

# THE FELL PONY SOCIETY MAGAZINE

*SPRING 2014 - Volume 28*



*Peahill Basil galloping along Silecroft beach with BBC TV's Countryfile presenter Matt Baker. The feature was broadcast on 9th February 2014.*



Jessica O'Donnell

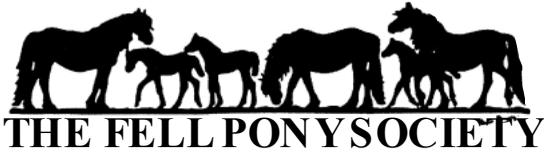
*Laurelhighland Diva and Nell Barbour at the Equine Affaire Fell Pony Breed Demonstration. Diva was shown as a pack pony and is bearing authentic Scottish creels. Below left: Laurelhighland Sapphire and Lauren Earley at the Equine Affaire Fell Pony Breed Demonstration in traditional M&M turnout. Below right: Lunesdale Mercury at Fell Pony Demonstration at Equine Affaire - Shown In-Harness by Laura Hamilton and John Aberth. Full FPSNA report on p 58.*



Jessica O'Donnell



Jessica O'Donnell



**Patron: Her Majesty the Queen**

President: Mrs C Y Ross-Thomson

Chairman: Mrs Eileen A Walker

Vice-Chairman: Mrs C H Robinson

Secretary: Mrs Katherine Wilkinson

**Society Office—PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS**

Bank House, Boroughgate, Appleby In Westmorland

Cumbria CA16 6XF

tel/fax: 01768 353100

e-mail: [secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk)

**Council**

To retire 2014: Mr G H B Mallinson, Mr P Metcalfe, Mr W S Potter, Mr C Roberts.

To retire 2015: Mrs S Charlton, Mrs G M Cockbain, Mr J Greener, Mr M Rawlinson.

To retire 2016: Mrs C H Robinson, Mr A Thorpe, Mrs S Millard, Mrs E Walker.

To retire 2017: Mr P Boustead, Mrs S Brunskill, Miss J Glass, Miss M G Longsdon.

To retire 2018: Miss B Bell, Mr T B Capstick, Mr D Wilkinson.

**Magazine Editor:** Sue Millard

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

tel: +44 (0)1539 624636 – e-mail: [sue@dawbank.co.uk](mailto:sue@dawbank.co.uk)

**Fell Pony Sales List:** Please contact the Office.

**Show Affiliation Secretary:** Mrs Michelle Thorpe, Winterbutlee Farm, Shawforth  
Nr Rochdale, Lancashire OL128XE. Tel: 01706 853843, Fax 01706217886

E-mail: [info@wellbrowfell.co.uk](mailto:info@wellbrowfell.co.uk)

**Press Officer:** Claire Simpson, Hale Bank, Hale, Nr. Milnthorpe,

Cumbria LA7 7BL. Tel: 07767 838662

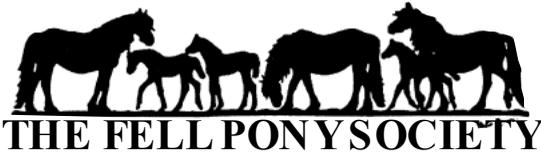
E-mail: [claire.e.simpson@fsmail.net](mailto:claire.e.simpson@fsmail.net)

**Registered Office:** Brosnans Chartered Accountants, Enterprise House, 56-58  
Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7HY



## Contents—Spring 2014

Council Information .....	5	Conservancy .....	62
President's Report.....	6	Young Persons Group.....	63
Chairman's Report.....	6	Learning with Fells .....	64
Secretary's Report.....	8	FIS Update .....	69
Treasurer's Report.....	8	Calendar Competition Results .....	73
Editorial.....	9	SEBA Pony of the Year.....	74
Letters to the Editor.....	10	FPS Ridden Bursary.....	75
Dates for 2014 .....	15	People and Ponies .....	76
Notice of EGM and AGM .....	16	Olympia Final .....	76
Minutes, Autumn 2013 meeting ....	17	Murthwaite Reynard.....	76
From the FPS Office.....	20	Brocklebank Murphy.....	77
FPS Fees 2014.....	21	Laurelhighland Victor .....	77
Membership Fees 2014 .....	22	Drummersdale Harvest Moon .....	78
Stallion Licensing .....	23	Graysons Chip.....	79
Sub-Committees .....	24	Murthwaite Gunsmith .....	80
Obituary—Mrs Anne Garcia.....	25	Peepings Merlin.....	82
Council Elections 2014.....	26	Murthwaite Very Dainty.....	82
200 Club results.....	30	Raisbeck Robbie .....	83
Endurance Awards 2013 .....	31	Dalehead Jewel.....	83
Southern Show results .....	32	Foalsyke Ponies .....	84
FPS Sale .....	38	Peahill Basil on Countryfile .....	85
Points Awards 2013 .....	40	Lownthwaite's 125 years.....	87
UK Support Group Contacts .....	42	Fells Promote South Pennines .....	89
Scottish.....	44	Greenholme Gambler .....	90
North West .....	46	Kerbeck Fire Cracker.....	91
North East .....	47	Looking Ahead: Shows.....	92
Midlands West.....	48	Fell Ponies: Book Review.....	93
Colour Photo section .....	49	Ponies Past: Abbey Highwayman ..	94
Midlands West cont'd.....	53	Advertisement and Poem .....	98
Midlands East.....	54	FPS Merchandise.....	99
South West .....	55		
South East .....	55		
Fell Pony Beach Ride .....	56		
Lincs Fells and Friends .....	57		
FPSNA.....	58		



## Council Information

**Barbara Bell**

Home: 01697 478644

**Peter Boustead**

Home: 01524 38366

**Susan Brunskill**

Home: 01768 870844

**Thomas B Capstick**

Home: 07974 195770

**Sarah Charlton**

Home: 01434 673262

Fax: 01434 673852

E-mail: linnelwood@gmail.com

**Glenis Cockbain**

Home: 01768 772133

**Jane Glass**

Home: 01509 880261

**John Greener**

Home: 016977 48226

E-mail: greenerjohn@gmail.com

**Mary Longsdon**

Home / Fax: 01629 640709

**Barry Mallinson**

Home: 01228 675814

Mobile: 07787 888750

**Paul Metcalfe**

Home: 01539 621655

**Sue Millard**

Home: 01539 624636

E-mail: sue@dawbank.co.uk

**Bill Potter**

Home/fax: 01931 716267

**Mike Rawlinson**

Home: 07742 162026

**Colin Roberts**

Home: 01539 624291

**Christine Robinson**

Home/Fax: 01946 861302

E-mail: Christine@kerbeck-fell-ponies.co.uk

**Andrew Thorpe**

Home: 01706 853843

**Eileen Walker**

Home: 01388 763607.

Mobile: 07990 521205.

E-mail: Eileen@rackwoodfellponies.co.uk

**David Wilkinson**

Home: 01768 352861

E-mail: wilkinsonfellponies@hotmail.co.uk

### 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.



## President's Report—January 2014

Not a great deal of excitement has happened here in the far South, except for high winds, floods, a lot of fallen trees and roof damage.

Sadly many of the planned events have had to be cancelled. Let's hope with the lighter evenings coming and Spring on the way, things will look up. We can always hope.

Tina and Jules who are doing an excellent job of organising the South East Group, have got together and are organising 'excitements' to do with computers for the friendly Fell owners.

I thought that I had nice clean Fell ladies but they resemble something very different who have a great love of mud. Roll along the lighter Spring evenings and perhaps some sunshine. Sadly I won't be able to make the AGM but have planned babysitters for all the four legged creatures in May and will look forward to the week of the Stallion Show etc.

All the best wishes to everyone for 2014.

Char mian Ross-Thomson



## Chairman's Report—January 2014

I would like to wish everyone a belated 'Happy New Year' and good luck in all Fell pony related activities during 2014. Your Council have decided to make 2014 a fund raising year to help pay for the new expensive equipment needed to produce pony passports to the new standards required by DEFRA. I will be contacting each support group to ask for their help but if any individuals or groups of people wish to organise a fund raising event, we would be very grateful.

Since I wrote my last report the society has lost five valued members: Mrs D Howell, Mr A V Naylor, Mr P Turnbull, Mr L S Hardy and Mrs A Garcia. They will be greatly missed and our sympathy goes to all their families.

During October my husband and I took a two day break and travelled down to Birmingham to attend HOYS. It was a fantastic experience and we were delighted to see a Fell pony, Murthwaite Windrush, win the Fell & Dales section and then go on to be Reserve Supreme Champion. My congratulations go to all involved. I did not attend the M&M Championships at Olympia but Fell ponies Severnvale George and Greenholme Warbler did us proud by being placed 2nd and 3rd respectfully. Once again, my congratulations go to everyone involved.

On the last Saturday in October, we held our first Fell pony sale at North West Auctions near Kendal. The change of day and venue was a huge success resulting in much positive feedback. The atmosphere was buzzing and the facilities greatly appreciated. North West

Auctions were pleased to hold our registered pony sale and have invited us to be part of their spring Rare Breeds Sale on the Saturday 3rd May 2014. A golden opportunity to sell show quality youngsters and broken ponies before the summer season begins.

The new North West Area Support Group held a meeting at the end of October and appointed Frances Miller as Chairman/Secretary and Anne Hogg as Treasurer. They have plans to hold several events during 2014 so please check the FPS website and Facebook for more details and support them if you can. The area support groups play an important part in getting like minded Fell pony enthusiasts together so please check out the map and contact details to be found later in the magazine.

The Autumn General Meeting, which was very poorly attended, took place on Sunday 27th October at Tebay Social Club. Our guest speaker, Alison O'Neil (The Barefoot Shepherdess) gave a splendid talk on her life with Fell ponies and the explicit details brought a tear to everyone's eye. The poor attendance at our Autumn General Meeting has been the trend for a number of years so Council have decided to make changes to the 'Memorandum and Articles of Association' to allow us to hold a less formal autumn gathering. Please take note of the Special Resolutions being approved by Council and use your voting paper to support these recommendations.

In December we nominated a Scottish bred Fell pony, Ravenscain Dancer, for the 'Scottish Bred Horse or Pony of the Year 2013'. As I write this report she is one of twelve finalists but the winner will not be announced until March. All finalists will receive a special commemorative rosette and the winner will receive the Transy Perpetual Trophy kindly donated by Dougal Dick.

The Young Person Committee, instigated by our former chairman last spring, is beginning to formulate under the leadership of Michael Goddard. Their aims include organising educational / training events to benefit our younger members and encourage them to learn more about the running of the society. I believe the age range is 18 - 40 yrs so if you would like to be involved, please get in touch with Michael or your local area support group.

I am delighted to announce that the FPS Office will be moving into Appleby during February 2014. In fact, we'll have moved by the time you read this report. I would like to thank Elizabeth and Graham Parkin for allowing the office to remain in their home since Elizabeth's retirement in June 2013. I hope Katherine will be happy in her new surroundings.

Elizabeth also needs our sincere thanks for continuing as treasurer until the present time but she would like to relinquish this responsibility very soon. Katherine can do the day to day banking and paying of bills etc but we need someone to put things together for the accountant - or better still be an accountant who can offer this service to the society. I'm sure we must have a member with accountancy qualifications who would like to help us out. Please let me know if this is you.

Finally, enjoy reading your magazine and I look forward to speaking with many of you at the various events throughout the year.

Eileen A Walker



## Secretary's Report—Spring 2014

As I write this report at the end of January, I'm preparing to move the FPS office into Appleby so by the time you read this we'll have moved! I am very grateful to Elizabeth & Graham for allowing me to continue using their premises since I took over as Secretary last June as this allowed Eileen and I time to check out what was on offer in Appleby and hopefully, we have made the right choice.

The number of foal registrations has fallen again with a total of 274 registered (compared to last years total of 348) and just 1 or 2 still to complete.

The RBST have recently notified us that we remain in Category 4 on the 'At Risk' register for 2014. We have also just received our grant from the Horserace Betting Levy Board and are very grateful that we are still eligible for this. I am relieved to know that I must have completed the application form correctly.

I have been in communication with DEFRA along with other PIO's/ Breed Societies over recent months in relation to the new Minimum Operating Standards which came into effect on 1 February 2014. There will be more information on our website very soon regarding the legal responsibilities of horse & pony owners and we'll be sending out information with passports.

I would like to remind you to take the time to vote, by post, for the Council election and also to use your proxy vote, if you cannot attend the AGM.

Katherine



## Treasurer's Report—Spring 2014

As you see - I'm still here! I agreed to carry on as Treasurer until the Society could find a replacement and I do hope this will happen soon, particularly as the office is moving to its new premises later this month, and popping in to do a few hours work won't be quite so convenient. My cat, Clyde, is going to be devastated, as he loves spending his afternoons curled up somewhere in the office, keeping Katherine company.

As you will see from the accounts enclosed with your magazine, the Society had a deficit in the last financial year, though this was smaller than the previous years. Total income was broadly the same, but income from registrations was substantially less than the previous year and this trend is likely to continue. The decision to revert to preferential rates for members has resulted in an increase in transfer income and Council have made changes to the fees for stallion licensing and FIS testing which should have a beneficial effect on the accounts in the future. We succeeded in reducing our expenditure as compared with the previous year, mainly due to reductions in salary costs and postage expenses. Eileen, our

Chairman, and I, have drawn up a draft budget for the current financial year and I am reporting to her monthly so that we can track how we are going.

Elizabeth



## Editorial

I have had to start work early on the Magazine (27 January). I have already had so many articles and letters submitted that I suspect I shall have to be truly editorial and selective, in order to keep the contents below my limit of 100 pages. It's a fabulous tribute to the ponies and to the Society that so many of you are so enthusiastic.

The letterbox and the email inbox have been particularly hot with discussion about ponies being used for conservation grazing, while the article by Prof. Stuart Carter about the FIS testing results to date will be of interest to anyone who breeds Fells or is thinking of breeding this year for the first time.

I appreciate the efforts of individual Magazine contributors who have sent me copy digitally, and early; you do help to save a lot of my time. Even when everything goes right, setting up this Magazine takes a week of intensive work before it is fit to go for proof reading and then printing, so thank you to everyone who's taken note of my regular pleas in this space!

The copy deadline for the Autumn 2014 edition will be, as usual, 1st September. If you haven't written for us before and would like to, detailed guidance is on the FPS web site:

[http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/Newsletters/submissions\\_magazine.htm](http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/Newsletters/submissions_magazine.htm)

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: [sue@dawbank.co.uk](mailto:sue@dawbank.co.uk)

I must go back to finish this issue now!

Happy 2014

Sue Millard



## Seeking Help!

**The Society needs someone with book keeping and spreadsheet skills, who can keep an eye on the Society's finances and prepare the books for the accountant.**

**Flexible hours from 2 - 6 hrs per week. Pay negotiable.**

Please contact the office, or the Chair man, Eileen Walker.



## Letters to the Editor

*We have had some strong responses in reply to Heidi Sands' article in the Autumn 2013 magazine about a visit to the RSPB reserve at Strathbeg, which uses Konik ponies for conservation grazing work:*

---

I was very interested to read of Heidi's visit, with friends, to the RSPB Reserve in Aberdeenshire to see the conservation grazing program.

However, I was sad to see, as apparent Fell pony owners, they were content to be brain washed into thinking the imported Konik ponies would be more suited to British Climate and vegetation for conservation grazing, than any of our native equine, cattle or sheep breeds.

Would they not have helped the FPS Conservation Grazing sub-committee and breeders in general, by promoting the use of our ponies, those used to marsh grazing, or even, other British breeds such as the Welsh ponies used to fresh and/or salt water grazing, or some Dartmoors?

If we, as owners/breeders of our declining native breeds do not question the continuing import of invasive breeds from the rest of the world we will see a hastening fall in the uses and value of our Fell ponies.

I would also like to know what the true economics are of buying, importing and transport of Koniks are, compared to obtaining native, more local stock used to the weather, handling and grazing on offer?

Perhaps someone will enlighten us?

With regards

Judy Hill

Shepparton Ponies

Leicestershire

---

I was interested to read that Scottish members had been to visit the Koniks on the RSPB Reserve at Strathbeg.

I am sorry to say that it appears you and your members have been misled. There has been quite extensive correspondence between various research bodies and conservation organisations, including the RSPB, to explain that Koniks are NOT related to the ancient Tarpan. Koniks have been bred to supposedly like Tarpans, but do not share their genes to any significant degree. The site warden, Richard Humpidge, should know better than to continue to spread this misinformation.

Please take a look at this letter addressed to the National Trust and RSPB.

*... the Konik is certainly NOT related to the Tarpan. This has been shown by multiple DNA*

researches. They always cluster with warmbloods for example, are not related genetically to the Tarpan and have haplotypes that were not found in Western/European prehistoric horses. Koniks do not even resemble the description given by Gmelini about the Tarpan.... - the Exmoor pony (sic.) is the closest living relative of the prehistoric horse that inhabited Western and Central Europe, according to the various disciplines and lines of research.

- Exmoor's ponies present wild and natural behaviour, also compared with natural behaviour of wild herbivores in, for instance, Africa. For instance, they keep a distance, cluster together when approached and protect the young, etcetera. They act like a group. In all, I wonder why you would present the Konik to the British public as an ancient pony, while clearly it is not, and also while you British people still have an ancient pony on your Island? It has come as a surprise to many, but the people of the Exmoor Pony Society actually have a point when saying that the Exmoor pony is an ancient pony....

I am not saying that you should abandon the use of Konik horses altogether, but at least I personally believe you have the obligation to tell the public the truth about the Koniks and Exmoors.

With regards,

Dr. Henri Kerkdijk

Though RSPB maintain that Koniks fit their management purposes, personally I think that the RSPB, which purports to support British Wildlife, should be trying much harder to use Native British breeds on their reserves for management purposes. I am certain that with their resources, manpower, land, money, they could adapt Reserves to make them ideally suited to our native ponies.

I would be interested to hear your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Susanna Baker

---

*The value of Fell ponies for conservation-type grazing has been explored in depth by David Murray in two reports: **The Fell pony: grazing characteristics and breed profile** (based on surveys in 2003 and 2004) and **Recognising extensively grazing, hefted, acclimatised Fell ponies as biodiversity: their conservation and sustainable use** (Findings of: (a) stakeholder interviews conducted in 2011 and 2012; (b) a Fell pony wildness survey conducted in 2013.)*

*In the second of these reports he comments that:*

“Selection of pony breeds for UK ecological restoration schemes often is based upon inconclusive anecdotal evidence, meagre empirical investigation, personal preference and aggressive promotion (References 27, 41). Decisions stem partly, if subconsciously, from unsound re-wilding policy which has emphasised the use of Konik and Exmoor breeds for future “wild land” biodiversity restoration and large-scale habitat re-creation” (Reference 42). An assumption that phenotypic and genetic closeness to the prehistoric Tarpan determines ability to help create and manage optimally sustainable biodiversity is unproven.

“Recent proliferation of imported Konik ponies across Britain as the preferred re-wilding baseline fails to consider whether locally-adapted native breeds might manage ecosystem restoration equally well, if not better. (References 11, 28, 29, 41, 42). Superior local performance might apply especially in scenarios where welfare protection is minimised. Is the Konik depriving the Fell pony of a useful role, thereby threatening the breed’s genetic conservation potential long-term?” (Murray, 2013, section 5.9, pp 89-90).

“UK re-wilding enthusiasts envisage national park ‘core areas of truly wild land,’ containing reintroduced large herbivore...baseline species. In place of the extinct Tarpan horse, some UK policy makers in the 1990s recommended ‘primitive Tarpan-like’ Exmoor or Konik ponies because their appearances (phenotypes) most closely resemble extinct prehistoric baseline species.

“Whether Konik and Exmoor ponies are more appropriate genetically than Fell ponies for UK long-term habitat restoration and re-wilding is debateable. Recently published data for 36 worldwide horse and pony breed populations suggests that Fell and Exmoor breeds are “moderately divergent” genetically. However, Fell (and New Forest) breeds exhibit more ‘within breed’ diversity (heterozygosity) than the Exmoor breed, which had the third highest level of inbreeding and third lowest diversity. ...

“Lowest inbreeding was observed in landrace populations - Mongolian, Tuva and New Forest ponies. The Fell pony shows highest similarity to landrace populations, which share similarities with all breeds because of their high genetic diversity. They are relatively unmanaged, free ranging, out-crossing ponies with high phenotypic diversity.

“Increased inbreeding often causes reduced performance. The Exmoor pony was ‘naturally selected for harsh winter conditions on isolated moors in south-west England,’ a specific climate and ecosystem range. Latterly, it is the product of circa only 50 individuals. In re-wilding situations, will the Exmoor pony be able to adapt optimally, especially long-term, to changing and widely variable climate and vegetation dynamics in view of ‘genetic grazing characteristics erosion’?

“The Rare Breeds Survival Trust believes that the Fell pony has suffered no such genetic erosion during the last century. Its comparatively high genetic and phenotypic diversity suggests that the breed has retained more genetic grazing characteristics required for successful adaptation to climate and land changes within a variety of upland (and lowland) re-wilding scenarios.” Murray, *ibid*, section 5.10—Genetic diversity debate.)

---

*The email that follows is a response sent to David Murray on his December 2013 report, by Ian Baker, RSPB, dated 13 January 2014. David Murray asked us to publish this response in its entirety, “to give a balanced argument AND to elicit responses from Fell pony breeders or others who may wish to disagree with*

*aspects of this statement OR who may wish to point out where the Fell pony satisfies the requirements mentioned.”*

Dear Mr Murray,

You will be aware from your visits to the reserves that we use a wide range of breeds of hardy livestock as part of the general grazing management. The decision to use a particular breed at an individual site is down to a combination of whether the breed is suitable for the task and, crucially, whether there are livestock of that breed available close by. Konik ponies are the only non-British hardy livestock (from cattle, ponies & sheep) that we use. We have Exmoor ponies at Minsmere, Welsh Mountain ponies at Ramsey Island and Lake Vyrnwy and Koniks at Minsmere, Portmore Lough and Loch of Strathbeg. The supply of Koniks, as with all other pony breeds for conservation use, seems to be variable in our experience but slightly better than native British breeds. If we could find reliable sympathetic suppliers/graziers, then I am sure we would consider having more native breeds.

We find the major ecological and husbandry advantages in using Konik ponies above other breeds are:

On wetland sites, they are well adapted to grazing fen vegetation, particularly woody vegetation in the winter months.

Inventive and adaptive readily taking leaves in spring and summer, seed heads in autumn and digging up roots in winter.

Easy maintenance - hooves do not require extra trimming. From our experience of Koniks we feel this makes these animals suitable for grazing large areas where rounding up may be difficult and disruptive.

Their dung is analysed regularly and we have good data which indicates the overall worm burdens are not increasing and that the animals appear to self-regulate their parasite burdens. This is good for sites which are grazed on a minimalist/organic basis and where there are good invertebrate populations. It also reduces the need for disruptive rounding up and handling.

Placid with humans and easy to check as required.

Retain primitive ability for 'compensatory growth' not found in other equines - this allows weight fluctuations without damaging impact on growth or health. Again useful in grazing regimes where low interference is desirable and where there is public comment on the welfare of the animals.

I hope this answers some of the queries you have about the use of ponies, and Koniks in particular. If you require any further information please let me know (by email is best) as I work for the RSPB part time.

Yours sincerely

Ian Baker

Chief Land Agent

## **Fell Ponies Threatened by Conservation?**

The object of the FPS is “to foster and keep pure the old breed of pony which has roamed the Northern fells for years”. To do this, as well as having a stud book it’s important that the Fell pony be allowed to remain roaming those fells but this is under threat from an unlikely source.

The Greenholme ponies have roamed the 1,825 acres of Birkbeck Common on the Shap Fells in Cumbria for years and me and my family have rights of pasturage that allow us to do this. There shouldn’t be a problem but there is. Natural England has made vast swathes of the Cumbrian Fells Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s) and now want to control who and what grazes the commons irrespective of rights.

Many members will be shocked to hear that on 11 December just gone, without warning or my permission, Natural England took it upon themselves to round up the Greenholme herd. Using ATV’s they drove the ponies off the common into pens on the farm of a commoner opposed to the grazing of ponies. The first I knew of this was when Trading Standards phoned and told me to take my passports to where Natural England had the ponies penned. I rushed down and found men there from Natural England, Trading Standards and DEFRA. I was shocked and felt victimised. The ponies’ chips were read by Natural England’s vet and the passports found to be in order. I just wished I’d had a camera with me to record it. It was awful. When it was over they even refused to drive the ponies back to the common and we were left to do this.

You are probably wondering what crime I had committed to justify this treatment. Well, according to Natural England, even if you have grazing rights you can’t exercise them on commons which are SSSI without their consent. This is because they say grazing is an ‘activity’ which damages SSSI. Many farmers have voluntarily signed up to schemes and been paid to take stock off the commons. I haven’t because I want to keep breeding the Greenholme ponies and to do so need to keep them on the common. My ponies cause no damage and I haven’t been shown any evidence that they do. I graze the correct number for my rights of pasturage and don’t see the need to stop, or reduce them which is what I’d need to do to get Natural England’s consent.

If we as a Society allow Fell ponies to be treated in this way then it will be disaster for the breed and you may as well throw the stud books away. The so-called “conservation” grazing by bodies such as the National Trust can never replace the true work of the hill breeder which has gone on for generations. Life on the hills is hard enough without having to battle with conservation bodies as well.

Bill Potter



## Provisional Dates for 2014

Details for the following dates will be added to the FPS web site as the year goes on.

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

29 March - AGM, Orton Market Hall at 1pm.

5 April 2014 (Saturday) CUMBRIA FELL AND DALES Warm Up Show at Inglewood EC, Penrith.

13 April MWSG Spring Festival of Fells Show at Tedsmore EC, Oswestry, Shrops. Judge Mrs R Eastwood, classes for all. Tel: Debbie Roberts-Jones, 01691 652843. Schedules can be downloaded from [www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk](http://www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk) from mid-Feb.

3 May 2014 (Saturday) NW Auctions Rare Breeds Sale, entries for Fell Ponies welcome. Further details and entry form available from NW Auctions, tel: 015395 66200. [www.nwauctions.co.uk](http://www.nwauctions.co.uk), email [info@nwauctions.co.uk](mailto:info@nwauctions.co.uk).

4th May 2014 (Sunday) Dorset Fell show at Hurn Bridge equestrian centre. Full details are on the website. [www.dorsetfellshow.co.uk](http://www.dorsetfellshow.co.uk)

10 May (Saturday) Stallion Show, Dalemain

31 May 2014 (Saturday) CUMBRIA FELL AND DALES PONY SHOW at Jenkinsons Field, Penrith as per normal. Schedules for both will be available in February.

8 June (Sunday) South Cumbria Show, Crooklands, Kendal

9 August (Saturday) Breed Show, Dalemain

14 September (Sunday) Southern Show, Ascott under Wythwood

21 September (Sunday) Performance Trials, Linnel Wood, Hexham

25 October (Saturday) North West Auctions at J36 Rural Auction Centre have confirmed this as the date for the Fell Pony Show & Sale. A photograph can accompany an entry in the FPS Show & Sale catalogue, and the auction mart may accept telephone bids from buyers unable to attend.

2 November (Sunday) Foal & Youngstock Show, Newton Rigg.

More details and events to follow.

Important—All these dates and venues are provisional. Please check with the Office for confirmation.

Many other events are listed on the Area Support Groups' pages on the FPS web site.



## THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Company No 3233346 Registered Charity No 1104945

### NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Fell Pony Society will be held at **Orton Market Hall, Orton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3RJ, on Saturday 29 March 2014 at 1.00pm** for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, passing the following Resolution which will be proposed as a **Special Resolution**.

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION

That Clause 4 (General Meetings) of the Memorandum and Articles of Association be amended:

- i. To remove the requirement to hold a general meeting in the autumn of each year.
- ii. That all general meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called

Extraordinary General Meetings.

That Clause 8 (Council of Management) of the Memorandum and Articles of Association be amended:

- iii. Members shall not be eligible for election to the Council unless they have been a voting Member of the Society for a period of at least five consecutive years.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval and adoption of Autumn General Meeting Minutes 27 October 2013
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Council Elections
6. Adoption of Accounts for year ended 31st October 2013
7. Resolution to appoint Langdales Accountants Ltd as Accountants to the Society
8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
9. Reports from Sub-Committees
10. Approval of Honorary member
11. Any Other Business—Members should notify the Secretary, in writing, of any matters relating to the Accounts, or any matter requiring a detailed answer that they wish to include in the Agenda under "Any Other Business". The Society's officers can then respond fully to any concerns. However, such business, if not raised in this way, will not be discussed. Notifications must be received by the Secretary no later than Friday 14th March 2014.
12. Presentation of Awards



# Minutes of the Autumn General Meeting—27 October 2013

## MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING OF THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Held at Tebay Club on Sunday 27 October 2013.

Mrs Walker opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. It was intended to hold a short general meeting followed by a buffet lunch and a talk.

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Mrs F and Miss L Awde, Mrs S Barbour, Mrs J Bateson, Ms G Callister, Mrs S Camp, Mr & Mrs R B Charlton, Miss J & Miss L Charlton, Mrs J Cheetham, Mrs G Cockbain, Mr A & Mrs R Douglas, Mrs S C Morton, Miss A W Morton & Mr G H Morton, Mrs H Moss, Mrs M Murray, Ms S Norris, Mrs M Raines, Mr W Robinson, , Mr A Smith, Mr C Turner, Mrs J Ward, Miss K White, Mr D Wilkinson, the Williamson family, Miss R Woodruff

### **2 Approval and adoption of Annual General Meeting Minutes of 23 March 2013**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Mrs S Brunskill, seconded by Miss C Simpson, and the minutes were approved.

### **3 Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 March 2013**

The 'Young Persons Committee' instigated by Miss Longsdon at the spring meeting has not got off the ground but Miss Lucy Charlton has agreed to take it on.

### **4 Chairman's Report**

Mrs Walker reported that there had been a good response to the request in the magazine for volunteers to run the North West Support Group. Those interested had met after the sale the previous day, comprising 8 members, 6 adults and 2 juniors. Frances Miller is to be Chairman/Secretary and Anne Hogg Treasurer. They plan to meet before Christmas to plan a schedule of events and already, in less than 24 hours, have set up a Facebook page. They hope to arrange a spring social event, a summer stud visit and pleasure ride and to develop the autumn foal show to attract more entries. SEBA (Scottish Equine Breeders Association) are organising a Lecture and Equine Hospital Tour on Sat 16 November entitled "100 Years of Equine Grass Sickness" to be held at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Nr Edinburgh. NWSG hope to arrange a coach from the area.

At the Council meeting in September it was agreed that any questions from members requiring a detailed answer and all questions relating to the accounts, should be submitted in writing to the office prior to the Annual General Meeting.

## 5 Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Mrs Wilkinson reported that the change of venue for the autumn sale of ponies, to Kendal, provided a great deal of positive feedback. The mart staff were very keen to oblige and were pleased to hold the sale on behalf of the Society. 108 ponies were entered in total. This included 49 foals, 39 yearlings, two and three year olds and 20 four year olds and over. 88 ponies were forward on the day; 22 were not sold. 21 colt foals sold, lowest price 10Gns and highest 680Gns, with an average of 97Gns. 12 filly foals sold, lowest price 100 Gns and highest 400 Gns, with an average of 243Gns. 19 young stock were sold, lowest price 50 Gns, highest 1320 Gns, with an average of 503 Gns. 9 four year olds and over were sold, lowest price 140 Gns, highest 1100 Gns, with an average of 554 Gns. Many of the ponies were transferred to their new owners on the day.

153 foals have been registered so far this year with some queries on a small number of registrations still outstanding. Just over 300 registration forms have been issued to date and there are approximately 400 stallion services recorded for 2012 (foals due in 2013).

The latest FIS testing figures from the Animal Health Trust, to 31 August, show that a total of 66 samples had been received for testing of which 37 were CLEAR, 27 were CARRIER and 2 were affected. These splits are consistent with previous years. The numbers of samples received have fallen by approximately 50% on last year. (*See full report from Liverpool later in the Magazine.*)

Mrs Wilkinson thanked the Horserace Betting Levy Board for their continued support as issue of the 2014 grant has recently been confirmed and the annual return has been completed.

Earlier in October DEFRA sent out the latest EC draft relating to methods of ID of equines and the minimum operating standards for approved PIO's. Almost immediate feedback was required so together with secretaries from other Breed Societies, a reply is being prepared. As well as changes to the layout of the passport we will be required to purchase a new binding machine using rivets and possibly a new printer. The final document will be published in November allowing time for PIO's to make any adjustments by the implementation date of 1 February 2014. It has been made quite clear that any inability to comply will result in the withdrawal of PIO status.

Mrs Wilkinson thanked Helen Jones for being Show Affiliation Secretary for the last year, and Michelle Thorpe, who has now taken over this task. She also thanked Council for their support since taking over as Secretary in June, especially to Mrs Walker. She also thanked her daughter, Megan, for helping with the merchandise for this busy weekend on a day when she was off school due to Industrial Action. Finally, she thanked Mrs Parkin for helping out in the office at busy times since she retired and also for being there on many occasions when questions needed to be asked.

**Treasurer** - Income from registrations is still very slow with only about 150 foals registered to date compared to 240 this time last year. It has been necessary to

dip into the deposit account to pay this month's bills, so hopefully yesterday's Sale will have generated lots of income to perk up our bank balance. We have about three thousand pounds in the current accounts, £31,500 in the deposit account, and £9,800 in the Trust Fund. Next week sees the end of the financial year and Mrs Parkin will be getting the books ready for the accountant.

## **6 Any Other Business**

A report from the Scottish area support group was read out:

"The Scottish area group has had a fairly active year again in 2013. Our AGM held in March was well supported and constructive. The northern members then had a visit to the RSBP reserve in Strathbeg to view Konik ponies being used for conservation grazing, as well as having their annual pleasure ride in June, again both events were well supported and enjoyed good weather. We again managed to secure sponsorship to enable two ponies to represent our group in the inter-area in hand championship at the Southern Show. Our thanks go to George Stubbs Insurance for his kind sponsorship. He has already agreed to offer the same level of sponsorship for next year so hopefully the group will continue to be represented in the competition. We, as a group are keen to see Fell Ponies given their own breed section at the Royal Highland Show. The mixed classes that Fells are shown in have been well supported over the last few years and we feel we have enough ponies coming forward to justify our own section with a breed panel judge. With the help of the FPS the RHS have been contacted regarding this and have basically said they want to see how the mixed classes in 2014 are supported and make a decision from there. Can we therefore ask every member who enjoys showing to consider adding the Highland Show to their calendar for next year. A strong entry of Fells would really help our case. The Highland Show, as well as being a horse show is a fantastic day out with lots more to see, so well worth paying a visit to. Plans for 2014 events are underway and will be confirmed in the new year."

