



# Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association

Newsletter

Spring 2017

*Dates for your diary: Cheshire Show 20/21 June Nantwich Show: 26 July*

## **BHS Ride Out Month**

The BHS have designated the whole of May as Ride out UK Month to celebrate the joys of riding out but promoting all the work done by the BHS and affiliated access groups to protect and create safe off road routes. This is also intended to raise awareness of our bridleway network and the need to claim any unrecorded routes before 2026. Many riders may be using routes which are not recorded and could be lost. Cheshire BHS are organising a talk this month and the details will be posted on our Facebook page as soon as available.

Now the weather has improved at last, why not get out by joining other riders to try a route you haven't ridden before? We are encouraging riders to ride the Aston Ring now that there is a diversion in place around the section with badger holes at Pickering's Cut. Unfortunately this entails another two gates but is safer. There is a leaflet and map on our website. Be prepared to pass some cows, possibly meet boats and be able to open gates or dismount and mount easily. We recommend that this route is not ridden alone as parts of it are quite isolated. If parking at the Leigh Arms please check with the landlady first as the car park gets busy, particularly at weekends. Swing Bridge repairs are underway until July but it is safe to cross at the traffic lights while access is restricted beneath the bridge. If anyone would like to join a ride around this route or any other off road routes one day this month, please contact our enquiries email below or contact Sue Griffiths on 07808 921084 who will try and co-ordinate.

Similarly, if you are happy to escort any riders around a route near you, please get in touch. One of our members Debbie Davies has kindly offered to lead a 6 mile ride along a network of quiet roads and bridleways near Chester next Wednesday, so if anyone is interested, please contact Sue Griffiths for further details.

## **Delamere Loop Brochure**

We are making progress on updating the Delamere Loop brochure which is both out of date and out of print now as the Council have no funds or resources to carry this out. Jane Rigby kindly co-ordinated a photoshoot at Easter on various sections of the route with a photography student and thanks to those riders who took part, all suitably attired in high viz clothing. We have been offered a grant from the Cheshire BHS towards the artwork and are now trying to gain additional funding for re-printing. The maps will also be updated to show the Oakmere Way which opened in 2014 and creates a circular route with part of the Delamere Loop. The Delamere Loop opened in early 2009 and we are re-print below a blog below from some of the first members to ride this:

***Riding the Delamere Loop*** : *'Seven people, six horses and one bike had great weekend riding the newly opened Delamere Loop. Horses and riders set off on Saturday afternoon from Kelsall farm (thanks to the owners who very kindly allowed us to park the horse boxes overnight and opened the*

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Website: [www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk](http://www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk)

Vice Chairman / liaison officer - Tim Hodges 07931 374206

Membership - Jane Rigby - 07769 681246

Facebook & website admin - Ali Dorward 07867 498 690

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gate into Primrose Hill Wood.) With map in pocket and following the signposts we managed to find our way with only one slight detour around Little Budworth.

*The weather was kind and the new bridleways were great. The scenery on route was lovely, leading through the pretty villages of Utkinton, Eton and Little Budworth. We ended the first part of the ride (approx 10 miles) at Akesmere Farm Little Budworth. The horses camped out in the field next to some Jacobs's sheep and 2 Alpacas. It was very amusing watching the horses trying to suss out the alpacas. (What! Sheep with long necks!!). Diane and Ray Hall made us very comfortable and sent us off the next day with a very good breakfast. The second half of the ride led on to the Whitegate Way, leading onto a new bridle path heading for Delamere through the forest towards old pale, following onto Kelsall, finally finishing in Primrose Hill wood to be met by Phil from Kelsall Farm to let us back in.*

*The group fully enjoyed the ride although we ended up soaking wet as it rained for the last hour. The first half of the ride took 2 hours 45 minutes. The second half took 3 hours 15 minutes. We did most of the ride in walk as we had one person on a bike'. Viv, Rosie, Stella and friends*

### **Membership Subscriptions**

Reminders have been sent out to those who didn't attend the AGM but so far we only have about 25 members who have re-joined for 2017. As this is our main source of income please do renew your membership and send to Jane Rigby, our membership secretary. Forms are available on our website. Please encourage any friends to join too.

### **Social Events**

Well done to our team of Kath, Lin, Andy, Ali and Angela who came second in the Interbridleways quiz at the end of March at the Blue Cap..

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