



Offa's Dyke Group
Of Endurance GB
Newsletter – June 2014
www.offasdykegb.co.uk



Chairman's Comment

Summer? Well it's here.

I think many of us have been very lucky that with the recent weird & wonderful weather - there have had nice breaks on Ride days - at least on my Ride days!

Controversy continues to engulf Endurance at the highest levels within our sport, & many of us, through the forum, are following the related threads with a degree of disbelief & horror.

Endurance is a sport that so many of us enjoy, partnered with our 4-legged best friends - we have splendid days out in wonderful countryside. To us it's a partnership which grows & blossoms & lasts for years. Competition is important to many, but the welfare of our horses always prevails.

Your Committee is so concerned about recent developments, highlighted by the appalling situation that unfolded in Compiègne, that we have resolved to write to EGB regarding the plans to re-instate Endurance Rides at Euston Park next year. We feel very strongly that until welfare concerns are fully addressed, & rules enforced to eliminate unacceptable practices at FEI Rides, holding EGB endorsed events at Euston Park is unacceptable.

Please continue to encourage riders to join in & enjoy our sport - it's a great sport, & should not be tarnished by others!

Later in the newsletter there are details for a Fun Social Evening 'get together' on 19th July - all welcome at Andrea Champ's pad amongst the Welsh Hills – MANY THANKS Andrea!!

Also – keep an eye out for forthcoming details of our BAM – something different again this year....watch this space.....

....and finally....I need to end with a plea for helpers....specifically at this time, for Nicola Davies' Black Mountains Ride on July 6th – PLEASE contact her if you are able to help. n.davies91@yahoo.co.uk / 07968 928870. Thank you.

Enjoy the rest of the summer & good riding!

Heather

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Editor's Comment

You may have noticed that we didn't have an April Newsletter. As I hadn't received any contributions and there were no new events to publicise it seemed a good cost cutting exercise to wait until now. I'm pleased to say we have some very good articles in this newsletter and a lovely variety of topics. Thank you to all who sent me contributions.

We are lucky to still have 3 rides to come on our group calendar – **Black Mountains** and **Bwlch Raid** fun rides and **Cranham** national ride (which I organise). Also in this newsletter you'll see details of a Fun **Social evening** at Andrea Champ's home on 19 July. We've set the dates for the xmas ride and BAM, along with the schooling lessons at Usk college. See the last page of the newsletter for the 'dates for your diary'.

On a personal note, I've made a start on my 6 year old horse Harry's 1st season. Despite falling off him at a couple of rides he's doing very well so far. Our highlight so far has been to achieve Gold in the Golden Horseshoe Novice 40k. He absolutely romped it and was such a brave boy through all the rivers. His only crisis was some flapping black silage bales hidden behind a hedge, which was our undoing and I fell off getting a lovely shiner of a black eye on the way down! Despite that we got round at over 12k so I was very proud of him.

Harry's next ride is **Black Mountains fun ride**, which is an absolutely lovely ride with stunning views. If you haven't already entered, **please contact Nicola ASAP**, as her entries are low this year and she'd love more.

Carolyn

Black Mountains Fun Ride

Sunday 6 July

Come and join us in the Black Mountains on the 6 July. This lovely ride has a mixture of quiet country lanes, forest tracks and spectacular Open Mountain.

Nicola has been working on improvements to the route and has made changes to the long route that avoids the long climb down from the forestry to the road and then the stoney path at the top.

2 routes - approximately 19 or 29km (12 & 18 miles) - you can decide at the checkpoint.

Due to low entries so far entries will now be accepted on the day. (It would be useful if you are able to let Nicola know in advance you hope to come)

Email: n.davies91@yahoo.co.uk

Venue: Trewysgoed, Forest Coal Pit, Near Abergavenny, NP7 7LW (same venue as previous years), OS Landranger 161 Grid ref - 273 203. Please do not use SatNav to get to venue - specific route instructions will be sent to you with your map (or download from our website)

Entries: Nicola Davies, Pentre Hendy, Twyn Allwys road, Govilon, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 9RT
Tel: 07968928870

Helpers still needed please

An Invitation to:

An Informal summer gathering for Offa's Dyke members at Andrea Champ's house.

Saturday 19th July 6-8pm.

Come and enjoy a summer's evening (hopefully in the garden!) with plenty of food and drink.

Partners and children welcome.

Andrea says 'If you feel inclined to bring a bottle-then lovely, but otherwise just bring yourselves!'

Please let Andrea know if you'd like to come along to give her a rough idea of numbers to cater for.

