



# CBS WINTER NEWS

February 2010

www.cumbriabridlewaysociety.org

Dear All,

It's a miracle this newsletter is coming out while it's still 'winter'; Tracey is the miracle of course and she has coped with being ill while working on it. Anyway – a belated Happy New Year!

Thanks so much to those who've sent in snowy pictures and thank you to our new committee members for introducing themselves with brief profiles for you. Margaret Carter, who wrote a piece for our last newsletter as a new Field Officer, is now on the Committee as well.

I thought the AGM was a very enjoyable evening; approximately 40 members came, from as far afield as Hawick in the North and Blackpool in the South. Loyal supporter Jean Chapman struggled in from Keswick to sell her excellent homemade haynets, she had been in hospital not long before but takes a pride in always attending if it's humanly possible! Nearly £200 was raised by the sale of Jane Pape's cards, the raffle and the silent auction. Thanks to all those who contributed. The speaker was brilliantly entertaining and there was much questioning and chat with him afterwards.

Please make a note of the Dates for your Diary; there are lots of good things coming up. We would be grateful for volunteer help at all of them but also very grateful if you help us publicise them as much as possible. Please just pass the word round, put up posters or leave as leaflets wherever you can – and come to them with friends/family or whoever!

Sue and Jane are putting in a lot of work for both the Tack Sale and the Cartmel Ride. (Any members in the North of the county got ideas for something they could put on this year?? Let us know, we can probably help)

Janet Nieopokojczycka ('Pack Woman') is one of last year's contributor's to Packs & tracks who is unable to take part this year due to work commitments – she is so gutted by this (her word) that she has offered to do a talk for us at our Spring Social! We just have to fix the date at our next committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb and we will let you know.

Over forty of those who took part in Packs & Tracks last year have already said they would like to take part again and we have several new attractions being planned, including Dog Obedience, more Heavy Horses and a display by youngsters from the local Pony Club. **Vyv Wood-Gee** will be around to talk about her incredible ride from John O Groats to Lands End with her daughter in aid of cancer research - and we're hoping for a visit from **Sarah Norris**, who also lives North of the Border, who achieved the ultimate success in Endurance Riding challenges with her beloved little Fell pony, 'Blossom', covering 100 miles in 17 hours!!

It is very sad that the Endurance Society have had to change their dates and again arranged a ride on that Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, clashing with Packs & Tracks. I had checked with the secretary before we committed to the date and

was told that their Tebay ride was likely to be the following week, so they could support Packs & Tracks this year – maybe next time? Another event on the same day is the Plants and Food day at Hutton in the Forest, not too far away, which should complement Packs & Tracks nicely if you are planning a special day out.

Enjoy seeing the bulbs appearing and the evenings getting lighter and we look forward to seeing you at some CBS event.

With all best wishes, Hilary

## CBS Spring Tack Sale

Endmoor Village Hall

11.00 am to 1.00 pm

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March

*"Spring clean out all that old tack and buy new for the summer"*



£1.00 admission on the door

£10 per table (proceeds to CBS)

All revenue to go to seller

*Light Refreshments Available*

To book a table or for further information

Please contact Jane Armstrong

Tel: 0791 9661057

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## Why are Equestrians being discriminated against?

This article relates to the whole of England – showing that some counties have worse access problems than Cumbria.

**Mark Weston**, *The British Horse Society's Director of Access, Safety and Welfare* explains how horse riders are being asked to pay more than other users, and how unrecorded historical routes could help to connect the current disjointed equestrian public rights of way network if they were put onto the definitive map.

Whilst the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone statutory access rights to most land, in England horse riders can be required to obtain a permit for routes that are not definitive public bridleways or byways. Such permits are often administered by TROT (Toll Rides off-road Trust) and the price varies depending on the length of the local network available around the permit holder's home. They also grant access to certain Forestry Commission routes in England. Typically, they cost about £55 per adult and £45 per child per year. For a family of 4 this represents an annual charge of £200, a fee not required from walkers and cyclists.

