

HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



FREE TO MEMBERS

No. 27 WINTER 2009/10

Straight from the horse's mouth

Hello Everyone,

This Horse Around was going to be just a quick flyer but its not quite worked out that way!

You don't need me to tell you that it has not been fit to take the dogs out, let alone the horses! Consequently some horse hikes got cancelled. Every track and bridleway has been like a river and it would have been more suitable to take the canoes out! If Old Moore's Almanac is to be believed, 2010 is to be much the same as 2009 weatherwise.

Back in September, the Tinner's Way ride did not take place due to the dangerous riding condition of the moor since the Zennor floods and the generally wet Summer. The moors have been ruined by the formation of deep gullies and bogs and unsuspecting holes on the tracks we ride. Without remedial work I am not sure it will recover. However, the Madron Charity ride was a welcome and worthwhile alternative and very well supported. More on that later.

There are still many changes ahoof at Cornwall Council subsequent to that change to unitary status, the dust has not yet settled by any means. Adrian has met with the new Head of Environment and the overall feel is encouraging, but future fnding will need to be fought for with all the cuts. He believes in working with user groups, and he is supportive of PAROW. As we go to print, we are anxiously waiting for the bid outcome for the vital future funding needed to keep PAROW going. Chris and Kirstan have been busy despite being rained off from much tractor work. St. Ives riders will be pleased to see that Kirstan has recently cleared the awkward bit of the top path on Rosewall Hill to the Old Towednack Road.

We were very pleased that the BHS chose our last edition of Horse Around as a fine example of a bridleways association newsletter. They sent out a copy to every bridleway association in the country. That gives us an encouraging 'pat on the back'. However, it's your write up contributions that really give it that bit of diversity so thank you to everyone who has written for the newsletter.

We are having our usual informal Christmas Get Together at the Engine Inn near Nancledra. We hope you will come along and meet fellow riders for horsey chat and catch up on what's happening. (There will be free nosebag nibbles provided.)

We are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather for Sunday's Christmas Cracker Ride, and I do hope you are promising your horse and adding "Go on the Horse Hikes" as one of your new year's resolutions. They are fun, sociable and interesting.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Margaret

In This Issue

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Sunday 13th December

and more ...



Jan Shearn leading riders from Mulfra setting out on the Ride for Life charity ride.

PLEASE DO COME TO
THE ENGINE INN

Crippleasease, Nancledra

Wed 16th December
7.30pm onwards

For our XMAS Drink and Chat

and free Nosebag Nibbles

WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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

Treasurer: Beverley Jenkin, *Secretary:* Margaret Bigg,

Email: wpba@btinternet.com

Web: <http://www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/westpenwithbridleways>

Tel: 01736 795098

Ride for Life Charity Ride

(or Anne's "Warm Up" Ride from Madron)

The first horse hike for the Autumn programme was hurriedly converted (within two weeks) to be a very special ride in aid of the charity Breast Cancer Campaign.

Sue Knapman, Anne Bressington and many other enthusiastic helpers pulled off an incredibly well planned ride event from Trescrowan livery yard, at Bone Valley. As we were unfortunately unable to support the Tinners' Way charity walk and ride, held on the previous Sunday due to the state of the moorland paths and tracks; it was a good feeling to be able to do a similar alternative event.

Most of the riders were dressed in pink and the colourful cavalcade rode off in almost carnival atmosphere, in groups, up Bone valley. The ride went down the newly splendidly renovated "Break my Neck" lane up to Newmill then on to Carfury and up to Ding Dong Mine. The views were fantastic over Mount's Bay and beyond. The route was well marshalled and the riders were directed out across the moor towards Lanyon Farm. Riders took the road past Lanyon Quoit, and then turned onto a track known as 'Rabbit Run' which brought riders to Madron Carn. The bridleway across the Carn has recently been cut back and it is a lovely downland ride with superb views. Once back out on the road, on reaching Madron, the route followed on to the Kennel Lane bridleway and soon after all were back in Bone Valley. Hot pasties, and a drink for everyone, awaited the riders and a pink rosette for all participants completing the 10 mile ride.

A lovely social day out in great late Summer sunshine and an amazing £1,500 raised for a very good cause. Thank you to Sue and Anne and everyone who made this event happen and to Mike Uren and Trescrowan livery yard for hosting the event.



Winter 2010 - Horse Hike Programme

Please note these dates in your diary now			Organiser or Contact
U	Xmas Cracker Ride (St Just)	Sun 13 Dec	Amanda
	Xmas Drink Nancledra	Wed 16 Dec	
UU	Gwinear	9/10 Jan	M & A
U	Chapel Carn Brea	23/24 Jan	Amanda
UU	Great Flat Lode	6/7 Feb	M & A
U	Marazion	20/21 Feb	M & A
Endurance GB Training Ride St Just		28 Feb	Amanda
UU	Tehidy	6/7 Mar	M & A
U	Drift	20/21 Mar	M & A
Annual General Meeting		Tues 30 March	
U	Polgigga	3/4 April	Beverley

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
Amanda Tel: 871876; Beverley 871151

Horse 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

A Taste Of Endurance!

Ever fancied trying endurance? Come along to St. Just training ride for a 12 mile taster, ride at your own speed in groups of 3 or 4. For more details ring Amanda on 01736 871876. in good time before Feb 28th and book your place.

Don't forget to visit :

"New Look" BHS Access Cornwall
www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk

Also **Online Interactive Riding Maps** for all areas of Cornwall

Now also BHS Access South West
www.bhsaccesssouthwest.org.uk

Annual General Meeting – Advance Notice

Our AGM will be held at the Yacht Inn on 30 March – We are hoping to have a talk on going Bare Foot Farriery or possibly on Trek, details are still to be finalised

Horse Hike from Chapel Carn Brea

A gift of a ride for seven local riders - across the moors above Pendeen and Trewellard ...

Sunday morning dawned and after all the torrential rains and gale force winds, we were sent a gift day! Just perfect for Beverly Jenkin's bridleways' ride, and pretty soon the mobiles were working overtime - "Are we meeting up at Chapel Carn Brea?" "Yes, see you at eleven." "On my way" ... and so seven of us met up on the road leading up to Chapel Carn Brea in brilliant sunshine and hardly any wind - we could not believe our luck! The view from the brow of the hill which showed the huge waves of a still stormy sea crashing against Longships Lighthouse reinforced this feeling.

The seven, not so much magnificent as gleeful, were Bev on her beautiful new Arab boy, Archie; Andrea Simmons and Helen Jay, two new faces to bridleway, both riding Bev's horses Carrie and Tavern respectively; Lizzie Matthews on Kelstar, Jill Plumley on Peaches, Sarah Ackersley on Star (aka Squeakie) and me (Peta-Jane Field) on Wizzy. As Archie was a little unsure of himself, Bev asked me to lead. Wizzy was in her element and lead off at a brisk trot along the path leading up to Bartinney. Not surprisingly, the gate leading to Bartinney was surrounded by water, but despite this, everyone splashed through happily enough.

Once through the gate, we skirted Bartinney's inviting 'galloping' hill very decorously - much to the disappointment of our horses who all had thought, "Whoppie Doo! A real race!" The path leading to Dowran was not too squelchy and so it was onwards past Peter's bungalow. True to form, Peter was outside to greet us with a cheery smile and wave - I noticed he was wearing a strimmer's harness, so whatever path you strimmed on that day, thank you Pete!

We walked and trotted our way along the lane past Roselands Camp site, and then turned onto the little track leading to the main road. Across we went and headed off at a spanking trot along the track above Bostraze, before walking down the concrete hill (we all duly dismounted) and up onto Kendijack Moor. Opening the little side gate by the pond was as tricky as ever (I am always convinced my reins might get caught on the handle). Nevertheless, we all got through and on up over the moor we went. The trails may have been a bit too muddy and slippery for cantering, but the day was still astonishingly sunny and the views from the top of the moor by the carn were as breathtaking as ever. At the top, we took a sort of vote, to Botallack or onwards to Pendeen. Most of us all chose the latter longer route - sorry Jill, I know the Queen's Arms was the closer pub!

We all managed to get through the next silly gate with its high handle without incident, and splashed our way down through Watery Lane, across North Road to Gump Moor and the bridleways leading down to Pendeen. By this time Carrie had made her way to the front, and led us on at a brisk trot! We snaked our way back across the road and made our way down towards Pendeen. Here we stopped at the North Inn, a really good choice as it has a semi-circle of grass for the horses to nibble on. Chips and drinks were consumed but sadly as we were chatting away, we noticed the weather had changed and there was a distinct chill in the air, so it was decided to head for home via Kendijack Moor. Back up Pendeen hill we rode, again at a fairly brisk pace to warm us all up, over the road, through the gate beside the cattle grid, and onto the Moor we trotted. All the horses were heading for home and so were on their toes! We rode back across the Moor to Standing Stones and the gate by the pond, and down the track leading to Tregeseal and then swung up to ride through Bosvargus Farm and along the track high above St Just which leads back to the main road. Here we struck up a good pace. We then decorously crossed the road and followed the tracks leading back to the Sancreed and Dowran.

