

Minutes of NLBS general meeting

held on 14th January 2025, 7:30pm

The meeting began with a tribute to Eve Hall from NLBS Chair Bridget Pickthall, followed by a photo carousel of Eve on horseback (see PDF attached).

1. **Welcome and new members – 8 new members joined us this evening – Welcome!**
2. **Apologies:** Leslie Duncan, Kate Lennox, Suzanne Davis, Sheena Robertson, Janet Casey, Lesley Owen
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**
 - a. **Proposed:** Frances Clisham **Seconded:** Carol Dial
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. [Home | A New Neighbourhood in East Lancaster](#) – update on meeting between NLBS chair, Bridget, and the developers, Persimmon. It was helpful to be able to speak to them at the beginning of their process.
 - b. **Greenlands farm bridleway** – a letter has been drafted to the council asking for a permanent gate solution, rather than the current hurdles which are problematic for horse riders to move.
 - c. **Reminder: Afternoon Tea at World Horse Welfare, Penny Farm**, Saturday 25th January 1pm (tour), 2pm (Afternoon Tea), £14/person (pay on the day). If you haven't already, please email nlancsbs@hotmail.com with numbers and dietary requirements.
5. **Bridleway News** – Members may have seen reports in the national news the intention to have no cut off now at all for DMMOs. Good news on the surface, but it should be noted that the long queues of applications will continue and are thousands deep in some authorities, so we need to keep an eye on what proposals are made to respond to this.
6. **Membership update**

NLBS Membership – Report to January 2025 meeting

No new members since the November meeting.

The membership currently stands at 168 including 17 honorary members.

Membership forms and requests to pay by standing order can be downloaded from the NLBS website.

	No. of members	No. of Subs
Due May 2023	5	5
Due May 2024	11	10
Due May 2025	29	25
Due May 2026	3	3
Standing Orders	103	82
Honorary Members	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>168</u>	<u>125</u>

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The above totals exclude the mystery member, 'R J Elliston', who pays subs by BACS each year but there's no record of their membership. Once again, if anyone knows him/her please let me know by email at membership@nlbs.org.uk

Please note: Annual Membership of £5 will be due beginning of May 2025.

If you have already set up regular membership payment thank you!

If you haven't yet and would like to, please see "How to join us" on [our website](#) and the link at [top of our FB page](#).

7. NLBS Account

- a. The meeting heard the proposal to shorten the name on NLBS current bank account to make online transactions easier by getting rid of the Reg Charity and number. So the account name would become **North Lancashire Bridleways Society**. This should lead to less confusion and fewer enquiries caused by the original lengthy and unusual account name.

Proposed by: Liz Davison **Seconded:** Bridget Pickthall – passed with no objections.

8. NLBS and members responses to consultations

Nothing over recent months. There are some active consultations in our neighbouring area of the Fylde Coast and [Fylde Coast Bridleways](#) are welcoming as much support as possible to secure and protect bridleways and wellbeing of horse and rider. Please support them if you can.

9. Any other business

- a. Donations in memory of Eve are still being made to NLBS. We will update members as soon as we can. Thank you to all those who have donated in Eve's memory.
- b. **Dates for future 2025 meetings**
 - Tuesday 11th March**
 - Tuesday 13th May**
 - Tuesday 8th July**
 - Tuesday 9th September**
 - Tuesday 11th November**
- c. **Speaker ideas** - reminder to send these to vicechair@nlbs.org.uk

Speaker:

Our speaker was known to many at the meeting and many thanks to our vice chair Julie for organising another great speaker from The Brooke, Angus Wiseman.

Angus..who worked in our area as a farrier..is now [Brooke Animal Charity](#)'s Head of Global farriery advisor.

Angus' Talk shared Brookes Global farrier vision..".which is for farriery to become a recognised..respected and regulated profession worldwide.

This in turn will lead to measurable improvements in animal welfare..whilst positively impacting equine-owning communities.

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Brooke aims to transform the farrier trade in low and middle income countries and make lasting improvements to animal welfare..ensuring that happy and healthy working equids can continue to support communities livelihoods.."

Brooke believes in a world in which working horses, donkeys and mules are free from suffering and have a life worth living. There are 100 million equines working worldwide, earning an income that around 600 million people rely on to put food on their tables and send their children to school. These animals are suffering from exhaustion, malnutrition and disease as a result of poor health and welfare resources. Brooke works with owners, communities, local health providers and policy makers to create both immediate and long-lasting improvements to the lives of working animals and their owners.

Lameness is one of the most common welfare problems in working livestock in low- and middle-income countries. It is a major source of pain and severely compromises welfare.

In low and middle income countries, farriery is an unrecognised and unregulated industry. No training institutions exist and there are no professional standards for practitioners. Practising farriers are poorly trained, have limited access to equipment and suffer a low status in the community. As a result, few young people in rural areas where need is the greatest choose to become farriers.

** This was an eye opening talk with lots of interesting stories!



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