

HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



Free to Members

No. 33 Autumn 2012

Straight from the horse's mouth

Hello Everyone

And a warm welcome to new members from outside our immediate area. We hope you find Horse Around interesting. We are always happy to hear from you. Check out the BHS Access Cornwall website for problem reporting in your area, online riding maps and other news.

Back in March, the AGM and Pilates for Horse Riders talk was a blistering success as the room was packed at the Yacht Inn. Chris Fry's bridleways work slide presentation also went down a storm.

The short 'Summer' enjoyed in March gave us excellent riding weather – so much so that 20 riders turned out for Christine's 1 April Morvah horse hike. (see pic opposite) The dry winter and Spring gave way to the 'wettest drought on record' and probably the most short-lived! Followed by a soggy Summer making for squelchy bridleways. Alison McCarthy's ride was well attended: riding routes in the St. Hilary area. Then three horse hikes in a row, due to a postponement of the Madron ride, was followed by an excellent day on the Great Flat Lode and then Nancledra. We had another amazing turnout of 15 riders for the Tehidy Woods ride. All the hh's have been well supported. We finished for the Summer break with a shortened ride on the Lizard. The Autumn programme starts with this edition of Horse Around. Promise yourself to come along and enjoy a ride. I would like to say a big thank you to Christopher Field our unofficial 'Horse Hike Photographer' for all the excellent pictures he has taken and also to other contributors Andrew Hichens and Alison Lugg.

We were very sorry and concerned to learn of a member's very bad riding accident due to a scary face bird scarer and hope that Jacqui is continuing to make good progress in her recovery. (see related article) We do need to make official complaints when we meet dangers when out riding otherwise we continue to get marginalised and further, more cuts to the council's rights of way budget if we are not vocal.

Finally, we had a nice little holiday on Exmoor walking and cycling, but immediately upon our return were sprung into an interview with BBC Spotlight on the perils of Ragwort. This was timely as we had noticed how bad it is this year along the motorways and A30 and were saddened to see it flourishing on Exmoor amongst the ponies. You can read about the origins in this Horse Around.

Take care on the roads and do wear hi viz, its not uncool – it could affect your insurance in the event of an accident claim and it could save your life! Happy riding and may your horses not spook at the orange and blue recycling bags!

Margaret

In This Issue

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and more ...



Morvah Horse Hike

Membership Renewal

If your membership is overdue, a renewal reminder is included with this newsletter. Many of you did renew for two years which saves both you and ourselves on administration. If you have already joined for this year and not yet received your membership card, your new membership card has been enclosed with this newsletter.

For those of you who find renewing by post tedious you may renew (or join) online. (paypal /credit/debit)

RENEW ONLINE

www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/westpenwithbridleways/JoinOnline.htm

(address is case sensitive) OR

Google West Penwith Bridleways

Choice of two Charity Rides on Sunday 9th September

1. Penzance Ride4Life for Breast Cancer and Air Ambulance. Details www.penzanceride4life.co.uk. Starting from Bone Valley Madron. There is an option of 12 miles or 6 miles. Entry fee is £10 further sponsorship welcome.

2. Coast to Coast Charity Ride in aid of racehorse relief a local charity in the Redruth area. the ride will start at Portreath and follow the coast to coast trail to Devoran A donation or sponsorship of £10 required, rosettes to all riders and prizes, full details and sponsor forms can be found at www.racehorserelief.org or ring Eddie on 01209 822159

WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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Horse Hike from Morvah

On Sunday before Easter an astonishing 20 riders met at Carne Farm, Morvah for a West Penwith Bridleways ride. The horses ranged from ponies to thoroughbreds to 2 magnificent shires, and of course the favourite coloured cobs!

