

Newsletter

Spring 2020

Dates for your Diary: Sandstone Ridge Walk and Ride Festival 10-18 October 2020

As riders we have to cope with all the miserable wet weather in the New Year followed by the dreadful coronavirus. The main thing though is that we all keep safe, take care and we'll really look forward to getting back to normal as soon as we can.

BHS advice on COVID 19

I'm sure many of you will have already seen, but this is the link to advice from the BHS which is constantly being updated: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/coronavirus-covid-19>.

PROW advice on COVID 19

Below are links to advice on using public rights of way from both Cheshire East and Cheshire West Councils, especially as some routes are seeing increased usage, particularly by walkers and cyclists.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-roads/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way.aspx>

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure_culture_and_tourism/public_rights_of_way/covid-19-and-public-rights-of-way.aspx

BHS Advice

If you have more time than usual at the moment, there are some very good leaflets on the BHS website and are worth a look as they are constantly being updated and many are new. The link is shown below: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/free-leaflets-and-advice>

It's also worth taking a look at the Project 26 website as it has some useful information and it's worth registering, checking any routes in your area to see if these may need to be included.

<https://www.bhsaccess.org.uk/dobbin/Project2026.php>

AGM and Talk

This was held on Friday 24 January at the Blue Cap, Sandiway. Our speaker Brian Seddon gave an entertaining talk with some interesting anecdotes from his experience as a trainer and mounted police officer. Brian has a monthly column in Equitrader which you may have seen. Our long standing Chairman, Ray Hall stood down from the committee and was thanked for his years of dedication to bridleway issues. Tony Overland also stood down but has agreed to help pursue the proposal to extend the Oakmere Way. Both Ray and Tony will continue to support and provide any advice to MCBA. Following a plea from Ray for help we welcomed two new members on to the committee to support the four remaining members, Karen Barnett and Sharon Angus – Crawshaw. A couple of other members kindly offered to help by looking at any issues with routes in their areas.

Membership Renewal

For anyone who didn't attend the AGM and would like to continue to support our work, we enclose a membership form. This is our only source of income and helps towards our BHS affiliation fee. Affiliation has several benefits including insurance for events, technical support, advice on access issues and legal advice. If any member is thinking of joining the BHS, they can get 30% off in the first year. We have been without a membership secretary for a while but Ali Dorward has kindly agreed to take this on, but please bear with us if there has been a delay in processing your membership.

Bridleway News

Although many of us are either not riding out, riding less or not even being able to see our horses, some positive news for when we can all ride out and about again. The Aston Ring along Pickering's Cut near the railway viaduct is due to be opened with the worst areas fenced off with some temporary barriers but this has now been delayed due to the COVID 19 situation. We are not sure how this will work in practice but have requested a site meeting with the ROW officer when this is possible. We understand that Bridleway Acton Bridge 10 which links Acton Bridge with Crowton has now been repaired and the culvert which collapsed on Bridleway Dutton 11 has also been repaired now as shown on the photo below.



We received an enquiry a few weeks ago regarding Restricted Byway Byley 7, which runs to the east of King Street south east of Northwich. Apparently the route has been affected by the construction of a ménage and CWAC ROW are looking into but if anyone knows this route, please get in touch.

Sandstone Ridge Walk and Ride Festival 2020

This is being planned from October 10th to 18th in the hope that things will have improved by then and people will welcome some organized events and we are hoping to have a ride again on one of the Saturdays.