

HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



FREE TO MEMBERS

No. 7 WINTER 2002/3

Straight From the Horse's Mouth

This edition of Horse Around seems to be hot on the heels of the last one. Originally, this was just going to be a quick flyer mainly to inform you of forthcoming events, but it soon started to swell to a few pages. We have ended up doing the usual features, New Year horse hike programme and a short update of news. We have run a few horse hikes since the last newsletter, Gwinear, Drift Dam, Chapel Carn Brea and Goldsithney with only the Nancledra one cancelled due to the wet weather. Unless we get a good settled spell we will probably not run away rides until the New Year. I think we know those of you who want to do them and you will be contacted when conditions are right.

We would like to wish our members a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We hope you will continue to support us next year as we strive to keep horse riding issues in high profile. Horse riding is one of the original leisure activities and we aim to make sure our sport receives at least the same attention and priorities as other leisure pursuits. We hope you can make the Christmas Get Together next week and that we see you on the Christmas Rides.

Margaret

CHRISTMAS CRACKER RIDE – Sunday 15 December

Time to get the tinsel out!

Ask anyone who came last year and they will tell you what a cracking ride it was. Festive dress for both horse and rider is positively encouraged. We will be calling in on a few pubs, lurching on the hoof at The Trewellard Arms. Last year the speed of this ride was a bit pacey, but rest assured this year will be slower to suit all riders.

We had an excellent turnout last year. Come along and help raise the profile of horse-riding – we certainly got noticed last year with most of the horses and riders tinselled up.

This time we are meeting at St Just Rugby Club in the saddle and ready to go at 11.00 a.m. There is parking room for trailers and lorries. Please ring the organiser to say you are coming – we need an idea of numbers expected for lunch. Contact: Amanda on 871 876

GOLDSITHNEY CHRISTMAS RIDE –

As not everyone can make St Just Cracker Ride, Melanie is hoping to arrange a similar event at Goldsithney. The date is to be arranged so please contact Melanie on 710 839 for further details.

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CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER



Come along and meet fellow members for a Christmas drink.

AT
THE
FOUNTAIN
INN
NEWBRIDGE
Wednesday
11th
December
7:30pm

Mulled wine and mince pies will be available. This will be an informal get together. We hope to see many of you there.

Hope to see you there!

From Penzance take the A3017 to Newbridge

Merry Xmas



and Happy New Year

WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Adrian Bigg, Secretary: Margaret Bigg, Treveffa Farm, Treveffa, Zennor, TR26 3BL Tel: 01736 795098
Treasurer: Charlie Cartwright

WEB: www.westpenwithbridleways.fsnet.co.uk

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HORSE HIKES

Our Autumn program has been very successful, despite the weather, with only the Nancedra Hike and Poldice Valley postponed.

Drift Dam 20th October - We had yet another very good ride from this ever popular start point. This time we went over to Newbridge to lunch. Our route took us towards Sancreed left onto the bridleway which leads to Lesbew farm then out towards Brane. Soon we turned up on to moorland, known as 'the rings', where Jasmine's horse preferred to 'cat leap' the overgrown gorse path rather than get a prickled tummy! The weather was fine and clear and the 11 riders enjoyed panoramic views right over to the Mount and beyond to the Lizard. Our route then took us across Grumbla Common, and near Sancreed Beacon, down to Trannack Mill then on up

past Trannack Farm and on to the Fountain Inn for lunch. Two more members joined us here for sausage and chips on the hoof.



Ready to go after lunch

We returned through Bosvenning, and then over towards Skimmel Bridge and back through the woods at Sellan coming out at Treganhoe and home. We had some good canters where the terrain allowed, and we rode 7.5 miles and those who rode to the venue significantly more. Thank you to Gill Burman who lead the hike and planned the route. A very nice ride.