And another very special gift moment happened towards the end of the ride. As we rode southwards, Helen said, "Hey, girls, I bet we see the sun before we come off the moor." Sure enough, just as we were heading down towards the stones, the sun broke through the clouds as if to welcome us back to St Just.

It really was, quite simply, a lovely ride - very chatty and friendly - and hopefully a good introduction to how much fun bridleway rides can be for our two very welcome newcomers. The weather alone was certainly much appreciated by everyone, especially the horses after all the wind and rain of the previous few days! So thank you, Bev, for organising it - and for the loan of your horses!

Peta-Jane Field

Gwallon Bridleway - Progress - and Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who raised a total of £480 towards the cost of the three gates required for the new bridleway. With equal contributions from two major livery yards and £100 collected from Eclipse Equestrian customers, and also other donations. The gates cost £738 and the Bridleways Association has made up the difference. The gates are special gates only available from Centrewire, two way opening and self closing, but self closing on purpose designed gravity hinges and latches.

The special gates were delivered on site in October but owing to the atrocious weather at the time of writing, Andy (at the gated house) has been unable to install them. We expect it will be done very shortly.

We are planning to install a plaque at one of the gates recording the efforts of local riders and work and help of the landowners in achieving the opening of this important bridleway. The official route of the bridleway is also being legally diverted to match the new route, and the landowners are paying for the cost of doing this. This is a real success story for which all involved should be thanked, and a special thanks to Linda Holloway of Cornwall Council for finding a way forward, and getting the agreement of all.



A welcome rest at the North Inn



Lizzie and Kelstar having a peaceful graze

STEEL HORSE NEWS

There was a celebration ride, cycle and walk to mark the nearing completion of the Mineral Tramways project that has created over 30 miles of safe off road multiuser trails to be enjoyed by all. The trails now link Tehidy and the Red River to Porteath, and down to Devoran on the South Coast and to Camborne and Redruth Great Flat Lode Trail.

Several of our members went on horse, from the new Gwel an Mor, development around Tehidy, over to Portreath and to the restored Wheal Pevor Mine Stacks at Scorrier, a 13 mile ride.

The Cyclists set off with Mark Kaczmarek, Cornwall Councillor and ex Miner, who chairs the Mineral Tramways Partnership, and they did a different circuit of the trails.

The cyclists were accompanied by the Olympic Silver Medallist and double team World Champion, Wendy Houvenaghel. Mark Kaczmarek did say he had a job keeping up her!!

The British Horse Society Cornwall



The British Horse Society
Registered Charity No. 212094
and SC08316

We are well pleased with the steady membership of BHS Cornwall – now totalling 1,200 Members. By being a BHS member you are supporting the work we do for riding access county-wide. There is a newsletter that informs of the work we do county-wide and the wider issues and the bigger picture for horseriders.

PLEASE do seriously think about being a member to give riders a stronger voice nationally. We do need your support. You also get the brilliant British Horse Magazine free of charge.

You can join us online. Please see link via www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk



*Horse Riders and
Cyclists
ready for the
celebratory ride on the
new trails*

The Pentewan Trail

We took our bikes to explore the Pentewan Trail that links St Austell with Pentewan and a lovely sandy beach. The trail shadows the busy B3273 Mevagissey Road and the St Austell River and is open to all including horses. It runs along a wide valley bottom and through some woods. The Woodland Trust owns Kings Wood that links into the trail, providing an interesting hilly woodland ride offshoot, not yet explored by us but open to cyclists and Horse Riders. We also found some interesting 'vertical bridleways' – we longed for our horses as we puffed and struggled up some forgotten ancient sunken lanes.

Several of these bridleways were not signposted and we are trying to get that remedied and some other problems we met like fallen trees and other unmaintained difficulties.

We continued our exploration**BUT THEN – No Horses**

The Cornishway trail connection to Mevagissey and the offshoot up to the Lost Gardens of Heligan really wound us up as nice new green signs had gone up saying "No horse riding without a Permit", yet once again walkers and cyclists go free. The terrain would have suited any mountain biker on the British Olympic team (very suitable for a fit horse) as we cycled two sides of a switchback ride. (Fantastic views!) To add insult to injury at the Mevagissey end there is a short section of bridleway signed "bridleway to Heligan" yet 100 yards further on a sign saying, No Horses! Horse riders know all about what it's like to be discriminated against. Needless to say we are not letting the matter rest but will be pursuing WHY!

