



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships for this year. We have already reached the brilliant figure of 214 members but if you know anyone who hasn't renewed yet or has not got their Forest Permit, it would be great if you can remind them of the benefits of AFRA membership. We are very pleased to welcome five new committee members this year, Sue Tarrant, Sarah Grue, Miranda Toben, Susan Hawes and Sue Culling. We have sadly lost Sian Mitchell, Michelle Shaw, Miranda Kavanagh and Helen Bardsley. Our sincere thanks to all of them for their work on the committee. I am sure you will all join us in expressing special thanks to Helen who was a founder AFRA member and who has put in so much work over the years in support of AFRA. She will be sorely missed.

FORTHCOMING BARN DANCE – SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

Following the tremendous success of last year's barn dance we are holding another one this year. It will be at the Llama Park as before. Tickets will be £18 to include food, dancing and complimentary entrance to the Llama Park.

(For those of you who might have had to wait a while for your food last year, we are assured that those issues are now sorted)

Tickets are to be limited this year so don't delay in getting yours. They can be got direct from the Llama Park by 'phone with a debit card or in person at the park. Contact Tel: 01825 712040 or The Llama Park, Wych Cross, Forest Row, RH18 5JN.

Pleasure Ride

This year's Pleasure Ride will be on Sunday 18th September. Last year we had 77 entrants and we would very much like to increase that number this year. We receive many compliments from participants on how much they enjoy the day, so if you haven't managed to get along before, do come and have a great day out. Refreshments will be available if required (by prepaid voucher) and comprehensive route instructions, so no-one need worry about getting lost!

The entrance fee will remain at £15 for AFRA members but this year there will be an additional £3 for the provision of professional first aid cover.

Entrance schedules will be on our website during May:

www.afranews.gov.uk

If any members would like to become involved in organising the Pleasure Ride they would be very welcome, please contact Jane Green email: janegreen99@btinternet.com or phone 01892 654763

AFRA Annual Quiz

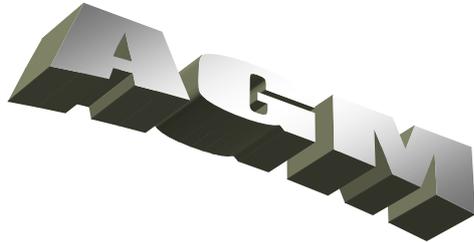
The AFRA Quiz will take place at the end of November. Look out for more information nearer the time.

GRAZING ENCLOSURE

The Forest Centre recently circulated details of enclosures on the Forest. One of the enclosures shown was at Kidds Hill. Please be aware that, as was the case last year, an

this has meant that the small ride that runs from the Vanguard Way to the junction of the ride that goes towards Wrens Warren at Jumpers Town, has

electric fence has been installed at Kidds Hill beside the Vanguard Way .



This year's AGM took place on 9th March at the Roebuck Hotel, Wych Cross. It was reasonably well attended with 35 members present.

We gave generously to the Conservators, to the tune of £3,500, to go towards various maintenance issues, and held regular meetings with Pat Bruesnel to keep her up to date with problem areas. Please let us know if there are any issues on rides and we will make sure these are passed on.

It was proposed, seconded and approved that membership fees would remain unchanged for the current year.

An excellent talk was given by vet Duncan Harrison from Priors Farm Equine Practice, on headshaking.

If anyone has any ideas for speakers at future AGMs we would love to hear from you.

been fenced off. There is a short diversion available.



Most of you are now probably aware that a review is taking place to look into the governance of Ashdown Forest. This review has been suggested by the Charities Commission as a way to rationalise the current arrangements which, it is thought, create confusion and duplication between the roles of the Ashdown Forest Trust, the Ashdown Conservation Trust and the Conservators. The aim of the review is to have one body to own, manage and raise funds.

East Sussex County Council (who hold the Ashdown Forest in trust for the purpose of conserving it as an area of outstanding beauty and as a place of resort for members of the public) are currently carrying out the review. This could result in a change to the ownership of the Forest. A QC has been appointed by East Sussex County Council to prepare a report. The report will be

Maintenance

The Forest is finally beginning to dry up although any rain seems to return it to a slippery state very quickly.

We do not have too many maintenance issues ongoing at the present time. Those that we know about specifically and have passed on to the Forest Centre are –

- The path alongside the B2188 at Church Hill suffering from particularly deep mud.
- The track leading from St Johns which is programmed for work in due course.
- Overhanging holly bushes on the track parallel to the Warren Way from Blackhill to the Glass House.
- Exposed membrane in the dip at Dodds Bottom.

presented to the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest on 21 April 2016. An open meeting is planned for 19 May 2016 (details to be confirmed).

Following the very wet winter conditions we have to accept that some areas will have become badly poached and will take a while to dry out’.

However, please let us know of any ongoing maintenance issues that might be causing a problem, so that we can discuss them with Pat Buesnel.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Good news has recently been confirmed that the Ashdown Forest has received a ten year Agreement for the new Countryside Stewardship scheme and not a five year Agreement as had been expected.

Don't forget the following offer discounts to AFRA members on production of their membership card.

- 5% discount at Sian Saddlery, Five Ash Down, Nr. Uckfield.
- 5% discount at Waygood Rug Cleaning, near Nutley 07803 195311 Local Collection for five or more.
- 5% discount at Stirrups Equestrian Supplies, 55 Heathcote Drive East Grinstead RH19 1NB
- 10% discount at The Equine Warehouse, Spring Gardens, Lewes BN7 2PT (excludes bedding, feed and supplements).
- 5% discount at Windmill Feeds, Crowborough, Uckfield and Cross-in-Hand (10% on Saddlery at Cross-in-Hand).

Members Adverts.

If you have a horse or horse related item to sell, email Mary at maryandix@gmail.com or tel. on 01825 713034 and Mary will email members (but will not write to those members without email addresses). Miranda will also put advertisements on the website: contact mtoben@hotmail.co.uk – a free service for AFRA members.

Ashdown Forest Riding Association

Our objectives are:

1. To assist in conserving the Forest in its natural state for the benefit of walkers and riders alike.
2. To work in liaison with the Conservators to improve riding conditions.
3. To ensure that the Forest is kept available for use by horse riders with minimum restrictions.

To join: contact Mary on 01825 713034 maryandix@gmail.com
Website: www.afranews.org.uk

Please contact Jane if you have anything you would like to discuss about the newsletter or have anything for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Jane Green

AFRA Secretary
01892 654763
Janegreen99@btinternet.com

Liz Romy, AFRA Chair,
Tel. 01825 713196
romynwapses@btinternet.com