

# HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



FREE TO MEMBERS

No. 10 LATE AUTUMN 2003/WINTER 2004

## **Straight From the Horse's Mouth**

Hello everyone.....

The prolonged dry spell has given us all plenty of opportunities for riding out. I hope you are all now prepared and ready to face the winter.

It seems a long time ago, but the August Bank Holiday horse hike was a great day out and everyone really enjoyed it. The horse shoe grading system for rides seemed to have tempted some new faces to appear. We hope it will give riders more confidence to come on rides which will be suited to them. A big thank you to Sue and Howard for organising it.

We have run all the rides on the programme except one, plus some unscheduled ones. St. Just, Drift Dam and Chapel Carn Brea were well attended and the recent ride from Halamanning was superb. But there were only 3 of us on the Gwinear horse hike. It was a fabulous sunny morning. We rode just over 10 miles virtually all off road. We had some lovely canters on the safe wide tracks and travelled through a variety of scenery. I would have expected to be inundated with members wanting to do this one, because the going is so brilliant. There is some interesting riding to do and explore in the county despite the terrible shortage of joined up bridleway routes. The horses really love going somewhere new instead of just trailing around old familiar routes from home. The horse hikes are free to members. Perhaps bizarrely, if we charged for the rides more people would come! The local rides have been well attended, but members do seem to find transport to away rides a problem.

Coming soon – The Lizard's best kept secret! And the Poldice Valley are you up for it!

The next Horse Around will be in the New Year so I will wish you all a very happy Christmas, and we do hope to see you for a drink at the Engine Inn December 10<sup>th</sup>.

And finally, Don't be a dark horse, write to Horse Around with your horse access issues or any information you wish to share with fellow members. Do you know if your parish is in the LMP? If it is, is the scheme working? Are you getting your bridleways cut back to the correct width and height? Do let us know.

Margaret

## **Christmas Cracker Ride 13 or 14 December**

**Our regular Xmas Horse Hike will be from St Just  
It will be a fun ride for everyone stopping at a few  
watering holes for appropriate refreshment.**

**Tinsel and antlers are optional. Please do come and  
join us. Please phone Amanda on 01736 871876 for  
final details.**

## **In This Issue:**

Featured Away Ride  
Horse Hike Programme  
PAROW – Penwith Access Forum Update  
End to End on Highland Pony  
Horse Hike Reports  
Hayle Review Update  
and MORE .....

## **Christmas Drink**

Please come and join us for a Christmas drink at the Engine Inn, Crippleasease, Nancledra on Monday 8th December, 7-30pm onwards.

This will be an informal meet up and social chat. Bring a friend, non-members very welcome.

Margaret and Adrian



**Champagne for Three Weary Horses  
See "End to End on Highland Pony"**

## **WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION**

Chairman: Adrian Bigg, Secretary: Margaret Bigg,  
Trevesa Farm, Trevega, Zennor, TR26 3BL  
Treasurer: Charlie Cartwright

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Tel: 01736 795098

## Bank Holiday Horse Hike From St Just

13 riders set off from St Just main car park in glorious weather for a horse hike that definitely had something for everybody. If you enjoy riding along Comish cliffs with outstanding views, where the water looked inviting enough to swim in - you got it. If you enjoy hacking over heather and gorse scented moorland tracks - you got it. If you enjoy a good pub lunch in the company of horsey-minded friends - that was provided as well. There were plenty of optional canters for the more experienced riders while those who preferred a slower pace could enjoy the ride at a comfortable walk and trot. We quickly left the built up area around St Just and followed old mining tracks and bridleways out to Carn Glouce. The views were stunning over the cliffs and headlands and out to the Brisons. Then, after a fairly steep decent into Cape Cornwall, we skirted the busy golf course and followed the track around to Kenidjack valley. We climbed back out of the valley following the course of a river inland for a short while, before once again returning to the tracks that run along the cliffs. From here we turned inland to Trewellard where we stopped for a very welcome drink and food at the Trewellard Arms Hotel.



