



ROCHDALE, BURY BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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Dear all,

We wish all our members a happy new year and hope you all had a good Christmas.

We are trying a change of venue for our meetings this year and so the next one will be at the Bridge Inn in Norden. They have recently undergone a complete refurbishment and are looking forward to welcoming us there. See below for more details.

We are in the process of developing a new website with the help of Clive Goslin which we really appreciate, have a look at it, the address is www.rbba.org.uk, and let us know what you think.

Bridleway News

- Rossendale Council have been looking at the drains, they now say that they have the money in place to complete the work necessary to resurface the path in this financial year and are awaiting the tenders coming back. Work is expected to start in February. (We'll see!)
- We reported a while ago that Harwood Fields was to be looked at where it is extremely muddy. Unfortunately that's all that has happened and it won't be done in this financial year as there is no money in the pot to complete the work necessary.
- We are in the process of collecting evidence forms to claim Heap Road as a bridleway. If you haven't yet done one then please complete one as soon as possible. Also, just for information, the road has recently been resurfaced with what looks to be very slippery tarmac.
- Gill and Bev O'Connor have met with a representative from the council to look at the road surface on School Lane and Ashworth Road. He is arranging a survey to be completed on the downhill stretches and will let us know the results on completion.
- The ginnel which leads from the Rec in Norden through to Harewood Way has been closed off on Health & Safety grounds (they're obviously not bothered about ours!). We have enquired about the possibility of claiming it but it doesn't look promising. Alternative routes are being looked into as this closure once again puts us back onto the main road
- An observation I had on the first day back to school after Christmas was the amount of horse poo on the pavement on Edenfield Road, on the hill coming out of the centre just where the fence starts, presumably being used to get to the ginnel half way up... there was no way someone with a pram could have avoided having to walk through it. If your horse does poo somewhere like this please get off and kick it into the road, or even go back later and brush it out of the way, it would only take two minutes! If the council starts getting complaints you can bet your life that this other ginnel will get closed off too.



Future Meetings/Events

- **Monday, 28th January 2008** – 8.30 pm at the Bridge Inn in Norden. This is the Annual General Meeting where we will be re-electing the officers, reviewing the accounts and taking memberships, refreshments will be provided... also this is going to be the start of what we hope will be an exciting year so come along and find out what's going on. A membership form is attached to this letter or can be downloaded from the website.
- **Tuesday, 26th February 2008** – 8.00 pm at the Bridge Inn in Norden. I have asked a horse communicator to come and do a talk. This should be a really good evening so try to come along, bring a photo of your horse or other pet so that you can have a reading at the end of the talk. There will be a small charge for a reading but it is really worth it to find out how your horse is really feeling. Her website is www.serenespirit.co.uk if you want to take a look.

New Highway Code

There have recently been some changes to the Highway Code regarding horse riders... see below.

EQUINE entries in the Official new HIGHWAY CODE 2007, 5th edition.

[Some relate directly to riders, other to all users]

Rule

27 – Equestrian Crossings are for horse riders. They have pavement barriers, wider crossing spaces, horse and rider figures in the light panels and wither two sets of controls (one higher) or just one higher control panel.

Rules about animals – Horse-drawn vehicles.

47- Horse-drawn vehicles used on the highway should be operated and maintained in accordance with standards set out in the Department for Transport's Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles. This code lays down the requirement for a road driving assessment and includes a comprehensive list of safety checks to ensure that a carriage and its fittings are safe and in good working order. The standards set out in the road driving assessment may be required to be met by a Local authority if an operator wishes to obtain a local authority licence to operate a passenger-carrying service (see page 135).

Horse riders

49 Safety Equipment

Children under the age of 14 MUST wear a helmet which complies with the Regulations. It MUST be fastened securely. Other riders should also follow these requirements. These requirements do not apply to a child who is a follower of the Sikh religion while wearing a turban.

Laws H(PHYR) Act 1990, sect 1 & H(PHYR) Regulations 1992, reg 3

50 Other clothing. You should wear.

- boots or shoes with hard soles and heels
- light-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight
- reflective clothing if you have to ride at night or in poor visibility.

51 At night.

It is safer not to ride on the road at night or in poor visibility, but if you do, make sure you wear reflective clothing and your horse has reflective bands above the fetlock joints. A light which shows white to the front and red to the rear should be fitted, with a band, to the rider's right arm and/or leg/ riding boot. If you are leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand, showing white to the front and red to the rear, and wear reflective clothing on both you and your horse. It is strongly recommended that a fluorescent/reflective tail guard is also worn by your horse.

