



SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COMMITTEE

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BHS Shropshire
Working for every horse & rider



THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

Reg. Charity No. 210504

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2007

Another busy year for those involved with Access, Welfare, Riding & Road Safety, and Training. Their reports are in the newsletter.

During the year we had a talk from Catriona Cooke on her "Journey for Access", it was an interesting evening and made such a project seem possible.

The BHS held another Volunteers Conference which some of the committee were able to attend, it was, as last year, enjoyed by all.

The West Midlands Regional committee held a ball at Rodbaston College in recognition of the BHS Diamond Jubilee Year Celebrations. Jenny Pitman was a very successful speaker and the evening was much enjoyed by all who attended.

Penny Cowdy and Norma Jones are resigning this year, I would like to thank them both for all their time and work whilst representing the areas of Shrewsbury and Wrekin. Penny was also Training Officer and has been on the committee many years plus letting us use Berriewood's facilities on many occasions. Norma has held the post of Secretary for the last few years.

We are therefore looking for new Area Representatives for both Shrewsbury and Wrekin. Also needed are Welfare Officers throughout the county, if anyone is interested please contact me on 01952 6801

We welcome a new President at the BHS, Desi Dillingham is no stranger to most of us and we wish her a successful time in office. Also a thank you to Noel Edmunds for all his hard work over 3 years.

We welcome a new Newsletter Editor this year, Alison also runs the West Midland Website www.bhswm.org.uk.

Finally I want to thank all the committee for all their hard work and support throughout the year.

Diana Russell—Chairman

Details of AGM on page 5

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Bridleway Report 2007 By Angela Williams

The New Highley Alveley Bridge

On 15th December 2006 the new bridge was officially opened. It spans the River Severn and links the Severn Valley Country Park with the Jack Mytton Way which passes through Highley. Parking for horse boxes is available in the Country Park on the Alveley side. The new bridge has a definitive footpath running across it. Horses may be led across and mounting blocks have been provided at either end. The new bridge has been designed with a 120 year life span and cost £1.2 million.

Ride Shropshire.

Ten Ride UK rides are now marked and open to ride. These are based in the Longmynd and Wenlock Edge Area. A free booklet "Ride Shropshire" describing these can be obtained by ringing Shropshire County Council on Tel : 0845 678 9000 Leaflets of these and the Jack Mytton Way can be downloaded from the new website www.shropshireriding.co.uk Permissive routes under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme can be downloaded from <http://cwr.defra.gov.uk>

Lost Ways

The Lost Ways Research Unit "Land Aspects" completed its research for North Shropshire at the end of May 2007. Two hundred and eight cases of lost ways have been identified one

hundred of which have been rated as strong. A selection from the later will be given to the Countryside Access Team for consultation before publishing the orders in the autumn/winter. This will be done under delegated authority. i.e. will not be put before a Rights of Way Committee of County Councillors.

Comment It is most important that Shropshire Rights of Way Staff are given **ALL** the research findings. Further research which is outside the remit of Land Aspects could strengthen these weaker cases.

Land Aspects have not the time to read all available evidence. i.e. Highway Board Minutes, Vestry Minutes, Parish Council, Rural District and County Council Minutes. These records are held in the Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury and anyone wishing to index any of the above for their area please contact Lucy McFarlane. Tel 01743 255058.

Unit 2 Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Atcham is being researched by Land Aspects now. It is to be completed by March 2008. Unit 3 South Shropshire and Bridgnorth will then follow on due



to be completed by 2009.

Draft Countryside Access Forum for Shropshire

This draft document is the culmination of over three years work and you may

Major new rehabilitation centre opens near Wolverhampton

A lifetime in the health care industry has led to an exciting change and major new plans for horse owner Susan Stepp.

A keen show jumper in her younger days, Susan's research led her to believe there was a demand in the area for a rehabilitation centre for horses and so set about establishing The Croft Rehabilitation Centre in Coven. Explains Susan:

"I am very excited about the centre and the plans we have to develop it over the next few months"

"We currently have a Panama Spa hydrotherapy unit but in the near future will develop the centre with plans for a swimming pool, solarium, further stabling and a horse-walker." The hydrotherapy unit helps in the healing of and rapid recovery from many ailments, spanning tendon injuries and soft tissue damage, mud fever, cracked heels and general good health.

