



The Fell Pony Society

North East Area Group

Registered Charity, Number 1104945

Happy New Year!

I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2018 and hope that you find our list of events sufficiently interesting and varied for you to want to attend at least one of them. Last year I became involved in dressage, a riding skill that I had never understood or appreciated the benefits of, to both pony and rider. Victoria Parker motivated several of us here in the North East to join British Dressage Team Quest. This was a very big commitment and a huge challenge for me as I'd not ridden seriously or competitively since my accident in 1987. Rackwood Hugo and I had a lot of fun and my riding position and techniques changed considerably. Fun is what it is all about so let us all commit to trying something new during 2018.

Your North East Group committee currently consists of: Eileen Walker, Margaret Murray & Ruby Williams (Co Durham), Anne & Heather Mawrey (Yorkshire), Sarah Charlton, Christopher Grant & Sarah Brown (Northumberland), & Helen Miller, Anneli Ferrier & Victoria Parker (Cleveland). Full details of each event and an application forms will appear on the FPS website as soon as they become available.

Forthcoming Events 2018

February - Sunday 4th Sunday Lunch Social at the spectacular **Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield**. We listened to your views and decided it was time to try a new venue. We have secured a very special deal in the hope that you will all come and share your passion for Fell ponies at a friendly, informal event which is your chance to chat to fellow enthusiasts and to let us know what you would like to do during 2018.

March - Sunday 11th Native Pony Dressage competition at East Durham College – Houghall Campus. All classes are open to registered pure bred mountain and moorland ponies. Classes at Introductory, Preliminary and Novice levels. Schedule will be available very soon.

May – Friday 4th - Sunday 6th Hairy Pony Camp, Linnel Wood, Hexham
Joint Fell & Highland pony camp organised by the Highland Pony Enthusiasts Club & North East FPS Group.
Email hpecnortheast@hotmail.co.uk or telephone Chris on 07787124413 for more information.

May – Sunday 20th Native Pony Festival, Crescent Farm, Throckley, Newcastle NE15 9RE
In-hand classes for all native breeds. Ridden and WHP classes. Schedule will be available mid March.

July – Mary's Fell Memories Please help us celebrate the life of Mary Longsdon MBE and her involvement with Fell ponies and the Fell Pony Society. In 2016 she instigated the trip to Windsor Castle and the 'Guard of Honour' Ride for HM The Queen as part of her 90th birthday celebrations. In July 2017 Mary died but we are so grateful for what she has done for our members that we want to celebrate her life by holding events throughout the month of July. Throughout the country we aim to hold 31 events – one for each day of the month. The North East Group is planning: A pleasure ride on Saturday 7th July. A day at York Races on Saturday 14th July. A BBQ towards the end of July. Further information will be available on Sunday 4th February at our Sunday Lunch Social so it's important that you attend.

August – A Cross Country Training Day to be held at Linnel Wood. The opportunity for 10 Fell ponies and riders to participate in a pole work session and a cross country session and develop new skills that may help them at the Native Pony Performance Trials to be held during September. Further details to follow.

September – Sunday 16th or 23rd (tbc) Native Pony Performance Trials, Linnel Wood, Hexham
A one day event open to all registered native ponies with a separate class just for Fell ponies. Includes dressage, show jumping and cross country. A fun day out as a competitor or spectator.

IMPORTANT: Forthcoming events are updated in the Area Support Groups section on the Fell Pony Society Website (www.fellponysociety.org.uk)

Eileen A Walker