

HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



Free to Members

No. 38 Spring 2016

Straight from the Horse's mouth

Hello Everyone

A rather belated happy 2016 to you all. This winter's weather reminds me of Winter 2013/14 when we similarly had storm after storm. Once again the strong winds and rain has been ridiculous – right off the scale! It is a relief to see pleasant sunshine again as we hit March. However, as we frantically get this out to you (final?) storm Katie has rattled through!

Horse hikes started up in late September with the Madron warm up ride. Thank you to Anne for running a very pleasant ride in decent weather. Since then, leading up to Christmas, we have been totally frustrated by the weather. Rain, Fog and storm force winds have thwarted our attempts to run and reschedule cancelled rides. Also, regular horse hikers have had various horse problems (including ourselves) and have not been able to go. Many of us have got out of the habit of riding very far as preference has been to 'batten down the hatches' and catch up on other tasks.

Last September we attended the BHS Access Conference at headquarters in Warwickshire. All the speakers had good news and positive stories of battles won. (more on this later)

Debbie Smith's petition to get made into law, that drivers must pass horse riders WIDE AND SLOW and to obey rider hand signals has really taken off. More on this later.

In February, we attended a course, with other WPBA committee members, to learn what we can do to tackle the looming deadline cut off date of 2026 to record all pre-1949 routes. We do now feel it is time for us to concentrate on getting these old roads and tracks on to the Definitive Map so they will be protected for posterity. Once that date has passed, we will not be able to claim them as public rights of way without user evidence. More on this very important task later.

The AGM has come round so quickly and once again it is time to renew your membership if it has expired. Many of you have joined for 2 years so not everyone will be up for renewal. As always, you can renew (or get your friends to join) online. We hope you will come along to the AGM. If you are not able to get along you may renew on line or by post. We will only automatically send out membership cards for online renewals for two years. Otherwise if you do need your card please send me an SAE. Not having to post stuff out is a great saving and one of the reasons we do not increase membership fees.

Margaret

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Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5 April 2016

At the Yacht Inn, Penzance
(opposite Jubilee Pool)
Start 7:30 prompt

This year we have decided not to have a formal speaker. Instead we want to focus on the main purpose of our association in protecting where we ride.

- Cornwall Council Senior Enforcement Officer Linda Holloway will be coming to update you on the actions Cornwall Council is taking to get Cornwall's bridleways open and usable.
- We will take the opportunity to update on the strategy for preparing for the 2026 deadline for recording unrecorded paths.
- There will be opportunity for you to raise any particular issues of concern to yourselves.

WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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Obstructed Bridleways – Update

In the last Horse Around we explained the procedure for submitting a 130a Order to Cornwall Council to request that they clear obstructions from a blocked bridleway. After that item one of our committee submitted a 130a on the bridleway at the back of Bartinney which was completely overgrown. It did have good results as shown by the picture below. In this instance Cormac came and cleared the path.

We cannot guarantee that the process will always yield such speedy results, BUT it is important that we do not just ignore such problems. We often get frustrated by the lack of action and feedback when we report issues via the standard communication routes to Cormac who maintain the paths on behalf of Cornwall Council. The formal process is via 130A Order to ensure a problem is looked at. However CC resources to deal with issues via that process are limited so we should use wise judgement on which paths we use that process.



*The
bridleway
behind
Bartinney
after
clearance
by Cormac*

Gwallon St Hilary 81. – Update

We reported in the last Horse Around how in 2009 we successfully got a new route for the bridleway agreed and opened by the landowners. The definitive route had never existed and goes through a house.

Cornwall Council has never processed the application for a diversion much to the frustration of all and especially the house owner because they located a mine shaft near the new route.

At last we have succeeded in getting Cornwall Council to investigate this mineshaft, which they have now found and assessed. They are going to re-enforce the path and process the diversion. We now await the formal legal notice of the diversion.

