

THE FELL PONY SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Spring 2009 - Volume 19



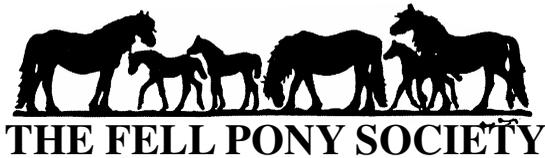
Pocket rocket: Southolme Blossom FP2768 ridden by Sarah Norris, showing the attitude that carried them to completion of 100 miles in less than 24 hours in the Caledonia Challenge in August 2008. Report on p26. Photo, George Michie.



Bracklinn Steffi (Carrock I'm Yer Man x Drybarrows Jillian). She was shown for the first time at the NPS (Scotland) Youngstock Show and won: Supreme Champion Foal, Supreme Champion M&M, and Overall Supreme Show Champion



Lownthwaite Flicka II, owned and bred by Christine Morton, won the Mountain and Moorland large breeds 2/3 year old class at the Northern Counties Pony Association Pony of the Year show



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

President: Mrs G Williamson

Chairman: Miss M G Longsdon MBE

Vice-Chairman: Mrs C H Robinson

Secretary: Mrs Elizabeth Parkin

Society Office

Ion House, Great Asby

Appleby, Cumbria

CA16 6HD

tel/fax: 01768 353100

e-mail: fellponysocietysecretary@hotmail.co.uk

<http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk>

Council

To retire 2009: Mr G H B Mallinson, Mr P Metcalfe, Mr W S Potter, Mr C C Roberts

To retire 2010: Mr R B Charlton, Mrs G M Cockbain, Mrs J A Hill, Mrs C S Millard

To retire 2011: Mrs M Dodd, Mrs C H Robinson, Mr A Thorpe

To retire 2012: Mr P Boustead, Miss J Glass, Miss M G Longsdon, Miss B W Walker

To retire 2013: Miss B Bell, Mr T B Capstick, Mrs M C Murray, Mr D Wilkinson

Magazine Editor: Mrs S Millard

Daw Bank, Greenholme, Tebay, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3TA

tel: +44 (0)1539 624636 - e-mail: sue@fellpony.f9.co.uk

Fell Pony Sales List: Barry Stamp tel: 01785 822723

Show Affiliation Secretary: Mrs G Williamson

Suilven, 11 Mearness Drive, Ulverston, LA12 9PE

tel: 01229 581002 - e-mail: gwen.tarnbeck@btinternet.com

Registered Office: Langdales Accountants Ltd, Enterprise House, 56-58 Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7HY

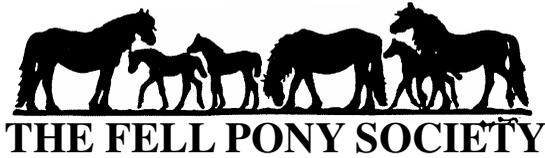


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Carole Morland sent this “grey day” photo after she went up the fell to give the ponies some hay on New Year's day . She said, “The temperature was minus 7 at 1p.m. Only five of them turned up so the rest must be finding enough grass!”



Council Information

Barbara Bell

Home: 01697 478644

Peter Boustead

Home: 01524 383665

Thomas B Capstick

Home: 01931 714656

Bob Charlton

Home: 01434 673262

Fax: 01434 673852

Glenis Cockbain

Home: 01768 772133

Mary Dodd

Home: 01946 861302

Jane Glass

Home: 01509 880261

Judy Hill

Home: 01455 552534

Fax: 01455 552534

Mary Longsdon

Home: 01629 640709

Fax: 01629 640709

Barry Mallinson

Home: 01228 675814

Mobile: 07967 050353

Paul Metcalfe

Home: 01539 621655

Sue Millard

Home: 01539 624636

Margaret Murray

Home: 01833 650474

Fax: 01833 680808

Bill Potter

Home: 01931 716267

Fax: 01931 716267

Colin Roberts

Home: 01539 624291

Christine Robinson

Home: 01946 862439

Fax: 01946 861397

Andrew Thorpe

Home: 01706 853843

Betty Walker

Home: 01768 777202

David Wilkinson

Home: 01768 352861

Disclaimer

Whereas every care is taken to publish accurate information, the Editor and Council of the Fell Pony Society do not necessarily agree with all the views expressed within the Fell Pony Society Magazine and cannot accept any liability for erroneous opinions or suggestions in the Magazine.



I started this editorial when I should have been at work, after an icy night with freezing rain on top of snow had introduced me to the joys of sitting in the car, sliding backwards down our hill with the brakes on. The pony's in the stable, smirking.

Thanks for all the kind messages about the last edition. No editor can do better than to have good, enthusiastic contributors! My apologies for “bloopers” to Diane Key whose article appeared over Barry's signature, and to Gwendy Byas and Ellen Jones, whose responsibilities for FPBA and North West Group I mixed up.

Thank you to all the contributors who have helpfully said, “print it if you have room” and “amend it as necessary.” Perhaps you would like to know how we produce the Magazine. As Editor I'm responsible to Council for presenting information you can trust in a form that is easy to understand. FPS information comes from the Office, and Show results and Group and Branch information come from Secretaries. I know this is all reliable so it usually only needs laying out consistently for easy reading. I have kept the style very close to Trevor's excellent original for that reason. I arrange that new articles start on a fresh page and that information flows readably across page breaks and round pictures. I edit photographs to the right size and resolution, and—regretfully—reduce colour to black and white for most of the magazine too.

I have to use editorial judgement about some of the copy we are offered. “Personal opinion” pieces are covered by our Disclaimer (p5), but sometimes I refer material back to the Secretary and Chairman. I often have to cut “less official” things down to fit—we don't usually have room for twenty verses of a poem (whether it's good poetry or not). I poke fiddly little bits into empty corners. I check the spelling, spacing, punctuation and grammar of *everything*. After that I list the Contents (usually amended a dozen times following the arrival of copy just on the deadline!) Finally, I can print off the first draft of the text, which I take to Council. And because of printing time, packing and posting time, and the required 3 weeks' notice to members, all this has to be finished 8 weeks before a General meeting. Before we release it to Reed's to print our 1,300+ order, it goes for close scrutiny and proof-reading to Elizabeth and Mary—so it has to be right: clear, fair, and accurate. And mostly, I hope, it is.

I've been sent some smashing pieces for this edition, particularly on driving and endurance riding. I would like to publish regular articles about how to tackle all the different disciplines of which Fells are so capable, so you may find me tracking you down at shows and events to ask for material. Stories about members and ponies, background and history are all welcome.

The usual small technical moans now! I *very much prefer* to receive simple text by email, without any formatting (fonts, bold, italic, underlined etc) which I strip-out anyway to display the text in the Magazine's style. Don't send me documents with images “in” them. Your layout will be A4 and mine is A5, as well as in a

different format. For digital photographs, 300 dpi is a plenty good enough resolution, max size 8 cm x 11 cm (under 1Mb). Just send the photo file please—JPG format is fine—separate from any word processed document. I usually find that any WP file format will have ruined the quality when I take the photo out for use, despite the huge file sizes that are involved.

If you are not “digital” yet, then plain, non-fancy typed paper copy is much faster for me than handwritten, because I can use optical character recognition to process it, instead of having to type it. It adds a lot to the time the Magazine takes to produce if I have to key in every word manually across 90-odd pages.

If you would like to discuss or send copy for the Autumn Magazine, my contact details are on page 3. I will scan photos and return them unharmed, but it would help if you say whether you want them back (return postage would be helpful) otherwise I’ll assume that they can go through to the FPS publicity archive or the FPS web gallery. Do please put a return address on your letters AND the reverse of your photos so I can thank you. I think most people did so when sending me copy for this edition. Gold stars all round.

All the best for a good summer season. **And if you look at the Council dates you will see why the deadline for the Autumn edition is 4 September!**



Letter to the Editor

While looking at the front cover of the Autumn Fell News I couldn’t help wondering how many people were aware that the late Joe Thompson had in fact bred all the ponies pulling his hearse. It was a very fitting tribute to a man whose knowledge and love of the Fells was very great. He was a kind and gentle person who is much missed. I suspect someone else has pointed this out but I’ve sent it to you just in case!

PS We look forward to the Fell Magazine so much. Makes us long to be in Cumbria again.

Mary Davies, Gloucestershire



Dates of Council Meetings 2009

Your Council meets 6 times a year. Many of the elected Council members travel long distances and all volunteer their time and expertise to manage the running of the Society’s business, to organise the shows and the Sale, to help promote the breed, and to discuss any matters raised by FPS members.

Dates through to Autumn are:

2009

10 March

12 May

14 July

8 September



This year has started with a really good dose of National doom and gloom, but not so with the FPS, whose stalwart members are already planning another season full of activities to get out and about and enjoy their ponies. Please may I encourage you all to let Ian Smith, our Press Officer, know of your achievements and successes, in any equine sphere, so that we can 'shout it from the hilltops' and promote our Fell ponies.

We are planning to launch our beautiful new DVD at the AGM, so don't forget to come laden with money! I am sure you will all appreciate the stunning photography, filmed by Alan Tibbitts, and we are also extremely grateful to Clive Richardson, who has so kindly done all the narrative, and to all those who have helped in so many ways. The end result is spectacular.

It has already been mentioned that our Society is starting a new training scheme for young people to increase their knowledge of our breed, and we have five candidates keen to take part. They will have the golden opportunity of visiting various studs and also learning what is involved in running a semi-feral herd. We will look forward to reading about their experiences in the autumn magazine.

The Southern Show is moving to a new venue at Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. It will still be our 20th, as last year's event was rained off. A great deal of work and effort has been put into it by Sadie Densham and Georgina Blair - they have taken over from Liz Whitley, who has been responsible for it for the last ten years and has done such a very competent job. This is another 'must' for this year; please do give it your support.

Again, I would like to thank all those who work so diligently for our Society. The office, as ever, copes with a vast variety of problems, members' queries, and even the Chairman, with knowledge and good humour from Elizabeth and Katherine, and we are very grateful to them for their hard work. This same knowledge and good humour also applies to our army of volunteers who help to keep our Society flourishing - thank you.

Mary



I would like to wish all Fell Pony members a very happy and healthy 2009.

After my first year as President, I have enjoyed being able to attend the Council meetings and congratulate the Council members on the work they do for us all. Thanks also to Sue Millard for an excellent newsletter.

I remember thinking in January last year, "so pleased to see out 2007 and hoping for better weather in 2008." I've had similar thoughts recently and thinking surely we are due a summer!!

It was sad to have so many of our agricultural shows and other events cancelled due to the wet weather. It is disappointing to exhibitors and public but also frustrating to event organisers plus the financial losses. I fear some shows may not recover and may be lost.

I have heard the Lowther event will not be held this year and that will be sadly missed.

I pray the weather will be kinder to us all in 2009.

As we all look forward to better things I hope for a trouble free foaling, a bit of sunshine, plenty of spring grass and some dry shows!!

Gwen Williamson



Tarnbeck Sheba, bred by Mr & Mrs Williamson: see People and Ponies, p 69



I'm just back in the office after a week in Switzerland - no, I wasn't skiing, I think those days are over. My husband skied and thoroughly enjoyed it after his three year break (perhaps that was an unfortunate word!) and I found that I could have a relaxing, stress-free holiday enjoying the sunshine and scenery, walking in the snow and even a bit of very gentle tobogganing.

I came back refreshed and ready for the January Council meeting, where I asked Council if they would consider allowing me to reduce my hours and just work for four days a week. I'm pleased to say they agreed, so from next week, I'll be working Monday to Thursday. Katherine is going to pick up the extra hours, but it won't be on Fridays.

This means that on the majority of Fridays, there won't be anyone here to answer the phone, but we will always get back to you if you leave us a message. I will work on the Fridays before shows, meetings and obviously on Sale day, and have my 'day off' on another day then. I hope this will go smoothly and not cause any problems.

We hope to have the foal registrations for 2008 completed by the end of January - we have seven still to resolve. Numbers are up again this year, 439 in total, 230 colts and 209 fillies, plus 10 late registrations. Our

Daughter Society in the Netherlands has also registered 32 colts and 31 fillies. We've started working on the 2008 Stud Book - perhaps this year it will be ready for the AGM. The HorseRace Betting Levy Board have very kindly agreed to let us use our 2009 grant to pay the microchip subsidies for the 2008 foals, but this will definitely be the last year as microchipping is compulsory for all equines born from this year on.

Council have agreed that the pedigree part of our database can be made available for members to view via our website. With this magazine, you will also receive a letter, giving you your password to access this information and also asking you which of your details you are happy to be made public. I think this decision is a big step forward for the Society and I hope very much that members find it useful.

I was very flattered to be invited to speak about being the Secretary of the Society at the Midlands West lunch in November, though I did approach the experience with some trepidation! However, they made me very welcome, especially the Marshalls who host the event, and after an excellent lunch at which I had to judge the puddings (I think that was the 'carrot!'), I hopefully didn't bore them too much. I did go armed with a series of photographs to project so that they had something to look at if they got too bored. It was particularly daunting when I realised that their previous

event had been Vyv Wood-Gee's excellent talk on her John O'Groats to Lands End ride. It was my first experience of 'after lunch speaking' - I think I'll stick to the day job.

definitely an exceptional item. If you take that out, we made a reasonable surplus, especially considering the number of events that were cancelled last year.

The annual accounts for last year are also included with this newsletter - please remember when looking at the bottom line that we paid half the cost of the DVD production this year -

Let's hope for a better summer this year.

Elizabeth
21 January 2009

MICROCHIPPED FOALS

The HorseRace Betting Levy Board have generously agreed that the 2009 grant can be used to pay the microchip subsidy for eligible foals registered in 2008.

However, this will be the last time the subsidy will be paid, as microchipping becomes compulsory in 2009.

Advertisement

MILL COTTAGE BED AND BREAKFAST

**5 mins away from Dalemain, (FPS Stallion Show)
10 mins away from FPS Breed Show Field.**

**5 timber stables with automatic drinkers for pony guests
(private turnout also available if needed)**

Up to 5 people catered for inside (two rooms)

**Plenty of horsebox parking for guests who don't need
accommodation**

**Contact - Mrs Ellen JM Jones 017684-83511 07787 570736
sparket@btinternet.com www.sparketmillcottage.co.uk**



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Notice of the Fell Pony Society Annual General Meeting

To be held on Saturday 4 April 2009 at 2.00 pm
At Newbiggin Village Hall, Newbiggin, Penrith CA11 0HT

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME!

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval and adoption of Autumn General Meeting Minutes
25 October 2008
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Council Elections
6. Adoption of Accounts for year ended 31st October 2008
7. Resolution to appoint Langdales Accountants Ltd as
Accountants to the Society
8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
9. Reports from Delegates and Sub-Committees
10. Members' suggestions
11. Any other business

Notice of General Meeting—Memorandum and Articles of Association

- 5.2 The accidental omission to give notice to, or non-receipt of
a notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive
notice, shall not invalidate the proceedings of that
meeting.

Directions to Newbiggin Village Hall CA11 0TH

Take the A66 from Penrith towards Keswick. After the roundabout with exits for Rheged and Ullswater, continue along the A66 for one mile, then take the right turn signed Newbiggin. After entering the village, the hall is on the right hand side, a timber building with a large off road car park.



Minutes of the Autumn General Meeting of the Fell Pony Society

**Held at Lowther Parish Hall,
Hackthorpe on Saturday 25 October
2008**

Miss Longsdon opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. During the summer the Society had sadly lost more friends:

Mary Bicknell, wife of Dick Bicknell, who supported the Society and helped with the catering at shows and meetings for many years; Barry Smith, who bred the Auckside ponies, two of which sold very well at the Sale yesterday, and who will be missed; David Paterson, father of Jane Paterson, one of our panel judges, who was well known in the Midlands showing world.

Miss Longsdon asked members to stand in remembrance of them.

She then welcomed members to the meeting, especially our President, Gwen Williamson, and congratulated everyone on turning out on such a wet afternoon. She also welcomed Sarah Norris, who would be giving an illustrated talk at the end of the meeting about her tremendous achievements in endurance riding with her pony, Southolme Blossom - they had recently completed 100 miles in less than 24 hours.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Ms S Albrecht, Mrs S Barbour, Mr & Mrs J M Billings, Mrs L & Miss C Brooks, Miss G Callister, Miss A Carlsaw, Mrs G Cockbain, Mrs M Enser, Mrs P Finch, Mr & Mrs W Ford and Miss D Ford, Mrs A

Garcia, Mr M Goddard, Mrs J Grant, Mr N Hill, Mrs D Key, Mrs G Kilburn and Miss S Kilburn-Wilson, Mrs C King, Mr & Mrs J Langcake, Mr & Mrs P Leach, the Messenger family, Mr W Robinson, Mr C Thompson and Mrs E Walker.

2 Approval and adoption of Annual General Meeting Minutes of 29 March 2008

Acceptance proposed by Miss J Glass and seconded by Mr J Greener.

3 Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 March 2008

Miss Longsdon had hoped that our DVD would have been ready for the meeting, but this was not the case - the script was still being added to the filming. She hoped we would be able to launch it at the AGM next spring.

The Southern Show had been rained off - the committee were looking for a different venue for next year. It would have been the 20th Southern Show and they had planned to give each pony that competed a commemorative mug full of treats. These now had the wrong date, so would definitely be collectors' items in the future - they hoped to sell them at cost and put the money towards having new ones made for next year, so she encouraged members to buy them.

Vyv Wood-Gee was coming down to the Midlands in November to talk about her epic journey from John O'Groats to Lands End - there were still tickets available for the talk and lunch.

Professor Stuart Carter and Dr June Swinburne had attended a council meeting in July to update us on the research currently being undertaken on foal syndrome. The research was going well and they had asked for blood samples from specific ponies to progress it. They were very hopeful that we would have a carrier test soon.

Miss Longsdon congratulated Mrs Millard on an excellent magazine (applause from members) - she had been slightly thrown in at the deep end after Mr Good had had to give it up at shorter notice than expected - our thanks were also due to him for his work over the last few years. Mrs Millard commented that no editor can do better than have good contributors - she already had contributions for the spring issue.

