

# HODGEMOOR RIDER

## Repairs to Bridleways and Trails to start in Late Spring

Once the ground has dried out, repairs can start our next project for bridleway and trail repair. The plan is to complete approximately 250 metres in all. The worst patches along the old west side bridleway, in the Yellow Brick Road and either end of the Bracken ride will be done, as well as - funds permitting - a 90 metre length down the Glade. A couple of stretches along the Wickham Way bridleway leading up through the 50 acres to Hodgemoor will also be done, with the help of some funding from Bucks County Council.

The hoggin acquired by a bit of luck last year and currently stored in Hodgemoor will be used for this project, considerably reducing the normal cost.

## Subs for 2006 Now Due

The renewal form is attached. Prices are the same. Please note that you can now subscribe with Direct Debit. Membership was down 15 or so on last year. We currently have 89 members: 51 adults, 13 juniors, 12 family, and last but not least, 4 walkers. This is not bad, but we estimate that there are at least 200 to 300 riders within reach of Hodgemoor. We know there are a lot of competition riders out there who concentrate on schooling rather than hacking. But we somehow have to persuade them to support the Association which benefits the local horse riding community in general.

We have planned a membership push day when several members will spend a few hours in the Wood asking all riders if they are members, and if not, why not. But we're keeping that date a secret.....

## Pocket Route Map to Penn

After receipt of your subs, you will get - if you want it - a pocket map of two round routes (long and short) to Penn. There are numbered way points with notes. At the AGM, members said the old map was just too difficult to follow. We hope this will be a great improvement. We plan to do others, for example, a route to Chorleywood.

## Accompanied Rides to Penn

If, however, you want to learn these routes to Penn, and find map-reading a bit of an effort on horseback (quite understandable!), we are happy to show you the way. It seems another way of raising money for the Association, so we would ask £10 for this.

## Tim Stockdale gives Showjumping Demo for RDA

Hodgemoor supporters Lana Junak and Caroline Black were two of the four plucky volunteers who braved Tim's jocular and direct teaching style in order to improve their showjumping technique. Thanks to Tim, £4000 were raised for the South Bucks Riding for Disabled Centre in Fulmer.

The audience had the chance to appreciate all the work done by the RDA. Four of their top Para Dressage Riders, who with limited mobility, no legs and severely deformed arms, gave a display that must have made many of the "able-bodied" watching feel

April 2006



envious.

Tim Stockdale (above) with Di Redfern (chairman of the RDA) and two of the disable riders. Lana Junak and John Crippen are behind.

## Livery Yard Focus: Chalfont Valley Equestrian

Idyllically placed in a valley to the north of Hodgemoor Woods, this yard has been going for 5 years now. Stables were originally in the old farm buildings of Upper Bottom House Farm, but last year a new Dutch barn was built for 12 horses. The yard currently has 12 stabled and 12 grass liveryes. Full, part-time and DIY (assisted only) livery are available and turnout is all year round. There is a floodlit outdoor school and a walker. The hacking is superb with Hodgemoor just 5 minutes away up a quiet road plus the exclusive right to ride round the farm fields. The yard has a friendly atmosphere and likes to cater for all equestrian interests

For further information, please contact yard Manager Julia Tilley on 07958 610193.

## "Pottering" around the Woods: A Magical Treasure Hunt

On a foggy and cold morning in early January, a small number of intrepid Hodgemoor members ventured into the woods for a Treasure Hunt and found it full of magical objects. They found a pile of wands in "Dragon's Alley" (Amber's Trail). Then further on, they acquired toads, owls, cats, polar bears and greyhounds. Clues led them deeper into the woods where they found the elusive golden snitch and finally the portkey which allowed them back to Hogwarts (Homefarm Orchard) where goblets of warm mead awaited them.

Many thanks to Georgina Blair for organising this: much enjoyed by all.

## Another Treasure Hunt planned on Sunday 23 April

Georgina Blair is fabulating another hunt on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, this time with a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory theme. It will last 1 to 1½ hours and everyone is welcome, whether mounted or not. Please contact Georgina by Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> if you plan to come so you can be given a start time between 10 and 12. You can ride/walk on your own or in a group of up to 4. Email [clandongabriella@fsmail.net](mailto:clandongabriella@fsmail.net) or phone her on 07796 685992.

## Email Newsletter

We are happy that so many of you have given us your email addresses, as we have been able to send newsletters to you without the cost of printing and postage. This one is a printed version because it has the membership renewal form. If you are not on email, you will still get a printed version.

## XC Clinic planned for 4 June

Sacha Hamilton will hold a cross country clinic on the Hodgemoor course. Please email or call Susie if interested. We're aiming for 6 participants who are happy to be schooled over the 2ft 6/2ft 9 jumps. We will also organise a schooling day for those wanting to practise over the lower course.

Contact [Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk) or phone 01494 872447.

## XC Course for Rental

Do please remember the cross country course set in 50 Acres can be rented at any time. There are 2 courses: 1 ft 6 and 2ft 6/2ft 9. Come for as long as you like. Bring your instructor! £5 for members and £15 for non-members.

## Native Pony Dressage Day Sunday 21 May, Windmill Farm

Committee member Georgina Blair is busy this year. Not only has she done the Treasure Hunts, but she is also organising this open event on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> to give purebred and part-bred natives a chance to compete against each other, and to encourage dressage newcomers to have a go with their "hairy"



mounts. There are 5 classes: a walk/trot test, Prelim 7 and 10, Novice 21 and 24.

Janet and Georgina Blair (above) doing the Hodgemoor Trec on their

Fells. We want lots of Native ponies to come on 21<sup>st</sup> May!

The classes (not the walk/trot test) are divided into sections for purebred and part-bred natives. There are rosettes in each section and a best of breed rosette for the best of each native breed. The Prelim 10 and Novice 24 classes will be qualifiers for the Chiltern & Thames Rider 2006 Dressage Championships.

The day is only open to pure-bred and part-bred native ponies, although they do not have to be registered. We need volunteer stewards and also writers for the dressage judges. Proceeds will go to Hodgemoor, so we want lots of native ponies: let your friends know! Please contact Georgina 07796 685992 email [nativeponydressage@fsmail.net](mailto:nativeponydressage@fsmail.net)

## Members Messages by email

As you've noticed, emails have covered not only Hodgemoor news, but a variety of subjects from horses for sale to 60's rock 'n' roll! If you have something useful to communicate to members, please email [susie@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:susie@hodgemoor.org.uk) and we will send it round to everyone for you free of charge.

## Aston Rosettes

Those of you who have taken part in recent Hodgemoor events will have noticed that there have been the welcome addition of rosettes! These have been kindly donated by Hodgemoor member Sue Aston who runs Aston Rosettes. They have recently also started an engraving service "Photo Magic", and the brochure with an order form is enclosed with the newsletter. Sue has offered £1 to Hodgemoor for every order received, so please think of all those presents you need to give!! And please think of Aston Rosettes if you have friends organising any horsey events.

## Rug Cleaning/Repair Service

Hodgemoor member Anna Stublely has maintained her 2005 prices: Cleaning £11 for a stable rug, and £13 for Turnout; £20 for cleaning and proofing. Repairs on quotation. Anna will collect. Please call: 01895 833805, 07802 440546 email [anna.stublely@btopenworld.com](mailto:anna.stublely@btopenworld.com)

## Aescwood Riding School

When out riding in Hodgemoor, I've been asked quite a few times by walkers where their children can learn to ride. So it's great to be able to

say there's somewhere right on the doorstep at Aescwood in Rawlings Lane. Audrey gives lessons for kids from 4 to 12. There are rides out in Hodgemoor and an indoor and outdoor school. She also does "Own Your Own Pony" days in the holidays and children's parties. The school is British Horse Society approved.

Call Audrey Holbrook 01494 875048

## Phone numbers for your mobile

You might like to put these Bucks County Council numbers in for while you're out riding, just in case like I have been on more than one occasion finding your way home blocked by (a) a large settee (b) an upright piano (c) a large window frame with glass intact. The numbers are:

Highways: 0845 2302882

(out of hours: 01296 486630)

Fly-tipping: 0845 3301856

## Summer Solstice Ride 21 June

The British Horse Society is having a Summer Solstice Ride at Kensham Farm, Cadmore End, near High Wycombe. It takes about an hour and a half and is round fields (no jumps and no roads). Start times between 5 and 8 pm. £15 for BHS members, £20 for non-members. Summer Solstice surprise for all who take part!

Contact Susie Bicknell for an entry form.

## Future Events

**14 April:** Good Friday Fun Jump 10-12. There are no doubt quite a few of you planning to take part in the West Wycombe Sponsored ride on Easter Monday. Take this opportunity to come and practice!

**23 April.** Sunday morning. Treasure Hunt In Hodgemoor. Starts and ends at Homefarm Orchard

**21 May.** Sunday, all day. Native Pony Dressage Day at Windmill Farm

**4 June\***. Sunday morning. Cross Country Clinic with Sacha Hamilton

**1 July\***. Saturday. Evening Ride to

Penn with refreshments halfway.

\* NB The 4 June and 1 July dates have changed since the email notice sent a couple of weeks ago

# HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

Enjoy hacking off the roads? Like riding in beautiful woods? Hodgemoor Wood offers you 4 kilometres of trails set in 250 acres of ancient woodland. If you want to help preserve this great facility and improve riding in the area, then please join or rejoin the association.

**The Past:** The trails may seem pretty good now, but in 2000 Forest Enterprise threatened to close the wood to riders because of the damage they caused making many trails virtually impassable. The Association raised nearly £60 000 from grants and its own activities, resurfaced 1 1/2 kilometres of the worst sections and created a new trail.

**The Future:** Inside Hodgemoor: There is still plenty to be done. The trails must be maintained. We cannot risk the wood being closed to horse riders in the future.

Outside Hodgemoor: We need new bridleways in the area to get off the roads. We need you support to Lobby for better access.

## Membership gives you:

Support and Lobbying for improvement to riding trails in the area

Information and Maps on permissive trails and bridleways

Regular newsletter, "Hodgemoor Rider", and email messages

Use of Cross Country course

Sponsored rides, demonstrations, XC Fun Jumps, TREC and other events

Access to Thames Valley Horse Watch information

For details contact Susie Bicknell 01494 872447 email [Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk)

## Membership Application Form

Name:

Phone Number:

Address:

E-mail address: (write neatly please! And let us know any changes as can keep costs down using email)

Post Code:

If at livery, please give name of stables: thanks!

Membership fee is £10 p.a. per person, £20 for family membership, £5 for junior members under 16 by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and £5 for walkers and non-riders. A Hodgemoor Rider tabard costs £10. We would very much appreciate it if you would fill out the **DIRECT DEBIT** form on the other side. Or if you prefer, send us a cheque at the address below, making it payable to "Hodgemoor Riding Association".

Are you interested in:  
XC or SJ Training,

Sponsored Rides,  
Dressage and/or Showjumping demos,

TREC,  
Endurance,

XC Fun Jumps,  
Suggestions?

Do you want Hodgemoor Wood map, Pocket Map routes to Penn?

Susie Bicknell  
Homefarm Orchard,  
Threehouseholds,

Tel 01494 872447  
email: [Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk)





**Please mail this form back to us at Homefarm Orchard, address below.**