

Love Hodgemoor

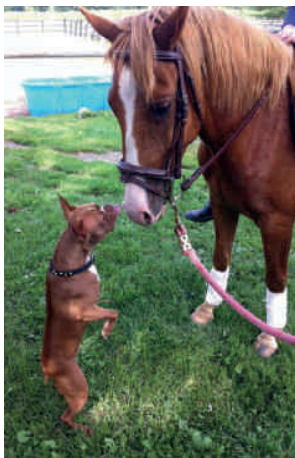


Hodgemoor Wood is a 250-acre woodland, a wonderful amenity for walkers, nature-lovers, cyclists and horse-riders, so conveniently placed between Amersham, Beaconsfield, The Chalfonts, Seer Green and Jordans. Hodgemoor is a natural heritage area, designated by Natural England as a "Site of Special Scientific Interest" (SSSI).

It is owned by Bucks County Council but administered for them by The Forestry Commission. You can appreciate; a wide variety of trees like 100 year-old oaks, birches, beeches and hornbeam); its outstanding bluebells, foxgloves and ferns; and wild animals like Deer, Muntjac, Tawny Owl, Buzzard, Red Kite, Jay, Cuckoo and Woodpecker.

The Forestry Commission looks after a large car park on Bottrells Lane, Chalfont St Giles, with a picnic spot alongside. There has a large network of footpaths and riding trails maintained by the award-

winning Hodgemoor Riding Association, i.e. by the horse-riders themselves, on behalf of and in coordination with, The Forestry Commission.



Since 1999, the Hodgemoor Riding Association has raised over £100,000 to renovate the riding trails, improving access for all users. These works realized the installation of a new bridleway and four new permissive trails, making a total of 3,000 metres of new track.

In July 2016 a new mobile-friendly web site was launched at www.hodgemoor.org.uk : don't miss the nature photos and videos by 14-year-old Harry Whiting at <http://hodgemoor.org.uk/walkers/nature-videos-and-photos/>. Any comments would be welcome via info@hodgemoor.org.uk

It is such a pleasure to be involved in maintaining such a precious place as Hodgemoor and to be able to encourage people to come and appreciate nature.



By **Susie Bicknell**, secretary Hodgemoor Riding Association (info@hodgemoor.org.uk) and **Marcus Bicknell**, chairman Hodgemoor Riding Association and voluntary Forest Warden, Forestry Commission



Our photo shows BBC's Bill Turnbull, 2nd from the right, opening one of the new trails in 2011.