



MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

Helping to improve our
tracks and trails ...
from this generation
to the next

2015 SPRING DIARY (1) - and AUTUMN CATCH UP

HELLO EVERYONE

We realise we haven't kept you all up to date over the last few months, but will try to catch up now.



Nicola produced these artworks for us, and we put them to facebook and shared them on some other horsey pages and have had 10,632 hits - including Australia and Scandinavia.

If anyone wants a copy of the artwork let us know midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com
Put them up in your yards, but remember you will need the landowner's permission if you are thinking of using them elsewhere. We have sent the artwork to the Woodland Trust, National Trust and The Rights of Way Department and others. As we drew the pictures ourselves they are copyright free. We are costing having some larger signs made and will see if we can get any partners or joint funding from someone.

All offers gratefully received !

February

COALEY WOOD : Spring Tyning and above:



The Public Rights of Way Dept inform us that work has been carried out to widen the northern half of the track in the wood and that is improved. The mud on the lower half by Spring Tyning is due to the vehicles carrying out the work in the woods and also to the drainage problems there. Plans are in place to install a drain and put stone, suitable for horses, down this section when the area is a little drier.



(more on page 2)



AGM and COMMITTEE: Thanks to everyone who came to the AGM. The committee were elected as Pat Harris (Chair), Sue Ellis (Secretary), Saxon Greenway (Treasurer), Steve Radcliffe, Jo Bird, Katrina Thacker, Jane Moss, Sue Bryant and Nicola West.

Patricia Edgington and Kim Dimant have since attended the November meeting with a view to being co-opted in January. Unfortunately the Jan meeting was called off due to snow warnings, and we have only just caught up again. Kim was able to attend our latest meeting and has now been co-opted.



After the AGM, William spoke to us about his amazing 2,700 mile **RIDE ROUND ENGLAND**, and he ended up with £246.14 in the donation bucket for his two charities. Big thanks to everyone for that. The committee also want to thank Steve for sponsoring the room and the refreshments for the evening.



COTSWOLD CONSERVATION BOARD

Nicola (as a MCTTG committee member and a member of the Disabled Ramblers) and Pat attended the Cotswold

Conservation Board's Access Conference on Nov 21st. Speakers were:

William Reddaway, who gave a really great talk on *"How riding and bridleways can add to the offer"*.

John Cuthbertson - (Disabled Ramblers) *"How access opportunities can be communicated to disabled people"*.

Prof Diane Crone: (Un of Glos) *"Exercise for health: why is being outdoors important and how to get the message out"*. (Interventions4Health) - the statistics she had on the health benefits were really solid, (we riders all know the benefits but it's good to see it as usable data. I was particularly moved by some of the quotes she had from people with depression.

John Sparshatt (Long Distance Walkers) *"Challenges facing promotion and management of long distance paths"*.

It was interesting that every speaker fully included riders in their talks, and we feel this is a real step forward from where we were when MCTTG was formed.

We also got a chance to meet people from CCB and from other groups. Following on from this - CCB have contacted us twice since. We were asked to write a few words about riding in the Cotswolds to be included in their newsletter "Cotswold Lion". Lois, as BHS Glos Access Officer, assisted them with more details and information for this. More recently we have shared with CCB our accumulated statistics and references on the benefits of good tracks and trails in the Cotswolds, both financially to the area, and to the physical and mental health and wellbeing for a wide range of people, both resident and visiting. We understand CCB are making a case to Gloucestershire County Council requesting more support for the rights of way network for the benefit of the tourism industry, the rural economy and as an offset against some medical budgets via what we riders call "Dr. Green".

*There are quite a few more subjects I will update you on soon including **Painswick Beacon, Gates at Chavenage, a proposed walk-way bridge above a bridleway in Westonbirt Arboretum** and more - look out for part 2.*