



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION  
**NEWSLETTER**

No 86 March 2016

*The Chairman and Executive Committee of Leicestershire & Rutland  
Bridleways Association invite all members, plus a guest, to their*

**25 Years of LRBA Anniversary Reception**

**Wednesday 4 May. 7.15 for 7.30pm**

**at The Knoll, Leicester University Botanic Gardens,  
Glebe Road, Oadby LE2 2LD**

*A Social Evening to meet other members. Buffet. Brief speeches. Poster  
displays covering subjects and organisations related to many aspects of LRBA's  
history and work with an opportunity to discuss these with representatives.*

*Will include Child's Eye View posters from under-18s*

*Tickets: £10 per person  
RSVP via enclosed form*

*Parking on Glebe Road  
Knoll drive is 1<sup>st</sup> on R after turning off A6  
Carriages 9.30pm*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Preceded by a guided tour of the Gardens, 6.15 for 6.30pm - a 'must'*



*for garden enthusiasts*



*Limited numbers - no reservations. £4 per person payable on the night*

**Child's Eye View:** Under-18s are invited to draw an A4 picture of their favourite ride and send it, so that it arrives by Sat 30 April, to Lynne Pass, 274 Burton Rd, Overseal, Derbyshire DE12 6JN. A sheet with the artist's name, date of birth and a few sentences on where the ride is and why it's their favourite, must be included. Entries cannot be returned but will also be shown at our **LITTLE FIELD OF HORRORS** event, 30/31 July.

## **In Case of Emergency**

### ***Advice for Riders on everyday riding & on LRBA Rides:***

LRBA recommends that riders should ALWAYS wear hi-viz, preferably orange or even pink, (yellow often blends in with yellow rural colours eg oilseed rape, wheat, bright sun on green leaves, etc) AND carry a switched-on, charged-up (power and £s) mobile phone.

If medical help is needed **ring 112 (not 999)** as 112 enables the emergency services (once alerted) to locate you via GPS. The hi-viz helps with finding you once they're there.

The responsibility for calling emergency services at Rides lies with riders – NOT the Ride Secretary – because of the GPS link from the mobile. The emergency services will need that mobile link to be kept open and the patient monitored until they are on the scene and in charge.

At a Ride, someone should tell the Ride Secretary what has happened.

It may be a good idea to have your 'next of kin' or emergency contact listed in your mobile under for example "Home". There is more advice on <http://www.icecard.co.uk/>

### ***If You Come Across an Accident.***

Obviously offer help and be as useful as possible. A riding accident involves not only the priority of getting help for the injured rider but also calming and looking after the horse. If the horse does not need a vet, at some point it will have to be taken 'home'.

If enough help is already there, the most helpful thing you can usually do is Go Away. There's nothing more UNhelpful than "rubber-neckers" (with or without busy mobile phones) hanging around and having to be "managed" by whoever's speaking to emergency services.

Taking photos in such a situation is an invasion of privacy. Would you want to be photographed in agony, covered in mud or blood?? No! So don't do it to other people.

### ***If the Air Ambulance is Coming***

Their first priority is a safe landing space – CLEAR of trees, power lines etc, and HORSES. The mounts of involved helpers need to be moved to a safe place if the helicopter is to land near the casualty. If there is an injured horse that cannot be moved the helicopter should be asked to land as far away from the horse as practical given that the injured person is *their* priority.

Other mounts should be ridden off; preferably venue or home-wards unless the terrain means it's safer to go back in order not to be involved with the helicopter.

### ***Getting Horses Home***

Once the injured human has been dealt with the next problem is getting an uninjured horse back to the Venue or to a safe place. People willing to ride, lead, or ride and lead, a strange horse can be Very Useful Indeed, but may need to hang around - preferably with a helper of their own so that gates etc can be dealt with on the way – until other matters have been sorted out.

### ***If a Vet is Needed at an LRBA Ride***

The Ride Secretary should have the phone number(s) of local equine vet(s) in case the Ride is outside your own vet's normal area. LRBA is willing to help with practical matters, including calling the vet, BUT CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY BILLS THAT RESULT. Riders and owners are responsible for settling all accounts for treatment directly with the veterinary surgeon concerned

# Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rides Programme is...

..enclosed with this *Newsletter*. Thirteen Rides are on offer between April and October. A mix of old Rides revived and long-established favourites. And, for the second year, a free *Starter Ride* for a maximum of 10 hacking novices, but this time at Burrough Hill Country Park to learn how to deal with gates and hills. 2 June is in half-term week, specially so young riders can attend. It's also, appropriately, *BHS Access Week*.

We have two Rides on 'significant' days – *Charnwood* on 23 April (St George/Shakespeare) and *Vale of Belvoir* on US Independence Day, 4 July. Participants can brighten our lives by coming 'in character'. Didn't Yankee Doodle Dandy come riding on a pony with a feather in his hat???

Old Rides Revived includes *Four Counties* on 26 June in the far west which was last run some time in the mid-1990s. In August in mid-Leicestershire we have *Hungarton*, our very first 1991 Ride, on 13<sup>th</sup> and a Ride from *Somerby* on the 28<sup>th</sup> based a long-ago one-off John o'Gaunt Ride. *Yelvertoft*, from the early 1990s when the A14 was about to be built, ends our season on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and may or may not include a new BW (courtesy of the M1 Junction 19 rebuild).

Our Evening Encounters are *Hambleton Bluebells* on 11 May, *Bosworth Battlefield* on 7 June, *Prestwold* on 24 June, and *Vale of Belvoir* on 4 July.

Old Faithfuls are *Exton* on 9 July, *Nene Valley* on 11 Sept and *Gretton* in partnership with a re-run of **LITTLE FIELD OF HORRORS**. Gretton will test your map-reading + following-notes skills as it will have no special routemarking.

We look forward to old and new members joining us. It remains essential for all Ride participants to be LRBA members before they set off. The Programme is enclosed, wrapped around an Entry Form (which includes a membership application box, so everything on one sheet) and a copy of our *Rides: Rules & Information* which is essential reading beforehand.

## *What Ride Organisers Want From YOU ...*

Each year we hold a "wash-up and planning" meeting for our Ride Organisers where we start off by looking back at the previous season of Rides. Out of this comes a list of (relatively minor) moans but which would make their stressful days much easier if you, the Riders, could do them or not do them (as appropriate). In no particular order these are:

- *If you're booked in and find you can't come, please TELL US so stewards aren't kept hanging on waiting for you. Text the on-the-day mobile number if it's last minute.*
- Send an A5 (16 x 23cm, same size as this *Newsletter*) stamped, addressed envelope for your Ride Map & Notes with your Entry Form and cheque.
- Read the *Rides: Rules & Information* leaflet so you know what to expect of an LRBA Ride and what we expect of you **before** you sign the Entry Form. If you haven't been sent a copy, find it on [www.bridleways.com](http://www.bridleways.com). **This year several items have been highlighted as Rules that you MUST follow.**
- *Arrive at the Venue from the correct direction as per the Directions with the Ride Notes; often there's a reason for the recommended route. Don't blindly follow your satnav.*
- Take time to study the route map and Notes. Then it's less likely you'll miss a vital turn and get lost. No fun for you – or us if we have to come searching.

- *The route has not been reserved just for riders. Be considerate towards anyone you meet. The LRBA on your orange vest identifies us. So we get the blame if you've been a pain!*
- *Come with cash for parking charges, charity collections or to buy any provided food.*
- *Make sure, before you ride off, that you know what routemarking to look out for. Heavy rain just before may have meant the intended system had to be changed. Ask!*
- *Please DON'T clean out your box at the Venue. It's unsightly and could be a health hazard. Have a bin bag to scoop the poo into.*
- *If you've been sent L/R & B notices to display on your windscreen to assist the parking stewards, PLEASE hand them both back before you leave. We need them for next time.*
- *Don't hang around at the Venue socialising with a few friends when everyone else has departed. LRBA's volunteers need to get home to relax – they've had a long day.*

A lot of work is put in to make it as good as possible for you. Please help us to help you.

**And we also need to hear from you about what works and what doesn't. If it's particular to that Ride, discuss it with the Ride Secretary on the day. NB: 'discussion' is better than 'moan'. Or, if it's something to do with our Rides organisation generally, contact our new Rides Co-ordinator Janet Benskin, [jcbenskin@btinternet.com](mailto:jcbenskin@btinternet.com)**

## *B I T S*

**Neighbourhood Development Plans update:** The parishes of **Desford, Leicester Forest East and Hoby with Rotherby** are starting out on the NDP process (see Jan 2016 *Newsletter*). **Blaby parish** is consulting on a submission version – [Comments by 8 April, by 8 April](#). **Uppingham's** NDP has been submitted and adopted and is now in Rutland's Development Plan.