Susan also has an Equissage physiotherapy system to help keep the horses that visit the centre relaxed and supple.

"For trainers in the area, competition horse owners or simply leisure riders, I hope that the rehabilitation centre will provide them with the services to help keep their horses and ponies in better health" adds Susan.

"The wellbeing of the horse is paramount to the work we are doing and it is great to see animals come to the centre and gradually get better, whether they have pulled muscles, hoof problems or simply need a bit of TLC."

To find out more about The Croft Equine Rehabilitation Centre contact Susan on 07786 544438



Welfare Report 2007 By Jan Ashford

There were six cases reported in Shropshire this year. Again, most of these were in the Telford area.

An interesting case was brought to my attention by the local police who had received reports of a 'dead' horse in a field. On further inspection, the animal in question was in fact merely having a pleasant snooze in the sun watched closely by its field mates!

A second case was dealt with amicably with the owner of the animal agreeing to implement the advice offered.

Another case proved more difficult and required the input of our exceptional Welfare team at Stoneleigh.

Other cases concerned animals with no apparent water and poor feet.

The annual Welfare training day was again held at the RSPCA, Dorrington, nr. Shrewsbury.

Many thanks to Helen & Jo from the Welfare dept, Stoneleigh for the organisation of the day and the excellent food! Also to Kate Jones, Equine Manager at the RSPCA for providing the horses & ponies without whom the practical side of our training would be so much more difficult.

As ever, **ragwort** proves a major problem and even though it often seems a fruitless task, please continue to notify the authorities of its presence.

The numbers are as follows:
North Shropshire
01630 685575

Shrewsbury & Atcham
01743 253200
Bridgnorth & District
01746 762120
DEFRA (Bristol)
01179 591000

Strangles is another major concern for horse owners this year.

REMEMBER: Strangles is highly contagious and spreads quickly.

CLINICAL SIGNS: Fever, depression, profuse nasal discharge, abscessed lymph nodes of the head and neck.

MANAGEMENT: Isolation of infected animal is recommended. Pay particular attention to hygiene.

Wash hands & change clothes after handling infected animal

Do not share tack or equipment.

INCUBATION: 7-14 days although there may be a gap of up to 3 weeks or more between new cases in an outbreak.

There was 1 Suspected case of untreated strangles which necessitated the input of the ILPH

I have a good working relationship with both the ILPH and the RSPCA and seek their input in certain circumstances.

The BHS produces comprehensive leaflets on all aspects of horse care and management. These are free of charge from Stoneleigh although a contribution towards postage will always be appreciated!

They can also be downloaded at the BHS website www.bhs.org.uk (then click Welfare and Leaflets)

have already contributed to the consultation carried out in 2005. It is a statutory strategic document that will steer the development of the County's access network over the next 10 years.

The draft strategy, which has a 3 month consultation period, is due out in August 2007. The whole strategy will be available to view and download from the County Council website once published. If you would like to contribute to the consultation and receive a summary document and comment form please contact Karen Wilson.

Karen Wilson, Access Development Officer

Shropshire County Council,
Shirehall

Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Tel: 01743 255068

Email:

karen.wilson@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Shropshire Local Access Forum

The Access Forum was started in 2003 as a result of the CROW 2000. The Forum is a statutory body and provides advice to many organisations including the local authority on access issues within Shropshire.

Members of the Forum represent many interests including walkers, horse riders, carriage drivers, motorised users, disabled access, landowning interests, wildlife and conservation interests, tourism and many others. The Forum meets about 4 times a year and members give their time freely though reasonable expenses are paid. Zia Robins is a member representing horse riders while John

Gibson represents carriage drivers.

At the moment there are some vacancies on the Forum and we are carrying out recruitment. If you feel that you would like to contribute to the debate regarding access to the Shropshire countryside please contact Karen Wilson.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

If you want to get more involved in improving access within your area why not volunteer. There are over 60 P3 groups within the County who carry out many improvements to the rights of way network including work on bridleways and byways. Erecting gates and stiles, waymarking, clearance work or just checking on the condition of routes is all part of the work carried out by the P3 groups.

