

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting – 9 May 2017

1. **Welcome and New Members:** Eve welcomed all members.
2. **Minutes of the Last AGM 12 May 2015:** These were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Ann Rigby and seconded by Sue Nelson.
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairperson's and Secretary's Annual Report:** Another busy and successful year!

We had a variety of speakers and events over the year. They included:

An interesting talk by Sue Thompson on her experiences riding in Spain in July. An informative and entertaining presentation by Alison Whittaker-Stewart "From challenging mount to super steed" in September. Tack sale in October raised £650, a special mention of thanks to Chris Bell who organised the tack sale this year. In November, Vyv Wood Gee gave an excellent account of her Coast to Coast ride. Helen Wain helped us all with Map Reading in January. Christmas Meal was very successful. In March Jo MacRae from the Donkey Sanctuary gave a very interesting talk about the work of the Charity. Thank you Julie for organising all the speakers at our meetings. Members are asked to let Julie have any ideas for future speakers.

6 members attended an extremely interesting and informative BHS Access Training Day Part 2 in August delivered by Chris Peat, North West Regional Access and Bridleways Officer (RABO), about claiming bridleways and much more.

We are still waiting for Lancashire County Council to make a legal Order to revise the Definitive Map and mark the route through Thwaite Brow Woods and Mount Pleasant in Bolton le Sands as part-bridleway, part-by-way and part-public road. It is in a queue in LCC's legal department.

We are now targeting several routes for further research using a respected historian to assist us. Work is ongoing on this – many thanks in particular to Liz Davidson and Ailsa Gibson for taking this forward.

With many thanks to Sue Millard, we have streamlined and updated our website.

The group has been actively working on Bridleway Clearance and improvement, for example, in July, some volunteers cleared a bridleway at Greenlands Farm. This year, we have continued to improve bridleway gates and latches. Members are asked to let us know if there are any in their area that need attention.

After a request from the BHS, we compiled a list of places to ride on the beach in our area. This has also been added to our website.

We continue to advise riders to report any accidents or near misses to the BHS via their website.

We organised a display at the British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre Open Day in August.

We have supported a campaign by the BHS to make routes being developed for walking and cycling available for equestrian use. We made a link available on our website for members to write to their MP's about this. We have had encouraging responses from 4 MP's in the area.

Three of our members met with a local councillor who also promised to support us in this.

We have ordered some more 'Think Horse' signs.

Thanks to Liz Davidson who has pursued matters relating to the surface on the Bay Gateway Bridleway.

Many thanks to Julie Trafford who circulates our information via email and who looks after our Facebook page and Kay Edwards for taking the minutes of meetings. Our thanks go to Sheena Robertson for producing the newsletter, please let her have any photos, ride reports, horsey holiday ideas, in fact, anything you think might be of interest to members for the NLBS Newsletter.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped in any way at all throughout the year! We couldn't do it without you!

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Sheila Kissack circulated copies of the accounts, NLBS has £3216 in current account and £6769 in the deposit account. Contact Sheila if you would like a copy of the full breakdown.

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6. **Membership Secretary's Report:** There have been 6 new members since May 2016. The membership currently stands at 172 individuals, including 10 honorary members. Renewals are now due for 2017. Membership forms and requests to pay by standing order can be downloaded from the NLBS website. Copies were also available at the meeting.

Due May 2016:	14
Due May 2017	35
Due May 2018	9
Standing Orders	104
Honorary Members:	<u>10</u>
	<u>172</u>

7. Election of Officers

All current officers are willing to continue in their current roles

President	Lady Reay	
Chairperson:	Eve Hall	
Vice Chairperson:	Julie Sico	also speakers, Lancaster Guardian, Visit co-ord
Treasurer:	Sheila Kissak	
Secretary:	Frances Clisham	
Minutes Secretary:	Kay Edwards	
Agenda Secretary	Denise Woodcock	
Membership Secretary:	Kate Lennox	
e-mail/Facebook:	Julie Trafford	
Newsletter:	Sheena Robertson	
NLBS Brochure:	Janet Casey	
Rides Leaflets	Ann and Rose Thornton	
Official Website co-ord:	Sue Millard	

There is a vacancy for a Tack Sale co-ordinator. Please contact Eve for more information.

8. Any Other Business: None

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Following the business meeting Mark Weston, British Horse Society Director of Access gave an address on the Access work BHS has carried out over the past year. He then presented Eve with an Access award for her commitment and hard work towards improving equestrian access. Eve was also presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Group members.

Mr Weston presented a certificate of recognition for the 20 years the NLBS had been in existence with citation "*Many thanks for all that you have achieved during this time*".

Eve and Mr Weston then cut a cake celebrating the anniversary. Thank you to Caroline Hoyles, Creative Cakes for the delicious cake.

Our speaker for the evening, Katherine Beaumont from Meditate with Horses posed the question "How do our horses make us feel good" and went on to give an interesting and thought provoking presentation on meditating with horses.

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Minutes of the general meeting held on 9 May 2017

1. **Welcome and new members:** Eve welcomed everyone to the meeting and new member Lynda Heath. Subs for 2017 are now due.
2. **Apologies:** Janis Ashworth, Lorraine Chambers, Celia Dixon, Elaine Edmondson, Steve and Linda Hobson.
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Ann Rigby, seconded Sue Clowes.
4. **Matters Arising:** None.
5. **Photos – horses and riders** – members brought along a photo of their horse. There was a range of photos from beloved ponies in childhood to those of present day. Eve included one of the Queen, an inspiration to us all riding at 90.
6. **Cross Bay Ride – Tuesday 1st August.** This being the last ride Cedric Robinson will lead across the Bay. It is fully booked and there is a waiting list. Further information can be obtained from Phyllis Capstick tel: 01729 850 295.
7. **Bridleway news**
 - (i) *Tunstall and Cantsfield* Work in this area is ongoing.
 - (ii) *Bay Gateway bridleway* Further resurfacing work has been carried out in the areas of concern and work has been done to improve the drainage.
 - (iii) *Investigations into potential bridleways* Ten tracks have been identified and a local historian is looking into their potential for upgrade to bridleways.
8. **Trip to Royal Windsor Horse show 2018** nothing further to report.
9. **Horse count** We are looking for a volunteer to repeat the horse count in our area last done around 2004. A member also suggested repeating the survey done in 2008 by Vicky Lowe, then secretary, who undertook a survey of costs involved in horse ownership. This, coupled with information regarding numbers of horses, could be useful in assessing the impact horse ownership has on the local economy and may have the potential to influence bids for match funding/grants. If you would like to help or perhaps know of a student needing a project for their coursework please contact Eve.
10. **Tack Sale co-ordinator** – we need someone to promote and take bookings for the annual tack sale. Please contact Eve for further information.
11. **NLBS Fundraising Ride – Dolphinholme House Farm, Sunday 21 May 2017** Entry closing date has been extended to 18th May. Details and entry form available to download from NLBS website.

We still need more helpers for gates, please contact Eve tel: 01524 824205
12. **Any other business:**
 - (i) *DIY Livery available* Arnsdale area. Further information: Hilary Durie 0774 760 3284.
 - (ii) *Morecambe Bay Riding Club* this has now been dissolved.
 - (iii) *Pleasure Ride and Stride, Sunday 28 May - Cumbria Bridleways Society ride* Self guided 10 mile route on bridleways and quiet lanes near Ravenstonedale in the scenic upper Eden Valley. Closing date 20 May. No entries on the day. Contact Rebecca Kemp mobile: 07841 261061 email: rk.kemp@hotmail.co.uk

Next meeting: Tuesday, 11 July 2017

Speaker to be advised

Hest Bank Memorial Hall, LA2 6JB

Please come along and bring a friend