Members reported that the sale had been a great success with a good PA system and a screen in the Café. There was a good feeling afterwards and it was well organised. Grey ponies were popular and in some cases the prices reflected on the quality. Penrith Mart had held a sale the previous week open to all M & M breeds, it was suggested that perhaps the Dales should join us at Kendal. Miss Longsdon said that it had been a good start and the prospect for the future can only get better.

A member asked why the FIS testing is free for the 'coloureds'. Research for the Fells is already established whereas FIS within the 'coloureds' is relatively new. Members were reminded that a lot of money had been given for research into FIS in the Fell Pony, over the years, so the Breed had done well out of it.

Mrs Walker reported that the changes to passport legislation by DEFRA, initially planned to take effect from 1 January 2014, had been postponed to 1 February 2014. Members were reminded to watch the website and read the magazine for

information on how the changes may affect them. They were also reminded to get their foal registrations into the office as soon as possible.

Mrs Walker closed the formal meeting and members enjoyed a buffet lunch before settling down for a very interesting talk by Alison O'Neill, "The Barefoot Shepherdess".



## From the FPS Office

### Passports pre–2004

Please note that any passports issued prior to 10 June 2004 may not have been updated with a 'section IX' page (usually the back page). Without this page, the passport is no longer valid. This page does not necessarily need to be completed but must be present. Contact the office if you think a passport needs updating. Where a new Section IX is added to an old passport, the FPS must stamp Part II to declare the equine as not intended for human consumption.

There are to be changes to the layout of passports issued from 2014 so please do not use the current registration form without checking with the office, as it is to be replaced sometime this year.

### Office Move to Appleby

There will be a Post Office redirection in place for a few months after the move but please try to address any post to the new address and always include 'The Fell Pony Society' as follows:

**The Fell Pony Society**

**Bank House**

**Boroughgate**

**Appleby In Westmorland**

**Cumbria**

**CA16 6XF**

The phone/fax number (017683 53100) and email address (secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk) will remain the same.



## THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

### Fees & Charges 2014

	UK		Overseas	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
<b>Registration</b> to 30 November				
Colt	£10	£20	£15	£25
Filly	£15	£30	£20	£35
<b>December</b>				
Colt	£20	£40	£25	£45
Filly	£30	£60	£35	£65
<b>Late Registration</b>	£50	£100	£55	£105
(does not include cost of parentage test)				
<b>Transfer</b>	£10	£20	£15	£25
<b>Transfer to Gelding</b>	FOC	FOC	FOC	FOC
<b>Prefix</b>	£40	£50	£60	£70
<b>Stallion Licence</b>	£120	£240	£125	£245
(See page 23 for reductions if the stallion is already FIS tested)				
<b>FIS Kit</b>	£40	£50	£45	£55
<b>DNA Kit</b>	£50	£60	£55	£65
<b>Duplicate Passport</b>	£50	£60	£55	£65
(does not include cost of parentage test)				

### FELL PONY SOCIETY BANK DETAILS

Account Name: The Fell Pony Society Limited.

Bank: Lloyds TSB, Penrith.

Address: 5 - 6 King Street, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7AP.

Sort Code: 30-16-28. Account Number: 00254896.

BIC LOYDGB21572. IBAN GB86 LOYD 3016 2800 2548 96.

All Bank transfers should be in English pounds sterling - any charges should be paid in the country of origin. Also, our bank makes a charge for the receipt of an electronic transfer from overseas - please add £2 for transactions up to £100 and £7 for transactions greater than £100.



## THE FELL PONY SOCIETY™

### Membership Fees 2014

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

The range of overseas 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.

### Membership Renewal

Society memberships fall due on 1 January annually. We do not send out reminders at this time—it would cost the Society approximately £450.

No member is entitled to vote if his/her subscription to the Society has not been paid on or before 15 February 2014. If subscriptions have not been received by the time we send out the Spring newsletter, a reminder slip is enclosed. Alternatively, members can arrange to pay their subscription by standing order on 1 January each year.

### Member Directory

Listing in the Member Directory on the website is purely voluntary. If you wish to be added, then please complete the form online or send your details by email to either the FPS office—[secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk), or Sue Millard—[sue@dawbank.co.uk](mailto:sue@dawbank.co.uk). Please remember to update your details with any changes when appropriate.



## FPS Stallion Licensing

### Changes with effect from 1 January 2014

The FPS Council have agreed that it will be compulsory for a colt/stallion to be FIS tested before a Stallion License can be issued. The FIS test fee will no longer be refunded.

The fees for a Stallion License application will increase to:

	To include DNA & FIS kits	If already FIS tested*
UK member	£120	80
UK non member	£240	£200
Over seas member	£125	£85
Over seas non-member	£245	£205

If already FIS tested, proof will be required (either sight of Certificate or confirmation from a relevant laboratory , eg. AHT, that colt/stallion has been tested).

If already DNA typed please apply to the office for appropriate fees.

### Advertising in the Magazine

Full page	£60
Half page	£30
Quarter page	£15
Small box	£10
Picture in any of the preceding	£10
Classified, text only	£2 for 20 words

### Reminder from the FPS Office: deceased ponies

By law the owner should return a deceased pony's passport to the Society for cancellation within 30 days of the death.

It can then be returned to you if you wish to keep it.





## **Sub-Committees**

### **Conservation Grazing Sub-Committee**

Chairman: Mrs CH Robinson, North Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria CA14 4SH. Telephone: 01946 861302.

Mrs GM Callister, Mr RB Charlton, Mr WS Potter, Mr A Thorpe.

### **Judges Sub-Committee**

Chairman: Mrs Jean Ward, 10 The Hawthorns, Wigton CA79LE. Telephone 01697342600

Secretary: Ms Anne Armstrong-Foxton, Becksid, Rosehill, Gilsland, Carlisle, CA87DP

Council decided that five judges from the FPS Panel will be chosen at random at a Council meeting to serve for one year on this Committee.

### **Overseas Sub-Committee**

Chairman: Mrs Sue Millard, Daw Bank, Greenholme, Tebay, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3TA. Telephone: 01539 624636. E-mail sue@dawbank.co.uk

Mrs GM Callister, Mr J Greener, Mr GHB Mallinson, Mr C Roberts, Mrs CH Robinson.

### **Show Sub-Committee**

Chairman: Mrs CH Robinson, North Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria CA14 4SH. Telephone: 01946 861302.

Mr P Boustead, Mr I Brunskill, Mrs S Brunskill, Miss R Brunskill, Mrs S Charlton, Mr J Greener, Miss H Mawrey, Mrs M Murray, Mrs CH Robinson, Mrs K Wilkinson, Mr D Wilkinson.



## Obituary – Mrs Anne Garcia

Many of our older members will be sorry to hear that Anne passed away at the end of January, aged 87. Anne was a very keen and supportive member, who together with her daughters fully proved the point that her Fell ponies, Wolds Bunting and Shap Lodge Duke (below, at Lowther), were true family ponies.



They happily took part in everything; showing, jumping, driving, all pony club events and hunting during the Winter. They took part in the Breed shows and attended meetings in spite of living in Dorset and later in Devon, where Anne continued to take a keen interest in The Fell Pony Society.

I have happy memories.

M.G.L.



## FIS Test results

Pony passports can be endorsed to indicate that the pony has been FIS tested. The result of the test may also be indicated if the owner wishes it. Passports will be endorsed by the Secretary who will need to see the relevant FIS certificate. There will be no charge, but if passports are sent in to the office for endorsement, return postage would be appreciated.



## Council Elections 2014

The following retire and are eligible for re-election: Mr Barry Mallinson, Mr Paul Metcalfe, Mr Bill Potter, Mr Colin Roberts. They are all willing to stand again. Mrs Margaret Murray has retired from Council. Two new candidates have been proposed: Mrs Judy Fairburn and Miss Claire Simpson. There are therefore five places to fill and six candidates.

Election addresses are printed below for members' information. Numbers in brackets represent the number of regular meetings which have not been attended by those Council members serving over the last five years.

**PLEASE USE YOUR POSTAL VOTE ENCLOSED WITH THIS MAGAZINE**

### New candidates standing for Council

#### Claire Simpson (prefix, Farleton )

I am Press & Publicity Officer for the FPS, and I think that I my role would be made more effective if I were to become a Council member and had access to Council members and discussions. In my role I look after the FPS Facebook page;



create reports and adverts for various magazines; and generally aim to raise the profile of the Fell Pony, and promote the breed; thereby helping to safeguard the future of the ponies and those who breed them.

I have been delighted to report on the fabulous successes that our ponies have enjoyed in the show ring this year; but I have also tried to promote the versatility of our breed, and the fact that 'You can't put a Fell pony to the wrong job'. Not everyone is interested in showing and we have had ponies sold through the annual Sale excelling in all disciplines.

Personally, I have had my own Fell ponies since 1971. I did stray into expensive, high maintenance,

thoroughbred types for a time, but regained my sanity in the early 1990s. I currently own around 6 Fell ponies and have bred ponies under the Farleton prefix.

I have worked as the Customer Service Manager of a large company; but for the last 25 years I have been a Project Manager and am running a variety of projects for a global pharmaceutical company.

I hope that my experience would serve me well as a Council member. I would be very happy to take members' comments and queries to Council.

### **Judy Fairburn (prefix, Knockwood)**

I was first introduced to Fell ponies in 1975 and was fortunate to be offered the ride on a friend's pony in riding club events. I bought my first Fell pony in the 80's and joined the society. I currently own five Fells as well as a few Connemaras and have an interest in all native breeds.



I have been a panel judge since 1996 and have represented the FPS on SEBA - the Scottish Equine Breeders' Association - for the past five years.

Having recently retired from the NHS and returned to Dumfriesshire I am now able to offer some time to the FPS.

My job involved working with people of all ages and backgrounds and required good organisational and communication skills, the ability to respond to changing situations and tight timescales. I would be pleased to use these skills to assist the society.

I enjoy spending time with the ponies - they are always fun to ride. I've been successful in show classes and am pleased that native dressage is becoming increasingly popular - it enables everyone to have a go.

It's important that breed characteristics and standards are maintained and that people are aware of the breed's history so that the Fell pony maintains its place as a true family all rounder able to multi-task and so assure its place for future generations to enjoy. If elected I will continue to promote the Fell breed and support both young and older members.

## Council members standing for re-election

### **Mr Barry Mallinson—prefix, Hardendale; 5**

In 1971, with support from my grandparents, I started breeding fell ponies and later that year the first Hardendale Fell pony was registered. Over the years I have seen the Fell pony change but I have tried very hard to keep to the true breed type when breeding my ponies, striving to breed better ponies.

With support from my family I have worked hard to help the society as much as possible with stud visits, open days and over the last few years we have held the “learning with Fells” to help youngsters hopefully on the right road with their Fell ponies.

I have been a council member for the last 12 years and would very much appreciate members’ support for re-election.



### **Paul Metcalfe—prefix, Ryehouse; 7**

I am a Cumbrian born and bred, and I have a lifelong passion and involvement with Fell Ponies.

Fell Ponies have become a complete family affair with my wife, sister in law, daughter and niece all totally involved. My interest is to keep the traditional breed standards to the fore and encourage modern judges to adhere to them as

much as possible.

As a family we love to attend all the major shows, showing our ponies mainly under saddle and also dressage and driving. We have been lucky enough to show at the Horse of the Year Show and Olympia many times.

As time goes on we seem to be more involved with Fell Ponies than ever, enjoying bringing on and working with young ponies and always looking for that elusive star quality. I have been very grateful to all the Fell pony breeders who impart their knowledge and allow one to look at a world where time has stood still. Fell ponies are in my blood and I would welcome the chance to continue



on the Fell Pony Society Council both to encourage new comers and to reassure older members that we are keeping tradition alive.

**Bill Potter—prefix, Greenholme; 0**

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

I have served on the council now for 25 years and although I have seen a lot of changes, some are good and some not so good. I will do my best to keep the bad ones 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.



**Colin Roberts—prefix, Bybeck; 4**

Based in Tebay, Cumbria the heart of the fell pony country, we have a well established semi-feral herd that roam the Howgills.

The Bybeck ponies are traditional and hardy type and are one of the few remaining herds that graze the open fell, which is sadly in decline from both the region and the breed.

If fortunate enough to be re-elected to Council I will try to do my best for the breed, and hopefully continue to keep the old traditional types going.





## The 200 Club: Draws September—December 2013

	Nos	Name	Prize
Sep '13			
1st	279	Mrs C E Fergus	£25.00
2nd	229	Mrs S Charlton	£15.00
3rd	255	Mr B Kell	£10.00
4th	391	Mrs J Cheetham	£5.00
Oct '13			
1st	259	Mrs M Davies	£25.00
2nd	369	Mrs E Marshall	£15.00
3rd	332	Miss J H Woods	£10.00
4th	261	Mrs L M Corrick	£5.00
Nov '13			
1st	257	Mrs N Banbury	£25.00
2nd	420	Mrs C Kell	£15.00
3rd	322	Mrs C J Robinson	£10.00
4th	229	Mrs S Charlton	£5.00
Dec '13			
1st	203	Mrs S M Ventress	£250.00
2nd	303	Mrs E Parkin	£125.00
3rd	334	Mrs D L Horn	£50.00
4th	335	Miss M G Longsdon	£25.00

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

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

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 Promoter of FPS 200 Club: Mrs T M Mallinson, Rack Beck, Littlefield,  
Hethersgill, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 6HX.  
Tel: 01228 675814 - e-mail: [tracykirkby@btinternet.com](mailto:tracykirkby@btinternet.com)

## Endurance Awards 2013

### Highest mileage Competitive award and FPS trophy

Fiona Carradus - Littletree Smokey Joe; 62 km

### High Point Award and Bramble Trophy

Fiona Carradus - Littletree Smokey Joe; 112 points

### Highest mileage Pleasure award and Hillhead Minstrel Trophy

Liz Worthy - Dalewin Beauty; 268 km

### Accumulative kilometres

Liz Worthy - Dalewin Beauty; 1923 km

Fiona Carradus - Littletree Smokey Joe; 1,274 km.

For details of the FPS Endurance Awards Scheme please email [fionacarradus682@btinternet.com](mailto:fionacarradus682@btinternet.com) Any member of the FPS can join in—you do not have to be a S.E.R.C. or E.G.B. member.

Fiona Carradus



*Mollie Downing aged 14 months, on Waverhead Ted at the Southern Show  
(Show report on page 32)*

## Southern Fell Pony Society Show—8 September 2013

The FPS Southern show was held at Ascott-under-Wychwood in Oxfordshire in early September. Show organiser Georgina Blair came up with a novel way of raising additional funds to support this year's show; not only was it possible to sponsor the classes, rosettes, etc, but it was also possible to sponsor the loos for an hour in return for a mention over the public address system. Those of us who couldn't bear to think of our southern members having to cross their legs for the day duly obliged.

Georgina reported that entries were a little lower than last year, but there were quality ponies forward...and the results speak for themselves.

The long journey from Perthshire paid off for the Smith family who took the supreme championship with their extremely successful six year old, Bracklinn Jackpot, who headed the class for mature stallions, and also won the Inter area in hand championship for the FPS Scotland Support Group. The Smiths also took the youngstock championship with the yearling Bracklinn Amber; and second in the very strong mare class with Bracklinn Norah who is also a six year old. Jackpot and Norah went onto win the class for pairs in hand, repeating their success in the St John's Wells Trophy class for ponies by the same sire at the Royal Highland Show.

Reserve supreme went to Jenny Crane's Murthwaite Windrush, who was having a run out prior to taking the Fell & Dales title at HOYS and the reserve mountain and moorland championship. 'Windy' took the Olympia qualifier, the traditional ridden class and the ridden championship.

Other in hand winners included Mr K Light's Townend Emperor, who won the gelding championship. George Guy and Leanne Russell had a fabulous day with their Severnvalle ponies featuring all over the results, and Gypsy Rose taking both the mare and owner bred in hand championships.

Young Holly Mayling and Greenholme Yabadabadoo had another very successful day with wins in the junior ridden under 12 years old, the children's championship, a win in the novice WHP and the reserve ridden championship; as well as a good fourth in the strong Olympia qualifier. Holly also took the reserve in the WHP championship to the open winner, Drybarrows Blarney with Miss S O'Halloran. Mrs Bonney, the working hunter judge, was very impressed with the Fells' ability to jump; and several ponies did well in both flat and WHP classes, proving that they don't just look pretty.

It is believed to have been the first year that ponies were ridden side saddle, with both Dalewin Jewel, owned and ridden by Jessica Downham; and Waverhead Ted, ridden by Katy Downing, and owned by Sheila Hardy, featuring in the results. Waverhead Ted won the prelim and novice dressage; and also contested the WHP and handy pony; the latter with Katy's daughter Mollie who was just 14 months old.

