

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | AUTUMN 2013

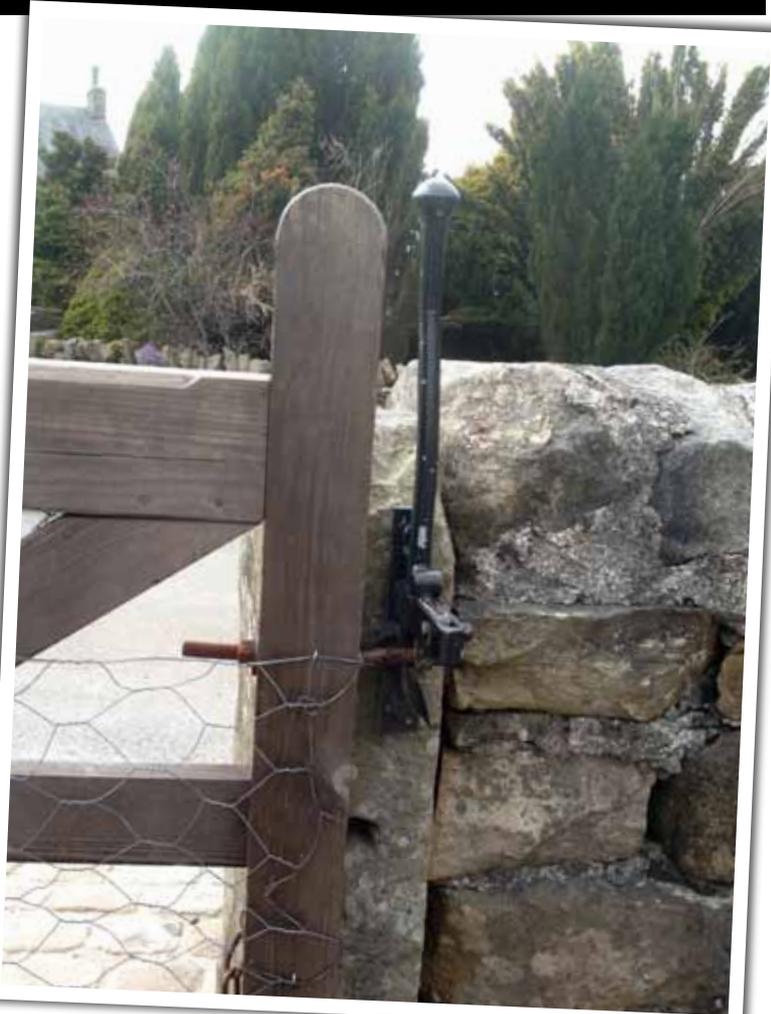
Hello, hello!

What a fantastic summer we have enjoyed. It has been wonderful watching hay time this year - field after field cut and gathered without being soaked and spoilt. It seemed like the summers we all think we remember from childhood. I wonder whether we really do or just see the past through rose-coloured spectacles?

Anyway, the July meeting was quiet due to the sultry heat, but it was very enjoyable and informative. We had a talk about trailers and were able to spend the whole meeting outside admiring the brand new, beautiful Ifor Williams trailer, brought for the demo by Barlow Trailers of Leyland. I think I'd have one on my wish list even if I didn't have a horse. They are so slick and well designed. The hands-on talk was great and even regular and accomplished towers learned something new.



Bad gate.



Good gate.

The NLBS is interested in maintaining existing bridleways, particularly improving grotty gates. Everyone will know what a hassle it is to have to dismount and struggle with an unbalanced gate, usually tied up with a tangled piece of binder twine. If we can help to improve gateways maybe it will encourage riders to venture along more bridleways. If you have a local awful gate that would benefit from a facelift, take a photo of it and send it to us with a map reference or a good set of directions. If you have the landowner's name and number too that would be great. Let's see if we can get rid of beastly gates and make things better for everyone, be they walkers, riders or cyclists. All contact details are on our website www.NLBS.org.uk

Enjoy the autumn and happy riding.

Please send any articles, reports, hints, tips, suggestions etc to sheena@creativemarketingsolutions.co.uk

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WHICH IS FULL OF USEFUL INFO - WWW.NLBS.ORG.UK

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1076096

Holiday In Northumberland

Two years ago Sheila and I went to Yetholme in the Cheviot Hills, Scottish Borders and found them delightful to ride. They are undulating, grassy, bog free, loads of paths and tracks and empty!

This year we stayed at Well House Farm near Harbottle for three days and then Ingram House for three days. From here it is towards Newcastle then up a bit - Alnwick being the largest place of any note.

At the first place we were warmly welcomed and the ponies had a lovely field of grass, too much really for our natives. We are Sheila on Tara, a Connemara, Kay on Geveno, a Welsh Section D and me on Poppy, a Dales/AppaloosaX.



