been campaigning vigorously

for a 30 mph speed limit through Jordans. Several Hodgemoor Riders went to a demonstration organised in December to this effect.

Livery Focus:

## Oldefields Equestrian Centre

Chalfont Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2QP. Tel: (Stables) 01494 678431; (Office) 01753 663111. E-mail: [oldefield@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:oldefield@ukonline.co.uk) Website: [www.oldefields.com](http://www.oldefields.com)

**Profile:** Oldefields has been an established equestrian centre for over 15 years, positioned within 40 acres of land (35 acres of grazing), currently accommodating 26 horses. A very relaxed, friendly and social yard with 7 loan/liveries which are children and the rest of the liveries are adults, ranging from mid-20s upwards.

No hour is wasted that is spent in the saddle  
- Winston S. Churchill

**Staff:** Manager is Charlotte Perry (successfully managed the yard for one year, has worked with horses for past 12 years, teaches, HGV license holder, owns 2 horses (a "happy hacker" and an eventer). 2 full time (Corrie and Alex), 3 part time (Rebecca, Sarah and Amy)



field will be open between 10 am and 12 midday. For £5 (£15 for non-members), you can spend 5 to 10 minutes doing what you want! Easter eggs and Easter Polos for all who come. Hodgemoor tabards will be on sale too. To find the field, ride up the bridleway from the entrance off Threehouseholds in Chalfont St Giles and go all

**Facilities on offer:** 23

stables, 2 x outdoor schools (size of 1st: 20 x 40, size of 2<sup>nd</sup>: 40 x 60), horse walker, rug drying room, washing machine/tumble dryer for cleaning rugs, alarmed tack room. Someone lives on site.

**Services Offered:** Competition livery (7 days per week), Full livery (7 days per week), Part livery (5 days per week), DIY livery (7 days per week).

**Other information:** Two horse lorries for hire (a) 3 horse lorry (requires C1 category on license) - £60 per day plus diesel, and (b) 5 horse lorry (requires HGV license) - price on application. 1 2 horse trailer.

**Instructors:** Sue Edwards, Leena, Charlotte Perry

**Horses:** In addition to the livery horses there are also currently four Fallabellas in residence at the centre, who would welcome visitors (by appointment only) to fuss them, groom them and feed them carrot

**Events.** Check with Charlotte to see if she has space on lorries going to events such as West Wycombe Sponsored Ride on Easter Monday, 12 April, and the Windsor Ride on 1 & 2 May.

**Livery Focus** is the first in a regular series on stables in the area. To have your yard written up please contact Georgina Fincham on 01494 723673 [georginafincham@aol.com](mailto:georginafincham@aol.com)

## Tabards

There are still several of the florescent "Hodgemoor Rider" tabards available. They cost £10. Please call Susie Bicknell 01494 872447.

## "Fun Jump" Easter Saturday

Marcus and Susie Bicknell are having a "Fun Jump" session on Easter Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April: if you're out for a hack along the Wickham Way bridleway (across the "50 Acres" fields), why not drop in and jump a few jumps to raise some money for the Association? There will be a mixture of cross-country (max 2ft 6") (Photo) and show jumps. The

the way up into the field which takes the bridleway into the wood. Turn right there. No boxes or trailers, just hacking to get there. Call Susie Bicknell for details on 01494 872447.

(NB Through its affiliation as a Bridleways Association to the BHS, Hodgemoor Riding Association is covered for public liability for such an event)

## Terry Stumps Rubbish Dumper!

Your committee works for you in many different ways! In December, committee member Terry Holbrook scored a victory in the continual war against dumping at the Widmer entrance to Hodgemoor Wood (currently occupied by sofa). Finding yet another pile of builders' refuse and plastic bags, Terry managed to find a credit card slip amongst it all. He traced the owner to Hillingdon and after a bit of detective work ascertained that this person had indeed needed to get rid of building rubbish. Terry rang the man up, confronted him with the various possibilities that faced him now that Terry had proof, and within the next couple of days, the rubbish had vanished. On another occasion, Terry also traced who had dumped garden refuse and got that cleared up.