Lunch at the Trewellard Arms

Once horses and riders were refreshed, we returned via some stunning moorland tracks to St Just via Trewellard Hill, Carn Kenidjack, and down to the pretty little valley of Tregeseal. A big thank you to Sue and Howard for organising such an enjoyable horse hike and a special thank you to Rosie for leading the group for much of the way.

Beverley Critchley

## Survey of the Ridden Routes of West Penwith

We have completed our full survey of all the routes we ride and used to ride. It has thrown up some amazing facts. In West Penwith alone there are 55 miles of tracks that we ride which are not designated as either bridleways, byways or roads which means they can be lost at any time as they are not directly protected in law. The definitive bridleways which are usable total only 35 miles!

We have submitted a full report to County Council. The report (25 pages) covers all the issues together with maps and statistics. We will be discussing the report with the CC in December to see if there are better and more speedy ways that can be found to address the problems than via the CC's current tedious processes. (More about this in our next Horse Around)

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Some horses are so polite; they stop and let you go over the fence first!!

## Late Autumn 2003/Winter 2004 Programme of Horse Hikes

Please put these dates in your diary.

			Organiser or Contact
U	Xmas Cracker Ride -St Just	13 <sup>th</sup> or 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Amanda
UU	New Year Ride Great Flat Lode	10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> January	M & A
U	Drift	7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> February	M & A
UU	St Just (EGB)	29 <sup>th</sup> February	Amanda
U	Nancledra	14 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> March	M & A
UU	Gwinear	20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> March	M & A

Always check with the organiser or ourselves a few days before. We do need to have an idea of likely attendance, and the exact date will be determined by the interest in the ride and/or weather. Please phone us early to find out more about these rides.

Amanda 01736 871876 Margaret and Adrian Tel: 795098

Most Horse Hikes will find a suitable pub for a lunch stop.

Hikes are ridden at your own risk.

BHS Affiliation covers our members for Public Liability Insurance on organised rides.

### Juniors on Horse Hikes

All juniors must be accompanied by a responsible parent or guardian who can look after them and their safety on the ride, and can vouch for their riding competence.

*If you have a good idea for a Horse Hike or wish to organise one, do please let us know!*

## Horse Hike Grading

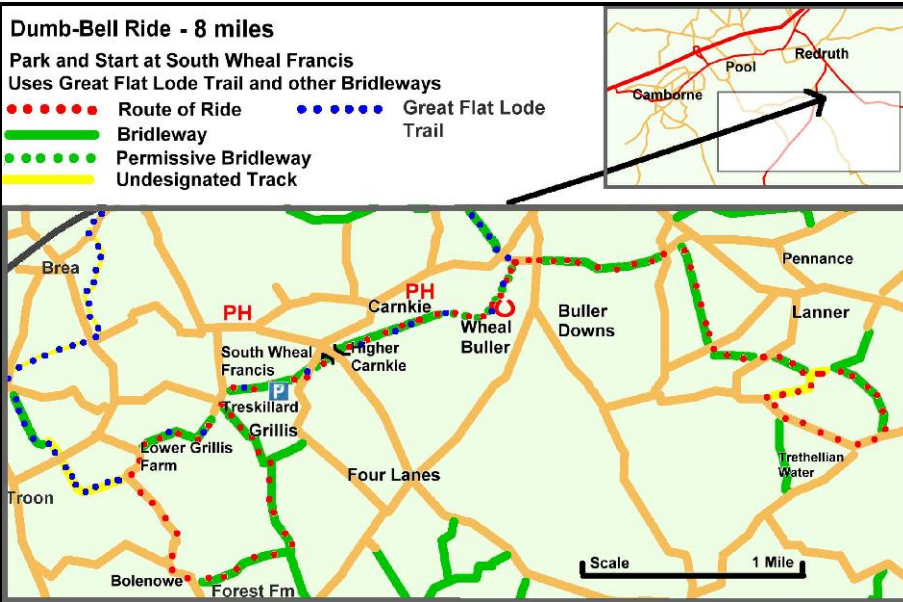
Our grading scheme for horse hikes has proved very successful. It gives a guide to the likely speed and pace of the ride. However if you do fancy a particular ride but feel the pace or distance may not suit you, please phone the organiser early because rides sometimes can be tailored to suit those interested.

We would like more of you to try our horse hikes. The hikes we run generally are not particularly difficult or demanding, but if unsure start with an easy ride (for the more cautious riders or those with unfit horses).

We mark our rides as follows:

- U Easy Ride at walk or easy trot with maybe the option of a canter or two.
- UU Rides with a reasonable amount of trotting and canters where the terrain is suitable.
- UUU Rides which may be a little more demanding either in length or pace of ride to suit the more experienced rider or fitter horses

## Featured Away Ride – Great Flat Lode



Just for a change in this Horse Around we are featuring bridleways outside of our area but in easy reach for those with a box. Many of you may have already heard of the Great Flat Lode Trail just south of Camborne. The Great Flat Lode refers to a 'lode' of tin ore that was extensively worked.

The County Council around 1998 started the Mineral Tramways Project. This was to preserve the mining heritage of Camborne and Redruth and to make multi-user trails by using the old mine tramways. Extensive grants were won for this. The Great Flat Lode Trail itself is a circular trail that was opened about 3 years ago to walkers cyclists and horse riders. The other major trail goes from Coast to Coast from Devoran to Portreath opened in 2002.

### **Our Featured Ride uses part of the Great Flat Lode Trail and other connecting old tramway routes and bridleways.**

Our ride starts at the South Wheal Francis car park on the Great Flat Lode Trail where there is plenty of space for your box. The ride is essentially linear with a good loop at both ends.

From the car park head east where an old tramway bridge goes under the fairly busy road that heads towards Four Lanes. You do have to dismount for this, and mounting blocks are provided. The bridleway then takes you past Higher Carnkie and then past Wheal Buller Riding Centre. The track past Wheal Buller is a permissive bridleway. There are other horses about and you are asked to walk this stretch. You turn right on a short stretch of quiet road before carefully crossing a fast road on a bridleway track that heads towards Lanner. On coming to the end of this bridleway take the lane that goes straight ahead for a short way until you take another bridleway on the right.

This bridleway is for much of its length an old tramway. It bridges one road and then crosses another quiet lane, before you reach its end. At its end where there is a sample of the old railway track you turn right and reach a vehicular track that brings you to turn left onto a quiet lane. This lane is for half a mile when you turn left onto a farm track bridleway that eventually brings you back to the end of the tramway bridleway you came on. Retracing your hoof prints back to past the car park where you started you continue in the opposite direction on the bridleway through South Francis Mine. At the end go left onto the lane and shortly left again onto a bridleway past Grillis farm. At the top of a long hill turn right onto a joining bridleway to Forest Farm and on to Bolenowe. At Bolenowe turn right and right again to wend your way back along a quiet lane before turning right again on a bridleway that takes you past Lower Grillis Farm and back to your original route leading back to the car park.

This is a lovely ride of about eight miles, mostly off-road on good bridleway tracks with some long canter stretches and good views. When riding, on all the paths, please do be courteous to other users and especially walkers.

The ride can easily be extended onto other parts of the trails and up to the top of Carn Brea.

If you want a more detailed map of the Trail – Please contact me, Adrian

## Riding Maps of Penwith

We now can produce maps in choice of two scales. A3 in size (2.5 miles per inch), or A4 size (1.75 miles per inch). The maps are available as follows:

- No 1 Sennen and St Leven
- No 2 St Just
- No 3 St Buryan and Paul
- No 4 Sancreed
- No 5 Madron
- No 6 Morvah and Zennor
- No 7 Towednack and St Ives
- No 8 Ludgvan
- No 9 St Hilary, Marazion, Perranuthnoe, Germoe
- No 10 St Erth and St Hilary

The maps cover adjacent parts of neighbouring parishes. These maps are available at a nominal cost of only £1 A3 (£0.50 A4) each to cover production costs etc. Full set A4 for £4.00 Any three A3 maps £2.00. Please send cheque, coins or stamps with your order to Adrian at Trevesa Farm. An A4 SAE would be much appreciated

In Preparation:

- No 11 Breage and Germoe
- No 12 Crowan
- No 13 Gwinear
- No 14 Wendron

## New BHS Access and Bridleways Officer

Adrian has been asked to become BHS County Access and Bridleways Officer for Cornwall. He has now taken over the reins from Jo Heane as she is finding it too much with so many other commitments.

Although this will mean even more donkey work for Adrian, it will enable us to forge ahead and harness the power of the BHS. Let's hope he hasn't bitten off more than he can chew! Trot on Adrian!

Seriously it is most important that the county does have an officer to help all riders and other bridleway groups with access problems.

We have already completed pioneering work in Penwith in the survey and mapping of all the ridden paths and we plan to extend this through the rest of Cornwall with the help of the other Bridleways Associations. We also plan to work closely with the County Council and the County Access Forum to see if better progress can be made in protecting our ridden routes.

More in the next Horse Around

## Ride UK Project

You may remember that involvement with the BHS RideUK project prompted the formation of our Association. Activity on this project to develop horse trails through the County had ceased for a while owing to lack of finance or grants to enable the CC to help us take it forward. We are currently re-launching the project in Cornwall in a more flexible way. *Hopefully we will have more news in the next Horse Around*

## End to End by Highland Pony

Loads of people walk from end to end and lots cycle, but how many have been brave and intrepid enough to tackle it on horseback and carrying all your own gear. We were contacted in October to assist Tracey Elliot-Reep and her travelling companion Scot McGregor, who breeds Highland ponies, on the last leg of their journey to Lands End.

Tracey and her Highland ponies left Cape Wrath at the top of Scotland on the 20 July and had made their way down the west coast. Tracey and Scot and ponies stayed with us overnight before starting on the last leg of their journey. The previous day they had trekked down from Porthtowan via Tehidy, Kehelland, Gwinear and St. Erth.

To navigate them across the moors, I went with them, and was joined by fellow WPBA members Beverly and Jasmine Jenkin at Men an Tol, and Amanda Nicholson at Lands End airport.

This last leg of the route was over the moors via the "Tinnars' way" covering Lady Downs, Mulfra, Men an tol, Chun Downs, Woon Gumpus and Carn Kenidjack.

My pony Roana took a little while to get used to Kingsman their pack pony running free behind us and occasionally trying to overtake.

We headed down off the moorland to Lower Bostraze, on to Dowran, then dropped southwards past Chapel Carn Brea to eventually join the A30. We finally finished the journey going from Sennen to Lands End on the new cycleway and bridleway.



## Tracy and Scot and ponies with Margaret at Lands End

We travelled 17 miles, but it took us 7 hours because we had lots of stops for photoshoots, a Radio Cornwall live interview and to adjust the horse's pack and a loose shoe. Tracy and Scot celebrated their epic journey's end with a bottle of champagne under the famous Lands End sign post. This was a major achievement for Tracey from Widdicombe in Devon who covered 1,000 miles of bridleways tracks and roads. In the course of her trip she was raising funds for the RDA (Riding for the Disabled)

We want to see the Tinnars' Way route made into a proper but modest trail for riders and walkers so that more people can enjoy this spectacular scenic route.

Margaret

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What did one horse say to another?  
The pace is familiar but I can't remember the mane.

## PAROW – (Penwith Access and Rights of Way Forum)

**STOP PRESS:** Our Forum, formed earlier this year by WPBA, West Cornwall Footpaths Preservation Society, the Ramblers and Penwith District Council, have now been successful in getting a grant from Objective One Funding.

This grant enables us to employ a Paths Officer for Penwith, to work on, and promote our footpaths and bridleways. The appointment is initially for one year.

You may have read the recent advert in the Cornishman for this post. We are looking for someone who is interested in the future of our paths network, and who is able to work on their own and organise voluntary effort in the maintenance and improvement of our paths and bridleways.

Getting this funding is a major achievement for our Forum. Our Forum is already proving very effective in bringing together all who have an interest in our footpaths and bridleways, from parish councils to landowners, and organisations such as the National Trust. We also will work closely with the County Council who have ultimate responsibility for our paths but who are not as effective as they should be owing to inadequate funding.

Adrian

## Hayle Parish Review – Update

As reported in the last Horse Around, the first meeting of the Hayle Parish Paths Review was held last March. Since then we have made submissions to the review process. However since then the County Council has, to our knowledge, done no more work on the project as the key person involved on the project has left the Council's employ.

There are 210 parishes in Cornwall and none of the first pilot reviews have yet been completed. Hayle is the last of the five pilot set of reviews organised by the County Council to try and correct the definitive map of our rights of ways.

This is very discouraging, because to get the process completed in 20 years, ten must be completed each year!

## National Trust Permissive Bridleway to Zennor – Update

We reported in the last Horse Around on the new permissive path from the downs above Zennor down to Zennor village. Unfortunately because of the extensive growth of vegetation this year the path is currently too overgrown to use and gates need to be maintained. We are pushing the NT on this and plan to have a working party to help them get the path servicable. Please contact me for further information.

Adrian

## Problem Update

### Bridleway No. 26 – Botrea - Sancreed Parish

The CC say it may be many months before the bridge repairs will be done as they are waiting for a quote from CORMAC. In the meantime, make your own decision as to whether you continue to use it or not.

### Bridleway No. 58 - Kennel Lane, Madron - Madron Parish

Council were spurred into action to repair the kennels bridleway. After lining up the contractor to carry out the repairs they discovered that a group of locals had got together and rebuilt the surface and made it rideable once more. Also, a rubbish tip beside was cleared. Madron PC wish to thank those responsible. Madron PC are hoping to improve Break my Neck bridleway which is also in a very bad state.

### Bridleway No. 7 - Porthcurno to Treen - St Leven Parish

The National Trust promised to repair this to make it usable. They have been unable to do so this year. We are reminding them again for it to be included in their schedule for this winter.

## Horse Hikes from Drift and Chapel Carn Brea

We have had two successful horse hikes from the popular venues of Drift and Chapel Carn Brea. Our ride from Drift was well attended with Sue and Howard and four young riders coming all the way from St Just on the hoof. We had trimmed back some of the tracks and bridledways to make the ride possible but only sufficient to get through. On approaching Tresvennack we were stopped in our tracks by newly laid concrete. We didn't think the owners would appreciate a nice pattern of horse shoes across it so we had to retrace our steps back to the road and detour around. Lovely views were gained over Lamorna valley from the bridledway to Castallack. Riding on, we went to Sheffield then down to Paul and on to the Kings Arms for a drink and a 'nosebag' stop. After lunch, we made our way back up to Sheffield and back to Drift Dam. The horse hike covered 8 miles, but those who rode to the meet clocked up much more.

The ride from Chapel Carn Brea took us across the lower part of Bartinney Downs to join a quiet road to Joppa then on to Kelynack and Cot Valley. We soon found ourselves up the other side of Cot Valley and out on to the cliff. The sun came out to give us stunning views over the sea across to the Brisons. We turned inland and into St. Just main square where we stopped for lunch at the Wellington Hotel. After an excellent lunch on the hoof, and the chip-eating horses satisfied, we continued on our way back towards the sea and at Boscean we turned down the steep track into Tregaseal Valley. The sun continued to shine on us which tamed the north wind a little. We trotted up the valley and crossed over the coast road and on inland to Bosvargus. We headed up the track to the main St. Just road crossing over on to Lafowdra Common and on to Dowran and then home. Thanks to Amanda for a great day out!

## New Indoor School at Lands End

Those of you who have driven to Lands End lately may have noticed that a large new building has appeared at Trevescan. This brand new indoor school for Lands End Riding Centre was officially opened on 19<sup>th</sup> September by local vet Steve Otty.

This was followed by demonstrations by renowned horseman Richard Maxwell. The evening was packed out and everyone enjoyed watching Richard work his magic on the chosen horses. Most people will hopefully have learned something namely that patience and understanding works wonders and there's no need to be in a hurry and use unnecessary force.

It's very exciting to have such a place down this neck of the woods, I think they have plans to add more to it so it really will be a place to compete with in the future. The riding club have already held a few shows there and hopefully bookings will be rolling in.

I know that Beverly and David had a few sleepless nights leading up to the opening but hopefully it will all be worthwhile.

For more information contact Lands End Centre on 01736 871217

Amanda

## Endurance GB Training Ride

The ride this winter is on Sunday 29th February and will be run as usual from St. Just Rugby Club.

The Entry Fee is £12.50 or £10.00 with proof of own 3rd party insurance.

The 15 mile route will be well marked with orange dayglow and stewards on road crossings. Rosettes to all finishers, entries limited to 40.

Entry forms can be picked up at Eclipse, Long Rock or downloaded from the EGB website.

For more details phone Amanda on 01736 871876

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**Why did the horse take a slice of hay to bed?  
To feed his nightmares.**

## Horse Passports Latest

As reported in the last Horse Around, new legislation is being introduced that will require all horses, ponies and other equines in England to have a passport. However the date by which passports are required has now been put back to 30 June 2004. The legislation is to introduce a control system to ensure that horses which have been treated with veterinary medicines not authorised for use in food-producing animals cannot be slaughtered for human consumption. Moreover, it will contribute to allowing the UK horse industry to continue to use such medicines on horses not intended for the human food chain. There is full information on the DEFRA website (see below) but the essentials are:

To obtain a passport a diagram of your horse is needed. An existing silhouette (eg done by your vet) can be used but needs redrawing (by you) on the application form, otherwise you can mark up your own silhouette. How good these silhouettes are at uniquely identifying a horse seems very much pot luck dependent on both the "artist" and any unique features the horse may have.

Over 50 organisations have been authorised to issue passports. The best value option we have found is the Horse Passport Agency ([www.horsepassportagency.org](http://www.horsepassportagency.org)). The HPA issues identity passports for just £14 each. You can complete the description and diagram of your horse yourself. However if your horse is eligible for registration as a recognised breed - i.e thoroughbred, Irish draught etc - you should contact the relevant breed society for a passport).

The BHS charges £27, £22 for members.

If you don't have a passport after 30 June 2004 your vet will not be able to treat your horse with certain medicines and you will not be able to sell your horse.

## DEFRA Launches New Horse Website

On 14 November DEFRA (Department of Environment Farming and Rural Affairs) launched a new website giving information on horses.

The site is <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses/>

To quote from the new site:

"Defra works for the good of horses; for people who ride, own, or work with horses; and for the sustainable benefits that horses bring to economies and communities. In September 2002 Defra announced a new focus for the horse industry within government, appointing Graham Cory as 'Official for the Horse' to lead a small horse industry team."

"The creation of the horse webpages is an important part of the government's commitment to the horse industry and to providing information on equine policy for people who own or work with horses or are interested in equine issues."

The new site gives advice on issues from riding routes to horse welfare. It gives information on breeding and has sections on racing and sport. There is also a tourism section, with details on pony trekking holidays and trail riding. The 'What's new' page lists recent news releases and current consultations relevant to the horse industry."

There is much useful information on the site and a lot of words of good intentions. The importance of the horse and riding is clearly understood by the government. However whether they fully understand the problems our bridledway 'network' faces remains to be seen. Hopefully some intentions may be translated into action. We will in due course be directly lobbying the 'Official for the Horse'.

## Bridleway Clearance

In theory our official bridleways are maintained by the parish councils, other than in the parishes of Paul and Morvah. All other parishes are in the County Council's Local Maintenance Partnership scheme where they are paid to keep all bridleways and footpaths clear.

We asked all parish councils via a survey questionnaire how well they are able to do the job with the monies provided. Most admit that they find the job very difficult to do satisfactorily with the monies available. This has been especially true this year with the very long and fast growing season.

More importantly from the rider's viewpoint, few councils give any specific instructions for bridleway clearance. **Bridleways should be trimmed to a minimum width of 2.5 metres and a clearance height of 3.5 metres!** Some councils contractors are not able to trim the high vegetation.

Through our PAROW Forum we are going to be liaising more closely with the parish councils on how these problems can be overcome.

In particular we have suggested to parishes that they seek help, from voluntary bodies such as ourselves and the Footpaths Society, with specific troublesome paths and bridleways where extra effort is required to get them clear.

The advantage of this approach is that any effort we expend does not conflict with the work planned by the council's contractors. Also parishes are better positioned to inform landowners of any work planned.

50% of the paths we ride are not bridleways or even footpaths. These give even greater problems for maintenance as the County Council has no responsibility for them. It is also difficult for us to organise clearance working parties on them as we generally don't know who owns them (or claims to own them). Clearance without consent can cause many problems. Our new PAROW Paths Officer, when in post, should be able to help with such arrangements.

Most of the clearance we have done this year has been very informal and low key but we have managed to keep some routes open that were getting impassable.

There is much you can do on your local paths by occasionally going out with secateurs or a small saw. Once you can get through, usage helps keep a path clear.

**Next year we do expect to be asking for help on specific clearance projects.**

In the meantime do let us know of blackspots in your area.

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**What disease do horses fear most?**

**Hay Fever!**

*(All Horsey Jokes pinched with thanks from Mid-Cornwall's Newsletter)*

## Horse Hike from Halamanning

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November we had a brilliant horsehike from Goldsithney, starting at Halamanning. Just as we started off towards Trescowe we had heavy showers. The bridleway meandered through the trees and we had to dodge low branches and vegetation. After reaching Trescowe we travelled towards Godolphin Hill. The rain stopped and the sun appeared briefly as we rode up Rocky Lane which skirts around Godolphin Hill. We used the network of quiet lanes, tracks and bridleways to reach Tregonning Hill. At the top is the war memorial and we found a Remembrance Service taking place. We stopped well short of the gathering whilst readings and prayers were said and only moved quietly past once the assembled band started to play. The horses seemed to pick up on the solemnity of the occasion as they all waited patiently and quietly. The views from here allow you to see for miles in all directions.

From Tregonning Hill we made our way down to Ashton and the Lamb & Flag Inn for lunch. At the rear of the pub, they have a nice big grassy beer garden which easily accommodated all the horses. After lunch everyone was keen to get moving again, but first we had to cross the busy A394 (to Helston) and trot along it to the next left turn which took us down a lane to Praa Sands. The sun felt warm now as we trotted on. There is a byway and bridleway which runs along the length of Praa Sands giving the riders tremendous views of the tempestuous sea running. Leaving Praa Sands behind, we turned back up to the A394 which we had to cross at Newtown. Being in a large group made this crossing a little less daunting, but I wouldn't like to attempt to cross this road on horseback in a small group of 2 or 3! We all got safely across as traffic slowed for such a large group of riders. From Newtown Farm we crossed Greenberry Downs and on to Woodstock, Perran Downs and back home. This had been a really excellent horse hike with lovely views and charting new ground for most of us. We covered nearly 10 miles. Our thanks go to Alison McCarthy who put a lot of work into planning a very varied and interesting ride

## In Brief:

### Countryside Population

A latest survey on rural population movements is now saying that 40,000 people a month move into the southwest and 40,000 move out! Apparently, those who seek the idyllic lifestyle soon once again yearn for the city as they feel isolated and depressed working from home and miss the buzz of city life.

The southwest coastal path brings more than £300M into the region's economy. The Countryside Agency says its so important an asset it deserves to get more investment from government bodies. The agency hopes its figures will prove persuasive when it asks for help to pay for maintenance of the path.

Horse Around Comment: - It's a pity they don't take their blinkers off and see the full potential of a well-structured and well maintained inland network of trackways, bridleways and footpaths!

### Horses for Management Courses

An enterprising company in Oxfordshire is charging £150 per day running "horses for courses" You can forget paint ball and war games, that's old hat! The latest management training courses for team building are now introducing their staff to "horse whispering".

Individuals are put in a round pen and then without any real assistance have to try and persuade a horse to follow them around the ring (Monty Roberts' style) . They discovered you don't focus on the horse's head but on the horse's body to gain the required reaction. The purpose is to help them improve communication skills and working relationships in the business world using the horse power of thinking.

Does this put a whole new meaning on the phrase when the boss says jump the response is how high?