



## MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

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



### 80 years young

MCTTG member Diana celebrated her 80th birthday last autumn ... and at that time was still riding weekly from Barton End !

What an inspiration ...

if that's not a reason to convince others of the benefits of Tracks and Trails as a health resource I don't know what is.

#### MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP FUNDRAISER

*YOU ARE INVITED TO A TALK ON*  
**THE BAREFOOT HORSE**

by Melanie Fauske

Melanie is a barefoot trimmer - see [barehoofperformance.co.uk](http://barehoofperformance.co.uk)

**Thursday 14th February 2013 - Nympsfield Village Hall**

**doors open 7.30 p.m. - talk starts at 8.00 p.m.**

**There will be tea/coffee, cake and biscuits  
with a chance to chat to Melanie after the talk**

**Tickets: £6**

Profits will go towards MCTTG general funds for bridleway improvements  
Contact Pat for tickets:

[midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com](mailto:midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com) or 01453 823841

# Good Times:

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO PARELLI

What a great time we had in September when Sharon, Jackie, Nicki, Jean and their horses donated their time to give us a Parelli taster. Jackie had only had Merlin just over 2 weeks. Volunteer photographers, 3 Amigos, took up the challenge of photographing moving horses in a huge school with the major problems of areas of backlighting from the big open doors, and areas of shadow in the corners ... and did an excellent job.



Jackie and Merlin



Jean and Toffee



Sharon and Socks

We rented the RDA arena in Cheltenham, and were pleased to support such a worthwhile charity. Our thanks to Mo for all her help.

Also thanks to Pat's neighbour, Sue, who helped to make the direction signs, and who came and manned the coffee urn.

After all our expenses we made £282.59 for MCTTG



MCTTG member Liz rode her horse to the event from Gloucester which must have surprised a few Saturday afternoon drivers !

# AGM with a Talk on Endurance Riding

The existing committee was re-elected at the AGM and the Chair's report can be seen on the web site at:

[midcotswoldtrails.org.uk](http://midcotswoldtrails.org.uk)

The AGM was brightened by a talk from MCTTG member Margaret about her years as a top Endurance rider. Margaret is a member of Offas Dyke Endurance GB Group. I am showing 2 photos of Margaret here, but not the one of her falling off just yards from the finish line !



Margaret competed in rides up to 160k, and was 2002 British Champion.

Those present who were enthused by the talk and keen to find out more on Endurance riding were invited to join in a Beginner's Day by another MCTTG member, Margaret Barry. She is Chair of Endurance GB's Cotswold Group.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the subject, go to the Endurance GB web site and look for either group. Rides start at around 10 miles, and you can build up your skills and stamina with help from these groups ..... and you get to ride in stunning scenery around the country.



**MORE TALKS** We have a few more speakers on board to raise a little more money and as an excuse for a get together and natter. Firstly thanks to Mel and Pat J for organising our February talk on THE BAREFOOT HORSE for us, and also to Gwen who has nearly got everything together for the March talk ... it is going to be a bit special with limited tickets so watch this space. I should have got another one together which is "On A Wagon Train Across Wyoming", but I am having trouble finding an available venue suitable for a slide show in the Cirencester area on a Weds, Thurs or Saturday ... help please!

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.

**Membership: is now at 124**

ask for an e-form for your friends, and also click LIKE on

[www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Cotswold-Tracks-Trails-Group/163988567007928](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Cotswold-Tracks-Trails-Group/163988567007928)

## Some projects ...

**SI 045** We identified the landowner of a tricky gate at Westonbirt, and chatted to him and to The Rights of Way Department. The track is Restricted Byway at that point, so requires a 10ft gate and posts etc. which MCTTG have donated towards. PROW are sending contractors, when weather permits, to do the work. It is hoped that this will be part of the LONG DISTANCE TRAIL that BHS are working on, which will run North/South across the county, and we think it will form part of the John O Groats to Lands End route.

**SI 047** We were previously approached by riders asking for assistance with some gates on a bridleway at Coaley. We took photos and identified the landowner. I was supposed to go with PROW and the landowner to look at options, but I was not well so they went together. PROW have suggested one gate only needs a rider latch, and one needs a new latch and to have the gate brought forward down the hill so it hangs lower. There is sometimes a middle gate, and everyone is looking at the possibility of replacing this with a new one which would be donated by a local rider as a memorial. Once the weather improves I hope to go out with PROW to have another chat.

*The Way to Get Something Done is  
to DO IT*

## ON THE WEB

### What Can Be Done :



**Can We Do It ?  
Too Right We Can !**

Some members who have joined more recently may not be aware of the range of things that can be achieved ..... please look on the [midcotswoldtrails.org.uk](http://midcotswoldtrails.org.uk) web site and go to the WHAT CAN BE DONE page for examples of tracks, gates, bridges, road-side paths etc. that have been done in various places by the joint efforts of county officers, landowners, parish councils and multi-user groups.

NEXT:

**Get inspired and work with us to improve something in your own area.** *(Just keep in mind that dashing into a project without checking out the guidance rules, insurance and culpability issues is not a good idea, which is why MCTTG works specifically in the way we do, and why we suggest you work with us).*

The Ramblers and the Canal Regeneration enthusiasts seem to be years ahead of riders in getting together to work on their pet "hobby horses" (ha!). Who would have thought that the Saul-to-Lechlade canal project would have had any possibility of taking off as it has ? ... and all driven in the first instance by volunteers. It's true that their supporters generally have the advantage of having more free time than anyone who owns a horse does, but we only need to do a little bit of work in our own parishes to make a massive overall improvement.

The county can't do everything at once, and are facing further cuts, but we can join forces with them and others to advertise the benefits of multi-user tracks and to get improvements done.