



MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

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

Hello All,

Apologies for a long silence, but I have been struck down with the lurgy on and off since January, and worse for the last 10 weeks, and have had all the energy of a sloth but regrettably without the "aahhh" factor !

Go Getters to be in awe of MBEs for Bridleway work

YAAAAY! Huge congratulations to Rachel on her MBE. What an inspiration to everyone to get on and have a go !

"Rachel Mary Thompson (MBE), of Wells, project and development officer at The Trails Trust, for services to bridleway creation."

and ...

Catriona Cook, a volunteer for the British Horse Society Access and Rights of Way department since the 1980s and Regional Access and Bridleways Officer for Yorkshire since 1995, is being awarded an MBE for her work to increase off-road riding for equestrians in the UK.

also

William has now done over 500 miles of his **RIDE ROUND ENGLAND**, despite encountering blocked paths and dodgy gates etc. Here he is leaving Gloucester Cathedral in May. He is now well and truly "up north".

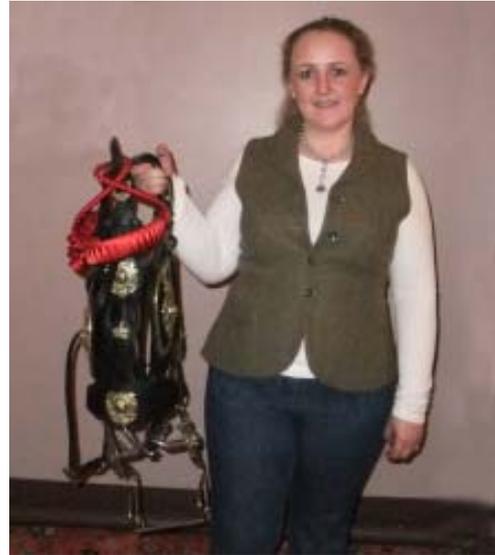


Follow him on facebook via the RRE website and text RIDE13£5 to 70070 to make a £5 donation to the 2 children's charities he is riding for.



Fundraising

Our Last Organised Talk was on THE ROYAL MEWS. What a great evening that was. Karen really brought the trials and exhilaration of the job to life, and by the end of the evening I think we all felt we'd been down the Mall with her ! The evening raised £189.50 towards the general kitty for bridleway improvements. Big thanks to Karen and her sister Gwen who organised it for us. We all had a great time !



Future Organised Talks -

We are just trying to organise a BIG get-together, probably in September, to look at bridleway issues and discuss how we can work together with other agencies on specific future projects. We will want everyone to come and get their bridleway problems logged so we can get a good overall view of the extent of the paths that have safety issues, and plead our case to Gloucestershire County Council and anyone else who will listen ! Details soon.

We have several other ideas but desperately need a bit of help to get these together - if you think you could assist with just one of these, or if you have any ideas on something you could do, please contact me.

Ideas include;

A talk on
"Across Wyoming on a
Cattle Train"

Yee Ha!



A car-and-walk treasure
hunt, to practise Ordnance
Survey map reading ready
for you you all to get out
there in our fabulous
Cotswolds without getting
lost.

* Half a dozen other ideas .



Some projects ...

SI 045 The gate at Westonbirt has been done. It is set well back off the road now, so the horses are much safer when using it. MCTTG donated the gate from fund-raising, and the Rights of Way Department provided the contractors. We thank the landowner for allowing the gate to be moved back into the field. We have also been allowed to put a plaque up to promote MCTTG.



SI 047 The three gates at Coaley have also been done. The first field gate was provided by the landowner, the gate from that spot has been re-fitted with new hinges and latches etc. and re-hung on a new post in the second field, and the third bridleway gate was bought by a local rider as a tribute to her Mum. Again, the Rights of Way department provided the contractors. In the end MCTTG were only required to liaise and assist, we contacted the PROW team and wrote to the landowner offering assistance, and liaised on behalf of a local rider, but no monies were used from our fund. This gives us a chance to tackle the next problem !



Here are the before and after of the first and third gates. The first one had a chain round it that you had to fiddle through a ring, and it was difficult to open. The third gate was way up in the air, and had a clicker latch on one side, and wire and wood dangling at the bottom. See ... now ... nice new gate with integral sheep wire and rider latch and more room to manoeuvre.

The Way to Get Something Done is to DO IT

HI VIZ

We recently put up a photo on our facebook page, taken from an excellent fb page called HORSES AND ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS. It has a dark horse and rider in the shadows under the trees, and is taken in bright sunlight. It is virtually impossible to see them. This post was seen by 947 people. There has been more debate on Gloucestershire Horse Riders (nearly 6000 riders on here) and Stroud and District Horse Riders and Lovers pages on the same subject. Gillets are often not considered "cool", but it appears that HI VIZ running tops can be bought very reasonably, and I have a great hi viz fleece for cooler days. Let's all try and give the drivers a fighting chance! (pictured gillet available via Joanne Knapman)



TRY LE TREC

Glos BHS is holding a Le Trec event on July 13th and 14th at Elkstone (east of the A417 Birdlip /Ciren road). It has 3 phases, the long map-reading ride or POR (for which both horse and rider must wear some hi-viz) the Control of Paces (CoP) and the obstacle course (PTV), where obstacles are designed to simulate scary things which might be met whilst riding, and could include a gate, low branches, a ford or a bridge etc. More photos on the post we put up on our facebook site.

Schedules are available from the BHS website or you can link from our website midcotswoldtrails.org.uk
Please contact them if you are interested.



The organisers are also asking for a few more helpers on the morning of 13th July ... with free picnic lunch !

Membership: is now at 138 : facebook likes are now at 128 and our maximum number of people looking at one item is 947. The facebook page is very immediate, and allows for feedback and discussion. To join in, get a page on facebook and then search for our page, if you want updates click LIKE. You don't have to have lots of friends on facebook just us !

www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Cotswold-Tracks-Trails-Group/163988567007928

Some more items and projects ...

There are several more things I want to tell you about or discuss, but I want to get this bit of news out now and get will a few more bits and pieces together soon.

Hopefully I will be able to give you proper details on the BIG BRIDLEWAY EVENING in a week or so (fingers crossed).

Pat

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