The handy pony ring was reported to be ‘amazing’ with a particularly scary curtain made from strips of plastic that all the ponies negotiated, albeit some with a little additional help. There were some very imaginative costumes in the fancy dress class: Catriona Paterson’s Meres Just-a-Mo was very patient to put up with cardboard bicycle wheels flapping around her; and Catriona Edwards’ Shilvinghampton Rosanna May was dressed as a carousel horse.

It was the first year that the Groovy Hooves Trophy was awarded for ponies competing in dressage WHP and handy pony classes, and this was won by Wendy Bloor’s Hesworth Topaz. The overall performance points award went to Judy Hill’s Shepparton Kim, who appears to have had a go at just about everything, and either won or been placed in most. Both of these ponies again providing super examples of the fact that Fell ponies can do EVERYTHING.

Georgina would like to pass on HUGE THANKS to all the helpers and sponsors without whom the show just wouldn’t happen.

C.S.



*Messrs Smith’s Bracklinn Jackpot, Supreme Champion at the Southern Show*

Judges: Miss G Callister  
(Threapland) (classes 6, 7, 11, 14, 37)  
Mrs A J C Campbell (classes 2, 3,  
4, 15, 18, 19)  
Mrs C H Robinson (Kerbeck)  
(classes 12, 13, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25,  
32)

Ms S M Prior (Broxdown) (classes  
1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 22, 37)  
Mrs F Bonney (classes 26, 27, 28,  
29, 33)  
Mrs S Saunders (classes 34, 35 &  
36)  
Mrs J Jordan (class 31)

# Results

## In-hand classes

### 1. Stallions

- 1st Bracklinn Jackpot (Messrs Smith)
- 2nd Murthwaite Windrush (Mrs J Crane)
- 3rd Brocklebank Grand Marnier (Miss HR Wallis)
- 4th Fairlawn Dominic (Mr & Mrs PA Schwarzin)

### 2. Mares 4-8 yrs

- 1st Severnvalle Gypsy Rose (Mr G Guy)
- 2nd Bracklinn Norah (Messrs Smith)
- 3rd Littletree Bessie Bell (Mrs P Cox)
- 4th Murthwaite Dawn Chorus (Mr T Capstick)

### 3. Mares 9yrs & over

- 1st Heltendale Magic XV (Mr T Capstick)
- 2nd Lunesdale Keely (Mr Muttitt)
- 3rd Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)
- 4th Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A Devonshire)

### 4. Broodmare

- 1st Lunesdale Lady Rebecca (Ms N Stagnell)
- 2nd Severnvalle Sadie (Mr G Guy)

### 5. Foal

- 1st Conway Clara Brown (Mrs N Stagnell)
- 2nd Severnvalle Nevaeh (Mr G Guy)
- 3rd Severnvalle Nellie (Mr G Guy)

### 6. Geldings 4-8 years

- 1st Townend Emperor (Mr K Light)
- 2nd Brocklebank Magic Quest (Miss HR Wallis & Mrs A Torode)
- 3rd Stennerskeugh Harry (Mrs C Hill)
- 4th Lydvale Jet (Ms D McGrail)

### 7. Geldings 9yrs & over

- 1st Murthwaite Black Shadow (Mrs J Crane & Miss J Paterson)
- 2nd Ffrethi Commodore (Miss W Davies)

- 3rd Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)
- 4th Wansfell Rambler (Mrs S Bellem)

### 8. Yearling

- 1st Bracklinn Amber (Messrs Smith)
- 2nd Severnvalle Mary-Rose (Mr G Guy & Miss L Russell)
- 3rd Bracklinn Ironman (Miss R Randall)
- 4th Brocklebank Penderyn (Miss HR Wallis & Mrs A Torode)

### 9. Two year old

- 1st Richmond Cara (Mrs S Petritz)
- 2nd Greenholme Frosty Lady (Mrs Y Watson)

### 10. Three year old

- 1st Hemleyhill Genesis (Mrs L Brooks)
- 2nd Lunesdale Tudor Rose (Mr Y Watson)
- 3rd Severnvalle Kirsty (Miss J Downham)
- 4th Balmoral Thurso (HM The Queen)

### 11. Veteran

- 1st Severnvalle Sadie (Mr G Guy)
- 2nd Lunesdale Keely (Mr R Muttitt)

### 12. Pairs in-hand

- 1st Bracklinn Jackpot and Bracklinn Norah (Messrs Smith)
- 2nd Severnvalle Gypsy Rose and Severnvalle Sadie (Mr G Guy)
- 3rd Brocklebank Laffite and Brocklebank Magic Quest (Miss HR Wallis & Mrs A Torode)
- 4th Severnvalle Nellie and Severnvalle Nevaeh (Mr G Guy & Miss L Russell)

### Youngstock Championship

- Ch. Bracklinn Amber (Messrs Smith)
- Res. Conway Clara Brown (Ms N Stagnell)

### Gelding Championship

- Ch. Townend Emperor (Mr K Light)
- Res. Murthwaite Black Shadow (Mrs J Crane & Miss J Paterson)

### **Mare Championship**

Ch. Severnvale Gypsy Rose (Mr G Guy)  
Res. Heltondale Magic XV (Mr T  
Capstick)

### **Champion brown or bay in-hand**

Littletree Bessie Bell (Mrs P Cox)

### **Champion owner-bred in-hand**

Severnvale Gypsy Rose (Mr G Guy)

### **In-hand Championship**

Ch. Bracklinn Jackpot (Messrs Smith)  
Res. Severnvale Gypsy Rose (Mr G Guy)

### **Inter-Area In-hand Championship**

Ch. Bracklinn Jackpot (Messrs Smith) -  
Scotland Support Group  
Res. Littletree Bessie Bell (Mrs P Cox) -  
South West Support Group

### **Ridden classes**

#### **13. Stallions**

1st Fairlawn Dominic (Mr & Mrs PA  
Schwarzin)  
2nd Wellbrow Rusty (Mrs AK Beresford)  
3rd Waverhead Dazzler II (Mrs P  
Roberts)

#### **14. Mares**

1st Littletree Bessie Bell (Mrs P Cox)  
2nd Dalewin Jewel (Miss J Downham)  
3rd Merrythorpe Darling Buds of May  
(Miss T Hughes)  
4th Greenholme Bella (Mrs B Evans &  
Mrs Z Johnstone-Evans)

#### **15. Geldings**

1st Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy)  
2nd Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)  
3rd Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)

There was no class 16.

#### **17. Novice mares**

1st Merrythorpe Darling Buds of May  
(Miss T Hughes)

2nd Bracklinn Norah (Messrs Smith)  
3rd Chyvounder Damask Rose (Mrs A  
Devonshire)  
4th Severnvale June (Mr G Guy & Miss L  
Russell)

#### **18. Novice geldings**

1st Greenbeck Back in Black (Miss A  
Steele)  
2nd Townend Bellboy II (Miss R Day)  
3rd Ffrethi Commodore (Miss W Davies)  
4th Linnel Whistler (Miss CM Brooks)

#### **19. Traditional ridden mares**

1st Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)  
2nd Bracklinn Norah (Messrs Smith)  
3rd Dalewin Jewel (Miss J Downham)  
4th Greenholme Bella (Mrs B Evans &  
Mrs Z Johnstone-Evans)  
5th Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)  
6th Severnvale June (Mr G Guy & Miss L  
Russell)

#### **20. Traditional ridden geldings & stallions**

1st Murthwaite Windrush (Mrs J Crane)  
2nd Linnel Whistler (Miss CM Brooks)  
3rd Townend Bellboy II (Miss R Day)  
4th Underwoods Kingfisher (Mr R  
Muttitt)

#### **21. Veteran**

1st Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy)

#### **22. Ridden pairs**

1st Chyvounder Water Lily &  
Chyvounder Damask Rose (Mrs A  
Devonshire)

#### **23. Child lead rein**

1st Ffrethi Commodore (Miss W Davies)  
2nd Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)  
3rd Brocklebank Magic Quest (Miss HR  
Wallis & Mrs A Torode)

#### **24. Child 6 - 12 years**

1st Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N

Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)  
2nd Lunesdale Knight Music (Mrs A  
Favell)  
3rd Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)

### **25. Child 13 - 16 years**

1st Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)  
2nd Waverhead Dazzler II (Mrs P  
Roberts)  
3rd Murthwaite Sarge (Mrs J Cox)

### **Children's Championship**

Ch. Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)  
Res. Ffrethi Commodore (Miss W  
Davies)

### **Children's Turnout Championship**

Waverhead Dazzler II (Mrs P Roberts)

### **26. Novice working hunter pony**

1st Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)  
2nd Lunesdale Knight Music (Mrs A  
Favell)  
3rd Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)  
4th Greenbeck Back in Black (Miss A  
Steele)

### **27. Intermediate Working Hunter Pony**

1st Drybarrows Blarney (Miss S  
O'Halloran)  
2nd Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)  
3rd Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)  
4th Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy)

### **28. Open Working Hunter Pony**

1st Drybarrows Blarney (Miss S  
O'Halloran)  
2nd Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)  
3rd Meres Just-a-Mo (Mrs N Paterson)

### **Working Hunter Pony Championship**

Ch. Drybarrows Blarney (Miss S  
O'Halloran)

**Res. Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)**

### **29. Driving**

No entries

### **30a. Handy pony - ridden**

1st Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)  
2nd Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)  
3rd Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)  
4th Shilvinghampton Rosanna May (Mrs  
CJ Edwards)

### **30b. Handy pony - in-hand (including lead rein)**

1st Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill; rider  
Master E Barbour)  
2nd Wansfell Rambler (Mrs S Bellem)  
3rd Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill; rider  
Miss M Hill)  
4th Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)

### **31. Fancy dress**

1st Meres Just-a-Mo (Mrs NE Paterson)  
2nd Shilvinghampton Rosanna May (Mrs  
C Edwards; riders Misses M & K  
Edwards)  
3rd Shepparton Kim (Mrs J Hill)

### **32. Young handler**

1st Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)

### **33. Two Generations**

1st Waverhead Dazzler II (Mrs P  
Roberts)  
2nd Lunesdale Knight Music (Mrs A  
Favell)  
3rd Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; riders Ms N Mayling &  
Miss H Mayling)

### **34. Dressage - Intro A**

1st Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)  
2nd Underwoods Kingfisher (Mr R  
Muttitt)  
3rd Townend Bellboy II (Miss R Day)

4th Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)

**35. Dressage - Prelim 12**

1st Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy; rider  
Ms K Downing)

2nd Meres Just-a-Mo (Mrs N Paterson;  
rider Miss C Paterson)

3rd Banksgate Tamlin (Miss T Hughes)

4th Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)

**36. Dressage - Novice 28**

1st Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy; rider  
Ms K Downing)

2nd Meres Just-a-Mo (Mrs N Paterson;  
rider Miss C Paterson)

**37. BSPS Olympia Qualifier**

1st Murthwaite Windrush (Mrs J Crane)

2nd Townend Emperor (Mr K Light)

3rd Littletree Bessie Bell (Mrs P Cox)

4th Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)

**Best non-black ridden**

Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)

**Best owner/breeder (ridden)**

Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)

**Ridden Championship**

Ch. Murthwaite Windrush (Mrs J Crane)

Res. Greenholme Yabadabadoo (Ms N  
Mayling; rider Miss H Mayling)

**Supreme Championship**

Ch. Bracklinn Jackpot (Messrs Smith)

Res. Murthwaite Windrush (Mrs J  
Crane)

**Performance points (for the Shilstone  
Rocks Blackberry Trophy)**

1st Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)

2nd Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A

Devonshire)

3rd Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)

4th Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy)

**Groovy Hooves Challenge (for ponies  
doing WHP, dressage and handy pony)**

1st Hesworth Topaz (Mrs W Bloor)

2nd Waverhead Ted (Mrs S Hardy)

3rd Chyvounder Water Lily (Mrs A  
Devonshire)

4th Shepparton Kim (Mrs JA Hill)



*Waverhead Black Beauty, owned by Frank  
& Morven Lawson, was champion large M &  
M foal at the Grampian Foal Show on 14  
December '13.*



## Fell Pony Society Annual Show & Sale

The annual Fell Pony Society Show and Sale was held at the new North West Auctions Mart at Junction 36 of the M6 on 25th October; a Saturday, rather than the usual Friday. There were 109 ponies entered and 83 forward on the day, of which 61 were sold. Vendors and purchasers came from throughout the UK and reaction to the new facility was very positive. The Mart reported one of the largest crowds to attend a sale at the new venue so far.

The pre-sale show saw some super quality ponies forward. The champion came from the class for ponies over four years old, Judith Williamson's Tarnbeck Shania a 10 year old black mare by Townend Samuel out of the Williamsons prolific winning mare Tarnbeck Sheba. Shania was sold to a family from Devon.

The reserve champion was the yearling colt, Waverhead Dynamite, from Barbara Bell from Wigton. Dynamite is by Lownthwaite Gary and had won his class at the Breed show earlier in the year. Judge Barry Mallinson said that both ponies had caught his eye as they entered the ring, and that he felt the champion had all the makings of a very good ridden pony; and the yearling was definitely one for the future.

The highest price of 1320gns was reached by Mrs N Redfearn's lovely three year old filly Strines Sizzle. Bill Potter's six year old stallion Murthwaite Wanted Man, who had won his class at the stallion show sold for 1100gns; and Mrs R Douglas's three year old Brackenthwaite Izzy made 1080gns.

The foals saw a top price of 680gns achieved for Edwin Winder's grey colt Dalewin Quest. The young lady who bought the colt hopes that he will follow in the hoof prints of the grey Dalewin pony that she has owned for some time and competes in side saddle classes.



*Edwin Winder with his top priced foal, Dalewin Quest*

### PRIZE WINNERS

**Class One** - registered colt or filly foal

- 1st P H Hodgson with 'Nortontowers Freddie'
- 2nd E A Walker with 'Rackwood Lloyd'
- 3rd E A Walker with 'Rackwood Miss Mollie'

**Class Two** - registered pony (1-3 yrs old)

- 1st & Reserve champion B Bell with 'Waverhead Dynamite'

2nd P H Hodgson with 'Nortontowers Ethel'

3rd G T Hodgson with 'Dalewin Opal'

**Class Three** - registered pony (4 yrs or over)

1st & Champion J Williamson with 'Tarnbeck Shania'

2nd G Williamson with 'Tarnbeck Shamrock'

3rd R Douglas with 'Brackenthwaite Khandi'



*Waverhead Dynamite headed the Youngstock class*

**Leading prices:**

Colt/filly foal - 680gns E Winder (Dalewin Quest); 460gns C Mallinson (Midtown Harmony); 400gns Greenholme Stud (Greenholme Heather Bell).

Pony up to 3 years old - 1320gns N M Redfearn (Strines Sizzle); 1080gns R Douglas (Brackenthwaite Izzy); 900 gns H Patterson (Ralf land Princess).

Pony 4 years and over - 1100gns Greenholme Stud (Murthwaite Wanted Man); 920gns R Douglas (Brackenthwaite Khandi); 840gns J Williamson (Tarnbeck Shania).



*Judge Barry Mallinson with Judith Williamson and Show Champion 'Tarnbeck Shania'*



## FPS Performance and Youngstock Points Awards 2013

Once again there has been a good entry in most sections with the exception of the Junior Members and Driving. I am sure that there must be plenty of people out there taking part in events, so come on folks, get a points card and join in. All types of events count towards your points—if you are unsure just get in touch—phone, email, letter or the dreaded Facebook—I am fairly friendly so don't be shy.

There were a good number of new people taking part this year, which is always good to see. The youngest is only five and she gained a very creditable 500 points with her pony, taking part in Pony Club activities. Several people also seem to be trying their hand at Le TREC - Fells seem to be very suited to that particular discipline.

Well done to all those who took part in 2013, and Good Luck to those having a go this year.

Christine Robinson

### Foals. 5 entries

1st Edenmarsh Austin Powers. FP72208C. Owner/Exhib - E A Marshall. 1035 points

2nd Birkett Bank Phantom. FP72304C. Owner/Exhib - R Relph-Briggs. 280 points

3rd Rackwood Lloyd. FP72198C. Owner/Exhib - E A Walker. 243 points

4th Kerbeck Night Amber. FP5825. Owner/Exhib - C H Robinson. 150 points

5th Midtown Hero. FP72243C. Owner/Exhib - Zoe Marsden. 100 points

### Yearling. 5 entries

1st Greenholme Gambler. FP72045C. Owner/Exhib - Mrs D Roberts-Jones. 700 points

2nd Townend Fanta. FP5715. Owner/Exhib - R Relph-Briggs. 570 points

3rd Rackwood Hugo. FP72014C. Owner/Exhib - E A Walker. 565 points

4th Wellbrow Freddie. FP72071. Owner/Exhib - Zoe Marsden. 425 points

5th Kerbeck Night Topaz. FP5795. Owner/Exhib - C H Robinson. 100 points

### Two year Olds. 6 entries

1st Lathomdale Belinda. FP5447. Owner/Exhib - Carrieann Richardson. 810 points

2nd Carrock Snowdrop. FP5484. Owner/Exhib - J W Cockbain. 750 points

3rd Dalefoot Rolo. FP71934C. Owner/Exhib - Miss B Potter. 515 points

4th Bewcastle Briony. FP5563. Owner/Exhib - Michael Goddard. 505 points

5th Wellbrow Edwin. FP71962C. Owner/Exhib - Zoe Marsden. 390 points

6th Wellbrow Eli. FP71961C. Owner/Exhib - Zoe Marsden

### Three year Olds. 4 entries

1st Greenholme Elect. FP71650C. Owner/Exhib - R Relph-Briggs. 1045 points

2nd Rackwood Maggie May. FP5345.  
Owner/Exhib - E A Walker. 1040  
points

3rd Wellbrow Diplomat. FP71674C.  
Owner/Exhib - Zoe Marsden. 290  
points

4th Kerbeck Night Breeze. FP5244.  
Owner/Exhib C H Robinson. 190 points  
**Four year Old & over - Inhand. 9  
entries**

1st Bracklinn Maggie May. FP 3184.  
Owner/Exhib - Sharron Camp. 590  
points

2nd Townend Fern. FP4216. Owner/  
Exhib - R Relph-Briggs. 530 points

3rd Hillhead Danielle. FP3544.  
Owner/Exhib - E A Marshall. 460  
points

4th Rackwood Princess. FP4888.  
Owner/Exhib - E A Walker. 400 points

5th Lydvale Jet. FP71270G. Owner/  
Exhib - Dianna McGrail. 370 points

6th Shilvinghampton Rosanna may.  
FP2961. Owner/Exhib - Catriona  
Edwards. 270 points.

