



# MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

Helping to improve our tracks and trails ... from this generation to the next

## THIS TIME IT'S YOUR TURN

1. PHOTO COMPETITION
2. AGM INPUT
3. RIDE BUDDIES
4. VOLUNTEER TRAINING

### 1. GET SNAPPING !!

#### FOLLOWING THE COTSWOLDS ON HORSEBACK LAUNCH.....

We are running a **photo competition** for pictures of anything to do with Bridleways and Tracks & Trails (not footpaths) in our area.

Subjects can be views, horses/cyclists/walkers on the tracks, artistic shots, scenic spots, historic or interesting items on or close to the tracks, whacky shots, collages, or ANYTHING to do with the pleasure of the Tracks & Trails network.

MCTTG would like to feature these pictures on our web, and also to be able to offer them to newspapers or the BHS etc. to publicise the huge variety of people and places, and great times to be had, on our Cotswold trails.

Any entry must be offered on the understanding that the group can utilise the picture freely (with acknowledgement of the submitting entrant). All entries must be original, and free from any copyright or restricted usage.

Please e-mail your SUPER SHOTS to Steve our Webmaster [stever@fairadsl.co.uk](mailto:stever@fairadsl.co.uk) before the middle of September, and say where each one was taken, and who you are if it's not obvious from your e-mail address. We'll post each picture on the website, and forward any taken on a Cotswold on Horseback Ride to the BHS Emagin website.

In September, we'll ask the Group's members to vote for their favourite picture, points will be given and, ... "what do points mean ? ..."

Assuming you all get snapping, (we really wanna see those photos, folks ...) we hope to run a slide show during supper at the AGM on October 19<sup>th</sup>. I'm looking forward to it already !



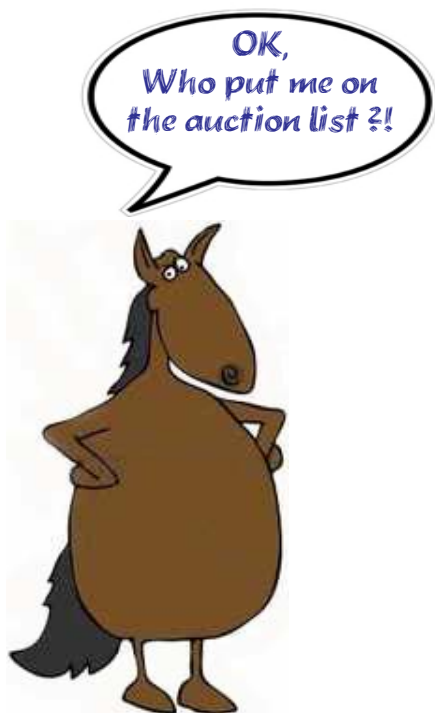
## 2. AGM SUGGESTIONS

We are thinking of having a proper “get together” for the AGM.

We are wondering about :

- \* conducting the AGM business from 7.30 to approx 8.15 (members only to vote).
- \* then a supper for half an hour, (where partners, friends and non-members would be welcome), and possibly with the photo slide show,
- \* continuing on into something else from about 8.45 to 10.00.

Because we are hoping we can keep free membership next year (if the members think this is a good idea), we are looking to keep the costs of the AGM down if we can.



- 1 One suggestion is for an **AMERICAN SUPPER** (everyone brings something to the table and we all share), followed by a **FUNDRAISING AUCTION**. This would mean the only expense would be the hall (suggestions please), but it would only work if we have a good number of people and items to sell - Steve has already indicated he might “put up” some beer! Any offers - items or pledges, (sensible or fun). Friends and family very welcome to make it a proper fun night out.
- 2 A second idea is to have a **SPEAKER** - but not one who charges too much as this would come out of funds. Any thoughts ?
- 3 A third idea is to book a space in a pub and people could order food and just have a **GET TOGETHER AND NATTER**. - this is a safer option if not too many people want to come.

