



**ALL RIDE ENTRANTS MUST BE LRBA MEMBERS**

Your 1<sup>st</sup> Ride: £10 Membership + £10 Ride Fee. Under 18s: £10 Membership + £5 Ride Fee. (No fee for 1<sup>st</sup> Ride.)  
Entry forms (includes Membership application) + Rides: Rules & Information from: [www.bridlewayslrba.org.uk](http://www.bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

**NEW this year!** Some Rides have been graded for difficulty on a scale of 1-5 : 1 being very easy - no gates/cattle /main roads; 5 being more challenging, which could include a combination of any of the following - gates/cattle /bridges/fords/steep terrain / busier roads etc

**SATURDAY**

**14 APRIL**

**CHARNWOOD FOREST** This ride, of difficulty GRADE 4 (because of map reading) comes back after a 1-year gap and packs a lot of riding into a small area encompassing 2 pairs of country parks (Beacon/Broombriggs and Bradgate/ Swithland Woods). This makes the two Ride maps very 'busy' so reading the Notes beforehand is essential. And we have parking for only 30 boxes, so book early for your space. The 4-mile lead-rein route is on the gate-free Beacon track, but there's gates at the road and round the Broombriggs working cattle farm. The hundreds of local riders would love to have the off-road inter-parks link that we arrange for the day courtesy of Col. Martin. Traffic free and beautiful with a shallow ford. Bradgate Park is reached by a track specially opened by the Trust and there's an optional loop into the Park with its ancient deer herd. Wonderful views over the Soar valley from the high points. Significant road-work only on the 15 mile option. Parking fee at Venue. Collection for Air Ambulance. Contact: Vicky Allen, 123 Park Rd, Loughborough LE11 2HD. Tel. 01509 215619 **email:** [Networks@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Networks@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

**WEDNESDAY**

**2 MAY**

**HAMBLETON** This 6 mile Ride, of difficulty level GRADE 2 is on private tracks, courtesy of Anglian Water, and open for riding on this day only. It offers unrivalled views of the water from the Hambleton Peninsula and the bluebells should be at their best. The parking is on the grass verge and is limited to 25 vehicles. Apart from the half mile or so to and from the parking, the riding is on a private track only used by anglers' cars, cyclists and walkers. Because of an accident a few years ago, this is a walk and trot Ride and you must NOT take your horse down to the water's edge. There are a number of gates - all the tricky ones are manned by stewards.

Priority will be given to entrants bringing two or more riders. Local riders-in will not be limited. Entrants arriving by vehicle **MUST NOT** arrive before 3.15pm and **MUST** obey the precise instructions of the parking stewards. Riders should come prepared for a swift commencement of, and completion/departure from the Ride. There is not space on the verge to safely wash down horses etc. Anglian Water will be contacted the week before to put out warning notices to cyclists. You must bring your own Hi-viz as there will not be a Ride Secretary from whom to collect. Rosettes will be given out by the last gates' steward.

Riders arriving early could have the option of going around the track twice should they wish, making a total length of 11 miles. Companions are welcome to cycle round with their rider/s. There is a good pub in Hambleton village but please do not stop there on the way round - only afterwards - as the organisers have to poo-pick the track at the end of the event. Contact: Roger Linford, Hawthorn House, Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8UH. Tel 07599 754475. email. [Honsecretary@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Honsecretary@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

**THURSDAY**

**24 MAY**

**HARBY** 9 miles. Level of difficulty GRADE 1. This HARBY HILLS Ride is NEW for 2018 and takes us from the Stanley's farm, from which we've been exploring a variety of routes for many years, up to Stathern village. Then on quiet roads and BWs/byways to Branston and back along the BW running along the scarp overlooking the Vale of Belvoir to Stathern and the farm. This Ride uses private land, bridleways, tracks and quiet lanes in the scenic Vale of Belvoir. It is described by the Organisers as 'A stress free pleasant Ride with no cows or gates.' There are two step-over barriers. There is ample parking with

*assistance offered to those who find reversing a challenge. Water and toilet facilities on site. Entries accepted up to 48 hours before the Ride start. Contact; Linda Firth, The Bungalow, Old Scalford Station, Scalford, Melton Mowbray, LE14 4UD Tel. 01664 444545 email: Harby@bridlewayslrba.org.uk*

**SUNDAY  
3 JUNE**

**GLAPTHORN near Oundle, Northants.** 9 & 12 miles. Level of difficulty GRADE 3. A new, but well received Ride last year, across unspoilt rolling countryside with spectacular views. Some of the route is arable land crossed by extensive bridleways but it also passes through quite dense woodland where deer may be seen. 9 mile route is almost entirely off road, 12 miles has some country roads passing through a village with a pub. Both routes may encounter cattle but there are only a few gates – difficult ones will be left open or stewarded. Both routes will pass through a cattle yard which will be well-stewarded and cross some wide, wooden bridleway bridges. There will be a VERY SHORT section on a verge with a steward in attendance along the A43.

There will be a Car Park charge of £3 per ADULT rider payable in cash on the day. Parking by kind permission of Mr & Mrs C. Crosby. Contact; Alex Pyper, Bulldyke Farm, Medbourne Rd, Hallaton, Market Harborough, LE16 8UH. Tel. 01858 555620. Mob. 07746 018441. email. [Glaphorn@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Glaphorn@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

**SUNDAY  
17 JUNE**

**HICKS LODGE** 11.5 MILES + optional loop making it 13.5 miles. Difficulty level GRADE 3. Set in the National Forest, the ride starts at Short Heath on a permissive grass BW, which on crossing a road becomes a track. The route then follows the canal towpath to Moira Furnace (<https://www.moirafurnace.org>) where you cross the canal on a swing-bridge – a steward will be available here to assist if necessary. On leaving the canal-side, the route follows the road (this may change if the route through the new housing estate is open in time). A short way to a multi-use trail which leads to Hicks Lodge (<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/hickslodge>). Here there is a lovely grass BW through Shellbrook Wood, with lots of cantering opportunities. The wood is also used by a separate cycle trail and the trails do cross at points. Returning to Hicks Lodge, if you wish you can leave your horse in the corral whilst you get some refreshments. Leaving Hicks Lodge the route follows roads for a mile (it may be possible to do some of this off-road, but this is not yet confirmed) until you come to a gate into a field – there will be a steward here to assist with the gate, however there are another two gates to negotiate independently. There may be stock in the fields. The route then takes you onto Boothorpe/Hanging Hill permissive BWs where you can canter across the beautiful parkland. This ends on a track, leading down to a road which you cross. Traffic can be quite fast on this road but you have good visibility. After crossing the road, those doing the shorter route follow the track to Conkers Discovery Car Park, at the end of which there is a tunnel through which a small train also runs – a steward will be available here to assist if necessary. Those wishing to extend the Ride turn in the opposite direction on a track alongside a road to a step - over towards Albert Village Lake. The route follows the lakeside and then turns away to cross a road where the track leads through woods to eventually return to the start. Contact: Ann Hughes, Church Farm, Main Street, Overseal, Swadlincote. DE12 6LG Tel.01283 762469; 07986 217257 email: HicksLodge@bridlewayslrba.org.uk

**FRIDAY  
22 JUNE**

**PRESTWOLD** *Our final Evening Ride, difficulty GRADE 2 will reverse the route from that used for several years, so different views, especially from the long bridleway on High Riggett looking into Nottinghamshire. A variety of loops and lengths, including lead-rein routes tailored to the strengths of the leader and the led, so young riders are welcome. It uses wide field edges with many canter opportunities. One very easy gate. There is a short length of road between the Venue and the route. The road crossings are protected by permanent warning signs. A great opportunity to meet and socialise. But the HLES-funding of these routes ends in 2019. Vehicle exit fee of £5 in aid of Air Ambulance. Contact Vicky Allen, 123 Park Rd, Loughborough LE11 2HD. Tel. 01509 215619 email: Networks@bridlewayslrba.org.uk*

**SUNDAY  
8 JULY**

**EXTON ESTATE** 10 miles. Difficulty GRADE 1 This Ride is a much-loved favourite. The route is entirely on the private estate of Exton Park (North of Rutland Water) and we use it by courtesy of Lord Gainsborough. It uses BWs, and private tracks and Estate roads not normally available to horse riders. The countryside is beautiful and varied and you are free to enjoy it without the fear of

of Exton Church. Contact: Sue Blunden, 30 Somerby Road, Knossington, Oakham, LE15 8LY. Tel. 01664 454557. email: [Exton@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Exton@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

## SATURDAY

21 JULY

**TWO COUNTIES CHALLENGE** Level of difficulty GRADE 5. 13 miles (with possible shorter route). This Ride explores the quiet lanes, peaceful, gentle countryside, and NEW BWs created as a result of the redesigning of the Catthorpe Interchange. It includes crossing the River Avon on new wide bridges and passing under the A14 & M1. This is not as scary as it sounds as it is surprisingly quiet under these roads. There is a mounting block at each end of the bridge under the A14 as you will be required to dismount. The BW shares the bridge with the river but there is a good substantial (metal) barrier alongside. You may encounter cattle and there will be some gates – difficult ones will be stewarded as will a road crossing (not a main road but can be busy sometimes). The new BWs are the result of years of long hard campaigning by the LRBA. So please come along and try them. Contact: Kim Hall, Grange Farm, Knaptoft, Lutterworth, Leics. LE17 6NP Tel.0116 2478214. email: [Chair@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Chair@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

## SATURDAY

11 AUGUST

**HUNGARTON** 6 & 12 miles. Difficulty GRADE 4. Venue by courtesy of Mr T. Dixon. The very first Ride offered by LRBA many years ago and brought back in 2016 after a lapse of some years. It circles a fairly large area of glorious East Leicestershire offering a huge variety of terrain including gentle rolling pasture land, estate parkland, quiet lanes, and unsurfaced county roads (can be very muddy after wet weather). You will also ride through a deserted village site of which the ancient streets can still be traced through the grassy mounds. The route passes through the centre of a busy boarding kennels. The dogs will bark but are safely inside strong runs. You may encounter cattle and there are a number of gates. A welcome return of our oldest Ride. 6 + 12 miles on BWs, quiet roads and field roads through glorious East Leicestershire. Collection for landowner's favoured charity. Contact: Vicky Allen, 123 Park Rd, Loughborough LE11 2HD. Tel. 01509 215619 email: [Networks@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Networks@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY:

18 & 19 AUGUST

**GRETTON CAMPING WEEKEND** This is a fun weekend with the emphasis on freedom to come and go as you please. Bring your horse, your partner, their bicycle/walking boots and enjoy a weekend exploring the beautiful countryside of Rutland & Northamptonshire. You will be given a map showing the many BWs, permissive paths, quiet lanes and slightly busier country roads. There is so much to see in the area it's unlikely you will be able to see everything in a weekend! Nearby is Rockingham Castle, Rutland Water (it's their famous British Bird Watching Fair weekend - an international event, so, if your partner is a keen birdwatcher you already have your camp site!) and Forestry Commission woods. It's Red Kite country too – you will almost certainly see lots of them while you are here. Camp in your lorry, trailer, tent or caravan. Have a barbecue, a local pub meal or even phone for a take-away to be delivered. Or just come for the day. SEE SEPARATE FLYER. Contact Liz Woolston Tel. 01536 770314 email [membership@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:membership@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)

## SATURDAY

22 SEPTEMBER

**RUTLAND WATER LAGOONS** 7 & 9 miles. Level of difficulty GRADE 3. Tracks alongside Lagoons by courtesy of Anglian Water. This new Ride was offered as the Manton-Brooke Ride last year. It has two stewarded crossings of the busy A6003; a stewarded railway crossing; a short stretch on pavement/verge adjacent to the A6003; several un-stewarded gates and a field of cattle. It also includes a unique chance to ride on a part of Rutland Water estate, past the Lagoons provided for the wading birds, which is normally inaccessible to horse riders. It takes in the deserted plague village of Martinthorpe as well as the pretty village of Brooke, with options to loop through Egleton and Manton as well. Mainly BWs and off-road tracks with some quiet tarmacked roads. Contact *Roger Linford, Hawthorn House, Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8UH. Tel 07599 754475. email.* [Honsecretary@bridlewayslrba.org.uk](mailto:Honsecretary@bridlewayslrba.org.uk)