

# HODGEMOOR RIDER

## **We have reached 200 members!**

April 2008 saw the start of obligatory membership of the Association for all horse-riders using the permissive trails in Hodgemoor Woods. We now have 176 subscriptions as against 90 in 2007. As over 20 of these are family subs, this means we now have over 200 members! This is great news, and shows riders are sharing the responsibility for and care of the woods.

## **Benefits to the Association of Standing Orders.**

Dawn Castle from Grove Farm has just registered as our 100<sup>th</sup> standing order member out of the 176 subs! Knowing that at least 100 subs are coming in every April means much less work for us volunteers and we can plan our trail repair programme much more easily. This summer we carried out £7500 worth of repairs on 280 metres of trail. We should be able to do the same again, hopefully more, in 2 years time.

## **Subscriptions**

The 100 of you with standing orders will have received just this newsletter: no action is needed! Other members will have got a renewal form to return with either your cheque or standing order mandate. Just hang onto your membership cards. We will not renew cards each year. Any checks done in situ in the woods will always be done with an up to date membership list so it does not matter if you do not have your card with you. If, however, you have lost your card, let Susie know, and she will replace it. New members will get a card. Please also email if you need new maps.

## **Fund-Raising Events 2009**

These events are very important for the financial health of the Association. Last year, we did not do so well, raising barely £1000 with events. In 2007 we raised over £2000. So in the hopes of doing better in 2009, we are

planning a wide range of events this season to which we hope you will give lots of support! Please keep back page of this newsletter, or online, for a quick reference for coming events.

## **Many Thanks to Livery Yards**

2008 was fantastic for the support the Association got from the livery yards. Nearly every one either volunteered their yard as a venue, or offered to do so. Highclere, Oldefields, Waylands and Windmill Farm all had dressage events that raised money for Hodgemoor, while Widmer Farm held demos and talks. Other yards offered as well, but weather and time stopped us taking up their offers. We really would like to thank them all very much.

The same is happening this year. Dressage events work well and raise a lot of money. We have Dressage to Music in the book so far, but will plan other dressage events as well.

We are having a Livery Yard get together for yard managers and owners on May 8<sup>th</sup> in the evening: invites in the post soon!

## **Riding Code: respect for drivers**

A revised Riding Code is included with this newsletter. We know that drivers can behave badly, but we feel that if we ourselves are courteous, then we are likely to be treated in a similar way. Sitting in queue of cars behind 2 totally unaware riders, I would personally be more likely to hoot next time. Also, it is illegal to ride without a helmet, to use a mobile phone or to drink and ride. A drunken horse rider was imprisoned this year. Just so you know.

## **Cross Country Field**

We are so pleased that the jumps have been used much more recently. Remember that members can rent it for £5 each, if they call Susie in advance. You can organize a group yourself and come. Even bring a picnic, as a group did recently!

**Spring 2009**

# EVENTS 2009

## **Wednesday 15 April: Cross Country Totaliser.**

Half term fun and very informal. There are 2 parallel courses; one is 1ft 6ish, the other between 2ft 3 and 3ft. Each low jump is worth 3 points, higher jumps 5 points. You can switch between courses as you go and get as many points as possible. Pairs an option. £5 for first round, £2 for each extra round.

## **Saturday 18 April 10.am Unaffiliated Le Trec Competition at Homefarm Orchard.**

Beginners and Open Classes. Obstacles and optional orienteering. £10 members, £15 non-members. We haven't done Le TREC for a couple of years. It is a lot of fun. If you don't know much about it, you can download info from our website. The schedule is also on the website. Or contact Tim Taylor: [timrt@btopenworld.com](mailto:timrt@btopenworld.com) or 07973 183975  
Any volunteers to help much appreciated.

## **Saturday 23 May: Cross Country Totaliser See above for details**

### **Dressage to Music at Austens Farm.**

A couple of years ago we had a successful dressage to music event at Austen's Farm. We were nearly all beginners but we all really enjoyed it. This time Sacha Hamilton will give a demo a month before the actual event to give us some advice and inspire us! This is a chance to dress up to suit your music and have lots of fun!

### **Bank Holiday Monday 25 May: Demo by Sacha Hamilton**

### **Sunday 28 June: Dressage to Music event.**

## **Saturday 4 July. BBQ and Mounted Games at Homefarm Orchard.**

Friends and family, both mounted and unmounted, welcome to this.

## **Sunday 23 August: One Day Event at Grove Farm.**

This event is intended to encourage those of us who would perhaps have never dreamt of entering a one day event to have a go! Entrants may choose to do just one, or two or, of course, all 3 of the phases (dressage, cross country and show-jumping).

## **Saturday 12 September: Cross Country Totaliser**

## **Saturday 3 October: Autumn Colours ride in Wendover Woods**

**Check latest news on [www.hodgemoor.org.uk](http://www.hodgemoor.org.uk). For all these events, except Le Trec, please contact [Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:Susie@hodgemoor.org.uk) for entry forms and details.**