

treadlightly!



September 2010 Newsletter

It's about time we produced a newsletter, so here goes!

Quite simply we are victims of our own success. Wherever we present the treadlightly! message and ethos we get very positive responses, not just from "motorised users" but from all parties, even the most anti.

The suggestions, proposals and projects are all creating demands on our meagre resources.

We see the next vital step in our development as training ambassadors so they can pick up some of the activity in their areas and the good news is we have secured sufficient grant funding to proceed.

Anybody not wishing to be an Ambassador, but with the skills we need or who would like to help in other ways, should contact Mark Margetts or Duncan Green. In particular, at the moment, we need web site skills, PR, even IT skills to produce a better newsletter!

Ambassador Training: October 31st

The success of Treadlightly! and the associated demands on key personnel has unfortunately meant that the proposed ambassadorial training has been delayed longer than we intended. To address this, the Trustees have now appointed Robin Hickin to organise the training on behalf of Treadlightly!

With the majority of the funding we have coming from Wales, the first one day session will be in Wales at the Royal Welsh Showground (Builth Wells). We intend to have a repeat session in England, probably in the Midlands at a later date, subject to further funding.

From the funding identified so far, we expect to be able to pay fuel costs but not overnight expenses.

The date currently scheduled for this training is Sunday October 31st.

Those of you who have had your Ambassador applications approved, will get an invitation from Robin. Please respond to Robin by return to confirm if you will be able to attend on 31st.

Email r.hickin@prduk.com

**Robin Hickin, Treadlightly Training
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North Yorks Projects

Scarborough & District 4x4 Club are organising a green lane repair day.

This will be done as a joint venture of the club, NYCC, YDNP and Treadlightly!.

Aim is to lay approx 100 tonne of hardcore and 60 tonne of planings in two days if possible. Any volunteers are welcome and any that want to camp overnight will be provided with a free site to pitch tents or put caravans and the club will be putting on a barbeque.

Any help would be appreciated, so watch out for announcements about dates.

The "Voluntary Restraint" scheme is now in full swing, again supported by NYCC, YDNP and the Police as well as a few landowners.

Contact is Kevin Stainton: kevstainton@talktalk.net

Llantysilio Mountain; 2-3 October

This is a Replanting project on Llantysilio Mountain (Conquering Hero) on 2nd & 3rd October, in conjunction with Denbighshire CC and their "Heather and Hill Forts" project. There will be free camping and also we will try and organise some greenlaning for those that are staying for the weekend.

Volunteers planning to attend should email us at info@treadlightly-uk.org so that we have an idea of numbers. Please bring warm clothing, waterproof shoes/boots, gloves etc. hi viz, any handtools must be in good condition – toilets etc. will be provided and we will probably have access to a community centre for sleeping etc. (Llantysilio).

Wayfarer

Heavy rain in the early summer created a large washout which has been made worse by attempts to clear it blocking the drainage ditches. The route is apparently TROd. We are working towards a partnership project with Wrexham CC to restore the route with hopefully some sponsorship from the motor cycle industry.

Pheasant Pen Steps

This is a route on the Powys/Wrexham Border and another washout. It is driveable with care, but not advisable. We hope to persuade both Powys and Wrexham to join with us in a restoration project

Pye Corner Project

CR127, the byway from Pye Corner to Llandrindod Wells remains only 50% open, (the eastern section is open). CRAG did a lot of work on this a few years ago and it is in good condition and we have waymarked it.

However the western section is closed because the route used deviates from the Definitive Map(DM) line, and the DM route is a bog. Well it appears a bog, but a little hand excavation has revealed a hard stone bottom, the original road, but the overlay is too deep for it to be driven. We are hopeful of getting a project together in conjunction with Powys CC to scrape the soft material away.

Trefil Quarry Operation:

Treadlightly! with support from South Wales Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) members have liaised with the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) and South Wales Police over an exercise/initiative to help educate people using Trefil (Tredeger) quarry area illegally. The initiative was deemed successful in helping educate motorcycle users of the quarry of its potential dangers and the adverse impact on the environment.

Motorcyclists turned away were reportedly perplexed as to the quarry's status. The area is within the BBNP and privately owned by several landowners and has no public access.

The lack of provision of suitable legal sites for off road motorcyclists, trailriders and 4x4s has been recognised by the various Government authorities in Wales and work is underway to identify appropriate sites and Treadlightly! will be working with both the Authorities and user groups such as the TRF to progress improved and legal provision.

Strata Florida Operation;

The latest joint operation with Dyfed-Powys Police on Strata Florida was an educational and enforcement exercise. There is far too much clear evidence of (illegal) off piste activity and the route is high on our priority list to do some restoration and waymarking and further enforcement operations.

This is a fantastic route that we do not want to lose due to the efforts of the vandal minority. This area has also received unfortunate publicity follow the death of a girl who drowned last year trapped in a vehicle. The driver has just received a two year sentence. The lesson is clear, avoid it except in low flow conditions.

TL volunteers from CRAG and West Wales Laning Group aided DPP officers with suitably equipped 4x4 volunteer vehicles and drivers. In the main all was well on the day, with informative leaflets and stickers being handed out to various members of the leisure vehicle community at spot check points.



Waymarking in Powys: More signs needed!

Since waymarking the pilot project (Rhayader Golf Links Byway) with the green multi user “Keep to the Track” signs, we have been able to repeat the process on Doctor’s Pool, Giants Grave and part of Black Yat. So now we need more signs, and the intention is to modify the design so they can be used in Ceredigion and Carmarthen as well as Powys, now that those Counties have expressed an interest.



LROi in Mid Wales - Again!

It was very short notice but a request from Neil Watterson of LROi magazine led to a two day tour of Mid Wales led by Mark Schwarz (and yes he was in a Toyota) starting on the coast, with an overnight in Builth Wells then heading towards Hereford. Duncan Green joined the party for the second day. Watch out for the article. Key feature should be “sustainable lanes” following the treadlightly volunteers and Powys CC work on several byways, mentioned above. Neil has expressed an interested in joining a future Enforcement Exercise with Dyfed-Powys Police.

Latest news: Mag published 4th Sept.

Llangollen MC Show

Treadlightly! was invited to share a stand with Denbighshire CC and around 20 volunteers were signed up and new contacts made.

LFR Project

That’s Legal Forest Riders.

Have a look at <http://www.lfr-wales.co.uk/index.php>

This is a group of guys working towards a series of permissive routes on Forestry land to link up rights of way in South Wales. They have signed up 150 supporters in a matter of months.

Treadlightly! have offered to assist and after a preliminary meeting with FC in South Wales, received a positive response, subject of course to working out the detail.

It will take time, not least because of the Phytophthora ramorum infection which has spread from the South West to South Wales and is rampaging through the Larch trees, which may delay access to some areas. This is also known by the misnomer “Rapid Oak Death”, from the USA, but does not actually attack UK species of Oak.

Check this out at: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorum>

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/WebNewsReleases/11FB60906B36B2C68025773D005CD276>

Meeting with South Wales TRF

Christian James, as a treadlightly ambassador, set up the opportunity for Mark Margetts to present treadlightly! at the TRF monthly meeting. It was well received by about 20 trail riders and a potential project in Blaenau Gwent discussed, a combination of improved and waymarked rights of way, coupled with the provision of a pay and play site with education through local schools. This looks like a classic project for treadlightly! to support.

IPROW Article and Conference!

The professional body for rights of way managers (IPROW) has invited Mark to speak at their National Conference w/c 6th September. This follows an article about treadlightly! in their journal which has served to create interest in just the right places, including a request to make use of the "TrailWise" online database to communicate information to users. We think this would be a significant step forward and are investigating!

Web Site (<http://treadlightly-uk.org/>)

The treadlightly-uk web site is developing, but more slowly than we would like. If anybody out there has the IT skills and is willing to assist please let us know.

Have a look at the US web site, there is so much more we could be doing on line!

Ceredigion Partnership

At long last we have established a contact and relationship with Ceredigion Highways that will enable us to begin projects, particularly waymarking some of the principal routes. Area Ambassadors and GLASS Reps have spent many hours this year improving relationships with the Ceredigion County Council, in particular discussing and focusing on UCR volunteer works going forward. This is likely to see further works at both Nant-Y-Moch and Strata Florida.

In order to do this further historical research and correct legal rights have had to be identified on key routes in order for paper processes to be completed. We are now looking for sponsors or donations for materials, so if you know anyone please ask the question, or let us know!

TrailWise

Most of you reading this will be aware of TrailWise. This is the web site set up by GLASS in conjunction with the TRF and CRAG which provides map based information regarding where the green lanes are, either on line, or by downloadable overlay files that display the lanes on the likes of Memory Map. Many users now carry Memory Map and real time GPS, on laptops etc in their vehicles.

TrailWise's original purpose was to record information for potential byway claims, but since NERCA blocked much of that work it has developed into the principle source of live information for users and has the potential to enable Police, Highway Authorities and Environmental Bodies to communicate with users (Eg "Note you are entering a SSSI") and treadlightly! is investigating just how to make this happen.

The National Catalogue of Rights of Way

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TrailWise
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Browse maps
Login Name :
Password :
Login
Find an item :
UID: ?
- or -
NGR: ?
Find !

Welcome to TrailWise

Welcome to TrailWise TrailWise aims to bring together people in the UK who are interested in Rights of Way, to share their knowledge and experience. The system records the location of Rights of Way along with a collection of information about each route.

Motorists - please always act responsibly. Recognised codes of conduct, like the [LARA CofC](#) should be your guide.

'Sudden Oak Death' - trail users, particularly in the South, West and Wales, may find steps taken to limit the spread of this plant disease. Please observe any precautions advertised on the ground - particularly about transfer via mud.
[Forestry Commission Information](#)

Hampshire and NGLD

The 2010 Autumn National Green Lane Day (NGLD) is, as usual, to be held on the last Sunday of October. The target for the Autumn bash in Hampshire is 'Selborne 66' a Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT) just west of the pretty village of Selborne; it runs from Honey Lane at the North end to Sotherington Farm on Sotherington Lane at the South (OS map reference SU 754339 to SU 755331). The lane has been in our sites for maintenance for some time but issues to do with buried utilities have prevented progress in the past.

Selborne 66 is usually passable in dry weather but liable to flooding following inclement conditions (i.e. a typical English August!). Part of the problem is the hedges on the sides of the lane that have become well established and are preventing the sun from helping to dry out the surface. Addressing this problem is our task for the day.

Details of where we are to meet will be provided later but the usual rules of engagement will apply. These are broadly that we will meet at 10:00 at the yet to be determined point for a Health & Safety brief and Work Day Instructions. All the work will be undertaken under Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Hampshire Paths Partnership (HPP) scheme and will be covered by their insurance. A site survey/risk assessment will have been conducted and landowner permission gained. Qualified first aiders will be in attendance.

Tools and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided on the day but feel free to bring your favourite bow saw or loppers. Please do not bring motorised implements (e.g. chainsaws) as their use is not covered by our insurance. As always, all will be welcome. There is no need to spend the whole day there and even an hour or so of your time will be greatly appreciated.

Contact is Patrick Manuel
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Operation Blackbrook; (Derbyshire)

There has been a very successful project running in Derbyshire for some years now that predates treadlightly!, but uses the same concepts of education and partnership working.

A partnership project between the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire Police and vehicle user groups has been formalised under the code name "Operation Blackbrook" and this has had a significant effect on reducing illegal off-roading in the Peak District.

The operation was first set up in April 2007 to bring together different partnership agencies and reduce the impact that off-road motorcycles or 4x4s were perceived to have on the quality of life for residents in the rural areas of the Peak Park.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of lawful and unlawful routes in the Peak District National Park and encourage responsible behaviour towards residents and other users through information and education.

PC Kevin Lowe, of the Tideswell Safer Neighbourhood Team has been helping to co-ordinate the operation on behalf of Derbyshire Police.

A series of multi-agency project days to encourage off road riders and drivers to act responsibly have taken place and have been hailed a success. PC Lowe says on the Derbyshire Constabulary's web site: "I have to thank members of the off road user groups who have assisted in the operation and for their willingness to work with the other agencies and make this project as successful as it has been."

Blackbrook educational events normally involve some combination of Peak District National Park Rangers, members of the Derbyshire Vehicle Users Group (which includes representatives from GLASS, TRF and local off-road clubs), Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire County Council Rights of Way Officers and members of the local Safer Neighbourhood teams.

Peak Park residents have seen a decrease in the illegal use of recreational 4x4 and off road motorcycles as a result of the project, and according to the police the level of complaints they receive about "off roaders" has been much reduced; PC Lowe says most drivers, when spoken to, support the ethos of the project.



PC Lowe added "It is a tremendous lift to find continued support for the project amongst vehicle users. By targeting hot spot areas we can continue to have a direct impact on resolving the concerns of the permanent residents of the park whose quality of life has also been affected in the past."

7th September 2010

www.treadlightly-uk.org

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