

2006 SAFE meetings

(Pip to confirm dates)

These start at 8 pm and are held at the Pantmawr Arms (off Pantmawr Rd, Caer Wenallt, Tyla Teg). They could be either downstairs in the main pub area or upstairs in the function room depending on the nature of the meeting, so please feel free to call one of us before hand if you want to check directions and need confirmation of where we will be.

2006 Calendars

2006 SAFE calendars, costing £5, and featuring local horses and riders on bridlepaths and horse routes can be ordered through your local representative or (preferably) emailing the SAFE website on safe@safefridlepaths.org.uk. If you own a picturesque equine (aren't they all!) and know of a good photo location please let us know and you may find yourself appearing in the 2007 calendar! Extracts from the 2005 calendar can be seen at www.safefridlepaths.org.uk

Ty Mawr October Pleasure Ride

Thanks to everyone came on this fund raising ride which as usual was very well attended, plus all the usual helpers. Special thanks to Trisha who organised the ride with her usual efficiency. We have some lost property (waxed cotton hat, gloves, thermos cup and sparkly whip) from this and earlier rides – if you think you may be the owner please give Trisha a call. If you had your photo taken on the day and would like to see a copy by email please email a description of yourself and your horse to safe@safefridlepaths.org.uk.

SAFE Equestrian Table Top Report

The October 2005 tack sale was one of the best attended yet, particularly by sellers so plenty of bargains to be had. The next one is on **(Pip to confirm)** (sellers 5 pm buyers from 5.30 p.m.) and don't forget SAFE members only pay £3 for a table.

Be Safe Be Seen

Many of our past newsletters have emphasised the importance of wearing fluorescent clothing/bands on both horse and rider. The enclosed BHS leaflets emphasises this and refers specifically to the help this can give low flying craft in spotting and avoiding riders. Please read this and if not already doing so give this issue some serious thought. The leaflet was created following the tragic death of a rider in Lincolnshire when a low flying helicopter caused her horse to spook.

JMP Saddlery Heol Llanishen Fach, Rhiwbina

Many thanks to Julia, Rita and all their customers at JMP Saddlery who help raise over £70 for SAFE during the year. Your support is very much appreciated and we wish you a prosperous 2006.

New Dinas Powis SAFE Reps

We would like to introduce our two new Dinas Powis SAFE reps - Julie Davies and Vivienne Pritchard. They can be contacted through on tel

Unfortunately the first report is not good news in that the Woodland Trust have temporarily shut Casehill woods to riders. There is little off road riding in the area and closing the woodland in the winter when lighting conditions are such that it is more important than ever to be able to ride off the roads is not acceptable to SAFE (who originally paid £1000 towards the cost of the route). However it is a fact that there is no legal right of access to the woodland and we can only ride in there with the permission of the owners. The woods have been closed to prevent damage to already very boggy areas during the winter. A permanent solution needs to be found which will obviously have to involve putting down an all weather surface. Detail costings have not yet been prepared but experience suggests to cover all the area could cost between £15,000 - £20,000. Funding for this sort of money is unlikely to be available from any one source so currently we are working with the Woodland Trust to explore any grant options and any source of help which could bring the costs down in the hope that if we can at least deal with the very worst sections closure of the woods will not be necessary in future years.

Julie and Viv have been in touch with the Council to ensure that the bridleway into Peterstone Super Ely and the RUPP into Duffryn is cleared regularly.

Work in Forest Fawr and Ganol Horse Routes

Local riders should by now have seen a big improvement to the muddy sections in both woods and the steep section of the Ganol where water erosion had left bare bedrock which was proving a slippery surface to ride on. This is all thanks to a £4,438 grant from Biffaward's Small Grants Scheme, (part of the multi-million pound environment fund managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, which utilises landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services). Thanks also to the SAFE volunteers who helped with coordinating and the physical surfacing work undertaken on the routes.

The surfaced access creates a local amenity to be enjoyed by all members of the community including walkers, cyclists and riders. With sensible use by all parties such work can demonstrate that shared access can benefit everyone and hopefully form a blue print for creating access in other areas where land owners and councils sometimes have a tendency to give priority to walkers and cyclists in the belief that shared access can be problematic. There have been a number of instances in the past year where visiting public (ie non riders) in difficulty have been helped by local horseriders and it is a fact that many children and women often feel safer venturing into the woodland on horseback compared to on foot.

Link Between Walnut Tree and Fforest Fawr Horse Route

Sadly after much representation and correspondence, at present, RCT do not appear willing to move from their stance that they are unwilling to allow horses on the small section of Taff Trail that would allow these routes to be linked. SAFE and the BHS will continue to press for a change in policy.

Caerphilly Mountain

The speed limit from Snack bar down to Caerphilly will be reduced to 30 MPH. A horse crossing point has been waymarked to cross the A469 on the Caerphilly side of the Snack Bar. This will eventually lead to a waymarked horse route around the Mountain. Work will start on this shortly. Riders are still entitled to ride along any of the paths on the Common Area but the idea is that the horse route will be maintained to a more suitable specification with regard to width and surface of route.

Discussions are still ongoing about the possible creation of a multi-user path down the Mountain alongside the A469. The Council is being supportive of this proposal but there are some physical difficulties (eg the presence of a quarry!) which need to be overcome and even if suitable funding can be found we will still need the co-operation from a number of private landowners.

Difficult Gates along Bridlepaths 96,59, 47 and 57 (Caerphilly)

As you know, SAFE has been sending detailed reports and has been raising the problems with these gates for many years. At time of going to press we have been promised that work will start on these gates imminently, so hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter.....

Cefn Mably Woods

Meg has been working with the Forestry with a view to improving drainage and cutting back foliage. Some of this work will require SAFE volunteers so please watch out for local posters. SAFE have offered £500 towards the cost of the digger and work. Hopefully this will be done this winter weather permitting.

Bridlepath 40 Radyr Farm Yard to the Housing Estate Road.

Cardiff CC they are going to trial a new surface on the bit of bridlepath from It is being used by several councils and Slimbridge Nature Reserve with positive feedback, but this is the first time for Cardiff.

Once laid they would like lots of usage and for us to report back what we think so could any local riders please give us their feedback.

Penallta Parc

The A472 horse crossing signage, by Penallta, has been interfered with, possibly being hit by lorries or deliberately being turned around. If any riders experience problems using Bridleway 22 can they please let the local representative (Deanne) know.

When the Penallta fishing lakes are being created, the Parc warden has confirmed horse access will be given at the same time as the fisherman. There is a problem in the short term as the workmen have dug slurry out and left it on area being used by horses. The area has wire fencing around it. Deanne has contacted the Parc Warden about this – they will not be removed- but Simon Greenfield, the warden, is hoping to get dedicated horse routes around the Parc at some stage in the future. It is therefore

vital, in the meantime, that we all ride sensibly in the Parc, and watch out for other users, as the wardens are being very co-operative.

We are sorry to announce that we will shortly be losing Deanne's help as she is moving out of Wales. She has worked hard as a SAFE rep in the past year and we will all miss her valuable contribution. Fortunately she has managed to find a replacement, Ellen Kidd, and until Deanne completes her move the two will work in parallel.

Work on Lisvane Horse Route

This is being funded by a neighbourhood renewal grant. The local Conservative councillor, a keen environmentalist, David Walker, has been involved in obtaining the grant. The work will be carried out in three stages starting later on in January this year.

- Surfacing from the south end near the M4 bridge onwards.
- Top dress next section near the stream.
- Surfacing last section to the blocked gateway at the bottom of the bridleway which leads up to the quarry, which marks the county council boundary.

Problems with access which caused problems in the past to those pushing wheelbarrows have been solved by asking the adjacent landowner to remove a fence while the work is undertaken. This has been agreed subject to certain conditions to be agreed with Network Rail

Rudry Area - Loops and Links Project/Cydcoed Grant Application

Work is currently being undertaken in conjunction with the Forestry Commission and Caerphilly Council to enable SAFE to apply for a grant under the Cydcoed scheme. This accesses European funding geared towards woodland regeneration in Objective 1 Areas. Hopefully some of the boggy areas of bridlepaths can be surfaced and some difficult gates and awkward step overs replaced. More precise details will follow in next newsletter if this grant application receives the go ahead.

Cardiff LAF

Jeanne/Pip

Gates

Joy to complete once update received from Mark

Future Events:

Table Top....

Spring Pleasure Ride (?? What do you think Trisha??)

Riders2000 Riding Club are running BHS Le TREC BHS TREC Saturday 27th May see www.riders2000rc.co.uk – Open to all

