

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting – 14 September 2021

1. **Welcome:** Eve welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Jakie McClure, Bridget Pickthall, Helen Wilkinson, Janet Bebbington, Kate Lennox, Sue Clowes, Barbara Hartley.
3. **Minutes of the Last AGM 14 May 2019:** These were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Carol Dial, seconded Helen Wain.
4. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Chairperson's and Secretary's Annual Report:**
Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have been unable to hold any meetings since March 2020. As it became clear that we would not be able to hold the AGM at all in 2020, an update with the usual reports was sent to members in Autumn 2020. We asked members to respond by email to say whether or not they were in agreement with accepting the Reports and Accounts. We had 40 replies, all of which were in agreement with accepting the Report and Accounts and 0 against. We had asked the Charity Commission for an extension for the submission of our data, but after we received the replies from members, we went ahead and submitted our data to the Charity Commission.

Sheena Robertson has done a sterling job during the past year in providing Newsletters to Members. Thank you, Sheena – these have been most welcome to read during lockdown! If you have any photos, ride reports, horsey holiday ideas, in fact, anything you think might be of interest to members, please pass them on to Sheena.

We are very hopeful that our meetings will re-commence soon. Members are asked to let Julie Sico have any ideas for future speakers.

Bridleway News:

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer, Di Brooksbank who has applied to Lancashire County Council to have horse access to many routes correctly recorded on the Definitive Map. Di's work has included a visit to the Lancashire Archives, and she has submitted many DMMO applications. You can see the current state of play by looking at the BHS Project 2026 website www.bhsaccess.org.uk/Project2026. Many thanks to Di and also to Ailsa Gibson for taking this important work forward!

Update from Di Brooksbank:

To date I've submitted 40 applications to Lancashire CC across Lancaster and Wyre Districts and a further 5 to Cumbria CC.

The first of my applications to pass committee to the "Make an Order" stage was Lord's Lot Road, near Over Kellet in June. The official order was published on 18th August so, provided no objections are received by end September (42 days later) then the route will be confirmed. Fingers crossed!

The second of my applications to go to committee is Snuff Mill Lane, Stodday - which links to the Lune Estuary multi-user route - and will be presented to committee on Wednesday 15th September. Proceedings can be followed

*online <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=11221&Ver=4>
A further 4 have been investigated awaiting committee reports - Green Hill Lane, Nether Kellet; Borwick to Capernwray Lane; Proctor Moss Road, over Wyresdale (short gap from road to BW); Green Lane, Leck.*

If anyone is keen to work on applications, I am very happy to help them get started.

In November 2020 NLBS wrote to Taylor Wimpey about the proposed housing development near the Bay Gateway. We asked for any paths/cycleways to be made multi-user routes which would be accessible to horse riders. We also wrote to Parish Councillors in Slyne with Hest, Halton with Aughton and the County Councillor for Morecambe North. We had a reply from Doreen Brookes, Clerk to Slyne with Hest Parish Council to say that the Parish Council (PC) would be made aware

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of our concerns when a planning application is received. We have also heard that Halton with Aughton PC supported our request for multi-user routes.

We have added some information to the Routes page of the NLBS website regarding the Bay Gateway and the Lune Millennium Path. Neither of these routes are shown as bridleways on Ordnance Survey maps but they are accessible to horse riders. Regarding the Bay Gateway, Steve Halsall from Lancashire County Council is enquiring to ascertain LCC's position to accommodate the request to formalise use of this path by horses.

We are currently in communication with Lancaster City Council about the height barrier at Bull Beck Car Park on the Lune Millennium Path which at present prevents access for horseboxes and trailers to the off-road car park. After an on-line meeting, we understand that if the barrier is to be in place, it will be with a combination lock and we will be provided with details of the combination.

