

Forthcoming Events:

- Saturday 3rd July – **Summer Show** – Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase - See Summer Schedule on www.bhswm.org.uk
- **Adult Gymkhana** – in memory of Heather Lucas – Final 18th September - for details contact Amanda Jackson, West Midlands Development Officer or check BHS West Midlands web page.
- BHS Staffs Autumn **Pleasure Ride** Sunday 26th September 2010. Start at Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase (follow signs for the Visitor Centre, then look out for BHS signs). Approx ten miles. Ride Marshalls at regular intervals around the route.

Start times between 10 am and 12 noon
Contact Lesley Simmons on 01785 665670 or at lesley@csla.co.uk

- Monday 4th October 2010 – Ingestre Stables
BHS Staffs Area Annual Meeting – 7.30pm
Plus demo
- **Winter Dressage Evenings** – Rodbaston Campus
Tues 12 October 2010 – Walk/Trot and Prelim
Tues 08 February 2011 – Walk/Trot and Prelim
(Check Rodbaston Campus Equine Show page for details)

Non-members welcome at all BHS Staffs events!
Check for updates on www.bhswm.org.uk
And keep up to date with us on our [FACEBOOK](#) page
– look for Staffordshire BHS

STAFFORDSHIRE BHS



SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

What's the BHS doing in your area?

- **Reports on recent BHS Staffs events**
- **News and info**
- **Bridleways feature**
- **Future Events**

www.bhswm.org.uk
www.facebook.com

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Fancy taking up the reins?

BHS Staffordshire is looking for a volunteer to join us on the committee and help us plan and run our events. In the longer term, we hope the right person would be able to step in to the role of Chairman, building on the excellent work undertaken over the last six years by our previous Chairman, Marcus Clinton.

We would be especially interested in hearing from volunteers having links with, or contacts in, the local equestrian industry.

What can we offer you? Well, you'd be joining a young(ish!), committed, energetic and experienced team of volunteers, who are serious about the work they undertake for the BHS, but have a great sense of humour too. You'd be involved in organising and running a wide range of events throughout the year, and have the satisfaction of knowing you're doing your bit for a great equine charity and for the equestrian community in your local area.

If you're interested in joining us in any capacity, come along to one of our committee meetings and meet the team. Who knows – in the long term, you might find yourself taking on an active role within the committee – and maybe taking up the reins as Chairman!

If you are interested in finding out more about joining the committee, or coming along to one of our meetings, please contact David Wheatley (Committee Secretary) (☎) 01543 502381
Email: dwheatley@imgroup.co.uk or Midlands Development Officer, Andrea Jackman

Your BHS Staffordshire County Committee

<u>Chairman:</u> VACANCY	<u>Access & Bridleways Officer:</u> Brian Smith (☎) 01538 384218 Email: brian@ballfields.force9.co.uk
<u>Vice Chairman:</u> Temporary Vacancy	<u>Access & Bridleways Area Rep:</u> Lesley Simmons (☎) 01785 665670 Email: lesley@csla.co.uk
<u>Secretary/Treasurer:</u> David Wheatley (☎) 01543 502381 Email: dwheatley@imgroup.co.uk	<u>Access & Bridleways Area Rep:</u> Doug Smith (☎) 01543 571287 Email: riwm2@hotmail.com
<u>Welfare Officer:</u> Wendy Webb (☎) 07967 711240 Email: wmwis@hotmail.co.uk	<u>Press Officer</u> Jenny Hodson (☎) 01952 810652 Email: onnyszerhoss@aol.com
<u>Road Safety Officer:</u> Eileen S Foy (☎) 07710 749457 Email: foyeileen@hotmail.com	<u>Facebook Page Co-ordinator</u> Paul Hodson (☎) 01952 810652 Email: onnyszerhoss@aol.com

New committee members always welcome!

If you're not confident about exploring local ride routes with your horse on your own, why not go along to one of our BHS Staffs pleasure rides, or one of those organised by NSBA? The BHS pleasure rides are approximately 10 miles long and can be entered on the day. Each rider receives a rosette for completing the route. The NSBA rides are usually between 10 and 20 miles, and entries need to be made in advance. A ride rosette is awarded at each ride, and the mileage counts towards cumulative mileage awards and annual trophies. Whilst some riders have used these rides as a preliminary before going onto endurance, many people simply ride them for fun. To find out more, go to the NSBA website: www.north-staffordshire-bridleways-association.org

Contacts for Bridleways:

NSBA - Miss Jane Ridley 01782 680323

Freedom Bridleway Association - Mrs C Green 01782 511208

Staffordshire Moorlands Preservation Group - Mrs C Pover

Tame Otter Bridleways Group - Jill Armstrong

Border Bridleways Association www.borderbridleways.org.uk

www.ride-uk.org.uk

BHS Access Week – the Access Fighting Fund

A popular option for those wishing to fundraise for the Access Fighting Fund is the BHS Ride for Access scheme – now into its third year. A fun, sociable way of raising funds for the BHS, and getting together with other riders in your area, Rides for Access give a great opportunity for riders to enjoy current routes and preserve equestrian routes for the future. A Ride for Access pack is available from the BHS which contains everything required to organise and publicise your event.

In addition, the BHS are extending a challenge to those who live life on the edge: a skydive. The BHS Skydive for Access encourages you to do a sponsored skydive to raise money for our equestrian access work. You can book a place either at Langar, Nottinghamshire on 20 August or Hinton, Northamptonshire on 21 August.

BHS Senior Executive, Access Heather Clatworthy said: "If you're looking for a challenge, perhaps really passionate about rights of way, or simply love extreme sports, what better a way to show your dedication than doing something as bold as jumping out of a plane? This is an amazing, adrenaline filled way of raising funds and awareness for the BHS's access work, and a great reason to do something you may have only dreamed of before."

The BHS continues to campaign on behalf of every horse and rider. Details of Access Week and our other campaigns can be found at http://www.bhs.org.uk/Riding/Riding_Off_Road/Fight_for_your_Bridleways.asp

Result from February's Dressage Evening

Congratulations to those brave competitors who didn't let the wintery weather put them off attending our winter dressage evening at Rodbaston on 23rd February.

Results were as follows:

Walk and Trot BD Test B:

1st – Marie MacDonald and Killarney Kerry

2nd – Frances Small and Carys Mai

Joint 3rd – Dee Rogers and Minor Miracle

Sue Insull and Diamond Minstrel

Prelim 4:

1st – Marie MacDonald and Killarney Kerry

2nd – Sue Insull and Diamond Minstrel

3rd – Frances Small and Carys Mai

Competitors were also able to take advantage of the Police tack stamping service after the event.

Spring Pleasure Ride Report

The weather held for this year's April pleasure ride – right up until the last ride stewards attempted the route – when the heavens opened!

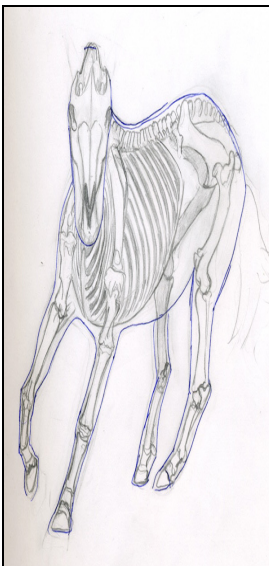
For the majority though, it was a great day riding in some stunning countryside. If you've not come along before, why not come to our autumn ride at the end of September?

Here's a few things riders have said about our previous rides:

"A ten mile hack in lovely countryside – what could be nicer?"

"Wonderful – I'm addicted! When's the next one?!"

If you've taken part in one of our rides, look out for photos on our Facebook page – some will also appear on our BHS West Midlands web page.



*McTimoney-Corley Spinal
Therapist Equine & Canine*

Niki Warren QVN MCAM (OCEPT)

Based in Staffordshire

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Email: niki@equipeutic.co.uk

Website: www.equipeutic.co.uk

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North Staffs Bridleways Association – Rides list for 2010

Friday 18th June: evening 'Longest Day' Social Ride – The Chetwode Arms, Pipe Gate near Woore.

Sunday 11th July: the Bishop Bennett Ride & the Summer Challenge (part 1) – Mile Bank Farm, Whitchurch

Sunday 15th August: Audlem Social Rode & the Summer Challenge (part 2) – venue TBA

Sunday 5th September: Aqualate Social Ride – venue TBA in the Woodseaves area

Sunday 3rd October: the Millenium +10 ride – venue TBA in the Congleton area.

Sunday 14th November: Remembrance Social Ride

Entries to Jude Sockett: Strawberry Cottage, Post Office Lane, Balterley Heath, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 5QD
Tel: 01270 820405

Spotlight on Bridleways

What kind of riding do you do on your horse? Is it mostly work in the manège, or in a covered school? Do you jump, or focus on dressage? If you hack out, where do you tend to ride? Do you explore your local bridleways network, or do you tend to stick to quiet roads?

Many of us may not be very familiar with our local bridleways – or even know how to find out about them. Jane Ridley at the North Staffordshire Bridleways Association (NSBA) would like to change that. She's passionate about riders and their horses getting out and making the most of as many ride routes as possible in their local area. Without riders using the routes, it becomes more and more difficult for the NSBA to lobby local authorities to maintain them. All too often, Jane is finding bridleways downgraded to footpaths, or routes made impossible to use by badly installed gateways, or other hindrances. The many bridleways associations working in the area are doing their best to keep routes open for us, but unless more people use their local bridleways, and keep organisations like the NSBA informed, the danger is that many bridleways may simply disappear. It really is a case of "use it or lose it".

NSBA had been in existence for 20 years, and has between 60 and 70 members across the three counties of Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire. It was started simply because of the poor standard of local bridleways at the time. As well as running a variety of organised rides throughout the area (see page 4 for details) the association works on a number of initiatives to improve bridleways and access for local riders. One of their biggest projects to date is the establishment of the Potteries Bridle Ring Route, which provides a massive ride route around the perimeter of Stoke on Trent (around 60 miles in all!).

So if you're a novice to the whole concept of bridleways, what's Jane's advice? Well, start by getting hold of a Ordnance Survey Explorer map which is large scale (2.5 ins per mile), and also – very importantly – includes field boundaries, so you can see which side of the hedge you should be riding! The Explorer maps will clearly show the bridleways in your area. Next get out and find them – if you're not confident about riding them to begin with, take the dog and go out on foot (bridleways should be indicated with blue arrow markers). Once you're happy you've found a good route, use it! The more riders who use the paths, the more weight organisations like NSBA will have when putting pressure on local authorities to maintain the routes. Lastly, if you come across a bridleway which is inaccessible for some reason, inform the County Council Public Rights of Way department – or an organisation such as NSBA or the BHS.