



Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association

Newsletter

April 2018

Dates for your Diary: Cheshire Show 19/20 June Nantwich Show 25 July

AGM and Talk

Edward Matson from the Twemlows Stud gave a fascinating and informative illustrated talk on '**Pioneering developments in horse breeding**' at our AGM on 1 February. The stud specialises in breeding competition offspring for dressage, show jumping and eventing and deals with 500+ mares a year. A new stallion and collection centre has been opened and 3 full time vets are employed. The stud also has some rare breed stallions. Techniques of embryo transfer and assisted reproductive techniques were explained as well as future trends. The stud is having an open day this Saturday 21 April with a stallion parade featuring Big Star who stands there.

The turnout at the AGM was low this year compared to previous years and we can only assume that the topic did not appeal to everyone? Certainly the weather was OK and the venue seems to suit most people. As we need to plan well ahead we are seeking member's views on a suitable topic for next year for example vet issues, event riders etc and welcome your suggestions. The constitution has been updated mainly to reflect the BHS accident reporting and Ride Safe assessment and omit work parties which we can't now do because of health and safety restrictions and the changes were unanimously agreed.

Membership

Many members have not yet renewed if they didn't attend the AGM and Jane Rigby our membership secretary will be sending out reminders soon. Please do rejoin and encourage any friends to support us too as this is our main source of income. A form is enclosed with this newsletter and you can now fill in and email to Jane with a BACS payment which is much easier. Due to the new Data Protection law, please make sure you tick the box and opt in otherwise you won't receive any future newsletters or information from us. No details are shared with anyone else. Any members who are thinking of joining the BHS can get a discount of 30% in the first year which is well worth taking advantage of!

Social Events

We held a skittles night at the Bickerton Poacher in February which was good fun with a lovely carvery meal. The social committee is going to arrange a boat trip this year and a visit to the Mounted Police Stables in the autumn. Any other ideas welcomed and please contact Tony Overland.

BHS Ride Out Month Delamere Loop Challenge

Following our re-launch of the Delamere Loop brochure our plan was to encourage as many people as possible to ride the whole route during May – either in one day, two days or in

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Website: 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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Email: enquiries@midcheshirebridleways.co.uk

sections over the month. Several sections can be ridden as part of a circular ride and if anyone wants a brochure that hasn't got one, please get in touch. There are also copies at Barnyard Pet and Equestrian, Anderton and at Kelsall Hill. A PDF can be downloaded from our website too. It is also advisable to use an OS map if you plan to ride (OS Explorer 267 Northwich and Delamere Forest). If you have a recent copy of this, you can download an offline copy via the OS Map phone app which will indicate your location via GPS which is very useful. An OS based map of the whole route can also be found on the BHS website together with instructions (see link): <http://www.bhsaccess.org.uk/ridemaps>

We plan to set up an Event page on Facebook so riders can register their interest and then download, photos, blogs or videos. Rosettes will be awarded to anyone completing the route within the timeframe of a month and the best photos / blogs will be used at our stands at Cheshire and Nantwich Shows. Do come and visit us there. We have been promised our usual place again at the Cheshire next to the Country Pursuits ring, unlike last year where no one could find us! We will also forward any good images to the BHS for consideration in their magazine or newsletters.

Unfortunately, a section of the Delamere Loop at the bottom of Whitegate Way is still closed due to works by United Utilities and there isn't a firm completion date at the moment. We will provide any updated information as soon as we hear on our Facebook page so do keep an eye on that. However, you can still start planning and riding other sections of the route during May.

Do use Ride Out Month to get out and enjoy our bridleways now that the ground is beginning to dry out at last! If you want someone to ride out with or ideas for routes do get in touch. Sadly the Aston Ring cannot be ridden as it is still closed due to the badger problems but the Council's ROW officers are looking to find a permanent solution. As badgers are protected, a licence from Natural England has to be obtained before any works can be carried out and funding may also be an issue.

Have you ridden in the Malpas area?

All riders in the Cuddington, Malpas, Shocklach and Threapwood areas - if you ride or have ridden in the past on the bridleways around Chorlton Lane/Cuddington can you please get in touch with Helen Connolly on 07850322380 or email: nagonthenet@gmail.com? Helen is making an application to have these bridleways recorded on the definitive map. Owing to an administrative error they have been missed off and need to be on the map to protect them for future use. 07850322380 nagonthenet@gmail.com

Future Bridleway Claims

We only have until 2026 to claim any lost routes and there are a couple of potential bridleways that we are aware of. If anyone has time to help out with some historical research can you please get in touch? We are a small committee and are very stretched dealing with all the issues that arise as well as attending meetings and responding to consultations.

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