

HODGEMOOR RIDER

Amber's Trail Opens

The 260 metre link between the centre of Hodgemoor Wood and the Spring Link bridleway on the eastern edge was completed in July. Aescwood Riding School had already raised £3000 towards the cost (the trail is named after Amber Gunn who rides at Aescwood and who raised £345). In March, the Brett Environment Trust awarded us £2000 and finally in June Chiltern District Council gave us a further £2000 Community Grant (see photo). The go-ahead was immediately given to the contractor Agriwork, who finished the trail in 2 weeks. While they were at it and



for half price, they also repaired 60 metres of the most clayey section of the Spring Link. The new trail is clearly well-used, as riders can now avoid a dangerous section of Bottrells Lane.

Susie gets £2000 from Chiltern District Councillor Mimi Harker

Xmas Party for Amber's Trail

If any of you feel like a bit of hot noggin and fancy dress, come on horseback or on foot on Saturday 18 December. Either come at 2.15 to the Waylands corner entrance to the Wood (on Rawlings Lane, just past Waylands Equestrian Centre) and go up with the children from Aescwood Riding School. Or be at the Spring Link end of Amber's Trail by 2.45. Prize for the best horse's Xmas head gear. Bring torches!

AGM: Monday 18

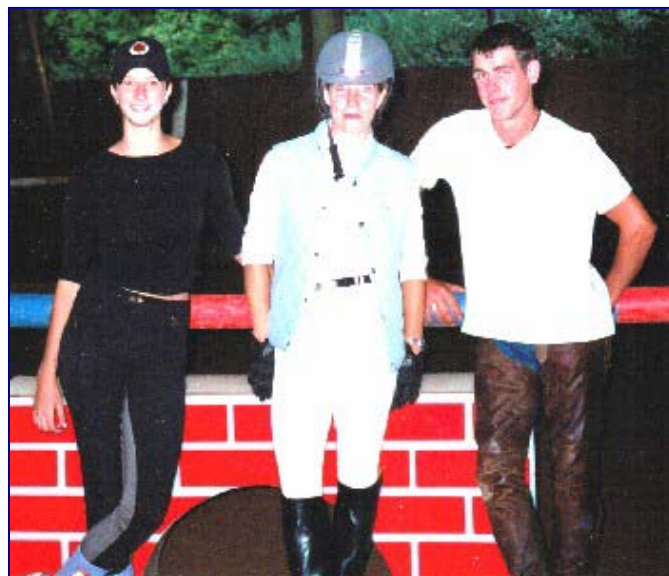
October at 8 p.m.

We hope as many of you will come this year as you did last year to the AGM, to be held as usual at the Chalfont St Giles Reading Room, in the High Street, opposite the butcher/baker/grocer. The agenda is with this newsletter. Do bring contributions for a raffle. "Hodgemoor Rider" florescent tabards will be for sale at £10. There will be food and drink and possibly a speaker.

Lana's Show Jumping Demo

Lana Junak gave a very successful demo at Waylands Equestrian Centre in July. On a theme of "distances", she

put two plucky volunteers, Caroline Black and Kevin Malyon, through their paces first. Then Lana rode two of her



horses, and it was fascinating to hear her thought processes out loud (which she managed without a microphone, in spite of a sore throat) as she approached higher and higher jumps. We raised £250: many, many thanks to Lana.

Lana Junak (centre) - volunteers Caroline Black and Kevin Malyon

Fun Jumps

Another successful and relatively easy-to-organise fund raising event has turned out to be the Fun Jump. Two have been held so far, one at Easter and one in mid-June, each raising around £100. The non-competitive Jumps take place on Marcus and Susie Bicknell's cross country course (now up to 18 permanent jumps) in one of the fields off the Wickham

Bridleway. Food and drink are also served, and quite a few non-jumpers have turned up as well to have a hot sausage and a drink. The next one will take place on Sunday November 28th between 10 and 12, cost £5 per rider. Do please phone 01494 872447 if you plan to come.

Then we can phone you if it has to be cancelled because of weather, etc.

