

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021



Hello, hello

Horseback photography - never easy.

Just to keep in touch after the age without meetings, we thought we'd send out a newsletter to remind everyone we're still here.

Hopefully, the NLBS will get back to normal before the year is out and actually be able to meet in person for a catch up. Making the best of the difficult situation Bowland TREC has recently organised some online events (read on...) and it looks like there will be some actual events to look forward to as well. Fingers tightly crossed.

I belatedly came up with the perfect solution for social distancing last week when I found myself in the supermarket wearing my stinky, 25 year old, (wonderful) mucking-out jacket by mistake. Brilliant. Who would want to come within ten metres, let alone two, of anyone surround by the rich and pungent aroma of horse poo. If I'd left my wellies on too I might have cleared the shop. Yet another advantage of looking after horses.

Keep in touch and when you're out and about again keep an eye out for bridleway problems and routes that could be put back on the map.

Happy riding,
Sheena

Local Paths - Tatham Fells

Two members of our local Parish Council have been surveying footpaths and talking to the landowners. They are checking for any repairs needed; if these can be done by volunteers then Lancashire County Council has a scheme that may supply the necessary materials. We don't have many bridle paths in our area but they will also be included in this work. It may be worth checking for similar schemes in your area if you have noted any problems with rights of way. Check out the so called 'Local Delivery Scheme'. You can download a .pdf of the guidelines by following the link in our cover email.

Lottie's Lines

On Line

There was a time when doing something on line with your horse probably meant lunging or long reining. Now it usually means some sort of e-competition or training course... There is so much information available online and during the last year despite the travel restrictions I think I have done more learning than ever, with showcases to watch, webinars and Youtube videos.



In the past Lottie and I have had a tried online dressage and this winter we had a go at the Bowland TREC competition. As the winter indoor series was cancelled due to the pandemic a diagram of a course of five obstacles was emailed to competitors with the helpful guidelines of – 'build with whatever materials are available'. A wheelbarrow load of electric fence posts, tree stakes, four heavy poles, a tarp and some yellow plastic cake mix tubs ('borrowed' from the primary school garden) was enough to create something that looked vaguely like the supplied diagram. As I don't have access to an arena this was done in Lottie's field with some good cross country features such as slopes and bogs, tight corners and a stray cat (I think he was pretending to be that pheasant that flies out of the hedge just when you have started daydreaming). So with my tack cleaned and boots polished I am all ready for the big event. Build course, catch Lottie as she's walking through it and knocking things down, throw on saddle. Oh dear! Forgot to send a memo to Lottie saying 'its competition time.' Unfortunately, she was in the mind-set of – 'I'm in my field so I should be eating'. Needless to say that didn't go too well – never mind there is always next month!



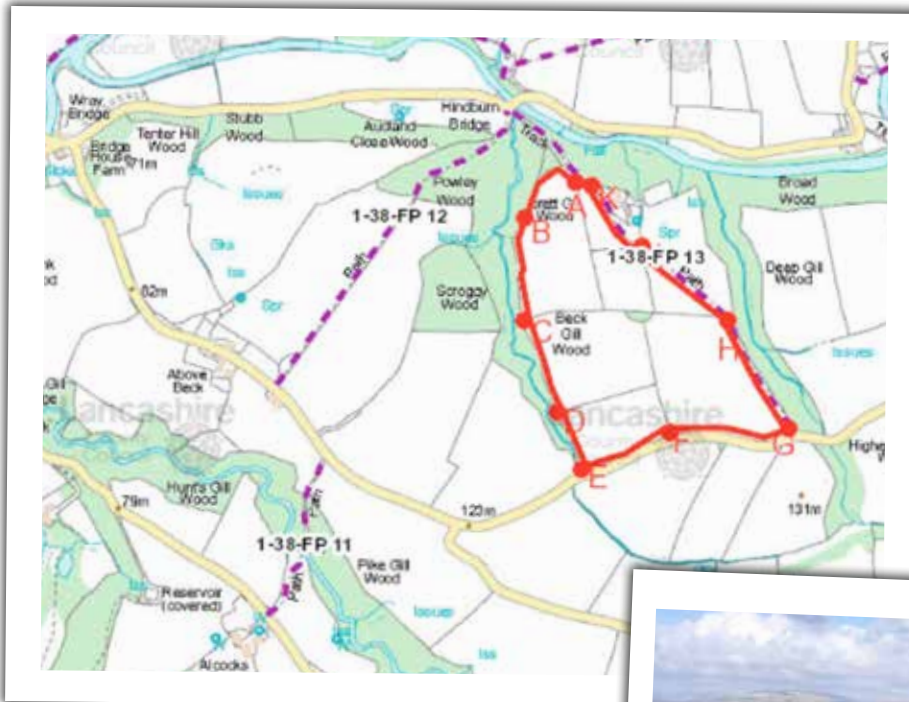
Practising for TREC obstacles should mean we have lots of good skills for riding out and on a recent ride with a friend we certainly needed them. There is a lovely circular route near us with quiet roads and spectacular views; the only problem is that there are eight cattle grids to negotiate. Most of the gates are broken and difficult to open. This time one was blocked by concrete barriers, put there by the council ahead of some planned road works (we had to lift it off its hinges to get through) and another had some hefty boards propped against it. We only managed to open two out of eight without getting off. Lots of practise for our ponies at standing still for mounting from the ground – there's always a positive!

Helen Wilkinson

Around and About

Lune Valley Greenway News

This project has been discussed for a number of years but recently Sustrans has appointed two officers to try and make some progress. The route has been surveyed and some options are being considered. There does seem to be a good possibility of a route being found; discussions have been held with landowners, although this has been hindered by the pandemic restrictions. This work is supported by LCC, Lancaster City Council and the local parish councils. The intention is that a route will extend from Bull Beck near Caton to Hornby and then on to Wennington. This would make a much safer cycle route from the Wray/Wennington area to Lancaster. Horse riders are included in the proposals as it would extend the bridleway network in the area and the need to improve provision has been identified in the Lancashire Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Go to lancashire.gov.uk to read the plan, or go to www.GOV.UK for more information on local authority improvement plans.



See OS Explorer
map OL41
Grid-ref: 61 68

Wray Route

Liz Davison and I explored a lovely little bridleway opened near Wray recently. We parked at Wray Tea Rooms and headed up Helks Brow. See the map. Although the route is short it was great to get off-road. The gates are all really good and the farmers were very welcoming – interested to get our feedback and rightly pleased with their work.

We texted a thank you later on and got the response 'we're going to open up some woodland soon too', Yay. Thank you very much indeed Lower Broadwood. Very well done.

Next time we're hoping the Tea Rooms will be open again so that we can indulge in a coffee and maybe a bacon bun. Perfection.



Sheena

Trough with a view.



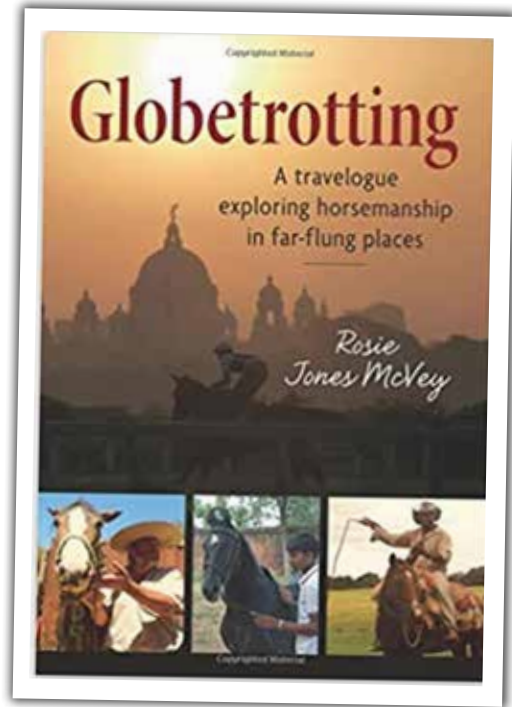
A naughty blocked bridleway.
(Especially difficult with an ostrich in attendance...)

We think this one is probably work-in-progress and the owners are intending to install proper gates.

If you come across any blocked routes, make sure you report it on <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/public-right-of-way> If the powers that be don't know of problems they can't do anything about them.

Book Recommendation Globetrotting - Rosie Jones-McVey

This was a fascinating book and especially good to read during lockdown when we couldn't go anywhere apart from the supermarket. Really readable and interesting. A travel adventure investigating the different ways horses are treated across the world.



The Lancashire County Council have a grant scheme for public rights of way - if you're interested in looking over the guidance there's a link in the cover email.

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.

KATE LENNOX
Brandywell, Cark-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands
e-mail: kate.lennox51@gmail.com

Cheques should be made payable to: North Lancashire Bridleways Society

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL:

Please do / do not include me on the NLBS circulation list in order to receive minutes of meetings and other relevant information (delete as appropriate).

I enclose my membership fee of £5.

SIGNATURE: