

# Riding By Your Side 2020

AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY





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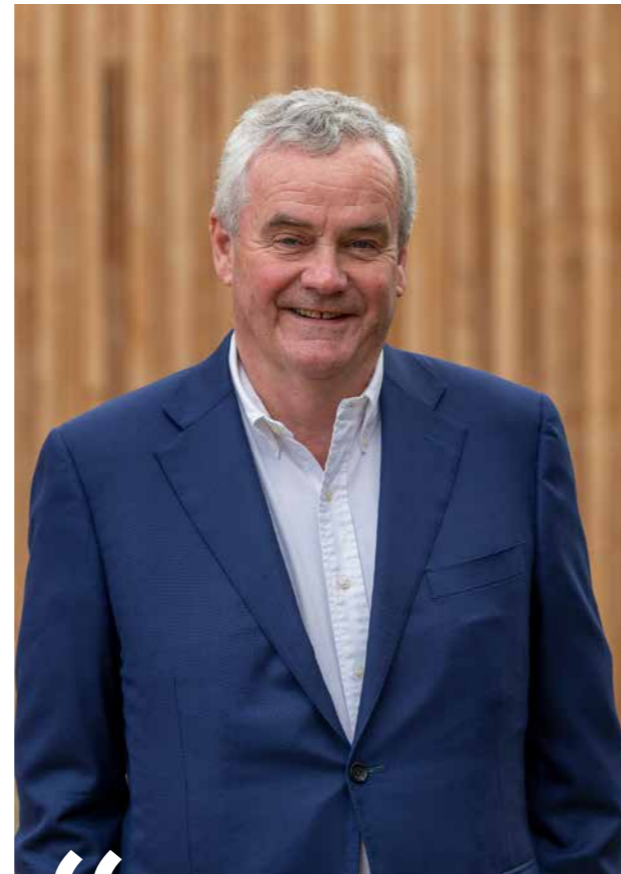
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# Chairman's introduction

In my introduction to last year's report I referred to the unheralded impact of the COVID 19 pandemic that precipitated the national lockdown in March 2020. The declaration of the global crisis and the subsequent period of restrictions, further lockdown and uncertainty affected everyone's lives, health, and livelihoods in some way.



It has been a time like no other for the BHS

**Our priority first and foremost throughout the pandemic has been the safety and wellbeing of our teams**, wherever they are located. We rose to the challenge of staying in touch while remaining apart. Our technology provision for our employees and wider team has performed extremely well, having equipped all our staff in early January 2020 with devices enabling remote access, and most significantly a video conferencing platform. As a result, we have been able to function as a business and to maintain a vital service to the equestrian community.

The senior management team introduced regular, initially daily, crisis management meetings and briefings, to ensure that all of our departments and service providers remained fully informed and knowledgeable in the ever-changing landscape we faced. The trustees have held frequent and agile board meetings to ensure that our governance kept pace with the crisis as it unfolded; implementing measures and safeguards to help equestrians through the crisis.

This organisational preparedness and responsiveness has been geared towards using the Society's resources to lead, give advice and to lobby on behalf of equestrians and equines everywhere; whilst also providing tangible financial support to those involved in equine participation to ensure they would survive and continue to care for and look after the horses and ponies they were responsible for.

As equine competition, participation and education were paralysed from March 2020 equestrians had a myriad of questions about how to go about their lives with horses, their horses' health and welfare, their own safety and wellbeing, what they were allowed to do, and not allowed to do under government guidelines. The BHS therefore developed quick and urgent response mechanisms with our Coronavirus Helpline, responding to thousands of queries, and our Coronavirus Hub of information, guidance and advice informing the equine world together with a regular flow of multi-channel member communications.

The Society also recognised the plight of individuals and businesses reliant upon equine activities not only to make a living but, most importantly to care for and feed the horses and ponies in their charge. Riding schools across the country were forced to close and many found it extremely difficult to cope with the challenges arising from the pandemic. The BHS supported them in a number of ways:

- 1 An immediate 12-month free period from BHS fees for Approved Riding Schools**
- 2 A payment holiday for Accredited Professional Coaches whose livelihood was at threat and who are key to future equestrian education**
- 3 The trustees commissioned a hardship fund in support of the horses and ponies in BHS riding schools and centres. This fund came primarily from the charity's resources both centrally and from across the regions and nations of the UK as well as from member donations via a national appeal. The aim was simple – for a claim to be straightforward – and to help where help was needed. This pioneering initiative remained in place throughout the year and by early 2021 the value of support had exceeded £1,000,000. It was gratefully received and we know from responses that the impact has been sustained. Without the coordination of resources and expertise across the entire Society this great team effort would not have been possible**

