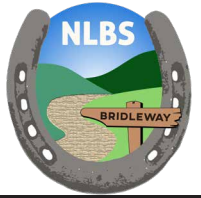


ON THE RIGHT TRACK



NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2022



NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY
nlbs.org.uk

WANTED Persistent, pro-active, passionate, patient, people people.

THE ROLES We need a new top team to take the NLBS into the future at this very critical time.

THE REWARDS Securing safe off-road, historic routes for horses and country lovers. Keeping bridleways open and useable for our generation and those to come – in perpetuity.



NLBS has reached a fork in the road.

We need you to help us stay 'on the right track'.

Whether you're a happy hacker, eventer, dressage dancer or simply surrounded by horse-mad children, we all want and need safe, interesting off-road riding. North Lancashire Bridleways Society does what it says on the tin. It is all about bridleways.

Founded in 1997 by a group of friends and enthusiasts NLBS is a voluntary group with charitable status. It has become one of the most effective bridleway groups in the country. Working closely with the BHS, the Council, the Police and local farmers and landowners it has been possible to discuss, mediate and make a case for off-road routes that are often overlooked and ignored. By making sure we are friendly, polite and accessible all our members are ambassadors for safe riding practices and thoughtful, respectful use of paths and tracks.

All Public Rights of Way should be recorded on what is known as 'the Definitive Map' which is maintained by the local council. Many paths and tracks that were once bridleways have been downgraded to footpaths and blocked or made inaccessible by locked gates or stiles. These routes need to be flagged up and added to the definitive map by 1st January 2026 otherwise they will be lost forever. 2026 is fast approaching.

NLBS raises money and awareness. We are able to help and advise landowners about safe, horse-friendly gates and horse stiles. In some cases, we can contribute to the cost of upgrades. We organise working parties to clear overgrown routes and can help with signs and directions.

We need people to research and champion these routes. There are plenty of tools and information available online and local knowledge and contacts are invaluable. Our NLBS needs a new Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Minutes Secretary to hold things together and continue the good work. The current team deserve a long service medal. Eve Hall, founder member and long-time Chair is now in her 80s and wants to hand over the reins. Secretary Frances Clisham stepped into the breach nine years ago. Sheila Kissack has been our diligent and brilliantly competent Treasurer for 11 years and Kay Edwards has taken the Minutes calmly and efficiently since 2013. None of the current team will disappear, they just need to step back a bit but they could be on hand to help the new officers into the job, if needed.

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Lottie's Lines

Just having a leg stretch

Most of us will have had that post-Christmas dinner feeling of having eaten too much and just needing a few zzzzz when someone says 'let's go for a walk, I need to stretch my legs'. Groans all round from those who have eaten far too much pudding and chocolates and yet, the minute you've got wrapped up and out in the crisp, cold air (positive thinking here, it's not going to be a wet Christmas!) you feel so much better. For us it will be out across the fell, no roads, no paths, just the open space, the sheep and the wide sky with maybe a buzzard gliding gracefully by. For others it maybe woodland paths, the beach or the canal tow path, and for a lucky few maybe a ride out with friends, hopefully an off road route.



Recently Lottie had a visit from the physiotherapist, just for a check over but the assessment was that she needed to do some hind leg stretches; being your typical short backed down at the front cob, we are going to have to work a bit harder to get her using her hindquarters properly. A pole work clinic was recommended, the horse equivalent of going to the gym or a Pilate's class, fine if your horse actually thinks poles are something to step over and not just clatter through. Cavalletti might work, she will have to pick her feet up over those or maybe if I have any money left after Christmas we could try some hydrotherapy (the equivalent of a spa day if it includes a carrot juice and pedicure). In the meantime it will have to be me pulling her legs with some balletic stretches and marching her up and down the hills. So that's me escaping the washing up on Christmas day, sorry everyone, I'm just going out for a ride 'Lottie needs a leg stretch!'

Helen Wilkinson

Cover Story Cont...

Apart from the serious business of paths and tracks the fund-raising side of NLBS is often fun. BC (Before Covid) we enjoyed bimonthly (that is every other month) meetings at Hest Bank Village Hall. Beginning with the nitty gritty of progress, membership and minutes followed by a speaker and then a brew, biscuits, raffle and gossip. We have had some terrific speakers (see over) who have informed and inspired.

The gossip bit is good because it gives people time to discuss horses. (What's not to like?) There won't be many problems or issues that hasn't been experienced by a member and we're all very happy to share and help.

NLBS 'Famous Tack Sale' at Hest Bank Hall has been going for many years and is an opportunity for people to clear their tack rooms and make a bob or two.