Chapel Carn Brea 10th November - On a drizzly and breezy Sunday morning with thick fog upon us, 7 keen riders turned out for a 'quick' ride starting from Chapel Carn Brea. We nearly cancelled the meet due to the weather, but Falmouth Coastguard office gave 6 miles visibility off the Seven Stones Reef with a force 6 blowing, and brightening later. So we opted for a shorter and mainly off-road route and abandoned our original plans to ride over to Cot Valley.

We set out in the direction of Tredinney Common and then over to Numphra Common and on to Dowran and Leswidden before coming back on ourselves. Soon the wind had eased and the fog began to lift quickly. We rode across to lower Grumbla then up towards Sancreed, but cut across over Sancreed Beacon by which time we could see St. Buryan church tower and over to the Mount. After picking our way through the overgrown gorse path, we crossed onto the bridleway track leading up towards Carn Euny along which we had a long fast canter. Reaching high ground again, we cut over the Rings and then to Brane and through St. Euny's Chapel and back on to Tredinney Common.

We were all splattered from head to foot with mud due to the recent wet weather. It took us 1hr. 40 mins. to complete this 7.5 miles exhilarating ride and we never met another soul! Riders and horses alike all enjoyed it, and were glad we went. Thanks go again to Gill for planning and leading the ride.

2003 Winter Programme of Horse Hikes

Once your Christmas pudding has gone down you can start on the next course of horse hikes.

Please put these dates in your diary.

Xmas Cracker, St Just	14 th or 15 th December	Amanda
Drift Dam	4 th or 5 th January	M&A
Gwinear	18 th or 19 th January	M&A
Chapel Carn Brea	1 st or 2 nd February	Amanda
Drift Dam	15 th or 16 th February	M&A/Gill
Goldsithney	8 th or 9 th March	Melanie
St Erth	22 nd or 23 rd March	M&A
Nancedra	5 th or 6 th April	M&A
St Just	19 th or 20 th April	Amanda

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

Margaret and Adrian Tel: 01736 795098
Melanie 710839 Amanda 871876

Most Hikes will find a suitable hostelry for a lunch stop.

Hikes are ridden at your own risk.

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

Juniors on Horse Hikes

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

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

Away Rides

The outing to the Poldice Valley was postponed because of uncertain weather. Instead, four of us went over to Gwinear for an 8 mile ride – Lovely tracks and bridleways. Any one wanting to try this or a rescheduled Poldice Valley Ride please let us know. The away rides will be organised by telephone or email according to demand and weather.

The Great Flat Lode to Lanner is also on our list so make sure your name is on ours.

If you have transport and would like to sample these delights please phone 795098 to let us know. We will then arrange a ride to suit your schedules if practical. - Adrian and Margaret.

Second Goldsithney Hike 1 December

Once again we had an excellent turnout for our second Goldsithney horse hike last Sunday. Despite the unpredictable weather, we had 16 riders setting off for a 2 hour morning ride. We soon encountered our first heavy shower outside Tregurtha Downs riding stables where we all did an about turn and stood with our backs to the rain for 5 minutes. We didn't have to endure another bad shower until we reached the woods at Treveneague. We returned to Goldsithney through Higher Downs and Perran Downs. Everyone was glad to get out and exercise their horses during this prolonged wet spell. Our thanks go to Melanie and Yvonne for planning and leading yet another good ride.

Horse Crossing Points on A30

We have been sent the findings of the A30 Vulnerable User Crossing Improvement Programme. This survey was carried out by the Highways Agency, Exeter. We are very pleased that all the difficult crossing points have been recognised. We have been pushing for a "Pegasus" crossing at Canonstow. Our request for a Pegasus has been given high priority status. The crossing will link the Carter's Grave Lane bridleway (see last Summer Horse Around – featured bridleway) and the St. Erth Parish. This is great news, the Pegasus will be a first for Cornwall. The improvement works start March 2003 and will be carried out over a 5 year period. Hopefully the crossing will be done early in that timescale.

For Cockwells, just past Crowlas, they have stated that "Equine needs to be considered" medium priority.

There are many other vulnerable crossing points highlighted up along the A30 some are equine related eg. to raise bridge parapets, but most are to make a safe crossing amenity for walkers. These improvements are designed to help us too

Extract from NFU Countryside Magazine

"Horse riding is an important activity that attracts a large and diverse number of riders and horses. There are believed to be 900,000 horse and 2.4 million riders in Britain. According to the British Equestrian Trade Association, (BETA) equestrianism is the second largest spender in the countryside with a total spend of more than £2 billion per year."

The above facts are most important to our cause of persuading our councillors and land owners to support the provision of more safe off road riding routes, for the benefit of all.

Membership Profile

You may wonder what your fellow WPBA members are like. The majority are leisure riders only, but with quite a few who do like to compete as well. Most of you are happy and able to help clear bridleways when required, but some do have commitments that make it very difficult. We will be doing some clearance projects in the new year.

Have We Your Correct Email Address?

If you are on Email and are not receiving emails from us on the horse hikes etc. PLEASE send an Email to treveffa-farm@supanet.com
Subject: WPBA circulation.

Don't forget our WEB Site

www.westpenwithbridleways.fsnet.co.uk

HELP WANTED – Falmouth and Lizard Area

We are trying to instigate the creation of a Bridleways Association covering Falmouth to The Lizard. We have some contacts already and there will be a meeting to bring people together early in the new year. If you know any horsey people in that area who are likely to be interested please ask them to contact me so that I can keep them informed on progress. - Adrian

Progress report

WPBA 003 Porthcurno-Treen impassable bridleway

This route was featured in the last Horse Around. We have had a further site meeting with the National Trust and the County Council Countryside Ranger who has approved the work to be done. The first phase of work to make this bridleway rideable is to clear back the vegetation and expose a better width of track to see if in some cases the boulder drops can be avoided. The National Trust are planning to do this work over the winter before the visitors start to arrive and birds start the nesting season. Then where necessary the route will be 'naturally' stepped and back-filled with rab to restore a level surface to enable horses to negotiate the currently impossible stretches. We may be calling for volunteers to help cut back the vegetation when the time comes.

WPBA 004 Boulder-strewn Bridleway at Lamorna

We have been informed that the County Council are to start work on this first by solving the drainage problem then attending to the surface.

WPBA 005 Impassable bridleway at Lamorna

We informed the CC again about the state of this bridleway, signposted 'Public Path'. The route is blocked with fallen trees and has a rather nasty dangerous ditch to cross which did have nasty tree stumps in the middle. The CC have now removed the stumps on the grounds of safety but are not at present willing to do further work. This is because this bridleway is in the parish of Paul, and Paul IS NOT IN THE LMP! We will be shortly liaising with Paul PC to persuade the Councillors of the benefits of joining and taking an interest in their rights of way.

Parish Contacts Update:

In Horse Around 7 we listed the contacts for the parish councils in Penwith.

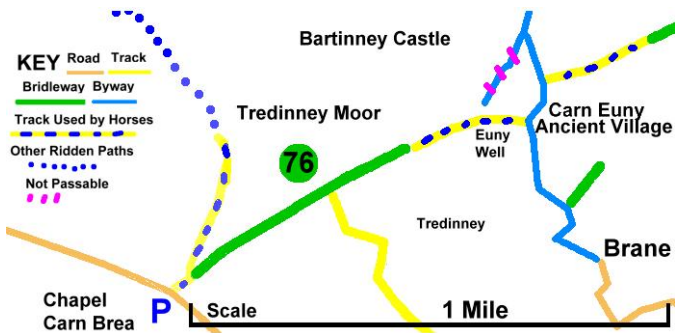
One Parish we omitted in error was Ludgvan, Ludgvan is in the LMP scheme. You may report any problems on the paths in Ludgvan in the first instant directly to either the parish Clerk: Peter Vaughan 740 842 or the paths officer Charles Osborne 740 620.



