

HODGEMOOR RIDER

Repairs Done even though Hoggin runs out

The repairs to bridleways and permissive trails were done at the end of August. 220 metres in total were done on permissive trails at the Association's cost (£4136). 130 metres of this was taken up with "The Glade", which is now 2 metres wide and graded so that water will flow off the surface downhill. Other muddy patches were repaired on the Bracken Ride and Yellow Brick Road.

John Clark, our local Bucks CC Rights of Way officer, allocated us just over £2000 for repairs to the Bridleways. In the end only £1500 worth was done because our hoggin ran out! You will remember that last year we were given a large amount of hoggin by the Chalfont St Giles Bowling Club. To help reduce our costs from £16 to £8 a square metre, no rubble or Geotex underlayers were used this time, only an extra-thick 300 mm thick layer of hoggin. The huge pile of hoggin just disappeared, and therefore further repairs to the Bridleways will have to wait till next time. John Clark says he will remember we have some credit!

Success of Native Pony Dressage Day

It may have poured and poured with rain (no sign of global warming that day), but nonetheless 30 or so entrants turned up on May 21st for the first ever Native Pony Dressage Day organised by Georgina Blair at



October 2006

Dressage and Cross Country Training

Another successful event run by Georgina Blair was the combined dressage and cross country event on September 7th. Competitors had a choice of the Walk/Trot test and Prelim 7, and then accumulated their scores after doing the cross country course.



Georgina Wright on her Welsh Cob Bob does dressage in Western style. She was HC but helped prove that this event was to encourage everyone to try dressage.

The winner was new member Sophie Godwin. She was also the first to clear the new 3ft 3" Breadloaf built lovingly by Marcus the previous week.



Next to clear the Breadloaf were Simon Thornton and Susie Bicknell

Some entrants had to drop out at the last minute, but we shall definitely do this event again too! Many thanks to our dressage judge Charlotte Brightman and her writer Emma Taylor (see below)



AGM on Tuesday 17 October

Hope lots of you will come to this. We won't make too long or too boring.

Heather Black and Tim Taylor have resigned from the Committee and at the AGM, you'll have a chance to meet our new committee members: Richard Hill, the new Treasurer, Jane Braithwaite and Deborah Davies. Agenda below.

Shoeless Farrier KC Lapierre to give talk for Hodgemoor

"It's not the hunting that harms them, it's the hammer, hammer, hammer on the hard high road". That's what Jorrocks in the early 19th century. Come and see what renowned American KC Lapierre has to say about equine podiatry during his tour of the UK. Thursday November 9th,

7.30 to 10 pm in the Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles. Proceeds to the Association. There will be a raffle with prizes including a book and DVD on KC La Pierre. Tickets in advance £5, £10 on the night. Send cheque made out to Hodgemoor Riding Association to Susie Bicknell at the address below. We hope lots of you will come. We are all concerned with the well-being of our mounts' feet, so it's good to find out about new approaches to the subject.

Guides and Scouts give us a hand

A few months ago, our chairman was giving blood and happened to start chatting to Sarah ?, A Chalfont St Giles girl guide leader. And just this last Sunday, 24 September, the plan finally came to fruition: about 40 girl guides and scouts (and a few supportive parents) came armed with secateurs and saws and enthusiastically confronted a couple of overgrown sections on the Hodgemoor trails. Heather Francis from the Forestry Commission also gave a talk on aspects of Hodgemoor, including its history, deer population and wood management.

No doubt you will now notice how that big holly at the end of Bracken Ride no longer attacks you as you ride underneath, and at the other end of Bracken Ride, more light can now reach that corner to help it dry out. The whole expedition was a great success, and they would like to come on a regular basis as it is apparently difficult for the guides and scouts to find suitable projects that help the local community. We are, of course delighted, and very grateful to them.

Success of XC Course Rentals

This summer, members seem to have realised that the XC course is a useful facility to be taken advantage of. In the last 3 months, we have taken about £150: that's about another 10 metres of surfaced trails! So carry on renting. There are 2 parallel courses of 20 jumps each @1 ft 6 and 2ft 6/3ft 3. Come for as long as you like. Bring your instructor! £5 for members and £10 for non-members.

New Forestry Commission Ranger for Hodgemoor

Heather Francis is the new recreation manager for Hodgemoor, and can be contacted on

Turn-out rugs for sale, only 1 winter old. 6Ft Loveston half necks with shoulder gussets, recently washed and mended. One £15 (200 grms) and the other £18 (400 grams)

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