**Retiring RoW Inspectors:** *We are saying 'goodbye' to Paul Logue, Rutland RoWI and Barry Clarke, Charnwood RoWI for Leics CC who are both taking early retirement. Barry has been with LCC for several years. Paul has had a shorter spell in Rutland but, as a rider, has been particularly useful in sorting out riders' problems with their BWs. We wish them both a long, happy, restful and stress-free 'holiday'. Complaints about RoW problems in Rutland should go to [rightsofway@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:rightsofway@rutland.gov.uk). In Leics continue to use the county council's telephone and online reporting systems. Their colleagues will do their best to deal with urgent matters, despite ever-tougher budget restrictions. Shortage of funds is affecting the staffing of RoW depts – expect many changes. We will tell you about new arrangements in due course.*

**The Viking Way N of Saltby Airfield** has been permanently closed to motors by Lincs CC but bollards forming a *Kent Carriage Gap* make it possible for certain sizes of carriages as well as ridden horses to use the Way from the Airfield northwards. S of the Airfield it is a Leics' unsealed road so still vulnerable to being scarred by motorised use when the ground is soft.

**Footpath that should be a BW??** *Rutland County Council has received an application to add a footpath from Bradley Lane, Clipsham to the edge of Clipsham Park Wood. The path would run off BW E133 and Rosemary Harris, BHS District Access & Bridleways Officer for Rutland would like to know if any riders have ever used it and whether it should be a BW rather than a footpath. Contact Rosemary at [harrisrose@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:harrisrose@tiscali.co.uk)*

**Cycle Races/sportives:** To note are *Dare2b Rutland* 104 miles on 23Apr; *Rutland-Melton International Cycle Classic* on 24 Apr, 180km, both using roads in Rutland + E Leics. *Rutland Border Epique*, 12 June and *Leicestershire Supertour* Sun 26 June, covering much of the county.

# 25th Annual General Meeting

We are not holding a formal AGM this year to review 2015 but instead will do the necessary business by post as our Constitution allows.

This means all members can be involved without having to travel to a meeting although we hope to welcome as many of you as possible to our Anniversary Reception at Leicester University's Botanical Gardens on Wednesday 4 May, the formal invitation to which is on the front page, during which there will be a brief announcement of the results.

**PLEASE VOTE by completing, signing and returning the enclosed voting paper to the Hon. Secretary by Saturday 30 April in the addressed envelope provided.**

## Agenda -

*The Minutes of the AGM held on 20 April 2015 have been approved by the Executive Committee and can be seen on our website - [www.bridleways.com](http://www.bridleways.com)*

- 1. Annual Report for year ended 31 December 2015.** Report follows on pages 6-8. Adoption proposed by Roger Linford, seconded by Lynne Pass.
- 2. Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 December 2015.** Report follows on page 8. Adoption proposed by Kim Hall, seconded by Janet Benskin
- 3. Annual Accounts for year ended 31 December 2015** follow on page 9. Adoption proposed by Vicky Allen, seconded by Liz Woolston

*Queries on the Reports or Accounts can be sent with your voting paper or to [rgl@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:rgl@dmu.ac.uk)*

- 4. Appointment of the Auditor for 2016. Mr Philip Daulby FMAAT is proposed** by Anne Grange, seconded by Liz Woolston.
- 5. Honorarium of £500 for Vicky Allen for her actions in 2015** proposed by Roger Linford, seconded by Liz Woolston.
- 6. Appointment of President.** The Executive Committee recommends to the membership that Vicky Allen be appointed President of the Association for a term of 10 years. *Vicky founded the Association in 1991 and has served as Chair ever since.*
- 7. Election of Honorary Officers of the Association**
  - a. Chair - Kim Hall is proposed** by Vicky Allen, seconded by John Coleman. *Kim joined the Committee in 2002 and has been Vice-Chair for several years.*
  - b. Honorary Treasurer - Anne Grange is proposed** by Liz Woolston, seconded by Vicky Allen. *Anne has served as Treasurer since 2012.*
  - c. Honorary Secretary - Roger Linford is proposed** by Kim Hall, seconded by Anne Grange. *Roger has been Secretary since 2009.*

- 8. Confirmation of appointment + re-election of co-opted Executive Committee members.** Janet Benskin (now Rides Programme Co-ordinator) and Lynne Pass were co-opted to the Committee in July 2015. Proposed by Peter Linford, seconded by Kim Hall.