**The trustees are proud that the Society has used its reserves to support members, other key stakeholders and the horses and ponies in their care. The Society's hardship fund initiative was recognised by government and at the National Equine Forum in March 2021 by Lord Gardiner, the then parliamentary Undersecretary of State in Defra.**

- 4 The BHS was instrumental in lobbying for bringing indoor and covered arenas back into use. We continue to represent the industry as we return safely and sensibly back to something resembling normal activity.**

It has been a time like no other for the BHS, but throughout the uncertainty the whole Society has been determined to care for, support, inform and advise its members, partners and the whole equestrian community. Many of the lessons learned and changes in ways of working due to COVID 19 were positive and the Society will ensure that those beneficial practices are captured and remain part of how we do business.

We feel that we ended 2020 in a strong position – our wonderfully loyal membership not only stayed with the Society but many new members joined us. Additionally, in September we approved a longer-term strategy and earmarked funds for investment to improve our digital presence and communications with our growing membership.

As we have plotted a course through these unheralded times I must pay tribute to the hard work, dedication and enterprise of our executive team, superbly led by James Hick, our Chief Executive, my fellow trustees, past and present, who have been so committed and supportive of the Society's efforts and our brilliant volunteers, who have kept the Society moving forward despite so many challenges.

We are, like everyone, looking forward to brighter times, but most of all we wish everyone to be safe and well.

**Tim Lord**  
Chairman

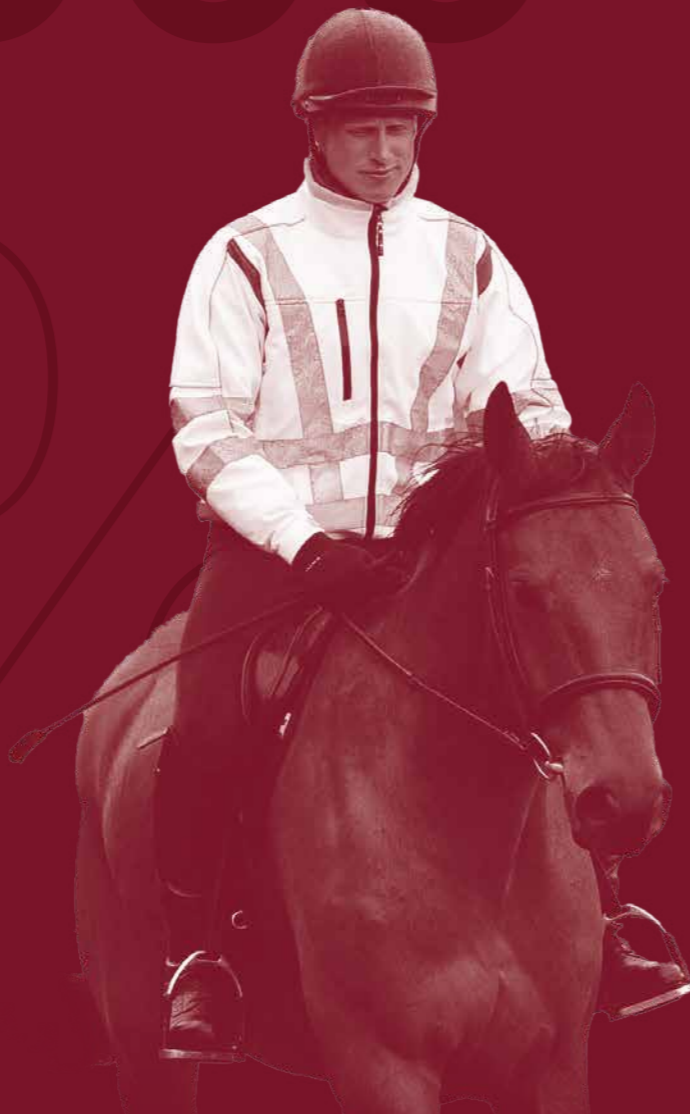


The BHS play a critical role in representing the views of those involved in the equine industry – through my work with them in the APPG for the Horse, I have been extremely impressed with their dedication and commitment to highlighting the issues which are pertinent to the equestrian community, specifically surrounding equine welfare, safety, safe riding routes and supporting greater participation. I am looking forward to continuing to work with and support the BHS in the future.

