

MID COTSWOLD TRACKS AND TRAILS GROUP - NEWS NOVEMBER 2010

Hello everyone,

Pat here

I have a zillion things to tell you but limited time due to work and a grand life so here are a few brief headlines and I will send more details soon.

Firstly let me tell you who's on the **New Committee.**

Lois Eyre (Chair)
Katrina Thacker (Treasurer)
Pat Harris (Information Officer)
Steve Radcliffe (Website)
Kate Gibbons (Meeting Secretary)
Sue Ellis (Membership Secretary)

and, avoiding the short straws, but no less vital,
Jo Chapman
Sue Davis



Our new Chair wishes to extend her thanks, both to the retiring committee members, and to the new committee for stepping up to keep bridleway issues moving forward on your behalf.

Lois is a BHS Access officer for Gloucestershire, with a really good working knowledge of bridleway issues, and is currently working on Cotswolds on Horseback (to be published by BHS next year). The picture shows Lois at BHS headquarters with Heather Clatworthy, looking at the BHS Emagin system of riding routes - which we will soon be part of ! If anyone wants to test-ride a route please contact Lois on 01242 870375.

The keen eyed among you will have noticed that we have no traditional secretary, but have split the duties between us. I will be the first point of contact at info@midcotswoldtrails.org.uk or 01453 823841

Bridleway Improvements

Some of you may remember that BHS and GCC funded a hacking experience day for the county's Rights of Way Officers, and this was a great success. The officers are now interested in the rider's point of view, and are keen to tell you of some of their recent tasks associated with horse riders. I will be getting some photos and notes on some of these and will pass them on as and when I can.

Steve is also keen to feature some of these on our website, which has had a "make-over", so they will start appearing here soon.

Among the items the Group has on its task list has been our concern about slippery roads. Group member, Caroline Barnes, has got the ball rolling on this, and we are at present in consultation with Highways and hope to explain all this to you soon. Please don't send me or them any specific instances just yet - we will be contacting riders when we know the best way to produce the information.

How You Can Help

The committee has decided that, as our general overheads are very low, we think we have enough funds to pay for essentials at the moment. Following on from this, there will be no need to anyone to pay to join or rejoin before the AGM in October 2011, and we will table the issue of membership fees at that AGM for you all to have a say on. All we ask is that you confirm that you would like to be a member by sending me an email to that effect. **WE NEED YOU TO JOIN/REJOIN** as this will allow us to quote our membership in consultations, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT. We are proposing **FREE MEMBERSHIP**, so we can keep more people informed of things in their areas, and we intend to circulate requests for any future project funding on a donation/fund-raiser basis, which will be at your individual discretion. As an example, we are looking at improvements to a bridleway which will have 5 latches bought by local riders, 2 bridleway gates provided by GCC, clearance work and a bit of new fencing done by Cotswold Wardens and local riders.

PLEASE PASS THIS BY EMAIL OR PRINT TO ALL YOUR HORSEY FRIENDS

Stand by your stables for the next update

Pat