

HODGEMOOR RIDER

□□ New bridle way opens on time!

We are pleased to announce that the new bridle way between Threehouseholds and the East End of Hodgemoor Wood is open. The bridle way has been created by Bucks County Council (Rights of Way Officer for this area is Jonathan Clark whose phone number is 01494 475 368) at the instigation of Brenda Wickham of the British Horse Society who lives in St Peter. Forest Enterprise and the Hodgemoor Riding Association have been supporting the project.

□ A gate has been put up at the Threehouseholds end (picture below). The 3 metre wide path was seeded with grass and is now



ready for a good canter up to the entrance to the wood. A gap in the last hedge before the wood was cleared this week thanks to Bucks CC's contractors and Simon Swirling. The new bridle path, called by us the Wickham Way, then stops at the entrance to Hodgemoor Wood. Barriers have been erected where horses and cyclists should not enter, and the correct entrance will be opened in a few months.

In the meantime, the Spring Link is under construction to let users of the bridle path get through Hodgemoor Wood at its East end up to Bottrells Lane 50 metres West of the double bend.

□ The opening of Wickham Way is a triumph of co-operation. If you are aware of the difficulties (legal, environmental, political and others) involved in creating a new bridle way then

Celebrate the opening of the new bridle way, (with light refreshments, or bring your own) next **Thursday 2nd August at 7pm**. We will meet at the new metal swinging gate on the North side of the Threehouseholds road, just the Seer Green side of the Chalfont Park Golf Club entrance. The gate is between Deeside and Lucerne is also marked with a new "public bridle path" sign. RSVP to Susie please

In the event of torrential rain we will complete the opening ceremony and photos in 15 minutes and retire to the White Hart or Homefarm Orchard or both. Don't hesitate to come on horseback if it's nice and if your horse enjoys a quiet party (and a discrete trot up the path). For safety reasons please do not assemble on the road side of the gate.

you will join us in expressing thanks to all concerned, especially Bucks County Council.

The enclosed map shows the complete route of the new bridleway. **As you know, for the time being the bridleway does stop at the wood edge. Please do not be tempted to try and get in the Wood.** Forest Enterprise has put barriers up to stop horse riders entering the Wood and please respect these. Just be patient, because there's a good chance that the rest of the bridleway up the east side of the Wood to Bottrells Lane will be open by the end of the year.

Certain members of the Association have been working very hard to this end by starting to widen the existing footpath in the Wood. There so far have been three working parties that have struggled with prickly hawthorn and holly to clear a big stretch that will allow the summer sun to

dry out a boggy stretch.

Doing this

work will save many hundreds of pounds in contractor's fees.

Bridleway clearing parties

So to continue the good work, we will hold regular clearing parties on the first Friday of every month at 7 pm, starting on Friday 3 August. Come to Marcus and Susie's home, Homefarm Orchard, Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles which is a 10-minute walk from the work site. Leave the White Hart Pub on your right, go over the mini-roundabout, and take the straight drive on the

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