**Saqib Bhatti MBE,**  
Chair of APPG for the Horse

# 2020 At A Glance

## Summary and Highlights



### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

£12,582,000

Total revenue, down 3% reflecting impact of COVID / reduction in education and event-based revenues largely compensated for by the growth in membership revenues

£5,611,000

Unrestricted undesignated reserves at the year end

£11,289,000

invested in our charitable activities (12% reduction on prior year due to forced inactivity in many areas)

94p

in every £1 of membership subscription goes towards our charitable activities

### ★ SOCIETY KEY HIGHLIGHTS

7,965

new joiners, ending 2020 with 116,320 members

1,196

dedicated volunteers helped with local events and supported our Welfare, Safety, Access and Fundraising work

675

Approved Centres in the UK at the end of 2020 (including Horses Welcome)

Provided support and advice to our Approved Centres throughout the pandemic:

£1 million

support to 400 BHS Approved Centres during periods of lockdown, ensuring welfare needs were met through the provision of food, farriery and healthcare to riding school horses and ponies



Maintained close engagement, providing information and guidance, ranging from COVID-secure procedures, to advice on the availability of business support and government grants in the ever-changing landscape

BHS Coronavirus Helpline

and Coronavirus Hub provided guidance and advice to the equine community and responded to

2,120 enquiries

## ACCESS

635

applications registered as part of Project 2026 to recognise bridleways in England and Wales, and we continue to lobby for the deadline to be extended by 5 years

In Scotland, we responded to over

120

planning consultations on behalf of horse riders, with 60 access cases successfully concluded



In Northern Ireland, we are on track to publish our "Enabling Equestrian Access in Northern Ireland" document in late 2021



Ride Out UK events and our Rideathon made a valuable contribution to our Ride Out Fund, which funded or partnership-funded 5 projects in the year

4

Access Field Officers appointed covering Yorkshire, East, South West and the West and East Midlands

## EDUCATION

3,000

career pathway assessments delivered, by adapting the assessment methodology, training and guidance in accordance with COVID restrictions

5,000+

learners completed the Challenge Awards, many delivered virtually



Successful and well publicised two-day convention at Addington, attended by HRH Princess Anne

## FUNDRAISING AND ASSOCIATED INITIATIVES

£1,000,000

support to 400 BHS Riding Schools during periods of lockdown

£100,000+

raised by BHS COVID Appeal from donations and support from the general public, charitable trusts and industry suppliers

BHS Riding School fees worth £200,000 waived

£700,000+

from the BHS Hardship Fund created from charitable monies held within BHS reserves both centrally and regionally



Continue to grow the contribution from charitable trusts and granting bodies, in line with our charitable objectives:

- Considerable funding support for Changing Lives through Horses
- Secured £20,000 of funding to address Equine Grass Sickness to support a collaborative project between the BHS, Moredun Foundation, and the Equine Grass Sickness Fund
- Grant from the Department for Transport for vital research to improve reporting of horse rider and equine incidents and accidents on UK roads to the BHS horse incident database
- £50,000 secured from Derbyshire Environmental Trust to enable crucial maintenance and drainage work to a key bridleway

## WELFARE

Welfare Helpline Coordinators have supported over

11,000

people on a range of welfare and care topics



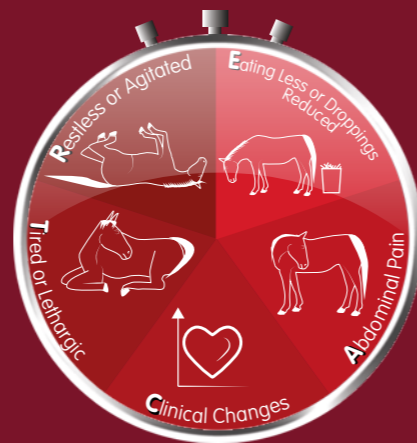
Our Friends At The End volunteers and staff have provided support to 45 horse owners

"Be Horse Aware" campaign reached

1 million

followers on social channels, raising awareness of the implications of the general public feeding horses or not closing gates

Participated in a large multi-agency operation, which involved the processing of 1,380 passports and microchipping of 70 horses



Second "Colic Awareness Week" held, with 3,000 people attending virtually and over 1,500 people signed up to receive their free Equine Care and Emergency Plan

## SAFETY

Dead Slow

15

Dead Slow campaign continues to gain momentum, working in partnership with both local authorities and commercial businesses to raise awareness

Invited to represent equestrianism in the Stakeholders Review Group alongside the Department of Transport, DVSA, Cycling UK and Living Streets

Awarded a grant from the Department of Transport to review and refine the Horse Incidents website and encourage more riders to report incidents



Henry the Horse

"Henry the Horse" initiative received very positive feedback from schools and parents. We received enquiries from 22 interested schools

# Strategic Report

Although our plans for 2020 were severely curtailed and adapted, the following pages comment on our achievements and activities with a measure of impact, by department, and aim to identify beneficiary groups where appropriate. Inevitably there are many references to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and our response as an organisation, our work on behalf of the industry, and our support for our members and stakeholders.