The ride proceeded up the farm cow tracks, through Kerrow Farm and turned right up the road to Trehylls Farm and out onto the Gump, taking a track parallel to North Road towards Bojewyan. The weather was ideal with glorious sunshine and fantastic views. The ride then skirted Springs fields keeping Chun Castle and Chun Quoit to the right in the distance. It then headed back to Carne past Solomons Isle (of Straw Dogs fame). The ride kept to a leisurely walk due to the large number of riders, some of which hadn't been out with such a large group before. The choice was then to go further or tea and biscuits in the sun, the later was unanimously chosen! No one seemed in a hurry to go home so it was a very pleasant end to the ride. Many thanks to all who took part and to Chris Hichens for organising the ride and providing the tea and biscuits.



Chris Hichen on Domino leads the way on setting out from Carn Farm

Horse Hike Programme – Autumn/Winter 2012

Please note these dates in your diary now

Organiser
or
Contact

U	Charity Ride Madron	9 September	SK
UU	Charity Ride Coast to Coast (Not WPBA organised event)		ER
UU	Gwinear	23 September	M & A
U	Helston/Loe Pool	7 October	Anne
UU	Chapel Carn Brea	21 October	Mandy
U or UU	Marazion	4 November	M & A
U	Drift (Sancreed)	18 November	Beverly
UU	Mining Trails, Camborne/Redruth	2 December	M & A/ER
U	Xmas Cracker Ride St Just	16 December	Mandy
U	Madron 'Warm Up' ride	13 January	Anne

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 may be determined by the interest in the ride and/or weather.

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Sue Kapman 07970048914 Eddie Rowe 01209 822159

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!

Grading of Rides: U Easier Ride UU Average Ride
Grading is for guidance only – please do check with the organiser for details of length etc. Where possible rides are tailored to those who attend.

Welcome to new Members

A warm welcome to new members who have recently joined us.

We also welcome to our Committee Edward Rowe who lives near Redruth and is working hard for riders in the Redruth Area who do not have their own bridleways association.

Although our association is based in Penwith and primarily serves that area we are very pleased to welcome and receive support from riders outside of the immediate area.

Our horse hikes and newsletter are already enjoyed by members from Redruth Falmouth and the Lizard. We are pleased to help all riders in West Cornwall who don't have a local bridleways group.

Bridleway problems for anywhere in Cornwall can be reported via the web site www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk. This site has online riding maps showing you the tracks and paths which are ridden (in addition to bridleways).

We liaise closely with Cornwall Council who have the statutory duty to look after our bridleways

Membership Benefits: (New!)

Our members can already get a discount at Penrose Outdoors in Truro and Millets upon production of membership card.

We are currently completing negotiation with [Mountain Warehouse](#) in Penzance, Truro or Falmouth to give members 10% or 15% discount on the production of a valid WPBA membership card. We believe this to be another excellent reason to keep up your membership as a few purchases will soon save you more than your annual subscription! They have a full range of good outdoor wear for all types of outdoor activities and pursuits so do pop along and make use of this perk.

Horse Hike on the Great Flat Lode 13 May

The long awaited opportunity to ride the Great Flat Lode and the Mining Trails at Camborne had arrived and it was such a pleasure to see Margaret and Adrian greet us at the car park and assist with the unlocking of the security barriers to allow our large vehicles and trailers in which unfortunately would not be possible unless you are in possession of the golden key. Fortunately for the West Penwith Bridleways Association Margaret & Adrian were given a key by Cornwall Council.

Around ten riders in all had gathered on this glorious sunny day, one of a few these days we seem to encounter. As there is a very old low tramway tunnel, at the start of the ride we first walked our horses to and through the tunnel first before mounting. The alternative is a very busy road crossing.



The tunnel height was certainly low and about thirty feet long and would certainly pose a problem for most riders on horses big or small. Mounted and ready to disembark we headed in the direction of Lower Carnkie and already your able to take in the spectacular views towards the north coast and remind yourself how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the Country.

