



ROCHDALE, BURY BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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Dear All

Firstly I would like to thank all those who turned up at the Ding Quarry meeting on 24th February. It was a pretty miserable wet day (another) but it didn't put off about 11 or 12 intrepid riders (although according to the report in the Observer the following week the horses don't exist and it isn't even a bridleway).

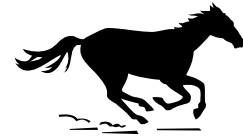
We had a really good turn out for the meeting on 26th February when we had the animal communicator speaking to us. I think she managed to convince a few skeptics too. She certainly got plenty of bookings with people wanting to talk to their horses. Thank you for coming and making it such a big success and we even came out with a £3 profit!

Our new website is coming along very well. There is now a forum where you can post questions or cause a debate but do remember that children look at the site too so keep it clean! There is also an exchange & mart page where you can sell, swap or even give away any unwanted items. The website address is www.rbba.org.uk.

We have another change of venue for our meetings. We realised after the meeting in February that the room at The Horse & Farrier wasn't anywhere near big enough so we have managed to get a room upstairs at The Grapes on Norden Road. There is plenty of parking and the room is totally separate from the rest of the pub. Fingers crossed this will prove to be ok. Junior members are also welcome.

Bridleway News

- **Put a great big flag up!** The resurfacing of the path along Croston Close Road (The Drains) is now well on the way to completion. This will transform this route and it was very difficult to negotiate a safe path down there. There are some photos on the website, take a look and see the transformation it looks brilliant. Well done Irene for all your hard work in getting this one sorted, I didn't really think we would ever be reporting that this had been done.
- The Council has now posted the notice of intention to upgrade the footpath behind Lea Holme Farm to a bridleway. The closing date for objections is 27th March and we do expect that there will be some it will then probably go to a public enquiry but we'll have to wait and see. It would be nice if it was all done quickly and then we could get off Edenfield Road.
- Joan and Gwen have had a walk around the proposed new route in the Ashworth Reservoir concessionary. Unfortunately, this now looks like a non-starter. The ground has washed away even more and there isn't a surface that is stable enough to take horses so it looks like this one is lost to us.



- The council should by now have carried out their assessment of the surface on School Lane but we haven't had their findings yet.
- We are almost in a position to put the evidence in to the Council to get Heap Road upgraded so your last chance to complete an evidence form will be at the meeting on 31st March. If you use Heap Road and don't want to lose it then please come along and complete a form or download one from the website and send it to me in the post. This route is particularly important for the people who stable up Woodhouse Lane. Remember if this gets closed you will have to ride the full length of the village on the main road to get anywhere.
- The farmer who has the field to the right of the bridleway that runs from Overtown Lane (just past the waterboard land opposite Red Lumb) has complained that someone has been repeatedly galloping up the middle of the field, coming back down and then galloping back up. If you know who it is then please tell them to stop as while the ground is as wet as it is his field is getting trashed.
- If you see any off-road bikers causing problems on bridleways or anywhere else for that matter, if possible take a photograph or get a good description and contact Nick Hale the Community Officer at Shawfield School.
- And finally, just a note about courtesy. It has come up in conversation about riders not thanking drivers for being considerate. If it's not convenient to take your hands off the reins smile and give them a nod in acknowledgement.

Future Meetings/Events

- **Monday, 31st March 2008** – 8.30 pm at **The Grapes on Norden Road**

We will have a copy of what the Definitive Map looks like to show members which paths are actually bridleways and which are footpaths. We will be going through how to complete an evidence form correctly and also explaining the difference between the different types of rights of way. An agenda will be published on the website prior to the meeting.

- **Sunday, 27th April 2008**

We are clearing the paths which are badly overgrown around the Golf Links in Bamford. Any help would be appreciated, bring loppers, shears, etc. Meet 2.30 pm near Taylor Avenue, off Norden Road (near the little park opposite Shelfield Lane/Clay Lane junction).

- **Monday, 28th April 2008** – 8.30 pm at **The Grapes on Norden Road**

We have a number of guest speakers to contact from physiotherapists to people who deal with nerves but we are planning to have someone. More details when confirmed.

- **Monday, 19th May 2008** – 8.30 pm at **The Grapes on Norden Road**

More details in the May newsletter.

- **Sunday, 25th May 2008**

Sponsored ride in aid on the Lancashire Air Ambulance. Sponsorship forms will be available at the next meeting or can be downloaded from the website. More details to follow.



- Trip to the Seaside

Someone has offered to arrange a trip to the seaside. We can hire a large horsebox that holds 9 horses for £45 per horse. We are initially testing interest so can you let me know either by email (enquiries@rbba.org.uk) or give me a ring. It will be before the end of June. Payment would be required upfront to secure your place. If you have your own transport you can come along and meet up there.

- Trip to the Great Yorkshire Show

8th, 9th and 10th July. If there is enough interest we are planning to get a coach to go to the Great Yorkshire Show. It is the 150th anniversary of the show and there is a lot going on. Anyone that has been before will know what a fantastic day out is with a bit of everything, Shire Horses to Guinea Pigs! The entrance fee is £16.50 for adults, £14.00 for OAP's and students and £7.50 for children. There would also be the coach to pay for on top of this. It would probably be an early start so that we don't end up sitting in a huge traffic jam for hours. Let me know if you are interested by email (enquiries@rbba.org.uk) or give me a ring.

- BHS Riding & Road Safety

We are contemplating undertaking a re-run of the course this summer if enough folk are interested. The course consists of about 8 training sessions (you don't need to bring your horse provided we have enough horses for people to share) and a half day for the actual exam (done at your training location). The approximate cost is £30 for the exam, £30 for the training and £6 for the BHS book. You have to be at least 12 on the day of the exam. If you are interested please let Gill Morrell know ASAP either at meetings, by phone 01706 630311 or e-mail wff@tesco.net. If enough of you want to proceed then dates will be arranged and an up-front non-refundable £30 fee to cover the exam will be collected. Training fees will be collected on each night. We need at least 8 to run this event.

Hints & Tips

- When you give your horse a soapy bath, rinsing with white vinegar will help to remove the soap. White vinegar also acts as a natural hair conditioner and fly repellent.
- Applying Vaseline around a horse's eyes will repel flies. Also applying Lard to a horse's face will keep flies away (and everything else I shouldn't wonder!!).
- To make a yard brush last longer turn it 180° frequently as you sweep. This will help keep the brush even. As the brush wears down tidy up any raggy bits with scissors.

(I do not take responsibility for these – if they don't work don't sue me!)

That's about it for now (enough I think anyway)! We hope to see you at the next meeting.

Barbara