- 9. Re-appointment of other Executive Committee members,** Vicky Allen, John Coleman, Liz Woolston (Membership Sec). Proposed by Roger Linford, seconded by Anne Grange.

*NB The Constitution does not provide for the President to automatically serve on the Executive.*

**Other nominations to the Committee are welcomed and should be sent to the Hon Secretary so that they can be invited to the Committee's July meeting. PLEASE VOTE**

**Leicestershire & Rutland Bridleways Association**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**  
**1 January – 13 December 2015**

By the time members read this we will have passed the twenty-fifth anniversary of our founding meeting on 13 March 1991 and be looking forward to this summer's celebrations of our Glorious Twenty Fifth. Unfortunately (?) we don't do gilded carriages, crowns and be-braided flunkeys, although we do "do" horses, so you will have to enjoy something rather more down-to-earth.

Down to earth is what we've always tried to be. Low key rather than strident. Factually persuasive rather than screaming like spoilt children. And, hopefully, effective in a quiet way. But that is not to say that we don't stand and fight our corner from time to time when riders are getting the "short end of the stick" – or just 'stick'. Even our Rides are low key, with the joint aims of education and enjoyment rather than speed or competition.

I could use much of this space looking back at the triumphs, successes, improvements and even the failures of the last 25 years but, as ever, the last year has been quite busy enough to provide a full Report and leave no time for looking back. And, quite frankly, it has always been so. Briefly enjoying the satisfaction of a "win", coming down to earth (again!) with the next day's news of a setback, and getting on with solving the next problem, whether for a member, a non-member, or the good of the riding community as a whole, leaves little time for recording these occurrences anywhere but in our *Newsletter*. Read the back issues on the website for our back history. But one of my best memories was a short period when three major bridges (minimum £1M apiece) that I'd campaigned for were installed. I sulked when the flow of bridges stopped!

**Executive Committee:** In Spring 2015, we welcomed three new members. Lynne Pass from Overseal in the far west; John Coleman from Hoby, which is fairly far north although he rides, or has ridden, other people's horses in various parts of north and east Leicestershire, and Janet Benskin from Oadby who is well known to many members for her expertly efficient organisation of our mass *Round the Boundaries* rides 2006-2010. A logistical exercise of truly military proportions. Janet replaced Anne John (also from Oadby) who had been a Committee member for more years than she, or I, cared to calculate and retired at our AGM.

Lynne brings useful knowledge of the very different conditions in the National Forest to our discussions, where she represents riders on the *Heart of the Forest Forum's Access & Connectivity Working Group* and, as a teacher, is very interested in education. John's useful practical knowledge from riding over a wide area and his close involvement with various groups in his parish, has led to him being deputed to deal with planning applications in Melton Borough that could have benefits or dis-benefits for riders. Roger Linford has taken a similar role in Rutland. Janet is taking over the large task of Rides Programme Co-ordinator from me and will be fully in charge by the end of 2016. Her different 'take' on various aspects is leading to a useful in-depth look at how we run our Rides programme.

The other, highly valued, members of the Committee are Kim Hall (Vice-Chair), Anne Grange (Hon Treasurer), Liz Woolston (Membership Secretary) and the aforementioned Roger Linford who picks up a varied set of pieces as Honorary Secretary. Our thanks are due to them all as the workload between meetings is ever-increasing.

**Membership.** The innovation of requiring all Ride participants to be LRBA members has boosted us by 101 to the terrific total of 486 at the year-end. This means we have made up the usual shortfall (normally about 50 non-renewers) and substantially increased membership. In the process we've welcomed back 17 previous members. I hope the new/rejoined members are enjoying our Rides, our *Newsletters* and will attend our Area Meetings – where we get really

down-to-earth with the nitty-gritty of local problems and how to solve them. Very useful information which helps everyone passes to and fro at these Meetings.