Our path took us across Buller Hill, (the main road between Redruth and Four Lanes) leading us in the direction of Lanner whilst the distant white pyramids of St Austell clay works were clearly visible. All horses behaved and were doing well as we found ourselves in an exciting Labyrinth of pathways/tramways but never got lost thanks to our leaders knowledge of the area. Reminders of our mining heritage constantly lined our route, as it rightfully should and we achieved some lovely trotting and canter opportunities. We were fortunate not to encounter too much other traffic on our route apart from the occasional walker and cyclist and on each occasion respect and consideration was given to both users. We now appeared to be on the south side of the Carn and on very high ground as we started to circle back along our return route whilst glimpses of Stithian's Lake could be admired in the not too far distance. Large grassy verges tempted us for a short breather while we gathered ourselves and also allowed our horses a quick bite and pay their respects to the grass!!

Our return route brought us back along a section of previously ridden track where we passed two original remaining steel track sections of the old tramway and again allowed us to safely have a canter. Heading in the direction of Carn Brea Village we passed beneath the impressive remains of Wheal Uny Mine and we were soon off the tramway passing St Uny Church. A short stretch of road work and we were back on the tramway heading for home.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Adrian and Margaret for organising and leading this most enjoyable ride. Hope to see you all again soon.

Kelvin & Alison Curnow



Alison and Kelvin bringing up the rear after riders have remounted after emerging from the tunnel near the start of the ride.

(Why did they put the mounting block on the right hand side!)

Bits and Pieces

Horse Passports Defra are planning some time this year to put out to tender the central database service for issuing and maintaining the horse passport system in a bid to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Apparently, the passport system is in disarray. It was originally set up mainly to protect certain medicines reaching the human food chain through horse meat. Although not a problem in the UK as we don't eat horses, apparently it is not offering this protection due to lack of enforcement. What is probably more important to UK horse owners is a properly run database of horse traceability and reliable information!

Ragwort History

Surprisingly, Ragwort is non native to the UK. It was brought here by a plant collector who found it growing in amongst the volcanic clinker on the slopes of Mount Etna, Italy. He took it back to Oxford where its many thousand seed heads soon blew down the road and on to the lime balast of the local railway. Ragwort seeds found this a 'happy' place and it soon started to travel the railway network along the tracks helped along by the whooshing draft of passing trains. You know the rest!!

BC (Before Cars)

The riding horse first came into being in Europe from Hungry around 800 bc.

The average load for a pack horse was 200cwt therefore it took a train of 10 to carry one ton. Pack horse trails were in use right up to the 1750's after which canals took over.

The American Amish religious community only use horse and traps. They have a saying, "If you want a nice decent husband, watch how he treats his horse!"

A helpful phrase to remember - seen in British Horse Magazine "What's in the brain goes down the rein".

Horses are good for the Economy

I heard on the radio someone from Horse and Country tv say that the horse industry in this country, excluding the racing industry is worth £4Billion. The CLA has concurred saying the equine business sector is generating £4billion per year and is one of the biggest contributors to the rural economy. They recognise that equine tourism is failing to reach its full potential. It is therefore baffling why the CLA is so against more public access.

When will the government stop ignoring the 'elephant in the room' by discussing only the worth of walking and cycling spend per day to the economy. Not only do we need more bridleways – we deserve them!!!

Wind Turbines

To achieve the carbon free renewable energy targets the UK has set - 10,000 wind turbines need to be built before 2050. Horses (and we) will have to learn to live with them!

Trooping the Colour

I always enjoy watching the trooping of the colour because of all the horses. Apparently, the drum horses are the only horses in the British army to hold the rank of major. One trainee heavy drum horse is 20 h high – the biggest horse in Britain. There are 485 horses currently in the armed services and 610 dogs. One other fact, a million horses served in the first world war but sadly only 62,000 ever came home.

Sancreed Beacon

We reported in the last Horse Around that Sancreed Beacon was being re-fenced for grazing. We persuaded Natural England and the Cornwall Heritage Trust to install TWO way opening self closing gates rather than the one way which can easily guillotine horse and rider. However although the gates and the mechanisms are one of the best available many riders are having problems with them. The self closing times of the gates are all on the fast side and vary from gate to gate. The stockproof latches fitted are certainly more difficult as you have to lift before pulling to the side. However it is these latches that make the two way opening acceptable and stock proof.

