

# HODGEMOOR RIDER

## Sue Edwards dressage demo at Windmill Farm July 31<sup>st</sup> 7 p.m.

Sue Edwards, international event and dressage rider, has offered to give an outdoor dressage demonstration to raise more funds for the Association. Her aim is to show the progression from Novice to Grand Prix level. Sue, with the help of two volunteer riders and their horses, will demonstrate Novice through to Advanced Level. She will then finish on her own top-level horse, Swell, with whom she has twice won the National Combined Training Championship. Sue is best known for her performance at 3 star level eventing, but she is currently aiming for Grand Prix dressage level with Swell. The event will take place outdoors at **Windmill Farm, Bowstridge Lane, Chalfont St Giles**. Come at 6.30 for a pre-show drink, and Sue's demonstration will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Ticket prices favour our paid-up members:

members who buy tickets in advance	£5
members on the night	£6
to non-members	£12

There will be a BBQ and drinks afterwards at a small extra cost. This is going to be a really good evening! Improve your dressage, meet friends, have a couple of drinks and win a raffle prize. With any luck the temperature will be a good bit warmer than the February demonstration. Any bets?

Please get your tickets now from:  
Judith Broadley, 23 Hillfield Square,  
Chalfont St Peter SL9 0DJ  
Tel 01753 883882 mobile 0780 8576152

## The Spring Link is open

You probably remember there was a very dry spell in mid-April. The contractor started on completing the new bridleway through Hodgemoor Wood at that time and in under a week very nearly finished the work. Then it started to rain again, and the ground

only just dried out enough the week before last to start laying the hogging needed to cover the rubble base. The delay has not stopped us using it! Everyone seems really pleased with the new circuits it has created. The new drainage has certainly been tested in the last 6 weeks and seems to be bearing up well.



## Repairs to existing riding trails

With the bridleway nearly completed, tenders are out to contractors for the bulk of the repairs to existing trails in the wood. Work should start during the summer and priority will be given to the trail leading from the entrance near Waylands over the stream and on towards the Widmer entrance ("The Dell").

## We need your subs!

Where are you all? Not all of last year's members have renewed so far. We still need your support. OK, we have been lucky enough to get a large grant, but we owe it to our generous supporters, particularly Brett, to continue to raise funds ourselves and show ourselves to be a strong association. In a year your association has been able to get approval for a new bridleway, to raise the funds and to finish the first phase of work. But the work on the Spring Link made it clear that a Geotex layer (a plastic fibre material) needs to be put under the rubble to stop it just being trodden back down into the mud. This will raise costs, as will a new government tax on aggregates. We will only have enough to do the basic minimum of repairs. Hence the Sue Edwards demo and the need for your subs.

For new members and those that have renewed, there is a map enclosed with this newsletter showing the routes over to Penn and Amersham. See below.

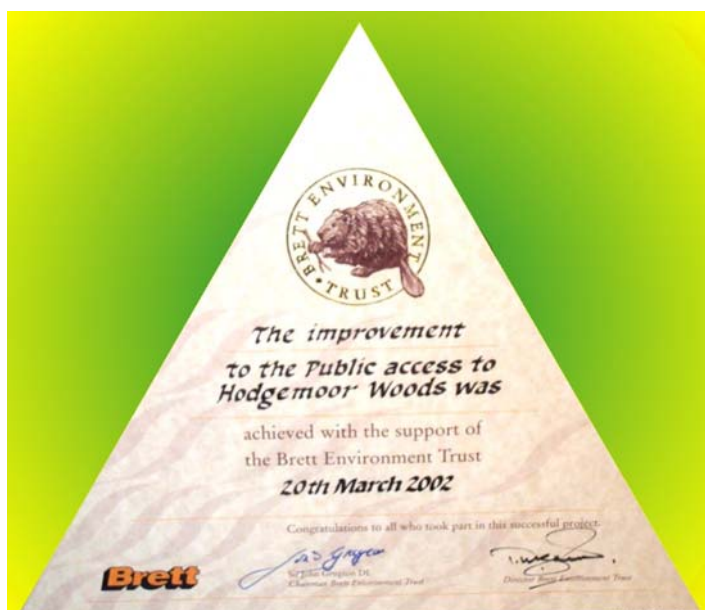
Please send subs (£10 for adults, £5 for under 16 on 1 April 02, £20 family) to Susie Bicknell, Homefarm Orchard, Threehouseholds, Chalfont St. Giles, HP8 4LP.

## Summer 2002

## Sad end to June 8<sup>th</sup> Penn ride

The day started so well: 10 riders made it as far as Britain's oldest pub, the Royal Standard, the other side of Penn. Two horses had by then lost shoes, and were boxed home, thanks to Laurie and Jo Read. Then, so close to home, Irene Payne's lovely mare Heikie spooked at the burnt out car that had been on that corner in Rawlings Lane for so long. She jarred her foreleg so severely on the road that several bones were broken and very tragically she had to be put down. I know everyone reading this will want to extend all their sympathy to Irene as a result of what the vets called an unbelievable "freak accident". Irene and Heikie had been on all our sponsored rides and enjoyed them so much. It's very sad.

Having been there since before Christmas, the burnt car was removed shortly after this tragedy, when many of us had been reporting it for months. It's a pity it takes an incident like this to move the Council into action.



## Sharer for Deli

Does anybody know of anyone who would be interested in sharing Deli? She is 21 years old, 14.1 hh and would suit somebody of maximum 9½ stone wishing to ride 2 or 3 times a week for light hacking and schooling. Stabled in Seer Green close to Hodgemoor Woods and the new bridlepath.

Please ring Jean on 01494 814513.

## Map of Riding Routes to Penn

For new members and those who have renewed for 2002, there is a map enclosed with this newsletter. This shows the routes we have explored on our sponsored rides so far, and hopefully you should be able to find the way on your own. The cross-country route is left after Great Beard's Wood and onto the road at Penbury Farm.

## Equine Limosines

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However, be warned that Witheridge Wood is particularly sticky, and notorious for losing shoes. You can get to the Penn area by Marrods Bottom road and avoid that wood. The round trip is about 12 miles. There's another ride planned for 10 November: a long way ahead but this seems the best date as the competitive season slows down.

## Joni Bentley Workshop

Joni Bentley is having a workshop at the Berkshire College of Agriculture on July 14<sup>th</sup>. She is also instructing on the Alexander technique at her home. Call 01494 794219 for more info. If you missed the February demo, and want to find out about her technique, visit her website:

[www.bentleyequestrian.co.uk](http://www.bentleyequestrian.co.uk)

## Brett Award

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Sir John Grugeon, Chairman, and Peter Hodge, Administrator, of the Brett Environment Trust gave the Association this handsome plaque to commemorate their generous grant to us. The ceremony took place at the offices of the Groundwork Trust and awards were also made to other projects that Brett is supporting in South Bucks.

## Dates for the Diary

**Wednesday 31 July:** Sue Edwards Dressage Demo.

**Thursday 3 October:** Annual General Meeting 8pm Reading Room Chalfont St Giles

**Sunday, 10 November:** Sponsored Ride to Penn. 9.45am at Waylands Equestrian Centre.