It takes an hour to drive to St. Austell, (suggest parking at London Apprentice) but it is worth it for a day's cycling – some of it is quite challenging if you decide to explore the bridleways on either side of the valley. To the north of St Austell are the Clay Trails but that's a different story. - We also plan to take our horses one day soon.

Spokes & Sprockets

The government is thinking of introducing legislation to make all children under the age of 16 wear cycle helmets when out cycling. Similar legislation already exists for horse riding (under 14).

The 1SW project has now got grant monies of £7.5M for new off-road cycling facilities in the South West Region, £1.5M in Cornwall. In Cornwall the "Hub" will be at Cardingham Forest and Lanhydrock near Bodmin, on Forestry and National Trust Land with connecting trails.

For more see www.1sw.org.uk Paul Hawkins the projects development officer says the project is "Developing the south west of England as a world class off-road cycling destination for all to enjoy".

Much should also be open to horse riders. It is NOT for extreme off road cycling.

We are hoping we can get a link for our Ride-Uk project via this project.

Heathland Project - Carnyorth Common

The access problems have not moved forward since our last report. Natural England having installed the gates and cattle have walked away.

The Moors Forum is to continue and will work to keep management of all the moors at the top of the agenda, and formulate a plan of action with all concerned.

We are now going to have yet another survey of all the access problems and try once again to get them resolved.

In the meantime please do report all problems you encounter on the moor to us.

We are now cutting out paths on Carnyorth Common/Carn Kenidjack (see PAROW below).

The Cattle Grid by Hectors House is an illegal obstruction right across the Definitive Footpath track (which we ride). We are waiting for a solution from Cornwall Council on this issue.

PAROW UPDATE

Penwith Access and rights of Way (PAROW) has been operating with what can be best described as “emergency” funding during the whole of this year, whilst our efforts to secure longer term funding from Local Action Group monies continue.

Recently our paths officers Chris and Kirstan have done much clearance work on Caer Bran, Burnthouse lane, and good work on the bridleways in Paul and Perranuthnoe. Local riders have reported that the Perranuthnoe bridleways have never been cleared back so well.

More recently they have started work on improving the access tracks on Carnyorth Common. This work is being paid for by Cornwall Council and is aimed at alleviating some of the ongoing problems associated with the controversial “Conservation Grazing” scheme.

Lelant - Dynamite Quay

Due to erosion after recent storms and the discovery of asbestos, this very important non-definitive path leading on to the beach at Porth Kidney sands, Lelant, has been closed off to all users. This is the only way on to the beach for horse riders and the disabled and is a huge loss to those in the area as they have no bridleways in that vicinity.

ING the owners of the Hayle Harbour Company have been ordered to remove the asbestos and make the area safe. However the restoration of access may be a different issue as ING may be unwilling to fund this without financial assistance.

We are trying to find out more directly from ING and we will keep you informed.

Cornwall Council Public Paths Improvement Programme (PPIP)

There is still outstanding PPIP work in St. Ives, Madron, Sancreed, Morvah, St. Erth, Gwinear/Gwithian parishes. Some work has started in Sancreed. The budget for this work is ring fenced despite any budget cuts to the countryside service.

The work has been delayed due to the ongoing work after the Zennor flood. The bridge at Ponio is nearing completion and there are still stepping stones at River Cove but the path is open, otherwise restoration is complete.

Cornwall Council will now be starting work on inland routes affected by the rain storm. These are the Embla Vean bridleway currently still closed, leading on to Ladydowns moor, and the Carnaquidden bridleway also leading up to the moor at Bishop's Head and Foot, needs some attention. This work should start in January.

Problem of Access at Hellangove Farm

The lane connecting Chysauster Road to the Castle-an-Dinas Quarry and Bridleway has had notices erected saying it is not a footpath or bridleway. If we lose this access riders young and old will be forced onto the busy B331 Nancledra Road.

We are trying to resolve the issue by liaison but the chances of success currently look slim.

We therefore would like to hear from any riders who have ridden past Higher Hellangove farm in the past. We are looking into claiming the lanes as bridleways via a Modification Order.

Castle-an-Dinas Quarry

Cornwall Council has recently purchased the Castle-an-Dinas quarry site. We believe this has the potential to improve off road links and riding on the Council owned land.

Baker's Pit Track

By Castle-an-Dinas along the Cornwall Wildlife Trust Reserve is a track that connects to the Castle-an-Dinas Bridleway. CWT are supposedly prepared to dedicate this as a bridleway. Cornwall Council just has not pursued this. We have recently discussed this and other issues with Mike East, the Head of Cornwall Council Environment Division, and we have just been assured that the issue is being pursued by the Trust's Reserve Team.



A Tractor's Eye view of bridleway 34 in Paul awaiting a cut!



