



West Penwith Bridleways Association

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

Newsletter Number 4 Spring 2002

HELLO EVERYONE

Christmas seems ages ago now and our Christmas Cracker Ride from St. Just a distant memory. We had an excellent turnout and most of the horses were wearing 'tinsel' tails and other festive adornments. Some passers-by reached for their cameras. (It's amazing who just happened to have a camera on them as they were going about the town!) On route, we managed to take in 3 pubs, Trewellard Arms, The Queens Arms and The North Inn. Well it was Christmas and we are out to support local businesses! The weather was glorious and I can't think of a better way than on horse-back to take in the sea views from the cliffs around Botallack and Geevor. The St. Just district rides are a favourite of mine.



Winter has since hit us and we have not been able to organise further rides due to the unpredictability of the weather. Bridleway clearance was also put on hold. Recently we managed at last to run the Drift Dam Horse Hike - you can read about it below.

We are planning more Horse Hikes and although we have plenty of ideas, we would be pleased to hear from any members who would like to organise one, perhaps from their area. (We can give assistance in planning it if required.) Also we would love to hear from anyone who would like to get more involved with the work we are doing generally.

We've got the bit between our teeth now. This does involve a lot of work, on the surveys, mapping, letter writing etc. We are going to make sure we get results.

However, despite much of the above 'donkey work', we will continue to have some fun and I hope you will be able to join us on a Horse Hike or two in the coming year.

Margaret

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Tuesday 26th March Our First AGM and talk on Equine Homeopathy.

Although we have not yet been going a year our first Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th March and our new year starts on April 1st.

The AGM will be held at the Yacht Inn, Penzance (opposite the Jubilee Pool) starting at 7.30pm. Cathy, of Messrs Young, Otty and Bruce, will be giving us a talk on Equine Homeopathy, after which the formal AGM business will begin.

The formal part of the evening should not take too long as we want to give plenty of time to update you on our activities and to hear your views and concerns about the riding in West Penwith.

Your committee is recommending we now increase subscriptions for individual (Senior) membership from £2.50 to £3.00 but to leave the family subscription unchanged at £4.00.

Our main expenditure is Newsletter printing and postage and the small increase will enable us to produce at least 4 or 5 Newsletters a year. We will be asking the membership to approve this increase.

As you will realise, this first membership year has been short of a full year for many of you. We set the membership subscriptions as low as we could, and the shorter year has helped our finances. It has enabled us to accrue a small working capital. We wish to build on this if possible as some expenditure may be required in the future to enable some bridleway/access improvements. These issues will be discussed at the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you at to the AGM. It should be a good evening with time to meet fellow riders and have a drink. Please bring any horsey friends, who have not yet joined us, along to the talk and the AGM, but we will ask for a donation of £3.00 which will include a free year's membership.

First Horse Hike of the New Year from Drift



We started at Drift Dam and went via Tresvenack, Chyenhal, Lamorna Pottery, up to Castallack and then on to Paul, back to Drift calling at Tredavoe. 10 miles 6 miles off Road. There were 14 riders in total.

Full Story is on Page 3

Well Done Amanda!

Whilst we were out enjoying the Drift Dam Horse Hike, Amanda (Nicholson) was competing in a 40 mile Endurance ride in The Forest of Dean, on her Arab, Troy. She trotted most of the first 20 miles with some cantering but after the half-way stage cantered for most of the second 20 mile section. After 5 hrs in the saddle, she got a Grade 1, which means she has qualified for the Golden Horseshoe ride - a hard earned achievement. Mandy trained quite hard leading up to this event, riding out in 50 mph winds to make sure that both she and the horse were ready. 120 riders took part. Unfortunately Jill Thomas who partnered Amanda had to retire at the half way stage. Her horse developed a minor foot problem.

(If you would like professional advice on getting your horse fit, you can follow Jill Thomas's series in Your Horse magazine.)

Parish Bridleways Survey

We have been carefully mapping all the ridden routes in West Penwith including the bridleways. As you will appreciate designated bridleways are few and far between and often take you nowhere, or onto a footpath or undesignated farm track.

The CROW legislation (Countryside Rights of Way Legislation 2000) gives nothing to riders. Worse still, in 25 years time, it takes away any rights to reclaim historic use of tracks etc as bridleways or footpaths! The County Council has got an obligation to update the 'definitive map' to correct anomalies and include currently undesignated routes etc. However they estimate this will take 25 years! with the currently available effort. Also the currently adopted legal processes, such as Modification Orders by 20 years use and lots of witness statements, are totally impractical to put things right.