Richard Hill on Guinness tackles the gate at the Easter Fun Jump. Come and have a go!



XC Course available to members

The course used for the Fun Jumps can be rented by members at any time, £10 a rider. All proceeds go to the Association. Please call 01494 872447 to book.

October 2004



Enterprise. The aim was to raise the profile, particularly to non-riders. Well-placed en route to the ever-popular dog show, the stand had many visitors, particularly cyclists. Others were lured to the stand by the presence of two racing cars and a stock car which we organised next door. Marcus made £30 for the Association as punters tried to guess the weight of one of the cars. It was certainly easier having cars there than trying to keep a horse happy in the heat for 5 hours!

The girls from Aescwood join Amber Gunn (with the sign for her trail), Susie Bicknell (seated) and some new members at our rather snappy stand at the Chalfont St Giles country show.

Environmental Award Nomination

In May this year, Chiltern District Council nominated the Association for the Beds, Herts and Bucks Rotary Environment Awards. We were up against 42 other worthy entries and didn't win. However, it was an honour to be assessed by judges such as environmentalist Professor David Bellamy and radio journalist John Pilgrim.

Focus on ... Aescwood Riding School

School

Audrey Holbrook, her staff and the children attending this school have contributed tremendously to the Association raising nearly £6000 over the last 4 years. Audrey and Terry have been running the school in Rawlings Lane, Seer Green for 23 years, using reliable and experienced Welsh ponies. Besides regular riding lessons, Audrey specialises in Saturday afternoon birthday parties, with mini-gymkanas, rosettes and tea-in-the-haystack. There are also special Christmas parties. And during the school holidays and half terms, there are fun-days when children can spend a day playing, riding, grooming the ponies, just as if they owned their own pony. Children from 4 to 15 are welcome.

Call Audrey on 01494 875048 or 07831 519154

Donations

Many thanks to those who made donations recently: Janet Blair, Bownern Fencing & Landscapes, Anna Downey, Celina Dunlop, Audrey and Terry Holbrook and Brenda Wickham.

Dates for your Diary

AGM: Monday 18 October 8 pm

Trec: Sunday November 7th 10-12

Fun Jump: Sunday, November 28th 10-12

Xmas Party for Amber's Trail: Saturday, 18 December.

Meet at Amber's Trail/Spring Link at 2.45 pm.

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 31st January.

Rug Cleaning & Repairs, Bridlework Repairs: Anna Stublely will clean or repair your horse rugs. Bridlework repairs by estimate. Rug Cleaning: Stable £11, Turnout £13, Wash and proof £20. Telephone 01895 833805 07802 440 546

For Sale: Black Albion GP saddle 17½" wide fit. Good condition £325. 6ft Shires navy blue **Typhoon rug** with built-in neck cover: worn one season, all repaired and washed £30. Phone 01494 874552.

LE TREC Practice Morning: Sunday November 7th

Several members have said that they would like some kind of event that didn't involve jumping. So we are going to try out a TREC morning. For those of you that don't know about Le Trec you would have to do challenges along the lines of the following:

- Gait control (cantering slowly, walking fast), cantering in straight line, and through bending poles
- Reining back, dismounting and mounting in tight area, opening/closing gate,
- Leaving horse stationary when dismounted, passing a scary thing.

This morning is not competitive: no obstacle is obligatory! As it might take each person 5 minutes or so, please call to register and we'll give you a time. Cost £5. Find us in the Fun Jump XC field in 50 Acres.

Improving Access to Hodgemoor from the South

Susie Bicknell has had several meetings with Bucks CC and Jordan's Residents Association about upgrading the footpath leading from Jordans to the centre of Seer Green. This would avoid riders having to use the dangerous section of Twitchells Lane that leads up towards Hodgemoor. The Residents Association recently rejected a proposal from Bucks CC and Hodgemoor. We are now trying to find a solution acceptable to them.

Stand at Village Show

Your Association had an impressive (but low cost) stand at the Chalfont St Giles show on September 4th. Besides its own material, the stand had displays from Forest