Aren't Horses Fun

Don't Forget! - 10% Off at Penrose Outdoors, Truro for Our Members

Featured Bridleway – St Buryan 76



The bridleway runs across Tredinney Common below Bartinney Castle and links Chapel Carn Brea with Brane. This is a lovely bridleway which we cleared last year. It is now a broad track which horses have now kept clear by being able to use it – it was just a narrow path through the gorse. It is now the best in the parish. You will notice the designated bridleway does not connect with a road or byway - at either end. Current County Council Policy means that the bridleway does not receive any priority – just on a technicality. It has of course been used for years. When it was designated it connected to tracks at either end that were at that time considered to be roads. This is how loads of our bridleways do not connect through to a road (by the CC's definition).

The process of reclaiming undesignated tracks as bridleway requires a Modification Order supported by evidence of at least 20 years continuous use as a bridleway. Sancreed Parish Council are to support a Modification Order for this bridleway. We are in the process of collecting the evidence. If you have ridden it at any time over the last 20 years (or earlier) please let Amanda know. Tel: 871 876.

St. Ives to join the *LMP?

This has got to be good news that St. Ives town council has agreed in principle to join the Local Maintenance Partnership agreement, which as you will know, if you read the Autumn Horse Around, means they will get £50 per kilometre to maintain their rights of way network. They are awaiting the full tenders for the contract to be returned so it will know the full cost.

We will be writing to them as one of the user groups of the rights of way network in support of them joining and to inform them of the parish surveys we are producing. (We will start presenting our finished parish surveys to each parish in the new year.)

We need to target Paul Parish Council and get them to join as their rights of way are a shambles of brambles!

**Local Maintenance Partnerships (LMP):* - The County Council encourages all parishes to enter into the LMP scheme, where the parishes are paid directly about £45 per Km per annum for routine maintenance of the parish's public paths. For further details, see Horse Around No 7.

Parish Reviews

The CC have instigated a medium to long term project to review all the Rights of Way in the County and how the routes used relate to the definitive map. The aim is to ensure that all used paths and bridleways are correctly designated to meet the requirements of the NEW Countryside and Rights Of Way legislation (CROW Act 2000), as by 2025 any rights of way that are not on the map will be lost forever.

The CC have instigated a pilot project looking at a sample group of Parishes and to map the paths used in each parish. We went to the first meeting of the review process in St Day which is one of the pilot parishes. Although not our patch, we attended the meeting to see what form the process takes. The meeting was packed with RoW user groups such as The Ramblers, Mid-Cornwall Bridleways and members of the public.

The various members of the CC were on hand to field questions. Essentially, Jane Powning, the CC Mapping Officer gave a talk on rights of way and the CROW legislation. We were all given a map of the area together with an information sheet and told to go away and mark up on it the rights of way you use or believe should be included as right of way on the definitive map.

Well we are 'streets' ahead with the parish surveys we've been doing for ridden routes – many now in their final stages. One interesting idea from the floor suggested that Modification Orders could be completed at such meetings as all the user groups were there and anomalies could be sorted out and signatures got.

In March, the CC will start the Hayle Parish Review. This touches on our patch so we do need to be ready. We will have a "get together" in a pub in the Hayle or St. Erth area in the New Year. Hayle /St. Erth members will be contacted directly. Anyone else interested in coming should ring me at the end of January. We will send out an email on this around that time.

The CC have not yet announced which parishes are going to be next, or when. We hope some will be in West Penwith. We are also interested to see if the CC is able to simplify the modification order process for routes that need to be added to the map.

We hope to say more about the modification order processes in a future Horse Around.

Liaison with the County Council

We have been asking the CC for regular meetings to discuss bridleway issues. Adrian has now been invited to attend the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group which "will give us an ideal opportunity to discuss/clarify any issues on policy". Although we had hoped for some direct liaison on local bridleway issues, we feel attendance at this meeting will be very useful in trying to influence policy to ensure that bridleway issues are given appropriate priority.

Cornish Monsoon creates bridleway washout

The rather extreme wet weather conditions and long persistent periods of rain has done more damage to our rights of way than a herd of elephants running through them. Many of our precious bridleways have become mud-baths and those on sloping ground have been washed away so badly that they are boulder strewn river beds.

Deep ruts have appeared in the Embla Vean bridleway and all the surface has been washed off the bottom 100 yards to the bottom of the track making it look like a rocky beach and with 2 foot deep gulleys in places! Horse access on to the moor is now effectively lost. The Countryside Ranger has had a look at it and nothing can be done until the Spring, but I fear this will be an on-going problem until they can find a better drainage solution.



*Picture: Bottom of Embla Vean
How many bridleways do you know like this?*

The Camel Trail

Have you ever cycled the 18 mile long Camel Trail? If not, I can recommend you take your Mountain Bike or hire one and ride it. It is really excellent. There are 3 sections of distinct scenery. Padstow to Wadebridge is all open estuary with stunning views, the next piece to Boscarne Junction follows the river Camel in a shallow valley. From hereon the trail becomes steeper, still following the Camel, but it goes through a wood finishing at Pooley Bridge.

The good news is you can horse ride the lower section from Padstow to Nanstallon (before Boscarne Junction). However this is also the most busiest section where you are likely to meet a multitude of cyclists and walkers. Unfortunately, at the moment, horse-riding is not permitted on the best and quietest stretch from Boscarne Junction to Pooley bridge, yet this is the most suitable.

The Camel Trail Partnership has been inundated with requests to open all the trail to horse-riders. Questionnaires are now being sent out to equestrian Groups and other regular users before a decision is made.

We have written on behalf of WPBA in support of the opening to riders throughout its whole length. We will keep you posted. If we do get full access – we will definitely be running a Horse Hike. Mountain bike it first and you will be keen to do it on horse-back!

How Do You 'Hire' a Horse?

Answer: Put a brick under each foot!

Do I hear a Neigh, Neigh?

Helen and Joe

On behalf of the committee, we would like to send our thoughts and best wishes to Helen Lewis (committee member) and family who have been through a very difficult time lately, and to wish her son Joe all the luck in the world with his new heart.

Member's Sales / Wants:

WANTED: Experienced rider to help exercise two decent sized Arabs, sensible horses but not suitable for novice.

Phone Mandy on: 01736 871 876

FOR SALE OR LOAN: 15.3 hh Dark Bay Mare by Karlinski. 11 yrs, Nice paces, Kind Temperament, make nice all rounder with further schooling. Home more important than price. Phone Julie on 810 405.

Access to Porth Kidney Sands

The Hayle Harbour Company has temporarily closed the access from Dynamite Quay to Porth Kidney beach. The narrow slipway leading on to the sands has badly eroded and was breaking up.

We wrote to Hayle Harbour Company, on your behalf, to say that it is the only point of access for horses, and that it was regularly used by local riders. They have told us that although it is not a public right of way, public access has been allowed.

We requested that any remedial work they were planning to undertake would cater for continued horse access, by making sure that the access point remains wide enough for us to negotiate. This they assured us they would do. We have to check on the progress with this.

WPBA Polo/Sweat Shirts etc.

Soon to be available - Polo Shirts or Sweat Shirts with West Penwith Bridleways Logo. To get yours, please contact Melanie on 710 839. There are various designs, reasonable prices, all to order. We want to place an order with the suppliers shortly so please let Melanie know.

Area Contacts:

Goldsithney/Rosudgeon :

St Just:

Sancreed:

Sennen:

Other Areas:

Melanie Mitchell on 710 839 or Alison McCarthy 763 223

Amanda Nicholson 871876

Gill Burman 810552

Beverly Jenkin: 876151

Adrian and Margaret 795 098