

Ridden Mare	Lunesdale Rosebud	Mr & Mrs A W Morland
Ridden Gelding	Sleddale David	Ms G Callister
Ridden Pairs	Moorhouse Rosie	Mr B Mallinson
	Hardendale Rosette	Miss H Baldwick
Working Hunter	Hesket Topper	Mrs S Myers
Trotting Race	Kerbeck Night Serenade	Mrs C Robinson
Showjumping	Abbey Tulip	Miss R Bradburn
Handy Pony	Tarnbeck Savanna	Mrs E Metcalfe
In Hand Champion	Townend Lucy IV	Mr & Mrs D Williamson
Reserve	Sleddale David	Ms G Callister
Ridden Champion	Lunesdale Rosebud	Mr & Mrs A W Morland
Reserve	Sleddale David	Ms G Callister
Supreme Champion	Townend Lucy IV	Mr & Mrs D Williamson
Junior Points	Rosemary Bradburn (Abbey Tulip)	
Senior Points	Georgina Callister (Sleddale David)	
Veteran Performance	Townend Lucy IV (Mrs H Watkinson)	

The NPS Mountain and Moorland Working Hunter Pony Championship Qualifier was Mrs S Laniado's Kerbeck Night Melody, ridden by Miss S Hutchinson. This class was judged by Mr P Boustead.

For the 1999 show we are looking for new helpers on show day. The event is now becoming so large to organise that the small group of regulars are finding it difficult to cope. Anyone willing to help should notify either the Secretary or Barry Allen.

10TH SOUTHERN SHOW

The 10th anniversary show was a well-supported event on a cold, windy day more like November than September, but it was **dry**. The showground was expanded to accommodate increasing entries with three rings. To celebrate the special occasion of the anniversary, commemorative rosettes and extra goodies were given to all entrants.

Thanks, as always, to Lt Col Sir John Miller for his kind hospitality at Shotover, hosting this popular show. This was also Mary Longsdon's last show as Chairman. She has done a tremendous amount of work building the show over the last 10 years and is handing over the reins for next year's event to Mrs Elizabeth Whitley.

Judges this year were Mrs Liz Ball, Mrs Celia Johnson and Mrs Mary Ormrod.

Results, in summary, were as follows:

Stallions 2 years & over - Packway Ptarmigan, Mrs C Rear
 Mares 4 - 8 y.o. - Drybarrows Fancy, Mrs L Chamberlain
 Mares 9 yrs & over - Townend Lucy IV, Mr & Mrs D Williamson
 Broodmare - Tarnbeck Sheba, Mr & Mrs D Williamson
 Foal - Severnvale Sophie, Mr G Guy
 Geldings 4 - 8 y.o. - Townend Septimus, Ms J Williamson
 Geldings 9 yrs & over - Sleddale John II, Mr, Mrs & Miss D S Patterson
 Yearling Colt, Filly or Gelding - Waverhead Charles, Miss H Oram
 2 Y.O. Filly or Gelding - Wolds Phalarope, Miss J Glass
 3 Y.O. Filly or Gelding - Wolds Black Grouse, Miss J Glass
 Veteran (15 yrs & over) - Townend Lucy IV
 Pairs (in hand) - Severnvale Sadie & Severnvale Sophie, Mr G Guy
 Ridden Stallion - Bewcastle Black Jack, Mr C Birchall
 Ridden Mare - Townend Lucy IV
 Geldings 4 - 8 yrs. - Townend Septimus
 Geldings 9 yrs & over - Hades Hill Raven, S Hurst & E Selby-Collins
 Novice mare - Meres Jodie, Mr & Mrs T Good
 Novice Gelding - Townend Hamish II, Mrs D Bumford
 Child under 10 lead by adult - Heltondale Beauty VIII, L Keogh
 Child 6-12 yrs - Rosemere Emma Louise, Miss L Hodson & K Tynan
 Child 13-16 yrs - Townend Hamish II
 Ridden Veteran (15 yrs & over) - Townend Lucy IV
 Ridden Pairs - Guards Robert, Mrs L Peel, and Sleddale Fern V, Miss A
 Carslaw
 Novice WHP - Bolton Abbey Magic, Mr T Bucknell-May
 Intermediate WHP - Eagland Dainty, Mrs R Jubb
 WHP - Lune Valley David, Miss L D Hodson & Mrs K Tynan
 Handy Pony - Bolton Abbey Magic
 Fancy Dress - Heltondale Lofty III, Mrs S Reeves
 Child Handler (12 yrs & under) - Bewcastle Boy Blue, M Longsdon & R
 Goddard
 Two Generations - Wolds Curlew, Mr & Mrs H Marshall & Miss J Glass

Champion Ridden - Hades Hill Raven.

Reserve - Townend Lucy IV

Champion In Hand - Townend Lucy IV

Reserve - Tarnbeck Sheba

Supreme Champion - Townend Lucy IV

Reserve - Hades Hill Raven

Children's Champion - Heltondale Beauty VIII

Reserve - Townend Hamish II

General Information & News Items

1999 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription rates remain unchanged as follows:

Full Member	£15.00
Junior Member (under age 18)	£ 7.50
Family Member	£ 7.50

Subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January. There is a period of grace of 3 months, until 1 April, at which time membership is deemed to have lapsed. A reminder letter will be issued, after which no further mailings will be sent and privileges of membership of the Society are withdrawn.

REGISTRATIONS, PREFIXES, TRANSFERS & STALLION LICENSING

Sending the wrong amount with your papers will result in delays, so please be sure to send the correct fee.

To Register a Foal: This **must** be done by 31 December in the year of its birth (the only exceptions being colt foals out of grading up Section (A) and (B) mares, which must be gelded before registration. The second exception relates to foals bred by recognised Native Heath Breeders which must be registered by 31 May in the year following the foal's birth or by the first anniversary of its birth - **whichever is the sooner**. This is a stipulation of the current law (Horse Passports Order 1998).

A Registration/Passport Application form should be completed and sent to the Secretary together with the dam's record of service slip (provided by stallion owner at time of covering) together with the fee: Colts £5.00, Fillies £12.00 (non-members pay double fees). Incomplete forms will be returned. Please read the notes carefully.

Prefixes: A prefix is likened to a breeder's signature. It is not compulsory but for people intending to breed several foals, it is preferable to have one as all stock will be placed together in the Stud Book and it is of much service in tracing the pedigree of an animal. Prefixes tend to be chosen from names of places, farms, areas and without registering such a name, this cannot be used in conjunction with the foal's name. Registering a prefix is a simple procedure but as the British Central Prefix Register is a national organisation, increasingly names are rejected as they are already registered to another breeder. This is why **three** choices are required at time of application, in order of preference. The choices must be all single words (no hyphens or spaces allowed) and the completed form should be returned to the Secretary together with the fee of £25 (overseas £40). The procedure takes usually a few weeks to be completed,

after which registration of foals can resume. Application forms available from the Secretary on request.

Stallion Licensing: Colts are eligible from 2 years old, after 1 January of their second year. Owners must supply the Secretary with the contact details of a veterinary surgeon *from a practice other than their usual one.* An examination & report form is sent together with a letter which is copied to the colt's owner, who also receives the blood-typing kit for the vet's use. The owner makes arrangements with the vet for the inspection, after which, if the colt has passed, the blood is taken. The cost of the vet's inspection is borne by the colt's owner. The appointment should be at the beginning of the week to allow the sample to arrive at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket for testing prior to the weekend. The vet returns the examination and report forms to the Secretary. The licence is issued when the blood typing confirmation is received, records up-dated and a stallion service book is issued in the spring. **A COLT WHICH PASSES THE EXAMINATION MAY NOT BE USED FOR STUD PURPOSES UNTIL THE LICENCE IS ISSUED.** It is important to register transfers of ownership of stallions so the service book is sent to the correct owner, avoiding delays. The cost of a stallion licence, which includes a subsidised blood-kit, is £50 (non-members double fee). **Stallion service books must be returned by 1 September annually.**

TRANSFERS (OWNERSHIP & TO GELDING): £10 each (non-members double).

EXPORTATION OF REGISTERED PONIES The Society's Regulations require any pony (other than geldings) which is being exported to be blood typed prior to leaving the country if their registration is to remain valid and any future progeny are to be eligible for registration the The Fell Pony Society Stud Book. Blood typing kits cost £40 and are available from the Secretary. Transfer of ownership must also take place, preferably before the pony leaves although an overseas owner may apply for transfer once the pony has been exported. In any event, a valid Certificate of Transfer must be completed by the vendor and given to the purchaser together with the original Registration Certificate when the pony is sold.

FREEZE-MARKING, HOT BRANDING & MICROCHIPPING

Please forward details of any permanent ID on ponies which does not appear on their registration papers and return the relevant Registration Certificate to the Secretary for amendment. There is no charge for this service.

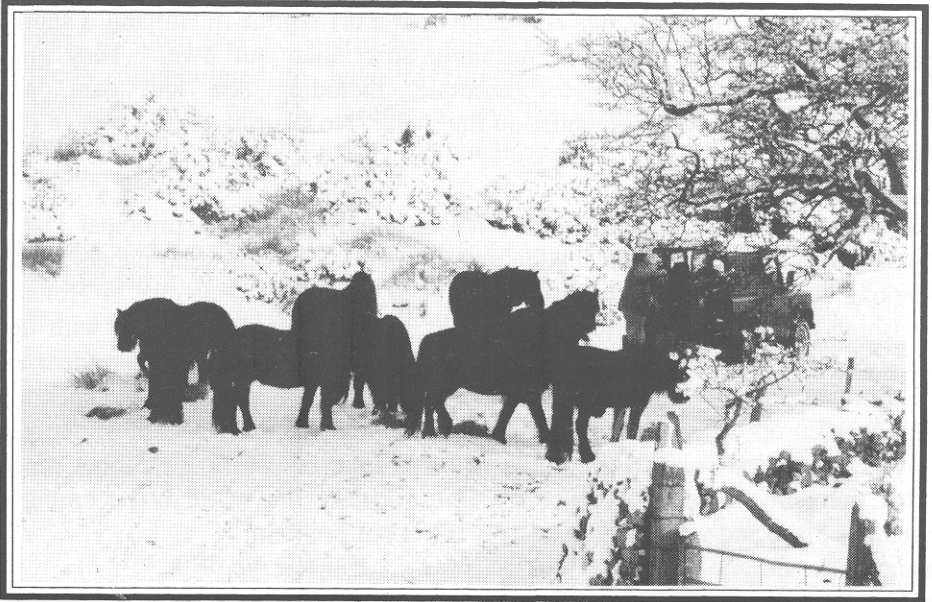
BLOOD TYPED PONIES

It would be helpful if Registration Certificates for ponies which are blood typed are returned to the Secretary for addition of markings & asterisk.

DEAD PONIES Please inform the Society when a pony dies, by returning the Registration Certificate. If you wish to keep the certificate, please state this when sending it in.

CHRISTMAS CARD 1998

There was a good response to the card competition featured in the last newsletter. The winning photo, of Lowthwaite ponies being fed hay on the fell by Mr Frank Wales, was submitted by his daughter Mrs Christine Morton. A pack of 6 colour cards with the greeting "*With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year*" costs £2.50 (add 50p postage & packing), available from Mrs Laing or can be bought at the Autumn Meeting and the British Equine Event 1998, Stoneleigh (7th & 8th November).



SALES TO HOLLAND

B Allen

Members should be aware of a problem the Council is trying to address at present. To understand the background I need to quote some rules.

1. All registered ponies, other than geldings, must be blood typed prior to export (FPS Regulations).
2. (Ponies) can be registered in the (Netherlands) Stud Book when pedigrees correspond to the International Transfer Certificate of the Fell Pony Society (Dutch rules).

No problem here you would think. But the practice is totally different to the theory. And money of course is at the root of the problem. A pony is obviously cheaper if you don't have it blood typed and if you don't pay for an International Transfer Certificate. So some people are by-passing our Society.

Those selling occasionally hand over cash for blood typing but it does not happen on this side of the water. We do not know what takes place on the other side, but by then it is too late anyway. THE PONY IS NO LONGER A REGISTERED FELL PONY. With prices so low at the moment, the Dutch can dictate terms and we have a worrying situation developing.

Our understanding is that there is an International Transfer Certificate being used - but not by the FPS (which rejected the idea of introducing the ITC in favour of using the Certificate of Transfer until Horse Passports were to be introduced). If you think this is indicative of a lax regime in Holland, I should point out that their rules are far more strict than our own. They have compulsory DNA testing for example, including sire and dam, and microchipping of all foals whilst on the mare. No worries about costs in that area apparently.

So what are we doing about it? We have written to the principal Dutch importer requesting an explanation and the return of registration papers which belong to the Society. We know there are many good people in Holland wishing to be owners of Registered Fells but who are not familiar with this Society's requirements regarding exports. Purchase is plainly dependent on imports and we must do all we can to help them, but our ponies are appearing all over Europe now and it is at this stage that our Secretary becomes involved over registration paper difficulties. By this time of course we cannot prove that the pony matches its papers. Unfortunately the world is becoming a smaller place and we cannot just say it is not our problem.

If you are approached by someone from Holland wishing to buy your pony, consult our Secretary about correct procedure. I will write in the next newsletter with an update on this situation. You need have no worries about sales to other countries.

Derek Knottenbelt to Speak at BHS Cumbria AGM

The Chairman of the BHS Cumbria committee, Col. Tim Washington, has invited Derek Knottenbelt to give a talk on the Fell Pony Foal Syndrome at the BHS's forthcoming AGM. Members of the FPS, whether BHS members or not, are cordially invited to attend the meeting which will take place on Wednesday, 21st October at Agriculture House (regional NFU office), near Penrith BR Station. Members are invited from 7.00 pm, when refreshments will be available, to be followed by Dr Knottenbelt's talk at 7.30 pm.

Anyone intending to attend should advise Miss Betty Walker on 017687 77202.

RBST Side-Saddle for Survival Ride

The Trust's ambitious Horseshoe Appeal fundraiser came to a tragic end when Irene Benjamin, who had hoped to ride a record breaking journey on major routes between 1,000 and 1,500 miles, was taken into hospital and died near the start of her route in Scotland. She had been suffering from cancer.

PAMSHAPS Packhorse Expedition

This project which was featured in the Spring newsletter fell victim to the terrible wet summer and had to be abandoned. Brian Eaton also suffered ill health, hampering his own mobility. He has, however, written a book for young children and by August had raised nearly £1,400 for charity. He was bitterly disappointed to have to call the expedition off after so much preparation but he was heartened by the generosity of many people, particularly those supporting the fundraising aspect.

FPS OFFICE OPENING HOURS

In September the office changed its hours for telephone enquiries to between 9 am and 1.00 pm from Monday to Friday. An answerphone is in operation at all other times. Faxes can be received at any time.

OVERSEAS NEWS

The Dartmoor/Fell Show 1998 at Schonbach, Germany

or

Thank you very much, dear Dolly

This year the German FPS had its show with the German Dartmoor Pony Society during one of the biggest pony events in the country. Because the German FPS is a small society, it is not possible for us to organise our own Fell show every year, although we hope to have one every other year. However, with approximately 200 ponies of different breeds and a further 2,000 visitors, this event might have been a good "shop window" for the Fells.

Both societies wish to say again how much we enjoyed having Mrs Sheila Clark from Haddington, Scotland with us, who judged together with Mr Solle, Breeding Manager of the regional studbook.

The Fell champions at the show were:

Ch. Stallion - Heltondale Ranger II FP50292C

Ch. Mare - Heltondale Polly Perkins V FP1550

Thanks must also be given to the owner of Polly Perkins, Miss Katharina Huber, who not only travelled 400 miles from Bavaria for the event, but who 2 weeks previously was showing this pony at another important event in Munich.

Because our stallion Heltondale Black Prince III had a touch of cold, we decided it would be unwise to travel him all the way to Schonbach, two

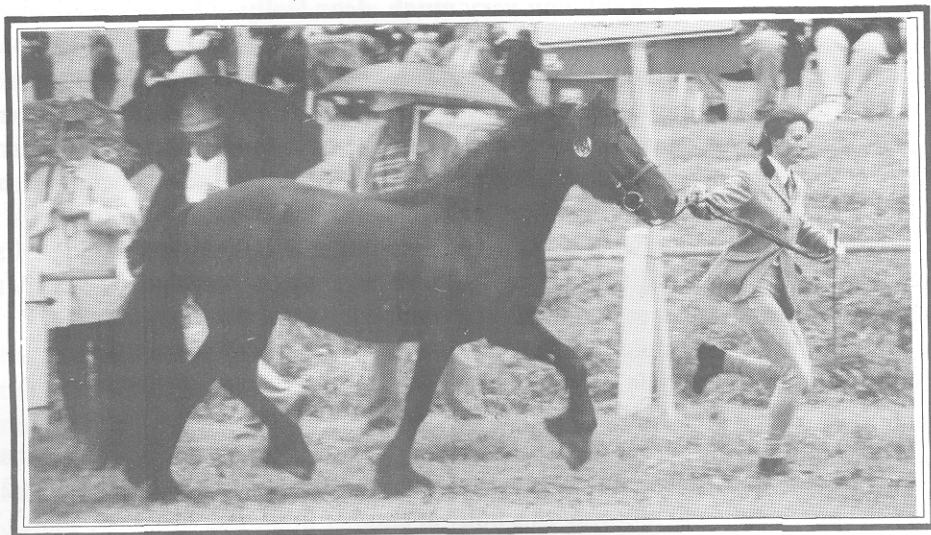
day's journey, especially in view of the weather forecast: 35 degrees on the first day, heavy rain the following day. (For once the forecasters got it right!).

As Prince is part of an established musical jumping display of British native ponies, which have exhibited at numerous shows and exhibitions, we were at first at a loss to know what to do without him. To run the display without a Fell would have destroyed the whole effect and disappointed those people who had come particularly to see him. So we had a good look at our other ponies and my daughter Sarah decided that Murthwaite Dolly, a 6 year old, should go with us. Dolly had arrived here only four weeks earlier, having spent the whole of the previous year on the fells in Cumbria. Sarah rode her three times in the week before the show. For various reasons, the practice for the jumping display was held on the evening of the first show day, until darkness fell, and Dolly jumped like a little devil! The whole display is a very fast one and I think that all this came as a bit of a surprise to Dolly, but she did everything Sarah asked of her, really showing the versatility of Fells. Even now, we don't know whether Dolly had ever been jumped before or whether this was her first experience!

Sadly the whole display was ruined by heavy rain, making the ground too dangerous for riders and ponies to jump. Instead only a short ride involving all the native ponies took place, with Sarah, complete with 2 cm of water inside her riding boots, riding the soaking wet Dolly!

Our regards go to the breeders of these great little ponies and thanks indeed to dear Dolly, who really did her very best.

Barbara Muller, Nimsreuland, Germany



**Sarah Muller & Drybarrows Blooming Heather FP1546
braving the rain at the Schonbach Pony Festival**

Round-up of German FPS Year's Activities

Although there was no Fell Show in Germany this year, I don't think it can be said we've been lazy.

Heltondale Ruby II (owner Ms. Doris Mainka) and Murthwaite Dolly (with new owner of only a few days Ms Sarah Muller) were the Fell breed representatives at a horse fair at Munster in Northern Germany. The organisers of this fair offered the Native Breeds a common area to show the various breeds. We are proud to say that our Fells did extremely well under the spotlights in the evening's Gala Show, despite not being accustomed to such limelight, and compared very favourably with the other breeds represented.

After a few weeks summer rest 3 "German" Fells travelled to the Dutch Fell Pony Show. Again, we were rather proud because these ponies - the yearling filly Sleddale Heather Bell, 3 y.o. Restar Tracey (both owned by Mrs Dombrowski) and the 9 y.o. mare Heltondale Ruby II (owned by Ms Mainka) won their respective classes.

The last Fell event of the year will be the participation of Fell ponies owned by our member Dr W Preiser and friends, at another fair, the "Pferd und Jagd" (literally "Horse and Hunt") in Hannover at the end of November.

Because of the long distances between Fell owners in Germany we have to promote our Fells though printed matter too. So we placed two detailed articles about the breed in horse magazines, one of them was written by a German author and Welsh pony breeder, who visited the Lunesdale and Murthwaite studs in 1997. Another comprehensive Fell article appeared in the very voluminous "Horse Encyclopaedia" by our friend J. Nissen.

8 foal (4 filles & 4 colts) were born in Germany this year and 12 imported Fells have arrive to the great enjoyment of their new owners. For me personally I take great enjoyment from reports such as the following ones.

Tarnbeck Fantasy, 7 y.o. mare of Mr Ricardo Siepmann, had her first public appearance at a village party last weekend. She was driven with the village children through the crowds, surrounded by every possible distraction and noise usual to parties, and was throughout docile and quiet. All the villagers of course admired her.

Murthwaite Polly, who is giving a great deal of joy to her new owner, a lady who lost her confidence riding her big Hannoverian mare, will hunt for her first season this autumn.

Narnias Beacon, a 2 y.o. filly we bred, who lives with her owner in Bavaria, has developed into a big swimmer! She enjoys regular swimming in one of the big Bavarian lakes. After living with Beacon for a short while, her owner keeps asking herself why she ever had any other breed of pony.

I think that I can say on behalf of all the German Fell owners that we all send our regards and a big "thank you for these marvellous ponies" to British Fell breeders and to all the friends who have been so welcoming to German visitors.

The Muller Family

Dutch Fell Pony Show 1998

On 29th August Mr Clive Richardson & Mr Joe Langcake judged at the Dutch Fell Pony Show. In response to a request from members wishing to know how ponies they have owned and/or bred are doing in the showing abroad, below are the results to third placing together with breeding details.

Colt Foal

- 1st Green Meadow Barny (Townend Robbie/Lownthwaite Meadow Blossom). J Mulder.
- 2nd Bren van de Bovenstal (Townend Jonty/Heltondale Delia IV). A Lansink.
- 3rd Black Booster (Townend Robbie/Gibside Princess). C van Dongen/
M V Falge.

Filly Foal

- 1st Celsie van de Wildhoeve (Townend Robbie/Uldale Black Misty). G Ottink.
- 2nd Black Charity (Townend Robbie/Niekerks First Lady). H J Webbink.
- 3rd Anne (Townend Robbie/Sunnybrowe Midge). T G Tijssen.

Yearling Colt

- 1st Heltondale Ben III (Tebay Campbell Ton Victor/Heltondale May Dew). K. van Pijkeren.
- 2nd Upper Gunner's Gavin (Urwins Black Den/Branthwaite Star).
J B M Scholten Meilink L.
- 3rd Twan van de Oelervreugd (Townend Jonty/Greenholme Lucky)
L Hofstede.

Yearling Filly

- 1st Sleddale Heather Bell (Murthwaite Victor/Sleddale Heather IV).
I Dombrowski.
- 2nd Townend Lucibel (Heltondale Bellman V/Townend Lucy). K van
Pijkeren.
- 3rd Restar Mountain Gipsy (Townend Jonty/Townend Mountain Gipsy
IV). H Marsman.

Two Year Old Colt

- 1st Wildhoeve Boy (Townend Robbie/Uldale Black Misty). G Ottink.
- 2nd Linnel Jive (Linnel Reynard/Linnel Jasmine). G Ottink.
- 3rd Niekerks Robin (Gibside Bobby Dazzler/Holmside Helen). J H de
Vos tNC.

Two Year Old Filly

- 1st Restar Lucky Rose (Townend Jonty/Restar Luck). H Marsman.
- 2nd Wildhoeve Blacksy (Townend Robbie/Helmwind Kittyhawk). P Norbuis.
- 3rd Graysons Annie (Townend Duke III/Graysons Rebecca). K van Pijkeren.

3 Year Old Filly

- 1st Restar Tracey (Lunesdale Lucky Jim/Lune Valley Janice). I Dombrowski.
- 2nd Heltondale Jewel VI (Tebay Campbell Ton Victor/Heltondale Jewel III). K. van Pijkeren.
- 3rd Heltondale Dido III (Tebay Campbell Ton Victor/Heltondale Sparkler III). M Westerbeek.

4 & 5 Year Old Mares (Class split)

- 1st Correnie Afton (Midtown Jasper/Foggy Gill Jewel (B)). A Vonck-Singer.
- 2nd Inglegarth Rhapsody (Ferrymount Timothy/Stennerskeugh Rosamund). T. Agelink.
- 3rd Drybarrows Maise (Drybarrows Rusty/Drybarrows Purple Heather). M. Westerbeek.
- 1st Greenholme Lucky (Lunesdale Henry/Greenholme Jem II).L Hofstede.
- 2nd Guards Josie (Waverhead Prince II/Guards Joanne). G Ottink.
- 3rd Guards Primrose (Heltondale Duke IV/Guards Gypsy Princess). G Ottink.

Mares 7 Years Old & Upwards

- 1st Heltondale Ruby II (Tebay Campbell Ton Victor/Midtown Ruth). D Mainka.
- 2nd Heltondale Delia IV (Tebay Campbell Ton Victor/Heltondale Delia). A Lansink.

Stallions

- 1st Border Black Prince II (Waverhead Prince II/Border Black Empress). J de Vos tNC.
- 2nd Urwins Black Den (Rackwood Prince/Urwins Heather).B Papenburg.
- 3rd Townend Jonty (Heltondale Josh/Townend Dally II). J de Vos tNC.

Geldings 3 Years & Upwards

- 1st Guards Gypsy Prince (Waverhead Prince II/Guards Penny). J Clement.
- 2nd Restar Hero (Murthwaite Victor/Greenholme Tracey). P Vonck.
- 3rd Shadow (Gibside Bobby Dazzler/Sleddale Lib II). E J C S Schatorje.

Champion Youngstock Male

Heltondale Ben III

Champion Youngstock Female

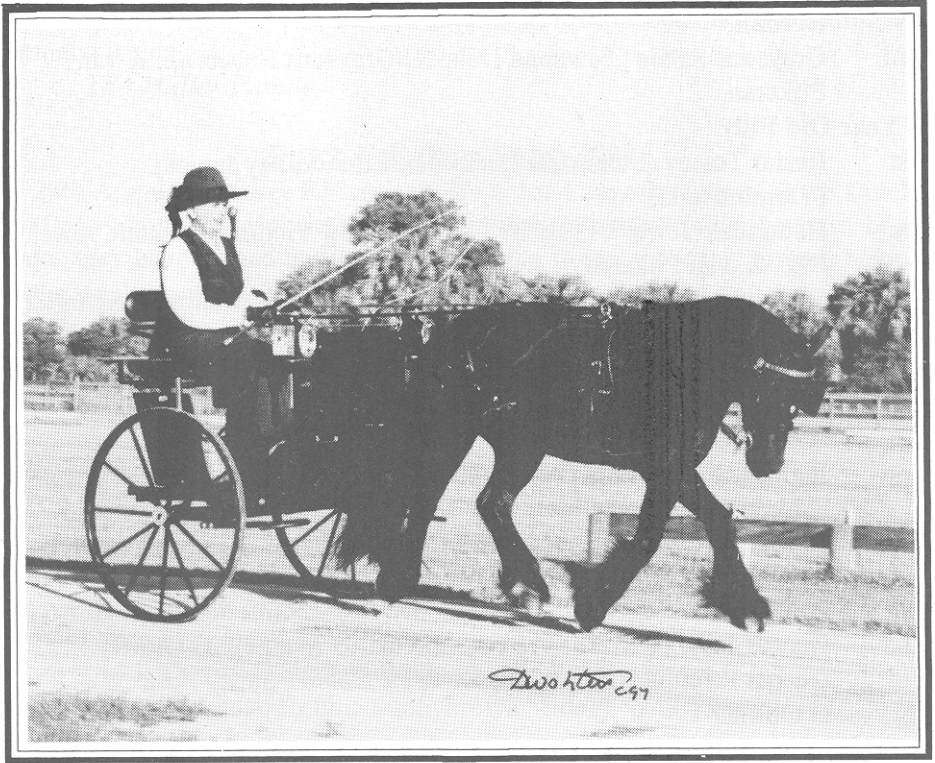
Restar Lucky Rose

Champion Male

Border Black Prince II

Champion Female

Heltondale Jewel VI



Lownthwaite Evelyn FP1713* being driven by Mrs Mary Nygaard of Englewood, Florida.

Evelyn, who is now 11 years old, has embarked on a new career as a show pony, having previously been a brood mare. Her owners, Mary and Lyle Nygaard of New Farm Stud, sent her off to be broken to ride and drive with a view to selling her when she returned.

First results were not too encouraging; Evelyn gave her trainer a few heart stopping moments, rearing and flipping in harness. Things didn't look too encouraging and the trainer was on the point of giving in when there was a breakthrough.

Since then Evelyn has gone from strength to strength, so much so that all thoughts of selling her have been firmly forgotten.



Sleddale Holly II (right) & Hollfrey Heather 12 days before Holly died

Holly, treasured pony of Dawn Ford, (Scarborough), tragically died on the journey home from Penrith on 1st August. [Dawn, as Entries Secretary of the Breed Show, had travelled early the day before with her father and ponies to prepare for the next day, oblivious to the extreme weather conditions in the West which were to cause the show to be cancelled].

Holly was bought by Dawn in 1989 and in the nine years she was a member of the Ford family, she taught us a lot about Fell ponies. Her manners were impeccable. She could be stubborn. She "laughed" with us, and, sometimes at us, but generously forgave us our mistakes. Dawn's dad and I had not done our homework on Fell ponies as well as Dawn!

Holly preferred showing to being ridden, and was at her best as a mother. She produced two beautiful foals (1995 & 1996) whom she taught very well. They have both inherited her gentleness.

I could write lots more about Holly, but to her I would say, "Thank you, Holly, for enriching our lives and we'll never forget you".

Joan Ford
Ravenscar, Scarborough

Sam & Eddy - Two Inseparable Friends



Sam (left) and Eddy at home in Crieff

Four years ago, Jimmy Smith & I bought two geldings from Eddie Wilson at Town End. They came from George Johnston at Low Moat. Bought as two year olds, they never liked being separated. One was very much more nervous than the other and managed to get himself over the front bar of the trailer before we had even reached the end of the Town End road.

However, by the time we reached Crieff after 5 hours in the trailer, they were well used to it. They gave us little trouble when we broke them in although Eddy continued to be more nervous and seemed to take longer to grasp what was required of him. Over the next few years they gave me tremendous pleasure even though there were days when their infuriating methods of evading schooling, would make me despair. Though they loved rides, they detested schooling but excelled themselves by tanking swiftly up all our steep hills and banks. The longer the rides, the more they seemed to love it. Everywhere they went speed was the essence as they sped over all manner of rough ground. On the days that I had no one to ride with, then one of them had to be firmly shut in the stable. People used to comment that they were totally inseparable.

Even as they grew older they played boisterously for hours together in the field and grazed side by side. I tried to put other ponies in the field with

them but on one nasty occasion their fiendish bully boy behaviour nearly put paid to my son's pony, as they set about him with fore and hind legs flaying and teeth barred. It took a lunge whip and a good deal of foul language to break-up their appalling viciousness.

Last year Sam developed what appeared to be a little wart close to his eye. Though this tiny blemish had not worried me unduly, the vet's prognosis was depressing. It was a sarcoid, something which he told me would be difficult to eradicate. Sarcoids can vary in shape and size, and some are cancerous. However, it was decided to leave it until the autumn when the flies had subsided as the cream he was to use was liable to make the sarcoid messy. A few months later another lump seemed to appear suddenly between Sam's hind legs. This too was a sarcoid but of a different type. This one, unlike the warty one near his eye, seemed to grow in front of me.

While we were waiting till autumn, we tried homeopathic treatment and rubbed both growths with a mixture of lavender and tea tree oil. He had thuja tablets several times a day and was fed a herbal compound called "Ditton mix", which was proved useful in some cases. The excerpt from the herbal book said that the sarcoid should explode and become unpleasant, but that this was a positive sign. Needless to say Sam's did nothing other than grow big. However the oil certainly kept the flies off. The one by the eye stayed like a small wart although bled a bit when he rubbed his face.

We went away for two week's holiday and on our return I was shocked to see that the sarcoid under his eye was clearly spreading and now the whole of his bottom eyelid was puffed up. The vet returned. The sarcoid was now invading the bottom eyelid and the only hope was to send Sam down to Dr Knottenbelt at Liverpool Vet School. Here he would have radium rods inserted into the growth, and be in an isolated stable for two weeks being fed down a chute. There seemed to be no guarantee that the sarcoid would not return and with its position in so sensitive a place, I felt we really had to think about his future. The total cost was to be in the region of £1,000. The long journey down to Liverpool and the fact that it would be several months before we knew whether the treatment had worked or not, made it all the more agonising. The large lump sarcoid would be treated with special cream which Liverpool Vet School send to your vet once they have seen photographs. However if the poor pony was going to Liverpool they would deal with both growths there.

If we left the eye sarcoid it would eventually impair his vision and probably become huge and messy. After a thoroughly miserable week I decided that Sam should be put down as soon as possible. Both ponies were brought in and my long-suffering husband took Sam to Jimmy's stables a few miles away and he was put down that morning. Eddy remained shut in the stable and a sympathetic friend arrived with a Highland mare to lend me to keep Eddy company. After a short and sad ride to get the ponies used to

each other, the mare was put with Eddy. Still there seemed little reaction and I breathed a huge sigh of relief. He galloped around for about half an hour and then all seemed calm. However, seeing a grey and black head over the gate next day was just awful and I must admit I was none too brave.

For the ensuing days Eddy seemed very quiet and we had some gentle rides with the new pony. A week later I took them both in the trailer to a local event less than ten miles away. By the time I got him out of the trailer, Eddy had sweated up so badly that everyone thought I had hosed him down. Sweat was running off him in rivers. I rode him around for a while until he was cool and then entered him for some clear round jumping. This was a foolish mistake as he went completely beserk rearing and giving enormous bucks and I ended up having a quite nasty fall. He then played up for the rest of the event and was unrideable. There was a black pony at the other end of the field and he whinnied and tried to get to it all day.

The trip home was dreadful as the sweat began to pour off him and by the time we got back he was in such a terrible state that I was sure he had colic. He had even managed to cut his legs with all his thrashing about. Once calmed and put back in the field with the mare he was fine. However, each time we brought him up to the stables he began to sweat and panic, throwing himself around and looking frightened and confused. It was heartbreaking to watch. He had never behaved like this before and had become totally neurotic and edgy.

In the field he began to demolish the fence and had eaten most of the new fence posts and all round the stable too. But it was the inexplicable sweating which was so worrying. The vet had little to offer but suggested I just turned him away. We did this for a few weeks and decided that time was the only hope. At one point he seemed so distraught that it even went through my mind that he might have been better off being put down too. It was devastating as I had visualised both of my lovely black ponies spending a long and active life with us.

I can only think that his dreadful behaviour is due to the fact that he has lost his companion. Perhaps the strong bond he had forged with Sam since they were weaned foals together is going to be hard to overcome. He is now being ridden a little but we have to take care not to put him in any awkward situations and to keep him very calm.

I have not dared put him in the trailer again. Often I think we credit animals with more feelings than we should. However, there are clearly situations when they do struggle to overcome the loss of a close companion. As if losing a good fit pony at 5 years old was not bad enough, having Eddy so clearly distraught merely made our loss all the more poignant.

Polly Aldridge
Crieff, Perthshire.

Hartrigg Tom Thumb

June 1973 - November 1996

Hartrigg Tom Thumb was born at Hartrigg Farm, Kentmere. He was bred by Ken Dawson. Thomas, as he was known by his friends, came to Daleview to be broken in 1975 and that was the first time I met him. I bought him in October 1976 for £80. I got £3 back in luck but the purchase was non-returnable; I should have known then.

The first time I rode Thomas out on a trek, he managed to dump me in the ford at Little Langdale. I got wet and everybody else had a good laugh.

From the early days in our relationship, it was obvious there were going to be problems. Thomas had a serious attitude problem, if there was nothing in it for him, then it wasn't worth doing. I remember that we had a forward movement problem and as I was just about as stubborn as Thomas, I soon learnt to carry a reading book with me for the long waits ahead. He wasn't all bad and was very popular with tourists at the Drunken Duck. He could take a Coke bottle and empty the contents into his mouth with very little wastage. The barman soon discovered that Thomas liked BEER and it was only after several pints that he became biddable, so our schooling sessions always started with a trip to the pub.

When Thomas was 5 years old I decided to have him broken to drive. I did the basics myself but left the nitty gritty to the "experts". Thomas didn't think it was such a good idea as it meant having to WORK. Having Thomas broken to drive was a great idea (at first). I could go to collect hay and feed with my faithful old flat cart. I delivered horse manure to eager customers and then the BRAINSTORM... We would do weddings.

My first booking was a local bride. We had to deliver the happy couple from Brathay Church to the Drunken Duck and back to Brathay again. We did the first part of the journey and even got invited into the pub for a few drinks. We started our journey back and had to go down a hill which isn't unusual in the Lake District, but this hill had a fork in it. The road went left to Skelwith Bridge and right to Brathay. In the middle of the fork, there was a house with beautiful double garage doors. There we go, happily on our way, bride and groom safely on the back of the spruced up flat cart, down the hill and to the right. Thomas wanted to turn left. There was a little struggle and then BANG, Thomas was closely inspecting the garage doors, with the cart firmly wedged up his rear end and the shafts actually through the door! The bride and groom stayed on board, but I decided to walk the rest of the way. That was the end of Thomas's wedding career.

I decided to have a go at the Fell Pony Performance Trails held at the home of the late Peggy Crossland. Thomas had done some schooling and I was confident that I could stop, steer and go. WRONG! There was a section