

MARCH HACK

Sunday 20 March 2011 at Godshill, Fordingbridge

The hack postponed in February 2011 due to the wet conditions, took place on 20 March 2011 at Ashley Walk, which is on the north-west limits of the forest near Godshill, on a lovely warm and dry Sunday morning.

Sue and Steve who lead the hack, had certainly chosen a great place to ride. Although named after the ash trees found in the area, there was not just woodland, but large tracts of heathland alongside diversely forested enclosures. Setting out on tracks, which provided beautiful views over a steep valley and surrounding hills, there was not a single car in sight and very few walkers or cyclists either. There were graveled paths leading onto grass rides and plenty of sandy tracks giving the opportunity for everyone to enjoy some good long canters. We did encounter muddy bits, streams, bridges and a few logs to jump but these were all part of the fun!

Eleven of us set out on the ride and after the first 10 minutes, when horses and riders relaxed and settled, everyone developed smiles which were still there 2 hours later when we got back to the car park. With such a variety of people and horses, all ages, shapes and sizes, the conversation was interesting and the company all you could wish for. I would like to express my thanks to everyone who organized the event and then took part and I am already looking forward to the next one.

Helena Stone