Contact Chris Bagley

Tel 01743 791984

Email:

chris.bagley@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Bridleway Update

Authorisation has been given to investigate the network of routes in the vicinity of Frodesley Lodge/Farm, namely FP7 BR 7R and BW 4. This report will be presented to the Rights of Way Committee on Tuesday 16th October 2007.

The failed bridleway claim at Claverley (subject of two public inquiries) is being investigated by the Countryside Access Team as a public footpath. The report will be presented to a future Committee



The review of the parishes of Barrow, Acton Round, Much Wenlock, Broseley and Buildwas is completed and the orders are confirmed except for the following upgrade of footpaths 169A, 169part, 61part to bridleway Parish of Barrow and a bridleway addition Lingham's Dingle or "Den Lane" Parishes of Barrow and Acton Round. These will go before the Inspectorate either public inquiry, hearing or written representation. Further fresh user evidence would be gratefully received. Please contact the Countryside Access Team. Tel 01743 255058.

Objections have been received to the upgrade of footpath 50 (part) to bridleway in the review of Western Rhyn Parish. This runs from the Upper Craignant Road to the County Road the other side of the Morlas Brook.

Old Moors Lane St Martins received objections as a bridleway. It is perceived as a County Road/Restricted Byway.

BW 8 Withington Parish has now a bridleway outlet to the county road.

At great Ness and Little Ness a new bridleway has been dedicated by Shropshire County Council on Hopton Hill to connect two bridleways.

A bridleway addition has recently been published Darville to the Ditherington Road Shrewsbury. This is a town extension to the Haughmond bridleway.

Diversion of part of BW8 at Marche Farm Parish of Westbury has received objections and has been sent to the Inspectorate for determination.

Telford & Wrekin Area

Julia Bristow has temporarily stood

down for 12 months. For any concerns or issues in this area please contact me Angela Williams.

New Highway Code

This states you should not ride two horses abreast on narrow and busy roads and when riding around bends. It will also exclude horses from all cycle tracks. Please support amendments to these by visiting <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/horseriding/?ref=horseriding>

Lobbying your local MP will illustrate the strength of feeling against such measures.



West Midlands Website

For everyone to keep in touch please send details of events or news, good riding routes, hazards to be avoided etc to Alison Gregory West Midlands Webmaster Email

ali@bhsmidlands.org.uk The West Midlands regional website is www.bhswm.org.uk

Safeguarding & Protecting Children
By Amanda Watson

Child abuse and child protection are issues that are frequently ignored because the whole subject makes us feel extremely uncomfortable. Consequently, this subject is often only considered in the wake of a tragic incident.

Children and young people are the future of the horse industry and any child who is involved should be able to participate in a fun, safe environment, and be protected from harm. There is no doubt that involvement with horses, be it in a sporting or leisure context, can have a very powerful and positive influence on young people. Involvement with horses and equestrian sports provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement

and can also help to develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, teamwork and leadership. These positive effects can only take place, however, if equestrian sport is in the right hands – those of professionals and trained volunteers who have the welfare of young people at heart, and operate within an accepted ethical framework

All BHS Registered Instructors are required to attend training, and the BHS also recommend the course to all those who have regular contact and/or responsibility to children. In order to ensure that you are up to date with the latest information and policies regarding Safeguarding & Protecting children within the equestrian industry, please check your regional or the main BHS website for training dates near you. **For further information in the West Midlands call Amanda Watson on 01926 992642**

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Answers to the Riding and Road Safety Quiz on page 7

1. reflective reflects light; fluorescent is brightly coloured
2. stop sign is octagonal; red background with white wording
3. left hand side of road
4. eight
5. horse's right so you are between him and the traffic
6. Airway, Breathing, Cardiac Compression
7. Circular
8. red, red/amber, green, amber, red
9. on the left, opposite your intended route
10. the right hand - to control your horse's hindquarters if necessary

Training & Riding Schools By Penny Cowdy

There have been a number of Child Protection courses and Teaching Technique days held in the area.

There is a Teaching Technique day at Berriewood on 19th November with Patrick Print.

There have been a number of Equine Specific First Aid Courses held in the area including two during March and one in June at Berriewood Farm

PTT – Preliminary Teaching Test. From January 2007 there have been a number of amendments to this qualification. Syllabi and further information can be obtained from the BHS

Examinations Office.

UK Coaching Certificate. This is an endorsement of coach education courses and qualifications across 31 different sports. People with existing BHS qualifications can 'top up' to gain Endorsement. Details are available from the BHS Examinations office.

The British Horse Society Instructors' Convention is scheduled for 24th and 25th October at Hartpury College with Christoph Hess and Ingrid Klimke.

British Horse Society Examinations continue to be held throughout the country.

Details of training and examinations can be found on the BHS website www.bhs.org.uk or via the Training Department on 01926 707820



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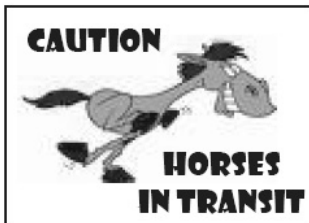
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THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

Reg. Charity No. 210504

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY

Annual General Meeting

**Berriewood Farm, Condover
Near Shrewsbury**

7.30pm

Thursday 25 October 2007

**Guest Speaker
Henry Whitikar
Senior Executive Arow Department**

Officers' reports will be taken as read from this
newsletter

Refreshments



Riding & Road Safety By Sue Lee

As always demand for Riding and Road Safety courses in Shropshire has been high with candidates coming from all over Britain and even from Ireland. In the past 12 months Shropshire R&RS has hosted 9 tests, totalling about 95 candidates with quality and pass rates remaining very good. Though most of the exams have been held at Berriewood, Freshfields Equestrian Centre is fast gaining in popularity and this year we have also revived interest in holding courses and exams at The Wyke and Oakage Equestrian Centres.

At the moment, there are still places available on the October courses at Berriewood – anyone interested should contact me on the numbers shown below.

Remember also that I can arrange one-off courses for Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs or indeed any group with a minimum of 8 possible candidates, using existing exam centres or new facilities if suitable.

We are pleased to find many more young candidates taking the test (12 years and over), particularly as it's now a prerequisite to gaining Pony Club C Test. This makes good sense in many ways – it helps youngsters to be so much more aware of the dangers on today's busy roads as well as providing one of the much needed qualifications for those who go on to take their BHS Stages exams.

Throughout the year we have continued the very beneficial liaison with our neighbouring counties, providing us with the much-needed flexibility in finding scarce examiners, particularly for weekend tests. I've also had interest from two possible new probationary examiners and am hopeful we can get them trained up in the coming months.



Local trainers and examiners continue to attend the statutory BHS update days on a two-yearly basis and I intend to call an informal meeting shortly to review our strengths and weaknesses and ensure continuity.

We are so fortunate in this area to have such a high standard of exam centres, trainers and examiners. My heartfelt thanks go out to them; also to the many helpers at our training and test days and not forgetting the hard working Safety staff at Stoneleigh. Together they make the whole thing possible.

For more information contact Sue Lee (Shropshire County Rep)
Tel: 01743 791621
or 07855 891936
 (please leave a message if no reply)

And for those of you who've not yet taken your Riding and Road Safety Test, can you answer these questions:

1. What is the difference between reflective and fluorescent?
2. What shape and colour is a Stop Sign?
3. If you have to lead a horse, to which side of the road should you keep?
4. What is the maximum number of riders recommended to form a group on the road?



5. When leading a horse on the road which side of the horse should you be on?
6. What is the ABC of Emergency Aid?
7. What shape are signs giving orders?
8. Starting with red on its own, what is the sequence of standard traffic lights?
9. Where should you position your

horse when about to turn right from a major road to a minor road?

10. In which hand should you carry your stick when riding on the road?

This is just a taster - how did you do? Want to test yourself more, then take your Riding and Road Safety test; it could save your life.

Contact Sue on 01743 791621

Answers on page 9



**You can download the
 Be Seen—Be Safe
 poster from the
 BHS website
 www.bhs.org.uk**