

# MBBA Glastonbury Festival Ride 2011

## 'What a fantastic Ride!

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept, 173 horse riders, several cyclists, runners and 6 Carriages completed the popular Glastonbury Festival Ride.

This huge fun ride was organised by Mendip Bridleways & Byways Association and generously sponsored by 'Paddocks', a family-run business specialising in equestrian field maintenance.

The very varied 12 and 3-mile lead-rein routes took riders past the standing stones, the stone dragon and the skeleton of the pyramid stage before climbing the steep hill at Withial to bridleways and fields kindly opened by local landowners. On the long route, there were many good opportunities for a gallop and the fastest rider completed the course in under two hours while others took four.

Those doing the 3-mile lead-rein ride also had a chance to see the world-famous festival ground, with the youngest competitor taking part in his first ride at the age of two and the oldest horse being 32. Despite drizzle at the beginning of the ride, by the time the carriage-drivers set off the sun was shining from a clear blue sky and most of the riders were back at the venue, enjoying a coffee and burger from the tuck wagon. Photos of the ride were available on the day from Rex Photography and there were plenty of action shots to please everyone.

'I am delighted with the turnout' said Harriet Ray who organised the ride, 'and am so grateful to Mr Michael Eavis, the local farmers and landowners and of course our cheerful stewards who gave up their Sunday for a worthy cause. MBBA raised just short of £3,000 from this event, which will all go towards our aims of improving and creating bridleways across Mendip.'

The next fun ride is on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Greenscombe, Full details on [www.mbba.org.uk](http://www.mbba.org.uk)  
See you there!



Toby Ireland aged 2 and pony Clover completed the 3-mile lead-rein route with four other friends all under 6 years old from Keinton Mandeville



Not only horse riders took on the challenge of some very steep hills and survived to collect their rosette.



Enjoying the ride – one of the faster horses



Kelly Sayer and friends from Cheddar at the Standing Stones on the Glastonbury Festival Ground



Carriage drivers enjoyed the sunshine in the afternoon of the ride.

All photos available in higher resolution from Rexphotography  
Any queries please contact Ginnie Jones 01749 831276