I took three macs and waterproof trousers and never unrolled them. On a ride to Hepple we had to cross a river that we were advised could be deep. That evening Kay, bless her, walked down, rolled up her trousers to wade across and see how deep it was. It was OK but there was a bit of a drop into and out of it. We crossed successfully with lots of encouraging shouts and kicking of legs on my part. We then encountered some sleeping alpacas! The ponies thought they were sheep until they put their long necks up and stood up. Kay got off and opened the gate and we sneaked through. On the return journey it was the alpacas and river again or two miles round by the road. We went for it - the alpacas had moved to sleep just where we wanted to cross the river. We crept up. Kay and Sheila got off, but I decided I was useless on the ground so hung tight and whispered to Poppy to get in the river. There I waited whilst the other two got on and we waded across.

On the Wednesday we travelled to Ingram. It was a beautiful posh house with welcoming people and the ponies were in a field by the garden. Again there was rich grass so Sheila put Tara in a stable for the night. As you know natives never stop eating, even when lying down. We had some great rides from here. One day our 'home' was in sight, with two fields to go when we realised there were two (unbroken it seemed) ponies in the next field and they were galloping towards us. They followed us right across the field with us brandishing whips and me shouting and cursing. Good job there were no RSPCA people near by. We got through safely, Kay once again jumping off to do the gate.

I must say that without Sheila tailing me and Kay helping, I couldn't have done this holiday. Kay carried my saddle, held Poppy's head, carried my bag upstairs and helped make the holiday a great adventure - which is great at 75.

Eve Hall

My route away from the field takes me down a steep hill into a heavily wooded area with a beck running alongside the road. Even on the brightest summer day it is always cool and shady and, of course, darker. When I meet my friend on her pony, it is always the flashes of her hi-viz jacket through the trees that I see first, even before I hear the clip clop of hooves.

Everyone has heard awful stories of road traffic accidents involving horses - many of us unfortunately have first hand experience. At the risk of repeating what we already know - brighten up this winter and stay safe. There is some great kit out there for both horse and rider. Polish up your stripes and make sure you and your horse shine brightly through the dark months.

(Small hint for the sartorially challenged - never wear a hi-viz jacket with camouflage pants - it sends out mixed messages.)

Sheena Robertson



A BHS lady, Sue Rodgers had kindly worked out three rides at each destination with maps and instructions, these proved vital at some points. One day we crossed the river by a bridge only to retrace our steps when I remembered seeing a BW sign half hidden by a pile of pipes. There were lots of ups and down and Poppy did her usual trick of tense up, then rest and pant then on etc.

Vis à vis hi-viz

Whilst it is not a thought anyone likes to entertain - the evenings are beginning to draw in and the light levels are not as sharp as high summer. This has made me think about getting a bit more hi-viz kit for the winter months. I now wear a fluorescent waistcoat all year round after reading BHS articles and taking note of their recent campaign. Apparently high visibility fabrics can give a car driver and as much as three seconds extra warning of the presence of a horse and rider on the road. In three seconds a car travelling at 30mph can cover 40 metres - which is the length of a dressage arena.

The BHS survey reports - 'there is no law that states riders must wear hi-viz equipment, but it is in their best interests to do so - not just because drivers will see them on the road earlier, but also so that they can be seen when they are riding off-road as well. Research by the Ministry of Defence has shown that helicopter pilots can see a rider in hi-viz gear up to half-a-mile sooner and thus avoid flying straight over the top of them. It also means that in the unfortunate event that a rider is thrown from their horse and left in open countryside, the police helicopter or air ambulance will see them much sooner and prevent their injuries from becoming more serious.'

Hincaster Trailway

The aim of the Hincaster Trailway Group is to encourage the development of the disused railway line from Hincaster to Arnside into a wheelchair friendly bridleway. NLBS have been keen supporters of the Group since it was formed in 2008, in fact our very first work party back in 2010 was made up of Sheila, Kay and Linda. As well as generously helping fund our projects, NLBS has provided mounted stewards for some of our events and is a constant source of contacts and knowledge about access issues.

With enthusiastic volunteers and generous funding, a full 1 km of the Wheelchair track at Hincaster is now complete and that section is open to walkers, cyclists and horses as well as wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters. The route is proving a popular off road option for local riders and if you would like to bring your horse to explore the Trailway, give me a call and you can park your horse box at our farm.



We continue to work with a wide range of groups who have shown an interest in our project. This year has already seen Levens Brownies unveiling Benchmark 2012, Kendal Boys Brigade building bird boxes and Milnthorpe Family Centre enjoying a toddle in the fresh air! For more details about our activities, visit www.hincastertrailway.co.uk or contact me on 015395 61243.

Many thanks for your continued support.

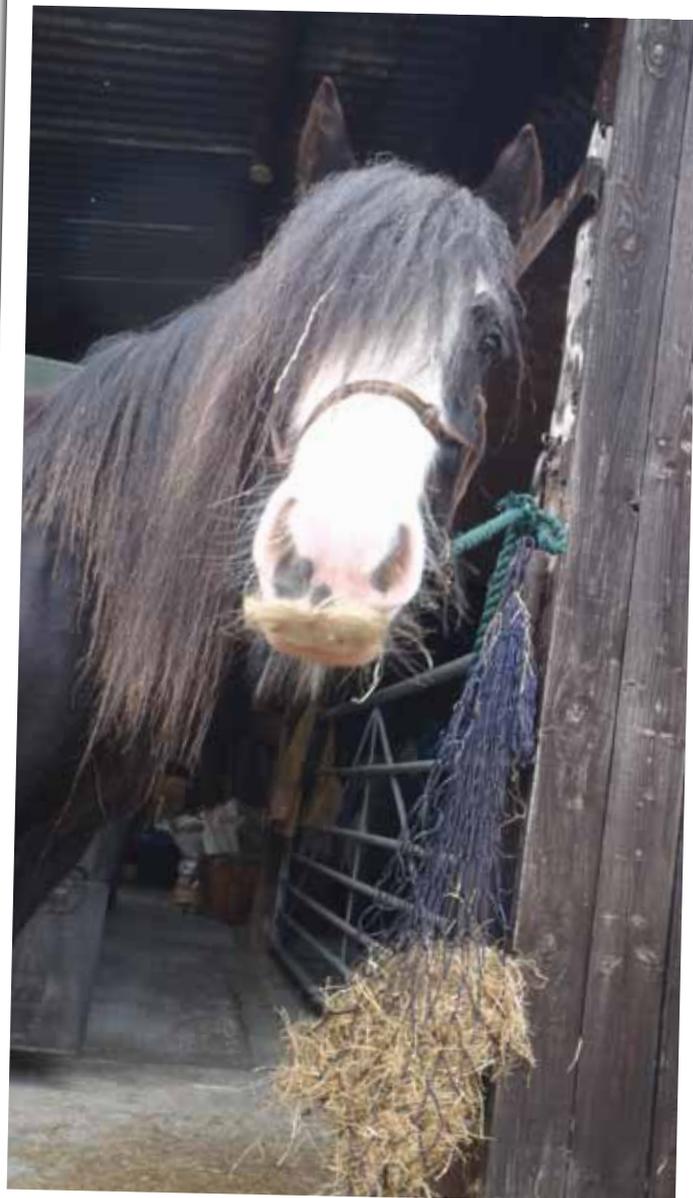
Bridget Pickthall,
Secretary, Hincaster Trailway Group.

Lottie's Lines

Should I get another horse? A difficult question when you unexpectedly lose a horse you thought would be here for lots more years. William was only fifteen when he collapsed last year. At first it's hard to imagine another horse taking his place, and how much easier would it be with no mucking out, no early mornings on cold winter days, no wet rides and no feeling guilty when you're too busy to go for a ride. That phase doesn't last too long! I quite like mucking out, and what is better than listening to your horse munching his hay in a dry stable with the rain pounding down outside.

Soon I am trawling through the horse ads, inspired by our medal winning Olympic riders and horses, I'm dreaming of the wonderful things I could do with the right horse – piaffe, flying changes, a bit of eventing. Maybe this time I will get a coloured pony, or something a bit bigger and elegant, the possibilities are endless. But sometimes the right horse is not the one in your imagination and it's right there on your doorstep. Lizzie, who buys ponies to start off and then sell on, had just moved into the area, and one of her ponies was a 14.2HH, 5yr old black cob. My friends at Greenhall stables kept urging me to try this pony as she had a lovely nature and was good on the road (essential around here). I was being reluctant – not sure I liked that white face, and did I want another black cob? What about that wonderful dressage horse? However this horse was for sale here in Lowgill so I decided to try her. I rode her from Lizzie's to the stables, past a running stationary tractor and man digging in the field – no problem. Then I went out for a hack with two friends – no problem with other horses, nice and responsive in walk and trot. On our hack we have to ride through an open field where there is a bull and herd of cows, on this ride the bull was trotting up the road towards us, heading for the cows in the next field. His cows were all running behind him chasing a loose dog – panic now or later? Actually no cause for panic, all three ponies stood quietly while the cows and dog ran past and I thought, I might just buy this pony! Six months on and that was definitely a good decision, and I have even grown to like that big white blaze.

Helen Wilkinson



Lottie at home.

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

We are working for all riders in the area.
You will benefit. Please support us!
The membership fee is only £5 per year

To play an active part in the Society brings with it new friends and a chance to participate in many pleasure rides and social activities and a real sense of achievement in promoting safer riding for yourself and others. Even if you do not wish to play an active part in the Society your membership fee helps to provide safer riding facilities in our area for everyone.

Please join now by filling in the following form and returning it to the NLBS Membership Secretary:

ADELE MCLOUGHLIN

Bramble Byre, Howbarrow, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7SS
e-mail: carmel645@btinternet.com call: 015395 36649

KATE LENNOX

Brandywell, Cark-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands
e-mail: kate.lennox@talktalk.net

Cheques should be made payable to: **North Lancashire Bridleways Society**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL [OPTIONAL]:

Please tick here if you are happy to receive minutes of meetings by e-mail

I enclose my membership fee of £5

SIGNATURE: