

HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



FREE TO MEMBERS

** BUMPER ISSUE **

No. 23 SUMMER/AUTUMN 2008

Hello Everyone,

I do hope you are managing to enjoy some Summer. It has hardly been beach weather and even snatching a ride between the showers has been difficult at times. Let's hope the rampant grass growth has not caught you out with Laminitis and brought you extra vet bills! Horse owners could well be experiencing hardships with the tough economic situation. Important issues presently preoccupying riders is the galloping inflation of all essentials and the constantly referred to credit crunch is riding high on peoples' minds. However, we continue to keep the focus and pressure on improving and preserving your available riding. We have good reason to be whinnying on at the County Council and hoofing the ground with impatience because there still seem to be some problems with the path cutting by the parishes under the LMP scheme. How many of you have had your bridleways cut this Summer? Let us know your experiences. However PAROW has been busy clearing many paths. We have some more good news on PAROW, read more inside.

Back in June we did 2 days on the BHS stand at the Royal Cornwall Show. It was good to see some of you there and also to meet and discuss riders problems on access with the wider BHS Cornwall membership. Adrian has been working very hard developing the bridleway mapping database. You can now view your riding areas online. All the Mineral Tramway trails, the Clay trails and the new Goss Moor and other trails are also available. Our riding routes will be incorporated into the BHS EMAGIN national database. The EMAGIN project is very ambitious and ultimately aspires to show all manner of related information. More on this inside.

Due to popular demand, we kept the horse hikes going through the Summer for the first time ever. Although at this time of year, many turn their attention to shows and various horse leaping contests, we had an excellent turnout for the end of June Drift Dam ride, and also for the Nancledra and Chapel Carn Brea rides. The new St Erth ride went down a storm and I'm sure it will become a firm favourite.

The Lizard ride didn't happen this time but Alison Lugg is keen to take you on that brilliant ride. Everyone should go and experience it at least once! We hope to see you on the horse hikes when we start up again in September. They are not scary, honest – read the write-ups. See you then.

Margaret

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and more

Ride the Tinnars Way
14th September



Ready to go on the Nancledra Horse Hike

Early Date for your diary: Christmas Get Together
Informal Drink and Chat

at The Engine Inn! Wed 17th December

WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Adrian Bigg, Treveffa Farm, Treveffa,
Zennor, TR26 3BL

Treasurer: Beverly Jenkin, Secretary: Margaret Bigg,

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Horse Hikes – New Rides

We've had a surge of new interest and welcomed new members to the horse hikes. The walk and trot quiet rides have been particularly well attended. You will see a new programme of horse hikes and we have included some new 'away' rides from familiar starting points. From the Great Flat Lode we have a new route over to the Poldice Valley and linking two of the main tramway trails together. Also, we plan to use the new bridleway into Tehidy Woods. We have also got in mind a quiet very scenic ride from the Poldice Valley up to Devoran skirting the estuary, using the new bridleway under-pass. This is essentially a 'walk and gawp' ride as there is lots of interesting scenery to look at.

Horse Hike from Nanclendra/ Cripplesease Sunday 13th July (picture on front page)

Well, the children's pony club ties have long since been packed away in hope that a future generation may share the Harris enthusiasm for all things equine. Even the horses they later progressed on to have long since gone and there is just Dad and I left at home now and a tack room full of memories of the past. His passion is hunting but I simply am not brave enough, so in the belief that if I don't get back into riding now then I might bottle out for ever, I purchase Gem – a solid sensible trusty steed.

Wishing to explore further afield I join the West Penwith Bridleways Group and with slight trepidation (although needless really as those who are organising are most friendly and welcoming) Gem and I arrive at The Engine Inn car park on Sunday 13th July for our first outing.

Well we had a lovely ride, in sunshine, about twelve of us in all. Spectacular views as we rode up through Trink and around the bridleway that took us around the base of Trencrom, a short stretch of road and then onto another bridleway – was it this one that then led onto another which is nearly 2 miles long and so we were informed 'the longest bridleway in Penwith'. Then we ended up above Nanclendra onto more tracks and finally wove our way back to where we had started and quenched our thirst with a cooling drink at The Engine Inn.

What an enjoyable time we had, bridleways and views that I'd never come across before although I live not 6 miles away.

Thank you Adrian and Margaret for organising this pleasant ride.

We'll certainly be back for more!

Elizabeth Harris

Autumn 2008

Programme of Horse Hikes

Please note these dates in your diary now			Organiser or Contact
U	Madron	7 Sept	Anne
U	Tinners Charity Ride	14 Sept	M & A.
U	Polgigga	20/21 Sept	Beverly.
UU	Halamanning	4/5 Oct	Alison M
U	Great Flat Lode	18/19 Oct	M & A.
UU	Gwinear	1/2 Nov	M & A.
U	Drift	8/9 Nov	M & A.
U	Tehidy	15/16 Nov	M & A.
U	Chapel Carn Brea	29/30 Nov	Amanda
U	Xmas Cracker	13/14 Dec	Amanda.
UU	Lizard	To be arranged	Alison L.
Please let Alison know at an early date if you are interested in this brilliant ride Tel: 01326 241545			

Other rides may be organised according to demand. We always welcome suggestions for new rides.

Always check with the organiser or ourselves a few days before. The exact date will be determined by the interest in the ride and/or weather.

Contacts:

Margaret and Adrian Tel: 01736 795098

Alison McCarthy Tel: 01736 710117

Alison Lugg Tel: 01326 241545

Anne Tel: 01736 330623

Amanda Tel: 01736 871876; Beverly 01736 871151

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!

U Easy Ride UU Average Ride

Tinners' Way 10 mile Charity Walk/Ride

An excellent opportunity to ride the Tinners' Way over the moors. If this is a successful event, it could be a regular on our programme. As it is a one way trip we will need to coordinate horse/people transport. So please do let us know of your interest as early as possible,

Paths Improvement Programme (PIIP) Update

The most recent being the re-vamping of Rocky Lane, St. Buryan costing £20k! It is absolutely fantastic – you could roller skate it now!! (We included it in our last Drift Dam ride.) However the County Council's flagship project to repair our bridleways seems in danger of running out of steam, with many parishes and specific projects running over budget.

We have nothing more major to report. We are still awaiting for the remainder of "Carter's Grave" bridleway (Nancladra to Canonstown) to be completed.

The CC is currently working on Towednack and St Ives but we have no further information. Nor do we have information as to when Hayle, Gwinear-Gwithian St Erth, St Hilary Madron, Sancreed are to be progressed. We also are very anxious that Break-my-Neck Lane, Madron is made usable and safe.

Towednack

The moorland bridleways in Towednack will be cleared very shortly now the bird nesting season is finished. This is going to be done by our sister organisation PAROW by the Jolly Green Giant, Chris and Little Green Giant, Kirstan.



Work with the tractor and flail last April on the moorland bridleway.

Fantastic! The gully on the right is what we used to ride.

We can't wait for it to be finished.

Marazion 1

The gates on this bridleway have at last been repaired by the county Council.

LMP - Local Maintenance Partnership with parishes

Under this partnership the parish councils are given money to find contractors to cut back the parish paths. Some parishes seem to have had difficulty in operating the scheme this year and cutting regimes have either been late or not started at all. We are dismayed by this. However the plant growth this year has been exceptional

PAROW will shortly be doing some mechanised work where the terrain allows a tractor and flail. This is the efficient way to clear our network rather than grinding away with a strimmer. Where tracks are cleared of boulders, we can also get the newly acquired pasture topper in to mow out a track in an hour what can take 2 days with a strimmer!! See more on PAROW elsewhere in this horse Around.



Adrian and Margaret trying out the newly restored "Rocky Lane" bridleway at Lamorna at its official reopening.

Horse Hike from Drift Dam To Paul

On Sunday 29 June we had a good turnout of 12 riders for a tranquil Drift Dam horse hike. We set off crossing the A30 making for Chyenhal. We took bridleways leading over higher ground, giving views across to St. Buryan. We dropped down on to the lane leading to Kerris and picked the bridleway through the wood to Lamorna Pottery. The work the CC has done has now made this woodland bridleway a joy to ride. It was far more pleasurable meandering through the wood rather than riding down the road. From Lamorna Pottery we rode on to Lamorna and rode the newly renovated bridleway Rocky Lane - running from the Merry Maidens link road to Lamorna. Cornwall County Council has done a truly excellent job of it. Everyone agreed how good it now is - a lovely 'kind' surface with good drainage installed to stop it washing out again. After riding up Rocky Lane, on reaching Menwinion Care Home, we turned around and walked back down getting a different perspective of the surrounding woodland on the return. At The Lamorna Wink Pub we crossed the pretty valley bottom, and trotted up the big everlasting hill past the quaint mill and up to Castallack. It was all quiet lanes with pleasant views on the way to the Kings Arms at Paul. Fortunately, there was enough room at the Kings Arms to accommodate the many horses and thirsty riders. Then the sky clouded over and a shower came but did not last too long. Empty saddles got wet and we all got damp bottoms when we mounted up to ride on! However, we soon dried out as the sunshine returned on our journey home.

We had a good number of new members along Everyone found the ride pace suited them, all had a very pleasant 10 mile ride and all the horses were well behaved.

Annual General Meeting Report

Linda Holloway of Cornwall County Council gave an excellent and entertaining talk on enforcement issues on our Bridleways. We welcome Beverly Jenkin as our new Treasurer and we thank Charlie Cartwright for his services over the past years. Charlie was unable to continue owing to other commitments. Adrian was re-elected chairman and Margaret Secretary. Committee Members: Amanda Nicholson, Gill Plumbley, Claire Lee, Alison McCarthy, Lizzy Matthews.



**Walk or Ride the Tinnors Way
for Water Aid**

SUNDAY 14th September 2008

Approximately. 10 miles, starting at Nancladra Community Hall and finishing at St Just. Commencing at 10:15am

FOR MORE DETAILS

Contact Sheila Jackson at info@nanjulianfarm.com Tel: 01736 871384 or turn up on the day and give donation

**INTERESTED RIDERS PLEASE CONTACT
MARGARET AND ADRIAN
(We would like to arrange horse transport shuttle)**



Memberships

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership and continues to support the work we are doing. We currently have just over the magic 100 memberships, but are well down on the 130 plus we have had previously in recent years. We would like to get those lapsed members to come back and rejoin us. If you know of anyone who would like to join or rejoin, please do a little bit of recruiting. Off road cyclists and walkers are all welcome as they share the bridleways and tracks we ride. Some members who pay late on in the year find that the following March comes round quite quickly. It may be more convenient for them to pay for 2 years and save the hassle of remembering! We enclose reminders with this newsletter for those who have not yet rejoined for this year April 08 to March 09. Membership is not all about horse hikes; it's very much about supporting the work we are doing in improving and securing your riding network for the future.

Cardinham Woods Endurance Ride

On the 20 April, despite gloomy weather predictions, the sun shone and three local lasses Amanda Nicholson, Peta –Jane Field and myself set off on a 20 mile endurance ride from Cardinham.



Beverly Jenkin, Amanda Nicholson, Peta-Jane Field

The route took us across fields, then along miles of woodland tracks. Some of the course scaled what seemed like vertical tracks which left my chunky little cob (and my chunky little self) puffing and blowing at the top.

You can see how delighted our husbands are to give up a Sunday to crew their wives! All in all a great day out. All our horses passed the final vet check with flying colours, so three happy riders headed back down the A30.

Beverley Jenkin



GOLDEN HORSE SHOE

Congratulations and well done to Amanda on completing the Golden Horseshoe ride and getting Gold. Also well done to Jill Thomas who completed the 75 mile ride.

BHS Access Cornwall Website

www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk

Online Mapping

Please do revisit our main web site. We have now implemented online 'interactive' mapping of our ridden routes. Click on the area of Cornwall you are interested in and the Ordnance Survey Map will be displayed showing bridleways and importantly other ridden (and cycled) paths.

Click on a path for details, to make a report or to see an aerial photo view of the path. – see if you can spot your horse! Also click for pictures where available. We have done much work in implementing this using a new Ordnance Survey (free) facility. We are also working closely with the BHS EMAGIN project to provide the facility nationally. We are constantly improving our website and the information it provides. Do you have any digital photos of where you ride or cycle (good or bad)? Email them to us with the exact location and we will put them on our website map.

Reporting problems or good news to us is now even easier. Just click on a path on the map and click Report Button.

Also take time to look at the other news and information on the site. See our equestrian survey results and sign the online petition(s).

www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/westpenwithbridleways
and www.parow.org.uk

Discovering Lost Ways Project

The government's Discovering Lost Ways Project was set up to legally record as bridleways, and so preserve, many of the paths we ride. In the event, 'Discovering Lost Causes' has become a more apt name for this project. The project has only served to highlight how difficult it is to get your riding routes on to the definitive map and thus protected in law for future generations. At least the government now realises the difficulty we all face in getting the routes on to the map. The project found many hundreds of routes in the two pilot counties but had no idea how to proceed. A review of the project, concluded "*that the challenges of securing a complete and accurate Definitive Map were beyond the scope of a research focussed project and a new approach was required.*"

The government has now set up a Stakeholder Working Group to examine ways forward. Our BHS Director of Access, Mark Weston is a member of this group of countryside representatives which will convene in September.

Something must be done as currently under the CROW ACT 2000 all unrecorded historic routes will be lost if not recorded by 2026, and we could be barred from many of the routes we ride without any legal redress.

We wrote to the Minister for Rural Affairs, Jonathan Shaw, via Andrew George, MP and he replied, "the government has given an undertaking that the CroW Act 2000 provisions that would extinguish any historic rights of way not shown on the definitive map by 2026, will not be pursued, at least until the stakeholder working group has reported on its conclusions"

We will report further on the progress of the Stakeholder Working Group in the next Horse Around.

The Great Flat Lode Horse Hike

We met as usual at South Wheal Francis car park, because of it being of ample proportions to take our visiting trailers. However that day we were forced to park on the road outside. A big iron overhead gantry at 2 metres high has been constructed over the entrance. We were barred and so unloading and loading of horses had to take place out on the road causing mayhem and danger to all.



We have had a battle royal with Kerrier DC who said that we should park out an unload our horses on the road. After a tremendous email campaign the County Council have assured us the barriers will go, but despite promises it is still not yet resolved.

On with our ride, we had just set off - mounting up after the tramway tunnel, when we suddenly found ourselves in the middle of some kind of Shire Horse charity parade. This added to the excitement of the horses who were all keen to go on their Sunday ride. The fog had lifted and it turned very hot as we passed Wheal Buller and out on to the Tresavean trail overlooking Lanner. We looped round on to the road and got views of Stithians reservoir before riding back towards Wheal Buller. We then rode down to Brea village but diverted around the Wheal Uny mine workings and network of little paths.



Enjoying the views at Wheal Uny

We rode on up to Carn Brea and took the bridleway track that skirts around the side of the hill and back up to the mine buildings for a closer look at the pumping house. The wild flowers were looking their best and George Bennetts commented he had never seen so many violets. Back up to Wheal Buller, we rejoined the tramway trail back to South Wheal Francis. Lovely views over Carnkie below and across to the Basset family monument formed part of a much greater panorama of the valley and beyond. Although this 12 mile exhilarating ride was a bit pacey, covering a lot of ground in a short time, we will allow for more time to take in the views on the next occasion. There are further new trails just being completed by the County Council Heritage team which we still have to explore.

Horse Hike from Chapel Carn Brea

My wife Lynne and I have just joined the Bridleways Association and have had 3 lovely rides. The third one was from Chapel Carn Brea. A group of 6 of us led by Beverley started out at 11 o'clock straight on to some lovely moorland paths. Eventually we passed through Tregeseal and then on to the coastal bridleway with the golf course to our left and the mine workings in the distance. We continued along the coast to reach the Queens Arms at Botallack for some drinks. We were soon on our way again via some more bridleways back to Chapel Carn Brea. The ride lasted about 3 hrs. We must have had our summer all on that Sunday because the weather was fantastic!
- What great value for membership. Peter and Lynne.

In Brief

After Oil

"You must prepare yourself for a different world. A world in which the rich ride horses, the middle classes use bicycles and the poor walk" quote in an article in The Guardian. (Penzance is supposed to be a "Transition Town" – Google it to find out what I'm talking about.)

Fuel Protest turns to horse-power

To highlight the effect high fuel prices are having on drivers, a "go slow" drive event was organised through Plymouth. Along with the 80 vehicles, several pony and traps took part in the 9 mile route.

Aminopyralid is Toxic!

A shocking report has come to light. Aminopyralid is a widely used powerful herbicide sprayed on grassland to rid it of docks and thistles. It has very scarily gone right through the food chain. Horses have eaten hay made off treated grassland. Horse manure has then been dug into vegetable gardens and the vegetables have grown with distorted foliage. The Royal Horticultural Society has advised allotment holders not to eat these vegetables, and not to grow fruit and veg for at least a year as the ground is now contaminated! It begs the question – well what is it doing to our horses? And of course farm grazing animals!

RSPCA

The RSPCA has sadly reported that cruelty to horses is up by 15% in the region. They now have new powers of prosecution and this is one of the reasons for the increase as more cases are making it to court.

Exmoor Ponies

The Duchess of Cornwall has just become the patron of the Exmoor Pony Society. Apparently, during the war when US troops were based on Exmoor, they used the native Exmoor Ponies as target practise! At least we have moved on a great deal from those days and such goings on would be ruled totally unacceptable today.

Horse and Country TV

Have you visited this service launched last year on the Web and Sky. There are loads of programmes/videos on the horsey and countryside scene.

Visit www.equestrianandcountry.tv.

Ragwort

The Yellow Peril is in abundance this year due to the very wet conditions. Please do pull it up before it seeds. It will save you a lot of work next year! Do try and persuade your neighbours to do likewise.

Local and County Issues – There are many on our radar. Your committee are currently working on a Definitive Map Modification Order (to add a bridleway to the map) the first of several, and will be submitted to the County Council shortly. There are also many wider County issues that we are working on and our web site mapping project. All is done with the purpose of improving riding for all. Do always let us know of issues that concern you.

Storm Grids – coming to a hill near you??

To cope with the 'Cornish Monsoons' and to help relieve flooding, County Highways have intermittently installed mini grids right the way across the road on the Stennack, St. Ives. The heavy rain then runs into the drains installed below and carry away the potential flood water. This may be an excellent idea as drains, but no thought has been given to us horseriders or carriage drivers faced with these mini 'cattle grids'. They have been installed in triplicate bands in many locations. We consider these grids to be obstruction to horses under the Highways Act We have raised the problem with Cornwall County Highways Department, and they are currently lost for a solution. They are thinking about putting a non slip surface on the grids. We will keep you informed.



Triple Jump for horses??

A Tale of Equine Retribution?

A small group of riders were riding along a Cornish road when a large brewery lorry came hurtling towards them. Repeated hand signals for the lorry to slow down were ignored. Even when one of the riders bravely tried to 'claim' the road the driver continued; failing to slow and he put two fingers up to the riders. The lead horse jumped sideways ending up with its rear legs in a ditch. Although the party was shaken, luckily nobody was injured.

On reaching home, the lead rider rang the brewery concerned and explained what had taken place. The brewery was able to identify their driver from the time and place given. Consequently the driver was reprimanded. She asked to speak to the driver and turned out his mother kept horses!! Not being completely satisfied – she again spoke to the manager and suggested that he donated two crates of beer for a summer barbecue being held in the aid of horse welfare. The brewery said she was cheeky but reluctantly agreed.

Editor's comment: If you do have a bad driver experience with a company vehicle, it does pay to follow it up with such a phone call. I'm sure companies do want to be aware if a delivery driver has behaved recklessly, as they do not want their public image tarnished.



The Natural England Heathland Project Conservation Grazing - The Wider View

We know that some riders are keen to support a stance against the project at the Nine Maidens and North Road sites. We understand why it is a contentious issue. However such a stance could be self-defeating for continued ridden access.

Natural England is doing much good in Cornwall for horse riders; putting in extensive trails over Goss Moor and trails over the Lizard. Although we do not like the fencing, we have secured legitimate horse access by insisting on bridleway gates at all points, and we are being consulted at every stage by NE. In practice fencing soon becomes hidden by vegetation.

Along with local riders we have been consulted on all the gating and cattle grid arrangements. Cattle grids, with side access gates for horses, could also possibly be installed on the coast road. We think the grids could help to slow the traffic down and create a 'national park' feel to the area. (There currently are no firm proposals for this.)

We have seen comments about carriages being stopped – Natural England have been keen to preserve such access where such access is already practical. Carriages have for a long time been stopped by a locked gate from entering opposite the Men-an-to Studios. No one has complained to our knowledge!

We have no legal rights to be on the moors and if landowners object, they can stop us. We hope that members will see this wider picture.

It is interesting to observe in the press that the some who are campaigning against the grazing scheme are equally against access by horse riders.

Similar objectors may well surface when we try and progress our Ride-UK horse trail over the moors.

Some Facts:

- Land without some form of management gradually becomes overgrown, and any access becomes impossible. In West Penwith, the moors above Zennor all got overgrown in the 1990's and were then destroyed in the big fire, and yet Trendrine Hill is now again totally impassable – despite us now having a theoretical right of access (on foot).
- There is room for genuine debate over the best way to manage and enable continued access.
- Historically most land has been grazed creating the landscape, fauna and flora which we see today.
- No one likes fencing, but fencing/hedges is necessary to contain stock in today's world.
- Landowners and commoners have a Right to graze the land.
- Horse Riders DO NOT HAVE ANY RIGHT to ride most of the open common land and moors, despite having historically done so.
- Walkers (only) now do have right of access because of the CROW Act (Right to Roam).
- We believe Natural England in its proposals does not wish to prevent any type of access and it is in their remit to enable access for all.
- The success or otherwise of the grazing schemes does rely on having the right type of stock and stock management.
- As Access Officers of the British Horse Society our prime concern is continued and improved access for riders (and drivers).
- Grazing Stock, if of the right breed, do not generally interfere or cause problems to passing horse riders.

If the moor is not grazed, it will grow in. At least the Natural England project is showing some interest in stopping that from happening.

PAROW – Penwith Access and Rights of Way –

www.parow.org.uk

It has been another very busy year for PAROW with exciting developments.

PAROW relies completely on grant funding together with support from the County and District Councils to keep it operational. PAROW is proving crucial for both improving and maintaining our ridden tracks.

We are currently awaiting news on a significant funding initiative on which Rob Poole, Penwith's Rural Development Officer has been working on our behalf, which if successful will benefit a number of local organisations and projects.

In the meantime, this summer we have recruited a second paths officer, Kirstan Gorvin (Little Green Giant), to work with Chris Fry (our Jolly Green Giant) on our paths and bridleways. Currently both are working just 3 days a week. Hopefully our future funding will soon be secured and we may then have two fulltime paths officers which will be great.

PAROW is really getting tooled up now. Whilst at the Royal Cornwall Show, we secured a 4 foot Teagle grass topper to go with the recently acquired tractor and flail. This will enable Chris to make a difference to the routes you ride. We have just had the flail upgraded to a super model to get into tight paths, and we have a trailer being delivered anytime. We should be starting work with the tractor as you receive this newsletter. By automating the cutting, it will be much more labour saving, efficient and a lot less hard work for Chris. If you have a route you would like to have cleared and think that the compact tractor could scuttle down it, then please let us know. The first project will be to continue with cutting out the Ladydowns moorland bridleway above Nanledra. Currently, this track is a horrible grown-in deep gully and a new bridle path will be cut right alongside it.

Stop Press:

Another brilliant Horsehike

this time from St Erth thanks to Tracy Beasley and Helen Bode. 10 miles, fantastic views with a stop for Home Made Scones, Cream and Cider.



At the start, by kind courtesy of farmer Paul Badcock

Stable Fire Precautions

Whilst we were at the BHS event in London last year, we got talking to two firemen who had received awards for rescuing horses and other big animals out of rivers and other desperately awkward situations. They had devised and perfected hoist rescue methods and skills that can be passed on to other firemen.

Importantly they told us of the dangers of electrical fires in stables often caused by rodents chewing cables. **They advised** when running cabling for lighting or electric power, run the cable under roof beams and not along the top. Rodents are more likely to chew the cables laid on top of beams and ledges. Also it is important to regularly check the condition of your wiring switches and light fittings. Fires can also be started when shorts occur owing to stable grime and dust accumulating around lights and switches. Also ensure there are no water leaks from leaky roofs onto electrical components.

Better to be safe than very sorry!

STEEL HORSE NEWS

Mineral Tramways:

Portreath to Tehidy Woods

Public Inquiry – sense prevails!!

Remember we reported that the Ramblers forced a Public Inquiry because they were against a route from Portreath to Tehidy Woods being made a bridleway. More specifically, they did not want the route in front of the golf course T being moved around the back of the T. There are 2 kissing gates preventing cycles and horses passing across the front of the golf T where upon users risk getting their heads swiped off with a golfing iron or hit by a golf ball. Common sense says it would be better to route it around the back of the course. Last November, we had to attend a full day's PI listening to the Ramblers weak reasons for objection. Fortunately, we got a good attendance of supporters in favour of the bridleway and in May the Inspector reported back to decree it should be a bridleway. The best bit was the Ramblers sited the new equestrian centre on the route would add to the traffic of horses. The Inspector's report said this showed there was a need for the route to be a bridleway! However the sad thing about this is that the Ramblers forced an expensive and unnecessary PI and that money could have been put to better use spent on our rights of way.

The government is putting £100 Million into cycling provision. Providing cycle ways, bike parking and showers at the workplace and is sighting a number of towns for pick up and ride schemes. The average Briton cycles 39 miles a year, and drives 5,600 miles per year – a balance the government wishes to address. Bike sales are rising because of fuel prices and the government wishes to double the amount of people currently cycling.

Did you know? 12,000 cycles are stolen every day in the UK.

In the space of one generation, cycling rates have halved.

It was great to have John L., Tom B. and Pete H. turn up on their bikes for the photo shoot at the official opening of the Rocky Lane Bridleway (see page 3) – Thank you for your support.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please email wpba@btinternet.com.

Don't forget to also visit

www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk