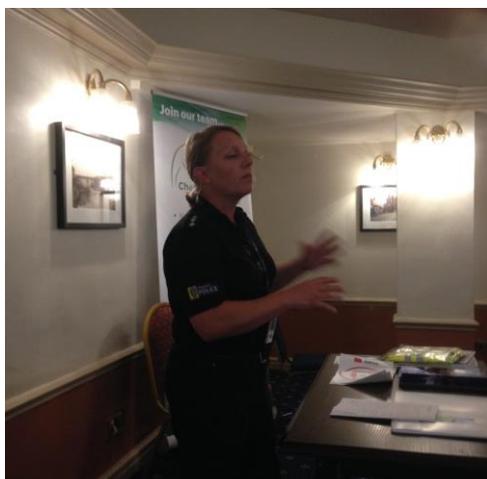


Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association

Newsletter

Summer 2016

Dates for your diary: Nantwich Show 27 July Tile Farm Ride 25 September



Mid Cheshire Bridleways hosted an evening talk in May at the Blue Cap in Sandiway with two very interesting speakers to a room packed with enthusiastic horse riders and the interaction with the speakers was most useful in understanding key points of view.

Chief Inspector Sarah Heath of Cheshire Constabulary explained that **Horse Watch** had been set up to prevent, reduce and detect equine related crime by connecting all owners and riders, so information can be communicated quickly both to and from the police. Members of Horse Watch work together to provide a network of information and support to combat equine crime and as a Horsewatch member you receive regular alerts and Crime Prevention advice. Mounted volunteers will support officers, who have responsibility initiative encourages volunteers to report any suspicious behaviour or incidents they witness whilst riding their horses. They will be the eyes and the ears in our communities providing a vital link between officers, PCSO's and the local communities.

Cheshire Police work together with a range of organisations and individuals within rural communities to build a stronger rural community. This included the BHS, particularly relating to the current road safety campaign.

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Hon Secretary - Jenny Sloane 01928 788413

Social Committee Chairman / project coordinator - Tony Overland 07714 205177

Newsletter – Sue Griffiths 01606 891562

Local Access Forum - Kath Wurcbacher 01928 561410

Website: www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk

Vice Chairman / liaison officer - Tim Hodges 07931 374206

Facebook & website admin - Ali Dorward 07867 498 690

Email: enquiries@midcheshirebridleways.co.uk

Sarah also explained, with great enthusiasm, about the **Rural Watch** scheme which encourages members of the rural community to look out for each other. The loss of a farm tractor can be devastating for a farm business and signage and DNA marking was a definite deterrent. Wildlife crime such as badger baiting was on the increase and riders were encouraged to report any suspicious behaviour.

Hannah Carrick the BHS Regional Manager explained how the organization provided welfare services to horses and advice for owners on safety and highlighted the recent Dead or Dead Slow campaign. Most riders associated BHS for insurance but a lot more was offered in addition.



The BHS campaigns and lobbies for key equestrian issues including access on behalf of all horses and riders and offer the world's leading equestrian qualifications and approvals system as well as organising many training courses.

A lively and interactive question and answer session followed both speakers and the stands were well attended after the talk.

For those that didn't attend, the BHS has many very useful free leaflets on access and safety that can be downloaded from their website.

If anyone is interested in signing up for Horsewatch please email:

cheshire.Police.Volunteers@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

A donation of £30 was made to the BHS Paths for Communities Fund as we had a surplus after the room hire was paid.

We would appreciate suggestions for other speakers for future events such as the AGM evening in January 2017 on topics that you would find of interest. Please contact us through enquiries@midcheshirebridleways.co.uk or our Facebook page.

Aston Ring Bridleway

A meeting was held in June with the landowner, the Woodland Trust, the Cheshire Wildlife Trust who lease the land and the Council ROW to try and seek a temporary diversion for riders to avoid the section along Pickering's Cut affected by badger holes. The Woodland Trust and CWT have no objection in principle to a diversion but want to liaise with proposed graziers.

Whitegate Way

The three gates to Restricted Byway Whitegate and Marton 26, which links to the Whitegate through Totties Hall Farm have now been fixed and can be opened on horseback so do make use of these. The section of this route to the north of the Whitegate Way has also been very boggy and we will request that the Council looks at cutting back vegetation and carrying out some surfacing.

If anyone has any problems with this or other routes please get in touch with us and do use our facebook page to highlight any problems! We also encourage you to report to the relevant Council via the Rights of Way section on their website.

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Consultations

MCBA have recently been consulted on the re-design of Junction 19 of the M6 which will enable horse riders to cross the motorway through a tunnel with mounting blocks to be located at each end. The finished design is scheduled to be completed in 2018 and will enable the whole of Cheshire to be opened up to walkers, cyclists and horse riders who have previously avoided this dangerous junction. MCBA will be looking at the new routes that this exciting proposal offers. If any members ride in the vicinity of Junction 19 please do get in touch.

We have also responded to the consultation for the Cheshire West Right of Way Improvement Plan 2016-2026. There is also an online questionnaire which can be submitted by the public - see <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/2656338/FeetHoovesWheels>

Cheshire Show

The theme this year was 'Where to Ride' and 'Bridleway Issues' and our display showing various problems such as gates, boggy ground, overgrown routes and dogs generated interest and we have also attracted new members.

Tile Farm Ride

A Pleasure Ride and BBQ is to be held jointly with Delamere Forest Riding Club at Tile Farm, Guilden Sutton on Sunday September 25 again by kind permission of the Arderns. This attractive farm ride includes farm tracks, riverside meadows and woodland and is about 6 miles long with stunning views. Details will be circulated and put on website and Facebook page in due course.

Forestry Commission Permissive Path

We had a report at the Cheshire Show that a tree was blocking this route which links the end of the Whitegate Way with Stoneyford Lane. This was due to be felled and cleared during the last week of June so if you are still aware of any problems here still, do let us know.

For Public Right of Way fault reporting in Cheshire West, we have now been advised to use the following link : http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/contact_us/report-it.aspx

The link on the CWAC Public Right of Way web page does not allow you to identify the actual path on the map or attach a photo whereas this link does (scroll down toward bottom). Please do report any problems directly as well as letting us know as many routes are getting very overgrown at this time of year. It's better to have an issue reported a few times than not at all!

Riding in Whitley Area

If you have ever ridden in the Morphany Lane to Greenhills Lane area of Whitley or know anyone who has, please email Kath Wurcbacher on k.wurcbacher@ntlworld.com There is an unrecorded route here which was used by riders for many years including people from the former Morphany Hall Riding Centre but does not appear to be used by riders at the moment. We are looking at evidence to support a potential claim for this route.

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