

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BHS Cleveland had a very successful year in 2014 and we aim to make 2015 even better! Christmas festivities have been and gone. We got into the Christmas spirit by hosting a quiz at Lucky's Playbarn in Stokesley. The winning team walked away with £100.00 prize money.



Jill Horseman, BHS Cleveland Chair

Aside from fundraising, BHS Cleveland has been particularly successful with membership (explained later in the report).

We would like to thank all of our members old and new for their continued support as our ever dedicated committee continue to work hard on your behalf. We have already started planning exam training, shows and other events for 2015. If you have any ideas or would like to be involved in BHS Cleveland work, please contact me on [jehequine@o2.co.uk](mailto:jehequine@o2.co.uk) or 07712 483771. From all of us on the committee, we wish you and your four legged friends the very best for 2015.

*Jill*

We are very pleased to report that after numerous telephone calls from Barbi who helps Wendy in the North Region office, we have successfully gathered over 78% of members' email contacts in Cleveland.

Our ultimate aim is to use email to communicate with our members whenever possible. The money we save from production and distribution can be used elsewhere to help members and horses in the region.

If we don't have your email address, please contact the North Region office on 01388 603960.

### Our Committee

All of our activities are undertaken by our committed volunteer team.

Chairman - Jill Horseman

Vice Chairman - Elly Thomson

Secretary - Joan Adkin

Treasurer - Ian Cross

Communications Officer -  
Isabell Nicholls

Communications Officer - Facebook  
Lorraine Arkless

Membership Secretary - Rebecca Pink

County Access and Bridleways Officer -  
Dr John Sugden

County Education Officer -  
Elly Thomson

County Events Officer - Bev Nicholson

County Riding and Road Safety Officer  
and County Safety Officer -  
Brenda Gray

County Lead Welfare Officer -  
Claire Robinson

### Committee Vacancies

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers. We are especially looking for people to help run events.

Email [volunteer@bhs.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@bhs.org.uk) to find out more.

**All our volunteers and members are supported by our**

**Development Officer**

**Wendy Suddes**

## Access and Bridleways

Members from across the North Region have embarked on the huge task of researching historic routes; the work has kindly been funded so far by BHS North region. At the beginning of December, a group of intrepid researchers converged on Riding Mill in South Northumberland, under the expert tutelage of BHS Regional Access and Bridleways Officer, Sue Rogers. Historic Research provides a critical key to ensuring that previously unrecorded ancient paths and tracks are secured on the Definitive Map - therefore providing more safe, off-road routes for riders (and other vulnerable road users), for posterity. This newly formed team were undoubtedly enthralled and inspired by Sue's infectious enthusiasm- already planning their next trip to the archives. Anyone wishing to join this committed team - (complete beginners or seasoned campaigner welcome) should email sue on: [sue@greencroftpark.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:sue@greencroftpark.freeserve.co.uk)

Dr John Sugden's expertise in Access and Rights of Way is extremely important to the BHS in Cleveland and beyond. John has been conducting research and gathering evidence for many years in preparation for The Environment Bill which should become law later this year. When this happens, it will open the door to new applications to add bridleways to the definitive map. His research suggests that there will only be a handful of cases where bridleways were not recorded at all on either the definitive map or the lists of streets, and where there will be any cogent evidence that would justify an order. His research also highlights that a significant number of ways shown on the definitive map as footpaths were formerly stile-free and would have been at least physically open to horses at one time. Many of these may well have been bridleways that were incorrectly recorded on the original definitive map. He has decided to start by identifying in a systematic way all of these paths. John has gathered much of his information from the National Library of Scotland free of charge. The information will provide a framework for indicating potential under-recorded bridleways. **Watch this space!**

## Safety and Riding and Road safety

Lots of training has been available, including Ride and Road Safety training followed by the exam. The most recent session attracted 13 candidates and a 75% successful pass rate.

It is SO important that all riders and carriage drivers wear Hi-Viz whilst out and about- not only in the Winter but all year round. There have been several Road Traffic Collisions in the North East in recent months resulting in horse fatalities.

Thankfully no people have been killed but we all have a responsibility to protect our horses from harm. A minimum hi-viz vest and leg wraps for the horse is recommended. The pictures here clearly illustrate the need to be visible.