To speed the process, we have already made substantial progress in a parish by parish survey of the ridden routes and bridleways, highlighting where the definitive map (defined bridleways) do not match the paths and tracks we ride, and where mistakes and the many omissions have been made when the bridleways were designated. (The West Penwith Footpath Preservation Society is planning similar surveys for the footpaths.)

We are going to be working closely with the County Council on this task and hopefully we should greatly reduce the Council's workload and speed the task. Furthermore, we are pressing for more efficient mechanisms to address the issues, but this could require campaigning pressing for some further legislation or at least using a different route through the current legal processes.

We have our first meeting with the County Council Officer scheduled to examine our preliminary surveys. We hope to be able to update you further at the AGM. We will also have our draft surveys and maps available for you to see. We will be asking you to help check our surveys to ensure that nothing is missed. You should know your local area better than us!

FIRST AID

When you ride out (even for a local hack) it is a very good idea to take a first aid kit for both horse and humans.

Essential items to carry are a large absorbant dressing (a Tesco 'value' press-on towel is ideal – especially for use on a horse's leg), and a roll of vetwrap and some antiseptic wipes. A small roll of adhesive tape and a neat pair of round ended scissors and a couple of plasters are also useful.

Other items to carry are a hoofpick and a knife (which you should be able to produce in 5 seconds) to cut free tack etc. your vet's phone no. and a mobile phone. I also carry a space blanket (which folds up very small and flat) which can cover and shield an injured rider from the elements. On longer rides its advisable to carry a hot drink and some emergency food such as a chocolate bar.

It is also advisable to have a basic knowledge of First Aid including resuscitation. Acquiring a first aid certificate gives you good training.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

It is a bit late to wish you all a happy new year but the Chinese New Year has just come in and it is the year of the horse - let's hope everyone else thinks so! Apparently if you were born in the year of the horse (it comes around every 12 years) it says: An exuberant nature and quick brain characterise this natural actor and perfect salesperson. Always interesting, with an eccentric and ingenious streak, they have a great sense of fun, although they don't always know what they are talking about and can be cantankerous if crossed.

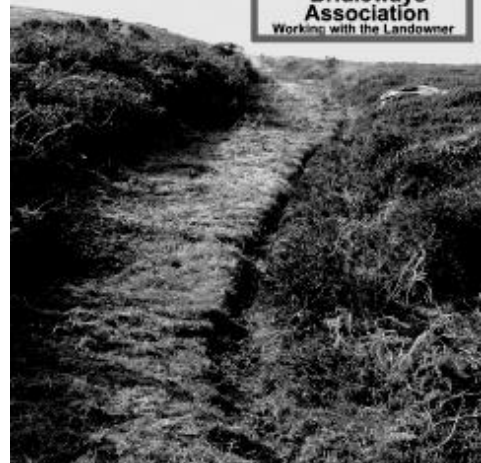
STOP PRESS! PENROSE OUTDOORS, Town Quay, Truro (near TESCO) will give WPBA members 10% discount, upon production of your membership card. They stock a wide range of quality outdoor clothing, equipment, fleeces etc.

**Chapel Carn Brea
to Brane**

**This Bridleway has
been cleared by**



**West Penwith
Bridleways
Association**
Working with the Landowner



BRIDLEWAY CLEARANCE

The winter weather has put this activity on hold. Most of you have ticked yes to helping out when able to. We have enough members now to organise small teams for each parish to clear paths relevant to your immediate riding area. We can talk about how we could organise this at the AGM. Perhaps we can appoint a team leader for each parish. It's amazing what one good Saturday morning can achieve with a turnout of 10 people armed with strimmers and long handled pruners!

Liaison with the County Council on Local Problems

In addition to the information we are gathering from the Parish Surveys, we are compiling a dossier of problems which need addressing in the short term.

We will be taking these up with the County Council's Countryside Officer for West Penwith who we have yet to meet and discuss our concerns. So far, it has been difficult to get a meeting as all their officers have been busy catching up with the aftermath of dealing with F&M matters. We hope to have a meeting soon.

However he can only normally help with problems on designated rights of way (Bridleway or Footpath). We have now proved that we are prepared to do some clearance work and we will be asking for favours in return!

PLEASE do inform us of any problems you know of, on your ridden routes.

Drift Dam Ride

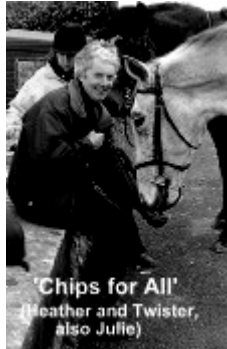
At long last we thought, a ride with the group. After numerous attempts it finally happened on Sunday, horses not loading, show jumping injuries, trips to London etc had made us feel we would never make it.

What a day for our first ride out – good weather after the seemingly never-ending rain. It made for an excellent day out, new scenery for us as we are used to riding around St Ives and an excuse to check out the venue the day before – better to do that in a car than in a lorry! So what sounded like a 3-hour ride turned into pre visit trip and lunch out in Mousehole – some contrast to our eating on the ride.

The ride itself was eventful, we had lovely scenery and what a pleasure to see people's faces as more than a dozen horses rode by. I guess another impact of good weather, everybody seemed happy. A llama joined the midst of our ride at Castallack. It gave everyone a big surprise, not least the horses who were spellbound and rooted to the spot. It belonged to members Rachel and Nick Hood who quickly retrieved it. Luckily I was far away enough so that my horse was not upset by it. The llama took great interest in those it did get near.

The bridleways we were on offered some good cantering for the future; unfortunately big stretches were still suffering the effects of the previous night's rain. A lot of hard work getting the overgrowth clear, but regular use should help, particularly if we all carry a pair of pruning shears! One more tool to add to the hoof pick, electric tape, string etc.

Our stop at the Kings Arms was a welcome relief where the first pint disappeared as the second was drawn. The food rivalled Rick Stein, but for different reasons. The fair was simple; generous portion of sausage & chips eaten while sat on the wall of the car park – it must have been the atmosphere of the day that made it taste so good.



So we are looking forward to the next ride, and also travelling up the county to see what is available off road, as come the good weather - comes the other flood, more cars . .

Liz & John Thornton

GOOD NEWS!

You can now check out our Horse Hike announcements and other short notices and reports on our activities in The Cornishman under the "and finally" column. They will give us a free slot as and when we have something to say. Don't forget to check out our website for latest news and info. [www..westpenwithbridleways.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.westpenwithbridleways.fsnet.co.uk)

Pre-Christmas Get Together at The Hungry Horse

The pre-Christmas Get together and Mince Pie Evening held at the Hungry Horse Restaurant at Newlyn was a big success. Apart from a couple of Horse Hikes, this was the first time we had met for a chat and to get to know more of our members. It was great to start putting names to faces. Membership has broadened to cover St. Ives, Hayle and Goldsithney districts. We had over 30 people turn up out of a membership of around 70 at the time. Also we gained a few new members on the night as members brought along their horsey friends to join. A very big thank you to Rachel and Nick for hosting the evening.

Ride UK – Kernow Horse Trail

We are at the difficult stage of the project of trying to get funding for a full feasibility study. I have had a useful meeting with David Rodda of Cornwall Enterprise who has indicated that the project is appropriate for attracting Objective 1 funding. However obtaining this even just for a feasibility study is not a simple matter. We have to put together a full business plan and identify organisations who will be partners and contribute to the project. The County Council will be one such partner but is constrained as to how much direct contribution it can make. As any effort put into the project, by local Bridleway Groups, prior to getting the funding cannot be counted towards 'matching' the Objective 1 funding, little further route survey and planning work will be done prior to the formal start of any such funding. I am now starting to put together a business plan and find likely partners.

It is also very encouraging that we are hearing of many smaller scale equine access and facility initiatives throughout the county, some by private businesses, some by local Parish Councils. All are greatly interested in the Ride-UK Project which is seen to be an important link for better riding and Equine Facilities.

Adrian

HORSE HIKES

The weather in January played havoc with our planned Horse Hikes. This is to be expected being the traditional worst period of the year. Every track and bridleway is a river or very boggy. It pays to stay clear of vulnerable areas when we are in danger of making our poor routes even worse.

We finally managed to hold the Drift to Paul ride on 3 March.

There is a lot of enthusiasm for the rides and we will try and provide something for everyone, both with regard to venue and pace of ride. One problem is suitable start venues, especially where there is room to park horse boxes.

We would welcome ideas from YOU! . We are happy to help with planning a route etc. and leading the ride. So if you have found the venues so far difficult to get to, give us a ring (or email) with an idea.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Subscriptions for the new year (until 31 March 2003) are due at the end of March and you will find renewal information enclosed. For those of you who have joined rather late in our year appropriate discount on the renewal is indicated.

Thank you for giving us your support. Our Association has much credibility and a strong voice with all the councils and public bodies who are formally responsible for our rights of way network. Your membership is vital to this voice and will yield results.

Please renew by returning your subscription with enclosed renewal form, or you may renew membership at the AGM.

Please continue to support us.

West Penwith Bridleways Association

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