**your thoughts, please**

Please email me or phone and tell me:

- a) If you intend to come
- b) What kind of AGM you would like

We need to have an idea of possible numbers and we have to make the final decision by late August to get the official notification out in time.

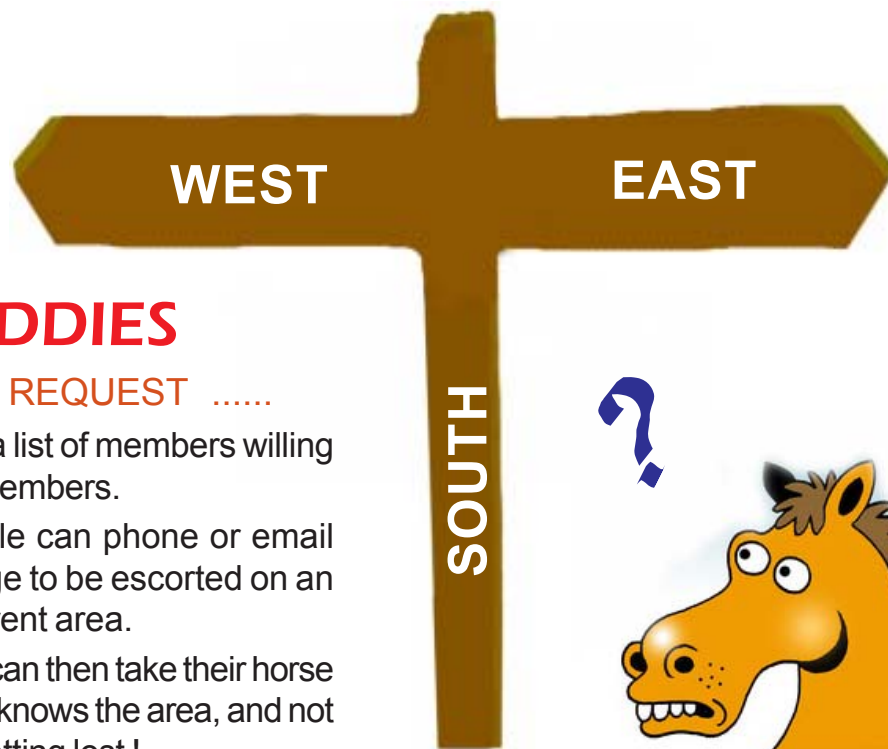
Pat : [midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com](mailto:midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com)

01453 823841 ..... or ....



... **TALK TO US ON FACEBOOK**.....

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Cotswold-Tracks-Trails-Group/163988567007928?ref=ts>



### 3. RIDE BUDDIES

#### FOLLOWING A REQUEST .....

We are looking to run a list of members willing to ride out with other members.

The idea is that people can phone or email each other and arrange to be escorted on an informal ride in a different area.

Anyone with transport can then take their horse out with someone who knows the area, and not have to worry about getting lost !

We need to emphasise that this would be informal, and MCTTG would not be involved, other than running a contact page on the web.

Again, Steve will be running this page. [stever@fairadsl.co.uk](mailto:stever@fairadsl.co.uk)

### 4. WORK GROUPS & TRAINING

#### FOLLOWING AN ENQUIRY ABOUT CLEARANCE AND LATCHES etc .....

Our BHS Affiliation allows us to form work parties for bridleway clearance but only permits the use of hand tools, and not any power tools. We have spoken to the Rights of Way Department about the use of brushcutters and strimmers etc., and they have a scheme which would allow this, provided that the members using the brushcutters or strimmers have the appropriate certificates. They already work with several groups in Gloucestershire doing this type of thing for conservation areas and footpaths, and are keen to expand this to working with Trails users.

We, as a Group, would nominate people to go on a brushcutting course at college to get a certificate, and PROW have indicated that they would pay for (probably) two people to do this. I believe the course is approx £100 per person, and the brushcutters would also be supplied by PROW for the actual work day, so we need people who are serious about taking this on, and probably people from different areas would be sensible for maximum benefit.

It is envisaged that this would be occasional work, rather than regular days, and less in the winter, but all this is up for discussion.

As well as the brushcutting, in order to make up a work party at the same time, or to be able to do other general work, such as Waymarking, Replacing Latches, Rehanging Gates etc.all volunteers would need to fill in a GCC Volunteer form, and all work done would require that we use GCC Risk Assessment and notification systems etc.

We also have to nominate a co-ordinator to liaise with GCC on all our work parties - it would be great if someone feels they could do this for the group.

Contact Pat to discuss this or to be put on the list of volunteers.

## MEMBERSHIP THIS IS STILL FREE

WE NEED YOUR  
BACKING WHEN WE  
ARE TALKING TO THE  
PEOPLE WHO MAKE  
DECISIONS ON OUR  
TRACKS & TRAILS.

For letters to MPs,  
Councils, DEFRA,  
Sustrans and all the  
other decision-making  
bodies we need the weight  
of your numbers behind us.

**Access to cycle tracks ?**  
**Grant funding rules ?**  
**Obstructions on routes ?**  
**Forestry access ?**  
**Upgrading of tracks ?**  
**New cattle grids ?**

These are some of the  
issues we have been  
busy with over the last  
few weeks.

*Give A New Meaning To*

# HORSE POWER



## MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(one form per person, more forms available at  
[www.midcotswoldtrails.org.uk](http://www.midcotswoldtrails.org.uk) )

NAME

.....

ADDRESS

.....

.....

PHONE

.....

email

.....

Areas I ride / walk / cycle / trail ride / carriage drive

I am interested in helping by:

- BEING ON THE COMMITTEE       MONITORING A BRIDLEWAY  
 FUNDRAISING

OTHER - please say if you can offer help or knowledge in any other way

- NONE OF THE ABOVE, I only want to be a general member, please  
keep me informed of your events and I'll help or join in where I can.

.....

**BHS**  
AFFILIATED  
-----  
SUPPORTING  
**RIDE UK**

~~A year's membership is **FREE until OCT 2011**~~

~~**£10 per person**, 18 years and over. **£5** Under 18~~

~~Please **make cheques payable to MID COTSWOLD**~~  
~~**TRACKS AND TRAILS GROUP** and post to: SUE ELLIS~~  
(Membership Secretary) Willow Bank Cottage, 3 Far  
Westrip, Stroud, Glos GL6 6HD

MCTTG 3. 01.03.11

## OBSTRUCTION .....

A member reported a tape being left across an unsealed road even when cattle were not being moved. We wanted to check the legal position with Glos Highways before anyone approached the landowner, but once the legal dept. had established that two sections of the 1980 Highways Act were being infringed, the Highways officer was keen to visit and have the rope and tape removed before any user of the route had an accident.  
Many thanks to Glos Highways for such prompt action.



# TAIL END

“There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse.”  
R.S Surtees 1803 - 1864

WHIP FOUND IN PENN WOODS  
Contact Pat

a) How wide is the British Standard for a bridleway gate (between posts) ?  
see below

b) How many people ride in Britain in a 12 month period ?  
see below for BHS research result

c) Of the 188,700 kilometers of Public Rights of Way in England - what percentage carry rights for horse riders ? and ...  
see below

d) ..... does Gloucestershire have more or less than average ?

You know you're a horse person when you cluck at your car going up a hill

WHERE DO YOU TAKE A SICK HORSE ?



Hospital

When riding a horse we leave our troubles on the ground.  
Juli Carlson

“To ride or not to ride ? That is a stupid question”

Riding is not a sport - it's a passion

midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com  
www.midcotswoldtrails.org.uk  
info officer: Pat Harris  
01453 823841

Answers :  
a) 5 foot  
b) 4.3 million  
c) 22%  
d) Gloucestershire 19.5%