Our sister organisation PAROW CIC has been commissioned to clear the paths and tracks on the Beacon. We hope this work continues.



Horse Hike from Goldsithney

On Sunday 15 April 10 members met at Tregurtha at Goldsithney for a horse hike around St Hilary. We headed south and took the byway/bridleway to work their way to Greenberry Common with the sun shining. Bridleways were then taken to pass Middle Colenso Farm and where there were lovely views of Godolphin Hill and Tregonning. More byways and bridleways were then followed to reach Halamanning. Leaving Halamanning via Chapel Lane and onto New Road byways were followed to cross the Goldsithney road to go past St Hilary School. Following the lane the ride took the byway through the St Aubyn estate where some riders had problems with a new gate catch. There were stunning views of the sea before reaching Truthwall Farm. We then returned to Goldsithney via the recently opened bridleway past Gwallon and back down Gear Lane to reach Tregurtha. The 8 mile ride had been mostly at a very leisurely walk as there were some young horses who had not been out on a horse hike before. But some riders did find the opportunity for faster paces. All commented on the fantastic views enjoyed of Tregonning, Godolphin and Trencom hills.

Alison McCarthy



SELF CLOSING GATES a barrier to riding

Self closing gates are continuing causing big safety issues all over the country as grazing schemes proliferate. The British Horse Society (BHS) has published the results of research to determine the effect of self-closing gates on horse riders. The research was a response to an increasing number of reports that riders and horses had been harmed by such gates.

The trial, which took place in Kent in 2011, saw experienced riders attempt a series of self-closing gates and a horse-friendly vehicle barrier to test the reliability, safety and ease of use.

The trial of these gates demonstrates that self-closing gates are inherently neither as safe nor as easy for horse riders as British Standard 5709:2006 compliant non-self-closing gates and following the principle of the least restrictive option should not be used routinely on public rights of way or other land with statutory equestrian access."

An accident with a gate can deter horse and rider from using a route, and other riders may then also stay away, essentially obstructing the route for equestrian use.

At the official launch of the findings, representatives from Natural England, Defra, Centrewire, British Standards and local authorities were present. They all welcomed the research and are working with the BHS to improve the safety of self-closing gates for the benefit of equestrians nationally.

A copy of the findings can be viewed at www.bhs.org.uk/Riding/Riding_Off_Road/Self_closing_gates.aspx

The interesting aspect of the trial was that the problems encountered varied from rider to rider and gate to gate. There was no satisfactory self closing gate. All proved difficult if not dangerous for most riders. The one way self closing are certainly the most prone to safety issues when opening the gate towards you. Catching yourself, horse or tack on gate fixtures and fittings is another big issue made much worse went "running the gauntlet" of the gate closing on you.

Centre Wire have been developing an hydraulic self closing gate with much longer closing time of 20 seconds or more but these still have to be proven in the field.

Paths for Communities Grant Scheme

Details of this £2M scheme previously announced by the government have now been published by DEFRA. The scheme provides grants for new bridleways. However the scheme does require cooperation from landowners in dedicating routes, and help from Cornwall Council.

If you have any potential routes which landowners may be willing to provide please let us know.

bhsaccesscornwall@btinternet.com

We have put forward some ideas to Cornwall Council.

Horse Hike at Tehidy Country Park

The Tehidy Woods horse hike proved yet again to be a firm favourite with our members, as 15 riders met in the cliff car park above Portreath for a 9 mile ride in May. Although breezy, the sun made a good appearance for the duration. We entered the Tehidy Country Park via the north gate and took the main path down through the woods to eventually follow the track out to west park gate. The horses soon settled and enjoyed the novel ambience of woodland. A short section of quiet roads was taken to reach the red river track and a long pleasant riverbank ride followed before looping back on ourselves to return to the park.



