

## **2006 SAFE meetings**

A reminder that all members are welcome to attend our meetings – they are listed on the ..... page. They 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.

## **Rudry April Pleasure Ride**

Thanks to everyone came on this fund raising ride – we had over 60 riders which is an excellent turnout! Thanks too to all the usual helpers but especially Trisha for her efficient organisation. Many of you have already emailed the SAFE website for copies of any photos taken during the day but if you haven't and would like to see a copy by email please email a description of yourself and your horse to [safe@safebriplepaths.org.uk](mailto:safe@safebriplepaths.org.uk). During the next few months you should start seeing some improvements to some of the local bridleways funded partly from events such as these.

## **SAFE Equestrian Table Top**

The April tack sale was again well attended – don't forget the next one is on 15 October at Cardiff riding School Pontcanna (sellers 5 pm buyers from 5.30 p.m.) - SAFE members only pay £3 for a table so why not club together with a few friends and convert those unwanted items into cash?

## **Dinas Powis**

*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**

The surfacing work undertaken last year has held up well and some finishing touches too waymarking are being made. A timely reminder please- do not ride off the horse route in Forest Fawr . There is a disability trial off the main track to the North (entered through 2 crossed planks in a wigwam effect and there are a number of wooden sculptures in the area). It goes without saying that nothing will annoy the forestry more than signs that horses have been ridden in this area. So please pass on this message to any non SAFE members. We are being asked to police this aspect and there are a number of voluntary wardens on foot and horse who are being asked to keep an eye open for anyone in this area with a view to establishing who is abusing the facility. The Forestry are pleased with the way the route is being used and the work done by the society so it is a real pity if one or two riders attempt to spoil it for everyone.

## **Link Between Walnut Tree and Fforest Fawr Horse Route**

As regular reader will know SAFE have been lobbying for this link ever since the Forest Fawr route opened – but have also have been “advertising” for a local rider to take this issue on and devote the time needed. So a huge thanks to Catherine Jones who has come forward and has put a lot of work and research into trying to establish a link. Initial signs are promising but there is still some way to go. If any riders have previously accessed Forest Fawr (before the access was blocked and riding prohibited) from this area- presumably up/by Abbey Close/Ty Rhiw could they please email the SAFE web site with details or ring .....

## **Caerphilly Mountain**

*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)**

FINALLY success!! The new gates are brilliant and while it has taken some years of lobbying, credit and thanks need to go to Caerphilly Council who funded this work. The work cost over £.... which represented a of their total “rights of way” budget and does demonstrate their commitment to trying to resolve issues for riders notwithstanding their tiny budget which has to cover all rights of way over the whole area. If you haven’t already been up to have a look at them (just East of the crossing down from the Travellers Rest) give it a go! The route has also been cleared so we no longer need to duck and dive under all those low branches.

## **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-opoerative.*

*We are sorry to announce that we will shortly be loosing 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 here 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**

SAFE have now received significant Cydcoed funding which will help pay for some much needed surfacing and drainage work around the Caerphilly/Rudry Area, and general improvements such as replacement of some defective gates and signage. This will then link into a specific waymarked ride which can then be marketed both as a facility for local people and used to support tourism jobs within any associated businesses. Cydcoed is a Forestry Commission Wales project funded by the E U and Welsh Assembly.

If anyone is able to help with this community led project, or can help with the supply of surfacing materials at preferential rates etc could they please contact SAFE either via email - [safebridlepaths@random3d.co.uk](mailto:safebridlepaths@random3d.co.uk) - or by contacting the SAFE chairperson Pip, on 01443 228270.

## **RCT**

Still wanted – person to liase with RCT to represent riders interests. The Council want to try and help but we have no active members in the Area we can point in their direction. Please can someone step forward – or you may know someone who would be able to help – if so please email the \safe web site or ring Jeanne Hyett.

## **Ride UK Petition**

The British Horse Society and a number of other organisations are lobbying the government to provide better off road riding. While improvements have been made for Ramblers and Cyclists very little has been done for equestrians Now is your opportunity to add you support by signing the petition at [www.ride-uk.org.uk](http://www.ride-uk.org.uk) Please go on line and support the campaign for better riding and spread the word!