It is always very well supported and members bake their very best cakes for the pop-up café. It is a major fund raiser in our calendar. BC we organised annual fundraising rides using bridleways and concessionary routes. Members ride or steward gates so that riders don't have to hop on and off all the time. Our last fundraising ride, which was organised with Cumbria Bridleways Society, also raised money for Rosemere Cancer Charity.

All of these things are what we have done. New officers may choose to take NLBS in a different direction but the important thing is to keep the integrity of the group and to keep the pressure on the powers that be, raising awareness of horses, riders, routes and rights.



The job descriptions are as follows:

NLBS Chairperson

1. Organise bi-monthly meetings.
2. Organise Agenda for bi-monthly meetings in conjunction with Agenda Secretary.
3. Prepare Annual Report for AGM in conjunction with Secretary.
4. Act as Trustee for NLBS.
5. Liaise with Doreen Brookes re booking Hest Bank Village Hall
6. Organise raffle/refreshments for meetings

NLBS Secretary

1. Prepare Annual Report for AGM in conjunction with Chairperson
2. Respond to General Enquiries (usually by email) to NLBS
3. Keep website up to date (involves liaising with Sue Millard)*
4. Prepare Charity Commission return in conjunction with Treasurer.*
5. Act as Trustee for NLBS.
6. Liaise with Susan Armitage re nlancsbs email account
7. Liaise with Kate Lennox re Membership List
8. Keep projector and bring to meetings.

(*We may have a volunteer who might help with numbers 3 and 4)

NLBS Treasurer

1. Keep proper books of account and submit properly drawn up accounts for adoption at Annual General Meetings
2. Ensure that the accounts are properly audited by a competent independent person.
3. Operate the NLBS bank account which should be run in accordance with the Rules of NLBS.
4. Assist Secretary in preparation of the Charity Commission return
5. Act as Trustee for NLBS.
6. Liaise with Kate Lennox re Membership List
7. Collect subs paid in at meetings, then bank monies
8. Pay invoices on behalf of NLBS

NLBS Minutes Secretary

1. Write up the Minutes following NLBS meetings
2. Send the Minutes to the Secretary and to Susan Armitage for distribution to Members

All these posts are flexible. You may have a good friend that you could share the role and responsibility with. We understand that everyone is busy, especially if you have a horse, a job and a family. But, you don't necessarily need to be a horse owner or rider, just have an interest in rights of way and the needs of horses and riders.

Please help. New Year, new interest? Bridleways are a vital part of keeping horses, riders, drivers and all road users safe and sound in future.

If you are interested, please get in touch before the end of January 2022 so that we can plan our next steps. The current office holders will step down in May 2022.

chair@nlbs.org.uk
secretary@nlbs.org.uk
treasurer@nlbs.org.uk



Just a few of our brilliant speakers over the years...

Chris Peat BHS Regional Access & Bridleways Officer – told us about the struggles and success opening the Mary Towneley Route off the Pennine Way and more recently 'How to Claim our Bridleways before 2026'.

Vyv Woods-Gee – amazing long distance, fund raising journeys with her brilliant ponies over mountain passes and on major roads.

William Reddaway - who raised money for charity. He visited cathedrals throughout the land with his horse, Strider and did a lot more walking than he expected to.

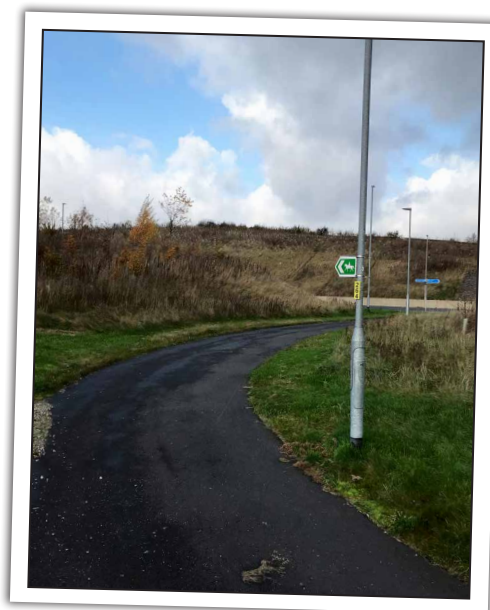
Alan Hiscox – Director of Safety at the BHS. Excellent talk on road safety.

Liz Davison – international TREC rider, member and great supporter of NLBS

Helen Wain – Ride With Your Mind coach and map reader extraordinaire. NLBS member.

Peter Boustead - fell pony breeder and well known judge gave a fascinating talk on conformation.

The late Cedric Robinson – Queens Guide to the Sands. RIP Cedric – you were and are an absolute inspiration.



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Our speaker for the 11th January 2022 will be Bowland Equine Therapy which is based at Ellel, Lancaster.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at Hest Bank Memorial Hall, Hanging Green Lane, Slyne, Lancaster.

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: