

HODGEMOOR RIDER

Merry Christmas, Health and Happiness for 2007 to You and Your Horses and Ponies!

2006 has been a fine year for the Association...

Further repairs have been done to brideways and permissive trails in and around Hodgemoor. Many events have been held 2 Treasure Hunts, 3 Cross Country Fun Jumps, a TREC morning, a ride to Penn and the successful new events organised by Georgina Blair; the Native Pony Dressage Day and the Combined Dressage/Cross Country. These events keep the money coming in, so that we still have nearly £3000, despite having spent over £4000 on surface improvements.

At the AGM, it was agreed that these funds would be directed towards upgrading certain existing footpaths to bridleways. This would help riders to avoid using Twitchells Lane and Narcot Lane when accessing Hodgemoor from the south. We will also try to make progress on an extensive brand new bridleway loop to the north of Hodgemoor ("The Amersham Triangle") that has been pencilled in on our maps since 2001.

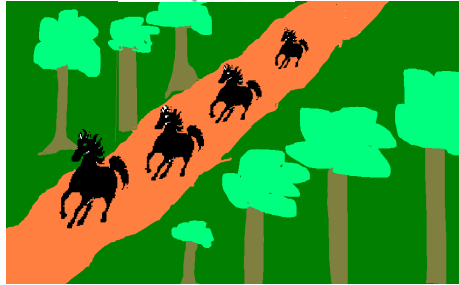
Membership is up on last year which is encouraging, and that, combined with lots more events planned for 2007 and other ideas for fund-raising (see "Neways" below), should mean the bank account will grow. Just keep on supporting us!

Bucks CC Gets British Horse Society Award

Viv Lynch, the BHS Bucks County Access officer, nominated Bucks CC for the County Council that most improved access in the country. And Bucks won, mostly for their work in the north of the county. For the third time since 2000, they have given the Association a grant, for which we are very grateful. John Clark, our local Rights of Way Officer, is working closely with us in trying to achieve more bridleways. Susie Bicknell recently went to a Bucks CC Rights of Way Liaison Meeting. It was useful to meet the faces behind all the names on emails and letterheads, and to realise what a lot of user groups compete for Bucks CC's limited access improvement resources.

Thanks to Helpers!

All these events require organising and running. So we'd like to offer many, many thanks to everyone that helped. Georgina's Native Pony Dressage Day was



certainly testing weather wise: Judith Broadley stood for hours on end in the rain ushering competitors into the ring, Adam plodded to and fro with score sheets, Charlotte Matthews was our valiant adder-up, Jane Braithwaite and Janet Blair got just as wet as all of us helping also. Helpers at other events included Fiona Minchell, thrown in at the deep end (raining again) to judge TREC obstacles, Charlotte Brightman, Emma Taylor and Yvonne Edwards at the Dressage/XC (that, however, was the most beautiful, sunny evening!).

And particular thanks must go to Georgina Blair who not only came up with the ideas in the first place but also organised the Treasure Hunts, the Native Pony Dressage Day, and the Combined Dressage/XC. Much fun was had and the Association's funds have greatly benefitted from her inspiration!



Events organiser Georgina Blair with Charlotte Matthews and Yvonne Edwards at the Combined Dressage/XC evening.

Help fund-raise - Buy from Neways!

Hodgemoor member Lesley Cornthwaite has kindly volunteered to raise funds using multi-level marketing company Neways. This is a long-established global company that makes a wide range

of products free from ingredients that many experts believe are carcinogenic and contaminants (ingredients such as Tallow, aluminium, formaldehyde, Fluoride, Lanolin). Their products include skin and hair care, cosmetics, nutrition, and home cleaning. They are in a concentrated form so may seem expensive, but a little goes a long way. Lesley has recently started using their products and is very pleased. Hodgemoor is now registered as an independent

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distributor (at a modest £15 cost) and any purchases you, your friends and family make using the Hodgemoor number will benefit the Association: 7% for any purchase over £40 and 10% for a purchase over £100 in any month.