**Four year Old and over -  
Performance. 14 entries**

1st Greenholme Yabadabadoo.  
FP70685G. Owner/Exhib - Holly  
Mayling. 3615 points

2nd Waverhead Dazzler II. FP70039C.  
Owner/Exhib - Georgie Roberts. 2125  
points

3rd Dene Decoris. FP3330. Owner/  
Exhib - Miss S Pringle. 1420 points

4th Kerbeck Fire Phantom. FP70820G.  
Owner/Exhib - Delia Raine. 1300  
points

5th Kerbeck Fire Cracker. FP51119G.  
Owner/Exhib Mrs G V Kilburn. 970  
points

6th Lydvale Jet. (As above) 680  
points

Junior Rider. 2 entries  
1st Greenholme Yabadabadoo (As  
above). 3615 points

2nd Greenholme Kirsti. FP3298.  
Owner - Jacqueline Cheetham. Rider -  
Emily Cheetham. 500 points

**Driving. 3 entries**

Equal 1st Tynebank Danny Boy.  
FP70880G & Tynebank Brown Bobby  
FP71046G. Owner/Exhib - W D

Parkinson. 1190 points  
3rd Llancloudy Floyd. FP70851G.  
Owner/Exhib - Mrs C Chidwick. 100  
points

**Dressage. 6 entries**

1st Kerbeck Fire Phantom. (As  
above). 1300 points.

2nd Kerbeck Fire Cracker. (As above).  
880 points

3rd Bracklinn Isla. FP4583. Owner/  
Exhib - Kayreen Jones. 500 points

4th Dalewin Flash. FP70019G. Owner/  
Exhib - Stephanie Richards. 450 points

5th Lydvale Jet. (As above) 380  
points

6th Shilvinghampton Rosanna May. (As  
above) 300 points.

Champion Stallion—Greenholme  
Warrior

Champion Mare—Towend Bridie II



## Area Support Groups—Contact Details for all Areas

### Scotland

Chairman, Alistair Smith, Tel: 07884002685, email: allyboysmith@aol.com.

Secretary, Diane Meikle, Windy Ha, East Mey, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8XH or diane.meikle@btinternet.com

North - Jacqueline Cheetham - Tel: 01346 541250. email: fellponies@btinternet.com

South - Alistair Smith.

### North West

Chairman/Secretary: Frances Miller, Chapel House, Welton, Carlisle, CA5 7ES. E-mail: fvmiller@hotmail.co.uk  
Mobile: 07779 276 888.

Treasurer: Anne Hogg, Byways, Bolton, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6AW. E-mail: annehogg04@aol.com. Mobile: 07841 705 585.

Facebook group page:

<https://www.facebook.com/nwasg>

### Midlands West

Mary Longsdon, Group Leader, 01629 640709.

Diane Key, Secretary / Newsletter, 01785 822723, e-mail diane@fellpony.me.uk.

Joan Dor man, Membership Secretary, 01335 350301.

Alyson Hurcomb, Activity /

Performance Awards, 01283 569228.

Web-site: <http://www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk>

### North East

Heather Mawrey—Tel: 07791 748 384.  
E-mail: heather\_mawrey@hotmail.com

### Midlands East

Coordinator, Kate Merry, Ash Tree House, 5 Oak Lane, Crick, Northants, NN6 7SS, tel 01788 823215. E-mail:

Bkmerry@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer, Denise Bumford 01327 262959.

Janet Copeland—Membership Secretary, 01509 856298 or 0797 362 0191.

Isabel Meadows—Newsletter, 07758 001011 or e-mail: [tungu5ka1@sky.com](mailto:tungu5ka1@sky.com)

Jane Glass & Debbie Hudson—Performance Awards, 01509 880261.

Web-site:

<http://www.FPS-MESG.co.uk>

### South West

Contact: Michael Goddard—  
Telephone: Tel: 01258 817161  
or e-mail: [sharron.camp@montybear.co.uk](mailto:sharron.camp@montybear.co.uk)

Web-site: [http://](http://www.fellponysw.org.uk/)

[www.fellponysw.org.uk/](http://www.fellponysw.org.uk/) and

<http://dorsetfellshow.co.uk>

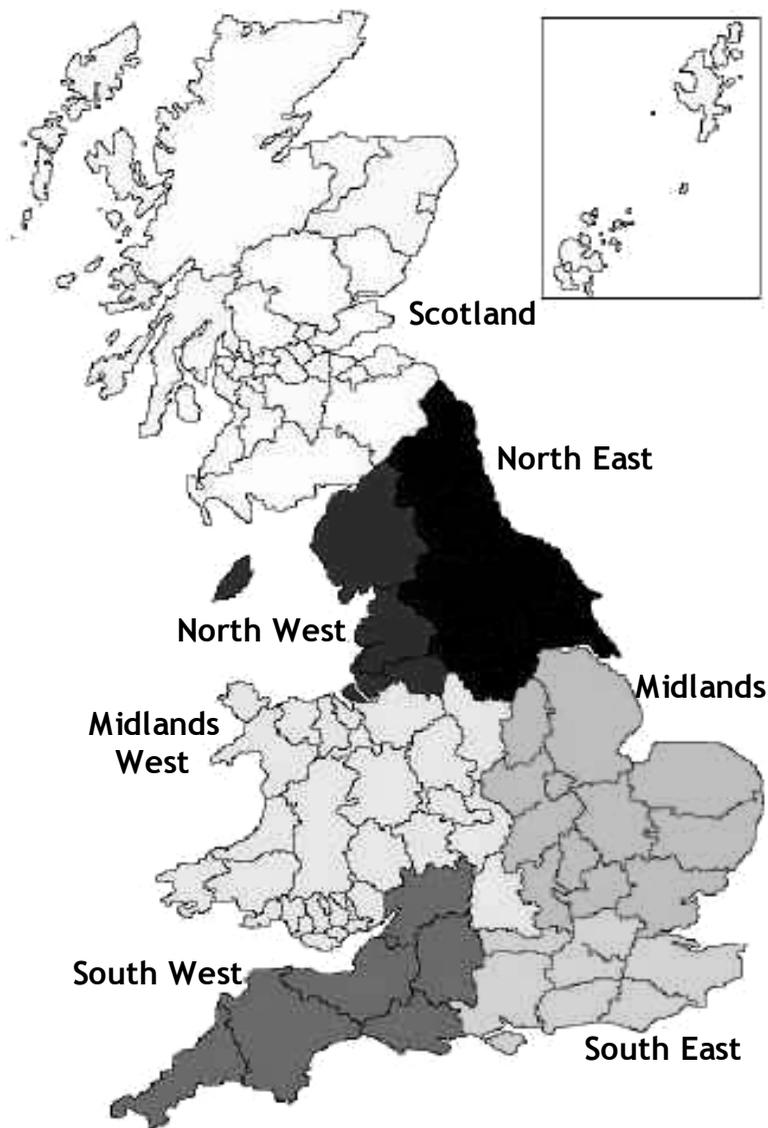
### South East

Jules Jordan (Geordans Fell Ponies).

Tina O'Donnell, (Bluecaps Stud)  
Bluecaps Farm, Sleepers Stile Road,

Cousley Wood, Nr Wadhurst, E Sussex,  
TN5 6QX. Tel: 01892 785119,  
email: bluecaps@hotmail.co.uk  
Facebook page "Fell Pony Support  
Group - South East"

SE Group E-mail:  
fellponysocietysegroup@gmail.com





## Scottish Area Group

Our members and group have had an exciting year in 2013. With generous sponsorship from George Stubbs Insurance our area representatives at the inter area inhand championships were extremely successful. We have been very fortunate to secure sponsorship from George Stubbs for 2014.



*Antony Brown from George Stubbs with Messrs Smith and Ponies*

The Pentland Hills Pleasure Ride should have been on 28th September, but due to the weather it was cancelled. The ride is being re-organised for 2014. If you are interested in taking part please make early contact with Janice as there are limited places.

After the FPS Sale in October we had an informal meet up at the Greyhound Hotel, Shap. We intend to make this a yearly event so make sure you add this to your calendar for 2014.

This year Alan Anderson is hoping to organise a day out with the Jedforest Hunt. If you are interested in taking part please contact Alan.

Membership Fee - The area membership can now be paid by BACS. Membership is £5 paid annually and is entirely voluntary. Paid up area members are eligible to vote at the Scottish Area AGM and/or become Scottish Area committee members. This donation is to cover general costs of the group i.e. printing and postage. For more details please contact Diane.

## EVENTS 2014

Spring Meeting & AGM—date being rearranged. Lunch/AGM - All welcome.

Fri 11th April - Social Meet Up at Birds & Bees, Stirling.

Sun 11th May - Northern Pleasure Ride/Picnic at Haddo House, Aberdeenshire

Sun 9th June - Northern Pleasure Ride at Dunnet forest and beach, Caithness.

Fri 20th June - Highland Show Classes and Social Meet Up.

Sat 25th October - Social Meet up after FPS Sale at Greyhound Hotel, Shap, Cumbria

### Other events, dates to be confirmed:

September - Central Area - Pentland Ride

October - Central Area - Fundraising event

November - Central Area - Youngstock show at West Riverside Farm, Denny

TBC - South Area - Hunting day with Jedforest Hunt

Diane Meikle



*Moira on Wellbrow Alma, Archie on Dondo (his welsh pony) Robbie on Dalewin  
Maisie and Alan Anderson on Towford Nik Nak.*



## North West Area Support Group

The North West Area formed a new committee in October 2013. As such, we are hoping to hold some new events this year, which we hope you will support and attend wherever possible. You will be made very welcome, and with this year as a fund-raising year for the Fell Pony Society, any offers of help to raise extra funds at our events would be greatly appreciated. By the time you read this we hope to have already hosted a successful lunch at the Crookland Hotel near Kendal, with guest speaker Steph Wheway sharing her experiences of riding Murthwaite Windrush at Horse of the Year Show 2013. We are also hoping to hold a stud open day during July or August, so please keep checking our Group pages to see updates for this if you would like to come along.

### **Dates for your Diary 2014:**

9th March—Julie Robinson Training Day 10am-2pm. Flat and Working-Hunter lessons for all levels at Newton Rigg Equestrian Centre, near Penrith.

5th April—Cumbria Fells and Dales Warm-up Show. Newton Rigg EC.

31st May 2014 - CUMBRIA FELL AND DALES PONY SHOW at Jenkinsons Field, Penrith. Schedules for both of these shows will be available on the FPS page during February.

August 3rd—Pleasure Ride at North Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, CA14 4SH. This is very kindly hosted by Christine Robinson of Kerbeck Fell Ponies. Please let us know if you would like to come on the pleasure ride, as there will be a limited number, and we also need to know who will be wanting to enjoy the BBQ which will follow.

November 2nd—Foal & Youngstock Show at Newton Rigg Equestrian Centre, 11am-3pm, with Judge John Cockbain. Classes will be held for foals, yearlings, two & three year olds, with a separate foal championship and an overall youngstock championship awarded.

Full details of these events are posted on the Fell Pony Society website on the NW Area page, and there is a North West Area Support Group page on Facebook. If you have any questions about forthcoming events, e-mail [fvmillar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fvmillar@hotmail.co.uk) or [annehogg04@aol.com](mailto:annehogg04@aol.com), or call Frances Miller: 07779276888.

Frances Miller



## North East Area Support Group

I would like to thank everyone for the support we've had at our events over the last year. A special thank you goes to those behind the scenes without which these events couldn't happen. If you feel you are able to get involved with any of our events please get in contact we are always in need of more helpers especially at the performance trials.

The North East area didn't manage to send any representatives down for the Inter Area Championship at the Southern Show in 2013. We would like people to put their name forward if you would like to be considered as a representative, we really want to make sure we have some ponies going this year. It's a lovely show and definitely worth the journey, the owner of the pony needs to be a North East member to apply.

We have a great selection of events coming up in 2014; full details of each and application forms will appear on the website as soon as they become available. The North East Group Facebook page will also be updated with reminders of what's on.

### **Forthcoming Events 2014**

March - Sunday 2nd Study day at Stonechester Farm near Willington, Co Durham. 'Preparing for a dressage test' with Wendy Murray.

May - Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th Pony Camp, Linnel Wood, Hexham

Joint Fell & Highland pony camp organised by the Highland Pony Enthusiasts Club & North East Area Group. Email [hpecnortheast@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hpecnortheast@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 01912671610 for more information.

July - Sunday 20th Hexham Native Horse & Pony Show, Linnel Wood, Hexham

NE Area Group Fell classes and picnic lunch

September - Sunday 21st Native Pony Performance Trials, Linnel Wood, Hexham. Dressage, cross country and show jumping, plus a special section just for Fell ponies.

October - TBC North East Area Annual Pleasure Ride. Venue to be arranged - we need suggestions for a ride, so please get in contact if you have any ideas

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

Newsletters are no longer posted unless a SAE is provided. To keep up to date with area news and events please send me a request to be added to our email list:

Email: [heather\\_mawrey@hotmail.com](mailto:heather_mawrey@hotmail.com)

Heather Mawrey Tel: 07791 748384



## Midlands West Area Support Group

Group Leader: Mary Longsdon 01629 640709

Secretary: Diane Key 01785 822723

2013 saw the Midlands West Group enjoying another successful season of events. Following the group AGM in October 2013, again kindly hosted by Keith and Joan Dorman, another season of events has been planned for this year, 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 soon) will confirm most of these and contact telephone numbers are included below for anyone wishing to find out more. Early events include:

**Sunday April 13th 2014 Spring Festival of Fells Show** at Tedsmore Equestrian Centre, Oswestry There will be a full section of Fell Pony classes, both ridden and in hand as well as some less formal ones. We are very pleased to announce that our judge will be Ruth Eastwood. There is also opportunity for Midlands West members to qualify for the Bewcastle Boy Blue Inter Area Challenge (final to be held at the Fell Pony Society Southern Breed Show). A schedule with full details, closing dates etc will be out shortly and will be available to download with entry form from [www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk](http://www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk). Any sponsorship would be greatly appreciated and we are extremely grateful for the kind support we have already received. Alternatively please contact Debbie Roberts-Jones 01691 652843. All are welcome to attend.

**May 2014 - Pleasure Ride on Cannock Chase.** Once again Sandra Newcombe has kindly offered to organise a ride across Cannock Chase. Rosettes for all those taking part in the ride. Once again we really do need more ponies to take part in this annual event. If you are a Fell Pony owner who has a friend who would like to accompany you with a non Fell please feel welcome to bring them along. Riders should have their own insurance. The ride will leave at 12.30 prompt. If you require more details, or if you would like to take, please telephone Sandra on 07947 708081.

**Sunday June 15th 2014 - Fell Dales & Highland Pony Show** at Bakewell Show Ground. This is another opportunity for Midlands West members to qualify for the Bewcastle Boy Blue Inter Area Challenge (final to be held at the Fell Pony Society Southern Breed Show). More sponsorship is urgently required, so if you can help or if you would like a schedule please contact Mary Longsdon on 01629 640709 or at The Eaglets, Little Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1NN. Or download a schedule & entry form from [www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk](http://www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk)

**Summer 2014 - Annual LEG IT Midlands West Trotting Races** (plus Adult & Children's Gymkhana) Venue to be arranged. A great fun day with ponies. For more information please telephone Diane Key 01785 822723.