Miss Longsdon had attended the NPS meeting at the Horserace Betting Levy Board - they had given us warning that as all foals will have to be microchipped by law from July 2009, they would no longer wish us to use part of their grant to subsidise that. Judy Fairburn reminded members that equine passport law was different in Scotland but that SEBA were having regular meetings to try and resolve this.

4 Chairman's Report

Miss Longsdon commented that most things she had to say had been in the magazine, which she was sure everyone had read thoroughly. It had been a difficult summer, very wet, but we had been lucky with the Stallion Show, South Cumbria and the Breed Show. Lowther, the Southern Breed Show and the Performance Trials had

all been cancelled due to the bad weather; this meant loss of income to the Society and there was still a cost, even if the events didn't take place. The stand had done very well yesterday at the Sale; it was at the meeting today and please would members support it. We had two lovely new books - Fleur Hallam's 'Spirit of the Fell Pony' and 'A Walk on the Wild Side' by Carole Morland. Both authors were at the meeting and happy to sign your copies. She thanked the Brunskills and Jane Glass for working on the stand for a very long day yesterday. Prices at the Sale had been down rather, though there had been lots of ponies there. The downturn in prices was possibly due to the current economic climate and she hope that we weren't going to see a reversal. She reminded members that the Society gains no financial benefit from the Sale - it is run as a service to members and means extra work for a lot of people, especially the office - Elizabeth and Katherine had worked very hard and she thanked them both.

At the last meeting, we had discussed the semi-feral herds and what could be done to encourage people to keep the ponies on the hills. Council had been discussing a new scheme - provisionally called 'Learning with Fells for Juniors'. This had come out of suggestions from young members who wanted to learn what they should be looking for, the importance of conformation etc. We hoped to start a small group which would visit studs and be able to ask questions to learn about the breed. This could link with the semi-feral herd issue and show them what is needed in the management and running of such a herd. More details would be

forthcoming in the spring magazine - if anyone had any more ideas, they were welcome to contribute them, as the scheme was not finalised yet.

Miss Longsdon said that she felt at the Autumn meeting we were apt to repeat ourselves as there was little to add to what had already been in the magazine - did members want to continue with the formal meeting in the autumn, or would they prefer a more informal social event, perhaps with a talk? Mrs Newall thought that the meeting was a good way to wind up at the end of the year, Miss Fell said you only had to look at the numbers present to see that people wanted the meeting and Mr McNamara pointed out that people who travelled long distances were able to combine the Sale and the meeting in one trip. Mr Howe and Mrs Morton suggested that it could be combined with the foal show and a social event as well. The general consensus was that members wished the meeting to continue.

5 Secretary's Report

Mrs Parkin reported that it had been a busy month in the office since she returned from holiday. The magazine was delivered from the printers on her first day back - many thanks to Sue for editing that at fairly short notice and meeting our deadlines. It took Katherine and her two full days to mail it out so that members had notification of today's meeting before the due date.

After that they were into preparing the catalogue for yesterday's Sale - again a very intensive job as a third of the entries arrived on the last day and although most of the information can

be downloaded from our database, it still takes about two days to edit it and produce the catalogue for the mart. Also, despite the usual reminders, they were registering foals that were entered for the Sale. 205 foals had been registered to date, so there were probably nearly as many still to come.

There were 182 ponies in the catalogue yesterday - just about twice as many as last year, with 93 foals and 89 older ponies. 148 were forward on the day of which 73 were foals, and 59 foals and 29 older ponies were actually sold. The foal prices ranged from 90 to 1,600 guineas with the average being 294. Older ponies ranged from 170 to 2,600 guineas, the average was 757. The overall average price was 447 guineas, well down on the last few years. It was a very busy day from an administration point of view, as most new owners wanted to do the transfers and we gained quite a few new members. She was very grateful to Katherine and Margaret Murray for helping me with that. The merchandise sales had gone very well, taking just short of £1,500, but there was still plenty in stock for those planning on spending today. Again, grateful thanks to those who run the stand and browbeat people into parting with their money.

She was off to Stoneleigh next week for another meeting of the equine users of our database software - the meeting is mainly concentrating on the production of show and sale catalogues and she was very interested in anything that would make those jobs run more smoothly. They had recently upgraded our system to multi user, which has made things run more smoothly when

there were two of us in the office, and she and Katherine were very appreciative of Council approving that upgrade.

On the Finance side, business was going smoothly; there was nearly seven thousand pounds in the current accounts, (so that should cover this month's wages!), the deposit account looked healthy at just over £31,000 and the Trust Fund had now reached £9,400. It would be time to put her Treasurer's hat on when she got back from Stoneleigh as the end of October is the end of our financial year and it would be time to get the books ready for the accountants again.

Miss Longsdon thanked Mrs Parkin and Mrs Wilkinson for their hard work and reminded members to try and help the office by submitting entries and registrations in good time.

6 Reports from Delegates and Sub-committees

Mrs Robinson had nothing to report for the Conservation Grazing Sub-Committee, but reminded those taking part in the Performance Points schemes to submit their entries as soon as possible after their last event.

Ellen Jones, Judges Sub-Committee, said they had had a successful year. The assessment day at Inglewood had gone well and two probationers had been identified for 2009. Anyone interested in future assessments should contact her. Miss Longsdon agreed that the assessment day had gone very well and congratulated Ellen and Mr Boustead on their organisation of it. Ellen said that the next assessment would be on the last weekend of September in 2009, in the same format,

and she thanked Mr Potter for providing the ponies this year.

Mrs Millard, Overseas Sub-Committee, said that she had noticed whilst editing the magazine, that the Overseas section was only one page shorter than the British groups. Mrs Robinson had judged at a show in the United States and Mr Potter in Belgium. The lady who runs the website for our daughter society in the Netherlands was writing a piece for our spring magazine. Gina Feakins had emigrated to Australia with her Fell ponies and Judy Hill had been co-opted onto the Sub-Committee as contact for Australia. A liaison person had been identified for Denmark, to link with Barry Mallinson on the Sub-Committee. We had been contacted for information and photographs for a 'Horses of the World Park' in France and they hoped to buy a pony eventually. The Sub-Committee had not needed to meet as frequently, which hopefully meant that communication was good and they were not needed so much!

Mrs Hill, Publicity Sub-Committee, said that they working on the 2010 calendar - the deadline for submitting pictures was the end of October and the calendar should be ready for the AGM in spring. Any ideas for the Sub-Committee to work on/consider would be welcome.

Mrs Murray, Show Sub-Committee, said that although Lowther had been a wash out, we had been lucky with our other shows. We had been particularly fortunate that the Harden family had agreed to let us hold the Breed Show - there had not been too much mess and the field had recovered very quickly. On the day of the show, despite the

awful weather, everyone had been cheerful and there had been no complaints. She thanked everyone who had been involved in the show for making it such a happy one. She had not been at the South Cumbria Show, but the new classes for lead rein and first ridden had been well supported and would be held again. The provisional date in the newsletter had been amended and the show would now be held on 13 June 2009. The Style and Performance class at the Breed Show would be changed next year to make it more of a small dressage test. The Handy Pony class had not been well supported over the last few years - it was a very labour-intensive class to hold and our thanks were due to the Douglas family for doing it - but there had only been five competitors this year, so the Sub-Committee had decided to let it lapse and include other classes, particularly for the younger riders, such as lead rein and first ridden. Any other ideas would be gratefully received. Lastly, she thanked everyone who gives time to put the shows together and run them - without them it just wouldn't be possible. Miss Longsdon endorsed this and congratulated the Show Sub-Committee on the smooth running of our shows.

Mrs Savage spoke about the trotting events this year - the races at Tebay and the Cumbria Fell & Dales show had gone well. She thanked all who attended the event at Lowgrounds and made it such a success, especially those who had lent their ponies to others so that they could have a go. Events were being planned for next year. Miss Longsdon said she was sorry she had missed the Lowgrounds event

this year, but could thoroughly recommend it to those who hadn't been yet.

Mrs Charlton said that the Performance trials course at the Linnels had been a complete bog on the day the event should have taken place. Next year, the Kerbeck Stud would like to sponsor a team competition - teams of four with the best three scores to go towards a team trophy. Teams could be a mix of breeds.

Mrs Jones, North West Support Group, reported that the Cumbria Fell & Dales show had been successful at its new venue - the show would be held again next year on 30 May with a similar schedule. The pleasure ride/drive from Dufton organised by David Howe had been well attended with 20 riders and 8 drivers. Everyone had enjoyed it and been well fed and watered afterwards. Mr Wilkinson said he had an excellent video of the beck crossing. There had been a trip to HOYS this year - next year a trip to Olympia was planned. The group were also organising a Foal show which would be held at Inglewood Equestrian Centre on 22 November. The show was sponsored by Thomas Capstick, Bill Potter and Colin Roberts - schedules were available. The contact for the group was Ellen Jones, not Gwendy Byas as in the magazine.

Mrs Murray updated the meeting on the North East support group in the absence of Mrs Walker. They had held a successful ride earlier in the month near Blanchland, with eleven riders, and were planning a dinner with speaker before Christmas. They hope to hold two events each year - a ride in the area and a social get-together. It was a huge geographical area and they

were trying to establish a contact for each district and needed people from West, South and East Yorkshire.

Barry Stamp spoke for Midlands West - there was a full report of their activities in the magazine, which had been credited to him, but had been written by his better half, Diane Key. They had had a full and successful programme of events through the year, which would culminate in the annual luncheon at the Marshall's, at which the guest speaker, obtained at vast expense (!), was the FPS Secretary, Elizabeth Parkin.

Mrs Hill, Midlands East, said their autumn newsletter would be out soon, with a list of winter activities. Schedules were available for their December show and those wishing to attend the Christmas social function should contact Jane Glass.

Mrs & Mrs Muttitt, South East group, said it had been a bit of a transitional year, taking over from Charmian Ross-Thomson at the same time as moving house. The annual Plumpton ride had unfortunately had to be cancelled, but they hoped to hold it next year and they were also planning a showing clinic with a guest speaker.

Miss Longsdon thanked all those involved in the groups and also Eileen Walker, Anne Richardson and Jane Anderson for taking ponies to the NPS Judges Training and Assessment weekend near York, and Mr & Mrs Dorman, Shelley Osborne and Janet Copeland for supplying a pony for each day at Your Horse Live. She was very appreciative of the people who did this, as a pony made a huge difference to a stand and attracted lots of attention.

7 Semi-Feral Herds

Miss Longsdon had included this topic in her Chairman's report, but asked if members had anything they wished to say. Mrs Hodgson asked how the Society defined a 'semi-feral herd'. Miss Longsdon thought Mrs Morland was just the person to reply to that in view of her recent book. Mrs Morland (Lunesdale) said that in her view, semi-feral ponies lived as nature intended - their ponies were only brought in just before they foaled, in case of problems, and to be wormed. The rest of the time they live on the open, high fell and fend for themselves, only coming down to the farm to be fed when there was snow on the ground. Miss Longsdon said that such ponies were the backbone of our breed, they were tough and can live out, and we needed to keep them like that; there were good ponies bred away from the fell, but we needed the fell bred stock to go back to, to keep the breed characteristics. Mr Thorpe (Wellbrow) said that all his mares foal on the fell, he rides round them every day during the foaling season, and they only come home to be served. He gathers on a Fell pony, not a quad bike. Most of his mares foal in the same place as they did the previous year, not necessarily where they live the rest of the time. Mrs Morton (Lownthwaite) said that if you took the word 'feral' to be 'wild', these were semi-wild ponies, not tame or paddock-bred. The time they spent on fell/common land would depend on the common regulations. Mr Howe (Rundales) said that his herd live on the fell all the time, foaling there, the foals only coming off as yearlings and the mares only coming home to be served. There was a photograph on the

back of the autumn magazine of a 30 year old mare - she hadn't been down for 10 years and had had a bit of a shock this year when he brought them all down so that people could see them after the pleasure ride/drive.

8 Members Suggestions

Mr Rawlinson asked if it might be possible to move the Annual Sale to a Saturday, as some people couldn't get away from work to attend the Sale on a Friday. There was general discussion about this but the majority favoured leaving it as it was, with the meeting on the Saturday.

Fleur Hallam suggested having an award in driving classes for the best junior whip, to encourage more young people to take part and get involved. Mrs Morton commented that the British Driving Society was having a campaign

next year to get more people involved in Driving for the Disabled.

9 Any Other Business

Mrs Murray told the meeting that it was customary at this meeting to present the Lownthwaite Rob Trophy - this was given to a pony, usually over twenty years old, that had been a good ambassador for the breed in activities other than the show ring. The trophy was presented to Summit Harrier, owned by Anne Armstrong-Foxton, who came forward to receive the trophy on behalf of her pony and spoke enthusiastically about what he had done.

Miss Longsdon then closed the formal part of the meeting and Sarah Norris gave her talk on endurance riding with Southolme Blossom, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

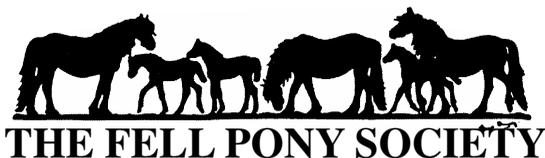


NEW Midlands East Support Group Spring Show 2009

An exciting new show for Fell ponies in the south is being held on Sunday 22 March 2009 at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre, Slapton, Buckinghamshire. It's a great opportunity to start the season with friends at a lovely venue with three indoor arenas. Overnight stabling is available and there will be a full range of classes, with something for all members of the family. It's a great opportunity to bring out a youngster, try a new pony, attempt a new class or give your children the chance to compete in a friendly environment at a superb venue. We know how hard it is to get a pony ready for a show at this time of year, particularly field kept ponies, and summer standards of turnout and fitness are not expected! Bury Farm offers parking on hard standing, an indoor cafe, tack shop, overnight stabling at £26/night and equine and human showers. The Fell Pony Sales stand will also be there, giving everybody a chance to stock up on FPS merchandise.

There is a social dinner at the pub the night before the show - all are welcome, but pre-booking is necessary. For more information please contact Georgina Blair on 07796 685992 or see the website www.fellspringshow.com or send SAE to Georgina Blair, 18 Gurnells Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield HP9 2XJ.

The closing date for entries is 14 March.



Sub-Committees

Conservation Sub-Committee

Chairman: Mrs C H Robinson, 6 Crossgates, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria CA144TU. Telephone: 01946 862439.

Miss G M Callister, Mr R B Charlton, Mrs M Dodd, Mr W S Potter, Mr A Thorpe.

Judges Sub-Committee

Chairman: Mr P Boustead, 33 Meadowside, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 3AQ. Telephone: 01524 383665.

Secretary Mrs E Jones, Mill Cottage, Sparket Mill, Hutton John, Penrith CA110LZ
Mrs G M Cockbain, Mrs D W Edwards, Mr T H Harrison, Mr A W Morland,
Mr W S Potter, Mr P Metcalfe.

Overseas Sub-Committee

Chairman: Mrs Sue Millard, Daw Bank, Greenholme, Tebay, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3TA. Telephone: 01539 624636.

Mrs G M Callister, Mr TB Capstick, Mrs J A Hill, Mr GHB Mallinson, Mrs M C Murray, Mrs C H Robinson.

Publicity, Promotions and Projects Sub-Committee

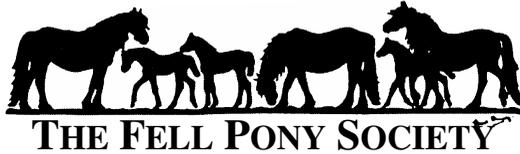
Chairman: Mrs J A Hill, The Bothy, Hall Lane, Bitteswell, Lutterworth, Leics. LE174LN. Telephone: 01455 552534.

Miss Jane Glass, Mr RB Charlton, Mrs P Norris, Mr G H B Mallinson, Mr I Smith, Mr B Stamp.

Show Sub-Committee

Chairman: Mrs J E Ward, 10 The Hawthorns, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9LE. Telephone: 01697 342600.

Mr P Boustead, Mrs S Brunskill, Mrs S Charlton, Mrs M Dodd, Mr J Greener, Mrs M C Murray, Mrs CH Robinson.



Council Elections 2009

The following retire and are eligible for re-election: Mr G H B Mallinson, Mr P Metcalfe, Mr W S Potter and Mr C C Roberts; all have indicated their willingness to stand again. There is a further vacancy due to the resignation last year of Mr T D Good. One new candidate has been proposed - Mrs S Brunskill. Therefore there are 5 candidates and 5 vacancies to fill, so **there is no need for a vote.**

As election addresses have already been written (by the proposer for the new candidate and by the candidate for those seeking re-election), these have been included below for members' information. Numbers in brackets represent the number of regular meetings which have not been attended by those serving Council members over five years (one year in the case of Mr Roberts).



MR P METCALFE – prefix 'RYEHOUSE' (9)

My first introduction to Fell ponies was in my youth, helping my grandfathers with their ponies. My interests with my own ponies are showing and driving, which involves the whole family. There is no better feeling than watching your home produced pony at the top of the line. The natural progression now is watching my daughter and niece, working and riding the Fell ponies.

The Council is working as a united front to keep the Fell pony profile as keen as ever.



MR W S POTTER – prefix 'GREENHOLME' (0)

I breed the Greenholme ponies on the fells near Shap in Cumbria.

I have served on the Council now for 20 years and I have seen a lot of changes, some good, some not so good. I will do my best to keep the bad ones down to a minimum!

I accept that a good Council should use people with different talents but I feel strongly that the Breeders should be well represented. My intention is to support and encourage Breeders, especially of the semi feral herds, which are of great importance to the future of the traditional pony.

I strongly support the Education Scheme for young FPS members.

I hope that the Stud book's Section X will not be over-used to contain ponies with a little white, because it is a traditional characteristic that cannot be excluded from the breed standard.

I have never missed a Council meeting.



MR BARRY MALLINSON – prefix ‘HARDENDALE’ (7)

I am 54 years old and have been a member of the Fell Pony Society since I was 16 years old, which was when I became the owner of my first Fell pony. This was when I started breeding the Hardendale Fell ponies. I have shown my ponies for the last 26 years and I strive to breed better ponies all the time to help keep the true breed type.

I have been a Council member for the last 7 and a half years and try extremely hard to get to all meetings but very occasionally my job does not allow this.

I am also on the Overseas sub-committee and the Publicity, Promotions and Projects sub-committee. I held an open day during the ‘Week Up The Wall’ to help promote the fell pony especially to our overseas members.

I would very much appreciate members’ support for re-election.



MR COLIN ROBERTS – prefix ‘BYBECK’ (1)

Based in Tebay, Cumbria the heart of Fell Pony country, I have continued to improve and expand my herd of semi-feral Fells roaming the Howgills.

My family and I feel very strongly that the Fell herds need to be preserved at all cost, keeping the traditional type and hardiness found in a true Fell pony roaming the open fell.

If re-elected to council I hope to continue to contribute to the meetings, which in turn will promote and preserve both the Fell Pony and the Fell Pony Society.

New Nominations



MRS SUSAN BRUNSKILL (proposed by Miss B Bell, seconded by Mr W S Potter)

Mrs Sue Brunskill has been a member of the Society for many years and has done a lot of work for the Society over those years. She has worked on the Sales stand at all the events, and stewarded at the Fell Pony Society Shows. She is secretary for the Northern Counties Pony Association and is on the FPS Show Committee. She has always been willing to help at any time and has shown Fell ponies for many years at the local shows. I think she would be a very good candidate for our Council.



OSC have not met since we approved the annual renewal of certification for our Branches in North America (2), Belgium, France and Germany.

Our Daughter Society in the Netherlands, and several of the Branches, have reported on their 2008 doings elsewhere in the Magazine so I won't repeat them here. Thank you, Josefien Vink, Mia Aerdt, Mary-Jean Gould-Earley and Victoria Tollman, for reporting so fully and enthusiastically. France and South Germany, represented by Libby Robinson and Anne Fishburn, are quieter but I'm sure they'll have plans for 2009.

Other countries are also gathering impressive numbers of Fells and owners, and we have connections, some formal and some less formal, to pass information both to the owners there and back to us in Britain. For instance, Peter Moor tells us about Fells in Switzerland, and Karin-Luise Grentoft is helping to spread the word in Denmark, where there are increasing numbers of ponies. We also hear of Fells in Sweden, from Martina Rosengren, and in the Czech Republic from Gabriela Mikutova.

Perhaps it is time for a reminder that an Overseas Branch can be formed by any group of Fell pony owners and supporters to promote the breed. Like the Support Groups in Britain, the activities that Branches undertake can be very varied: from taking part in exhibitions, running their own shows or competitions or holding pleasure rides and drives, to social get-togethers. It's up to you. The people who take official roles just need to be members of FPS, and readily contactable, in order to pass on any official information from the Society. Application forms for setting up an Overseas Branch are available from the Secretary at the office.

Have a good year.

Sue Millard



Simone Albrecht writes from Germany: "Guess what - someone took a pic of us - Sheena and me at our hunting!"



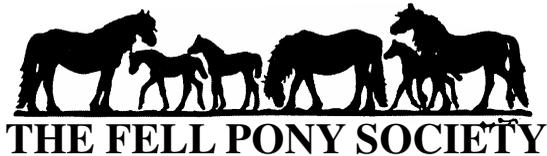
2009 Membership Fees

Membership Type	UK Fee	Overseas Fee
Full	£25	£30
Associate	£15	£20
Junior	£15	£20
Family	£50	£60

The range of membership types has been extended to mirror the UK types, with an additional charge to cover the cost of Overseas postage.

An Associate member is unlikely to own a pony and therefore will not wish to take advantage of the pony related privileges of membership.

Family membership may be applied for by married or co-habiting couples and their children under the age of 18 years, all residing at the same address. The two adult members enjoy the rights and privileges of full membership, and the children the rights and privileges of junior membership. Full details are in Section 2 of the Articles of Association.



Calendar of Events 2009

Details can also be found on the Events calendar on the FPS web site,
http://www.fellponysociety.org/calendar_of_events.htm

- 22 March MESH Spring Show, Bury Farm E.C., Slapton, Bucks. Schedules, SAE to Georgina Blair, 18 Gurnells Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield HP9 2XJ. Tel. 07796 685992.
- 4 April Annual General Meeting, Newbiggin Village Hall, Stainton, Penrith, Cumbria @ 2 pm.
- 16 May Stallion and Colt Show, Dalemain, Ullswater, Penrith. Schedules, SAE to Margaret Murray, Park House, Baldersdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham DL 12 9UT.
- 16 May Sandringham Show, contact Lisa Dunger, 01485 541097, or Judy Hill, judy@gileshill.plus.com.
- 17 May Sponsored Ride, Sandringham Estate, contact Lisa Dunger, 01485 541097, or Judy Hill, judy@gileshill.plus.com.
- 30 May Cumbria Fell and Dales Show, Brougham, Cumbria. Schedules, SAE to Ellen Jones, Mill Cottage, Hutton John, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0LZ.
- 13 June South Cumbria Fell Pony Show, Westmorland County Show Ground, Crooklands, Nr Milnthorpe, Kendal. Schedules, SAE to Margaret Murray (as above).
- 21 June Derbyshire Fell & Dales Pony Show, Bakewell Show Ground Schedules, SAE to Mary Longsdon, Eaglets, Little Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1 NN.
- 7 Aug Lowther—Cancelled for 2009
- 8 Aug Fell Pony Society Breed Show, Brougham, Penrith Schedules SAE to Margaret Murray.
- 13 Sept Southern Fell Pony Society Show. Schedules, SAE to Sadie Densham, The Spinney, Duns Tew, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 6JT.
- 20 Sept Performance Trials, Linnel Wood, Hexham. Contact Sarah Charlton, e-mail bob.charlton@ukonline.co.uk.
- 23 Oct Show and Sale of Ponies, Penrith Farmers' Mart, Skirsgill, Penrith.
- 24 Oct Autumn Meeting, venue TBA.
- 21 Nov Fell Pony Foal Show, Inglewood Equestrian Centre, Penrith. Schedules, SAE to Ellen Jones (as Fell & Dales Show).



Beyond a Dream: the Caledonia Challenge

“You can’t ride a pony that small!” These words rang in my ears for many weeks as sceptical family, friends and colleagues heard of my new pony. People genuinely thought I would be unable to achieve any endurance goals with Southolme Blossom, a Fell pony. Standing only 13.1, black and hairy, overweight, unfit and brimming with negative attitude, she was admittedly a challenge, and far from most people’s idea of the perfect endurance mount. The attitude was a self defence mechanism and I could see a genuine sparkle in her mannerisms and her paces. At this stage they were fleeting glimpses as “forwards” was an elusive concept and much of our time was spent going up, down, round and backwards. Throughout all this she made me smile (I like a challenge!)

Pleasure Rides

After an initial fittening program, we entered our first pleasure ride, and Southolme Blossom, known as Maddi (or more usually “Little Maddi”) to her friends, started her endurance career. It was a revelation, she loved it and although at that stage she still had much to learn, we have not looked back. I thought we would both be happy riding 20 mile rides and many folk believed this would be as far as we would get. To achieve more was surely just a dream. How wrong can you be! Gradually she learned her job, we both learned about the sport and our goals crept ever upwards. She sailed through her early gradings, which are in place to take horses slowly and steadily

through the increasing distances and speeds, and by the end of the second year we found ourselves chosen as reserve for the Scottish Team and entering our first race ride - a 50 mile ride at the Red Dragon in Wales. The learning curve soared upwards in front of us again, but most importantly we were both loving it.

Learning the Rules

Over the next few years her fitness increased, we grew to know each other inside out, she learnt the rules (and even spotted markers that I had missed!) and settled into her job. However, we can still have disagreements about the most suitable speed and can have dodgy brakes for miles - she is a Fell pony after all! Her determination and competitiveness, so typical of the breed, have held her in good stead, and she has made her mark in a sport where Arabians and Arab crosses are the norm. At rides, Vets and officials are often surprised to see us present for a “big” class, and onlookers often assume the “little hairies” are doing a pleasure ride, especially when I am riding with my daughter Tilly on our other Fell, Kerbeck Night Jewel. It was with immense pride in the breed that we both entered a 50 mile race earlier this year and both ponies finished with heart rates of 48, having trotted and cantered round the course together. Maddi often has a fan club of well wishers at the bigger rides, which is wonderful. I only wish I had more time during the ride to speak to people but

speed is everything and vet gates can be frantic as you prepare the pony for vetting, getting the heart rate down and ensuring she doesn't chill or stiffen.

International Maddi

Maddi has competed in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. She has been on the Scottish Team in Wales, Ireland - 50 miles - and Wales again - 100 miles in two days. She has also completed the notorious Golden Horseshoe Ride on Exmoor, another 2 day 100 miles which was tough but a wonderful experience. She has galloped home in a racing finish after 75 miles (see *front cover*) to secure second place and completed numerous competitive rides. To date we have ridden 2,500 miles together and that does not include training at home!

The Challenge

The only one we had not attempted was a one day 100 mile race ride; I felt she should have a chance to prove herself, although I agonised over the decision.

Thus, in August, we found ourselves at the Caledonia Challenge in Oatridge, Edinburgh. It was still dark as the horses gathered at the pre-dawn start, ten Arabs, one Anglo-Arab and Maddi, a Fell pony. To the onlookers it may have appeared odd but Maddi and I knew we were equal, in stamina and



80 miles into the Golden Horseshoe Ride

determination if not quite in speed. Maddi is never fazed by being several hands smaller than her endurance colleagues but has mastered a withering look to put the big boys in their place.

Only three were in our class because the others were International riders, including the team from Qatar. Throughout the day the foreigners looked at Maddi incredulously as she sailed through vetting after vetting. Unfortunately our fellow riders were not so lucky and by the 4th vet gate (about 75 miles) we were on our own. The international horses were too far ahead to catch, so for two loops Maddi and I settled into each other's company. She passed the 5th vet gate and we were cheered out onto the final



Sarah and Maddi starting loop 3 of the Caledonia Challenge

loop. It was a heart-warming moment and as she trotted willingly into the fading light, having already completed 90 miles, I had a lump in my throat!

In the pitch black

The final loops were tough, especially as dusk was surprisingly early and the darkness quickly enveloped us. My crew, such an essential part of endurance especially at longer distances, were amazing, appearing and encouraging at every possible place. I was very lucky to have five people willing to crew us in this ride - Warwick, Diane, Lorna, Lois and Tilly and all did a brilliant job. Crews meet you at suitable points along the route to give slosh bottles to cool the horse and offer water, sugar beet water and food. They then hurry back to the venue or vet gate to get all the equipment and water organised before the pony gets there, ready to prepare the pony for the all important vetting.

Maddi's attitude to this final loop was amazing; she trotted confidently along narrow paths in the pitch black without

once questioning me. Together we negotiated leaning fences, gates, barriers, riverbanks, rough ground and overhanging branches. On the road sections we were escorted by cars containing my tired but increasingly excited crew, ride officials and a Vet, checking we were fit to continue. The very last section was on tracks and the cars sped off leaving us alone once more.

Cheers

I expected to be met at the venue by just my crew and a few essential officials and Vets. It therefore only slowly dawned on me that I could hear a crowd. Dozens of people had stayed to see us home and were cheering for little Maddi, and for the last mile and a half their enthusiasm drew us in. We were home, one more set of vet checks to go. The silence was intense as Maddi did her final trot up, rhythmic, even and true, as perfect as her pre-ride trot up the night before, and we all waited for the Vet to complete his checks and take the heart rate again. Pass. Heart rate 51. Emotions ran freely but I was simply in awe of my little Fell. She rode from dawn till dark, willingly without hesitation, no ifs, no buts, capturing the hearts of all the people who watched her that day. A tiny competitor with a heart of gold. She gained her Diamond endurance award, something that eludes many bigger, faster horses, and she joined the ranks of the endurance elite.

So fitting for such a gem of a pony!!

Sarah Norris, Inverness-shire



Endurance Pleasure Rides: Linnel Sunbird

Sunny and I had a great season in 2008. Sunny has matured and he is improving. He has completed every event we entered, mainly endurance pleasure rides. We did 3 in the New Forest, the first in January, while in April we did the small pleasure ride on Saturday and on the Sunday a novice Competitive Trail Ride. He does well on this terrain.



We did another Golden Horseshoe pleasure ride, this time raising funds for The Air Ambulance, yet again a very good event. The terrain was very challenging, but it was well worth the experience. This year it didn't rain. We stayed longer to see all of the Golden Horseshoe event, plus "Country File" were filming there. Linda, the lady I met last year is now a very good friend. She got a bronze award. Linda now lives in Norfolk but she checks up on me and sees that Sunny is getting the results he should have. Big thanks to Linda.

The wet summer and the ground softening have meant that I have continued endurance pleasure rides. We did well at Bramshill, where Sunny got a grade 4 with an average 11 kph speed, which is not bad. He loved this ride, though I guess he would do better if only he would walk back to the vet check.

We also rode to raise money for breast cancer as my sister had suffered this in 2008. All the horses were in pink

ribbons, and we had to ride showing a bra! It was the first ever "Bra Back Ride", and they are hoping to do more next year. It was a lot of fun and thankfully it was a nice sunny day!

Roll on next year: "Sunny, you are my Star." I have not been well this year but am determined not to let things beat me. After being diagnosed with Parkinsons, Sunny has given me hope, for without him I would be lost. We might have done something in the region of 338 km total this season. That is good for it is hard work with this disease. But it gives me something to focus on.

I have in no doubt Sunny will really start to shine in 2009!

Karen Hemmings, Wiltshire



FPS Endurance Awards

A happy new year to you all, may it be one of sound ponies, good rides and fair weather.

Thanks to Pauline Finch for operating the scheme before me. Congratulations to Sarah Norris and Southolme Blossom for being the first Fell pony to successfully complete a 160 km ride in a day. Well done to you both and thank you for a most interesting talk and slide show at the autumn meeting.

The E.G.B. motto is "To finish is to win", therefore all our scheme competitors should be pleased with themselves.

Uldale Black Raven who is by Lunesdale Jerry out of Lunesdale Heather was retired aged 22 at the end of the 2007 season. He is enjoying his retirement with his pal Townend Herbie, may it be a long one. His replacement is Littletree Smokey Joe, a six year old grey by Lunesdale Mountain Mist out of Lunesdale Columbine. He is a chap with plenty of action and attitude so maybe in years to come we might take a stab at THE BIG RIDE!

Well down to business, this year our numbers are growing and include two men which is a good thing, we need more men so they can open the gates for us! Thanks to Margaret Murray for organising the rosettes.

Endurance Award Scheme 2008

Highest Mileage Competitive Award and Fell Pony Society Trophy

1 Sarah Norris	Southolme Blossom	671 Kms
2 Tilly Hepburn Wright	Kerbeck Night Jewel	514 Kms
3 Karen Hemmings	Linnel Sunbird	65 Kms

High Point Award and Bramble Trophy

1 Sarah Norris	Southolme Blossom	532 points
2 Tilly Hepburn Wright	Kerbeck Night Jewel	258 points
3 Karen Hemmings	Linnel Sunbird	35 points

Highest Mileage Pleasure Award and Hillhead Minstrel Trophy

1 Liz Worthy	Dalewin Beauty	369 Kms
2 Lynda Cornall	Stennerskeugh Joanne 2nd	284 Kms
3 Karen Hemmings	Linnel Sunbird	275 Kms
4 Jennet McLeod	Browdale Raven	125 Kms
5 Tilly Hepburn Wright	Kerb-ck Night Jewel	123 Kms
6 Robert McCaw	Burnhead Border Reiver	107 Kms
7 Sarah Norris	Southolme Blossom	98 Kms
8 Fiona Carradus	Littletree Smokey Joe	48 Kms

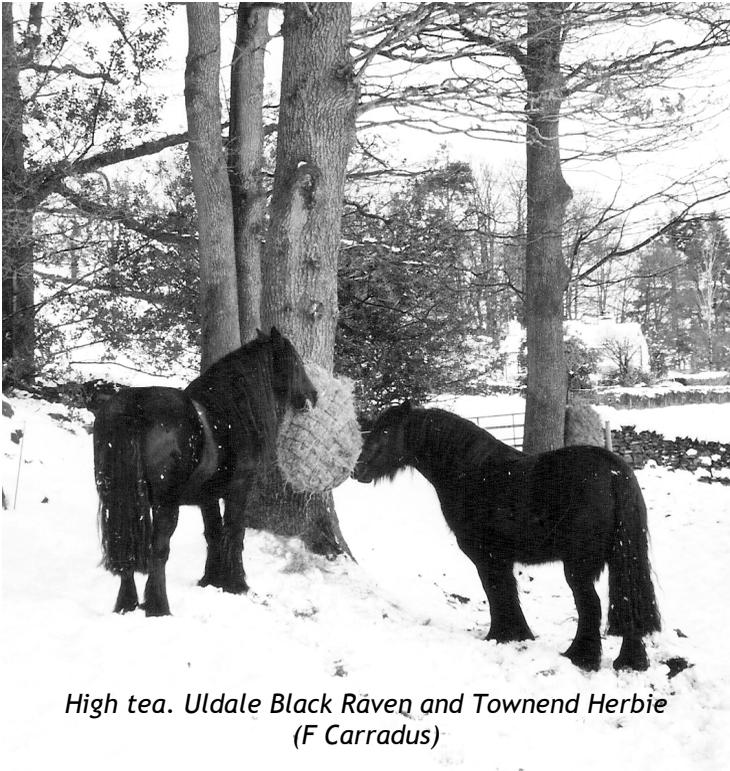
The Taster Award and Uldale Black Raven Trophy

1 John Greener	Thornlaw Breeze	156 Kms
2 Jane Woolley	Stennerskeugh Frances 2nd	60 Kms
3 Barbara Hartley	Townend Beth	51 Kms

Accumulative Kilometres

Lynda Cornall	Stennerskeugh Joanne 2nd	250 Kms	(284 Kms)
Karen Hemmings	Linnel Sunbird	250 Kms	(340 Kms)
Liz Worthy	Dalewin Beauty	250 Kms	(392 Kms)
Robert McCaw	Burnhead Border Reiver	250 Kms	(406 Kms)
Tilly Hepburn Wright	Kerbeck Night Jewel	500 Kms	
		750 Kms	
		1000 Kms	(1056 Kms)
Sarah Norris	Southolme Blossom	2000 Kms	(2407 Kms)

Fiona Carradus tel 01539 821790



*High tea. Uldale Black Raven and Townend Herbie
(F Carradus)*



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Registration and Other Fees

To Register Colt or Gelding - registrations received to 30 November	£10	Transfer of Ownership (UK)	£10
To Register Colt or Gelding - registrations received 1 - 31 December	£20	Transfer of Ownership (Overseas- includes postage charge)	£15
To Register Filly - registrations received to 30 November	£15	Transfer to Gelding	FOC
To Register Filly - registrations received 1 - 31 December	£30	Stallion Licence (includes cost of DNA kit)	£50
Late Registration (does not include cost of parentage test)	£50	Register a Prefix - UK Rate	£40
Duplicate Passport (does not include cost of parentage test)	£50	Register a Prefix - Overseas Rate	£60
		DNA kit	£50
		Please note the increase in registration fees for applications received in December.	

Microchipped foals

The HorseRace Betting Levy Board have generously agreed that the 2009 grant can be used to pay the microchip subsidy for eligible foals registered in 2008.

However, this will be the last time the subsidy will be paid, as microchipping becomes compulsory in 2009.

2009 Foal Registration Forms

Changes to EU Horse Passport regulations due to be enacted for 2009 may mean that foal registration forms need to be amended in order to comply.

Please do not use any old registration forms you may have in 2009 without first checking with the office.



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

The 200 Club

Still only £12 to join - and look at the prizes!

200 Club Draws - 2008

Nos	Name	Prize				
			Nov '08			
Jul '08			1st	257	Mrs N Banbury	£25.00
1st	437	Miss E Roberts	£25.00	2nd	207	Mrs G Cockbain
2nd	251	Mrs R Douglas	£15.00	3rd	371	Mrs J Blair
3rd	431	Mrs F Stevenson	£10.00	4th	400	Mr P Metcalfe
4th	421	Mrs E Mole	£5.00			£5.00
			Dec '08			
Aug '08			1st	296	Mrs R Littlejohn	£250.00
1st	399	Mr D Borg	£25.00	2nd	274	Mr & Mrs JR Ellwood
2nd	253	V Glaze	£15.00			£125.00
3rd	347	Mrs E Thompson	£10.00	3rd	388	Mrs FJ Edmondson
4th	245	Mr I Smith	£5.00			£50.00
			4th			
Sept '08			206	Mr T Davies		£25.00
1st	334	Mrs DL Horn	£25.00			
2nd	285	Mrs S Newcombe	£15.00			
3rd	251	Mrs RC Douglas	£10.00			
4th	332	Miss JH Woods	£5.00			
			Oct '08			
1st	307	Mrs SR Stewart	£25.00			
2nd	371	Mrs J Blair	£15.00			
3rd	241	Miss GA West	£10.00			
4th	225	Mrs C Merry	£5.00			

Remember, your friends and family can join the 200 Club ... they do not need to be members of the FPS.

All profit goes to the Society's funds.

Please send your name, address and cheque for £12 made payable to:

The Fell Pony Society

to Glenis Cockbain, Rakefoot Farm, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4TE



Fell Pony Society Premium and Performance Points 2008

Towards the end of the year I was beginning to think that many people had, not surprisingly, decided not to enter this year. However I was more than pleased to get a rush of mail over the Christmas period. So a big WELL DONE to those of you who donned your waders and threw caution to the wind and had a go anyway.

Entries in some sections are slightly down, as are the total points that people gained over the season, but generally, considering the year we had, I am pleased how many people did enter. Forms for 2009 are available on the website, or by sending me an SAE.

Best of luck for the coming year.

Christine Robinson

Foal (4 entries)

- 1st Brackenbank Flash Harry
FP71155C. Owner/exb Mr&Mrs D
Wilkinson. 540 points
- 2nd Kerbeck Smoke'n'Fire. Owner/exb
Mrs C H Robinson. 160 points
- 3rd Thornbeck Solitaire. Owner/exb
Mr M Rawlinson. 140 points
- 4th Birkett Bank Poppy FP4879.
Owner/exb Mr R Relph-Briggs.
110 points

Yearling (4 entries)

- 1st Bracklinn Jackpot FP71036C.
Owner/exb Mr&Mrs I Smith.
1185 points
- 2nd Townend Rocky FP71049. Owner
Courtney Savage. Exb Kathryn
Savage. 1150 points

- 3rd Townend Charm II FP4599.
Owner/exb Maxine Chapman.
525 points
- 4th Wellbrow Aruna FP4628. Owner/
exb Mr A Thorpe. 200 points

Two Year Old (3 entries)

- 1st Brackenbank Gypsy III FP4421.
Owner/exb Mr & Mrs D Wilkinson.
450 points
- 2nd Carrock Petal FP4387. Owner/exb
Mr M Rawlinson. 180 points
- 3rd Kerbeck Night Crystal FP4416.
Owner/exb Mr M Rawlinson.
40 points

Three Year Old (5 entries)

- 1st Townend Fern FP4216. Owner/exb
Mr R Relph-Briggs.
1115 points
- 2nd Brackenbank Rosanna FP4182.
Owner/exb Mr&Mrs D Wilkinson.
340 points
- 3rd Dalewin Instructor FP70652G.
Owner/exb Mr M Rawlinson.
230 points
- 4th Greenholme Heather Mist
FP70688C. Owner/exb Mr M
Rawlinson. 160 points
- 5th Linnel Doublet FP70635G. Owner/
exb Mrs C H Robinson
140 points

Four Year Old & over - Inhand (11 entries)

- 1st Shirdleyhill Tara FP3039. Owner/
exb Mrs J A Hill. 1225 points
- 2nd Brackenbank Romany FP3006.
Owner Mr&Mrs D Wilkinson. Exb
Melissa Brennand.
1105 points

- 3rd Dene Decoris FP3330. Owner/exb Miss S Pringle. 710 points
 4th Wellbrow Lady FP3307. Owner/exb Mr A Thorpe. 670 points
 5th Bracklinn Maggie FP3184. Owner/exb Ms S Camp. 630 points
 6th Brackenbank Rosie FP3463. Owner/exb Mr & Mrs D Wilkinson. 485 points

Four Year Old & over - Performance (9 entries)

- 1st Kerbeck Thor's Fire FP51178G. Owner Mrs S M Morris. Exb Mrs C H Robinson. 990 points
 2nd Aylestone The Merrie Monk FP70061. Owner Mesdames Hall & Meadows. Exb Anastasia Meadows. 700 points
 3rd Meres Julie-Anne FP3082. Owner/exb Mrs D McGrail. 510 points
 4th Heltondale Emma FP1624. Owner Miss R Woodruff. Exb Miss E Woodruff. 500 points
 5th Brackenbank Romany FP3006. 470 points
 6th Wellbrow Satin FP3938. Owner/Exb Linda Butterworth. 340 points

Junior Points (3 entries)

- 1st Aylestone The Merrie Monk FP70061. Exb Anastasia Meadows. 700 points
 2nd Heltondale Emma. Exb Miss E Woodruff. 500 points
 3rd Brackenbank Romany. Exb Miss M Brennand. 470 points

Driving (3 entries)

- 1st Coppyhill Suzanne FP2681. Owner/exb Mrs S Millard. 870 points
 2nd Foggygill Jack Flash FP50017G. Owner/exb Miss C Simpson. 705 points
 3rd Orton Hall Dennis FP51003G. Owner/exb Mr M Rawlinson. 200 points

Dressage (7 entries)

- 1st Aylestone The Merrie Monk FP70061. Exb Anastasia Meadows. 1200 points
 2nd Oldmill Mystique FP2771. Owner Mesdames Hall & Meadows. Exb Isabel Meadows. 1180 points
 3rd Meres Julies-Anne. Exb Mrs D McGrail. 960 points
 4th Aylestone The Merrie Monk FP70061. Exb Isabel Meadows. 600 points
 5th Heltondale Lady VIII FP1402. Owner/exb Mrs D McGrail. 150 points
 6th Kerbeck Thor's Fire FP51178G. Exb Mrs C H Robinson. 130 points

Champion Stallion - Murthwaite Look at Me

Champion Mare - Brackenbank Mayblossom



November Foal Show

The first ever Fell Pony Foal Show organised by the FPS North West Area Support Group was held at Inglewood Equestrian Centre, Penrith on Saturday, 22nd November and voted a huge success.

The judge was Ian Smith (Bracklinn Stud) of Perthshire, who described the entries as being of "terrific quality." He also said that he was very impressed with the number of entries forward for a newly established show. Entries came from as far afield as Scotland and Cheshire.



The first class, for filly foals, was won by Thomas Capstick (Murthwaite Stud) with Auckside Poppy which he purchased recently from K. Jackson of Bishop

*Ian Smith presents
Thomas Capstick and
Auckside Poppy with
the Champion Trophy*

Results

Class One

- 1st Mr TB Capstick, Ravenstonedale, Auckside Poppy (**Champion**)
- 2nd Miss M Hall, Jedburgh, Towford Harmonie
- 3rd Mr TB Capstick, Ravenstonedale, Murthwaite Kim Renee
- 4th, Mrs I Potter, Shap, Greenholme Cheryl
- 5th Mr & Mrs D Wilkinson, Appleby, Brackenbank Ebony
- 6th Mr JM Rawlinson, Gretna, Carrock Heather

Class Two

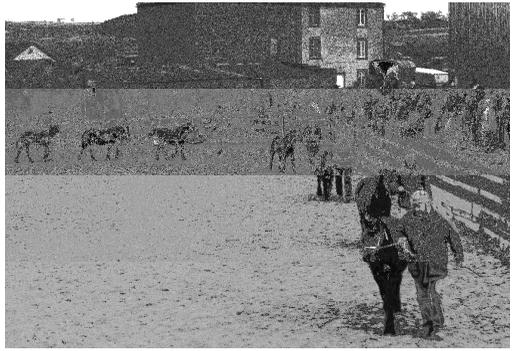
- 1st Mr & Mrs D Wilkinson, Appleby, Brackenbank Flash Harry (**Res.Champ**)
- 2nd, Mrs CH Robinson, Lamplugh, Kerbeck Smoke 'n' Fire
- 3rd Mr & Mrs WS Potter, Shap, Greenholme Corker
- 4th, Mr RW Relph-Briggs, Penruddock, Brackenthwaite Duke
- 5th, Mr C Roberts, Tebay, Bybeck Jackdaw
- 6th, Mr & Mrs RB Charlton, Hexham, Linnel Comet II

Auckland. The Auckside Fell Ponies were bred by the late Barry Smith of Bishop Auckland, who died suddenly in the summer of 2008. Auckside Poppy went on to claim the Foal Championship.

The colt class was won by David Wilkinson of the Brackenbank Stud with Brackenbank Flash Harry. David breeds the Brackenbank fell ponies in partnership with his wife Katherine. Their daughter, Megan, also shows the ponies in ridden and In Hand classes so it is a family operation.

Show Organiser, Ellen Jones, was delighted with the popularity of the new event.

Next year's FPS North West Area Foal Show is to be held on Saturday, 21st November, 2009.



Many spectators braved the fiercely cold weather to watch the two classes and championship being judged.

Contact Ellen Jones for further information on sparket@btinternet.com or 07787570736 or 017684-83511.

More photos in Colour Section



2008 washout rolls over into 2009

Final victims of the wet summer of 2008 were the FPS Southern Show and the Linnels Performance Trial.

Unfortunately another is already cancelled for 2009: Lowther Show, whose Director Robert Benson said the continued rain had not given staff any chance to repair and reseed the heavily rutted ground or start preparing it for 2009. An expert agronomist, reviewing the state of the ground and the possibilities of holding the 2009 show, advised that there will not be enough time from spring to carry out the extensive work required to restore the damage and prepare the ground to host its large crowds of spectators and vehicles.



Above: you must remember this... photo of one of last year's shows, from the Morton family



Report from the FPS Judges Sub-Committee

The job of the Fell Pony Society Judges Sub-Committee is to maintain and monitor the Panel of FPS Judges. A big part of this is to recruit suitable candidates to maintain a strong Fell Pony Judges List, so the role of the Committee is very significant as it makes every effort to ensure correct Breed knowledge is maintained through its standard of Judges and Judging. The Committee meet at least once a year to discuss Future Judges (Probationer Judges) and other matters that may have been raised involving judges or judging. Whilst all matters may not be resolved, (such is the nature of judging,) it is important for all Members to know that the standard of our judges is taken very seriously in the Fell Pony Society.

Should anyone wish to become a FPS Judge, they would contact me in the first instance and I would be able to issue them with information on the FPS Probationer Judges Scheme and then an application would be made providing that the applicant has been a FPS Member for at least 5 years. Most applicants would then be invited to attend the next FPS Probationer Judges Assessment Day, where the Judges Sub-Committee would be able to assess each candidate's Fell Pony Knowledge and suitability to be a judge. The most promising Candidate(s) would then be invited to become FPS Probationer Judges the following year. There is no quota for this. It is perfectly possible that no Candidates would reach the expected standard. The Committee are looking for true Fell Pony Breed knowledge with an ability to command a class of ponies In Hand and Ridden.

2008 saw Mrs Ruby Williams graduate from the Probationer Judges Scheme onto the FPS Panel of Judges. As you will know, 2008 was a bit of a wash out. Show after show got cancelled, so putting a set of shows together for Ruby to attend was a bit of an ever changing effort! As secretary of the Judges Sub-Committee it is important that the Probationer and I work closely together in these circumstances. We both need to bend timetables in order to squeeze last minute arrangements in!

The 2008 Assessment Day was held on 27th September at Inglewood Equestrian Centre at Penrith. Seven candidates were forward, including some candidates from overseas. The day started with the obligatory cup of coffee followed by an introduction to the day's proceedings. All candidates were introduced to the whole Committee before the duties of the day started.

The main part of the day was taken up with all candidates assessing and then judging a class of Fell Ponies of mixed ages. The candidates were allowed plenty of time to look at each pony as they would in a class: stationary, and at walk and trot from all angles. The candidates were given a much longer period of time to assess the ponies than would be normal in a real life judging situation. Having looked at all the ponies, the Candidates then gave their assessment of them to Members of the Committee. This was done on a rotational basis. The Judges

Committee was split into pairs of people and every Candidate talked to every pair of Committee Members individually on a different subject every time. This was a productive way of Assessing each candidate. Following the candidates Assessment of the ponies to the Committee, the Committee explained the good and bad points of each pony forward. This was important as it explained true Fell Pony type and conformation to the candidate in real terms with a pony forward.

After all candidates had spoken with the Committee there was time to relax over a buffet late lunch. The Committee then discussed the day's proceedings in private and made their decisions.

Two FPS Probationer Judges will attend six shows in 2009, and after each show the Master Judge will forward a completed report form to me on their judging skills. These ensure that progress of all FPS Probationer Judges is monitored so an assessment can be made at the end of the show season.

It is crucial that we maintain a strong healthy Fell Pony Judges List. Our Judges are in demand like never before. The popularity of all Native ponies has resulted in more judging requests every year. If you have been a FPS Member for at least five years and wish to be considered to become a FPS Probationer Judge, please contact me. I would be more than happy to help.

Mrs Ellen JM Jones, Mill Cottage, Sparket Mill, Hutton John, Penrith, CUMBRIA, CA11 0LZ. 017684-83511 or 07787570736 or sparket@btinternet.com.



Bill Potter explaining Fell pony type and conformation to FPS Probationer Judge Candidates at the 2008 Assessment Day. Among those assisting, nearest the camera are (left to right) Mary Longsdon, Bert Morland, Isobel Potter (with grey mare) and Paul Metcalfe.

(Now, like all good birdwatchers, you can “recognise them going away from you.” Ed.)



Annual Show and Sale

On Friday 24th October 2008 Penrith & District Farmers' Mart LLP conducted the Annual Show and Sale of Registered Native Breed Ponies within the Mart.

A much increased entry comprised 182 Fells, 9 Welsh, 8 Dales, 4 Exmoors, 1 Shetland & 1 Dartmoor. Mr Barry Mallinson of the Hardendale Fell Stud acted as the Judge.

The Championship was won by a classy black yearling filly, Auckside Black Beauty, sired by the Shap bred Greenholme Warrior. She later sold for the satisfying price of 2,600gns to Mr K Anderson.

Reserve honours went to the Warrior sired half sister to the Champion, namely Auckside Miracle, a choice quality filly foal, making 1,600gns to Mr Alfen. On the whole a quality show of ponies was offered to a large crowd of potential clients with purchases being made by Dutch enthusiasts and customers from all over the UK. As expected prices were down on the year, but most sellers went away satisfied.

Leading Prices

Fell Mares and Fillies - 1,350gns Carrock Dawn; 1,020gns Wellbrow Jill; 850gns Wellbrow Rosebud; 850gns Heltondale Princess; 820gns Cargentwater Black Lass; 820gns Lathomdale Lucky Charm

Fell Colts and Geldings - 990gns Linnel Rusty; 935gns Holling Wilkie; 610gns Wellbrow Peter, Rhydyfelin Star Bee; 450gns Catherdine Fantasia

Fell Stallions - 1500gns Wellbrow Warrior

Fell Filly Foals - 1020gns Wellbrow Bella; 820gns Wellbrow Buttons; 800gns Wellbrow Beth; 640gns Townend Summer; 560gns Bracklinn Iris; 550gns Holling Satin; 500gns Dalehead Lakeland Looker

Fell Colt Foals - 400gns Murthwaite Gunsmith; 350gns Brackenthwaite Duke; 260gns Murthwaite Storm Boy; 250gns Clifford Jackpot; 240 Rafland Falcon; 240 Lathomdale Ronnie.



Above: NW Support Group members at the start of the Pleasure ride from Street Farm, Ravenstonedale, in August by kind permission of David and Alison Roper (p52).

Below, Megan Wilkinson with Brackenbank a.k.a. Beauty, age 26.





*Dufton Pleasure Ride and Drive. First section—the drivers, led by David Howe driving Tunstall Jake.
Second section—15 of the 20 riders who took part. This group is headed by Ellen Jones and Tracey Mallinson. The hi-vis waistcoats certainly work!*





Left: David Wilkinson with reserve Champion Brackenbank Flash Harry at the Fowl Show (p36). Above: "That'll cap ye!" Thomas Capstick in puckish mood with Fowl Champion, Auckside Poppy.



Below: St Nicholas in Switzerland. Photo, Peter Moor





*The trotting finals at Low Grounds Farm, Penrith: Lindsay Birch and Ludworth Major, with Megan Wilkinson showing their prize of a trotting print.
In the background, Juliet Coates, Sue Wardle, and Christine Robinson.*

Below, Fells at a demonstration day in the Netherlands (p63).





Trotting Races

The final annual Fell pony trotting races were held at Low Grounds Farm near Penrith and fortunately for all concerned, it was a dry day, something of a rare occurrence this summer! There was a very good turn out of riders and ponies and also of spectators, and all enjoyed a lovely BBQ afterwards. The number of riders forward for the senior race was such that two heats had to be run, and then a final. Kirsteen Smith on Bracklinn Jo-Jo won the first heat and Lindsay Birch was the victor in the second heat on Ludworth Major. The final run off was a hotly contested affair with Kirsteen on Bracklinn Jo-Jo coming out on top from Kathryn Savage on Bracklinn Bertie second, Christine Robinson on Kerbeck Thor third and Lindsay Birch on Ludworth Major fourth. The junior race was won, yet again by Courtney Savage, with Alex Pottinger second and Whitney Savage third. Courtney was the winner of the Redhouse Mac Trophy for the best junior of the season, whilst the overall senior winner for the season was Lindsay Birch. A new addition to the catalogue of events this year was a relay race between a senior team v a junior team. It was the junior team (Alex Pottinger, Sam Bell, Courtney Savage, Melissa Brennand and Whitney Savage) that ended up winning quite convincingly, so very well done to them. Later on, once the ponies had a bit of a rest, there was a 'veterans' race which was won by Glenis Cockbain. Everyone then retired to the barn and enjoyed the BBQ and the chat, and once again a grand time was had by all.

Very many thanks are due to all competitors, friends, helpers and supporters. Roll on next year.

Richard and Kathryn Savage



Advertising Fees for Autumn Magazine

Full page £60
 Half page £30
 Quarter page £15
 Small box..... £10
 Picture in any of the preceding +£10

Classified lineage, text only.....
 £2 per 20 words

Please send your advertisement to the Secretary, by 1st September, with the appropriate fee payable to FPS.



South East Support Group

Roger and I are trying to set up email addresses for as many members as possible to keep costs down.

Would anyone who is interested in joining please contact us (details below).

We have a few ideas for 'events' including a showing 'clinic' with Julie Elton (who has shown/produced ponies for showing including native breeds and has many years experience in showing and dressage).

We were planning a talk by Tony Scott who was taking part in the Andes challenge but the ride has been cancelled due to lack of sponsorship. Tony is hoping to do a similar ride in Transylvania this summer so we may be able to persuade him to talk about that.

Other ideas are a talk by an equine physio, a trip to an equine hospital and a social get together.

We are open to any suggestions so please send us your ideas.

We cannot do this without members so PLEASE contact us.

*Roger & Sue Muttitt, Quarry Farmhouse, Empshott Green, Liss, Hants GU33 6HU.
Tel 01730 827807, email suem@seatallan.com*



South West Fell Pony Pleasure Ride 2009

SOUTH WEST FELL PONY SOCIETY PLEASURE RIDE at

- Janesmoor Pond - THE NEW FOREST -

FELLS AND DALES - approx 10 miles

EASTER BUN RIDE ON SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2009

Starts 10am-12 midday

Entry fee £10, entries open 1st Feb and close 1st April.

For entries, info etc please contact organisers:

K Hemmings Tel no. 01980655258, or email

Karen_hemmings@ntlworld.com.

**Entries to above, Rosehaven, 114 Fargo Road, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts. SP48LL
with SAE.**

**Or contact group leader Mr M Goddard,
1 Priest Thorn, Fifehead Neville, Sturminster Newton,
Dorset, DT10 2AQ.**



The Midlands East Support Group members are looking forward to a year full of Fell events, starting with the brand new Spring Show at Bury Farm in Slapton, Buckinghamshire on 22 March 2009. The show is holding a full range of classes, with something for all members of the family. It's a great opportunity to bring out a youngster, try a new pony, attempt a new class or give your children the chance to compete in a friendly environment at a superb venue. We know how hard it is to get a pony ready for a show at this time of year, particularly field kept ponies, and summer standards of turnout and fitness are not expected! All Fells are welcome to the show, no matter how hairy.

The show will take place in Bury Farm's three indoor arenas. Bury Farm offers parking on hard standing, an indoor cafe, tack shop, overnight stabling at £26/night and equine and human showers. The Fell Pony Sales stand will also be there, giving everybody a chance to stock up on FPS merchandise.

There is a pre-show social dinner at the local pub on the night before the show - all are welcome, but pre-booking is necessary. For more information on the show or dinner please contact Georgina Blair on 07796 685992 or see the website www.fellspringshow.com. Due to the publication date of this magazine the closing date for entries to the show has been extended to 14 March.

We are also lucky enough to have the 5th Sandringham Show and sponsored

ride on the weekend of May 16-17. We have just managed to keep within our budget during our start-up years but we will be having a "sponsors board" for future years. We had a positive response to our questionnaire following the 2008 show: 100% of respondents would like us to continue, sign posts were deemed good and the loud hailer a success. Many would like the FPS stand: calendars, cards, and samples of clothing to show quality, size and colours would be useful. Would anyone be able to collect a small range from Elizabeth or Jane Glass, be responsible for the selling and return afterwards? Any suggestions and offers welcome! Other stands or stalls are welcome in exchange for a donation. We will have a traditional trotting class, but cannot offer any form of jumping or handy pony class; the difficulties of supplying jumps, labour and first aid cover prohibit this.

We do need more office help before the show, and stewards and other helpers on the day. If you are bringing a pony you may still be able to help. It would be a pity to stop this small but important get-together for members who live towards the East Coast and find it difficult to get to the bigger show. Help us or lose us! Please get in touch and offer your services. Contact Judy Hill (details below) or Lisa Dunger (lisa@lisadunger.wanadoo.co.uk) for more information.

Other events planned in the region for 2009 include a social dinner at the Six Hills Hotel in Leicestershire at the end of March, and several Fell and 'Fell

friends' shows at Lambley show field, Gotham, Nottingham, over the summer. The MESH will once again be running its popular Points Award Scheme, with a few changes for 2009, and it's hoped that all members will be out and about with their ponies this season. For details of all our events and the awards scheme please see our MESH page under the Area Support Group section of the FPS website or call Judy Hill, our Area Co-ordinator, and she will put you in touch with your county representative.

Our last show of 2008 was the popular Fell and Friends Christmas Show (14th Dec) held this year at Canaan Farm in Costock, Leicestershire. The day was bright and clear, if a little chilly. We were delighted to have Mary Longsdon judging, with Clare Necki ably assisting her to keep the show friendly and supportive. There was a fabulous turnout of both Fell ponies and Friends, including an Appaloosa and our first encounter with the beautiful Tennessee Walking Horse owned by Lynne Chamberlain. Hannah Stathern and Wolds



Meadowvalley Free Spirit won the Open Ridden with Jenna Plumb, Fancy Dress with Joel Cairns (3) and Family Pony with Jenna and owner Angela Cairns.

Wheatear won the in-hand best turned out, and the handsome Exmoor, Edwinsfield Nocturne, won the youngstock. The large open class was split into Fells and other breeds and everyone enjoyed a few fun classes including handy pony and fancy dress. The ridden classes were well attended. Congratulations to Christine Walker for riding Wolds Woodlark for the first time, usually a task left to her daughter, and to Katie Lamyman who came all the way from Market Deeping. We hope we get such a good attendance at our festive show next year.

Georgina Blair.

Judy Hill, MESH Area Co-ordinator
01455 552534
judy@gileshill.plus.com



Stephanie Bissett and Lady Lucibel won the Young Handlers' Class



2008 saw the Midlands West Group enjoying a very successful season of events with no cancellations due to weather! Following the group AGM in December we have planned another season of events, which we hope, will appeal to all. Please note at the time of publication we have yet to confirm all of these dates, and venues may be subject to change but our group newsletter (due out very shortly) will confirm most of these and contact telephone numbers are included below for anyone wishing to find out more.

March/April 2009 (Date TBA) ~ Vet Talk on Sweet Itch and Worming, and Equine Table Top Sale at Great Bridgeford Village Hall, Great Bridgeford, Stafford (one mile from Junction 14 of the M6). For more information please telephone Diane Key 01785 822723.

Sunday May 10th 2009 ~ Pleasure Ride on Cannock Chase. Once again Sandra Newcombe has kindly offered to organise a ride across Cannock Chase. Rosettes for all taking part in the ride. Riders should have their own insurance. Ride will leave at 12.30 prompt. For more details please contact Sandra on 01543 373033.

Sunday June 21st 2009 ~ Fell and Dales Pony Show at Bakewell Show Ground. For schedules and details please contact Mary Longsdon on 01629 640709 The Eaglets, Little Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1NN.

Sunday July 26th 2009 ~ Annual LEG IT Midlands West Trotting Races (plus Adult & Children's Gymkhana) at The Yews Farm, Seighford by kind

permission of Mr and Mrs F C Waterfall. A great fun day with ponies. For more information please telephone Diane Key 01785 822723.

TBA mid season Pleasure Ride possibly in Burwarton Park, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (subject to demand).

Sunday 15th November 2009 - Annual Luncheon at the home of Hugh and Elizabeth Marshall at Sudbury, Near Uttoxeter, Staffs with guest speaker, Fell Pony Photo Show, Pudding Competition and Fell Pony Society merchandise for sale. If you would like to attend this highly popular event please telephone Elizabeth Marshall on 01283 585358 one week before as places are limited.

The Winter issue Midlands West Group newsletter will be available shortly and if you have any sales or wants to be advertised FREE OF CHARGE please contact Diane Key on 01785 822723 or email diane@fellpony.me.uk

If you would like to join the Midlands West Fell Pony Support Group please contact Membership Secretary Mrs Lisa Williams telephone number 01782 777424 or send a £4 cheque made payable to the Midlands West Fell Pony Society Support Group to

6 The Woodlands, Liverpool Road East, Church Lawton, Stoke on Trent ST7 3AF with name and address and if applicable email address details.

For more details about the group please visit www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk.

Diane Key



Running the Southern Show or “The Show Must Go On”

Way back in 1997, at our annual committee meeting for the Southern Show, Mary had as an agenda item, “show organiser.” Alarm bells... She started by saying that she had originally said she would run the show for the first 10 years and that as the following year was the 10th we needed to think about a replacement for her (an impossible task, I hear you all say, as no-one can nag without anyone realising just like Mary can!!!). Anyway, I must have coughed or something as before I knew where I was, my name was in the frame!

I said that I would help Mary with the 10th show and then do 2 more, but we should then rotate the organiser role. Well, that was 1997 and I have finally handed the reins over in November 2008!!! What a year to make the handover, but more of the show that didn't happen later.

I don't think anybody really understands what running a show is like, unless you actually do it (and then some may say that you still don't as it all a bit hazy afterwards) so I thought I would scribe a few words about that and also a reflection on the last 11 shows.

When I started, Mary gave me one of her inevitable lists (on the back of an envelope as always) which seemed to go on forever, so my first job was to make it a month by month task list and this worked quite well and is one of the things I have bequeathed to Sadie Densham, the poor soul who has taken the job on. I realised from this list that Mary pretty much ran it all but Angela Einon ran the paperwork side and the food, with help from her family. (I might add that Angela hosted the meetings accompanied by fabulous food and lots of tea and coffee, a tradition kept up by later meeting hosts. There is one thing to draw Fell ponies and their owners and that is food...).

Anyway, we were lucky to have Shotover as a show site for many years owing to the generosity of Sir John Miller, but gradually the danger of the A40 entry/exit, the rough ground caused by a combination of wet summers and cattle, the distance to the toilets and the complications of getting sufficient helpers and having to pay meant that we decided to look for an alternative. We also decided that we would try to get somewhere with rings already set up as the pre-show organisation took forever.

I managed to get some of the jobs that I was doing spread amongst the committee but then Angela resigned and so I had to take on the schedule and catalogue work. To add to the complications it was all in Word Perfect so I spent hours converting it to Microsoft Word. We also send out a results booklet to our sponsors, which is very well received, but of course that was another job! We tried various options for the preparation of the judges' and helpers' lunches and now Charmian Ross-Thompson has taken on that mantle, with great success. The commercial caterers never could do as good a job as Angela (and Charmian) so clearly FPP (Fell Pony People) are discriminating feeders!

But back to the list: it pretty much has jobs for every month of the year ranging from writing to judges, sorting venues, paperwork and worst of all getting helpers and stewards (I'm sure you all got fed up with my annual plea for help!). Of course there is another list for the show day - some years I rebelled and made someone else do the actual day (usually Mary) so that I could take the ponies, but latterly not. The show day is a different set of stresses and hoping that everything will go smoothly. I have had it compared to the swan effect (gliding serenely whilst paddling furiously) but all I can say is that all that paddling leaves me exhausted!

I had my stalwart regular helpers who all got used to making sure that I drank (not alcohol) as they learnt that I suffer from migraine: Jane (Glass), Mary, Sue Giles, Sadie, Helen Plank, and also other people would volunteer pretty regularly (chief steward Frances Martin, Margaret Anderson, Christine and Lizzy Walker, Sam Audley). A very big thanks goes to you all and a plea to continue to help Sadie and the gang.

So what about the shows? Well the memorable ones are 2001 (foot and mouth year, when we held the Olympia qualifier), 2007, when I had to find replacement judges at the eleventh hour, and 2008 which was cancelled due to the appalling weather. The work still went on up to the Thursday before and again afterwards, but Sadie and Georgina Blair worked their fingers to the bone for this one. It was a nightmare and we decided that Berkshire College was not really taking FPS seriously, having tucked us into a back field before cancelling and not contacting us to tell us what was happening. That is just not something one needs.

Changing venues is no easy task as there is much visiting to do (I drew the line at that and Mary/Sadie/Georgina have looked at numerous ones). Venues also need to be suitable (level, access, facilities) and also within reach not only of competitors but also helpers both before and on the day. Much thought has gone into the choice every time as this show represents the breed society not just in the south of England but the south of the UK.

So what memories am I left with? The overriding memory seems to be of the sun shining down on us, but I'm sure we had some wet ones too. I think that, rather like childbirth (I'm told) the pain is soon gone because of the endorphins we produce, but here is one final thought:

When you are next driving home from a show and thinking that you are tired and that it has been a lot of work, spare a thought for the organisers who have been working on the show for 12 months and are about to sort out the aftermath and start on next year's show...

Liz Whitley
Southern Show Secretary 1989 - 2008



We had a very busy 2008, and we have lots planned for 2009.

31st May 2008, Cumbria Fell & Dales Pony Show, Penrith

A full report of this was given in the Autumn Newsletter. We had a tremendous day with large Fell Pony entries.

31st August 2008, Pleasure Ride (Photo in Colour Section.)

A pleasure ride was run from Street Farm, Ravenstonedale, by kind permission of David and Alison Roper of Stonetrail Holidays. We rode over fells up and though the Mallerstang valley, only touching a minor road once. It was only once we arrived back at base that the rain came, and having seen to the ponies we all had a marvellous meal of lasagne inside in the warm whilst it got wetter outside!

14th September 2008, Pleasure Ride and Drive

David and Margaret Howe kindly hosted the Area for a pleasure Ride and Drive on Sunday, 14th September. Katherine Wilkinson's report is on p 65.

8th October 2008, Day trip to Horse of the Year Show, NEC

We had a joint day trip with the DPS Area (Cumbria) to HOYS. Apart from having the stroppiest bus driver in Cumbria, the whole day was really enjoyable and many Members preferred it over an Olympia Trip due to HOYS being nearer to us at Birmingham, and not having to travel quite so close to Christmas. Unfortunately our Mountain and Moorland winner was not a Fell!

We aim to do this trip again. We have been asked to do HOYS as opposed to Olympia, so have gone with the Membership. Please support us and have names to me by 31st August so we can buy tickets and book a happier bus driver!

22nd November 2008, North West Area Foal Show

This was the first Fell Pony Foal Show held in the history of the Society and many people turned out in freezing weather to watch. Many thanks to Thomas Capstick, Bill Potter and Colin Roberts who sponsored the prize money. Report on p36.

2009

26th April 2009 Pleasure Ride at Lowther

This ride will be approximately 10 miles and start off at 10.00am from Askham. The ride will be over fell and tracks. There is very little road work. We aim to be back in time for a pub lunch in Askham. There will be a cost of £5 to cover a parking charge that Lowther Estates put on us. This ride will be a joint activity with the DPS (Cumbria) Area Group. All are welcome. Please give names to me so I can organise parking and lunch.

30th May 2009, Cumbria Fell & Dales Pony Show, Penrith

Flat Ridden, WHP and In Hand NPS qualifiers will again be held. The only change is that a separate ring will be set up for the Best Rider and Young Handler classes. We look forward to seeing many of you again. Schedules

can be obtained from me, the FPS Office, and at the Spring Meeting.

