



HACKS & TRACKS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2014

www.headleyheathridersassociation.co.uk

Well what an amazing summer we have been having! The rain and sun combination is meaning we have ground we can canter on and grass to feed our horses yet seemingly constant t-shirt weather. HHRA has been going from strength to strength with membership

currently at 87. Our Facebook page at the time of writing has 320 likes and so far the numerous events we have held have all been successful!

Our website is being constantly updated so please do keep an eye on it.

DONT FORGET!

Please don't forget if you have any classifieds ads/items for sale they can be added to the HHRA website free for members! Just email headleyheathridersassociation@yahoo.co.uk

Membership forms available from our website if you know anyone who is thinking of joining.

INTRODUCING LUCY JONES:

Hi, My name is Lucy Jones and I am vice chairman. I have enjoyed riding round the Headley area for over 20 years. I moved my first horse, Fleur, to Headley in the early 1990's and joined HHRA way back then, competing in all the local shows they organised! I was keen to keep the good work of the association going and jumped at the chance of joining the newly formed committee late last year.

My current horse is Jimbo (a 16.2 lovely coloured cob - well I think he's lovely!!) and we are stabled in Headley and enjoy hacking round the local area and the odd HHRA organised dressage competition! I have lived locally for many years in Mogador but am shortly moving to Ranmore (with my non horsey husband!) which will still be an easy drive to my stables in Headley! I am very proud of what we have achieved during the short time the new committee has been in existence.

We have a great bunch of committed folks on the committee and lots of enthusiastic and supportive members. I have set a target of 100 members by the end of the year, and we are pretty close, so if you are yet to join, please do consider doing so. I have promised the committee the champagne is on me if we hit the target, and I have it on ice in anticipation!



Lucy and Jimbo

HEADLEY ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING Thursday 15th May

HHRA were pleased to be invited to attend Headley's Annual Village Meeting organised by the Parish Council at Headley Village Hall. We were invited to give a 3 minute overview of our work and achievements and Sue Holbrook kindly stepped up and delivered the talk on our behalf. Thank you

Sue as this must have been quite daunting. The meeting was well attended and the Village Hall was packed. Speakers from Headley Court and the Woodland Trust gave very informative talks on their work and how it affects the community of Headley. Alongside HHRA were updates from the Police, the NT, WI,

the Church, the Computer club, the Gardening club, the Cricket club and many more, followed by an opportunity to meet residents and have further, informal discussions about the work of Community Groups in Headley.

HEADLEY HEATH NATIONAL TRUST VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday 3rd May – Report by Glynis Bunch

Myself, Steve Jones, Becky Longhurst & Susan Holbrook arrived at Brimmer Road car park at 10am where we met members of the London and West Middlesex NT volunteer group and Ranger Will & Stanley the dog.

We went onto the heath by Hope Pond and were advised we were going to clear the surrounding area to create a Vista. Ranger Will gave us a short explanation on the History of Headley Heath. Before work began Will had been checking the area all week for any bird nests or wildlife. We then set to work cutting down small trees and shrubs and Will started to cut down bigger trees. We had a huge bonfire blazing to burn all the wood and shrubs. After a short lunch break we were joined by fellow HHRA member Debbie Haine and we continued with more clearing until I was overcome with exhaustion and went home about 3.30. I believe the others worked on until about 4ish.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day, the weather had been kind to us and I am looking forward to our next volunteer day in September.



The next Volunteer Day is Saturday 13th Sept so please diarise if you would like to help out. The National Trust have said they are happy to take requests for work to be done on this day, so please let us know your ideas if there is anything you feel in particular needs doing!

YOU SAID – WE DID

HHRA have been in discussions with local land owners and Surrey County Council as to whether it may be possible to site a mirror at the dangerous crossing at the Junction of Tot Hill crossing towards the Heath from Tumber.

We have also been in touch with Surrey Police with regards to reinstating the speed sign along

Headley Common Road that HHRA purchased some years back which seems to have been removed.

Thanks to Mike Von Gerard from the HHRA committee who liaised with Surrey County Council to cut back the foliage on the track behind Hustfields that runs to Epsom Downs. The path was becoming unusable but is now lovely and clear!