In March 2021, NLBS wrote regarding a proposed development at Ellel. We requested that any bridleways included in this proposal were linked up with the existing ones and that any new BW is dedicated as a public right of way. We also asked them to ensure that cycleways are classified as multi-user paths.

Also in March, NLBS sent a £50 donation to support Susan Taylor's Cross Roads Campaign to save Byways and Bridleways.

Members of NLBS have campaigned on a number of fronts including the extension of the Lune Millennium Path and for improvements for horse riders who cross the A6 in Bolton-le-Sands. Our thanks go to all our members who regularly ride the routes and are constantly looking for ways to improve these along with our safety whilst out riding

Thanks to Susan Armitage for looking after the email circulation of information to members and for investigating a possible hacking (electronic that is, not horsey!) Thanks also to Kate Lennox for looking after the membership list – a considerable task! We are also grateful to Chris Peat for her advice and support on a range of queries.

The Planning Inspectorate have undertaken a Public Inquiry into the request to downgrade a bridleway to a footpath at Nutgill Farm, Ingleton. NLBS sent a statement in support of the position of North Yorkshire County Council who oppose the downgrading. Thanks to all those who helped with this. We have now heard that the order to downgrade the bridleway has NOT been confirmed! Good news!

Please remember if you encounter a problem with a bridleway in Lancashire, report it to Lancashire County Council via their website.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the Tack Sale in 2020 due to the pandemic, but we remain hopeful that this popular event will be back on our calendar soon!

Eve, Sheila, Frances and Kay have all decided that they will carry on with their current roles until the 2022 AGM which we hope will take place in May next year. At that point, NLBS will need a new Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Minute Taker.

Many thanks to anyone who has contributed in any way during the past 12 months – we really do appreciate your support.

Eve Hall and Frances Clisham
September 2021

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6. **Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the accounts were circulated via email and were available at the meeting. NLBS has £4693 in current account and £6803 in the deposit account. Contact Sheila if you would like a copy of the full breakdown.
7. **Membership Secretary's Report:** There have been 5 new members since the 2020 'electronic' AGM. The membership currently stands at 156 including 16 honorary members.

Although the coronavirus restrictions have eased it has still been difficult to collect subscriptions this year. There are 6 subscriptions overdue from 2019, 18 overdue from 2020 (of which 4 members opted to carry forward their payments to pay £10 each in 2021) and 9 overdue from May 2021.

The table below is a breakdown of membership numbers and also shows the overdue subscriptions compared to actual member numbers.

	No. of members	No. of Subs
Due May 2019	6	5
Due May 2020	18	14
Due May 2021	9	12
Due May 2022	6	5
Standing Orders	101	91
Honorary Members	16	0
	156	127

In January and April 2020, I emailed the members whose subs were due in May 2019 and received no responses. I anticipate that they are unlikely to be renewing so would suggest they are removed from the membership list.

8. Election of Officers

All current officers are willing to continue in their current roles:

President	Lady Killearn (formerly Reay)
Chairperson:	Eve Hall (retiring 2022)
Vice Chairperson:	Julie Sico also speakers, Lancaster Guardian, Visit co-ord
Treasurer:	Sheila Kissack (retiring 2022)
Secretary:	Frances Clisham (retiring 2022)
Minutes Secretary:	Kay Edwards (retiring 2022)
Agenda Secretary	Denise Woodcock
Membership Secretary:	Kate Lennox
e-mail/Facebook:	Sue Armitage, Tracey Howard, Ailsa Gibson, Graeme Bruce
Newsletter:	Sheena Robertson
NLBS Brochure:	Janet Casey
Rides Leaflets	Ann and Rose Thornton
Official Website co-ord:	Sue Millard

9. Any Other Business: None

Speaker: Helen Wain gave an illustrated talk detailing her experience of travelling to and attending Equirando 2019. This is an event held in France, organised by the National Equestrian Tourism Committee of the French Equestrian Federation and is the largest European gathering of riders with around 1000 participants coming from all over France and other countries.