**Rides.** All eleven planned Rides went ahead as 2015's weather was relatively kind. The main innovation, organised by Lynne Pass and Mary Holland, was the *Hicks Lodge Starter Ride* on 28 May. Starter Rides are meant to be an introduction to hacking for Nervous Novices, although I wouldn't have described a horse that had just done Badminton as a nervous anything. And the rider, (not post-Badminton), didn't seem nervous either. But half the 10 participants were under-18s, another group we want to attract. It's important that children are introduced to hacking so they can come back to it later when the thrills of competition have worn off.

Unfortunately, the planned map reading training in the Hicks Lodge cafe proved impractical but was replaced by the first of several hat and back protector checks that were highly enlightening about the age of the safety equipment many of us were (are?) still wearing. Shocking!! I shocked myself into urgent purchase of a new hat.

For the first time the Air Ambulance was called to one of our Rides – the popular *Hambleton Bluebells* on 12 May. Luckily the rider had no serious injury. However, the possible repercussions of a future, worse, accident have made the Executive Committee consider what steps would be needed in such a case and several changes will be made in 2016 to our *Ride Rules* which will affect most entrants and will mean we need more helpers at the venue on the day. Help! Please!!

Apart from the Skeffington Ride, which was a re-run of the 2014 Ride nearly drowned out by the tail-end of Hurricane Bertha, all Ride entries were slightly down on 2014, possibly because of the new membership requirement. But the appreciation of Riders, almost all of whom return to the venue full of thanks and smiles, means a great deal to our Organisers and helpers without whom none of these events would happen.

Personal **Historic Research** has taken a back seat this year with only a few visits to the County Record Office in Wigston, but both the Leicestershire and the South Lincs & Rutland Local Access Forums have been working hard to gather volunteers for a systematic attack on the historic records that might reveal lost routes. So far, most of the potential volunteers seem to be coming from a walking background. They may discover *really lost* routes which *may* have at least bridleway status, but may skip over existing footpaths – as not “lost” – which should really be bridleways. So we need to find more volunteers from within the riding community to help with the trawl through the archives so that as many claims as possible are put in by 31 December 2025 (commonly known as “the 2026 cut-off”) after which it will be exceedingly difficult to rescue lost routes. The two LAFs are trying to set up a day in 2016 when local volunteers can receive training from the two “Grand Gurus” of historical Rights of Way research – Dr Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks of the BHS. As the venue is likely to be in Leicestershire, this will be an opportunity not to be missed.

**Planning.** There seems to have been a continuous trickle/stream of planning proposals that need a response, either because they directly affect bridleways, or will put more traffic on the roads in a riding area, or are so large that they could provide other benefits. Putting equestrian provision “inside” provision for other non-motorised users seems to be the key to success – we are ‘sharers’ not ‘grabbers’. This means looking at a much wider area than the site itself and also being aware of the likely wishes of walkers, at least some types of cyclists – commuters, shoppers, recreational – and, of course, the disabled. I reckon that the response to any planning application that might give a decent return for riders takes a day to formulate the letter but a site visit is often of great benefit before the writing starts. My site visits over the year included: E Coast Mainline re level crossings that affect BWs used by Rutland members; Woolfox beside the

A1 to look at (unsatisfactory) siting of wind turbines near several BWs (refused but a solar farm will be built), Magna Park and the A5 near Lutterworth re huge expansion of this warehousing facility; Billesdon re site of turbine near a BW; and 2 visits to Woodville (NW Leics) re a housing estate already affecting a BW. Various other sites I knew well enough already and some I was able to leave to John Coleman or Roger Linford (see Executive Committee above).

Sometimes it is parish councils or other bodies that want our support in resisting or dealing with planning matters. This is gladly given wherever there is justification although we prefer to do it by writing our own, independent, response. Planning matters are so time and effort-consuming that it can be helpful to work closely with other groups whilst getting them to understand riders' needs.

**This will be my last report as Chairman.** The intention is that I be “kicked upstairs” to become President whilst Kim Hall, for so many years Vice-Chair, gets to be Chair at last. I shall still be around as there are still many tasks I have not managed to offload. Such as the *Newsletter*, Area Meetings and general advice. It is pleasing that it is generally new or non-members who come for advice. Long-standing members can usually cope with problems off their own bat, having learned how to do so over whatever part of the last 25 years they have been LRBA members. Educating people to stand (and fight) on their own two feet is one of our most important Aims. Thanks, good luck and success to everyone

*Vicky Allen, 9 Feb 2016*

## **Treasurer's Report for 2015**

In 2014 we made a slight loss due to installing a culvert to facilitate Leics to Rutland movement. In 2015 we have incurred a larger loss for a number of reasons. The Chairman has already commented on the gratifying increase in membership but more members mean more printing and postage costs. In addition, a *Newsletter* was moved from December to January putting the printing costs into a different year and some delayed website fees were paid. Prior to 2016, new Anniversary car stickers were purchased ready to go out in January plus some other Anniversary Year items. So a proportion of the 2015 loss is due to expenditure relating to other years.