## Rubbish on Bridleway N°36

Those of you who regularly ride on the bridleway leading from Seer Green to cross the A355 at White Hill know that there is a great heap of builder's refuse that has been there for certainly the last 4 or 5 years. It is obviously difficult for the Council to clear as it is so far from any road, but if as many of us as possible call, perhaps something will be done about it. Call Chiltern District Council 01494 729000.

## Horse Passports

Some of you like me may only just have got round to thinking about Horse Passports. The first thing I learnt was that a passport can be got through an official breed society if you are registered with one. A quick ring round of official agencies (for non-breed

horses) as listed in the DEFRA website ([defra.gov.uk](http://defra.gov.uk)) revealed the following:

**Horse Passport Agency**, 0870 241 8263, Cost: £14, takes 4 weeks, send in copy of valid Vaccination Certificate showing silhouette, whorls, etc with application form. This agency says it has kept price down as it does not give reduction for bulk orders, but is just as reliable.

**Pet ID**, 01273 837676, Cost £14.95, takes 8 to 10 weeks, send copy of valid Vaccination certificate, passport comes with micro-chip voucher.

**Weatherbys**, 01536 201301, Cost £17.50 or £15 if you're insured with PetPlan, takes 8-10 weeks, send in copy of valid certificate.

**Horse Passports** (also Southall Horse Auctions) 0208 574 1611, cost £20 which includes visit to get up to date description of horse as they think Vets Certificates are sometimes not accurate enough. Will then deliver passport on the spot. They do French translation which apparently is EC requirement and other agencies don't do. Will come as far as South Bucks within charge.

**British Horse Society**, 08701 202244, Cost £22, takes 12 to 14 weeks, send in original vet's certificate, so do it well before June deadline.

**Pleasure Horse Society**, 01494 601042. This agency has done a lot of advertising. However, seems to cost the most: £23.50 for first horse, £18 for second. Or join Society for £20 (standing order only) and get one free passport, second for £18. Send copy of valid certificate. This society is new, and aims to inform the hacker type of rider (newsletter, website with sales, etc [www.pleasurehorsesociety.co.uk](http://www.pleasurehorsesociety.co.uk)).

If any members have comments on getting passports let Susie Bicknell know.

**Classified Ads:** Rates: £5 per 3 lines in text, £10 for 5 lines and coloured photo. Members may make one insertion per year free of charge. Next press date 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**Riding Jacket For Sale.** Lucinda Green Tweed Show Jacket, 1 year old, size 10/12, Cost £130. Selling for £50 ono. Call 01494 680652

**Hat for Sale.** Charles Owen Ultralite Euro riding hat for sale. Size 2/57. Only worn 3 times as too small. Cost £25 ono. Call 01494 872447

**Riding for the Disabled** at Fulmer. Help! Volunteers urgently needed. 2 hour sessions, can be term time only or weekends. Involves catching ponies, tacking up, leading ponies and supporting disabled riders under instruction either in covered school or on hack in local wood. Call 01753 662796

**One Part Livery Available** from 1 March 2004. Highclere Livery Yard (Seer Green). Call Kevin 07931 946807

**PA system wanted.** For our demos and events, do any of you know where we could borrow or rent cheaply a hands-free, wireless microphone system? Call Susie 01494 872447

**Web Site updated.** [www.hodgemoor.org.uk](http://www.hodgemoor.org.uk) carries these newsletters in download form, the map of the wood, meeting reports and other info. Please let us know your suggestions for making it better.

**One Part or Full livery available.** Oldefields Livery Yard. Call Charlotte 07870 583855

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### Calendar of events

April 10: **Fun Jump** in the 50 acres fields (see above)

June 9: Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. **Showjumping Demo by Lana Junak.** Well-known local showjumper, Lana Junak, will give a demo/clinic at Waylands Equestrian Centre in Rawlings Lane, Seer Green.

Coming soon: **Showjumping** at Highclere

**Show** at Oldefields

**Endurance Clinic** at Chalfont Equestrian

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