Contact Lesley Lesley@minstrel-889.freereserve.co.uk or 01494 874205 for a product and price list and to place orders. Hope some of you might get some Xmas presents!

KC Lapierre gives talk for Hodgemoor

Those of you on email have already got a review by Marcus and Susie on this talk held on November 9th. To resume, KC exposed his "Suspension theory of Hoof Dynamics" which included elements of physics, biology, engineering and liquid dynamics. Clearly putting a rigid shoe onto a hoof designed to flex and spring (see KC's hands below!) is not the ideal solution and can lead to negative repercussions throughout the horse's whole body. KC did not advocate that we all rip off our shoes: it really is "horses for courses". Each case varies and it takes time to adapt. Please have a look at his websites:



www.equinepodiatry.com and www.theperfecthoof.com

He is often over from Florida giving talks and equine podiatry courses in the UK and has been asked to take part in Royal Veterinary College seminars. The Association is very grateful to KC as we raised over £400 thru ticket sales. And although most of the audience had come from outside the area (including Wales and Somerset!) three Hodgemoor members, Amy Hickey, Sarah Kane and Joy Martin won the raffle prizes of DVDs and books on his technique which KC had donated.

Successful Photo Session!

Jane Braithwaite was so pleased with the photo of her with Duncan she got thru Pete Glowski's special Hodgemoor Xmas offer that it's in the newsletter! Pete also kindly offered one of these as a raffle prize at this year's AGM. The offer still stands at £30 for a framed 10x8 canvas print. 10% goes to Hodgemoor! Email: pete@southbankphoto.co.uk



Owners of Coloured Horses: Watch Out!

Coloured horses have surged in popularity in both Europe and the States in recent years. This means they are a prime target for thieves, particularly to the USA where a good quality heavy cob-type coloured mount can sell for £60 000. Dealers are sending them in batches of around 100, mixing stolen horses in with bona fide ones. 75 coloured horses near Harrow vanished overnight, when the dealer thought he was to be checked. In fact horse thefts generally have risen: 23 horses so far this year in the Thames Valley area, more than 2004 and 2005 combined.

Additions to XC Course

With the increasing use of the course, we hope to have 2 new obstacles soon: a ditch and maybe a step. We will also make an arrowhead style jump (narrow and nasty!). These seem to appear more and more in Hunter Trials, and often cause problems. There are currently 2 parallel courses of 20 jumps each: @1 ft 6 and 2ft 6 to 3ft 3ins. £5 for members and £10 for non-members to use it, however long the session. Contact Susie to hire.

New Years Day Ride.

We shall head for Penn as usual. Hopefully there will be a 9 mile 3 to 4 hour ride, and a shorter 6mile, 2 to 3 hour one, depending on the demand. Please call or email Susie before Dec 13th if interested. £10 to take part.

Use Hodgemoor to communicate

Sharon Longman recently used our email round-robin to find a pony for her son. As a direct result, she found "an adorable rescue pony from the Bucks Pony Academy". So don't forget to use this free facility.

Chiltern and Thames Rider Mention

There were two unsolicited nice mentions of the Association in the last Chiltern & Thames Rider magazine; one in an article on bridleways and nice places to ride in Bucks. The other was in a feature on the new owner/managers of Widmer Farm Livery Yard, Francesca Jones and James Burfitt. We wish them the best in their new venture.

Riders & Walkers; corner etiquette

Lastly, while we have the keyboard at our finger tips, could you please ask all riders not to cut corners in the wood. The reason is, we spend all this effort and tens of thousands of pounds on paving the permission trails and bridlepaths in Hodgemoor in order to prevent the bog-like areas which develop when horses wander everywhere. It's part of our deal with the Forestry Commission, and implicitly with walkers in the wood, that we make every effort to avoid making muddy areas around the trails. It's tempting to cut the corner at the East end of the Bracken Ride for example, despite our having put fallen trees to bar the way, but please don't. We would hate to have to put up coloured tape which would make the woods look like roadworks.