

HODGEMOOR RIDER

What A Swell Party That Was! July 31st Dressage Demo

Sue Edwards ended her dressage demonstration on her magnificent black stallion Swell with a tremendous show that held her audience enthralled. The evening had looked as if it might have been a washout: an enormous black cloud released its full contents just as 7 o'clock struck, and we were struggling to set up the BBQ and raffle stall. But it did not last for long, and in the end around 60 to 70 people turned up (some of whom we snapped with Sue after the show, below).



With the help of Fiona Rocques and Lindsay Coleridge Smith who had very kindly and bravely volunteered themselves and their horses, Sue was able to show the development from Novice up to her own Grand Prix level. We all then tucked into the BBQ, wine and beer and went home inspired!

Thanks to Sue we raised £400 and gained 10 new members for the Association. We would like to thank to Sue, our committee member Judith Broadley for organising the event, and to Elaine Coleridge Smith for allowing it to take place at Windmill Farm. We are already hoping for an encore. The flowery picture below shows (L to R) Lindsay, Sue, Fiona and Elaine.



Progress On Trail Repairs

No doubt most of you are now aware that the bridgeway up from Threehouseholds through the fields and through the eastern edge of Hodgemoor Wood is finally completed. The contractor initially laid a final hoggin layer with a very high clay content that was not satisfactory but now the path has a good gravel finish.

A new contractor has now completed a 260-metre length that was in terrible condition leading from near Widmer stables in Rawlings Lane into the Wood. We are very pleased with the result, and this contractor should be starting on the next 300-metre stretch ("The Dell" on your map) very soon. The 2-metre width of the recently completed stretch - rather than the 1.5 metre width of the bridgeway - definitely seems worth the extra cost, making it easier to pass, and giving the path a longer life. The bulk of the repair work should be completed before Christmas.

Annual General Meeting Thursday 3rd October, 8 p.m.

Please try and make it to this meeting. There are a lot of new members this year, and it would be great to meet you, get your input and have some new volunteers for the various posts and the committee. We especially need someone to organise trail-clearing parties and will be proposing that we add this as a post on the committee. There will be a raffle, drinks and food and an auction for a Julip model horse stable, complete with 3 ponies, rugs, tack, and riders (ideal Xmas present for young pony-crazy girls). The AGM will be in the Reading Room in St. Giles. The agenda is on the next page.

Clearing Parties

We do need some clearing parties. The stretch that has just been done needs its sides cleared to get more light on it, and "The Dell" needs clearing before work can start. DO COME. 6 o'clock meeting point where "The Dell" and "Yellow Brick Road" meet at the corner entrance on Rawlings Lane on these Fridays: 27 September, 4 October and 11 October. Bring secateurs (as large as possible) and gloves.

Autumn Ride To Penn

There will be another ride to Penn on Sunday 10th November. Meet at Waylands Equestrian Centre, at 9.45am. Call Susie Bicknell 01494 872447, or mobile on the morning 07876 581144. £5 minimum contribution.

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 p.m. on Thursday 3rd October 2002 in the Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles

AGENDA

1. Financial report and Approval of Accounts
2. Progress Report
 - fund-raising activities, communications,
 - creation of new bridle path,
 - improvements and repairs to existing trails
3. Future Plans
 - further improvements to existing trails,
 - need for volunteer members to help clear the edges of the trails
 - links for riders to neighbouring riding areas,
 - suggestions from membership
4. Election of Officers and Committee
 - including proposal that a new post, Trail Clearing Co-ordinator, be created

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Current Committee:

Chairman: Marcus Bicknell

Treasurer: Robin Richards

Secretary Susie Bicknell

Committee: Heather Black, Judith Broadley, Audrey Holbrook, Terry Holbrook

All these posts are open to new candidates and election by this AGM

New Committee:

Chairman:..... Proposed by:.....Seconded by:.....

Treasurer:..... Proposed by:.....Seconded by.....

Secretary:..... Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Trail Clearing
Co-ordinator..... Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Member Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Member..... Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Member..... Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Member..... Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

5. Any other business