The BHS set up the hardship fund to help meet the cost associated with maintaining the health and wellbeing of horses and ponies. I thank the BHS for their collaboration with the Government to identify the implications that the changing COVID 19 restrictions have had on various equestrian activities.

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble**





## Enabling Access

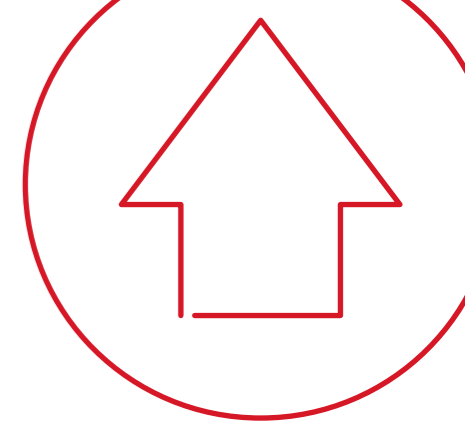
2020 was busy for the Access Team as they continued to roll out our Access Field Officer programme, appointing four more officers to cover Yorkshire, East, South West and the West and East Midlands. Due to the pandemic, we delivered all our training virtually, which meant we could train more people quickly and effectively.

During the pandemic, more people have been taking advantage of the great outdoors, which in turn has highlighted access issues. With more people using the public rights of way network, we have promoted how to use the network safely and responsibly.

We now have only five years to get bridleways recognised in England and Wales before the 2026 deadline. We continue to lobby for a five-year extension of the deadline, and we are pushing to record and safeguard as many routes as possible. Despite the challenge of many archives and records being closed due to the pandemic, our volunteers helped register another 635 applications during 2020 as part of our Project 2026. We are grateful to Sport England for extending our grant for a further year to support this work.



We continue our work to record and safeguard as many off-road routes as possible.



Although the pandemic put a halt to many Ride Out UK events, those that went ahead made a valuable contribution to the Ride Out Fund. The fund was also boosted by our Rideathon, where participants set out to cover 70km either by riding, carriage driving, walking or cycling. During 2020, the Ride Out Fund funded or partnership-funded five projects.

Our capacity in Scotland has grown significantly, and we now have forty access representatives and fifteen active equestrian access groups across the country. We have also formed stronger partnerships with other recreational groups through the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance, with a board seat on ScotWays and the role of convenor of the Scottish National Access Forum.



Time is running out to save our unrecorded historical bridleways in England. We need as much help as possible to make sure our children and grandchildren can continue to ride these routes in years to come.

**Mark Weston**  
Director of Access

During 2020, our Scottish team responded to over 120 planning consultations on behalf of horse riders and tackled over 70 access cases, providing an advocacy service and delivering training on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

For Northern Ireland, we're producing a new document "Enabling Equestrian Access in Northern Ireland" aimed at local authorities and relevant landowners. The aim is to encourage more equestrian access and educate people on how to make land publicly accessible.

# Educating Equestrians

COVID 19 regulations and lockdowns meant candidates on our career pathway couldn't progress through the stage qualifications as usual. We rose to the challenge - amending assessment methodology, as well as training and assessment guidance. We supported candidates, coaches and centres throughout the pandemic, and were able to deliver 3,000 assessments. We supported over 5,000 learners through our Challenge Awards, many delivered virtually by our Accredited Professional Coaches and Approved Riding Schools.

Before lockdown was announced, we were able to hold a successful two-day convention at Addington where we were joined by HRH Princess Anne, as well as hundreds of coaches. We were thrilled to get both national and international press coverage of this outstanding event.

Although our international programme was significantly curtailed, we maintained our links with our international centres and intend to be ready to deliver BHS standards whenever opportunity presents itself safely.



# Raising Funds

2020 was a difficult year for many, not least our BHS Approved Riding Schools. To support centres during the enforced closure, we set up a hardship fund and launched our COVID Appeal to generate donations and support from the public, raising over £100,000, including support from charitable trusts and industry suppliers. We added to this fund from both central and regional BHS reserves.