Riding

52 Before you take a horse on to a road, you should

- ensure all tack fits well and is in good condition.
- make sure you can control the horse.

Always ride with other, less nervous horses if you think that your horse will be nervous of traffic. Never ride a horse without both a saddle and bridle.



- 53 Before riding off or turning, look behind you to make sure it is safe, then give a clear arm signal.

When riding on the road you should
keep to the left
keep both hands on the reins unless you are signalling
keep both feet in the stirrups
not carry another person
not carry anything which might affect your balance or get tangled up with the reins
keep a horse you are leading to your left
move in the direction of the traffic flow in a one-way street
never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.

- 54 You MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. Equestrian crossings may be provided for horse riders to cross the road and you should use these where available (see page 12). You should dismount at level crossings where a 'Horse Rider Dismount' sign is displayed.
Laws HA 1835 sect 72, R(S)A 1984, sect 129(5)

- 55 Avoid roundabouts wherever possible. If you use them you should
- keep to the left and watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout
- signal right when riding across exits to show you are not leaving
- signal left just before you leave the roundabout.

253- Horse-riders Prohibited from using Motorways. **Would we want to???** Edenfield Road is bad enough!!

Crossword Solution

Here is the solution to the crossword which was in the September newsletter. The response was very disappointing; however, Joan Snowdon won the bottle of wine.

Across

- 2. Foal
- 4. Dam
- 7. Colt
- 10. Sound
- 12. Yearling
- 13. Rein
- 15. Mare
- 17. Halter
- 18. Bit
- 19. Sire
- 21. Broodmare

Down

- 1. Hand
- 2. Frog
- 3. Action
- 5. Bridle
- 6. Green
- 9. Gait
- 11. Conformation
- 14. Purebred
- 16. Farrier
- 20. Tack

The Greyhound

Three racehorses stood in their stalls. One said to the others, "I ran 20 races and I won 14 of them!" she bragged. The next said with a snort, "Well I ran 30 races and won 25 of them!" Then the third horse spoke up proudly, "Yeah, I won 41 races and won 39 of them!" This seemed to settle the topic, when the horses noticed a Greyhound outside their stalls. The Greyhound said, "I ran 100 races and I won 99 of them." The horses looked at each other in amazement, and one gasped, "Wow! A talking Greyhound!"



Member Profile

An idea for future newsletters is that we include a profile of one of you guys. A picture of you, your horse, what you do, what you want to do, anything you want to share really... if there's any volunteers out there let me know. This will also be featured on the website if you give us permission to use it.

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again. Attached is a form to renew your membership. Please fill it in and ideally bring it to the AGM on 28th January, alternatively send it to me in the post with the appropriate payment.

This year as part of your membership fee you will be getting a Hi Viz Vest, printed on the back to show you are a member of Rochdale & Bury Bridleways Association. We thought it would be good to have a way of identifying members when going through our concessionary routes (always assuming that we manage to get them open again!), a good way of advertising our existence to other riders as well as encouraging the use of hi visibility gear particularly as we are having to use the roads more and more. You will, however, have to attend a meeting to get yours as the cost of posting them out would be too big. Only one vest per membership, if you need more they can be purchased at cost.

Rescued Horses

You will all no doubt have seen the news recently about the horses, ponies and donkeys which were rescued in Buckinghamshire. A website has been set up which gives more information about them and also gives details of how we as a horse community can help them. The website is www.operationesther.com which comes from one of the donkeys which had a young foal at foot and Redwings have named her Esther. If you don't have internet access, donations can be sent to Redwings, ILPH or the National Horse Trust.

Their addresses are:

ILPH Anne Colvin House, Snetterton, Norfolk, UK NR16 2LR
Registered Charity No: 206658

Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norwich NR15 1SP
Registered Charity No. 1068911

The Horse Trust, Home of Rest for Horses, Speen, Princes Risborough, HP27 0PP
Registered Charity Number 231748

Apparently, if you put a letter in with your donation stating that you want to specifically help these rescued horses, ponies and donkeys the law states that that is where your donation will be spent.

BHS Quiz Night

The BHS Lancashire Committee are holding a quiz night on 5th February 2008, a mix of equestrian and general knowledge questions at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley at 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. There is an admission charge of £2.00 for members (with card) and £3.00 for non-members. For more information ring 01275 275571 or 07835918644

Barbara