

North Lancashire Bridleways Society
Minutes of meeting held on 13th November 2012

1. **Welcome** Chairperson Eve Hall opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **Apologies** Linda Hobson, Steve Hobson, Pauline McCartney, Kate Lennox, Adele McLoughlin, Shirley Richardson, Sue Clowes.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** were proposed by Frances Clisham and seconded by Diane Richmond.
4. **Matters arising** – there were no matters arising from previous minutes.
5. **Used Postage Stamps** – Bransby Home of Rest for Horses are collecting used postage stamps to raise funds, last year they managed to raise over £9000 and this year's target is £12,000. Simply cut off the postage stamp from the used envelope, leave about ½" border being careful not to cut the stamp, bring them along to the next meeting and Eve will send them off to the charity.
6. **Fundraising ride 2013** Next year's annual fundraising ride will be on Sunday 5th May 2013. The venue is Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club and the route is approx. 15 miles of bridleways and quiet lanes in the Kirkby Lonsdale area. Help is needed to man gates etc. Entry forms will be available in the New Year.
7. **Tack Sale** Eve thanked everyone for their help in making this a success. The event took in excess of £700 on the day.
8. **Bridleways Update**
 - a. Tree on Halton Army Camp path – no news yet.
 - b. Gates and latches being looked at on bridleways near Keer Holme, Yealand, Farleton Fell and Hutton Roof.
 - c. Bridleway adjacent to Greenlands Farm – handles and gate renewal in progress.
 - d. Path near Bolton le Sands – user evidence forms being completed.
 - e. English Coastal Trail – the local ramblers association submitted a comprehensive report to this project and have kindly supplied us with a copy. Their report mentioned several upgrades of footpaths to bridleways that could be implemented. Contact Eve if you would like to see the report.
 - f. Eve recently attended an Area of Outstanding National Beauty meeting where the National Trust Ranger mentioned *possible* access for all on a path at Eaves Wood, Silverdale though this is only in the very preliminary stages at the present time.
 - g. Over Kellet Parish Council are looking at *possible* upgrading of a number of footpaths to bridleways if they are successful in their bid for money available from Natural England's Paths for Communities project.
9. **Christmas meal** This will be held on Friday 25 January 2013 at The Smithy Inn, Holme. A menu will be available at the next meeting and will also be circulated via email. If you would like to attend please bring your payment to the next meeting or send it to Sheila Kissack to arrive before 20th January.
10. **Any other business**
 - a. There have been problems circulating info via email to members who have a "Hotmail" email address, we are trying to resolve this issue.
 - b. John Cash was made an Honorary member for his assistance to the Group.
 - c. A card was received from Barbara Hartley, a very valued past committee member, letting us know how well she has settled in her new home and how there are so many lovely bridleways to explore.
 - d. *England on Horseback* by Zara Colchester and Charlotte Sainsbury – Eve proposed the Group purchase a copy of this book for members to share.
 - e. *Self Closing Gates a Barrier for Riders* – British Horse Society (BHS) has published the results of research to determine the effect of self-closing gates on horse riders. The research was a response to an increasing number of reports that riders and horses had been harmed by such gates. The trial demonstrates that self-closing bridle gates are neither as safe nor as easy to use for horse riders as British Standard 5709:2006 compliant non-self-closing gates. Eve has a copy of the report if anyone would like to read it.
 - f. Meeting dates for 2013 – January 8th, March 12th, May 14th (AGM), July 9th, Sep 10th, Nov 12th.

The business meeting was followed by tea and cakes with a chance to look at members' old riding photos and reminisce over past events. Thanks to Eve for baking all those lovely cakes.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8 January 2013 at 7.30pm

'Constructive v Traditional Saddle Fitting'

Bev Whitehead, test ride facilitator for Balance, will discuss this and explain the good design features to look for when buying a saddle to maximise the comfort of the ridden horse