BARBEQUE

We ended up with 69 people for the Bar-B-Q on Saturday 14th June at Warren Farm Barns – the lovely venue the National Trust provided for us. The caterers did an amazing job and it was more of a gourmet feast! Thanks to all who came and we hope you enjoyed it. Massive thanks to all involved in the organising too, in particular Becky Longhurst, Pam Longhurst, Janice Joseph and Alan Joseph.

HEADLEY HEATH HAPPY HACK Saturday 17th May

We offered guided rides for the day for free around Headley Heath. Committee members gave up their time to tailor rides to suit and take small groups of riders to show off the beautiful riding routes we have on the heath. We had a good uptake on this and I think (hope) all those who came enjoyed themselves.

I know the Woodruffes in particular came quite a long way so I'm sure they were tired by the time they got home

but I hope they felt it was worth it. My Princess Freya and I certainly enjoyed our rides and it was lovely to meet some more of you and your horses and spend a bit of time having a chat and a saunter in beautiful surroundings on what was a lovely sunny day. Thanks to Lucy for taking the morning rides and Becky for making the posters/taking the entries and assisting on the day "Meeting and Greeting" and bringing water for the horses, particularly when she was not well.



WOODLANDS TRUST MEETING

Thursday 17th April

Becky Longhurst attended this meeting on HHRA's behalf held at Wildwoods Riding Centre to discuss the Woodland Trust's purchase of most of Langley Vale Farm and how the conversion of it could affect the horsey community in the area.

The Woodland Trust plan to create a Centenary Wood to commemorate 100 years since the start of World War 1. They are hoping to work with the local community to create an area that works for everyone. They would like to create some additional permissive rides over the land which would benefit all the local riders. Work on planting the wood will not start until this autumn and will take as much as 5 years to complete. The general impression was a very positive one. Becky has been added to an emailing list which will inform us when there is significant further news on this.

The main notes from the meeting were as follows:

- Most of the general public are expected to drive to the location, not take public transport (this has been the case for other WT sites)
- The only vehicle access will be a car park sited at the top of Langley Vale entered from Tilley Lane.
- They will try to install a horse crossing on Tilley Lane – they believe previous applications have been turned down due to site lines, however the site lines will have to be improved for the car park.
- There will be disabled access to some paths from car park.
- In the vicinity of the car park they may create some trenches as an educational experience.
- The farm house and some land will be staying. The field that borders Beaconsfield Road and did have the TGMB jumps on was unavailable to them to purchase.
- Planting will start in Autumn 2014, probably close to the farm itself with only a small area initially earmarked. Planting will likely take several years.
- The trees are expected to make a canopy height of around 2 metres in 20-25 years time (slow growth rate because of poor chalk soil)
- There will still be large areas of chalk down land. Only about 40% of the site will be planted and areas that border onto neighbours will not be planted. There will be some conservation grazing – probably only twice a year for a couple of months.
- They are hoping to create a poppy walk which may go from the bottom of the sheep walk (on the left where there is a path to the muck store) and follow up the hill.
- They are hoping to create permissive rides which will have to be shared with cyclists however they hope to split the tracks in 2 with fencing, so that one side can be for horses and the other for bicycles.
- Permissive rides will probably go from the downs to the other bridleways or make a loop. They may link Ebbisham lane and the Hurstfield's bridleway for example.

DOG SHOW

Saturday 19th July

The threat of thunder and lightening and the catering van not turning up made for a rather stressful start, but the weather was kind to us in the end and the crowds flocked to the Mid Surrey Pony Club Field in Walton on the Hill to enjoy the HHRA Fun Dog Show.

Thanks to Lucy and Janice for all their hard work in organising this event and to all those who helped make it a success. This included our judges Patrick, Tracey, Steve and Clive who had the unenviable task of deciding which dog was the most handsome and prettiest! We would also like to thank Alan who endured a hot afternoon in the barn taking all the entries.

Thanks to James from MSPC who turned up to help out and ended up manning the dog agility which proved popular. Thanks also to Hilary Hills who manned the hastily put together refreshments stall.

Various shapes and sizes of canine aplenty attended with their owners and there was some stiff competition. Congratulations to all the victors and special mention to double champion Jess, the black shepherd from Five Acres who won Most Appealing Eyes and Fancy Dress. The trade stands were popular, in particular the tombola where giant stuffed toys were on offer for just £2 a strip of tickets. There were many small children seen with huge smiles

carting around toys that had been won that were bigger than they were! Thanks to Mike for donating these toys. Photos as always courtesy of Janet Figg (thanks Janet!) so do keep an eye on our photos page on our website.



FUN RIDE Headley Heath and Boxhill Saturday 12th July

We ended up at the maximum number of 50 riders for this event and a super sunny day! I think a good time was had by all on the amazing scenic route and the yummy home made cake and drink was much appreciated half way round. We also had quite a few emails after the event thanking us for putting this on and telling us what a good time people had. Thank you to those that took the time to write to us - it means a lot! This ride took a lot of organisation so we were so relieved it went well. Please do get your entries in early for our events as receiving 30 last minute entries and people wanting to swap groups/times/horses etc. causes untold stress for the organisers. Photos for this event are on our website for sale courtesy of Janet Figg.

Special thanks to Becky Longhurst and Lucy Jones for running this event and for the National Trust for allowing it to take place. The stewards who gave up their time to help us were invaluable - we could not have run it without them: Pam Longhurst - Starter all day and helped mark route Friday night. Pam also spent hours making the

signs to mark the route and went to Tescos 9pm on Friday night when the laminator gave up doing the extra signs we needed



Road stewards: Jane Monnery, David Green, Richard Powell and Beverlee Edwards. **Boxhill Woods stewards:** Christine Fuller, Heather Cashen and Ana Newman. **Refreshments stewards:** David Figg, Janet Figg and Steve Jones. **Headley Heath steward:** Debbie Haine. **Photographer:** Janet Figg

HUGE thanks to Mark Dawson and the National Trust. Mark spent hours helping us/driving us over the heath to mark the route and helping steward on the day.

TEAM DRESSAGE



Saddlecombe Stud, Saturday 14th June:

This proved to be a really nice event creating a real sense of team spirit and camaraderie with riders all on equal terms whatever level test they opted to ride due to it being marked on a percentage basis overall. The flexible dress code was popular and some teams dressed up and there were some super team themed costumes. Photos for sale on our website courtesy of Janet Figg. Thanks to Mr. Colonna for the use of Saddlecombe Stud and to Liz Gill and Tracey Mitchell for organising this event. Thanks to the judges, Madeline Herridge and Helen Turk, writers Maggie and Helen, super steward Karen and mathematical genius Miranda. Without you this event could not have run. Sorry you got rained on.

The amazing prizes and rosettes that the Bowles and Co. sponsorship enabled us to buy went down a treat. Full results are on our website results

page with photos to purchase from Janet Figg on the photos page.

Winners of each class were:

Walk & Trot: Sophie Lew & Minty Fresh (Disinclined Equines)
Prelim: Georgia Wetheridge & Dolly (Rydell Ringtails)
Novice: Lee-Anne Bailey & Sandro's Star (Tumber Fillies)
Elementary: Zoe Golding & George Eliot (Rydell Ringtails)
Overall Winning Team: Rydell Ringtails
2nd place: Disinclined Equines
3rd place: 3 Ladies and a Gent
Best Team Outfit Award: Goofy's Pink Ladies



HORSIN' AROUND FOR A SMILE

Q: What exams do horses take?

A: HAY levels of course!

NEXT EVENTS:

HHRA Gymkhana - open to all with separate lead rein section
Mid Surrey Pony Club Field
Saturday 30th August
Details on our website/Schedules emailed to members

SPECIAL REQUEST

Request from June Waring (HHRA founding member):

"I have had a request from one of my liveries (Gill Wyllie); a Carol Cunningham who used to live in Down Hall, Burgh Heath Road goes to the same church as Gill, having returned from living South Africa for 20+ years and is keen to try and trace old friends. She particularly mentioned a Val Gosling. Her e-mail address is uhl.carol@yahoo.co.uk" **Please spread the word or get in touch if you know Carol.**

CLINICS

Showjumping Clinic with Tony Whipps
Saturday 10th May



Dressage Clinic with Lesley Whipps
Saturday 25th May



Thanks to Lauren Burtenshaw for organising these clinics and Mid Surrey Pony Club and Hallega for use of their venues and of course to Tony and Lesley Whipps. These clinics were both well attended and thoroughly enjoyed! Hopefully we can run more of these in future.