Clare Chapman (right) with young niece Georgia and Peta-Jane Field (left)



Riders setting off from the North Cliff Car Park.

We then followed the tracks leading to the duck ponds near the café where there was a hive of activity of people, children and pushchairs, big dogs and little dogs. However, the horses passed by unperturbed and the people were happy at the sight of such a lot of horses walking by. From the café, the riders took the path out to the golf club and headed along the road to Illogan. The mining trail bridleway was taken to Gwel an Mor holiday park above Portreath. The bridleway trail leading back into Tehidy park was then followed, and the pine tree walk section alongside the golf course eventually returned the group to the meandering woodland paths within. We emerged from the park by the route we had entered; a bustling car park of people, at the north gate. From which we returned to our trailers in the North Cliff car park

Independent Panel on forestry Final Report.

In July the Independent Panel on Forestry published its final report.

The triple bottom line is woodlands deliver benefits for people, nature and the green economy. The panel recognises that the quality of access to the public forest estate is unrivalled and that this should be secured for the nation for the long term. This appears to be good news if the government takes note and follows it through.

It highlights that the public forest estate is the single largest provider of outdoor leisure and recreation in England. It recommends the expansion of woodland cover from 10% to 15% by 2060. The panel recognises and appreciates how important trees are for nature and the economy and improves health and wellbeing by provision of better and more connected places for nature. "Woodlands managed sustainably can offer solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing society today."

To see the full report visit www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/reports/

Forestry Commission suspends issue of riding permits

In the south west we have learnt that the Forestry Commission has now suspended issuing permits for its forests in the southwest, including Cardinham. All horse riders may ride the forests (where allowed) without permits until such time as a formal decision is made on the future policy for ridden access to the forests. The BHS ran a lobbying campaign which you the riders helped to put pressure on the Forestry Commission by completing and returning the "SAY NO TO PERMITS" post cards to MPs. The report does send out a powerful message in pushing for public access to other public landowning bodies such as the National Trust and Natural England

Possibility of New Speed Limits on Rural Roads

The government announced that speed limits on some rural roads could be lowered from 60 mph to 40 mph to help cut the high casualty rates in the countryside. Deaths on rural roads have increased from half of all road deaths to more than two thirds. Councils are also to be handed powers of flexibility to reduce speeds in towns and high streets to enable more 20 mph zones to be introduced.

The new draft guidelines ask local traffic authorities to keep speed limits under review and to introduce more 20 mph limits in urban areas to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Whilst good quality unclassified roads may merit 60 mph, many others with lots of bends or are in national parks, or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or routes recognised for cyclists or other vulnerable road users should be able to reduce to 50 mph or 40 mph.

It is a pity that the need for even slower limits on our country lanes is not recognised 40 mph is still far too fast for encountering horses!

Horse Hike from Mullion on the Lizard

Owing to the weather and poor ground conditions this ride was postponed until July. A small group of 4 riders left Mullion and rode the usual route of bridleways and tracks skirting south of the Predinack Airfield (disused). Some of the route goes on Natural England permissive horse paths to eventually cross the river to join bridleways at Kynance Cove. This time as it was hot we had a very leisurely ride and we decided not to do the last mile or so to reach Lizard Village but instead did a loop around the downs at Kynance Cove.

The area managed by Natural England did appear to be getting more over grown and we did not see much sign of the cattle supposed to graze and manage the area.

When we arrived at Kynance we found the cattle too busy sun bathing in the car park along with the hoards of visitors, instead of munching their way through the down land vegetation. They knew where they were better off!

Once again a big thanks to Alison Lugg for organising this lovely ride and the photos.



Cattle sharing the car park with the visitors and left a riders view of the ride

BRIDLEWAY NEWS

This year has been horrendous for the growth of weeds and brambles etc on our bridleways. A few weeks after they have been cut they appear overgrown again.

We want to complete rider survey of all bridleways in Penwith (and in fact all of Cornwall). We ask that as many of you as possible visit the online maps on our bhsaccesscornwall website and click on the bridleways you ride and give us an up to date report. You can also now report on individual gates on a bridleway.

Cornwall Council generally is struggling to address issues on bridleways and footpaths BUT that is why it is important that issues continue to be reported. Please do not suffer in silence even if you don't see immediate results of complaining.

Balnoon Track, Halsetown, St Ives

Many Riders are continuing to use this track despite being challenged by the occupants of the adjacent caravan.

We are now starting to contact riders who have used this track to complete witness statements for the submission of a Definitive Map Modification Order to 'claim' it as a bridleway.

We are hoping that Cornwall Council is about to examine the common land infringement by this development.

Bird Scarers and the NFU Code of Conduct for Landowners

The NFU produced the following guidelines for their members. They are keen for landowners to properly observe the code as they are very concerned that the usage, particularly of gas guns, could be tightened up and enshrined in law if they continue to get complaints from the general public. Apparently, there is also a petition to sign to get gas guns banned.

Scarers and rights of way

- Scarers are intended to frighten birds, not visitors to the countryside. Try to avoid surprising passers-by.
- Try to avoid positioning auditory scarers adjacent to rights of way.
- Consider warning users of their presence.
- Remember that horses are easily frightened and can bolt or unseat their riders.
- Do not position the scarers near roads or bridleways usually used by riders.

Look to lessen the potential danger by taking these further safety precautions:

- Maximise the distance between the scarer and the road or bridleway.
- Point the scarer away from nearby roads or bridleways.
- Where appropriate use a suitable baffle.
- Consider erecting temporary signs to warn riders. Don't forget to remove these after use

Note: Cornwall Council can take action on anything that affects the safety of riders using a right of way .



Not all Bird Scarers are Gas Guns, but alternatives can just as easily spook horses as in the recent unfortunate accident in St Hilary. The scary face suddenly appears when the wind rotates the scarer

I Think I must be Mad

My mother wasn't horsey - and neither was my dad.
But the madness hit me early - and hit me like a curse.
And I've never got much better. In fact, I've just got worse.
My stables are immaculate. My house is like a hovel.
Last year for my birthday - I got a brand-new shovel.
I hardly read a paper - but I know who's sold their horse.
And I wouldn't watch the news - unless Mr Ed was on, of course.

One eye's always on the heavens - but washing waves in vain.
As I rush to get the horses in - in case it's going to rain.
And though they're wearing 15 rugs, the best that you can get,
I bring them in to keep them dry - while I get soaking wet.

I spend every pound I've got- on horsey stuff for sure.
I buy saddles, bridles, fancy rugs - and then I buy some more.

I should have had my hair cut - or bought that nice blue shirt,
At least it wouldn't now look ripped and showing up the dirt.

I can't make the books balance - so I don't even try.
But I can back up a car and trailer in the twinkling of an eye.
It's jeans and joddy boots that I live in night and day.

And that smell of sweaty horses just doesn't wash away.
Once every now and then I dress up for a ball,
With make-up and posh hairdo- and high-heel shoes and all.

I ache from long-forgotten falls. My knees have got no skin.
My toes have gone a funny shape from being squashed up again and again.

But late at night, when all is still- and I've gone to give them hay,

I touch their velvet softness and my worries float away.
They give a gentle nicker and they nuzzle through my hair.
And I know where my heart is - more here than anywhere!.