The aim was simple - for a claim to be straightforward and to help where help was needed. This pioneering initiative remained in place throughout the year and by early 2021 had provided over £1,000,000 of support. This has made sure welfare needs were met by providing food, farriery, and healthcare to riding school horses and ponies.

As part of our Fundraising Strategy, we secured grants from charitable trusts and granting bodies, including a grant from the Department of Transport. This grant supported vital research investigating why only 845 incidents and accidents were reported to the BHS database in 2018-19, when 3,447 patients needed hospital care after road incidents while riding a horse in the same period. Over the next two years, we aim to double the number of horse riders reporting road incidents to our specialist horse incident database.

We also secured £50,000 from Derbyshire Environmental Trust to perform crucial maintenance and drainage work to a bridleway that provides essential off-road access and connection to an extensive network of routes, including Shipwright's Way and Alice Holt Forest. It had become extremely unsafe due to its inadequate drainage. The project will drain, widen and resurface 850m of the 860m route.

Another successful funding bid was for a collaborative project between the BHS, Moredun Foundation, and the Equine Grass Sickness (ESG) Fund. The funds will help develop a biobank storing samples collected for research into ESG. This will include biological samples taken from the horse (pre- and post-mortem), as well as soil and plant samples from where the horse was grazing. This information should provide valuable insight into the yet undetermined cause of grass sickness.

Our Legacy campaign continues, and we received two considerable legacies during 2020. When not in periods of lockdown, we held a series of legacy days at BHS Approved Riding Schools. These days are an opportunity for those thinking about leaving a legacy to see what we do first-hand. This includes observing young people taking part in the Changing Lives through Horses programme and meeting some of the Second Chance horses and ponies who have been rehabilitated in our riding schools.

“The council said to start with that we didn't qualify for the Government grant, but the BHS helped me fill in the forms, so I'm crossing my fingers. They took me through all the paperwork for the BHS hardship £750 grant, too. That £750 meant I could get the farrier in and place a feed order that'll last us for a while. I know all these lovely people in the BHS - that's what's keeping me going! It's just been a nightmare, but the BHS have been fantastic - I kept saying to myself 'there is a God!'

**Carol Jones**  
Proprietor, Hole Farm (BHS Approved Centre)





# Increasing and Supporting Membership

We started 2020 with 108,355 members. By the end of the year we had 116,320 members, a net gain of 7,965 (7.35%) despite the challenges of a global pandemic.

## Despite the global pandemic, we increased our membership during 2020.

With the first national lockdown limiting people's activities, we were worried it could lead to a drop in membership. As that lockdown eased, we launched our Together We Can campaign to attract new members. We also made some changes to how we talk to members throughout the year, which led to more people renewing their membership.

To make it as easy and quick as possible for people to join us, we updated the sign up process on our website, making sure it worked as well on a mobile as on a desktop, in addition to updating the payment system.

Additionally, with the Brexit deadline looming we were concerned about our ability to offer insurance outside of the UK. This had a particular bearing for members in the Republic of Ireland. After months of research with our brokers SEIB and discussions with underwriters it became clear that there wasn't any way we could legally continue to offer insurance as part of our membership packages in the Republic of Ireland. It was a devastating message to have to give, but we will be ready to act quickly should the regulatory landscape change.



Ride Out UK  
hack in the  
countryside



With our community of Approved Centres facing such challenging circumstances, in 2020 we launched a programme of support, offering guidance and information, as well as financial support for the wellbeing of horses and ponies. With such prolonged enforced closures, the very core of the equine industry has never known such a threat to its future.

## Engaging and Supporting Our Community

In April, very quickly after the first national lockdown was announced, the trustees established the BHS Approved Centre Hardship Fund to support the welfare of Riding School horses and ponies. In addition to the Hardship Fund, the Approved Centre team kept in touch with centres throughout the crisis, making sure they had the most up to date and accurate information and guidance. This ranged from COVID-secure procedures to advice on the availability of business support and government grants. In an ever-changing landscape, the key was to make sure we were providing the correct interpretation of legislation and guidance.

Communication and engagement were the hallmarks of the team's approach, with personal telephone calls, virtual coffee mornings and social media involving centres sharing experiences, coping strategies and ideas to ensure survival. As a result, the BHS Approved Centre Facebook group now has nearly 800 members with many centres commenting on how helpful and efficient it has been for receiving updates, as well as the sense of community it has given them.

Despite the pandemic, we've continued to make sure that the BHS Approved Centre scheme remains world-renowned as a statement of quality for the high standards of care and services provided to horses and riders. Although we stopped inspecting centres with the first national lockdown, we've taken this time to look at how we manage and support Approved Centres and making sure we offer the right combination of inspections and business support.

We've given each region a designated Business Support Manager (BSM) as their BHS point of contact. The service will be much more customer-focused and personal, to make sure centres get the most out of being part of the scheme

We introduced a 'Pending Category' for Approval during 2020 to help such centres remain engaged with the idea of joining the scheme. This has proved successful so far and centres that joined in this category have priority for face-to-face inspection visits once they can be carried out safely.

Our Changing Lives Through Horses initiative was also affected by the pandemic, though we continued to provide the programme for disengaged young people whenever possible. We agreed with local authorities that centres should continue on a COVID-secure basis, with the emphasis on increased wellbeing. We were able to award 572 certificates in 2020, through 27 centres, 6 of them new to the programme. The programme now has strong links to the national curriculum, and we plan to refresh the course and coaching materials.



Our Regional and National Managers were busier than ever in 2020. The restrictions on 'face-to-face' events meant they had to become experts at online 'virtual' events. The team also supported members and the equestrian community throughout the pandemic by sharing information and answering queries.

We offered a broad programme of virtual events, including a series of special programmes for major events such as Windsor, Hickstead and the Horse of the Year Show.

Each of these were watched by thousands of equestrians across social media. With so many shows and major events cancelled, the Big BHS Online Photo Show was a resounding success with over 3,500 entries from across the UK resulting in regional and national winners. During late summer, there was a small window when we could hold face-to-face events and activities were held across the UK following COVID-safe protocols. These included day camps, pleasure rides and training days.

Our British Riding Clubs programme was understandably severely curtailed. Before lockdown, the BRC Arena Eventing was a huge success, with increased numbers across all classes. The BRC Dressage to Music ran with protocols in place, with both competitors and officials excited to be out and competing. However, with so much down time, it was important to keep clubs, officials, volunteers and members engaged, so we ran 16 virtual clinics with a total of 512 attendees. We ended the year with our first ever virtual competition – the BRC Christmas Cracker.

Our Changing Lives Through Horses initiative



Staying connected without meeting in person was a new challenge for us. In place of our usual programme of events, we held virtual events – which had a great response.

**Karen Irving**, Events, Bookshop & Merchandising Manager

# Promoting Safety

The Safety Team had specific challenges in 2020, but we have continued to develop the partnerships we've built with key stakeholders. We made significant impact in many areas, however the Dead Slow campaign remained our main focus.

We held virtual road and rider awareness events, and training for commercial driving companies on the Dead Slow campaign. These events inform drivers, riders and other vulnerable road users of responsibilities and advise how to stay safe on the roads when passing horses.

By working with road safety partners across the country, we're continually working towards creating a safer world for riders and horses.

**Alan Hiscox**  
Director of Safety

For Road Safety Week, we released our Dead Statistics for the year and had 56 pieces of local and national media coverage. We worked with road safety professionals to create a series of videos for the week which were viewed 71,000 times.

The Safety team has been instrumental in educating equestrians on how to tow safely through the APPG for Towing and the Highways England Towing. We have collaborated on instructional videos and sharing information with the police, Highways England and equestrians as an important part of this community.

Another major piece of work was the review of the Highway Code for vulnerable road users. We were part of the Stakeholders Review Group alongside the Department of Transport, DVSA, Cycling UK and Living Streets.

The pandemic hasn't stopped the Safety Team working with road safety partnerships, Road Safety GB or with the police, fire and rescue services, and driving instructors. Part of our partnership approach has been working with local authorities to place Dead Slow signs at locations where multiple near misses have been reported to the BHS on our Horse Incident website.

We were also able to continue with our 'Henry the Horse' initiative with schools from October, with a few changes to make sure we were COVID-safe. The initiative has had superb reviews from parents, headteachers and school children and is being evaluated by RoSPA. A highlight of the year was in October, when HRH The Princess Royal joined us at Holme St Cuthbert School in Cumbria, spending time with children in Years 5/6.

We have also been consulted by the Governmental Office of Product Safety and Standards regarding firework safety and equestrians.

## OUR SAFETY CAMPAIGNS



### Dead Slow

Aimed at improving the safety of horses, riders and carriage drivers on our roads, by educating drivers and giving safety advice & information to riders.

Dead Slow

15



## Henry the Horse

### Henry the Horse

An interactive way to show children between 9-10 how to walk or cycle safely past horses, this is also a chance to share Dead Slow messages with parents.

# Promoting and Supporting Welfare

**Before COVID 19 became a concern, we got off to a flying start with a successful healthcare and education clinic. 38 horses attended and 15 were castrated. With these clinics we can reach out to owners and communities who might not normally seek regular healthcare for their horses. This helps us to break the cycle of indiscriminate breeding and help vulnerable horses.**

We have plans for 2021 and we cannot wait to get back out when it is safe to do so. It is thanks to our members and donors that we can do our welfare activities and continue to work towards ending needless cases of neglect.

Following the lockdown announcement, all BHS staff began working from home as we closed our head office as with many organisations across the UK. The role of the welfare team quickly shifted, and our phone line became the main COVID 19 helpline to support horse owners, equestrian businesses, and coaches through these very challenging times. Our dedicated team were on hand to provide advice, support and reassurance, with extended hours introduced over weekends to make sure anyone could access this service when needed.





We created our Be Horse Aware campaign after reports of horses being made seriously ill, suffering significant injuries, and even dying, due to being fed by members of the public or because actions such as not closing a gate. We want to raise awareness among the public, about the importance of not feeding horses and of the Countryside Code. The promotion of this campaign had a significant impact with our Facebook posts, which over the Easter Bank Holiday reached 1 million people.

Our second Colic Awareness Week was held in October, with daily webinars produced and presented by the veterinary team at the University of Nottingham. We encouraged people to Pledge to React, putting a plan together in case their horse suffers with colic. 3,000 people joined in to watch these webinars and over 1,500 people signed up to receive their free Equine Care and Emergency Plan.

Alongside our COVID 19 helpline, we maintained our normal Welfare Helpline handling non-COVID-related welfare and care topics and offering support and advice. This year our experienced and knowledgeable Coordinators supported over 11,000 people.

As we moved into the first national lockdown, much of our voluntary work sadly had to be put on hold. However, our three employed Field Officers expanded their coverage and responded to any urgent concerns during lockdown. As lockdown eased, they quickly prioritised other concerns that were pending an assessment. Between of March to July, 238 concerns were responded to. In August, our volunteer Welfare Advisers across all nations returned to their role to support a further 675 concerns. In total, we processed over 1,385 concerns during 2020.

With continuous changes to circumstances during the year, many horse owners have had to make the very difficult decision on the future of their equine companion. However, our network of Friends At The End volunteers and staff help make sure no horse owner faces this loss alone and have supported 45 horse owners this year.

Our presence across social media platforms has allowed us to engage with horse owners and the general public, providing educational advice and support on key welfare issues.

On top of our proactive welfare work, our passport team are also on hand to answer any queries relating to your horse's passport or current passport regulations within the UK. We have seen a large surge in applications this year following changes to equine passporting laws within the processing over 1,380 passports in 2020.



# Supporting Welfare In 2020



**11,000+**  
people helped by our Welfare Helpline Coordinators

**2,120**  
coronavirus-related queries responded to

**1,385**  
welfare concerns processed

**4.7m**  
reached by our #WelfareWednesday and additional welfare posts

## WORKING WITH OTHERS TO SUPPORT HORSE WELFARE

An integral part of our work is working with other welfare organisations to help support horse owners and improve the welfare of horses in their care. With rescue centres at full capacity, this collaborative work has been more important than ever.

We were involved in a large multi-agency operation, which saw us passport and microchip 70 horses, alongside World Horse Welfare, Bransby Horses, Redwings Horse Sanctuary and the University of Cambridge Vet School. An important part was gelding each of the colts and stallions to prevent further indiscriminate breeding.

Through this work and the further support from World Horse Welfare, the horse owner is in a much better position to rehome the horses, so they can decrease their numbers and ensure the appropriate care can be given.

## BHS HARSHIP FUND

The fund was created from charitable monies held within BHS reserves centrally, regionally and from all UK countries. This was added to by a national appeal and was sustained by further utilising the Society's reserves.

In three rounds of applications in April, June and December, 400 riding schools and trekking centres received in excess of £400,000 worth of grants to be used on feed, forage, farriery, bedding and emergency veterinary fees. In addition, BHS Approved Centres enjoyed a free period of a year on fees.

The support provided in 2020 was greater than £700,000. This support continued into 2021 with a fourth round of applications pushing the level to in excess of £1 million.

## THANK YOU!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our valued members, supporters and Welfare Advisers, who are an integral part of our work and what we have been able to achieve throughout 2020.

Your continued support allows us to continue improving welfare through education, and through this improve the welfare of thousands of horses across the UK.



James Hick, Chief Executive, and Gill Plumbley, our local Access & Bridleways Officer for Alton & East Hants, at the reopening of Bridleway 504 in Hampshire. Gill was fundamental to the successful restoration work made possible by the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund.

## Our Amazing Volunteers

We would like to thank our fantastic team of 1,196 volunteers who continued to support us throughout the pandemic, despite the many challenges faced. Our volunteers were able to stay connected, albeit virtually via a new technology platform. Committees continued to support key campaigns and our work across Welfare, Access and Safety. We're particularly grateful to our volunteer committees for their contribution to the Hardship Fund.

### During 2020, we created three new volunteering roles:

- BHS COVID 19 Support Volunteer Buddy: Introduced in direct response to the COVID 19 pandemic, this role supports horse owners who are unwell/isolating and unable to attend to the basic care of their horse.

- BHS 2026 Project Historical Research Volunteer: This role helps identify and register historic routes in England and Wales before the final deadline.
- Occasional Volunteers: Volunteers who can support local BHS events and activities in their area, from helping on a show stand, at a pleasure ride or in the refreshment rooms.

The BHS Annual Awards is our chance to recognise the fabulous work undertaken by our volunteers. We had a record-breaking number of nominations in 2020, thanks to a new, simplified, online form combined with various national lockdowns. A new Awards Panel provided a shortlist of nominations to the Board and we'll be holding a combined awards ceremony for 2020/21 in 2021.

# Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted £000	Designated £000	Restricted £000	2020 Total £000	2019 Total £000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations, legacies and grants	216	-	731	947	501
<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Membership subscriptions	9,520	-	-	9,520	8,764
Job Retention Scheme Grants	275	-	-	275	-
Examinations and other fees	419	-	-	419	1,555
Events	274	-	5	279	909
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Trading income	149	-	-	149	163
Advertising	299	-	-	299	391
Commission received	7	-	-	7	8
Challenge Rides	-	-	6	6	21
Other income	237	-	-	237	252
Investment income	6	-	-	6	18
<b>Total income</b>	<b>11,402</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>12,144</b>	<b>12,582</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
Raising funds	613	-	17	630	796
Charitable activities	10,057	940	292	11,289	12,803
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>11,919</b>	<b>13,599</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>(940)</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>(1,017)</b>
<b>Net (loss)/gain on investments</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>424</b>
	<b>708</b>	<b>(940)</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>(593)</b>
Transfers between reserves	(711)	818	(107)	-	-
	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(122)</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>(593)</b>
Property reserve transfer	3,092	(3,092)	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>(3,214)</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>(593)</b>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>3,966</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>7,140</b>	<b>7,735</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	<b>5,610</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>7,341</b>	<b>7,142</b>

Read our full financial statement here: [bhs.org.uk/annualreport](https://bhs.org.uk/annualreport)

# About The British Horse Society

The British Horse Society is a charitable company incorporated in England. It does not have a share capital and is limited by guarantee. The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

## OUR VISION

Every horse is respected, protected and enjoyed by knowledgeable, caring people

## OUR MISSION

We are the charity dedicated to knowledge and encouraging people and horses to enjoy life together

## OUR VALUES

### Horses First

The Horse is at the heart of all we do

### One Team

We collaborate with and value our employees, members, supporters and partners

### Respect

We deliver with respect, integrity, dedication and passion

### Supportive

We support horses and people to enjoy life together safely

### Excellence

We strive for excellence in everything we do

## The Society's Articles of Association outline the following charitable objectives:

- to promote and advance the education, training and safety of the public in all matters relating to the horse;
- to promote the use, breeding, well-being, safety, environment, health and management of the horse for the public benefit;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreation involving the horse;
- to promote and facilitate the prevention of cruelty, neglect, or harm to horses and to promote the relief, safety, sanctuary, rescue and welfare of horses in need of care, attention and assistance; and
- to promote and secure the provision, protection and preservation of rights of way and of access for ridden and driven horses over public roads, highways, footpaths, bridleways, carriage ways, public paths and other land.

For the Full Trustees Report including the Society's status and charitable objectives, please refer to [bhs.org.uk/annualreport](https://bhs.org.uk/annualreport)



The  
British  
Horse  
Society

**Riding By  
Your Side  
2020**

Patron  
**Her Majesty the Queen**

Vice Patron  
**HRH The Princess Royal**

President  
**Martin Clunes, OBE**

[www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

Company Registration Number 00444742