27th June 2009, Stud Visit to Murthwaite

Thomas Capstick has kindly invited us to Fell End, Ravenstonedale, (CA17 4LP) near Kirkby Stephen to visit his Murthwaite Stud. This will give Members a super opportunity to view his ponies in their natural environment on the Howgill Fells in south east Cumbria. Thomas's herd is totally feral, wintering outside on the fell, and coming down onto closer pastures in the summer. Murthwaite has many mares, some shown and some unshown. Heltondale Misty and Murthwaite Mulan are among the most well known mares. Stallions are Murthwaite Look at Me and Murthwaite Windrush.



Murthwaite Look At Me, on the lookout. See Stud visit.

The lane up to Murthwaite is only suitable for 4WD vehicles. (Lifts will be available if needed. Please contact me!) Please bring your own pic-nic lunch to eat on the fell! All welcome.

23rd October 2009, pub supper

All are welcome to an informal supper at the Beehive Pub at Eamont Bridge after the Autumn Sale. Please make your own booking with the pub, whatever food takes your fancy after the sale! Any time from 6pm.

21st November 2009, Foal Show

Make a note of the date to show your 2009 Fell foals. Schedules will be available from me.

5th December 2009, Christmas Dinner at Appleby Manor.

We thought this would be a nice end to the year. Just an informal get together. Please get names to me by 1st December. Starter, Main Course and Pudding will be about £25.

Many thanks to all those who have helped make 2008 such a tremendous success. All the above events would not take place without the help and organisational skills of many volunteers. Please offer to help where you can.

Funds do not allow the Area to post out details of event so please contact me as follows for any information. I have limited mobile reception at home, and am very often outside and away from the land line, so the best way to contact me is via email or text message. Please also visit <http://www.sparketmillcottage.co.uk/FPS.htm> to download schedules and all event details. With all the best for you and your ponies in 2009.

Ellen Jones.

*017684-83511 or 07787570736 or
sparket@btinternet.com or
www.sparketmillcottage.co.uk*



North East Area Support Group

I am delighted to report that the North East Area Support Group is flourishing.

We have a small, energetic and enthusiastic committee who have a wide range of experience and skills. My role is to utilize these talents and coordinate the organisation of interesting events for us all to enjoy.

Our October pleasure ride took place on one of the few dry, sunny days during the autumn of 2008. The previous day's very heavy rainfall had left a large part of the car park at Baybridge under water so thoughtful parking was necessary. Once



mounted, our group of eleven ponies, which included the native breeds of Fell, Highland, Welsh and Connemara, set off from Baybridge to follow a ten mile route prepared for us by Debbie Gaskin.

We travelled north towards Pennypie House and then over Blanchland Moor to Staley Forest before returning along Carriers Way over Bulbeck Common and Birkside Fell back to Baybridge. After seeing to the comforts of our ponies we had an open air picnic followed by a raffle. This gave us the opportunity to discuss and plan our future events. A friendly, enjoyable and memorable day was had by all. My thanks go to all who came to support this event and helped with opening gates, taking photographs and selling raffle tickets.

Our next social event is on Sunday 8th February 2009 and is a 2 course Sunday lunch followed by an illustrated talk by Vyv Wood-Gee at the Aston Hotel near Darlington. This venue has been carefully chosen to provide easy access for most N E members. Further details and an application form are available on the FPS website.

Later in the year, we hope to hold a picnic at Linnel Wood, near Hexham, as part of the Native Pony Show to be held during July 2009. Also, our 2009 autumn pleasure ride will be in the Thirsk/Ripon area on the first Sunday in October. Everyone is welcome so please watch the FPS web site for full details.

Eileen Walker

Tel: 01388763607 Mobile: 07990521205 Email: rackwoodeileen@yahoo.com



Overseas Branch News: Belgium Show Results

The last Belgium show was in 2005 so a new show was long overdue.

As a result of the change in representation (see the article in the last newsletter), there was not much time to organise the show. We felt however that it was important not to postpone it to another year.

After the first mailing people started to get enthusiastic and we received the first entries.

About nine o'clock the first ponies were presented to the veterinarian for the usual checkups of the height, the passport and the inoculations. All was fine so we could continue with the show without any disappointments for the owners.

We started with the youngsters, the filly Upwood Joany followed by the groups of four 3 year old mares and five mares 4 years and older.

We were glad that we could present two groups in which there were enough entries to have a real competition between the ponies.

The important event of the day was of course the selection of the champion and this turned out to be Sowermire Jayne owned by J. Tillie and bred by M. German. The reserve champion was Klazien Jewel van de Wildhoeve owned and bred by R. Ottink.

For me as the first time organiser of a show it was however most important to have met people who are also enthusiastic Fell owners and breeders.

They were pleased with the fact that there was a show in 2008 and expect to be back in 2009.

I hope that in future we will be able to present more ponies to the judges.



Klazien Jewel van de Wildhoeve 200500437, reserve Champion

Finally we managed to get a relatively small group of 10 Fell ponies to be judged by Mr W. Potter and Mr T.B. Capstick.

On the day of the show itself we were lucky to have bright sunshine after a week with a lot of rain which made the training of the ponies a slippery matter.

As a new breeder (Upwood Joany is our second filly) I was grateful to Mr Potter and Mr Capstick for the advice they gave me. They showed me the important characteristics and pointed out where I should try to improve our current stock.

I hope that in the 2009 show we can present a filly or colt they can be pleased with !

Mia Aerdt

Representative Belgium Branch

Results

Judge: Mr W S Potter (Greenholme ponies)

Filly foals born 2008

1st Upwood Joany

Three y-o Fillies

1st Sowermire Jayne FP4184

2nd Klazien Jewel van de Wildhoeve
200500437

3rd Kween T 528014200500473

4th Blue Mountain Sparkle FP4301

Mares 4 y-o and upwards

1st Lownthwaite Star Trek II FP2222

2nd Lowlandmill Beauty FP4169

3th Drybarrows Joanna FP3152*

4th Greenholme Tracey FP2056

Overall Champion:

Sowermire Jayne FP4184

Reserve Champion:

Klazien Jewel van de Wildhoeve

Youngstock Champion:

Upwood Joany



Sowermire Jayne FP4184, Champion.



Overseas Branch News: Fell Pony Society of North America

The FPSNA had another busy year in 2008, with our members participating in a variety of events from coast-to-coast. These included several large exhibitions, where more than 100,000 spectators were able to learn more about the Fell Pony. Among these were the Equine Affaire in Pomona, California, featuring Laurelhighland Lilibet and Laurelhighland Crown Jewel, owned by Linda Corlett in California, as well as Royalcrest Flashes Apollo and Mustahevonen Rheged's Pippin, owned by John Rutledge of Arizona.

Another event was the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, Wisconsin featuring Florence a.k.a. "Dickens" and Hiske v.h. Westerkwartier, owned by Melissa Kreuzer from Wisconsin, as well as Laurelhighland Victor and Laurelhighland Frivolity, owned by Lisa Lindholm of Minnesota.

FPSNA sponsored a number of competitions designed to encourage participation by our members, promote the breed and of course also have fun with our ponies. These included sponsorship of the USDF All-Breeds Program in which registered Fell ponies may compete in in-hand or dressage classes (Training Level through Grand Prix) in recognized USDF/USEF competitions and earn special awards for Fell Ponies sponsored by FPSNA. Fell ponies competing in this program in 2008 included Generaal de Knip, a gelding owned by Elaine Olsen in California.

We also co-sponsored the National Dressage Pony Cup in June, 2008 in



Littletree Born Supremacy, owned by Allison Wolff, at the National Dressage Pony Cup with rider/trainer Darci Traxler. Photo, Allison Wolff.

Cincinnati, Ohio, the first year of the event. Entries included Littletree Born Supremacy a.k.a. "Jason", a young stallion, owned by Allison Wolff in Oregon, who did very well in the Introductory class.

FPSNA co-sponsored two Mixed Mountain and Moorland competitions - one in Wisconsin in May which was hosted by Welsh of Wisconsin, and the other in Brookside, California in September. The latter event was the Pacific Coast Classic and was judged by Joanna McGinnis, a National Pony Society judge from Cumbria. There



3-year-old Braeberry Anne, owned by René Bender, was Reserve Supreme Champion at the Pacific Coast Classic.

were over 30 ponies in the M&M competition in both in-hand and performance classes, and included 6 Fell ponies. The Supreme Champion and also Champion Best of Breed Fell award went to 4 year old Laurelhighland Rose Petal, and Reserve Supreme Champion went to 3-year-old Braeberry Anne, both owned by René Bender in California.

Reserve Best of Breed Fell award went to 3-year-old Laurelhighland Venus, owned by Joanna Gilbert in California.

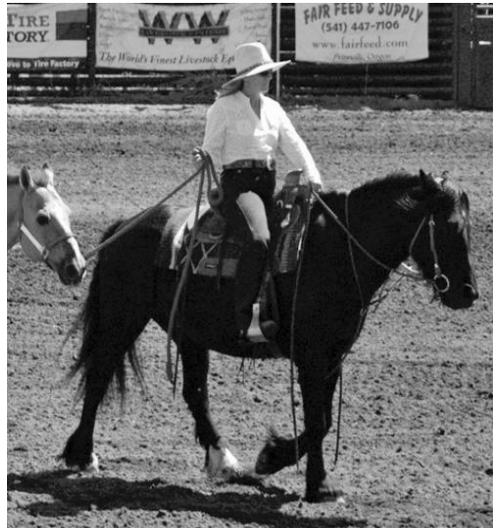
Lastly, 2008 was the first year we held the FPSNA Pony Points Program, a year-long competition aimed at getting all our members out and about and helping to promote the breed with their Fell ponies.

Sherry Bouris and MustaHevonen Taisto, or “Royce” earned top spot as Fell ambassadors through a wonderful variety of different events this year. Sherry chose some non-traditional activities to showcase her Fell Pony, from reining lessons to search and

rescue to rodeos and group trail rides. Even branding cattle was no problem. Runner-up was Anita Castricone with Stonecreek Lily. Congratulations and thank-you to both for their efforts in our inaugural program.

We look forward to sponsoring these and many more programs and events in 2009. Stay tuned as our members plan to kick off the New Year at the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo in February and the Minnesota Horse Expo in April. For more information, please see our website at www.fpsna.org, or contact us at info@fpsna.org.

Mary Jean Gould-Earley



Sherry Bouris and MustaHevonen Taisto demonstrated exceptional Fell versatility during the year to win the Pony Points Program.



Heather Kyle's Littletree Tia Maria, SANA Supreme In-Hand Pony Champion, FPS In-Hand Supreme Fell Champion and NPS America M&M Supreme In-Hand Champion. Photo, Equestrian Images

In September of 2008, 15 years after the first FPS registered Fell pony was born in the Western Hemisphere, the North American Fell pony community came together from all sections of America coast to coast to celebrate its first National Fell Pony Championships.

The Festivale of Endangered Equines was organized by the nonprofit conservation group, the Equus Survival Trust. The weekend theme was "Celebrate the Differences". The competition portion, the Stewardship

Awards of North America (SANA), was created to encourage the retention of traditional breed traits by judging entries on a 1-20 scale against their breed standards.

SANA included a full array of in-hand and performance classes for 15 breeds, supplemented by three days of Festivale demonstrations, breed pavilion displays, clinics, booths and lectures. The Fell portion was hosted by the Fell Pony Society and Conservancy of the Americas. The Fell classes were open to any registered FPS

Fell pony and the FPS provided special rosettes for the Historical Costume class and the In-hand Championships. The new National Pony Society of America, a NPS sanctioned organization, also sponsored awards for the M&M in-hand champions.

Judge Christine Robinson of Cumbria put in a marathon effort. She judged the in-hand, ridden and over fence classes for all seven pony breeds - Exmoor, Dartmoor, Gotland-Russ of Sweden, Dales, Fell, Highland, and Newfoundland of Canada (a breed developed from 18 & 19th Century M&M pony breeds) and the Caspian horse of Persia - during the three-day event. Christine said, "...I enjoyed myself and I was impressed with the standard of all the Pony Breeds forward, but especially the Fells - well done everyone! It was nice of the organisers to have it rain on me on Friday morning - it would have been just like home except the rain was warm and it only lasted for an hour or so... At least I did get the chance to see the lovely HOT sun for the rest of the time."

The Fell volunteers and participants from both Overseas Fell groups put tremendous effort into the classes, demonstrations, the breed pavilion display, clinics, the silent auction, and Saturday and Sunday lectures.

Nick & Jane Woolley of Littletree Stud travelled from Cumbria to be part of the festivities. "We had a great time meeting everyone. There was a good turn out of 11 Fells. It was great to see our homebred ponies competing and doing well at the Festivale."

Jenny Keen of Devon made her first trip across the pond and did a great job as Fell pony "Team Captain" in charge



*Alison Emslie-Smith as a 19th-Century farmer's wife going to market leading her packmare (*Ralfland Dainty) with homebred foal at foot (Garrighyll Dainty's Damsel). Photo, Brescia*

of coordinating the Fell activities on behalf of the Fell Conservancy.

Alison Emslie-Smith of Garrighyll Fell Ponies of Oronoco, Minnesota. Alison, a transplant from Northumberland some 20 years ago, is one of the larger Fell breeders in America. Her decision to select and produce traditional ponies was rewarded by winning a hotly contested in-hand Fell pony stallion class with her imported stallion *Hardendale Henry. Henry, a dark mahogany bay of traditional type, went on to capture the Fell Pony In-Hand Reserve Championship and a 3rd place in the Top 10 Open Pony Supreme Championships.

The Historical Costume class was open to 15 breeds of endangered

horses and ponies, to portray any period of time in their breed history, supported with a narrative for audience. Alison's entry not only won Best Historical Fell, but also the class, unanimously, from 25 entries.

Heather Kyle, formerly from London, England and now residing in Owensboro, Kentucky (prefix Scaffelpike) had both the In-hand champion and the Ridden champion. "We are very proud of our mare *Littletree Tia Maria," said Heather, "taking the SANA Supreme In-Hand Pony Championship. She has a "champion" temperament, is a joy to own, and now has championships in the UK and the USA." Heather's *Littletree Highwayman was the Fell Ridden Champion and Reserve Large Pony Ridden Champion.

On Sunday Allison Wolff's *Littletree Born Supremacy (a.k.a. Jason)



Littletree Highwayman. Photo, Equestrian Images

participated in the dressage clinics to take advantage of the expertise of US Olympic Gold Medal champion and dressage icon Lendon Grey.

Melissa Kreuzer, Kewaskum, of Dream Hayven Fells traveled with husband George from Wisconsin to bring four ponies. "For me the best part of the show was the networking aspect and being able to meet so many others from around the country who came in to spectate." Her *Littletree Bodini, imported stallion, went Reserve Champion Ridden Fell and was 2nd In-hand Fell Stallions; *Moespot Hazel, imported from the Netherlands, was 1st in Open Pony Walk/Trot Mares and was 2nd In-hand Fell Mares; two-year old homebred filly DreamHayven Aurora was 1st in the two-year Open Pony class; and last but not least the gelding Florence (a.k.a. Dickens) who



Melissa Kreuzer's gelding Florence who was SANA Most Versatile Fell Pony.

placed so well in in-hand, dressage, hunter hack, and in the ridden breed classes he was awarded the top Fell pony honor - SANA Most Versatile Fell Pony.

Shannon Albert and Karen Sorenson of Stonecreek Farm traveled from Dennison, Texas to partake of the festivities as spectators and volunteers. "What a great weekend it was. We had so much fun. Kentucky Horse Park is beautiful and it was a great experience

seeing many rare breeds. Hats off to you Victoria!"

It was an intense, fun-filled, marathon of a weekend. It is my sincerest hope that the Festivale will inspire other shows like SANA where breeds are judged against their individual breed standards, thus encouraging the retention of each breed's unique traits by "Celebrating the Differences!"

Victoria Tollman



Overseas News: Australia



Our first Fell pony foals were born in Australia recently with four new bouncing black fillies and one mare left to foal.

It was always going to be hit and miss for us with the first breeding season, because of the Equine Influenza [EI] outbreak in Australia which coincided with our export of Fells. Australian Quarantine Import Services [Aqis] put a movement order on all equines until they had EI under control. Our first batch of Fell pony mares and stallions came under this order.

Sadly this did restrict the stallion coverings for the season and because we

didn't want foals born in the hot summer months, we decided to give them a small window of 6 weeks to catch any mares from mid January to February 2008 and hope that each mare would ovulate within that time frame. We knew it could prove difficult after moving from the UK winter months straight into an Australian summer, although we decided not to administer prostaglandin injections to force ovulation but to allow the mares to cycle naturally.

Ideally we would like to bring the breeding season forward by about 6 to 8 weeks and in time I am sure this will be achieved.

Gina Feakins, Llancloudy Stud, Australia



Overseas News: Fell Ponies in the Netherlands

When Sue Millard asked me to write a short article about Fell Ponies in The Netherlands, I felt it would be a great opportunity to tell something about the population here, and especially about our shows and licensing system.

Population

The first Fell Ponies in The Netherlands were introduced during the nineties of the last century. The Dutch Fell Pony Studbook (NFPS) was officially recognised as a Daughter Society by the FPS in 1997.

At the beginning of December, 2008, almost 600 Fell Ponies were registered by the NFPS. Most of these ponies are black (94%), which is by far the most popular colour in The Netherlands. I've been to all of the shows for the last 4 years, and I think the amount of non-black Fells that were present on these occasions can be counted on two hands. However, some breeders have a special place in their heart for our other-coloured ponies. The grey stallion Heltondale Crown is present at the stallion show every year, even though he's now 18 years old. And the brown breeding mare Fell Mystery, who gave

birth to several brown foals over the years, slowly increases the brown population as well.

Shows

Because we have a small country, and the amount of ponies going to shows is not too high, we only have 2 shows (or so-called "keuringen") during the year: A stallion show in the beginning of the year (February / March), and a mare-and-foal show in September.

At a show, ponies are checked by a veterinarian. They should be healthy, not having any abnormalities, and their height should not exceed the maximum.

Furthermore, all ponies are validated by judges on basis of breed characteristics. Each pony is given points on a scale from 1-10, with 10 being the best score. Points are awarded for the following six categories:

Breeding type; Build; Muscularity; Feet, legs and joints; Walk; Trot.

The amount of points is counted, and based on this total score a so-called premium is given to the pony:

Total score /60	Premium
45 points or above	1st
40-44 points	2nd
35-39 points	3rd
34 points or below	-

A pony that shows good pony characteristics, with typical Fell-like action, build, bones and muscularity, will get a higher score than, e.g. a pony with a lousy trot and not good enough bone. By publishing these scores, it is clear



A rare picture - Three different colours in the same class during the 2008 mare-and-foal show.

for owner and public how a pony earned its placement. It is also easy and informative for less-informed Fell pony enthusiasts to compare different ponies and see what the stronger and weaker points of a certain pony are.

Dutch licensing system

The Fell Pony licensing system in The Netherlands is unique. The Dutch daughter society has chosen to introduce a licensing system, which is different and more rigid than the FPS system.

Once a mare is healthy and not exceeding maximum height, she will be registered by the NFPS and her foals will be accepted by the Dutch stud-book.

However, for a stallion to obtain a breeding licence, veterinary approval on health and height is not enough. Whether a colt is to be licensed or not depends on the opinion of the judges, using the scoring system described above. To obtain a licence it is therefore recommended that the stallion is presented well in-hand and is shown in perfect condition. The pedigree of the stallion is also taken into consideration. A stallion with a rare bloodline might score fewer points but still gets a licence.

Once a licence is obtained, a stallion is allowed to cover 10 mares each year. On certain occasions, it is possible to increase this amount to 15.

The stallion's licence is not yet for life-time. When the first offspring of the stallion becomes 3 years old, an offspring show is organised. At this show, at least 6 descendants of the stallion are being shown and scored for their quality. When the offspring is of

good quality, taking into consideration the qualities of the dams as well, the stallion can obtain a licence for life. A stallion that has obtained a licence for life may cover any amount of mares each year. However, when the offspring do not inherit enough of the stallion's qualities, the licence of the stallion can be suspended.

In 2008, 14 stallions were licensed. Of these, 6 had a limited licence, while 8 had a licence for life. In order to keep the licence, a stallion has to be shown at the annual show each year.



Wellbrow Tommy at the 2008 stallion show.

The NFPS acknowledges UK licences - any imported UK stallion with a FPS licence is accepted in The Netherlands. Offspring will be registered by the NFPS, even though the stallion does not have a Dutch licence.

Likewise, the FPS accepts the Dutch licensing system and the Dutch licensed stallions. As a consequence, this also means that a colt that was rejected by the Dutch judging system, cannot obtain a FPS licence anymore.

Fell Pony activities

Besides the NFPS shows, several other Fell Pony-related activities are organised during the year. One of the more

popular activities is the so-called Fell Pony Day. During this day, competitions are held, with both riders and drivers participating.

Other activities include presentations at popular Dutch horse shows.

These presentations help to make the Fell Pony breed become more well-known in The Netherlands. Five years ago, I had never heard about Fell Ponies at all. However, due to the efforts of the Dutch Studbook and all Fell Pony enthusiasts in The Netherlands, people have become more and more familiar with the breed. Hopefully, the amount of Fell Ponies in The Netherlands will keep increasing over the years, so that it will become impossible to imagine a Dutch life without them in the future.

Josefien Wallet

Licensed Stallions in The Netherlands - 2008.

Limited licence

Josh van de Olde Maten
Klompjes Ivanhoe
Smalltowns Eddie
Townend Rolo
Wellbrow Tommy
Wellbrow Black Prince

Licence for life

Heltondale Crown
Heltondale Stroller
Heltondale Prince III
Restar Victor
Sleddale Eddie
Waverhead Flash
Waverhead Monty II
Wildhoeve Boy

Fell Pony demonstration during a popular Dutch event. Fells are truly bomb-proof!





Calendar Competition 2010

The 2009 competition was judged by two members of the MW Support Group.

Best Picture: Katherine Wilkinson, £10 voucher. Runner-up: Katherine Waynham, £5 voucher. Calendar winners each receiving a calendar (when printed): Cover, Katherine Waynham, W Midlands. January, Diana Slack, Cumbria; February, Gina Feakins, Australia; March, Peter Moor, Switzerland; April, Fleur Hallam, France; May, John Wayman, Avon; June, Sue Clowes, Lancashire; July, Margaret Enser, Leicestershire; August, Katherine Wilkinson, Cumbria; September, Fleur Hallam, France; October, Elizabeth Robinson, France; November, Karen Hemmings, Wiltshire; December, David Howe, Cumbria.

We regret that one good picture couldn't be used as it didn't scan and reproduce into a clear enlargement. Please be warned!

The 2011 Calendar Competition closes in October 2009. Please get your pictures to Judy Hill, The Bothy, Bitteswell, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4LN in good time. We will ask two representatives from the North West Support Group to judge.

Judy Hill



"Horses of the World" Park, Sète, France

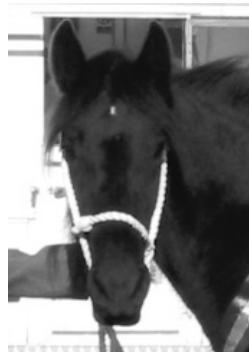
In October 2008, the FPS received a press release from the French Parc Chevaux du Monde, the "World of Horses Park" at Sète, which is located on the Mediterranean coast south-west of Montpellier. They asked for a photograph of a good example of the breed, and suggested that they might soon be looking to purchase a pony to exhibit at the Parc. Their web site (www.chevauxdumonde.fr) says that they already have representatives of most of the British breeds including a Dales pony. Their contact details are:

*Parc Chevaux du Monde France, Sarl
38, rue Pierre Sépard, 34200 Sète, France.
Tel. : 00 33 (0)4 67 46 10 95. Email : willigen@free.fr*



People and Ponies: Lownthwaite Flicka II

Two year old homebred Fell Pony Lownthwaite Flicka II, owned and bred by Christine Morton, won the Mountain and Moorland large breeds 2/3 year old class at the Northern Counties Pony Association Pony of the Year show which was held at Manor Farm, Knutsford, Cheshire on 7th September 2008. The combination had a successful summer with numerous wins including Champion Fell Pony at Cockermonth show and Reserve Champion at both the N.C.P.A summer show and Cartmel Agricultural show. (Colour photo on inside front cover.)



People and Ponies: Stenerskeugh Frances II



Stenerskeugh Frances II was the first grey Fell pony ever to have gone to Olympia, and the only Fell to have qualified this year. She is owned by Jane Woolley and ridden by Emma Woolley. Jane has also been riding Frances on Endurance Taster rides (see p31).



People and Ponies: Dufton Hall Pleasure Ride and Drive

We were very lucky when choosing Sunday 14 September to hold a pleasure ride and drive, as it remained dry throughout the day! Riders & drivers gathered at Dufton, near Appleby, Cumbria, mid morning and enjoyed coffee before departing. After leaving Dufton the route took us through Flakebridge wood, the hamlet of Langton and onto Brackenber Moor (Appleby Golf Course), then onto Hilton and the village of Murton at the foot of the Pennines and back to Dufton. We were able to enjoy some off road riding but were escorted by our 'support' vehicles when we had to use the roads.

After tending to our steeds we all enjoyed a great barbecue provided by Mrs Howe & friends. There was also a raffle held, proceeds to FPS NW Support Group.

28 Equines took part (20 riders & 8 drivers), mainly Fell Ponies, including 2 twenty five year olds! The Fells were accompanied by other Natives.

A good time was had by all and it is hoped to hold a similar event in September 2009.

Kath Wilkinson (More photos in Colour Section.)



Some of the 8 drivers and 20 riders starting the FPS 2008 Pleasure Ride and Drive from David Howe's Dufton Hall Farm. Left to right:

Sue Millard and Copsyhill Suzanne (Ruby) adjust the carriage balance for Secretary, Elizabeth Parkin, on the backstep; David Wilkinson co-ordinates the event; Mrs Howe takes a break from the catering; Ian Smith chats to Bracklinn Jo-Jo with Kath Savage at the reins; Hilary Fawcett and (riding) Alison Morton follow on. Photo, Joy Reekie.



I just had to put pen to paper and tell you about our Fell pony Murthwaite Kestrel whom we got as a very fat and lazy 7 year old. He was perfect for my total novice daughter and when she outgrew him he became my husband George's steep learning curve to riding.

One of the problems with Kestrel was that every time he was asked for canter he would drop his shoulder and

off my husband would come, which would have been fine if he was a stunt rider but ... We gradually overcame that problem.

Now 9 years later Kestrel is a great pair bond to my 16.2 hh riding club horse William, even though they look like Little and Large. Both Kestrel and my husband are much-loved members of the Riding Club. For some reason known only to him, Kestrel showed no interest in jumping for the first 2 years, but he now jumps in our Adult Starter Stakes class, which is great for George.

As George is in his 50s, he and Kestrel receive great support whatever they do together in our club, and this year they did their first ever cross country. I had my doubts about it as Kestrel is now 16 years old, but my husband trusts him so much that we decided to do the pairs class. Kestrel loves to race, and try to be in front of William. I thought I would lead them round. Kestrel took the lead from the start however and apart from 2 or 3 fences he and George were always in front. To our delight we came 6th in that class which for a couple of middle aged novices is fantastic. It was all down to our great horses, mostly to trustworthy and ever reliable Kestrel who is now booked as a future lead-rein pony for my year-old grand-daughter. Till then roll on next year for Team Coburn.

Yvonne and George Coburn, Stranraer.





People and Ponies: Salisbury Bella

Frank Cowings' mare Salisbury Bella is giving him a lot of fun. She is unflappable in traffic (*see photo on back cover*) and totally reliable. Frank did the Dufton Ride and Drive with her (*see below*) and she never put a foot wrong all day in spite of not having been in harness for some time.

Right: Bella in the snow



People and Ponies: Tarnbeck Sheba



Sheba who was our main show mare for many years is enjoying her semi-retirement being ridden and loved by a family in Scotland. It's nice when show ponies can be used rather than spend their twilight years either breeding or just turned away.

Williamson Family.



How To: Go Carriage Driving—Part 2

Libby Robinson continues her article on carriage driving

The three aids of driving are your voice, your reins and your whip.



The safest way to drive on modern roads is to use the Achenbach style of rein handling, a technique standardised by the English coachman Edwin Howlett, working in the narrow busy streets of Paris in the 19th century, and adopted by Benno von Achenbach during the 1920s. The Achenbach or English Coachman system revolves around three basic goals which are: Safety, Efficiency, and being "Horse Friendly".

Contact

The only contact you have as a driver with your pony is your reins, through the bit; your handling of the reins must be very precise, and never confusing.

Light contact on the mouth must be maintained at all times, so you can

steer, stop & start, and balance your pony in between the shafts of your vehicle.

Know your turnout

Also you must learn how to judge the length and width of your whole turnout, similar to driving a car and trailer, so helping you to judge your distances whilst driving on the roads or tracks. Do not crawl along the road by the kerb, or with a wheel on the verge, always keep traffic moving by doing a smart working trot in the correct position on your side of the road, placing your inside wheel about a foot away from the kerb. Keep looking well ahead of you. Your groom can be helpful by keeping an eye on what is happening behind and giving signals for turning when needed; being aware of what is happening around you allows you good time to slow down or manoeuvre, for example around a parked car. The traditional whip signals should be known by the driver, and used - along with the groom's signalling - when driving out with other turnouts, but modern road users will not



understand a driver's whip signals, so for safety it is best to use hand signals (eg, those suggested for cyclists in the Highway Code; other regulations may apply outside the UK. Ed.).

Understanding your pony's reactions

Watch your pony's ears because they will tell you what he is looking at and thinking about. Use your voice in an appropriate tone to either calm or encourage him; you will be surprised at how many words your pony will quickly learn. To get his attention always say his name before giving a command.

Judgement of pace

Good judgement of pace is most essential when meeting and passing traffic or other horses and turnouts on the road. A numerous clan of motorists delight in speeding past and cutting in front of you, or slamming on their brakes to take a good look at you whilst passing by, so watching the traffic and what is happening well ahead on the road will enable your turnout to stay safe, and for you to steady your pony's pace should you need to slow down quickly, so that you don't take the energy and rhythm sharply out of your pony. You also earn gratitude from your passengers because they are not being thrown about!

English Coachman style rein handling

The driver sits on the right hand side of the vehicle with both reins in the left hand. Your elbows should be close to your sides and your left forearm horizontal, knuckles to the front, and your fingers about four inches from the centre of your body.

The left rein should be over the forefinger, with the right rein under

the middle finger, so you have two fingers between the reins. Your third and little finger should be curled lightly over the reins hanging down from your hand to hold them in place. This gives you scope to play with your pony's mouth through your rounded wrist, which should never be held in a frozen position, but flex to enable you to keep a steady contact with your pony's mouth without any jerking.

Your thumb should point straight to the right and not press down on the reins, also the forefinger should point right rear; this will keep the left rein up to your knuckle.

When the right hand is brought in to assist the left hand, the right hand is placed on the reins in front of the left with the left rein between the first and second fingers, and the right rein between the third and little fingers. Whether the right hand is on the reins or not the two reins should always be the same length in your left hand and not allowed to slip; also the right hand should never take the right rein out of the left hand.

To shorten the reins: Place the right hand on the reins in front of the left and take the contact - in the correct finger positions - and slide the left hand up to the right.



To lengthen the reins: Again place the right hand on the reins, feel the contact, and slide the left hand back, and then when firmly in position retake the contact from the right hand.

The pony can be moved across the road to the left or right by turning the back of the left hand up or down respectively. The right hand is always assisting your left, except when using your whip. You should always carry your whip, which for the carriage driver is the same as the leg aid of the rider. The whip should be used as sparingly as possible, but if required you should touch your pony gently with the thong of the whip between the pad and collar, keeping both reins steady in your left hand in order to do so.

Turning corners

Make your signal for turning in good time.



Turning left (*above*) use your right hand on your left rein at the required distance in front of the left hand - this will depend on how sharp the turn is - and roll your left hand and wrist so your knuckles are uppermost, bring the left rein up towards the centre of your body.



Turning right, (*above*) more pressure is placed on your right rein with your left hand and wrist rolling the palm uppermost.

Meeting other horses

Some ridden horses are frightened by a driving turnout. On seeing a rider and horse, safely slow down to a brisk walk and position your turnout a bit closer to the curb to maintain a good distance from them should they spook. If you are approaching a ridden horse from behind, communicate your intentions to the rider and pass keeping a wide berth. If the rider asks you to stop stand your turnout squarely so that the ridden horse can have a good look. Return to a smart working trot when a good distance apart. The same applies for passing a fellow driven turnout on the road.

Gloves and Spares kit

Gloves made of soft leather are best for driving. There should be ample room in the hand, fingers and wrist. Woollen gloves should be carried in your spares as they will not let the

reins slip through them in wet weather, unlike your leather gloves.

The rest of your spares should include the pony's head collar and lead rope, a sharp knife, hoof pick, hole punch, rein splice, trace splice, a good piece of cord, a small farrier's kit, basic human and horse first aid kit, and a mobile phone, or money or a card for a pay phone.

Lamps

A modern vehicle for competition must have rear retro reflectors as well as carriage lamps, which should be positioned between the wheel and the body of the vehicle under the mudguard. When your lamps are correctly mounted the white light is to the front, and the red light to the rear. Most modern vehicles are fully equipped with reflectors. Modern battery powered lights (*above*) can be switched to a 'flashing mode', as well as the normal on/off.

Traditional carriages often had yellow wheels that the lamp-light would shine off to give extra visibility on the road. They also had one small red lamp mounted on the back spring, on the carriage's right side. You can also wear light or reflective clothing to allow approaching vehicles to see you more easily. It is more comfortable when driving in colder weather to have a

thick woollen rug placed over the groom's and your laps and legs (*below*).

References

Hints on Driving by Captain Morley Knight.

The Complete Riding and Driving system - Book 5 by the German National Equestrian Federation.

All photographs taken by Fleur Hallam.

A full English leather show set of harness was used, driving Fell pony Skelgill May (Precious) put to a 1920s Ralli Car.

Libby Robinson

Next issue: Part 3 - Returning from a carriage drive and un-harnessing.





How To: Show Your Fell Pony in Harness—Part 2

What to wear?

The emphasis with a native pony should be on being “workmanlike.”

Hats

Toppers, wedding type hats and veils are “over the top”, and they look plain silly with an exercise cart. Something neat and not gaudy, like a tweed cap or a trilby or Panama with a small enough brim not to blow off in the wind, is fine.

Wear your hat level, not on the back of your head, and if, ladies, it tends to flip off in a breeze, fix it with fine elastic round the back of your head under your hair. I’ve solved all my hat problems by deciding always to wear a BS standard safety helmet with a harness. After all, the gentlemen drivers and grooms will be wearing “hard hats” - traditional bowlers, which were designed to be proof against tree branches or a poacher’s cudgel. Why should lady drivers be the only equestrians at the show who are not wearing protective headgear?

Jackets

A varnished carriage will require something tailored but country-style; ladies could wear a jacket with a smart blouse, and a toning skirt or trousers and flat shoes (not boots and jodhpurs). Jacket and trousers, or a suit, and a shirt and tie for gents. Your groom can wear something similar, less the apron.

Your apron is part of the carriage furniture and should match the upholstery rather than your clothing: “drab” fawn

is a neutral option. If your other person is a “passenger” rather than a “groom”, she should dress similarly to you, not in “stable” clothes, and have an apron or knee rug of her own.

Gloves

You both need brown gloves. Avoid light tan ones, because unless your English coachman-style rein handling is perfect, the judge’s attention will be distracted by your hands, when you want him to be admiring the pony.

For an exercise cart, the tweedy look will also be acceptable, but as an alternative you can go for something that tones with the carriage, and of course a helmet is perfectly appropriate headgear, but please, not a faded old velvet hat stuck on the back of your head. Workmanlike is the aim, remember.

The Whip

The final point of turnout is the whip. Correct unobtrusive handling and use of the whip is an art; that’s why “whip” also a term for the driver himself. It should be long enough for you to touch the horse’s shoulder with the lash, from your seat, without having to reach forward. Carry it pointing 45 degrees up/left/forward (see photo opposite).

If you have a nice varnished cart and a good leather set of harness, your whip should be holly with a plaited leather bowtop thong. A broken bowtop needs to be mended - it’s very obvious to a judge watching, although it will be out of the driver’s own line of sight. For an exercise turnout a light and well balanced fibreglass whip is appropriate, with a bowtop thong if you

possibly can; not a lunge whip (usually badly balanced and too long) or dealer whip (too short).

In the Ring

Performance is an art, and just as you have a show routine for ridden classes, so there is a routine for showing a harnessed pony, which you should practise now and then at home. When the whole class is on the move, give your pony room to stride on. If you find the turnout in front is holding you up, SIGNAL that you are going to turn, and circle to find a bit more space; don't charge past the pony ahead of you without warning.

Drive correctly, coachman style, unless you are showing a trade turnout. Coachman style is not "driving with your reins in one hand," but holding them in the left hand and *assisting* the left hand with the right for turns and



Holding the reins in the left hand and assisting the left hand with the right for turns and changes of pace. The author with Dylan Winter, driving Ruby during the recording of "Rare Steeds" for Radio 4 in December 2005. Photo, Sheena Duncan, BBC.

changes of pace. There are books and videos on how to do this and Libby Robinson's article p@@ has a good description and illustrations. Practise until the technique is natural to you, and then don't think any more about it. Don't do as one competitor did when I was judging: she smiled and saluted as she drove past, to show off her one-handed technique; still smiling, she drove into a show jump.

In Line

Your groom should step down to stand facing the pony whenever you are asked to stand in line. S/he can get back in the carriage when you do your show, or stay on the ground—it's up to you and how your vehicle balances, and how much difference the groom's weight may make to the pony's show. If your other person is a "passenger" rather than a "groom", s/he should not get out when you stop.

Your Individual Show

Sit up straight and try to look as though you are enjoying yourself! Do what the judge asks. Do enough to show your pony well, without wasting the class's time on extras. A judge will usually want to see a free, regular walk, and at the very least an active, rhythmic working trot on both reins; a trot extension or lengthening if there is room, possibly a collected trot, and certainly a smooth, unresisting, two-beat rein-back.

When you do your show, use all the ring, make any corners into smooth quarter circles to keep your pony in balance, and try to halt on an uphill slope for your rein-back because then the carriage does part of the work for you!



Coachman style driving is SAFE even in those “Fell pony moments” of excitement. The driver is sitting up correctly, with feet braced on the foot board. With the reins in the left hand it is quick and easy to shorten them with the right, so this shying pony remains under the driver’s control . Photo, K Ettridge.

Bad manners due to impatience - pulling, rushing, fidgeting, rearing - are as much of a fault in a pony as are sluggishness, napping, backing and other forms of resistance. A shy or startle might be excused in an otherwise well behaved pony, but steadiness is preferable. A good driving pony is full of courage, but obedient, reliable, straight, light and forward going.

When you have completed your show, halt facing the judge and give a correct salute. Ladies hold the reins in the left hand, turn the whip to the horizontal just below eye level and nod over it to the judge, while gents put the whip under the thumb of the left hand, take off their hat and sweep it out sideways crown uppermost , before replacing it.

The Other Half is about the Pony

Although this article has looked mainly at turnout, only half of a driving class is about turnout. You can present your animal in the most expensive harness and carriage, and dress yourself and your groom “up to the Nines”, and still not be placed! Your pony must be a good sort, must show himself well, and behave well.

By working him consistently at home and driving to the best of your ability, as well as taking pains to turn him out properly, you’ll give that good pony (and you know you’ve got one!) his chance to shine.

Sue Millard



Ponies Past: Rackwood Dewdrop 18034, 1978—2008

Rackwood Dewdrop was born on 10th May 1978 and was the second Fell pony to be bred by my late father, Robert Coatsworth, and registered with the 'Rackwood' prefix. She was a kind, willing pony which came to fame through her career as a brood mare. Sadly she was put to sleep on 31st October 2008 with the onset of what was shaping to be a long, cold, wet winter.

My father had a very special relationship with Dewdrop and was very proud of her. Together they



won several championships at local shows such as Barningham (*above*), Bowes and Eggleston. During Dewdrop's breeding years, he was the only member of the family who could catch her. When my father took ill in 1996, I had to wear his jacket and trilby hat in order to get close enough to her to feed her a few pony nuts and slip on a halter.

Herself a show champion on several occasions, her twelve offspring were very consistent in conformation, regardless of sire, and went on to gain show ring recognition throughout the UK: Rackwood Rambler (1983); Velvet (1984); Pride (1985); Rose (1987); Prince (1988); Charles (1989); Royal (1990); Major (1991); Robin (1992); Rover (1994); Thistle (1998) and Maydew (2000). She certainly had a preference for breeding colts! If anyone reading this article owns any of the above mentioned ponies, I would love to hear from you.

She will be remembered by myself and my brother Ivan, with much affection and she will be greatly missed by her remaining four legged family, Velvet (daughter 1); Dawn (grand-daughter); Magic (great grand-daughter); Blossom, Bonnie & Princess (great, great grand-daughters); Samone (great, great, great grand-daughter), also Maydew (daughter 3); Melody (grand-daughter) and Monty (grand-son).

Eileen Walker, rackwoodeileen@yahoo.com



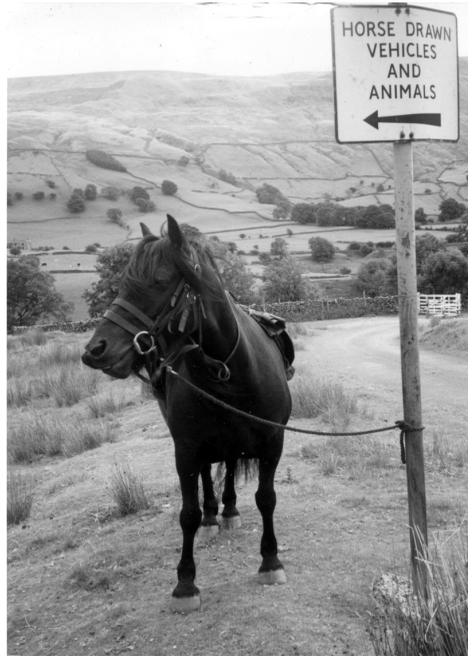
Ponies Past: Twislehope Border Warrior, 1979—2008

In early December Twislehope Border Warrior was put to sleep at the age of 29. Bred by Molly Laing his sire was Twislehope Druid and his dam Twislehope Heather Belle. As a youngster he lived on the fells around Dufton with the Dargues' ponies and then with Clive Richardson at Ulverston. We bought him from Clive as a three year old and he spent the greater part of his life at livery with Margaret Murray in north Baldersdale before joining us at West Briscoe in south Baldersdale in early 2008.

He was the first Fell pony we had owned and a credit to the breed. He was shown in in-hand and ridden classes at local shows and at the Breed Show, he participated in both Spring and Autumn Performance Trials, and was regularly used for Riding for the Disabled over a 10 year period. Most of all he enjoyed many long distance riding holidays in Tynedale, the North Pennines and the Eden Valley where he must have covered many hundreds of miles.

He was a most trustworthy pony, unflappable and a perfect novice ride. He is much missed by his owners, friends and Fell pony companions.

I still have two Fell ponies, both ageing but still active: Debrus Prince (age 24) who was pictured driving at the Breed Show in the Fell Pony Society calendar of this year (October) and Baldersdale True Thomas (age 17).



Barbara and Richard Dunne

Reminder from the FPS Office

We know how hard it is to lose a pony, but by law the owner should return the pony's passport to the Society for cancellation. It can then be returned to you if you wish to keep it.



Ponies Past: Sleddale Sue 1980—2008

After a well earned year of retirement, and still enjoying her life as companion to a youngster, Sue passed away suddenly in her field, with no fuss, and at a time of her choosing.

She had Rebecca and Ros, her owner, with her, and near enough to rest her head on Ros's knee and peacefully go to sleep, as if she had waited to say good-bye. The previous day she had been eating her usual carrots and nattering in her chatterbox way with her friend Charmaine.

In the 3 years I had her on loan near Ripon, she enjoyed as much riding as she could fit in, pleasure and leisure rides, an equal to any horse or pony she rode with. She accompanied children and adults who needed a calming influence for their horse, and consequently all who met her, respected and adored her. We thought she'd go on forever.

Her award of the Lownthwaite Rob Trophy in 2005 mirrored her influence as an ambassador for the Fell Pony and she introduced several riders to the Society.

There will never be another pony like Sue for us all. She was a pony of a lifetime.

Elizabeth Howard, Markington, N Yorkshire.





Ponies Past: Sprintghyll Sue 1992–2008

When Ghyllly first came to me in 2002 she was much admired - usually from a distance of about 200 yards as she was extremely wary of people. Luckily this trait did not pass to her foals who all came to hand very easily.

Over the years she got better & eventually would allow herself to be caught in the field or would happily hang around for a 'chat' as long as none of the other ponies were around. She proved to be the gentlest, most charming no-hassle pony, producing a filly foal by Bracklinn Fergus, followed by three more fillies, and a colt by Border Black Prince. However from 2006 we were unable to get her in foal, and in summer 2008 as she was only 16, decided she needed some alternative occupation. She long-reined like a pro, so we presumed she had been broken to drive at some point and my friend, Gemma backed her. Hacking out she was an absolute star, though always attached to an imaginary 'cart', so she always proceeded down the centre of the road, and couldn't quite get the concept of moving to the left to let traffic pass, or turning sideways to open gates.

Unfortunately in September she suddenly became ill and blood tests confirmed an incurable auto-immune disease. Within 3 weeks she was unable to eat and breathing was difficult, and she was quietly put down at home on October 8th.

She's very sadly missed and I would love to hear from anyone who knew Ghyllly between 1993 and 2001.

Lesley Rigby





Merchandise Price List

CLOTHING (with FPS logo)

Item	Selling	P&P	Total
Riding Mac	£30.00	£5.00	£35.00
Reversible Showerproof Fleece Lined Jacket	£26.00	£3.00	£29.00
Reversible Waterproof Waistcoat	£24.00	£3.00	£27.00
Rugby Shirt	£30.00	£2.50	£32.50
Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Adult)	£17.50	£2.50	£20.00
Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Child)	£14.00	£2.50	£16.50
Polo Shirt (Adult)	£15.00	£2.50	£17.50
Polo Shirt (Child)	£12.00	£2.50	£14.50
T Shirt (Child)	£10.00	£2.50	£12.50
Fleece Waistcoat (Adult)	£22.00	£2.50	£24.50
Fleece Waistcoat (Child)	£16.00	£2.50	£18.50
Fleece Hat	£7.00	£1.00	£8.00
V Neck Lambswool Jumper (Navy only)	£15.00	£2.50	£17.50
Hi Vis Waistcoat	£10.00	£1.50	£11.50
Tie	£8.00	£0.50	£8.50
Baseball Cap	£8.00	£0.50	£8.50

MISCELLANEOUS

Towel	£6.00	£2.00	£8.00
Facecloth	£3.50	£1.00	£4.50
Key Fob	£1.00	£0.25	£1.25
Ballpoint Pen	£1.00	£0.25	£1.25
Softgrip ballpoint pen	£2.00	£0.50	£2.50
Pencil	£0.50	£0.25	£0.75
Badge	£2.00	£0.25	£2.25
Car Sticker - Round or Oblong	£1.00	£0.25	£1.25
CarTax Disc Holder	£2.00	£0.25	£2.25
Mouse Mat	£3.00	£0.50	£3.50
Tea Towel	£3.00	£0.50	£3.50
Coaster	£2.00	£0.50	£2.50
Fridge Magnet	£1.50	£0.50	£2.00
Boot Bag	£12.00	£2.50	£14.50
Monostrap Bag	£14.00	£2.50	£16.50
Tote Bag (large)	£7.00	£1.50	£8.50
Tote Bag (small)	£4.00	£1.00	£5.00
Tote Bag (coloured)	£7.50	£1.50	£9.00
Drawstring Bag	£10.00	£1.00	£11.00
Waistpack	£8.00	£1.50	£9.50
Shoulder Bag	£8.00	£1.50	£9.50
Wallet	£6.00	£0.50	£6.50

CARDS

Calendar	£5.00	£2.00	£7.00
Christmas Cards (pk 5)	£2.50	£0.50	£3.00

Notelets (pk 5)	£2.50	£0.50	£3.00
Postcards (pk12) assorted	£2.00	£0.50	£2.50
Postcards (pk 10)	£1.50	£0.50	£2.00

BOOKS / VIDEOS / CD

A Lifetime with Ponies by Roy B Charlton			
	£20.00	£2.50	£22.50
Dales Ponies	£15.00	£2.50	£17.50
The Fell Pony (by Clive Richardson)	£7.50	£2.00	£9.50
Jubilee Book	£5.00	£2.00	£7.00
One Fell Swoop	£2.75	£1.00	£3.75
Hoofprints in Eden	£17.00	£3.00	£20.00
A Walk on the Wild Side	£12.50	£2.50	£15.00
Spirit of the Fell Pony	£4.99	£1.01	£6.00
Showing Native Ponies	£4.95	£1.00	£5.95
Binder for newsletters or studbooks	£7.00	£1.00	£8.00
History CD	£13.00	£1.00	£14.00

STUDBOOKS / NEWSLETTERS

Black Stud Book 1898-1980	£5.00	£2.50	£7.50
Studbooks to 1999 (each)	£1.00	£0.50	£1.50
2000 to 2006 (each)	£5.00	£1.00	£6.00
2007	£6.00	£1.00	£7.00
Newsletter Back Copies	£1.00	£0.50	£1.50

PICNICWARE

Clear Tumblers	£2.50	£1.00	£3.50
Mugs	£2.50	£1.00	£3.50
Bowls	£2.50	£1.00	£3.50
Plates	£2.50	£1.00	£3.50
Cutlery Sets	£3.00	£1.00	£4.00

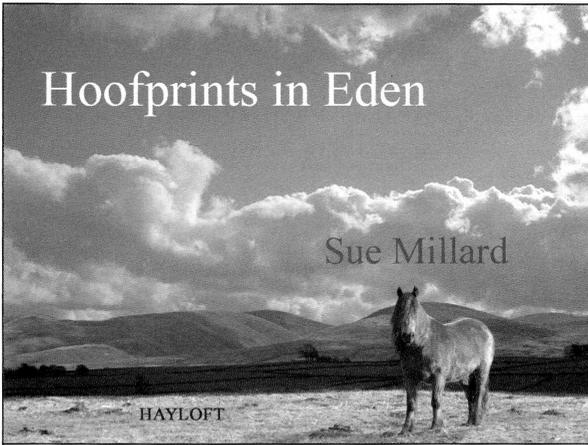
Please contact the office for details of available colours/sizes for clothing and picnicware. Some items are not held in stock.

Please give the office at least two weeks to fulfill an order, especially near Christmas.

Send order and cheques payable to The Fell Pony Society to:
The Secretary, The Fell Pony Society, Ion House, Great Asby,
Appleby, Cumbria CA16 6HD Tel/Fax 01768353100.

All prices quoted for P&P (post and packing) above are for shipment within the UK. Different prices apply for shipments outside of the United Kingdom.





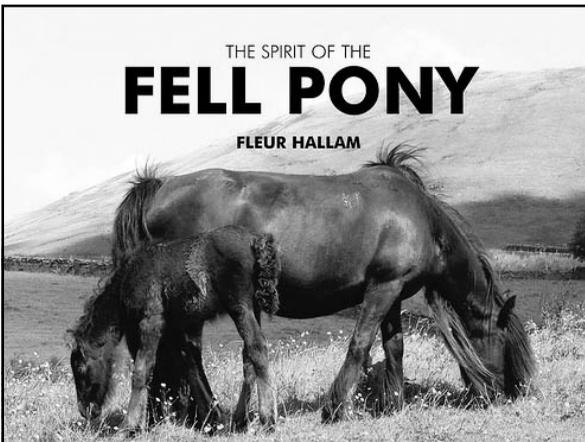
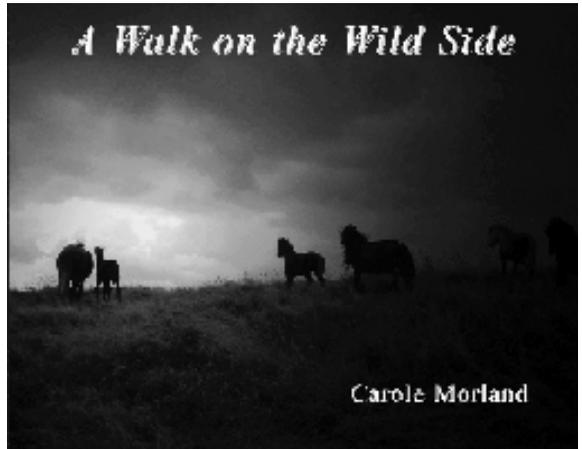
Hoofprints in Eden, by Sue Millard

1st prize winner at the Lakeland Book of the Year Awards 2006. Based on interviews with long established Fell pony breeders, hill farmers and enthusiasts about the traditions of keeping ponies on the open fell. £17.00 & £3.00 P & P

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Spirit of the Fell Pony, by Fleur Hallam

A memento for all those who have a passion for ponies. Hardback, containing 70 full colour photographs with captions.

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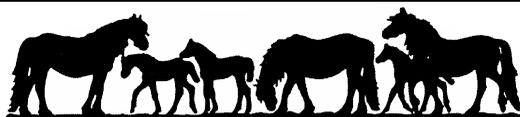


Frank Cowings driving Salisbury Bella on the busy A690 road in very heavy traffic on 9th September 2008. They have just come through a traffic control and road works. Frank says: "She is not phased by any of the things going on around her. Would you call this an extension of Cone Driving?" (Hazard Driving, perhaps? Ed.)

If undelivered, please return to:

Fell Pony Society
Ion House
Great Asby, Appleby, Cumbria CA16 6HD
www.fellponysociety.org.uk

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