Thanks to Beverley Jenkin for this ditty

Steel Horse News - Visit Exmoor

The best way to see Exmoor is by bike or from the back of a horse. With 60% of the public rights of way network bridleway, Exmoor national park has some of the best riding and cycling in the UK. It has the highest sea cliffs on the British mainland making for spectacular views. There are 300 miles of bridleways including the 33 mile Colebridge Way bridleway, starting in the Quantock hills and finishing at Porlock. (Exmoor is the home of the Golden Horseshoe challenge ride of 50 and 100 miles – the ultimate endurance ride.) There is an easy but stunning coastal route running from the cliffs above Minehead to a point overlooking Porlock that gives the cyclist an exhilarating ride without excessive effort. Having one of the best and most challenging off-road cycling destinations it is great that the national park authority has produced a colour coded route map grading routes from green (easy) to black (very challenging). Pity it hasn't done the same for horses as we came across some dangerous sections for horse riders along river banks.

The "Moor Rover" minibuses can carry bikes and gear and can pick up and drop off at any pre-arranged point within the national park. This enables linear routes to be cycled, as circulars are a killer and only for the super fit. Heaven would be to whistle up my horse to fast canter the uphill bits then swap for my mountain bike for the long down hill runs! Definitely worth a visit on horse or bike but you do need to research your routes in advance.

Many of the moorland tracks are superb but some can be overgrown and the river valley bridleways often leave much to be desired. Exmoor bridleway gates are another issue four foot wide many spring closing and with hook and eye fastening.



An Exmoor gate on the bridleway along the river Barle near Tarr Steps, enormous boulders obstructing a narrow gate above the river. Forging the river to avoid this stretch is recommended for horse riders. (A bit hairy for MB riders also)

Nanclendra Horse Hike

The Nanclendra horse hike in May attracted another good turnout of 10 riders who met at Nanclendra School for a 7 mile ride. It was good to have a contingency of riders from St. Buryan as they have virtually no bridleways and little available riding. Nanclendra nestles in a bit of a secret valley, served by a network of quiet lanes ideal for riding.

Following a leafy lane by a stream we riders turned up the long steep hill from Georgia bridge heading for Baker's Pit and the start of moorland. Navigating the bridleway up towards Castle-an-Dinas, the summit gave panoramic views over Mounts Bay despite hazy sunshine. The decent over Gulval Downs to the Chysauster road was pleasant with views right over to St. Buryan church tower. Passing Chysauster ancient village, we left the road at Carnaquidden farm, taking the bridleway leading up to Bishop's Head and Foot. We then turned right on to the Tinner's Way leading on to the moor over Lady Downs. The moorland looked very dry despite recent rains. Following the bridleway, we descended off the moor to Embla Vean and took quiet lanes and bridleway back to Nanclendra. The chatter-happy riders, who did manage some faster paces, completed another enjoyable and social ride.



New Safety Video Urges Mountain Bikers to Stop, Stand and Speak and be ready for meeting horses.

The Forestry Commission working together with The British Horse Society has released a 2 minute safety video for mountain bikers. It shows bikers how to help keep Welsh forests safe by being more aware of horse riders sharing popular paths. It's dynamic and fast but with a good message "Stop, Stand, and Speak" – essentially share with care. Just Google "Forestry Wales BHS Mountain Bike" then click link to mbwales.com site

PAROW UPDATE

PAROW CIC Paths Officers Chris and Kirstan are continuing to do much clearance work that benefits riders by hand and with PAROW's compact tractor and flail. They are an essential resource in keeping many of our moorland paths clear eg on Bartinney Hill, and also many bridleways. The current grant funding for their employment only runs until next spring so working with Rob Poole, rural economy officer now employed by Cornwall Community Trust we are trying to identify possible grant funding for future years. PAROW CIC is also looking for more commercial work to help its funding. PAROW CIC Path Officers are experts in the clearance and maintenance of access routes, community spaces and ancient sites. With a wide range of equipment and full insurance, PAROW can assist your community with tasks such as; Path clearance & strimming, LMP work, Maintenance and repairs of stiles and boardwalks, mowing, hedging, Signpost repairs. www.parow.org.uk

For Smart Phone Users

The bhsaccesscornwall website now has new default home page for mobile users giving direct access to our riding route maps for your immediate location.

www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk



Or just scan this QR code with your smart phone app.