Probably for the first time we made a loss on our Rides programme as income was down due to a slight reduction in entries for all Rides except one whilst expenditure on expenses for Organisers and helpers went up. Additionally the two Ride Kits were refreshed and extended in several ways including the purchase of more substantial boxes to withstand the rigours of being hauled around the counties. Instead of holding the Rides Planning meeting in January (2016), it was brought forward to October 2015 so we could plan for 2016 in good time, and our new Rides Programme Organiser required a complete set of OS maps. Our money-raising potential from Rides is often limited by the carrying capacity of the venues available to us.

LRBA is keen for members to be 'educated' so sent Committee members to a *Restoring the Record* training day at BHS HQ so that they are better equipped to research and save lost historic routes and the Chairman also attended the Institute of Professional Rights of Way Officers two-day *Update* in Derby – very useful but not cheap. We have also pre-paid the fee for an equestrian-based First Aid course to be held in April mainly for the benefit of our Ride volunteers but including other members.

Nevertheless the Association's financial position remains healthy with substantial reserves but the Committee will keep the situation under close review.

*Anne Grange, Hon Treasurer, Feb 2016*



**LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015**  
(Final figures for 2014 in brackets)

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT to 31 December 2015:**

	£	£		£
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			<b><u>Income</u></b>	
<b>General Administration</b>			<b>Membership subs</b>	4860.04
Printing & Stationery	323.84		(3780.04)	
Postage & telephone	118.61			
Definitive Map research	58.00		<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Publications & maps	175.39		Bank interest (16.91)	56.01
Affiliation fees	115.00		Sundry	2.03
Travel expenses	590.10			
Conference fee	384.00			
Prof. fees & honoraria	680.00			
Miscellaneous	50.00			
Website	<u>275.05</u>	2769.99		
(2276.17)				
<b>Newsletter &amp; Membership forms</b>			<b>Newsletter advertising</b>	
Printing & postage (1193.05)		2105.35	(0.00)	10.00
<b>Meetings &amp; Social Events</b>			<b>Meetings &amp; Social Events</b>	
AGM expenses (0.00)	50.00		AGM income (0.00)	255.00
Other meetings (330.82)	<u>488.37</u>	538.37		
<b>Mounted Events (1622.07)</b>		2394.68	<b>Mounted Events (2563)</b>	2100.00
<b>Project Funding (737.87)</b>		0.00		
<b>Donations (400)</b>			<b>Donations (291.89)</b>	
Derbys, Leics & Rutland Air Ambulance	<u>450.00</u>		Charity Collections	<u>306.57</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>8258.39</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7589.65</b>
(6759.98)			(6651.84)	
Surplus/Deficit (-108.14)		<u>-668.74</u>		
		<b><u>7589.65</u></b>		<b><u>7589.65</u></b>

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2015**

<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>	£	<b><u>Assets</u></b>	£
Accumulated Fund at 1 Jan 2015	14209.02	Deposit Account	12591.11
<b>Less: Deficit for year</b>	<u>- 668.74</u>	Current Account	<u>949.17</u>
	<b><u>13540.28</u></b>		<b><u>13540.28</u></b>

*Based on the documents, records and explanations as provided to me, I am of the opinion that the Income & Expenditure Account shows all the income due and expenditure incurred for the period and that the Balance Sheet shows the true position of the Association as at 31 December 2015*

Signed: P C Daulby FMAAT, Hon Auditor, 17 March 2016

## Been There? Try this!

There's been a video on social media aimed at encouraging motorists to pass horses safely. Which has spawned the usual rants.

Typical RANT: *"In this day and age the bl\*\*dy s\*\*t machines shouldn't be on public highways. Riders never clean up after themselves. Their s\*\*t is a major hazard to cyclists and motor cyclists. They should be banned from the roads - etc etc etc"*

REPLY (NB there's no objective evidence horse poo is a safety issue) : -

*Cyclists could avoid horse s\*\*t by sticking to cycleways where horses are banned. Motorcyclists could avoid it by sticking to motorways and those dual carriageways where horses are banned.*

Ah, wait a minute!

*That leaves them trying to use a fragmented network that assumes they can get to these routes along public roads that are legally open to all.*

*So in exactly the same position as horse riders are in as regards BWs or byways*

**And it's not just the ranters:** recently LRBA had to point out to the designers of a light-controlled crossing where a BW carrying the *Midshires Way* crosses an A road into a side road that it required a Pegasus crossing rather than just a Pelican (for walkers & cyclists). Response was *"that the bridleway rights stop at the road"*. Vision of helicoptered / parachuted horses!!!

## City News

**Leicester has added the whole of the Great Central Way in the City to its Definitive Map (DM) as a BW.** The route continues through Bede Park to The Newarke, meaning riders can now legally ride from Blaby/Glen Parva to almost the centre of Leicester on a continuous BW created on an old railway with just one road crossing.

**To get riders northwards** LRBA is working with the City to decide which cycling facility it will be best to share to get us across the Narborough Rd/King Richard's Rd junction to the lengthy Ralli Park (also a former rail route) heading NW. Then into some minor streets – Stoke, Copeland, Birkenshaw, Stenson, Dillon – to cross New Parks Boulevard and the Groby Rd using the lights (it works; I've ridden it) and go on northwards using wide verges and cycle tracks into the Beaumont Leys/Castle Hill Park area with its cycle routes and BWs. From there we want to create a link eastward to Watermead Park and are looking at various large housing developments to see if they can assist. The City is keen to link the Castle Hill and Watermead parks.

The City has also **added the tiny bit of BW D25 to its DM.** D25 starts on the Houghton Lane E of Stoughton and heads NW, crossing the **Thurnby-Stoughton** road and stopping on current maps at the city/county boundary. The narrow track between two gardens is now a BW and legally reaches Newhaven Rd. A gap has, at long last, been filled.

Leicester was not required to create a Definitive Map in 1950/1 as it was then a County Borough. Creating one now is a slow process.

We are working with the City not only to create the N-S route continuing the Great Central Way but also in devising a *Round the City* route to complement our *Boundaries* routes for Rutland and Leics. We will try to take advantage of some of the large developments outside the city boundary in order to get new routes or better connections.

## *Avoid the Yellow Peril*

Yes, that's Ragwort! Turning-out time is with us. So is poo-picking. That means you have your eyes to the ground so there's a good chance of spotting ragwort in its rosette stage.

- Learn to distinguish the rosettes from thistles or dandelions. And its eventual yellow flowers from all the other yellow flowers.
- Ragwort is toxic to both (wo)man and beast. It contains alkaloids that cause cirrhosis of the liver. There's no known antidote. In equines it can lead to death.
- Root it up immediately as horses do eat it in the green stage – I've seen the chewed off stalks.
- Prevent it re-growing by using a specialist fork that extracts the long roots intact.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing to do this and bag it immediately.
- Don't leave it on the ground. Dead or dying it releases sugars that make it more palatable. It remains poisonous in hay, haylage or silage.
- The worst sin is to leave flowering ragwort long enough for it to seed. It will then grow next year on thinly vegetated land.
- Flowering ragwort may still set seed even when pulled. Seeds spread. A ragwort plant produces thousands of seeds.
- The best disposal option for most of us is by bagging it securely and sending it to landfill. *Don't* put it into the compost bin. Incineration can only be done in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Air* and any local byelaws.
- Flowering ragwort on or within 50m of land used for grazing or feed/forage production creates High Risk. Within 50m-100m of such land it creates Medium Risk.
- Not your land? First step is contact the land occupier. If this doesn't work complaint can be made to Natural England; enforcement notices can be issued requiring action to prevent spread of the weed.

There are a number of options for ragwort control, depending on its density and the acreage affected. Any herbicide treatment usually involves removing the stock (for up to 3 weeks).

As horse paddocks are usually of moderate size our most practical method involves sharp eyes, swiftly pulling/levering the plant out, and careful disposal.

TIP: pulling/levering is easiest when ground is fairly wet

*With acknowledgement to Farmers Weekly 4 Sept 2015 + thanks to Jean Stanley for passing this on.*

## **DOG ATTACK - AND AFTERWARDS**

A new member reports:

*I was the rider whose horse was attacked by a dog on the Conkers Ride. Just to update – I reported the incident to the police and obtained a crime number. I also reported it to the BHS and it appears on their incidents map. The BHS were very helpful in informing me about current legislation around dangerous dogs and were very sympathetic. They also emailed a few weeks after the report to ask if they could pass my details to the local dog warden. I agreed but didn't hear anything more. My mare suffered no lasting physical injuries but is now anxious if loose dogs run towards her.*

*But the Conkers ride was one of my favourite rides of 2015 despite the incident and I hope to come along again in 2016. I am very happy to now be an LRBA member and look forward to taking part in more events.*

*Best wishes, Louise + Bea*

We are so glad the incident hasn't put Louise (or Bea) off. And look forward to seeing them this summer. The Conkers Ride has been dropped this year in favour of revived the 4 Counties Ride.

## *Spring Area Meetings*

Area Meetings are informal and are open to both members and non-members. They concentrate on local routes and members who have offered to be BW Guardians are *needed* at these meetings with up-to-date reports - either good or bad - on the condition of their BWs. The Notes of the Autumn 2015 meetings were emailed to all those members riding in Leicestershire and Rutland for whom we have up to date email addresses. Printed copies are enclosed; please check any problems in your locality and give reports to the Meeting.

**Please attend - and bring a friend.**

If you can't attend, use the tel nos shown to give apologies, reports or raise issues. Or to get directions. NOTE: the Blaby & W Harborough and Charnwood meetings are at new venues.

**Tues 19 Apr MELTON 7.30pm** Blue Bell Inn, Main St, Hoby LE14 3DT. LRBA tel: 01664 434120

**Mon 25 Apr NW LEICS 7-9pm** Marlene Reid Centre (MRC), Belvoir St, Coalville LE67 3PH. Parking in Marlborough Square or behind Centre. LRBA tel: 01283 760353

**Tues 10 May BLABY & HARBOROUGH WEST (of A6) 7.30 -9.30 pm.** Room at back of Blaby Social Centre, (NOT the Civic Centre but further N, nearer A426), Leicester Rd, Blaby LE8 4GQ. Large car park. All local members of LRBA and BRRRA invited. LRBA tel: 0116 247 8214

**Tues 17 May RUTLAND 7.30-10pm** Don Paddy's upstairs room, Market Place, Uppingham LE15 9QH. LRBA tel: 01572 72232

**Wed 18 May HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH 7.30pm.** Sutton Cheney Village Hall, Main St (near Hercules Revived pub) CV13 0AG. LRBA tel: 01509 215619

**Fri 20 May CHARNWOOD 7.30- 9.30pm** Bishop Beveridge Club, 22 South St, Barrow LE12 8LZ. Limited parking at rear. Park on road or Hunting Lodge car park. Especially need members from Anstey/Cropston area to help look closely at riding routes into & around edge of Leicester. LRBA tel: 01509 215619

**Wed 25 May HARBOROUGH EAST (of the A6) 7.30pm,** Keythorpe Lakes LE7 9EX. Take A47 to Tugby, go thru village and at x-rds go straight ahead. Look for buildings and BW sign on L. Turn L here and go past houses, bearing L and down slope to bungalow. LRBA tel: 0116 271 9721

**If you've not yet renewed your membership or haven't returned your Renewal Form** you can remedy this by returning your Form (+ cheque if you don't pay by standing order) to the Hon Secretary with the AGM Voting Form and your application to join us at our **25 Years of LRBA Anniversary Reception** on 4 May. A helpful envelope addressed to our Hon Secretary is enclosed along with the joint voting / application form.

If you're sending a Renewal Form, *please* complete both sides so our information on you is up to date. The question about cost of keeping your horses in 2015 is particularly important. We're getting some very interesting responses indicating that recreational horse-keeping may be putting far more into the rural economy than in our previous surveys. This makes a powerful argument for having our needs considered however 'painful' the individual totals feel. The more responses we have, the more accurate our final figures will be. Don't be afraid - count the cost!

Looking forward to hearing from you - and seeing you on 4 May. *Vicky*

**Leics & Rutland Bridleways Assn, c/o 123 Park Rd, Loughborough LE11 2HD Tel: 01509 215619  
www.bridleways.com e-mail: vicky.allen@freeuk.com**