### Forestry Commission England

The Forestry Commission England Estate extends to about 258,000 hectares of land, which has the ability to provide the safe off road riding which is badly needed for all sections of the equestrian community. The Commission's discriminatory behaviour in making equestrians purchase permits to access certain forests when walkers and cyclists have free access is totally unacceptable and wrong, and against the Government's wider agenda and policies.

The Society opposes the Forestry Commission's requirement for equestrians to buy a permit to ride in certain forests, where walkers and cyclists take free exercise and do not have to purchase a permit. We fear that those who are unable to purchase permits will be forced to ride on the roads, which is inherently less safe than the off-road riding that can be provided by the Forestry Commission.

Many equestrians are not rich, as sometimes perceived, and cannot easily pay a permit fee. **25 percent of horse**

**owners earn less than £10,000 per annum.** Paying for access particularly discriminates against lower socio-economic groups. Three quarters of horse riders are female, 31 percent are aged under 16, 18 percent are aged 16 to 24. These groups particularly need safe places to ride. Many riders of retirement age maintain their fitness by riding out, as they and their mounts look to enjoy a quieter life.

### The British Horse Society believes that:

- informal access on horseback, by horse drawn carriage, on foot and on bicycle should be free in forests where public access is permitted.
- the Forestry Commission should not discriminate against equestrians when providing informal public access to forests.
- access to the forests is especially essential for equestrians, as horse riders have access to only 22 percent of the public rights of way network and carriage drivers to only 5 percent.
- there is no justifiable reason to exclude equestrians from forest tracks on the ground that they can cause more damage than walkers and cyclists on well used routes. When damage is caused by walkers and cyclists maintenance is carried out to improve the tracks for them to use, at no cost to them.
- contributions for maintenance of routes for informal access should not be sought from equestrians when these are not sought from walkers and cyclists.
- local riders should be able to access Forestry Commission woods on equal terms with other user groups. Those that arrive under their own steam should not be expected to buy permits. Those that arrive by motorized transport should be expected to pay car parking fees as do other user groups.

### Unrecorded Routes

Another problem faced by equestrians securing safe off-road routes are the number of unrecorded historic routes. **These need to be included on the definitive map as public rights of way before 2026 or they will cease to be rights of way. If all of these routes were recorded the percentage of the existing public rights of way network that is currently available to equestrians would increase** - from the paltry 22 percent that horse riders

currently have access to and the 5 percent that carriage drivers currently have access to.

Equestrians are currently at a disadvantage as regards 'claiming through use', since they are the group who are most easily barred. Unlike walkers and cyclists they cannot lift their horse over barriers and are often tied to the landowning fraternity for livery and horse feed. They can also be subject to intimidation. Despite many claims for equestrian access starting out as being "user" claims, in the end they are usually won through historical documentation.

Recording the historical public rights of way network is important because there is no track record that any meaningful length of byways and bridleways has been provided through statutory creation powers. Any new routes are almost invariably footpaths. These historic routes are not new routes; they are public highways that already exist in law.

Equestrians often have a greater need than walkers for a network, but they face the most opposition. Landowners, walkers, parish councils and county councillors can all be lined up against them.

In remote rural areas, the number of equestrian users is often too small for the authorities to count as being significant, despite the use of the route being highly useful to an individual.

It is therefore important that an effective mechanism is found to record these historical routes, as they exist on the ground with interesting landscape features. Past generations used the most sustainable route for crossing the country and often built in drainage, surfacing etc. which lowers the costs of bringing a route back into the public domain.

There is no blight or uncertainty on landholders, since all the records are in the public domain they can research their own land themselves to remove any uncertainty.

Many parishes have no equestrian rights of way, i.e. one district in South Somerset, has 119 parishes of which 32 have no equestrian rights of way; In Leicestershire there are 235 "areas" - i.e. all the civil parishes (229) - 27 of the civil parishes have no legally rideable routes on the Definitive Map. i.e. approx **11.5 percent** of civil parishes.

**SUBS OVERDUE**

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subs – however there are still 35 outstanding.

**Subscription Fees are due on or around the 1<sup>st</sup> of November each year and are currently £8 for Single and £10 for Family membership.**

Cheques should be made out to Cumbria Bridleways Society and sent to:

Miss Tracey Harris, 4 Woodbank, Endmoor, Kendal LA8 0HG

If you would like to set up a Standing order please contact me and I will send you a S/O form.

Tel: 015395 67578

E-mail: [tracey.harris4@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:tracey.harris4@mypostoffice.co.uk)

**EDEN VALLEY LOOPS PROJECT - UPDATE**

We are very pleased to be able to say that our grant application to the Rural Development Fund England (North West Development Agency by any other name) has been successful. We heard the news on 27 January while in a meeting in Penrith with the senior BHS Access executive, Heather, who had travelled up from Stoneleigh to discuss details with a view to putting the routes onto their Ride UK programme and to prepare for a grand 'launch' of the project after which it will become part of the BHS's National Bridleway Network. So it was an exciting moment!

There is still much work to be done: we only get 60% of the total required (and that is in arrears!) so we still need £4,200 in match-funding before they will release funds. So if anybody has any bright ideas re sponsorship or any kind of fundraising please get in touch with me, Pamela Bonnick or Lisa Hartley as soon as possible! BHS Cumbria, BHS North region and headquarters have all promised to chip in so we are looking for a further £1,200.

It is proposed to run a pleasure ride to include cyclists and walkers (one of the funding provisos is that the routes are multi-purpose) probably on 25th or 18th April. (Don't panic anybody; horses will be kept strictly separate from the cyclists either by different routes or different times of day!) We will need help with this, all offers gratefully accepted - and lots of entries too.

Next, we will be undertaking a comprehensive 'schedule of works' for minor improvements to the routes - and as they are some 85 miles in total this is no mean task. Volunteers will most definitely be needed here and we are hoping that at least some of the original splendid team of foot-surveyors will feel able to take up their walking boots again and help out. (Names to: Pamela Bonnick Tel: 01768 896493 E-mail: [scalehousefarm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scalehousefarm@hotmail.co.uk) please)

The Launch is tentatively pencilled in for midsummer - the early evening of 23 or 24 June, probably in the Kings Meaburn area (between Penrith and Appleby)

All of this in fact hinges directly on the need for the Highway Authorities to 'sign off' the routes - they are being sent the maps and will have to agree to their legality before anything further can happen. So fingers crossed again! Hopefully we should be able to see some real results before the year is out.

Gay Parkin

**A BIG HELLO TO OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Nicola Evans* - I live in Oxenholme and work in Kendal as an ecologist. This gets me out and about around the county and involved in many exciting conservation projects. Outside of work, as you might guess, my passion is horses. I have been riding in N. Lancashire and S. Cumbria for 17 years now and still find plenty to explore. I share horses with a friend and look after the 3 of them myself at home. We undertake all manner of activities from regular hacking and competitions to backing and bringing on youngsters. We have organised, and thoroughly enjoyed, 4/5-day trail rides the last 2 years. We are also just venturing into carriage driving. I have had a long standing interest in our native pony breeds and spent 3 years at university leading treks on Exmoor Ponies. Combining my equine and conservation interests has led to involvement in conservation grazing. This has resulted in my being able to acquire 3 young fell ponies who are currently happily employed to eat! Maps are a fascination and I am currently mapping all the routes we ride for the BHS.

*Tina Galloway* - I have lived on a small farm at Smardale, Kirkby Stephen, for the last 20 years. I came to the horse world through being my daughter's stable hand. Horse Holidays in Cumbria was originally my idea, as I had some riders who come every year to stay at our holiday cottage. So, I came to take an interest in bridleways. We have always one a lot of walking as a family and so we have done quite a few miles of surveying routes both for Horse Holidays and Eden Valley loops. I do not ride but hope to learn to drive, even though I am well into retirement, in theory.

## Around Lake Windermere – again!

On the Tuesday after Whit Monday Lynne Hodgson came and picked up Poppy, me and my saddlebags as I don't have transport. We then collected Bobby Dazzler, her lovely 15.2 coloured cob and her husband Peter at Witherslack.

We parked at Grange-Over-Sands large car park; put the car keys on the driving seat for Peter to return home. We unloaded the ponies and 'click' the car locked itself. We needed a car-thieving hood, but Peter walked the length of the prom to a garage. The chap came straight away and in two minutes, with the aid of a plastic wedge and a wire he was into the car. Luckily the ponies had gone to sleep.



Off we eventually set with Sue Gill on her Fell pony, Rosie meeting us on the steep Hampsfell Road. Her keen pony kept jogging and trotting on, which began to upset our steady mounts. Lynne had a bright yellow new numnah, which, with the weight of the saddlebags, kept slipping backwards – (moral – try new things before the holiday).

On top of Hampsfell the cows had made deep ruts and the Fell sank to her hocks in one place. You will know my fear of bogs so I carefully took a different route. The fields on the way down were covered with deep footmarks so it was a very steady progression. Lynne led Bobby and rang Peter to bring here old numnah to Cartmell. At Longlands the big, red, heavy iron gate nearly fell on Lynne as it was off one hinge. This area has been blocked many times. Sue left us at Cartmel and Peter arrived with the numnah. We reached Sayles Farm by Lowick Bridge at about six o'clock. They fed us and we had an early night in their comfy caravan.

Early morning brought rain and wind. The forecast was not good. At about 11am Lynne rang Peter again to rescue us (Peter said he wasn't going to answer the 'phone again!). We had an enjoyable morning watching a gasman fit a new water boiler in the caravan and drank coffee.

The trailer arrived at lunchtime and Peter gallantly took us through Coniston to Elterwater Country

Guest House. Here the ponies were turned out on an overgrown tennis court. The rain ceased at 4pm. We had a scrumptious meal and slept with our downstairs window straight onto the ponies' tennis court. They stared at us in bed. There were leaves on a tree by the window, but come the morning it was bare, as was the whole area.

We set off in sunshine over Loughrigg Fell to a short cut through Ambleside, avoiding the one-way system. Up the woods, steep with outcrops of rock which Poppy strode over carrying me safely to the top. Lynne led Bobby here but I could no more have climbed up than flown.



We eventually came out with glorious views of Windermere, first time, and down Robin's Lane to the Post Office. We sat eating ice creams with loads of school children (school holidays) and adults stroking and chatting to the ponies. They were all interested in our trek. We then went through Troutbeck, up by Dubbs Lane and down to Ings. We put the ponies at Buckleys, ate at the pub and stayed at a B&B.

The next day got hotter and hotter. We rode on the unfenced and gated road to Crook, then quiet lanes back to Witherslack. We saw lots of new horse homes with stables and ménages.

Back at Lynne's house, her cousin Sue was actually sunbathing it was so hot. I was whisked back home with another great little holiday under my belt.

I know we cheated in the middle but at 71, I'm not after a medal.

**Eve Hall**

## PACKS & TRACKS 2010

Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> May

Dalemain, near Penrith



*Planning has already started for this years Packs & Tracks event, which will be even bigger and better than last year.*

## CARTMEL FUN RIDE

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010



**£15 entry fee £20 on the day**

**Starts between 10.00 and 11.00 am**

Contact: Sue Gill, Cornbrook Orchard, Clogger Beck, Cartmel LA11 6PN Email: [gillsue@gmail.com](mailto:gillsue@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 015395 36825



### WE NEED YOU TO:

- **Distribute Posters**

Spread the word – Enclosed with this newsletter are posters for our Tack Sale, Cartmel Fun Ride and Packs & Tracks event. You can do your bit by displaying them at your local tourist information office, on your village notice board, at your local livery stables or anywhere it can be seen.

*Please feel free to photocopy or print as many copies as you need.*

- **Tell your Friends**

There is nothing like word of mouth – tell ALL your friends to come along and support all three events.

- **Volunteers Needed**

**Tack Sale** – Help required in setting up and breaking down, manning the door, clearing dishes from main room, washing up.

**Cartmel Fun Ride** - Duties will mainly involve opening and closing gates for riders.

**Packs & Tracks** - We will need helpers on the day to take entrance money, park cars, man the CBS stand, set up gazebos and stalls etc. etc.

**Please contact Sue Gill - Tel: 015395 36825 E-mail: [gillsue@gmail.com](mailto:gillsue@gmail.com)**



### FOR SALE - £900

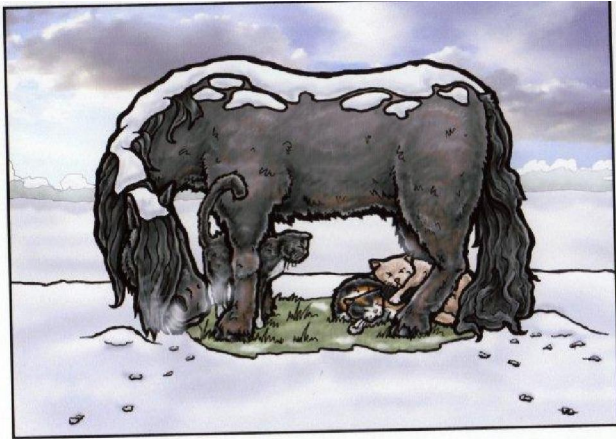
**Stunning pure bred solid black appaloosa filly born Feb 09.**

Out of Chantel Dee Kay by Tiptoe Royal Blue (both aphc, aphc uk & baps registered). She is expected to make 15.2hh+ and is registered and passported with aphc UK and is eligible for registration with baps (grade d) and aphc USA. Excellent temperament, she is wormed, vaccinated for tetanus, feet trimmed, leads well and is handled daily. She doesn't take a good photo; she sells herself much better in person!!!

Contact Gemma

Tel: 07521743405 E-mail: [gema99to00@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gema99to00@yahoo.co.uk)

**This just about sums up riding the last few weeks!**

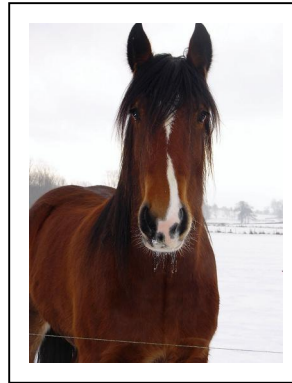


The picture is my Christmas card from last year, designed by my son. The pony is Moorhouse Black Jack - alias Zac, my eighteen year old Fell who really does like the stable cats, though he usually keeps them warm in his stable. There was one who used to sleep on his back and even hitch a ride in from the fields. Hope you like it  
**Denise Woodcock**

*Picture by kind permission - Nath Industries 2008, Nathan Woodcock Tel 07720 133192*

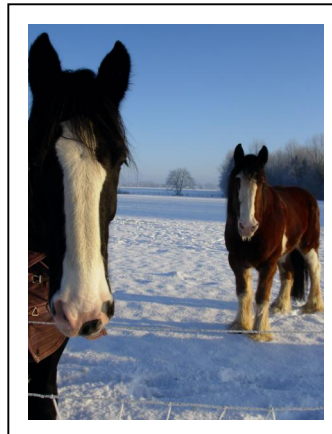
**Hello,**

*My name is Hannah; I am 12 years old and live in Penrith. This is a picture of my pony in the snow up at the livery yard. She is called Bella and is a 14hh high, bay, welsh cob. I have only had her for about 9 months and she's absolutely amazing!!! We both love to jump and to hack out and do endurance riding, which we will try out for the first time in the summer!!! We got the 'Rides in the Cumbrian Fells' book and gave it to some friends for Christmas who also have horses. Are planning to do lots of them in the summer holidays.*  
**Hannah Hartley**



"Who said Snow Queen? - I'm a prince"

"Come on big boy lets see who can make the best snow angels"



No gorillas in the mist, just Shires in the snow

Snow White and the 4.5 dwarfs



**Poem By Bridget Webber**

With thundering hooves and a mane of pure white the Christmas horse comes into sight  
 Upon his back both joy and sorrow from the year soon to pass into tomorrow  
 With nostrils flaring and hoofs of black the Christmas horse reminds of what we lack  
 But of what we excel in that's good in our heart he reminds us too as he rides through the dark  
 With a coat of silver and eyes of steel he lands in our gardens and tells us the deal  
 Which is that to bring peace to our warring world the human consciousness must be unfurled