

HORSE AROUND

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY



FREE TO MEMBERS

No. 8 SPRING 2003

Straight From the Horse's Mouth

Time does pass quickly and its time for another Horse Around which just seems to get bigger and bigger.

We would especially like to welcome all our non-horse owning members be they walkers or cyclists. Your support is valuable to us. There is strength in numbers when putting forward our case for a better rights of way network for One and All. (The County Council has adopted the Cornish motto of "For one and All" and we need to keep reminding them of that.)

We have had to endure the winter rains and hopefully you have managed some riding or other enjoyment of the outdoors. Our winter has not been so good. You may have heard that just before Christmas Adrian got his leg broken whilst out riding on the Great Flat Lode, Camborne. His leg is pinned and it is likely to be 6 months before these are removed. His personal aim is to be back in the saddle for light riding perhaps by September. In the meantime, this has curtailed our activities somewhat as you might expect and Adrian is confined to his computer working away at bridlesway work. We had started doing some regular 'away' rides, these probably will be more limited until we are back in the saddle. The horse hike programme has continued and the occasional away ride should still take place.

We have another full Horse Around for you, we do hope you enjoy it. We do welcome contributions from you our members. We would like to hear from you.

The AGM is on the 26 March. If anyone would like to help us and stand for the committee please give me a ring or put your name forward to me.

Enclosed with this edition of Horse Around is your membership renewal form. Some of you have recently joined and are paid up members to April 04, but for the majority of you SUBS ARE DUE. Please renew promptly, as it makes our job so much easier. You can post it to me now or pay on the AGM night. I prefer to get subs in through the post (less stress!) but I'm happy to take them at the AGM. We do hope you will continue to support us. Our work is vital and we need your continued support. We are reaching a critical stage now armed with the Parish Surveys and are moving forward to the next stage of working with the parishes and the new Penwith ROW Forum currently being formed (see stop press item).

Margaret

In This Issue:

AGM Wednesday 26th March
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And more

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 26th March 7:30pm
THE YACHT INN Penzance
(opposite Jubilee Pool)

*This year's AGM
will be preceded
by a talk on
Equine Dentistry*

*By our very own
Equine dentist
Ellie O'Toole*



*It should be an informative and
entertaining evening.*

*** RAFFLE ***

Make sure you are there!

WEST PENWITH BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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

Email: treveffa-farm@supanet.com

Treasurer: Charlie Cartwright

WEB: www.westpenwithbridleways.fsnet.co.uk

Christmas Cracker Ride

On the 15 December, 12 riders turned out for our annual Xmas ride compared to 25 last year, but the constantly changing weather didn't help. However, riders and horses were all 'tinselled up'. George our only male rider had his Christmas hat on.

The weather was good to us. We left St. Just Rugby Club at 11.00 a.m. and rode up on to the moors, across to the fir tree plantation and Pendeen, stopping first at the North Inn pub for a drink. We rode quietly through Pendeen, past Geevor tin mine to the Trewellard Arms. Here we stopped for some lunch and another drink. Gill treated her horse, Kazzie to his favourite snack of pork scratchings.

We rode on down to Levant, and then rode the scenic coast track around to Botallack. George was heard to say he felt like a rooster amongst all the hens! I think he meant there was a lot of cackling going on!

We had a final drink at Botallack before scrambling back onto our trusty steeds and leaving it to them to get us home safely. Thankfully the weather stayed fine.

St. Just Pub Ride

On 12 January, about 15 riders turned out for this ride on a lovely sunny day. Gill led the ride from Derval Gate at Sancreed, picking up riders along the way. The route went through Dowran, along to Kelynack and down to Cot Valley. We had a canter along the track to Carn-Gloose and rode to the top where the views were lovely, the Brisons clearly seen on such a cold sunny day. We rode on and into the square at St. Just, quiet on a Sunday afternoon. It looked as though St. Just was having another Feast Day. We had a warm welcome from the Wellington Hotel and warmed ourselves up with a drink and some food.

