

Update from NLBS, October 2020

Since our last meeting in early March, we have had to cancel our regular meetings, including the AGM due to take place in May, because of the ongoing corona virus situation. Members have been kept up to date about the cancellation of meetings via email.

As it now appears that we won't be able to meet at all in 2020, we are sending out this update to include the information which would normally have been available at the AGM. If you have any queries about anything in the Update or anything else, bridleways related, please contact us - see below.

We have included a list of who does what at the end of this update with some contact information included. If you are able to help us out in any way, please get in touch – although we have lots of valued helpers on our team, there is always room for more and we will certainly find you a job!

1. **Chairperson's and Secretary's Annual Report: 2020** (please note that this was written in the summer of 2020 and covers the events of the previous 12 months, which seems a long time ago now!)

We had a variety of speakers and events over the year. They included:
In May, Claire Dyson spoke about her month long trek around the Lake District with Fell Pony Pansy and her dog Finn

In July, we heard from Beccy Smith of Holistic Reflections.

In September Chris Peat gave us an update on how to claim bridleways before 2026.

The Tack sale in October was the usual success raising just under £500.

Gillian Carlisle, CEO of The British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre brought us up to date with the centre's work in January.

The Christmas Meal was, as usual, very successful.

In March, Helen Wain talked to us about The Dominance Factor and helped us consider ways in which we can improve our riding and learning.

For the next Newsletter, please let Sheena Robertson have any photos, ride reports, horsey holiday ideas, in fact, anything you think might be of interest to members.

Thank you, Julie for organising all the speakers at our meetings and for organising the Tack Sale tables. Members are asked to let Julie have any ideas for future speakers.

Now on to Bridleway News:

We continue to campaign and work (eg by clearing bridleways and repairing gates) to improve bridleways and encourage the provision of new ones and are supporting the work of the Horse Access Campaign (HAC). Members are encouraged to report any issues regarding bridleways so that we can follow them up.

We have prepared a list of routes for research before the 2026 deadline. These are now posted on our website. Although the lockdown due to coronavirus has forced us to postpone our AGM, we hope to hold it as soon as possible. In the meantime, work continues on bridleway research and we are especially grateful to all those who have given up time and effort to research a variety of routes. At the time of writing (June 2020) the BHS Project 2026 website has 275 paths listed for Lancashire and over 10 DMMOs have been submitted in NW Lancs.

NLBS made a contribution towards the Coldwell Horseshoe route, a concessionary bridleway near Silverdale and we also wrote a letter to support a local horse rider advising of how the gates might best be made accessible to horse riders and tramper users.

We have also written to Sustrans about the extension to the Lune Millenium Greenway and indicated how the route might best be made accessible to horse riders. We have been invited to send a representative to future meetings when these can take place.

Representatives from NLBS and CBS met with the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership in order to encourage them to allow horse riders access to the Towpath Trail in future. Although their position remains the same, they said that if they have the opportunity to use a bridleway as part of the trail, they will do their best to do so. We have offered to help in any way we can, including financially.

Many of the activities and events mentioned in this report have only been successful because of the willingness of members to get involved and help out. Many thanks to everyone who has helped in any way at all throughout the year! We couldn't do it without you!

2. Treasurer's Report.

NLBS has £4554 in the current account and £6800 in the deposit account. Please contact Sheila (see contact details at the end of this Update) if you would like a copy of the full breakdown.

3. NLBS Membership – Report for Circulation in place of 2020 AGM

There have been 9 new members since the AGM held in May 2019, of which 2 joined since May 2020.

The membership currently stands at 152 (down from 167 at last year's AGM) including 16 honorary members.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus restrictions preventing meetings from being held it has been difficult to collect subscriptions this year. There are still 6 subscriptions overdue from 2019 and I emailed these together with the 22 overdue from May 2020, giving the latter the option to make two payments in 2021 in the hope that the situation with the virus may have improved by then.

Of the above 22, just 4 members opted to pay their 2020 and 2021 subs next year meaning 18 subscriptions remain overdue for 2020. I will email these members again and hope that at least some of them will be renewing.

The table below is a breakdown of membership numbers and also shows the overdue subscriptions compared to actual member numbers. The different numbers in the right-hand column indicate either family membership (if lower) or double payments next year (if higher)

	No. of members	No. of Subs
Due May 2019	6	5
Due May 2020	18	17
Due May 2021	11	13
Standing Orders	101	91
Honorary Members	16	0
	<u>152</u>	<u>126</u>

4. NLBS – List of Officers.

President	Lady Killearn (formerly Reay)	
Chairperson:	Eve Hall	Tel: 01524 824205 chair@nlbs.org.uk
Vice Chairperson:	Julie Sico	vicechair@nlbs.org.uk
Treasurer:	Sheila Kissack	treasurer@nlbs.org.uk
Secretary:	Frances Clisham	secretary@nlbs.org.uk
Minutes Secretary:	Kay Edwards	minutes@nlbs.org.uk
Agenda Secretary	Denise Woodcock	agenda@nlbs.org.uk
Membership Secretary:	Kate Lennox	membership@nlbs.org.uk
e-mail circulation	Susan Armitage	
Facebook	Ailsa Gibson, Graham Bruce	
Newsletter:	Sheena Robertson	newsletter@nlbs.org.uk
Rides Leaflets	Ann and Rose Thornton	
Official Website co-ord:	Sue Millard	

October 2020