The same picture after clearing with the tractor and flail

PROPOSED TAX ON ALL HORSE OWNERS – Act NOW!

You may be aware that the government in its wisdom is planning to charge all animal owners a yearly charge to cover the eventuality of there being a disease outbreak.

Horses are currently being included in the same way as the keepers of pigs cattle or sheep, so the government will effectively tax your horse, the inefficiencies of gathering such a charge for single animals are obvious. £2.3m would be needed to collect just £4.5m from horse owners under the plans.

The “Rethink the Horse Tax” campaign has been launched by a coalition of organisations representing a broad cross section of the UK horse industry. Please visit the campaign website – www.RethinktheHorseTax.org – and take action by writing to your MP and by signing the online petition to the Prime Minister.

Andrew Finding, Chief Executive of the British Equestrian Federation said: “Through this campaign the horse community has an opportunity to make its voice heard and send a strong message to the Government on cost sharing. The proposals just don’t make a convincing case on how hitting horse owners with new costs and extra bureaucracy will benefit either the equine community or taxpayers in general.” Mark Weston, Director of Access Safety and Welfare at The British Horse Society, said: “We need to make sure that politicians in Westminster are made fully aware of the potential damage that these proposals could do to the horse sector, and the lack of any perceived benefit that they would bring to the millions of Britons who enjoy horse riding each year.”

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL HORSE OWNERS AND RIDERS ACT NOW BY VISITING THE WEBSITE AND SIGNING THE PETITION

Hi Viz – Be Seen and Be Safe

Dark evenings are upon us so it is also important to get into the habit of wearing HI VIZ at ALL TIMES. Did you know that a car driver travelling at 30 mph, can see a horse rider 3 seconds sooner? That gives an extra stopping distance of the length of a dressage arena, and this could be enough to save you and your horse’s life! Also, if you fall off, you are found and seen easier and sooner. Be sensible, and be safer – we see too many riders on the roads without Hi Viz.

Have you like us, driven around a corner and seen this dark brown shape, then nearly too late realised it is a horse and rider? - and we are always looking out for our fellow riders.

We are all sitting ducks out riding on the road, so please give yourself a better chance.

In Brief

Horse Boarding

The latest in extreme sports is Horse boarding, featured on Countryfile, is grass boarding towed along by a horse. It’s a bit like drag racing with horses. It has been developed from horse surfing where the board rider is towed along the shoreline waves by a rider on a cantering horse. Horse boarding takes place along a 100 metre course of 2 separate lanes and competitors gain points for staying on! They wear full extreme mountain bike body ‘armour’ as bumps and bruises are to be expected. Teamwork is all important as the horse rider needs to be very competent.

Nightmares

The term “Nightmare” comes from a once commonly used phrase in old times, “had a nightmare of a journey”. It was common to run ‘old nags’ on night trips hoping travellers would not notice. Probably the equivalent to tatty old buses put on night service today!

Horse Manure Dumped on Clarkson’s Lawn

Two bags of horse manure were dumped on Jeremy Clarkson’s lawn in protest to his irresponsible attitude to climate change”. The 7 Climate Activists who were all dressed as sufferagettes, held a banner reading “This is what you’re landing us in”. **We would have added a further two bags for what he is doing to make our roads even more dangerous for equestrians.**

Dangerous Donkey

Recently in Afganistan, the British Army was tipped off when a donkey loaded with explosives was sent towards them in Helmand Province. They tried to discourage the donkey with flares but alas had to shoot it. Sure enough, it was detonated and the poor donkey blew up. Fortunately it did not cause any casualties other than the poor donkey. – In places where human life is viewed so cheaply what chance have animals got. It was the first time this has ever been tried by the Taliban and hopefully the last!

A Useful Website for Signs for Equestrian Premises

www.ruralsafetysigns.co.uk

Riding Permits Update

Bodmin Moor – The National Trust who own Roughtor knew nothing about the proposed scheme and are totally against it and had never been consulted. Cornwall Council are in the process of amending the information board at Roughtor that referred to a permit scheme. One liaison meeting has been held with the British Horse Society and the chairman of the landowners association. Rupert Hanbury-Tenison who is trying to implement a scheme. We watch this space – unworkable, unpolicable and discriminatory.

Forestry Commission - The British Horses Society is continuing its campaign to get the existing permit schemes scrapped – why should we pay when cyclists and walkers go free!

Stakeholders Working Group

This working group set up in the wake of the abandoned Discovering Lost Ways Project is preparing its final report. We believe it is recommending some streamlining of the Modification Order process for putting route so the map together with some other recommendations.