



MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

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

MEMBERS



Tribute to Rebecca Brenneke

by Sue Bryant

We have sad news of Rebecca Brenneke who died suddenly on Feb 3rd. She had been in hospital for a few weeks due to problems related to her diabetes. Many of you will know Rebecca from Stroud Farm Services where she worked for several years in the office. You may have met Indy, her lurcher, who used to have his basket in the tack shop area. Rebecca was a keen dressage rider and also a great supporter of Evesham Lurcher Rescue. She is greatly missed.

William & Strider - RIDE ROUND ENGLAND



Having found the wonderful Strider, William continues his preparations for his epic 2,500 mile journey around England.

Catch up with his blogs, tweets, facebook or web by searching for William Reddaway or RIDE ROUND ENGLAND

from William ..

"Hello all,

The Ride is a real game of keeping a lot of plates spinning! The "Me and Strider Working Together" plate is spinning quite well. As the weeks go by we do more, including right round the middle of Cheltenham via Montpellier on a Sunday morning. The "Getting the route checked and finding accommodation" plate is spinning but a bit

slowly and needs a twirl. The "Getting Charity Donations" plate has slowed down but is planned for a boost in the autumn. Then the "Sponsor Ride Costs" plate needs a lot of chasing up with approaches to organisations that might help. Dragon Veterinary Centre have just given me a First Aid Kit which was good of them and the Cheltenham Ladies College are giving me free use of their swimming pool and fitness centre which is great. The "PR and getting the word out" plate always needs more twirling but we are due to be at the Cheltenham Show on 14 July - if it stops raining.

Strider is now tweeting his view of life @riderdengland. Mostly he is being rude about me! So, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS, and there is lots more to do!

See you at the Trec weekend or on the Gatcombe Fun Ride!"

* FUNDRAISING *

* VISITS * TALKS *

Rodborough Gates:

In the last newsletter we appealed for the riders' share of the money needed to replace a latch on one gate, and the whole gate and latch on another (£157.50). You will remember that Rodborough Parish Council had pledged the other half to buy the gate and latches, and the Highways had agreed to project manage and fund the installation.

MCTTG members donated £64 in direct cash donations.

During this time, April and Leni were having a clear-out of horsey items and we sold £15 worth locally towards the gates, plus Pat had £35 in hand, (£30 raised by the sale of small glass items locally and a £5 donation from a MCTTG member, given towards any project.)

This totalled £114. The Committee needed to raise £43.50 more for the gates.



Done:
The new 5 foot gate

Table Top Sale - GHR:

In April Gloucestershire Horse Riders offered us the chance of a free table-top at their sale at Maisemore. Sue and Pat loaded up the items given by April and Leni plus some odd items (not equine related) that had been given to us to sell, and we made £102.50. We also met some nice new people. This money allowed us to send the cheque to RPC for Rodborough Gates.

Group Funds In General:

For the last year and a half, the Committee decided to run the group with no membership fees. This was because it was proving time-consuming and not overly fruitful, chasing well meaning but time-strapped members. There was also a feeling that certain riders might feel they were funding things which had no relation to their own particular areas, and we wanted to try to get a more direct involvement for people.

Our expenses are currently very low, no committee member receives any monies. At the moment all photocopies, prints, travelling costs etc. are given by the committee members themselves. The Group pays for web hosting and the domain name, but Steve edits the web for us at no cost. We pay for BHS affiliation, which includes our insurance, and we are members of The Trails Trust. The total for our base outgoings this year has only been £137.

A little while ago the Committee decided to try and keep £250 in the bank as our "safe" level. This would hopefully allow for a year's running without worrying, and would be available for inspection by any grant-funding organisation or any possible future partnering groups - to show that we could remain solvent for at least a year.

We have previously raised direct funds for a latch at Randwick Woods (£60), and part-payment for latches at Coaley (£70), so when we didn't raise the Rodborough money instantly, it made us think that a little money in hand for such things in the future would be beneficial. We have since tried a few small fundraisers, which give everyone attending something for their money.

**The next Table-Top Sale is at Whitminster Village Hall
and is run by Gloucestershire Horse Riders**

August 22nd at 7.30 pm.

We need items to sell and people to come and buy things !

If you have some items to donate to MCTTG to try to sell, please contact Pat at midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com or phone 01453 823841

Here are photos from our first 2 fundraisers

Carriage Driving:

In May Stephanie held a Carriage Driving Demonstration for us. On arrival we were treated to some yummy food while we chatted, and then we tried to get to grips - literally ! - with the English Coaching method. This evening made £110 for MCTTG funds - many thanks to Steph for giving us her time and hospitality. If anyone is interested in learning more on this I have put some details on our facebook site.



Barbara learns you need to be nimble, and where the safety holds are.



Claire trying to keep the bit horizontal while shortening the reins - very tricky !



Jane and Leslie - making a fine fist of it ??



Roger demonstrates the finer points of eating while modelling harness - Steph shows us the quick release points.

Trick Training Demonstration

The weather was kind to us again ... after pouring down the day before.

Mel gave us a really interesting insight into Trick Training, and we all had time to quiz her about many details over a drink and a cake afterwards.

This evening raised £178 after expenses for MCTTG. Great stuff.



No bridle !



Only 5 years old. This youngster reared, bowed, said yes and no, long-reined without a bridle and dribbled a ball round the arena. What a sweetheart.



Both ponies reared but I mis-timed my click.



Retrieving a rope for Mum.

OUR NEXT IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING ... are

AN INTRODUCTION TO PARELLI

Please print the next page as a poster and pin it somewhere riders will see it.

and a **Shiatsu and Reiki demonstration** details available soon

We are also hoping to have a few speakers during the winter months to raise a little more money and as an excuse for a get together and natter.

If you have any ideas for more fun fund-raising please let us know... the more funds we raise, the more we can get done.

MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP - BRIDLEWAYS FUNDRAISER

YOU ARE INVITED TO

AN INTRODUCTION TO PARELLI

by members of the Severnside Savvy Team
(licensed Parelli Professionals)

Saturday 15th September 2012

THE RDA ARENA, CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

Starting at 2.00 p.m.

**There will be tea/coffee, cake and biscuits
and a chance to chat to the Parelli Team after the demonstration**

Tickets: £10 for MCTTG members

£15 for non-members

(MCTTG membership is free, so join when you book and get the reduced price)

Profits will go to MCTTG for bridleway improvements

To secure your place reply to Pat

midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com or 01453 823841



BHS Access Week Ride:

Lois is ex-MCTTG Chair, and current BHS Glos Access Officer. To highlight BHS Access week, she organised a ride for MCTTG members, which was designed to be escorted or by map reading. I think there was a fun-ride in the area on the same day, but our ride was designed to be less hectic - with more time to enjoy the beautiful Cotswolds.

Lois chose the latest ride to be uploaded onto the Cotswolds On Horseback series featured on BHS Emagin site, which she herself researched and prepared.



Ride Buddies:

If you like the idea of guided rides, we are also running a Ride-Buddies scheme on our web site which allows riders to contact each other for guided rides in each-other's areas. Could you guide someone in your area - or would you like to try riding somewhere new ?

Contact me on midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com and I will pass your details to Steve to go on to our web.

Pleasure Ride in Gatcombe Park – Sunday 30th Sept.

Not to be missed!!!

BHS Gloucestershire will be holding a Pleasure Ride of approximately 10 miles at Gatcombe Park/Aston Farm on Sunday 30th September. This is a rare opportunity to ride in the Park and we have kindly been allowed to do this by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and Captain Mark Phillips, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee programme of events.

There will be special rosettes for all riders.

Open to non-BHS members, but places will be strictly limited.

If you would like an entry form please send an SAE to Pleasure Ride Secretary, 97 Boakes Drive, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3QW,

Do you want to know more about how our bridleway network evolved and how to help keep and improve it?

BHS South West will be running a Level 1 Access & Rights of Way training day on Saturday 8th September, 9.30 to 4.30, at Shrewton Methodist Hall, Shrewton, Wilts.

The day is open to all, and will be free of charge for any member of the BHS, any Affiliated Bridleways Group (such as Mid Cotswold Tracks & Trails) and any British Riding Club.

Included in the day will be :

- * Basic knowledge/simple concepts of the Highways Act and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act
- * How to work 'on the ground' with bridleways and byways
- * Working with local authorities
- * Getting involved with improvement plans

To apply for a place, send in a booking form + £10.00 refundable deposit, booking forms available from Julie Garbutt: e-mail: j.garbutt@bhs.org.uk or telephone 01749 880152

BHS Gloucestershire TREC News

Thankyou to MCT&TG members who responded to our plea for escort and loan horse to enable our Technical Delegate, Jill Perry, to check-ride the POR routes. Jill stopped over on her way home after a sponsored ride from Sandringham to Dinefawr Castle; and while her Welsh section D mare Gem had a couple of days off in the field, we took up the offer of member Martyn Court. Here's Martyn (left) on his usual Endurance mount, with Jill on his Belgian warmblood, setting off after meeting at Chedworth Airfield.



The TREC competition is on 1st & 2nd September, our venue this year is Woodlands Farm, Chedworth. There are classes for Individuals and Pairs, at Levels 1, 2 and 3. The POR (long map-reading ride) routes are scenic; the Level 1 route uses bridleways and lanes, and requires only basic map reading skills, so is particularly suitable for anyone new to TREC. This will be the first time BHS Glos has included Level 3 classes, and the POR route – which, like the Level 2 route includes some permissive stretches – is shorter than usual, includes a grid references section but no bearings, and is aimed at riders who have been competing at Level 2 and would like to try an easy introduction to Level 3.

Optional extras include a guided PTV course walk, Saturday evening BBQ and quiz, and over-nighting at the venue. Entries close mid August.



Please could you help us ?

We still need a couple of strong helpers for the setting-up on Friday afternoon, two stewards and two gate marshals (one with own hi-viz, please!) for Saturday afternoon, and some obstacle judges for the PTV (obstacle course) on Sunday morning – you'll be given full details of what to do. We'll provide you with refreshments, although we're sorry, we can't afford to pay travelling expenses.

Proceeds from this competition will be used to support BHS Gloucestershire's Access, Safety, Training and Welfare work, and we'll be giving a donation to the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service to support their Large Animal Rescue training.

For details on entering or helping please e-mail: lois_eyre@hotmail.com