Castle-an Dinas Bridleway Diversion

To try and get some action on sorting this route which we reported on in the last Horse Around, we submitted a 130A Order asking for the obstructions to be removed from the definitive route which the quarry have blocked off. This was very interesting as it meant Cornwall Council serving notice on itself as Cornwall Council is the owner of the quarry. Our action has had the desired result as we have now received formal notice and map of the proposed legal diversion of the definitive route. However we still await the new route to be brought up to a satisfactory standard

Horse Hike Programme – Spring/Summer 2016

This time we are taking a more relaxed and flexible approach to the Horse Hike Program. We do find that many factors affect horse hikes from the weather to members' availability for the rides and the fitness on the day of horse and rider both leaders and members.

We have prepared a provisional program as follows:

17 April - Chapel Carn Brea – Beverley Jenkin
8 May - Tehidy – Adrian and Margaret
22 May - Drift Dam – Beverley Jenkin
5 June - Mining Trails Camborne – Adrian and Margaret
18 June - St Hilary (Halamanning) – Debbie Smith
3 July - Helston Loe Pool – – Adrian and Margaret

Please do let the organiser know well in advance if you are potentially interested in a particular ride.

Rides may be rescheduled depending upon demand and other factors.

WE WOULD LIKE OTHER MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER TO RUN RIDES. We will give you full help and advice.

Contacts:

Margaret and Adrian Tel: 01736 795098
Debbie Smith 01736 763 830
Beverly Jenkin 01736 871151 or 07530 242524

Grading of Rides:

Generally we do try and make the rides suitable for all. However if you have particular concerns about you or yours fitness and ability to speak to the organiser before hand.

Rides generally are between 7 and 10 miles but do check with the organiser

Where possible rides are tailored to those who attend

Riders and their horses coming on horse hikes are expected to have a basic level of competence and be happy to ride out in company.

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!

PASS WIDE AND SLOW

No doubt you have seen and hopefully signed the petition that our committee member Debbie Smith started in the Autumn.

<https://www.change.org/p/uk-govt-make-it-law-to-pass-by-a-horse-wide-and-slow-and-abide-by-our-hand-signals>

The petition has been and still is being a phenomenal success. Riders are still signing it and the current total is a staggering 85,000 signatures.

Debbie's initiative has been fully supported by our local MP Derek Thomas who at an early stage got the ear of the Transport Minister, Andrew Jones.

Debbie went to the House of Commons and met with the Minister on February 23rd and formally handed over the petition.



No doubt you may have seen the interview with Debbie on BBC Spotlight on that day. The minister was very receptive and made some promises of action.

There have been several other similar petitions over the same period but Debbie's campaign has been the really successful one and it continues.

The British Horse Society has now also formally joined the campaign by launching a "Dead Slow" campaign together with an accompanying short video. The video has a very clear message that horses should be passed at no more than 15 mph.

Together with a press release the item was featured on BBC Breakfast and Five Live and was mentioned in parliament and is gathering more support from other MPs. This will re-enforce the campaign that Debbie started.

The British Horse Society is also continuing to give Debbie support with her own campaign.

Although changes in the law may be difficult and take a long while, we are hoping that much can be achieved if we get the full support of the politicians and the police to get the safety message over to all drivers and riders. Many of the problems we have on the road are down to ignorance and carelessness when passing horses on the road. We do have to get the message over that although we generally do not ride roads by choice we do have every right to be there and must be respected.



Debbie presenting the petition to our local MP Derek Thomas

The British Horse Society

Five years ago the BHS launched

www.horseaccidents.org.uk

Since then the Society has received more than 2000 reports of incidents on the road involving horses. Tragically these incidents involved the deaths of 36 riders and 181 horses.

The chances of getting changes in legislation are so small that we need to campaign for something more achievable. The Society is focusing efforts in campaigning for behavioral and attitudinal change in drivers and in getting changes made to the Highway Code. It is in dialogue with the Minister for Road Safety and has received written confirmation from the DVSA that they want to work with the BHS on the driving test. The main thing being asked for is that drivers pass horses at least a car's width away and at a maximum speed of 15mph.

This is a long term campaign which was started on the 24th March with a significant press release and accompanied by an excellent video for drivers.

Dead or Dead Slow!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_0F07eECQo

Hopefully with the tremendous support that Debbie Smith's petition has received, and with the substantial following of this petition and others on social media the government will have got the message that something has got to be done.

BHS Membership continues to go from strength to strength in the south west region. Membership currently stands at 12,588. The more members, the bigger clout we horse riders have. The national membership stands at around £90,000. Interestingly, the CLA has 33,000 yet they do seem to be able to influence government policy.

BHS Riding and Road Safety exam costs £45. A minimum group of 8 people wishing to take this useful practical exam is needed to make a course viable.

Dualing of the A30 between Carland Cross and Chiverton Cross

This road improvement scheme by the Highways Agency, presents us with a good opportunity to work with cyclists and walkers to get a multi-user route at some point along this stretch. Our first non-motorised user group meeting with the HA planners will be held on 12 April.

Project 2026 – Restoring the Record

Many of you may be aware that the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 set the date of 2026 for all historic routes to be properly recorded onto the definitive map. After that date it will not be possible to record routes onto the definitive map using historic (pre 1949) documentary evidence. Thus historic rights are deleted on that date. This will not prevent routes being claimed through user evidence, but we are still awaiting final regulations to be published that hopefully will fully protect unrecorded routes that are in use.

The 2026 date was set in 2000 by the CROW Act which also established a Discovery Lost Ways (DLW) project that failed dismally and was abandoned because of the enormity of the task. The government disgracefully decided to leave it to volunteers to do the work

The 2026 cut of date was specifically asked for by the landowner organisations (CLA, NFU etc) to ensure that all rights of way are correctly recorded by the 2026 date. This date and landowner wishes were retained by the Stakeholder Working Group on Unrecorded Public Rights of Way which produced the "Stepping Forward" report to Natural England in 2010. The cut-of date was retained despite the failure of the DLW project.

It is now only 10 years to the 2026 date. Any unrecorded routes may be recorded onto the definitive map by the submission of a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) with supporting evidence to prove that a Right of Way does exist along a path.

Cornwall Council has historically NEVER accepted Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) which are based on Documentary evidence, they have only accepted user evidence as the basis for a claim. This was partly because they considered the documentary evidence available in Cornwall to be very poor.

The new definitive map team in Cornwall Cornwall have changed that view and are now seriously looking at documentary evidence as the basis for claims. Documentary evidence is a lot simpler and "cleaner" than user evidence.

The British Horse Society has recently run a training weekend for volunteers wanting to help get unrecorded routes properly recorded. The two full day training sessions were very well attended with around 70 people attending over the two days. Cornwall Council definitive map staff also attended. The day was given by Sarah Bucks and Phil Wadey who are BHS volunteers and authors of the book Rights of Way - Restoring the Record.

Following on from that day we have started "Cornwall Project 2026". The Aim of this volunteer led project is to meet the wishes of the landowners and the terms of the associated legislation in ensuring that all meaningful Unrecorded Rights of Way (in Cornwall) as far as possible have been researched and recorded and necessary steps taken to ensure any associated rights are not unnecessarily extinguished at that date.

- The Project is being Coordinated by the British Horse Society working closely with the Ramblers and Cornwall Council.
- The project is being managed online via an interactive map of possible unrecorded routes.
- Any volunteer can join the project and contribute directly by giving any information about "lost" or unrecorded routes.
- We welcome walkers, riders, historians, cyclists etc to help.

To become involved please visit

<http://www.bhsaccesscornwall.org.uk/Project2026>

We will be giving more details of this project at the AGM and explaining how you can help preserve where we ride.

This one day event was held at the BHS HQ, Abbey Park, Kenilworth. All the speakers had positive stories. In one case a new supermarket being built agreed to providing a new bridleway and vital network link as part of the planning permission. The delegates went away feeling enthused and knowing others had faced the same type of struggles. One of the common issues was that with the rush to provide more housing, particularly in the southeast, livery yards were closing to make way for housing and also no new bridleway access provision was being made for horse riders. Greenways and cycleways yes, but local riders were having to fight to make all new routes multi-user. A local group of riders in Woking went to amazing lengths to highlight their situation including a mass ride of over 40 riders down the main high street (with poo pickers following)!

Although Cornwall Council Countryside Service does have a policy of making everything multi-user where possible – eg. The mining trails around Camborne. We do need to be vigilant over schemes lead by the Highways team. With any new developments such as housing estates and new "cycle" routes we must get in at an early stage to ensure that opportunities are not lost.

Multi-user (bridleway) links to our countryside or quiet lanes and rights of way network must be included at the planning stage otherwise it is too late. As someone pointed out at the conference; after all we are often the displaced original community before the houses came!

Hilary Richings

It is with great sadness we learnt of the passing of our member Hilary Richings late last year. Hilary has been a staunch and very generous supporter of WPBA and when she ran the Down Your Way column for Newbridge/Newmill she always publicised our events or mentioned our local concerns. She kept her illness to herself as we were not aware. Hilary valiantly continued to regularly ride at Old Mill Stables. She will be sadly missed.

PAROW and Penwith Landscape Project

The Bad News is that the current PAROW from the (Marine Management Organisation) funding expired at the end of December. Thus we have had to put PAROW into hibernation mode until new funding is found.

If you see the Paths Officers Chris and Kirstan doing work it will be work that has directly been commissioned either by Cornwall Heritage Trust on Sancreed Beacon or by some parishes for clearing paths under Cornwall Council's Paths Partnership scheme. We are hoping that funding may be found to re-employ them later in the year but this is not guaranteed.

The Good News is that the Heritage Lottery bid for the Penwith Landscape Project (PLP) was successful.

A total grant of £2.7M has been awarded which includes £140,000 for the development stage.

A Development Manager has been recruited and has just started work based in the PAROW offices at Bejowans.

The project has various components for improving and managing the landscape of West Penwith. It recognises the uniqueness, archaeology and heritage, and the importance of a resilient living working landscape. The project is lead by Cornwall Wildlife Trust. It will work with many partners including farmers and land managers. It also recognises the importance of access for all. PAROW is also a partner in this project and is expected to play an important part in the project's delivery.

A significant part of the project is the establishment of the Tinnens' Way as a proper and promoted Bridleway Trail from St Ives to St Just.

However the £2.7m does depend upon the successful completion of a detailed application and Landscape Conservation Action Plan by October 2017. The main project will then start in 2018.

Lizard Bridleways

A while ago we did report that there was a possibility of getting the current permissive bridleways on the Lizard Nature Reserve being dedicated as definitive under a Natural England initiative. HOWEVER we then find that the land in question is NOT owned by the Reserve, BUT leased from the Viscount Falmouth estate. Dedication is therefore not an option as the estate is unlikely to agree. Thus the initiative has proved useless in this instance.

However we are continuing to work with Natural England staff on the Lizard in trying to get better access for horses. Our members Alison and Cecilia on the Lizard are working with the Goonhilly Earth Station to provide a permissive horse route around the perimeter of the Station to enable safer access> Various options are being explored.

Mulfra Update

After last year's successful outcome to the DMMO we have made some progress in improving the newly recorded bridleway from Mulfra to Mulfra Quoit. Cornwall Council has got the hedge and gate removed from the lower end that had been installed a few years ago. PAROW has cleared the path and made it more easily usable by riders. However more work is desirable. On the other newly recorded bridleway sections PAROW was unable to improve the path down past Bodrifty because of the weather conditions before Christmas.

We are still chasing Cornwall Council to get the bridleway signed as a bridleway. Currently it is still signed as a footpath!



You may remember seeing the above picture taken by Liz Brown on a Lizard Horse Hike.

We submitted this to an Ordnance Survey Competition looking for pictures for their map covers.

Ordnance Survey have just told us that among the 14,000 entries they received, this picture was one of the many entries that caught their eyes in terms of compelling composition.

Having updated 607 covers to date they have asked us if they can keep the photo on file with a view to using it in the future. Naturally we said yes!

WPBA Membership

Thank you to everyone who has renewed and also welcome back to those of you who have come back to us after a few years gap. If you have been a member previously, we can just re-instate you as long as your details have not changed. Anyone who joins for 2 years will be sent their membership card. If you join for one year you will need to send us an sae. The membership fee has been at £5 p.a. for many years now, and we do not intend to increase it. Therefore we need to keep our costs down by sending out newsletters through the internet – so do sign up for that if you can.

Bits and Pieces

Horse Force

Due to public service cuts there are now only 12 mounted police force units in the country. Police dogs have also been reduced from 2,000 to 1,800.

Shanks's Pony

We all know the phrase Shanks's Pony meaning to get somewhere by walking but do you know the origin of the saying? In the 19th century, A Scotsman named Alexandra Shanks invented the first lawnmower that required a pony to pull it and the operator had to walk behind.

Wanted *Hoofball Coaches*!?

Whilst the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in China last Summer he announced he would give £3M of our tax payers money to train 5,000 football coaches in China to "raise awareness of our thriving football sector"! Hmm. Anyone for starting a horse hoofball team? Seriously though, what about "raising the awareness of our thriving equine sector"!

Commemorating WW1 Horses

A statue in honour of the horses that served in the First World War has been proposed for Kingsbridge in Devon. This was the major mustering point in the southwest to sell and gather horses for the war effort. The idea has come about since the war horse film, much of which was shot in Dartmoor. It is hoped to raise enough funds to commission the work. Most local people are supportive of the project.

Drunk in Charge of a Horse

Under Section 12 of the Licensing Act of 1872 Horse riders can be prosecuted for being drunk in Charge of a Horse or Cow. The Victorian version does not attract a mandatory ban or points on a licence! However, it does incur a fine and court costs.

Mane & Tail Shampoo for Your flowing mane!

Apparently, Mane & Tail shampoo has become very popular for women. Even tv celebs. are using it as it is proving a winner for taming tangled and straw like hair. Liberty in London has been selling it for 3 years and now high street chain Urban Outfitters are promoting it to achieve glossy and lustrous locks, as it leaves hair clean and shining without stripping natural oils!

Exotic diseases

We need to be vigilant for diseases such as West Nile Virus as yet not seen in the UK. Our horses have no defence against such foreign diseases and 80% or more of horses contracting are likely to die. Vets warn it is not a case of if, but more when these viruses will reach us. In recent years the risk has gone up tremendously. There is likely to be disastrous consequences for European livestock and with a huge impact on movement. Only 20% of horses show clinical signs for Meningitis. It can also pose a threat to humans.

Volunteering UK

Did you know that the value of volunteers in the UK has recently been shown to be £50 Billion? This is the equivalent amount for running the NHS!

Cornish Beaches Next?

A topic we have not before 'stepped into' "Dog Poo"

As most horse owners have a dog as well, I thought you may be interested in the following. By taking a DNA swab from inside a dog's cheek they can identify a dog from dog muck. A few private housing estates in the south east have taken the LEAD by introducing a fine on local dog owners. Now a London Council is launching a scheme to protect local parks by offering locals to get their dogs swabbed (the first 1,000 for free – thereafter £30 a time) and if any poo is matched the owners will receive a £150 fowling fine. You will HOWL with laughter when I tell you that the first borough of London to introduce this is BARKING! Seriously though, I can see this coming to a beach near you! This is already being done in America and now here, After all what London does first the rest follows etc. etc. Let's hope some bright spark doesn't suggest horse poo next!

How Much Weight Should a Horse Carry?

An American study has shown that a horse is comfortable and stress free with a load between 15 and 20% of its body weight rider and saddle. Once packed with weights of 25% loading of its body horses showed physical signs of stress. The horses had noticeably faster breathing and higher heart rates when carrying tack and rider amounting to 25% or more of their body weight. After trotting and cantering, muscles showed substantially greater soreness and tightness. Horses with wider loins, (the part of a horse's back located between their last rib and croup) were least sore. Although good bone mass, short and stockiness helps, the research offers a good guideline. It is worthy of note that also a rider who is unbalanced will appear heavier to the horse. It is recommended for instance a 545 kilo horse (1200 pound) is best off carrying no more than 109kg (240 lbs) of tack and rider.

Horse Jokes

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Why are carriages drawn by horses not more popular?
- Because horses are useless at drawing.

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A class of student psychiatrics was asked questions by their professor on emotional extremes. What's the opposite of joy? Sadness said someone. And the opposite of Depression? Elation said another. And you young sir from Texas, what's the opposite of woe? Giddy-up he replied!