**BE SEEN – BE SAFE!!**

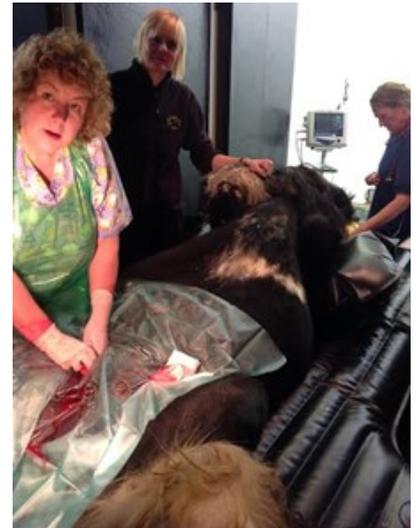


## Welfare

Our County Lead Welfare Officer Claire Robinson reports that the last twelve months have been busy with many equines and owners receiving the help that they have needed. Some of this is due to the very good working relationship between the BHS and the RSPCA in Cleveland, ensuring that calls are responded to promptly and effectively.

This year, we have again been working closely with Steven Gale at Stockton Borough Council. Steven successfully sourced funding from the local RSPCA Branch which allowed us to offer castration opportunities to deal with a number of low value youngsters in the Port Clarence area. Oakland's Veterinary Centre at Yarm, kindly agreed to continue their involvement and in May, 11 colts were castrated by Vet Liam Gamble.

Two castration days also ran in Hartlepool recently, a big thank you to Julie at 'Trot and Pop' for encouraging people to bring their colts forward. As a result of these days, several rigs (horses with one testicle) were identified and Vet Sally Booth, from the Robson and Prescott Practice, who has helped us so much this year, approached the Clevedale Practice at Upleatham who very kindly agreed for us to use their facilities to operate. Sally Booth is pictured performing one of the operations alongside the team at Clevedale.



## Education and Events

In October, BHS Cleveland ran its Inaugural open, in-hand and ridden show at Tunstall Farm by kind permission of Robinsons Equiteach. There was a great turnout and funds raised will be used to support welfare and training events. **Keep your eye on BHS Cleveland's Facebook page for news of future events!**

This year was our 9<sup>th</sup> annual BHS Cleveland camp held at Redcar Racecourse and it was a vintage year! We had great weather, great riders and of course, great horses. This year saw Anna Wedgewood become Camp champion. Anna has been a regular at summer camp since it began.

Pictured are the ladies in red, Anna and her lovely Highland Pony, Teddy.

In May, a ten week Horse Owners Certificate Course was attended by 8 people who enjoyed the sessions and passed the exam with flying colours.

Later in the year, Development Officer Wendy Sudes presented Part 1 of an Introduction to Dressage.

**Part 2 is scheduled for February 11 2015, 7.00-9.30pm at Tunstall Farm- all welcome.**



## Our Members

We are very proud to report that membership in Cleveland is leading the Country – at over 17% growth in 2014 . We ended the year with 549 members in total – what a result!

Jill Horseman,  
BHS Cleveland Chair,  
made a presentation to  
our 500th member, David  
Broadbent.

David from near Stockton  
was over the moon with  
his supersize rosette,  
certificate and goodie  
bag.



## Our Plans for next year

BHS Cleveland is planning on running further Riding and Road Safety training in the New Year. For more information contact Wendy Suddes on 07808 141005 or [wendy.suddes@bhs.org.uk](mailto:wendy.suddes@bhs.org.uk).

The Annual Summer Camp will be held at Redcar Racecourse in July – date to be confirmed, so please keep your eye out for this in British Horse.

The 2nd BHS Cleveland Annual Show will take place in October after the success of the 2014 first trial run! Check the website and British Horse for updates.

## North Regional News

This year we have continued with events, lecture demos and fundraising activities to boost regional funds. In 2014, we introduced a North Region Raffle to raise funds for the BHS Equine Grass Sickness Campaign.

We were thrilled to be generously donated a saddle by Barnsby and were most fortunate to secure a second prize of a bespoke wooden saddle horse generously given to us by Paul V Baxter of [www.thewoodenhorsecompany.com](http://www.thewoodenhorsecompany.com).

We are delighted to announce Emma Allan from Alnwick won the Barnsby saddle (pictured)  
Martin Armstrong from Durham won second prize.

Congratulations to those winners and thank you to everyone who supported the raffle, which raised over £1000.



## Photographs and thank you's

Claire Robinson, our County Lead Welfare

Officer has been honoured with a BHS Welfare Award.

This is so well deserved; Claire gives a huge amount of time to helping horses and ponies in need – her support is invaluable to us.



Dr John Sugden, our County Access and Bridleways Officer for Cleveland recently celebrated a truly remarkable 35 years as a volunteer for us! John's expertise is recognised nationally. We are so very fortunate to have his continued support.