Andrea (01981 510686) quinnchamp@gmail.com

Urishay Barn

Michaelchurch Escley

Herefordshire

HR2 0LR

Directions:

Sat Nav will bring you to the house, otherwise ring or email for directions'

Cranham Ride

Sunday 27 July

More improvements to the Cranham route

Hot off the press! I'm very pleased to be able to announce more changes to the route this year, particularly the top loop for the 40k and 64k classes. I have spent many hours checking the route and riding some new tracks on the northern 40k loop with the help of Jan Robins and Margaret Barry.

Just yesterday, I got permission from the Miserden Estate to ride on some lovely field margins to take out a long section of road. We are also using a track used many years ago on the Cirencester ride to take out another section of road at Bull Banks. The Estate have been really helpful and agreed we can have all gates open – even offering to move stock if necessary. This should make the top loop very nice to ride in at anti-clockwise direction, with some lovely canters on the field margins more than making up for the odd stony tracks.

For those of you who have never ridden the Cranham ride, or not for a few years, please come along and see the improvements we have been making to the route. With permission of the National Trust, the Witcombe Estate, Miserden Estate and Mr & Mrs Tyson we now have use of some lovely alternative tracks instead of the official bridleways. We've also simplified the route. Cranham is a challenging course, but very varied and interesting with some lovely scenery and ancient beech woodland. See last year's ride reports to see how well received it was by riders on the day.

TRF to mark the route for the first time ever. The fantastic news for me is that all the landowners have agreed for me to use the TRF. This takes away any worries about problems with the route on the day and will make life so much easier for me. Even with help from my friends

poor Prophet spent 3 days last year marking & de-marking. He looked like a Christmas tree on Monday afternoon festooned with 300 orange markers we'd taken down!

Free tack marking by the local police in the afternoon. The Stroud local police officer will be at the venue in the afternoon (from 1pm) to offer free stamping of tack with your postcode. He'll also offer free crime prevention advice.

Drinking water at all check points. Raynet have kindly agreed that we can deliver tubs of drinking water to each of the check points and they will top them up if necessary throughout the day. Neil Pickering has kindly agreed to deliver water to the check points. The 50k and 64k classes also pass back through the venue. This makes Cranham a great ride if you come without a crew.

Changes to class distances. Due to the changes to this year's route the distances are now as follows:

Class 1	64k (40k vet 24k)
Class 2 & 3	50k (30k venue 20k)
Class 4 & 5	40k
Class 6 & 7	30k
Class 8 PR	30K
Class 9 PR	20k

Gates. Last year I had every gate open for the riders. So far this year I have permission for all but 2 gates and will know nearer the event if they can also be open. Otherwise I may be asking for volunteers to man them please.

The ride map and info will be on the Offa's Dyke website as soon as possible- check for updates on the Cranham Ride page

Please enter and enjoy this year's ride!

Carolyn Edwards

Royal Windsor Endurance 2014

by Chris Wray

As I am sure everyone involved in Endurance is aware, actually getting to compete at the rides we want to is something of a roller-coaster of hope, despair, and hope again! And getting Takwenya back to competition has certainly tested my sense of humour!

Takwenya had been having a wonderful year in 2012, having never failed a ride in her career (32 of them, including 2x80km, 1x92km and 2x120km) until Barbary Castle where she started a splint and we walked back to the venue and were eliminated at VG1. However this resolved itself pretty quickly, and she was back in work, and we did the 65km at Bonham in preparation for another 120km, which would have to be in France, there being no more in the UK. She was fit, and sound, but I was not entirely happy as she was not landing equally on her front feet walking downhill – however one of the vets at Devauden had a good look and said to go ahead. So off we went to Pontchateau, where we both had the most amazing experiences and learned a lot about continental endurance, and each other! But we were out lame at VG2, 65km – and on return my regular vet (Sybil) found some foot problems that needed resolving – the worst of which was a deep void behind one hoof wall, which we hoped would grow out during the winter.

On to 2013 – at the February Squads weekend, I had just got her to the point in her training when I could let her canter – and woohoo she said in the group lessons when we were cantering, we gave everyone plenty of entertainment! But she wasn't quite right on a tight circle, so back to Sybil. The void was still there, so the decision was made to cut the hoof wall away up to where it was bonded to the structures inside – so we spent an afternoon at Haydn Price's having this done and getting after-care instructions so everything healed up cleanly. So Takwenya spent most of 2013 as a field ornament, growing her hoof out – she eventually got to the stage of being shod and back in work with just enough time to prepare her for 40km at Red Dragon, which we did slowly due to the very slippery conditions. And then in November she managed to tweak something in the field and was off again, and under physio – for which she had to have her back clipped (for muscle stimulation). She was back in work in December, and had done just enough to go to the Christmas Ride –

where she again showed her delight at being able to canter – this time to Ally and Camilla!

And now 2014 – training going well, fit horse, entered 67km at March Hares – what could go wrong? Well, this time it was her back – in mid February we did the final route recce for March Hares – 60km at about 10kph (we were alone), and the back of the numnah rubbed her clipped coat off. I managed to keep her in light work by borrowing a short saddle from Lesley, but we had to pull out of March Hares – and then Kings Forest. Late in March it looked better, so I went and recce'd the Bluebell route – no, her coat wasn't ready for that distance yet! (55km at 10kph), so we pulled out of Tresham and then Haywood Oaks. Would we get to any ride in 2014? Her summer coat started coming through properly on her back (the clipped area) in the middle of April, so I took her to a couple of local Fun Rides where we could get in some decent canter work – and these cheered me up no end – Takwenya was enjoying herself and was fit enough to canter some significant long inclines. However we were still somewhat concerned about her feet – another issue post-Pontchateau had been contracted heels, and though this had improved slightly during her field rest in 2013, remains a concern – particularly as trimming the sole to get the correct profile was exposing blood capillaries, so we were at the vet's again just before Bluebell (now Emma Jones at Abbey, as Sybil moved north). Fortunately Takwenya was quite sound, and really pinging – so it looked like the plan of doing Windsor made with Emma back in February was still possible, though we are planning a team visit to Haydn's to review medium term options going forward. Then I come home from the Bluebell Ride, and she is quite lame...! Much better in the morning, so I look for a crack in the hoof – and there is one, right at the heel. Poulticing for 3 days and she was sound again, so off we went to some salt water therapy on Kenfig beach – some good canter work (2 weeks before Windsor), which we repeated with Ally joining us on the Sunday (12 days to go!). Some light work every 3 days or so up to Windsor – Lesley came over and clipped as much hair off as was reachable – but she still had all her winter fluff under her tummy (none had moulted naturally!) - and off we went for Thursday afternoon pre-ride vetting.

I was very fortunate to have an extremely experienced crew – Andrea was always going to come, I also asked Sharon when she said she

was planning to spectate, and Mary and Steve offered as well!! Sharon joined me on the Thursday evening and I was able to brief her and show her where I had put stuff in the vet gate, and the others came down in the morning – the tight security was inconvenient, but we got everyone in and labelled in time! My main purpose of the ride was just to complete and tick the box of another qualification – I had no idea whether Takwenya would have enough fitness for 120km, since the furthest she'd been in 18 months had been 60km at 10kph. We'd done a few canter sessions, but it had all be so stop-start-stop again with all the saddle rubs and abscess and everything else. I figured that if I could get her through the 3rd vetgate, I could lead her the final loop if need be!

I was very nervous before the start, with the time gap since the previous FEI ride and all our issues, so we did a little trotting to warm up, as I wanted to trot most of the first several miles. Takwenya was as usual pretty chilled at the start. We let the fast bunch at the front go, then trotted off mid-field. A lot sooner than I wanted she did a little bunny-hop and was in canter – slow, but it was a canter and rather than fight I decided to let her keep to gentle canter until the track in front emptied out. Well that wasn't such a good plan as very soon we were into Cranbourne Chase, where the going was on very soggy and muddy tracks with some deep water-filled tractor ruts – just the sort of ground we are used to, but the front half of the field just slammed on the anchors and we kept finding the track in front of us full of the lead group! So we ended up cantering somewhat further than I wanted, but we were trotting as I wanted by the time we were at Ascot. This must be one of the highlights of the year – we went through a tunnel just after crewing and up a ramp, turn left and straight towards the biggest grandstand I've ever seen! It was quite enormous – looked about half a mile long and a couple of hundred feet high – soaring white and glass. One we were on the track itself, Takwenya had a quick graze while I took in the sights, and then we were off – lovely turf, nice steady canter, slalom round the jumping fences! Some photos to treasure! We took the rest of the first loop steadily, and Abbi passed us a little before the vetgate.

Vetgate one was passed, but with a B for gait, the vet saying she wasn't 100% at the back, and Mary (at the vetting with us) had spotted some muscle spasm and set to work to massage the

hindquarters, and to give her some electrolytes while Takwenya stuffed her face as usual. Otherwise we were OK, but could be counting the cost of a rather too fast first half loop – full loop average was 18.7kph. The second loop was pretty tough mentally on the horses, there were 3 places where we had to go a long way up a “ride” in the park (towards the venue), then turn around and go all the way back again to continue the track we’d left. We did most of this loop alone – though we did ride with Candy Cameron (riding Rummy, a horse she’d bought from Sharon) for a while – not ideal as Rummy had to canter to Takwenya’s trot – so she dropped back a bit, and later went on ahead when we took a breather – it was starting to get a bit warm! We walked some of the hot bits in the sun, where we were going away from the venue. However, we made it into the vetgate, alone again, and vetted well at 17.8kph for the loop.

Third loop was absolutely baking hot – it was probably not far off 10 deg hotter than the best Wales had managed all year! And Takwenya still had lots of winter fluff, and the one and only crewpoint was 19km into the loop! We trotted in the shade of the trees, but almost no cantering, and we took plenty of short breathers at the walk. We only saw one horse this circuit, a Kuwaiti guy who we caught up with, we rode with for quite a bit, then he went ahead again – and we managed 15.2kph for the loop, our overall average now 17.3kph. We however heard some excitement – the leaders on their final loop I spotted a couple of times, but managed to get past the route split points before they arrived! We heard a huge roar as they crossed the line, so one bit of canter was (from the opposite direction to the finish) into the vetgate – and we just made it before the crowd from the finish line jammed it up!

One first for me when we were vetting – as the only ones in the vetgate at that moment, we were trotting up straight towards the Bahraini pavilion, and there on the balcony watching us were the Queen & Prince Phillip with Sheik Mohammed. Fortunately we passed! Just before we tacked up, we went for the compulsory re-check, and we had the same vet as we’d had when we came in – and she was most complementary, which was lovely!

So off on the final circuit – pretty soon we caught the Kuwaiti guy again and we rode together about half the loop. Since it had clouded over the temperature had dropped and Takwenya was a lot happier –

so we were back to cantering again, though we stopped a few times for mouthfuls of grass. We made pretty reasonable time, 16.1kph – 1kph faster than the previous loop, and cantered in the last mile. Vetted at 9 minutes by Jo Woodman, who knows Takwenya pretty well, pass and I am so proud of Takwenya, with what she has achieved, and so grateful to my fantastic crew!

I was very pleased Takwenya had been able to pick up speed on the final loop, and really pleased how she vetted so well – her trot-ups are just fantastic, and her second pulses were lower by several beats (except, of course, at the recheck!). I had really doubted whether she had the fitness for the distance before we started, with such a long layoff since her last long ride, such a fragmented training, and no event beforehand – but she really showed she could do it, and this gives me confidence that she has more to come!



The whole event at Windsor was quite amazing – the course was just fabulous (well 95% of it!), and the layout of the vetgate was excellent. We were all made very welcome and were fed and watered very nicely. The temporary stables were large and very well built. The stewarding and vetting was very exacting, polite and helpful – not at all like what we've been hearing about. And there were so many good friends among other riders, crews, vets, stewards and marshals! It really was a quite marvellous event to be a part of!

Photo courtesy of Martin Moore



Congratulation to Abbi Tennant and Barik for making it to the last 10 combinations up for selection at this year's World Equestrian Games. We wish her all the best and look forward to her report in the next newsletter.

Thanks to Piers Geddes for this item

God gave us horses to break our hearts. And fill them with joy, though that's difficult to remember when things go wrong. Anyway it almost makes it worse. The thought of never having him to ride again is sometimes utterly awful. So I carry on with what I am doing: visiting him pointlessly while he has his thirteen weeks' box rest – the good thing is he's very cheerful, which he hasn't been for a while – write the cheques, and hope for the best. He's damaged some ligament, and has a 30% chance of recovery. He's fourteen now; would I feel differently if he were older? Don't ask, because I might do.

Flynn's been a fundamental part of my life for eight years. I can see why people might want to pack it all in after something happens to a favourite horse, the one you know best, that's done best, you've had the longest. Not to mention being a grey you share a birthday with, explored the Berwyn hills with for two years up near Oswestry, and done long rides

with too. Oh my boy . . . Now it's a question of waiting. At least there's the prospect of a safety net. "If either of us ever becomes incapable," I asked his former owner up in Barrow in Furness eighteen months ago, "would you have him back?" "Of course we would," said Joanne.

How did it happen? Hard to say. We went out for a couple of hours the day after the farrier came. All fine. Next morning, fine. At lunchtime, lame. After a week or two of not clearing, off to the vets we go. But if I thought anything, apart from any fault of mine, I'd say the surfaces we ride on might play a part. All that hard inescapable tarmac, the concrete, those forest tracks of rolled granite – they're not natural surfaces. At least, not natural to horses. And here, in one of the most urban countries in the world, that's increasingly what we go on, at home or in competitions. There's no answer to this, perhaps, except sparing use. That's if there's any truth in the idea. I promise you I'm not just looking for something to blame, I know it's pretty much down to me. But earth, turf, sand, peat, or rough tracks and stretches of bare rock on which you'd only walk – well, they're in short supply here.

When you've nothing better to do, wish him luck please. Unleash the power of positive thinking! And Flynn, with his almost impeccable endurance record, may once again cart his ungainly rider as vigorously as he always did.

However . . . though one is in dry dock, the other has weighed anchor and finally left port. Gully, now aged eight and registered, took over Flynn's slot at Tresham to complete his first competitive ride. Perilously high heartrates, but he passed. The venue is still a terribly exciting place for him, but he's easy at the trailer and quiet to groom and tack up. How did he go? Very well. The ride has no shortage of tarmac and some quite stoney tracks, but several spiffing sections of cantery turf and we made full use of them. A sensible, efficient ride was the aim, for Tresham offers, or demands, little else. You simply can't go fast without risks, except on that smooth grass. Dear wild-streak Gully, though still himself with his little spooks at stone walls and fence posts, was calmer, more co-operative, more easily guided. He can still shift though. And he's comfortable to be on, which ancient bones appreciate.

A good day for us then, helped along by dry weather and Barbara's great crewing. Thank you to everyone. Slowly he's getting used to things. It's taken two years. Back then I was thinking, why have I done this, what have I taken on, as he whizzed about wild-eyed, stamping out a slow but

thunderous flamenco dance in the trailer, galloping around like a lunatic. Not any more. And what came up later? That this very ride and distance was Flynn's first competitive outing five years before. May that be a good omen.

Something to finish. In America there are show classes for Peruvian Paso horses, a smooth comfortable, sure footed pacer breed. In one of them horses and riders circle the arena, getting faster and faster while holding a glass of champagne. The fullest glass at the end wins the prize. I find this delightful.

Good news from Piers is that Flynn's ligament is making progress

Widened Horizons!

By Heather Evans

For several years now, Offa's Dyke Group have organised winter schooling lessons, for which thanks must go to Carolyn, who actually did almost all the work!

These regular lessons have helped many of us with various aspects of our riding, & educated many a horse in the 'finer points'! I gained a huge amount from this low-stress introduction to schooling, working in an indoor environment over several winters, with Carole Broad.

De Cymru Group did something a little different last year & this, by organising a 'side competition' within an existing Dressage Series, run by Sinia Dressage, at Usk College each month during the winter season. Their Endurance Challenge was for the 3 best scores in an Intro. class - which is walk & trot only, through the series.

When I heard about this competition series, I made enquiries. However, it took a lot of persuasion from Sue Box, of De Cymru, to encourage me to actually enter. Elvis & I had been having jumping lessons since October, &, of course, schooling was integral to this.

However, one of the drawbacks of dressage is that black jods & coloured tack are inappropriate, & dressing as a 'proper' rider didn't come easily to me after 19 years in Endurance kit!!

Despite my fears, and with only 4 monthly dressage outings available before the end of the 'series', I entered the January test - all toggged up in

very ancient beige jods, dark jacket, & with a smart stock around my neck!

Have I mentioned?.....The other, most daunting aspect was to actually learn a dressage test - about 4 minutes of moves & turns, all scripted, to be executed accurately under the watchful eye of an experienced judge!

I was worried & sweating before & during this first attempt, & all my effort went towards remembering the moves, rather than concentrating on their quality. Elvis did his bit, & carried me around obediently, & halted square at the end.....the score was 'OK'. The results sheet was scattered with helpful & critical comments, but the prospect of improvement seemed a long way off.

Then along came February - tests learnt (tests plural - yes!). I had decided to make the journey worthwhile & enter a 'Restricted Prelim' test as well, & these include cantering!

Then away went February - with cancellation due to weather.

Then along came March - with two completely different tests to learn. We gained a marginally better mark (very marginally) in the walk/trot Intro. test, & had complete memory failure before the Prelim. That's when someone took my arm & pointed me towards the organiser, who kindly agreed to 'call' the test moves for me, which is allowed. Sanity was restored, & Elvis again did his best as requested. The mark for this test was OK, especially given my brain melt-down & nerves. More helpful yet critical notes appeared on the test sheet....Would we ever really improve?!

Then along came March.....again(!) - with an extra event thrown in to replace missing February. I entered three tests this time, as one was a repeat of the cancelled February Prelim. test, & I wanted not to waste the practice. Absolutely daft idea! However, the walk/trot was OK with improved marks, & I came 6th in the Restricted Prelim. which was a shock.

I was enthused!

Then along came April - I sensibly entered just two tests. Remember that the walk/trot Intro. test counted towards the De Cymru Challenge, The Restricted Prelim. class was 'just for fun'! Well - wayhey! - we won the Prelim. class with the only score over 70 in that class on the day & came 6th in the Intro. with another 70+. Could it get any better?

It could.....It did.....

We won the De Cymru Endurance Challenge & came away with 3 rosettes & a cup!



Photo courtesy of Michael Martin

Well Done Elvis.

This endeavor has greatly improved communication & understanding between this horse & rider combi., (not to mention my memory!) & given me something to work towards - I need a challenge beyond the schooling. Elvis has enjoyed the outings, & I haven't come home exhausted after a 'horsey day out', which is all good!

Forget the summer - ROLL ON next winter!!

Only joking!.....However, it was (is) great to have a go at something different. I hope others will continue to enjoy & support our Offa's Dyke winter schooling sessions, & maybe also have a go at competition as well.

ps - Elvis now boasts 4 bridles, suited to each of his disciplines, plus one just for pottering!

BWLCH RAID



14 SEPTEMBER 2014

Fun ride in aid of Llangynidr RDA

A variety of distances and terrain to suit all abilities.

Venue : Llangors Rope Centre, on the B4560

**With thanks to our sponsors Offas Dyke Endurance Group,
Golden Castle Riding Stables, Llangors Rope Centre, Brecon Lions, Brecon Rotary,
Crickhowell Rotary Club.**

ENTRIES £15 for non members, in advance please, limited space on the day.
Entry forms and further information on www.offasdykeegb.co.uk please send

to:

Fiona Griffiths, Ty Mawr Farm, Bwlch, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7NX

Contact number 07941049485

Hot and Cold refreshments all day

Advertisement

Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies in Monmouth would welcome donations of unwanted tack/equipment/riding clothes.

SWHP are still holding regular tack sales and in the last 3 years we have raised an amazing £3350. If anyone has any items they would like to donate then please phone Karen Jones on 01873 890771 or email karenjones649@googlemail.com.

Schooling lessons Usk

Last year we introduced extra schooling lessons at Usk College in addition to the usual ones at Huntley. This helped cater for people living at all parts of the rather large catchment area of OD group. We also had members of surrounding EGB groups join us and both venues were well supported. All lessons were taught by Carole Broad FBHS.

This year Kerri Costello and Nicola Davies have kindly offered to help me out by taking over organisation of the Usk sessions. They have booked the only available dates and these are listed in the 'Dates for your diary' page at the back of the newsletter. If you are interested in taking part in any of these sessions, please email either Kerri kerri.costello@yahoo.co.uk or Nicola n.davies91@yahoo.co.uk

As I live in Gloucester, I will continue to organise lessons at my end of the area. I'm still looking to find a suitable indoor school with plenty of parking and easy access, as we may not have use of the Huntley one now the riding school has closed down. If you hear of anything suitable please let me know & I'll go and take a look.

carolyn@edwardsglos.fsnet.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Black Mountains	Fun Ride	Sunday 6 July
Social Evening	Andrea's house	Saturday 19 July
Cranham	National Ride	Sunday 27 July
Committee meeting		Thursday 11 September
Bwlch Raid	Fun Ride	Sunday 14 September
Usk College	Schooling Lesson	Saturday 22 November
BAM & Awards	Venue TBA	Saturday 29 November
Usk College	Schooling Lesson	Saturday 13 December
Xmas Cracker	Fun Ride	Sunday 28 December
Usk College	Schooling Lesson	Saturday 17 January
Usk College	Schooling Lesson	Saturday 14 February

More information on the website 'rides & events' page
Web site: www.offasdykeegb.co.uk

HELP!

With the rising cost of printing and postage (now 50p for 2nd class stamp). It would be a great saving for the group if more people could receive the newsletter by email PDF or download it from the Website. If you'd like to try, please email me. If you try and don't like it you can always change back to a paper copy at any time.