Back on to our horses for an amble through Tregaseal Valley and back up towards Bostraze. We started to drop horses off along the way, going down through Botrea and coming back out at Sancreed, where everyone went their own ways home.



Picture by Shirley Fanelli

Chapel Carn Brea Horse Hike

As there seems to be quite a lot of horsey things going on now, only 7 riders turned out on this cold crisp morning on 2 February. As two of them were not so fit ponies, we rode very leisurely across the moors to Dowran. We kept the pace slow as we rode over to Bostraze and across to Kenyhton Moors. Here our two ponies branched off to go home, their riders joining us at the pub later by car. A very thoughtful move for the ponies as they're only just getting back into work.

With only 5 riders and all of them competent, we picked up the pace, trotting and cantering over to Trewellard pub. Here we had our 'pit stop' before having a fast ride back around the cliffs to Botallack. Both riders and horses enjoyed this long canter with horses prancing around and riders with flushed cheeks. An exhilarating end to the ride.

Amanda Nicholson

Off to Dubai!

We wish our members Jane James and Rowengy Garnet good luck in the F.E.I., U.A.E World Cup endurance race. Jane has been invited to compete by His Royal Highness, Sheikh Mohammed Maktoum. The ride is over 130km (80 miles), and Jane will be a guest of the Sheikh for one month, this will be to acclimatise the horse before the ride on 26 March. This will be Jane's third trip to Dubai so she is becoming an old hand at it. Good luck from us all.

Amanda

2003 Spring Programme of Horse Hikes

Please put these dates in your diary.

		Organiser or Contact
Ludgvan	5 th or 6 th April	Charlie
St Just	19 th or 20 th April	Amanda
Goldsmithney	10 th or 11 th May	Melanie
Drift	30 th or 31 th May	M&A
Ch. Carn Brea	14 th or 15 th June	Amanda
Sancreed	28 th or 29 th June	Gill
Gwinnear	12 th or 13 th July	M&A
Drift	26 th or 27 th July	M&A

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.

Melanie 710839 Amanda 871876
Charlie 368610 Margaret and Adrian Tel: 795098

Most Horse 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.

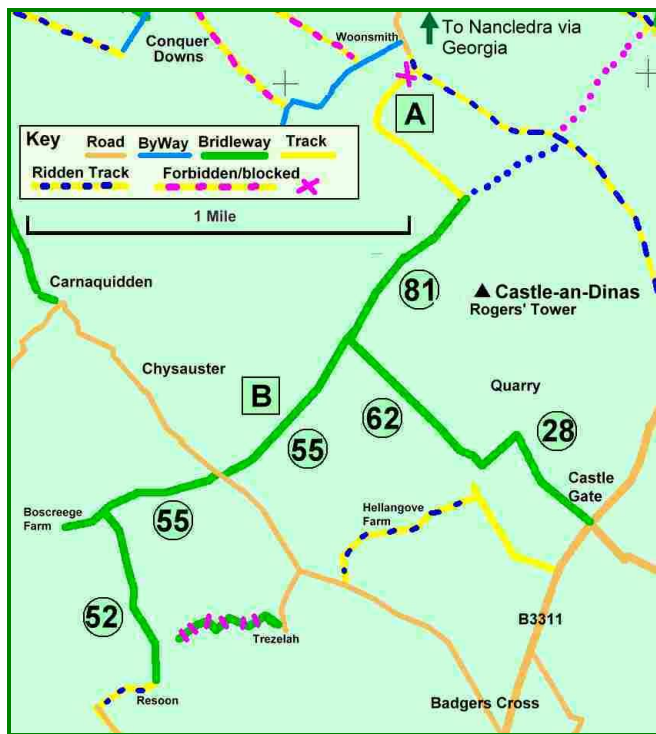
If you have a good idea for a Horse Hike or wish to organise one do please let us know!



*For all your horsey needs,
visit Eclipse at Long Rock or
ring them on 01736 719170*

**For anything granite, call Granite Direct
on 01736 871 876.**

Featured Bridleway – Castle-an-Dinas



For those of you that don't know the area. Castle-an-Dinas is the very high hill with a small turreted folly on top (Rogers' Tower built in 1798) NE of Penzance. There is an undesignated track (ridden) along the NE side which connects from Georgia to the B3311. There is a bridleway (Lugdvan 28 and Madron 62) that skirts the SW of the hill. This connects to bridleway 81 that runs high on the NW side with lovely views.

Until recently, the above lengths of bridleway did not connect to any road other than the B3311 at Castle Gate. The stretch from Castle Gate goes through a quarry site (which is not very practical when the quarry is working). The Madron parish stretch (no 62) has recently been officially diverted away from the summit and the quarry workings – this is a big improvement.

However the great news is that the old footpath no 55 (marked **B**) which runs from the junction of 62 and 81 down to the Chysauster Road (known as 'the fir tree route') has now been reopened to horses as a designated bridleway (after a very long modification order process).

Bridleway 81 however ends on top of Castle-an-Dinas where an old road goes off to the NW. Access to the bridleway at this end has been along the public footpath

(marked in blue dots) to the ridden track, but, this is very difficult, being deeply rutted and with a narrow obstruction.

The Cornwall Wildlife Trust have recently taken over the land to the north of no 81 (now known as Baker's Pit Reserve). They have been restoring the environment including clearing the old road that connects to the road through Georgia down to Nancledra. We have been liaising with the Trust and they have agreed in principle to allow horses to again use this route on a permissive basis. We are awaiting them to make necessary arrangements. The route is currently blocked by a pole stile at **A**.

When this is open, it will open a through route from Nancledra over Castle-an-Dinas through towards New Mill and Madron (either via the Chysauster Road or via No. 55 continuation and No 52). Bridleway No 52 was restored under the 'String of Pearls' initiative a couple of years ago. However it does go through open fields.

The above initiatives, when completed, show how short new stretches of bridleway can transform the ridability of an area.

Pegasus Crossing Update

Following on from last edition's article on A30 Vulnerable User Crossing Improvement Programme, we have learnt that the first Pegasus is to be put in at a new junction at Turfdown on the busy A38 to enable horses to cross from Lanhydrock to Cardinham Woods. We together with the BHS made representations at an early stage when this new junction was being planned.

We are awaiting confirmation that the next one is likely to be at Cannonstown to link the Carters Grave/ Heather Lane Bridleway to St Erth.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is here again, at the Yacht Inn. This year we are looking forward to an interesting insight into equine tooth care by Ellie O'Toole. We will also be holding a raffle.

A big thank you to Eclipse Equestrian, Cornwall Farmers and Granite Direct for donating prizes.

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

Porthcurno Treen Bridleway Update

Good news - The National Trust have informed us that phase 1 of the work to make this bridleway rideable is now under way. it should all be cut back in the next few weeks. Once the 'new' surface is cleared, and if the route is still difficult, the next phase will be implemented to improve the steep boulder drops. Once this route becomes rideable we will certainly be organising a horse hike in the area to include this bridleway.

EQUINE DENTAL SERVICE

Don't neglect your horses teeth, call Ellie O,Toole for a reliable friendly service on 07790412957.



For your horse
01736 362839

St Just 'Endurance' Pleasure ride

On Sunday the 16th March we took part in the South West branch of Endurance GBs training ride; Starting from St Just Rugby Club. We were the second group to start, but as we rode down through Kenidjack valley past the first checkpoint we were confronted by a loose horse galloping along the road past us. This turned out to be part of the first group, which had shied at a donkey and deposited its rider in the stream. We rode on cautiously past the donkey and towards the cliffs of Botallack



Jasmine, Sue and Beverly

We set a good pace along the wide sandy track of the cliff path past the mine stacks and on to Levant. Thankfully the weather stayed dry but cold. We headed up past the Geevor mine workings, past the horse sanctuary much to the excitement of the Shetland ponies who went whizzing around their field.

We rode on through Trewellard; crossing the road at the second checkpoint, and up behind the Meadery on to Pendeen Carn. The horses were alarmed by an uprooted fir tree at the Plantation just before the third check point; where we stopped briefly for a quick apple for the horses and a photo before crossing on to the Gump where we had a long canter up to Chun Quoit at the high point of the moor, and where we took in the spectacular view.

We walked around the road past checkpoint number four to Bosullow where we got back on to the moor. The track was good and straight so we had a good long canter back across the moor to the crossing of North Road. The track across the next stretch of moor was thin and windy so we took a more leisurely pace against the spectacular backdrop of the massive rocks of Carn Kenidjack. We zig zagged down through some fields and across a stream and then galloped up a nice sandy track, turning into a lane that was strewn with farm machinery we walked down a very steep hill and then trotted through the valley and on to the finish. We were given a lovely rosette each and told that our time was two hours!

It was a very enjoyable ride, many thanks to Mandy and Jane for organizing it.

Jasmine Jenkin

The above ride was organised by Jane James and myself to encourage interest in Endurance, and to raise funds for Endurance Great Britain, South West Region, so that more EGB rides could be put on in Cornwall. Riders paid an entry fee of £10 and were sent a bib No., start time and map of the route. The route was also marked with orange ribbon, so if you can't map read all is not lost!

We had 34 riders take part. Riders set off in groups of 3 and 4, about 5 minutes apart. There were people out on course acting as 'checkpoints', to make sure you were on the right route and to help you cross the roads.

For anyone who hasn't done any endurance riding and who would like to have a go, this is a good way to start. You and your horse get used to riding out in company, you get to see different countryside, and of course a rosette for finishing. We will be organising the same ride about the same time next year.

Many thanks go to St Just Rugby Club for allowing us to use their carpark and field and all who helped with the event.

Anyone interested in having a go, give me a ring on: 01736 871871.

Mandy Nicholson

The Broomfield Pony Sanctuary

I'd reached that "not to be mentioned" milestone when 30 begins to be a distant memory and 50 doesn't seem *that old*, so I thought I'd give myself a bit of a challenge, as the grey matter hadn't had much use since 'O' levels and an NVQ in Animal Care seemed enough of a challenge.

Part of the course involves two weeks "in the field", literally in my case, as Liz agreed to let me help at the Broomfield Pony Sanctuary.

The sanctuary has an enviable location near Levant mine, with spectacular views of the old mine stacks, a vast ocean and Pendeen Lighthouse to the right. Thankfully for the ponies it also has huge granite walls to provide shelter from the elements.

The residents include Vicky a very sweet little 35 year old Shetland, Dorrie a cheeky chestnut Shetland who was orphaned when her mother ate a plastic bag and Freckles a pretty affectionate grey who once had a successful dressage career who is now 28. As well as all the ponies and horses there are four goats; Sophie an elderly Saanen and Del-boy, Albert and Rodney the boys.

All the residents are cared for by Liz (the founder and manager) and Sharon.

The sanctuary would welcome any support, adopting a pony makes an ideal gift for anyone who cannot own their own horse. Also if anyone has any rugs that are no longer needed, they would be very welcome.

To contact the Sanctuary phone Liz on 01736 788320

Beverly Jenkin



A spot of jumping practice!

Riding Maps for West Penwith

We have now nearly completed mapping all the known ridden routes of the whole of West Penwith. We have further extended our range to include St. Erth, Germoe and Breage.

The maps (in full colour) are in similar format to the extract shown in the Bridleway Feature on Page 3. Each map is accompanied by a page of notes to explain problems etc. on the mapped bridleways and tracks. The maps are intended to be used in conjunction with the OS Explorer Map 7.

Each Map is A3 in size and is 2.5 miles per inch. The maps are available as follows:

- No 1 **Sennen and St Leven**
- No 2 **St Just**
- No 3 **St Buryan and Paul**
- No 4 **Sancreed**
- No 5 **Madron**
- No 6 **Morvah and Zennor**
- No 7 **Towednack and St Ives**
- No 8 **Ludgvan**
- No 9 **St Hilary, Marazion, Perranuthnoe, Germoe**
- No 10 **St Erth and St Hilary**
- No 11 **Breage and Germoe (available shortly)**

The maps cover adjacent parts of neighbouring parishes. Towednack and St Ives also covers the northern half of Ludgvan. These maps are available at a nominal cost of £1 each to cover production costs etc. Any three maps will be sent for £2.00. Please send cheque or coins with your order to Adrian at Treveffa Farm. An A4 SAE would be much appreciated.

These maps will also be available at the AGM.

Marazion and District Forum

The District Forums were set up to be an avenue for voluntary organizations to access funding from the numerous and varied funds that are available for Cornwall. I have been attending the Marazion and District Forum, which covers the Parishes of Marazion, Ludgvan, Perranuthnoe and St. Hilary.

The first project the Forum decided to undertake was to set up a footpath walk through all four Parishes. This idea was extended to include bridlepath trails in similar vein.

The expertise of the West Cornwall Footpaths Preservation Society was offered and they have walked and produced a detailed 12 mile circular walk. The walk is arranged so that it can be started from and finished at the 4 noted points and the whole 12 miles need not be undertaken. From this walk the proposal is that suitable bridleways are identified encompassing the four Parishes. Our Bridleways Association will be providing the information to complete the task.

It was realised by the members of the Forum that there are many riders in the area and bridleways are playing an important role making the hobby safer. It was also commented on that the project could show the shortcomings in some of the bridleways where they end suddenly or have been taken over. This may then lead to Parish Councils taking an interest and actively liaising between landowners and neighbouring Parish Councils,

Alison McCarthy

Bridleways and Ridden Routes.

Do remember that the designated bridleways form only a relatively small part of the paths and tracks we ride. The designations were made in the 1950's when there was little leisure riding. Many of our tracks were considered roads at that time and thus were not noted as bridleways, but they were never adopted by the CC as roads. Similarly many ridden tracks were only designated as footpaths, others were just omitted.

The County Council only has legal responsibility for the designated paths and highways. Your right to use undesignated tracks and footpaths is not directly protected in any way.

However you do have a right gained by ridden usage over the years.

The recent CROW legislation however removes this right, if the paths are not put on the definitive map by 2026. Hence action is necessary! – see below.

Parish Surveys

County Council Parish Surveys

The County Council has started a series of 'parish surveys' to identify all ridden and walked routes in each parish and to try and correct the definitive map.

The survey is the relatively easy bit – it will take much good will on all sides if the subsequent map correction exercise is to succeed. We are watching the pilot projects with interest.

Hayle Parish Review

The County Council are commencing the Hayle Parish Review starting with a public consultation meeting on 27 March at 7.30 pm at Hayle Community Centre. Jane Powning the CC Definition Officer will be there to explain the project and how all the rights of way will be looked at. Some of us will be attending as your representatives, but anyone can go along. I'm sure you will find it interesting. It could be your parish next!

WPBA Parish Surveys

In anticipation of the above we have nearly completed full surveys for all the parishes in West Penwith. Our report includes the map, bridleway statistics, overview and detailed descriptions of particular designation anomalies and problems. If you want a copy of any of these please phone me – Adrian.

The surveys we have completed are being presented to the parish councils and being put into the County Council's review activity. The West Cornwall FP Preservation Society is similarly giving input for the footpaths.

You are our Eyes and Ears

If you see any work being done on bridleways, or hear of any planned especially, where this involves changes to the surface, gates etc. Please do let us know or check with the County Council that the work is authorised.

The County Council has to be informed before any work is done that affects the surface of a bridleway. We have just managed to suspend major works being done by a landowner on bridleway number 17 in Sancreed, before a potentially totally unsuitable surface was put down. We are still awaiting news from the CC of the outcome of subsequent consultations between the landowner and the CC Ranger.

Problem Database

Now we have nearly finished our mapping exercise and parish surveys we now want to build and maintain a really detailed list of bridleway problems.

A problem can be bad or unsuitable surface, obstruction, unsuitable gate etc., or simply that the bridleway is not signed.

This is where YOU can help. Please let us have your reports on the bridleways you ride.

However please can you let us know the exact location, eg grid reference, or bridleway no. (either from our maps or the definitive map). Even if your path is not a bridleway we would still like your report. We (personally) cannot constantly check every path in West Penwith.

The County Council only has responsibility for paths that are on the definitive map, BUT as you will be aware its record on maintaining these appears very poor. They seem unable to address even the small number of high priority problems that we have reported to them. It is now time to give them the full picture!

From June the CC has new legally enforceable responsibilities and can more easily be taken to court. It is now time to start putting more pressure on the CC to address the issues.

Our Current Problem List

- WPBA 001 Bridleway from Chapel Carn Brea to Brane**
 - working towards a Modification Order to complete connection to Brane.
- WPBA 002 Padlocked Cattle Grid on a Byway**
 - padlock removed but an access problem to a through route still remains.
- WPBA 003 Impassable Bridleway Porthcurno to Treen**
 - NT have started clearing prior to repairs..
- WPBA 004 No 62 St Buryan (Lamorna) - Blocked/ Boulderstrewn**
 - CC have the work scheduled 'this year'
- WPBA 005 Paul 13 Lamorna, Impassable**
 - We are still pursuing this with the CC (see Horse Around 7)
- WPBA 006 Cattle Grid on Bridleway at Crippleseat**
 - This is being addressed by the property owners who are applying for a diversion order satisfactory to all.
- WPBA 007 Higher Leah St. Buryan No 78 Gates in bad repair**
 - Not considered to be a through bridleway by the CC!
- WPBA 008 Ennis Bridleway, Paul never cleared/instituted.**
 - Not considered to be a through bridleway by the CC!
- WPBA 009 Ludgvan No. 52 Carters Grave/ Heather Lane**
 - Impassable for most of the year – reported to CC
- WPBA 010 Madron No. 58 Kennels Bridleway.**
 - We hope to organise a local repair this spring.
- WPBA11 Bridleway Nos 80,81,82 Marazion**
 - FP Society are pursuing this.
- WPBA12 Bridleway No 18 Embla Vean**
 - Washed out yet again, on CC's schedule for 'this year'.
- WPBA13 Bridleway No 1 Towednack**
 - Sign went missing – now replaced by CC

The above list is only a small sample of the problems in Penwith. Even so the CC seem unable to make any significant progress in addressing them. We and parish councils can clear bridleways but not the more major repairs.

We are actively working to persuade the CC to make our limited bridleway network more serviceable.

We are still awaiting a response from the CC on our request for more items to be included in their schedule for the next year after their disastrous performance last year

We will also be discussing the issues with our County Councillors (see Horse Around 6 for list)

STOP PRESS! Penwith District Council – ROW Forum

In February 2002, we wrote to Penwith District Council to inform them of our existence and of the lack of through and circular routes for leisure riding. We asked them if they were taking an active interest in rights of way issues as some other district councils already do. After much badgering and some phone calls we received a reply in September 2002. "The Council is considering the role of a Countryside Officer for Penwith. This could be someone to champion rural issues in Penwith or could be part of the AONB (area of outstanding natural beauty) Management Plan which the Council is obliged to provide. This latter aspect is being looked at jointly with other District Councils and the Countryside Agency and may not even involve a direct employee of Penwith, but someone again to look after rural issues."

The footpath societies have similarly been asking PWDC for active participation. At last PWDC have realised the importance of the countryside and are establishing a Penwith Access and Rights of Way Forum. The independent forum will seek, obtain and manage grant funding from various sources to promote and improve the rights of way and access in Penwith. The Forum will include the Footpath Associations, our Bridleway Association and other interested countryside groups, parish councils and landowners representatives.

We have attended a first steering group meeting to establish the constitution etc. This is very good news. We will keep you informed of progress.

Adrian