

STAFFORDSHIRE BHS



The British Horse Society

Registered Charity No. 210504

SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

What's the BHS doing in your area?

- *Feedback from recent BHS Staffs events*
- *News and info – regional and national*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At time of writing we are busy preparing for our Summer show on July 6 at Marquis Drive, the schedule of which is in this newsletter. This has been a great weekend the last three years and the show, incorporating showing, show jumping and dressage, has had a lovely feel to it enhanced by the number having a go who have had limited previous experience. This I feel is what the BHS needs to be doing more of and I hope in Staffordshire we are actively supporting and encouraging grass roots riders through this show – on behalf of the committee we'd love to see you there in the lovely setting of Cannock Chase.

The committee has many functions and over the last few months our volunteers have been hard at work supporting access, welfare and safety concerns throughout the county. I would encourage you all to come along to our annual meeting in October to hear in more depth what has been happening in your county. This year it is being held at Ingestre Stables. Entry is free and includes an "improve your lungeing" demo which hopefully will further encourage you to come along – details in this newsletter.

I'm pleased to report Staffordshire has seen the biggest increase in membership in the West Midlands Region this year and we now stand at some 1100 BHS members. We really ask you all to let us know what you would like to see us do and any further ways we can support in the county.

In recent months we have had a pleasure ride across Cannock Chase which was well supported and we will have another one in September. We have held some starter dressage evenings which were well received and some trailer driving courses which again were full and well booked up already for the next ones. Looking ahead we have the summer show, a combined training event on 14 September at Watt Meadow Farm and the Annual Meeting in October. We will soon be putting together our programme for next winter and again ask you for your input, e.g. any training you would like us to run.

Throughout the County there have been several BHS Road safety exams held with high pass rates and over the last year we have been able to acquire some new equipment to help support these exams. As always we encourage everyone to be safe on the roads and respect all other road users.

The recent worries regarding horse thefts has seen excellent communication within the county as the latest information has been quickly spread round. It's been great to witness the horse community supporting each other and any concrete information we get we shall pass on as best we can - mainly through the website. You can, as some did, contact me directly as usually have the latest information from people.

Our committee meet monthly and we try our best to put on events that people want as well as consider the ongoing work in safety, access and welfare. It's all hands on deck for the summer show and I can't thank everyone enough for all their continued time commitment and input to supporting horse activity in Staffordshire.

Hopefully we shall see lots of you at the summer show and it would be really good to see you at the annual meeting, don't forget the website for continued updates - details again in this newsletter. In the next newsletter we shall be reporting the summer show and aiming to give you an update on those areas of welfare, access and safety. In the meantime enjoy the summer weather (heavy rain as I write)!

Marcus Clinton, County Chairman

Volunteer Recruitment

Could you offer some assistance at our summer show, or any of our other forthcoming events?

Would you like to gain some experience as a show ring steward or assist the dressage judges writing up the score sheets?

Would you like to make some new like-minded friends in the equestrian world?

If so, why not get in touch. You can either fill in a volunteers enquiry form on-line at <http://www.bhs.org.uk/content/Vol-Form.asp> or get in touch with the Staffs Area Committee directly.

Marcus Clinton (Chairman) (☎) 01785 220330
Email: marcus.clinton@rodbaston.ac.uk

David Wheatley (Secretary/Treasurer) (☎) 01543 502381
Email: dwheatley@imgroup.co.uk

Access & Bridleways Petition – Please sign up

Horse Riders have access to less than 25% of the current public rights of way network, and face danger when using today's busy roads.

To ensure appropriate funding is in place and legislation (Highway Act 1980 S26) to be used by local authorities for new bridleways to be shown on definitive maps and ordnance survey maps.

To ensure the Highway Agency develops a national programme of re-instating severed crossing points by creating new dedicated bridle bridges or underpasses as safe crossing points for motorways or trunk roads.

To ensure Local authorities and parish councils develop local joined up community riding circuits of 5-15 miles to rebuild the national bridle-route network.

Please could you consider signing this petition – and tell others who may also wish to sign.
<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/publicbridleways/>

Staffs BHS Annual Meeting

Monday 6th October, Ingestre Stables, 7.30pm

***FREE* entry!**

Including an "Improving Your Lungeing" Demonstration from Rob Lovatt

Come along and meet the committee, find out what we've been doing throughout the year, and let us know what kind of things you'd like to see us doing in the future.

All members are welcome, as are non-members who think they might want to join but want to find out more.

For more details contact:

Marcus Clinton (Chairman) (☎) 01785 220330

Email: marcus.clinton@rodbaston.ac.uk

Forthcoming Events:

- Saturday 6th September 2008 - Sheriff's Ride – Lichfield
(Contact Doug Smith doug@smith1950.freeserve.co.uk)
- Sunday 14th September 2008 – Combined Training Event –
Watt Meadow (Contact Marcus Clinton at
Marcus.clinton@rodbaston.ac.uk)
- Sunday 28th September 2008 – BHS Staffs Autumn
Pleasure Ride – (Contact Lesley Simmons on 01785
665670 or at simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk)
- Monday 6th October 2008 – BHS Staffs Area Annual
Meeting – Plus "Improve Your Lungeing" Demo – Ingestre -
(Contact Marcus Clinton at Marcus.clinton@rodbaston.ac.uk
)
- Trailer Driving Courses – dates to be confirmed – (Contact
Doug Smith on 07771 915020 or at
doug@smith1950.freeserve.co.uk)