*(Continued on page 53)*



*"Scary curtain? What scary curtain?" Handy pony class at the Southern Show*



*Erica Gee with Raisbeck Robbie in his Christmas charity collecting gear*



*Murthwaite Windrush (right) and his son Greenholme Yabadabadoo at the Southern Show 2013 (Vikki Jenkins). Below: Claire Wigley's nine year old Greenholme Warbler, a.k.a. Wallie, partnered by Terry Clynes at the Breed Show—later in the year he was 3rd in the Olympia M&M Final.*





*Glenis Cockbain with Carrock Snowdrop, 2 year old filly by Banksgate Johnny Doran out of Townend Sugar. In 2013 Snowdrop was 1st at the Cumberland, Bowes, Eggleston, and Witherslack Shows, 1st and reserve champion at Skelton and Appleby, 1st and champion at Ennerdale and 2nd at the FPS Breed Show. Below: Stonecreek Lily (USA) and Cailin Sanford, FPSNA's Supreme Champion Performance Pony 2013.*



*Amira Castricone*



*Severnvale George, owned by Ailsa Vines and Sarah Parker—Reserve Champion in the M&M Final at Olympia.*



*Findlay James and his sister Iona, who is 2, both have a very rare chromosome abnormality which results in them having physical and learning disabilities and complex medical issues. The very special Drummersdale Harvest Moon ("Magic") by Lunesdale Mercury x Waverhead Helena) has brought them a lot of joy. Here, Magic in vest tigrates Iona and her Dad.*

## Midlands West Events in 2013

**Group Annual Luncheon.** This was held on Sunday 10th November at the Sudbury home of Elizabeth Marshall. This year's guest speaker was Becky Prince from the Blue Cross Re-homing Centre at Rolleston on Dove. Becky gave a thoroughly interesting power point presentation about the early origins of the centre and the good work that has continued there.

There were some good entries in our annual **Fell Photo Show**, where the Pudding Competition was hotly contested and the Caption Competition was well supported. Mary Longsdon and Jane Glass kindly brought the Fell Pony Society merchandise along with them. The annual Group Activity and Performance Awards were also presented. Well done this year to Brigit Clacy and Murthwaite Hardy who were the overall winners and received the Eileen Davies Perpetual Fell Pony trophy. Many thanks to Alyson Hurcomb

for organising the awards.

**Christmas Get Together.** Many thanks to Debbie Robert-Jones for organising another social evening comprising a 'mini' Christmas meal in December.



*Yearling Greenholme George with Craig Foster at the Fell, Dales, Highlands Show at Bakewell, June 2013. This was the first show for both pony and handler and George won his class.*

Thank you to everyone who attended and a big welcome to those of you who joined our group.

If you would like to join the Midlands West Fell Pony Support Group please note a temporary change in our membership secretary who is currently Mr Barry Stamp, Deerhurst, Newport Road, Haughton, Stafford, ST18 9JH Telephone number 01785 822723. A membership form is available to download from our web site. Please send a £5 cheque made payable to the Midlands West Fell Pony Society Support Group with your name and address and if applicable email address details. If you would like a receipt please include a SAE.

For more details about the group please visit [www.westmid-fellponies.org.uk](http://www.westmid-fellponies.org.uk) or contact the secretary Diane Key at [diane@fellpony.me.uk](mailto:diane@fellpony.me.uk)



*A group of Fell ponies ready for the off at the 2013 Cannock Chase Ride*



## Midlands East Area Support Group

We are delighted to report lots of activity in all the areas of Midlands East Support group in 2013. In the Lincoln Area there have been rides, clinics and a show. In Leicester Area there have been two shows and a Christmas show at Canaan Farm equestrian centre and Socials, and in Northamptonshire a ride and local get togethers.

FPS Sandringham show in Norfolk has gathered Norfolk and Suffolk Fells together and there have been local clinics and Socials. The new Icení Native Pony show near Cambridge has Fell classes and is going with lots of enthusiasm. The FPS Southern Show draws together ponies from all the areas. It was also good to see the children enjoying themselves.

As we are such a large area we are experimenting with rotating our twice yearly meetings in different counties to give more people a chance to get together and have their say.

This year we will be offering travel sponsorship to the FPS Southern Show for the two qualifiers of the Inhand Boy Blue Championship. The qualifiers will be held at the Icení Native Pony Show and the Fell Pony and Friends Show at Canaan Equestrian Centre at Loughborough Leics.

The FPS-MESG website, [www.FPS-MESG.co.uk](http://www.FPS-MESG.co.uk), is an exciting step for MESH as we will be able to provide members with more up to date information about forthcoming events via both this website and e-mail bulletins. On a practical note the website will also provide instant access to MESH show schedules, membership and performance award forms plus links to other 'Fell' resources. A truly 'one stop shop' for all our area activities. It will also allow us to share the success and experiences of MESH members with their Fell Ponies. Therefore we would love to receive any news you have especially if it is accompanied by a photograph. In particular it would be good to hear of Fells excelling at activities outside the show ring.

Our activities will be advertised on the FPS-MESH website and the FPS Midlands East Facebook page. Also in the Newsletter which will be out in the Spring, when we have finalised dates and events. Members may choose paper or digital copies.

Come and join us. We try to have a variety of activities for our versatile ponies.

The contact Area names are on the main FPS and FPS-MESH websites or contact Kate Merry 01788 823215.

Kate Merry



## South West Area Support Group

The South West group covers Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The group currently runs the Dorset Fell Show and the Cornish Fell Show plus various talks and visits. It would be good if we could organise at least one event per year in each county as this is a large geographic area.

**Sunday 4th May 2014 Dorset Fell show**, Hurn Bridge equestrian centre, classes starting at 10.00. Full details (schedule, entry form, walk and trot dressage test) are on the website [www.dorsetfellshow.co.uk](http://www.dorsetfellshow.co.uk). This year's Judge will be Mrs A.J.C. Campbell from Kent. Contact Sharron Camp, [sharron.camp@montybear.co.uk](mailto:sharron.camp@montybear.co.uk).

**Sunday 1st June 2014 Cornish Fell Pony Show**, Polgoda Riding Centre, Goonhavan, Nr Truro, Cornwall. Contact Debbie Walters Tel. 07531300548.

The In Hand champion from the Dorset Fell Pony show and the Cornwall Fell Pony show will Qualify for Bewcastle Boy Blue Inter-area in Hand Championship to be held at the Fell Pony Southern Show. If the In Hand champion is unable to attend then the Reserve In Hand Champion will Qualify.

The South West group has just started up a new website, <http://www.fellponysw.org.uk/> to keep members up to date with all the activities going on in the south west. It includes adverts, results, pictures, news items and events. A big thank you to Sharron Camp for organising and setting it up

It would be good to have articles about what you & your ponies get up to. It doesn't just have to be show news as it's interesting to hear what other activities Fells do. We all know they are very versatile.

Look forward to hearing from you

Michael Goddard



## South East Area Support Group

Firstly we must apologise for the slow start to setting up the South East Support Group. Both Tina and I have had a very tough 2013 in that personal circumstances have beset our best intentions. However... we are committed to 2014 and hope we can achieve many good things this year.

We have recently sent out via email - a Spring newsletter - but we understand that not all South East FPS Members will be on computers or want to receive information in this way - to all those who would like hard copies posting out - please contact us and we will be happy to oblige.

Firstly we need to acknowledge the large geographical area in which the South East Group covers and that, because of this, setting up clinics, shows, fun week-

ends etc will involve travelling further for some members than others, this we will obviously try, to the best of our abilities, to minimize. We are aware of the time and costs involved in travelling but hope to make the events worth the trip.

We would welcome your ideas: what would you, the potential SE Group Members, want to see or do? Tina and I are lucky in that we know some good people who have intimated that they are willing to help us. We have ideas of showing, jumping and XC clinics, an 'introduction to driving' demonstration. There is the possibility of organizing a camping weekend in which we can have guest speakers, demonstrations, barbecues, pub rides, country hacks - culminating in a last day competition for fun. We also thought of doing a points scheme whereby ponies competing in all disciplines can gain points to be counted at the end of each year with rosettes and prizes for the winners of each category.

Membership forms are available either via post or email - please contact us if you wish a form to be posted out to you.

We would also welcome pictures and stories of you and your fells, how you got into the breed, what you do with your ponies, we aim to feature one story each newsletter. We have set up a Facebook group page that you can submit to or via email or again, by hardcopy.

The South East Support Group is to be run for you so please, please get in touch and tell us what you want to see for this coming season - if it ever stops raining.

Jules Jordan



## Fell Pony Beach Ride (Netherlands)



On Saturday October 12 the Vlietlanden Fell pony stud held a beach ride at Hargen aan Zee in the Netherlands. This was the first time that a Fell pony beach ride had been held in the Netherlands and the stud de Vlietlanden did a great job in organising it. The weather was really good, with almost no wind; and even the sun put in an appearance. A total of 23 ponies and their riders met at around 11 am to get ready for the ride; which was limited to ridden ponies due to the narrow paths through the sand dunes.

First the group went high up onto the paths on the sand dunes; which may have made some ponies think that they were back on the fells in their native Cumbria.

After an hour and a half they arrived at the beach, and for most of the ponies this was their first sight of the sea. Fortunately it was not too windy, and the waves were not too big and scary, so the ponies had a lot of fun and thoroughly enjoyed their experience; and also provided a great show for other visitors to the beach.

The riders took the opportunity to take some nice photographs, and then most of the ponies went for a good race along the beach. It was great to see the ponies and the riders having such fun.

Later, after the ponies had been loaded back into their trailers, the riders enjoyed a good lunch and a good chat about their Fell ponies. Everyone who was there enjoyed the day and is looking forward to the next time. Many thanks to Lucia of the Vlietlanden stud for organising the day.

Joke Postma, Netherlands



## Lincolnshire “Fell Ponies and Friends”

On a cold and wet night in November, the Lincolnshire Fell ponies and friends got together at Horncastle to raise money and awareness of this fantastic and versatile breed. A raffle was held with some fantastic prizes donated from local shops and companies and the group raised a massive £101 on the night with funds being donated to the Fell Pony Society (Welfare). Lots of interesting information was shared with good ideas for more fundraising and fun planned for 2014. It was nice to put faces to names and meet everyone who has a shared passion.

Events such as pleasure, beach and barbecue rides being organised, as well as day trips out to fell pony studs. Lessons and displays in showing preparation and Concours d’elegance is also on the cards....so lots of fun and interesting things happening.

You don’t need to be a Fell owner to come along and enjoy the fun....as long as you’re appreciative of this rare and stunning breed. The group can be contacted on Facebook, so please join and support...everyone more than welcome.

Looking forward to seeing new faces, please come along to our next get together...details will be posted on the Facebook page.

Big thanks to the local companies for the donation of prizes for the raffle.

Nicki Ash, Wendy Holmes and Wendy Bailey





## The Fell Pony Society of North America, Inc.

### 2013 Branch Report

Members of the Fell Pony Society of North America, Inc. (FPSNA) had another very busy year with their Fell Ponies in 2013. FPSNA promotional exhibits included the Equine Affaire in West Springfield, Massachusetts, which once again attracted Fell enthusiasts from throughout the region. Five ponies attended and participated in the demo, as well as barn and/or breed exhibits, including Stonecreek Lily, Willowtrail Black Robin, Lunesdale Mercury, Laurelhighland Sapphire and Laurelhighland Diva. The ponies were shown under saddle, in harness, and in hand (as a pack pony.) We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our members to promote the breed, while helping to promote FPSNA and FPS, too.

The FPSNA Performance Premium & Awards Program 2013 was another big hit, once again serving as North American Fell Pony Championships. In this annual program which is now in its 3rd year, most if not all Fell owners in North America can realistically participate (despite great distances between us.) via competitions held across North America. 24 ponies were enrolled for the 2013 competition year, which was a 60% increase in enrollees over the prior season. Ponies successfully earned points in our Performance Division through a variety of competitions - ridden (flat, hunter, etc.), dressage, gymkhana, etc., including both open and Mountain & Moorland events. We also had entries in our Handy Pony Division, earning points both as ambassadors and working ponies. We are pleased to announce the 2013 Supreme Champion is Stonecreek Lily, owned by Anita Castricone (Angel Meadow Farm) and ridden by Cailin Sanford. Reserve Supreme Champion went to Laurelhighland Sapphire, owned and ridden by Miss Lauren Earley (Laurel Highland Farm). Stonecreek Lily also won the Born in North America High Point Performance Championship, in addition to other awards. Please see the following for all the results and our North American Champions and Fell Ponies of the Year. Congratulations to all.

In addition, the annual USDF All-Breeds Awards Program for Fell Ponies was once again sponsored by FPSNA. Stonecreek Lily won USDF All Breeds Champion Fell Pony Award at First Level with a median score of 66.415%, by Cailin Sanford and owned by Anita Castricone. Two other ponies, Laurelhighland Victor, ridden by Lisa Lindholm, and Littletree Born Supremacy, ridden by Allison Wolff, competed in the program this year as well.

In addition, FPSNA sponsored an annual Mountain & Moorland competition, the Pacific Coast Classic in California, in which 9 Fell Ponies competed.

Another annually-sponsored FPSNA competition is the National Dressage Pony Cup and in 2013 this was again held at the Kentucky Horse Park. As the only Fell Pony competing, Littletree Born Supremacy was a shoe-in for Fell Pony High Point Award. However, he and his owner/rider, Allison Wolf, also won the Championship at both First and Second Level competing against other pony

breeds. In addition, other members' Fell ponies participated in Pony Club this year, including Laurelhighland Sapphire, Kimberlake Windermere Grey ("Windy"), and Newfarm Minneola ("Minnie"). Windy also qualified for the Midwest USPC Championship with Carly Kempf.

Furthermore, we encouraged Dr. Gus Cothran, an equine geneticist at Texas A&M University, to try to make FIS testing available "on this side of the pond", and the test can now be done at his lab. (This is the same lab that processes most of our DNA-typing and parentage verification samples, so it will be very convenient for our owners and breeders.) In addition, given the relative small number of Fell Ponies in North America (currently approximately 450), we have proposed further research regarding the prevalence of the FIS mutation specifically amongst the North American Fell population, and Dr. Cothran is hopeful this research can be pursued when required staffing and funding are available.

Finally, FPSNA published the 12th volume (12th year.) of The Fell Pony Express, FPSNA's biannual news magazine. This is circulated both in North America and abroad and we enjoy hearing from our readers overseas.

We are looking forward to new adventures with Fell Ponies in 2014 - being the "Year of the Horse" it should be a very good year indeed.

Best Wishes,

The FPSNA Council

[www.fpsna.org](http://www.fpsna.org)

**Pacific Coast Classic Results -- (September 2013 -- Elk Grove, California; (Note: only Fell results shown below); Judge Mrs. Elizabeth Mansfield, Rotherwood Stud (UK)  
M&M 3 & Under**

**Placing; Pony; Handler/Rider; Owner**

- 1, Felllegend Bramwell's Tristan, Nicole Vaillancourt, Nicole Vaillancourt
- 2, Liberty's Justice, Ms. Amanda Dyer, Ms. Amanda Dyer
- 3, Prince Albert, Patricia Terrell, Patricia Terrell
- 4, Felllegend Rembrandt, Elaine Dunson, Elaine Dunson

**M&M 4 & Over**

**Placing, Pony, Handler/Rider, Owner**

- 1, BroughHill Hadrian's Wall, Danielle Hawkinson, René Bender
- 3, Braeberry Anne, Audrey Miller, René Bender
- 4, Laurelhighland Rose Petal, Elise Miller, René Bender
- 5, Laurelhighland Oliver, Shannon Yee, René Bender

**M&M Best Of Breed**

**Placing, Pony, Handler/Rider, Owner**

- 1, BroughHill Hadrian's Wall, Danielle Hawkinson, René Bender
- 2, Felllegend Bramwell's Tristan, Nicole Vaillancourt, Nicole Vaillancourt

**NPS America Championship -- M&M**

**Placing, Pony, Handler/Rider, Owner**

- 1, BroughHill Hadrian's Wall, Danielle Hawkinson, René Bender

## **M&M Novice Ridden**

Placing, Pony, Handler/Rider, Owner

1, Braeberry Liberty, Patricia Terrell, Patricia Terrell

## **Ridden M&M**

Placing, Pony, Handler/Rider, Owner

1, BroughHill Hadrian's Wall, Shannon Yee, René Bender

3, Laurelhighland Rose Petal, Elise Miller, René Bender

## **2013 FPSNA Performance Premium & Awards Program Results**

**Division; Pony Name; Points; Placing; Owner/Rider and/or Handler/Breeder (for Born in NA Award)**

A.1.1. Open Ridden, BroughHill Hadrian's Wall 250, 1, René Bender, Shannon Yee  
Newfarm Apple Blossom, 2, 10, 2, Elise Miller, Elise Miller

Laurelhighland Rose Petal, 80, 3, René Bender, Elise Miller

A.1.3. Junior Ridden, Laurelhighland Sapphire 470, 1, Lauren Earley, Lauren Earley.

A.2.2. Yearling In-Hand, Prince Albert, 80, 1, Patricia Terrell, Patricia Terrell

A.2.3. 2-YO In-Hand, Liberty's Justice, 100, 1, Amanda Dyer, Amanda Dyer.

A.2.4. 3-YO In-Hand, Fellegend Bramwell's Tristan 150 1, Nicole Vaillancourt/  
Nicole Vaillancourt.

A.2.5. Four-Year-Old and Over In-Hand. BroughHill Hadrian's Wall 240, 1, René Bender, Shannon Yee

Laurelhighland Sapphire 110, 2, Lauren Earley, Lauren Earley

Braeberry Anne 80, 3, René Bender, Audrey Miller

Laurelhighland Rose Petal 60, 4, René Bender, Elise Miller

Laurelhighland Oliver 40, 5, René Bender, Tomas Herrea

Stonecreek Lily, 40, 5, Anita Castricone, Cailin Sanford

A.3.1. Open, Stonecreek Lily, 970, 1, Anita Castricone, Cailin Sanford.

Laurelhighland Victor, 465, 2, Lisa Lindholm, Lisa Lindholm

5.1.1. Grand Champion Ridden Performance Pony

Stonecreek Lily, 970, Anita Castricone, Cailin Sanford

5.1.2. Reserve Grand Champion Ridden Performance Pony

Laurelhighland Sapphire, 470, Lauren Earley/ Lauren Earley

6.1.1. Grand Champion Performance Pony (Ridden &/or In Harness)

Stonecreek Lily, 970, Anita Castricone, Cailin Sanford

6.1.1. Reserve Grand Champion Performance Pony (Ridden &/or In Harness)

Laurelhighland Sapphire, 470, Lauren Earley/ Lauren Earley

6.3.1. Grand Champion In-Hand. BroughHill Hadrian's Wall, 240, René Bender, Shannon Yee

6.3.2. Reserve Grand Champion In-Hand. Fellegend Bramwell's Tristan, 150, Nicole Vaillancourt/ Nicole Vaillancourt

6.4.1. Supreme Champion (Overall Champion In-Hand and Performance Pony).  
Stonecreek Lily, 1010, Anita Castricone, Cailin Sanford

6.4.2. Reserve Supreme Champion (Overall Reserve Champion In-Hand and

Performance Pony)

Laurelhighland Sapphire, 580, Lauren Earley, Lauren Earley

7.1. Mare Progeny Performance Premium,  
Brocklebeck Briony , 1190, Shannon Albert.

7.2. Stallion Progeny Performance Premium,  
Waverhead Robbie, 1540, Drs. ET & MJ Gould-Earley.

8.0.in North America - High Point Performance Champion (award for both owner  
and breeder), Stonecreek Lily, 1250, 1, Anita Castricone, Shannon Albert

B.1. Ambassador Pony, Newfarm Apple Blossom, 480, 1, Elise Miller, Elise Miller

Littletree Babysham, 380, 2, Melissa Kreuzer , Melissa Kreuzer

Stonecreek Lily, 240, 3, Anita Castricone, Anita Castricone.

Laurelhighland Sapphire, 60, 4, Lauren Earley, Lauren Earley

Laurelhighland Diva, 60, 4, Lauren Earley, Nell Barbour

Braeberry Anne, 40, 6, René Bender, René Bender

BroughHill Hadrian's Wall60, 6, René Bender, René Bender.

B.2. Working Pony, Laurelhighland Rose Petal 20, 1, René Bender, René Bender.



Below: Fellegend Bramwell's Tristan (with Nicole Vaillancourt) at Pacific Coast Classic. Tristan was FPSNA's Reserve Grand Champion In-Hand Pony 2013.



## Fell Pony Society and Conservancy of the Americas

### 2ND NORTH AMERICAN FELL NATIONALS PLANNED for 2015

The Fell Pony Society and Conservancy of the Americas has again partnered with the equine conservation organization Equus Survival Trust (EST) to host the Fell Pony portion of the second Festival of Endangered Equines. This will be a nationwide endangered breeds event & competition at the world famous Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) for spring of 2015 -May 26, 27, 28th.

EST Festival activities are both educational and competitive—a rare breed pavilion, demos, youth activities, booths, silent auction, possible lectures & clinics, as well as very unusual competition—the Stewardship Awards of North America (SANA) which will again feature prominent foreign and domestic licensed judges for over a dozen



breeds and 100+ classes for in-hand, ridden, dressage, driving and jumping.

The Fell Conservancy will co-ordinate the Fell pony promotions, exhibitions, demos and the SANA portion of the 2nd National Fell Pony—Stewardship Awards of North America (NFP-SANA). The Fell portions of the event and classes are open to ANY registered Fell pony regardless of affiliation, and EST encourages both FPSNA and the Fell Conservancy support groups to participate with coordinated demos, respective booths, and both breed and respective organization class sponsorships.

The Festival will focus on raising public awareness and encourage networking among all breeders and associations. The exhibition's theme, "Celebrate the Differences" is designed to encourage visitors to explore and cherish the differences preserved in these endangered historical breeds.

The Equus Survival Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is the only conservation organization worldwide currently specializing in equines.

For more information on the Trust or the Festival of Endangered Equines, please contact the Equus Survival Trust: [EquusSurvivalTrust@Yahoo.com](mailto:EquusSurvivalTrust@Yahoo.com) / [www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org](http://www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org) or Victoria Tolman at the Fell Pony Society and Conservancy of the Americas at [Felliinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:Felliinfo@yahoo.com) / [www.thefellpony.org](http://www.thefellpony.org)



## The Fell Pony Society Young Persons Group

The Fell Pony Society has set up a Young Persons Committee for our members (age under 35) with the following aims in mind.

1) To organise educational and training days on the Fell pony's conformation and breed type and to promote and gain a greater understanding of semi-feral herds.

2) To represent the views of the younger members to the Fell Pony Society Council.

3) To encourage younger members to learn more about the Fell Pony Society and the work that the council, the committees and secretary undertake throughout the year.

4) To prepare younger Fell Pony Society members to be able to stand for election to the council in the future.

5) To listen to suggestions and organise events suitable for younger members.

The committee will try to have a representative from all of the Fell Pony Society area support groups for young members to contact.

For more information please contact:

Michael Goddard, [g.michaelrichard@yahoo.com](mailto:g.michaelrichard@yahoo.com)

Leanne Russell, [Leanne.russell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Leanne.russell@hotmail.co.uk)—South West rep

Rachael Brunskill, [fpsshowsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:fpsshowsecretary@hotmail.com)

Frances Miller, [fvmillier@hotmail.com](mailto:fvmillier@hotmail.com)—North West rep

Sam Graham, [sambloomfield@hotmail.com](mailto:sambloomfield@hotmail.com)—South East rep

Anna Metcalfe

Alex Robinson

or the Facebook page—The Fell Pony Society Young Persons Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/201245843407190/>

Best wishes

Michael



## Learning with Fells 2013

### Visit to the Hardendale Stud

'Learning with Fells' is a training scheme designed to enable young people to increase their knowledge of the breed by providing an opportunity to visit various studs. Earlier in the year there were visits to the Murthwaite and Greenholme



*Frances Miller discussing correct fitting of tack, with Dalefoot Sinbad*

studs, and after a lovely few weeks of summer the Hardendale Stud's 'Learning with Fells' day turned out to be one of the wettest and windiest days of the year. Fortunately the Mal-linson family were able to provide a much appreciated all-under-cover day for both the children and their families.

After introductions the children were shown round the stud and asked to have a go at guessing the height of the various ponies they met. They did very well and were then shown how to measure a pony correctly.

Thanks to the appalling weather the only outside venture was to watch a flat ridden and jumping display kindly given by Mrs. Frances Miller with her fell pony Dalefoot Sinbad. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration after which the children were shown how to fit different types of saddles and bridles correctly.

After lunch, with the help of Hardendale Tiffany, Barry showed everyone how to long rein correctly. He emphasised that it is the way that all Hardendale Fell po-



*Learning how to long-rein, with Hardendale Tiffany.*

nies start their ridden careers.

The next part of the day was a 'Young Handlers and Showing in Hand' session. With a little help from Heltondale Bonny VI the children learned how, from a safety point of view, to stand and handle a pony correctly in a show ring. This proved to be very competitive and all the children were absolutely determined to stand the pony correctly; it was a pleasure for all the adults to watch.

The day finished with a little competition and each family was given a

blank registration form to fill in. The children had, at other studs, already been shown how to find markings on ponies so, for them, it was something of a refresher. They all did extremely well with one family managing to find a whorl on one pony that wasn't on its passport.

### **Visit to the Kerbeck Stud**

The final visit of the year was to the Kerbeck stud in early October. A small group of FPS Junior members and their families started in the comfort of the house where stud owner Christine Robinson gave a short history of the stud and how she became interested in Fell ponies. The group then moved outside where they were introduced to the ponies. The first pony on show was actually a home-bred Exmoor, Kerbeck Moonstone. Christine explained that he was probably very like the early Cumbrian Fell ponies many hundreds of years ago. Several of the studs Fells were then brought out and the group discussed the type and conformation of each pony. They also learned something of what that pony had done with regards to showing and competition.

After lunch everyone went up the road to see the stud's stallion, Greenholme Bobby Dazzler (kindly loaned from the Greenholme Stud and Frank Cowings) and his family on the Fell allotment. The ponies seemed quite pleased to meet the visitors and happily hung around for a while to be admired.

A small convoy of vehicles then journeyed down to Mireside Farm on the shore of Ennerdale lake to see two fillies that were grazing an area of rough ground on the farm. This area is an important habitat for butterflies and needs to be grazed every autumn, as the farm tenants do not have cattle and the ground is unsuitable for sheep, the ponies have been used for several years and do a very good job - even if they can be a bit difficult to find sometimes.

Finally it was back to the farm and a chance to get 25 year old Kerbeck Night Mystery out and have a ride on the school which was enjoyed by all the youngsters ... and Mystery of course.

Claire Simpson

---

In 2013 the Fell Pony Society organised four very interesting Fell Pony Stud visits in Cumbria. Each visit assisted young enthusiasts in meeting the Breeders, sharing their stories and generally helped in discovering the special connection between the land, the people, and the ponies.

Thomas Capstick from the Murthwaite Stud hosted our first visit in June. One of the many highlights was seeing mares and foals followed by the stallion galloping towards, then spilling into the yard in true Fell Pony Style. As heavy rain and wild winds seemed set in for the day, we sheltered in a barn where Thomas and fellow Fell pony breeder Colin Roberts shared stories of life on the fells with such special ponies. We were introduced to the Passport and also the purpose of microchipping, learning how to identify whorls around the pony's body which we recorded on example Passports. Finally Thomas introduced a bit of living history with a

game "Guess the farm tools from yesteryear", including a tool from recent years (not related to livestock) just to catch us out. Due to the relentless rain, Colin Roberts invited us all down the road to his Bybeck Stud, where we received a very warm welcome from the Roberts family. We all enjoyed sharing stories in the farmhouse kitchen, made all the more special by Colin's wife Heather who spoiled us with our favourite meal. Colin took us on an interesting tour of the Stud followed by afternoon tea, delicious cake and lots more stories and photographs back in the cosy kitchen.

My next visit at the end of July was to Bill Potter's Greenholme Stud Open Day. On arrival the heavy overnight rain made for an exciting beck crossing. Due to poor weather conditions we were surprised to see the Open Day so well attended. Bill gave a guided tour of the Stud, then invited everyone to view his Stallion running with Mare' and Foals. After a short walk to the lower field, we watched and waited as the semi feral herd moved down the fellside through the birch trees and swiftly over the racing beck. The little foals were cautious and ran closely by their dams, while the handsome stallion confidently greeted the visitors in a very gentlemanly way. Bill allowed plenty of time for watching and questions. The weather and landscape made the visit very special which gave me much inspiration for a creative project called "Greenholme Fell Ponies Crossing Birk Beck" a needle felted wool picture of my own design using locally dyed wool.

On to my third visit to Barry and Tracey Mallinson's Hardendale Stud. The day was brimming with hands on learning. The Mallinsons' enthusiasm was contagious as they progressed through the day, meeting our questions and offering a tailored day to suit the group's expectations. We learned about conformation and how to measure a pony, we covered Passports and were encouraged to try long reining. All the mums and dads got to try too. Visiting Fell Pony enthusiast and Social Secretary for the NW Area F.P.S., Frances braved the wild weather to show the capability of the Fell in Ridden Show and In Hand classes. Tracey made us very welcome and spent much time answering questions. The day was very well organised and moved along at a comfortable pace, full of information and hands on learning.



*Barry Mallinson explaining what to look for in a good foot*

My final Stud visit took us over to West Cumbria to Christine Robinson's Kerbeck Stud. The day began dry and bright with Christine introducing the horse from its primitive beginnings, to present day using a lovely Exmoor Pony. We clearly saw the link between the early ponies of Britain, how they survived and how it is thought the Fell Pony became native to Cumbria. After meeting the Kerbeck Ponies we shared

stories over lunch in the farmhouse. Then off down the road to see Christine's stallion running with mare and foal on the fell. With an enthusiastic whinny and thundering hooves, the stallion and foal followed by the mare galloped down the fell, skidded to a halt and greeted us with much curiosity.

Back on the road, we drove on to the dramatic Ennerdale Valley, to see two Kerbeck Fell Ponies grazing a Wetland to help with a special project called "Wild Ennerdale". We learned how very well suited the Fell Pony of Cumbria is to helping



manage plant, bird, and animal habitats in their native Cumbria and how the Fell Pony characteristics together with their grazing habits make them ideal for the job in Ennerdale. During the visit we found one plant I have never seen growing before, with gorgeous crimson berries, the Wild Cranberry. At the end of my Learning with Fells experience along with the breathtaking Lakeland scenery and the warm October sun, the idea of the Fell Pony being a suitable pony for Conservation Grazing Projects created a

thoughtful and positive mood. Back at Kerbeck lots of happy faces when we all got a piece of cake and a turn riding a Fell Pony. Each visit has been unique and really helped in my understanding of the beautiful wild ponies of Cumbria. Most importantly the continuation of the breeding herds, ensuring the semi feral characteristics of the Fell Pony are not lost.

Following on from my Stud visits, I decided to keep a Fell Pony Journal especially to record adventures as a family with our recent addition, a lovely black gelding, Brackenthwaite Radar.

Lastly a big thank you to the five hosts and their helpers. Special thanks to our friends Nicola Evans, who does conservation grazing and who recommended LWF 2013, and Rachel and Alistair Douglas (Brackenthwaite) for your energy and enthusiasm.

Sophie Quick (age 11)

~~~~~  
I would like to thank the Fell Pony Society for giving me the opportunity to be part of the learning with Fells.

My first trip was to Murthwaite stud, Ravenstonedale. The weather was vile



*Georgia Ellis and Sophie Quick meet Hardendale Blossom.*

and so we did not drive up the fell to see the ponies. Firstly, we got to know Mr Capstick and then went and brought a mare and foal into the pens. We saw a grey mare and foal from inside the barn, because one, it was miserable and two, we were weary of the mare because she had a foal at foot. After that, we brought some more ponies in including a bay stallion. Even though he was small he was incredible and handsome. Then we went back into the barn and filled out a markings sheet for a passport. Mr Capstick showed us his traps and old carts and the we saw some old equipment that was used for docking tails, gelding etc. Then we went inside and ate our lunch.

As the weather was so bad, Mr Roberts from the Bybeck stud was happy for us to go and see his ponies, as they were not too far away at Tebay. Mr and Mrs Roberts welcomed us into their house. Firstly, we got shown around all the mares with foals at foot, which were running with stallion Bybeck Kingfisher. After that, we went and saw Murthwaite Timothy and he was absolutely beautiful. Then once we saw Timothy we looked around the farm, I loved it. Furthermore, we went into the house and saw some photos of some ponies and had a wonderful slice of cake baked by Mrs Roberts and a cup of tea. Then after we ate our delicious Victoria sponge cake we saw the hens. After the amazing day we drove home.

Our next visit was to the Greenholme stud at Shap. Mr and Mrs Potter made us very welcome. They had some of their young stock inside that were for sale and two stallions for us to see. We walked down the fields to see the herd and they rounded some of the ponies into another field. Unfortunately the Learning with Fells coincided with the open day so we did not get to spend much time with Mr Potter but apart from that, it was very interesting.

After our trip to the Greenholme stud we drove up to near Carlisle to the Hardendale stud. We had a cup of tea with Mr and Mrs Mallinson first. After we got to know them we saw some ponies including a mare that was in foal at the time. We even saw the Welsh ponies and some foals. After that, we chose a pony to do some marking on and filled out a markings sheet, I found a couple of whorls that were not there before. Then we ate our lunch and had a drink. Furthermore, I learnt how to put a slip-rope head collar on better and then we did a bit of long reining with Heltondale Tiffany. Then we did some in-hand and I loved every minute of it.

On the 5th of October my mum and I went to Mrs Robinson's stud, Kerbeck. We went in to her home and learnt about the history of the Kell pony. After that, we trekked down the field and saw the beautiful ponies, and then we brought out some of the ponies that were in the stable to look at the good and bad points of the ponies' feet including feathers and hooves. Then we looked at the breed standard. Following lunch, we drove a short distance and met some more of the ponies, then went on and met two beautiful ponies that were on conservation grazing. Once again we had an amazing day.

I really enjoyed this experience and I would jump at the chance to do it again. I would also say to any young member it would be something you would never forget.

By Georgia Ellis, age 11

Fell pony society member.

## FPS Learning With Fells 2014

Council have agreed that from this year, applications will be taken from adult as well as junior members. There will be 4 places for 2014 plus 2 reserves. Priority will be given to those aged 10 - 18 years of age.

We are in the process of making the necessary arrangements,. There will probably be 3 or 4 studs involved this year.

If any members of the Society would like to take part, please can they contact the office as soon as possible. Email [secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk)

There is a bursary, payable from the Mary & Henderson Dodd Memorial Fund, of £50 for each participant to assist with travelling expenses, provided at least two visits are attended.



## Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome: an update

### Introduction

Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome was first recognised, in Fell ponies, in 1997. Born apparently normal, the affected foals went downhill after 3-6 weeks with weight loss and lethargy, had very thin blood (anaemia) and quickly succumbed to normally harmless infections. All affected foals died or were euthanized; no treatments were effective at all. This was very worrying for breeders and owners and quickly it became apparent that the problem was an inherited one, and due to a gene mutation which probably occurred in the 1940s and had spread throughout the breed silently for many years before it became a clinical issue. The reason for this is that ponies carrying one copy of the mutated gene are clinically normal, but what are called carriers. If two carriers breed together, there is a 1 in 4 chance of the offspring having two copies of the mutant gene and this will be an affected pony which cannot be saved.

In 2009, the first confirmed case was seen in the Dales pony, a breed with which the Fell pony has been bred many times in the past. The disease was exactly the

same as seen in the Fell ponies and the problem was renamed Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome (FIS).

## **Research**

Intensive research by the University of Liverpool team, from 1997 onwards, revealed the mechanism by which death occurred. This was a failure of the bone marrow to produce both red blood cells and the lymphocytes which produce antibodies. However, what was really important was developing a means to identify the FIS carriers to avoid breeding two carriers together; a carrier test was needed. To do this, it was necessary to identify the mutation and this was likely to be quite difficult because we would have to consider all of the horse's DNA to find one small change. This meant looking for one changed base in 2,700,000,000 - a real challenge. However, in 2009, the University invested in the latest genomic technology and our goal became achievable. Quite quickly, we not only identified the rogue gene, but developed a carrier test too. Thus, from early 2010, we were able to 1) Test new born foals to see if they had FIS and 2) Screen adults before breeding to see if they were carriers.

## **Using the carrier test**

Once the test became available, it was important to explain to Fell and Dale pony owners and breeders how best to use it, how to interpret results and the different kinds of breeding strategy that would be possible. This we did with many meetings organised by the respective societies and by handouts etc.

With the new test we were also able to study populations of horses and we found 40% of adult Fell ponies were FIS carriers, with the Dales ponies having 19% carriers. Studies of other breeds need to be pursued thoroughly, but we have already tested a cohort of coloured ponies and have found that 1% were FIS carriers. It is now timely to revisit the options for breeders and the best ways forward to ensure that the problem is controlled as much as possible.

## **Avoiding FIS foal births**

The best approach to having healthy foals is to screen potential breeding combinations for the FIS gene mutation to avoid breeding two FIS carriers together (that is the only combination which can produce an FIS foal). Indeed, approximately half of the current breeding stock of Fells has been tested already.

## **What can be done to reduce the carrier rate in the Fell pony population?**

The carrier rate is high in Fell ponies and as long as carriers are used for breeding, even with non-carriers, the carrier rate will stay at this high level and could go higher as breeding a carrier and non-carrier together will have a 50% chance of producing another carrier. This is dictated by the simple mathematics of breeding animals with an autosomal recessive disease (Table 1). Here, it can be clearly seen that breeding 2 carriers together gives a 1 in 4 chance of a FIS foal (which will die) and that 66% of surviving foals will be carriers. It must be borne in mind that the % odds outcome will be the same each time a given

breeding combination is chosen, in the same way that flipping a coin has the same odds each time it is flipped.

| Mare        | Stallion    | Foals:                              |                 |                           |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|             |             | FIS outcome—chances at each foaling |                 |                           |
| Normal      | Normal      | All Normal                          | 0 carrier       | 0 FIS                     |
| Normal      | FIS carrier | 1:2 Normal                          | 1:2 FIS carrier | 0 FIS                     |
| FIS carrier | Normal      | 1:2 Normal                          | 1:2 FIS carrier | 0 FIS                     |
| FIS carrier | FIS carrier | 1:4 Normal                          | 1:2 FIS carrier | 1:4 FIS Disease.<br>FATAL |

Table 1. Different breeding combinations and possible FIS outcomes for each mating.

The statistics from the FIS gene testing over the last 4 years (Table 2) are very promising and indicate that the scientists and breeders have been communicating well. Firstly, the numbers of Fell ponies tested is high (1261 in the last four years) and a clear indicator that many breeders are using the test prior to breeding. Secondly, the number of syndrome foals born each year has reduced drastically since carrier testing became available. This is a further indication that owners are using the FIS testing data to avoid carrier-carrier matings.

|        | Year | Number tested | Normal (%) | FIS carriers (%) | FIS diseased |
|--------|------|---------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Adults | 2010 | 565           | 290 (51%)  | 275 (49%)        | N/A          |
|        | 2011 | 179           | 103 (58%)  | 76 (42%)         | N/A          |
|        | 2012 | 106           | 60 (57%)   | 46 (43%)         | N/A          |
|        | 2013 | 67            | 35 (52%)   | 32 (48%)         | N/A          |
| Foals  | 2010 | 142           | 72 (51%)   | 58 (41%)         | 12           |
|        | 2011 | 108           | 60 (56%)   | 39 (36%)         | 9            |
|        | 2012 | 71            | 32 (45%)   | 38 (54%)         | 1            |
|        | 2013 | 23            | 10 (43%)   | 11 (48%)         | 2            |

Table 2. FIS testing data on adult and foal Fell ponies (2010-13)  
(Animal Health Trust data)

## Adults

However, there are still important points to consider. Even a small number of FIS foals is preventable and indicates that some owners/breeders are either not using the test or not following safe breeding guidelines. In the long term, there is

only one breeding strategy which will reduce carrier numbers in the population and that is mating a normal pony with another normal pony; any other breeding combinations will increase the carrier numbers. From a population genetics standpoint and to maintain breed integrity, there is no reason why normal ponies should not be bred together. Normal, non-carrier, ponies form over half the available breeding population and their selective matings would not result in a restricted gene pool and certainly not as restricted as using a limited number of favoured stallions in any one year. It is sometimes said that some of the best quality stallions and mares are carriers. However, as 50% of Fell ponies are clear, then many of their number will also have desired characteristics and be equally suitable for breeding.

### **If you have not used the Test**

It is imperative that all owners and breeders who are not carrier testing or not following safe breeding guidelines, look out for possible FIS foals. These will be normal at birth, have suckled normally, but will start to lose weight after 4-6 weeks and will be very anaemic (check gum colour or have blood test) and will start to scour (diarrhoea) with serious dehydration resulting. They will also have serious infections, possibly affecting their breathing. Upon seeing this pattern of symptoms, call your vet immediately and he will confirm if it is FIS within a few days, either from clinical signs or via the FIS carrier test. If, unfortunately, FIS is confirmed, then the only recommendation is euthanasia as ineffective treatments only prolong the suffering to the foal and distress to the owners. If this were to happen, one would know immediately that both parents are FIS carriers and should definitely not be bred together again, though they may breed with different (normal) Fells or even other breeds.

From everything we have seen in the last few years, the incidence of FIS foals has dropped dramatically in the UK and this is largely due to the availability of the carrier test and its judicious use by owners and breeders. This is a real success and something which the society can be proud of after so many years of waiting for the research to come good. In my opinion, the only contentious issue to deal with on this matter is whether the Fell pony Society should adopt (or promote) a policy of only breeding from normal ponies to reduce FIS carrier numbers in the population at large.

Finally, it is very gratifying that a test we have developed from our research programme has become widespread in usage and we are delighted that it has already had such a profound effect on the health and welfare of this important equine breed and will be of considerable value in the future.

Stuart D Carter FRCPATH

Professor of Veterinary Pathology.

School of Veterinary Science, Science Park ic2,

University of Liverpool, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, L3 5RF, UK.

E: [scarter@liv.ac.uk](mailto:scarter@liv.ac.uk)



## Results of the 2015 FPS Calendar Competition

After a large number of photographic entries in 2012 for the 2014 calendar last year proved to be a lean year for submissions though many excellent photographs were received. However, what we lost in quantity we made up for in quality. I would encourage you to enter your best photographs for the 2016 calendar, particularly those of ponies in action which are always welcome.

Thanks to all of you who sent in pictures and also to the judges who were members of the Midlands West Support Group. The choices of the judges were strongly influenced by an attempt to show the versatility of the Fell pony. Two calendars will be on their way to the judges after the Spring AGM. Every photographer of a selected photograph will receive a free calendar and the overall winner, Joanne Bennett, and the runner-up, Helen Gallagher, will receive a £10 and a £5 FPS voucher respectively.

|               |                               |            |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Cover picture | Nicola Evans                  | Cumbria    |
| January       | Jean O'Donnell                | Scotland   |
| February      | Isabel Meadows                | Leics.     |
| March         | Wendy Robinson                | Co. Durham |
| April         | Joanne Bennett                | Lancs.     |
| May           | Fell Pony Society Archives    |            |
| June          | Nicola Evans                  | Cumbria    |
| July          | Claire Simpson                | Cumbria    |
| August        | Matt's Equestrian Photography |            |
| September     | Claire Simpson                | Cumbria    |
| October       | Mark Holmes Photography       |            |
| November      | Helen Gallagher               | Co. Durham |
| December      | Katherine Wilkinson           | Cumbria    |

Congratulations to everyone listed above. Calendars should be available at and following the Spring AGM. So now we look forward to entries for the 2016 calendar.

As before, landscape format images (i.e. wider than high) are preferred to portrait format although we still accept good portrait images. Either digital or hard copy photographic prints can be submitted remembering that digital images have to scale up to the calendar format at 11" x 7" and so have to be of high resolution (300dpi minimum).

Professionally taken photographs are eligible providing the photographer is prepared to waive copyright for their inclusion in the calendar. Remember that only two professional photographs can be selected by the judges and that such images cannot be included in the competition. If you do submit a professionally taken photograph please make sure that you identify which photograph it is, together with a waiver statement from the photographer, when you send them in.

The closing date for submission of entries for the 2016 calendar is October 13<sup>th</sup> 2014. If hard copy prints are submitted they should be accompanied by a SAE if you would like them to be returned. Digital images can be sent to the following e-mail: ProfBarbaraBrown@aol.com or alternatively CDs and photographic prints can be mailed to Barbara Dunne, West Briscoe, Baldersdale, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 9UP, U.K. Tel 01833 650059



## SEBA Scottish Bred Horse / Pony of the Year

In the Spring of 2011, the Committee of SEBA - (Scottish Equine Breeders association) - decided to establish an annual competition to highlight the achievements of Scottish bred equines

The Chairman of SEBA, Dougal Dick of the Transy Stud, kindly offered to donate a trophy for the winner (the Transy Perpetual Trophy), and all finalists receive specially commissioned rosettes.

The SEBA member organisations were invited to seek nominations from within their own organisation, and each group then selected the animal they wished to put forward to SEBA as their finalist. The horse or pony nominated did not have to be a Scottish breed, but must have been bred in Scotland. There are currently 13 members of SEBA (Highland Pony Society, Pony Breeders of Shetland Association, Clydesdale Horse Society, Eriskay Pony Society, Scottish Sports Horse Society, Scottish Welsh Pony & Cob Association, Scottish & Borders Connemara Group, Exmoor Pony Society, Fell Pony Society, Dales Pony Society, Thoroughbred Breeders Association, NPS Scotland, and BHS Scotland). Once the finalists are decided, the member organisations are asked to vote for their choice of winner (they are not allowed to vote for their own nomination).

The award is presented annually at the SEBA AGM, usually held in March, and the results are published in the Equine press including Horse and Hound and The Scottish Farmer.

If you own or know of a Scottish bred Fell pony that you would like to be considered for the 2014 award, please contact the office or complete the application form which can be downloaded from the web-site.

The Fell pony nominated this year is Ravenscairn Dancer, a 15 year old mare bred by Mr J Ravenscroft.



## FPS Ridden Bursary

This is the final year, and so your last opportunity, to apply for a ridden bursary award. The bursary will fund a course of lessons for the successful applicant, who must be a member of the Fell pony society and able to attend the breed show in August 2014. Applications are welcome from novice riders as well as those with more experience. You must be the owner of a fully registered ridden Fell pony, or have a formal agreement/leasing arrangement in place which permits you to treat the pony as your own. Further information and application details are available by emailing [fellponybursary@btinternet.com](mailto:fellponybursary@btinternet.com). Completed application forms along with photographs of your pony must be submitted by 1 July 2014.

Judy Fairburn



*Lisa Lindholm and Laurelhighland Victor competing in Freestyle dressage (see page 77)*



## PEOPLE AND PONIES



### Fells in the Olympia Final

It was a fantastic result for Fells at the Olympia M& M final with two Fell ponies in the top three overall and three in the top ten. The Reserve champion was the seven year old black stallion, Severnvale George, owned by Ailsa Vines and Sarah Parker. George is the first pony that Ailsa has had a share in and says that he is a pleasure to have around and a dream to ride. She reports that Olympia was a fantastic experience and that the atmosphere was just amazing. Ailsa was aiming for best of breed and so to come second overall was more than she ever expected. George is now having a well earned rest. This was his first open season and he was champion open ridden at RIHS with Sarah; and went to HOYS with Ailsa.

Third place went to Claire Wigley's nine year old Greenholme Warbler, a.k.a. Wallie, partnered by Terry Clynes. Wallie qualified at the BSBS heritage show in October when he finished second in the largest class of the weekend; claiming his ticket for the finals and making a dream come true for Claire. The following two months were hard work for Claire, who has limited facilities and works full time, and if it hadn't been for Wallie's good nature and attitude she says she may have given up.

Wallie, who is partnered by Terry Clyne at shows, never put a foot wrong and took all the hustle and bustle in his stride. The pair make a great partnership, which is all the more amazing given the fact that they only meet at shows. Next year they will be contesting HOYS and RIHS qualifiers; but largely Wallie will be enjoying life at home as a treasured member of the Wigley household.

The very consistent Castle Hill Raven and Olivia Minns took 8<sup>th</sup> place putting three Fells in the top ten, well done All.



### Murthwaite Reynard

In October this year I bought a 6 year old Fell gelding, straight off the fell and incredibly unhandled. He was so nervous it was unreal and very wary of people.

Murthwaite Reynard, affectionately known as 'Roo' at home, is by Linnel Reynard x Murthwaite Jubilee. I'm hoping to bring him out under saddle as a novice next year.

He has come on in leaps and bounds, and is now bitted, has worn full tack and been sat on. Still cautious around new people but has a big personality with an attitude to match. He is a true credit to the breed and their fantastic, trusting nature. I am a very proud owner.

Lara Norris



## Brocklebank Murphy

Brocklebank Murphy - 7 year old gelding. I've owned him since May 2013 and he is the best pony ever. Never fails to make me smile and everyone that meets him wants to keep him. We do hacking, schooling and a bit of showing aiming to go next level up this year. Fingers crossed.

Hazel Jones



## Laurelhighland Victor (USA)

Victor and I had a really special show season. It was finally the long awaited debut of the First Level Freestyle we have spent three years working so diligently on, professionally choreographed by Terry Ciotti Gallo, from Florida. It was a challenge to learn but very fun and thanks to my trainer, Keri Erickson, for all her diligence and direction.

The upbeat Celtic style music fits Victor's personality, as well as his native history. I know there were two hearts (maybe more?) beating with excitement that first time down center line. He was training very hard for this and was such a good boy and seemed to truly enjoy riding this test to the music. Crowd support was wonderful, as is usual for him, as he is a bit of a crowd pleaser, to say the least..

My first time out, I got a 60.5 (in dressage you want at least over 60%) because I took a transition out to save time and didn't realize it was required. You have to complete your freestyle in under 5 minutes and finish right at the end of the music with a halt and salute. The judge loved it but had to give me a 0 for that particular move being left out. Otherwise, she thought it was great. BUT. Sunday, I put the move back in and got a 68.883.. This was a pony showing he could do dressage. I could just feel it. He was tracking up, on the bit, beautiful frame and FORWARD. His little feet were really moving. After all the hard work the last couple years, my Freestyle that Sunday was what it was all about, FOR VICTOR. I wanted people to be happy for HIM. He can do it. And we DID. When the Celtic music starts, something inside him perks up and comes alive. He is truly dancing. I am hoping to do it a few times next year and earn one more score over 63%, so I can go on to Second Level Freestyle the following year. Our goal is to earn our first Freestyle Bar.

If anyone would like to see it, please feel free to email me (thelindholms@gmail.com) and I will send you the link.

I wish everyone in the UK a Happy New Year.

Lisa Lindholm and Victor



## Drummersdale Harvest Moon (Magic)

### Under the 'Fell Spell'

*Charlotte James has sent this lovely story about the joy that the very special Drummersdale Harvest Moon (Lunedale Mercury x Waverhead Helena) has brought to her family, and how she has fallen under the little pony's 'Magic's spell...*

My son Findlay is 4.5 years old, and he has a little sister called Iona, who is 2, and they both have a very rare chromosome abnormality called Trisomy 12q which results in them having physical and learning disabilities, growth restriction and complex medical issues; so they both have round the clock care needs (you can read a bit more about them at [www.fundraisingforfindlay.co.uk](http://www.fundraisingforfindlay.co.uk)).

Iona spent the first 11 months of her life in hospital seriously ill; and when she came home I started part loaning a horse to get a break from being their full time carer. I took Findlay along with me once to meet the mare and he loved her; and he then started riding her once a week, which was excellent physio for him. He gets so excited when riding as he is moving exactly the same as everyone else (he is unable to walk so is wheelchair dependent) He took part in a fancy dress class on the mare and he came along to several of the shows over the summer.

At one of the shows he spotted a black Fell Pony and started pointing and squealing, but I didn't really think anything of it at the time. A month or so later he was signing that he wanted a horse, and this went on for months, and he was signing that he wanted to call a horse 'Magic'. We showed him lots of photos of different horses and ponies and it turned out 'Magic' was a black Fell Pony (he was very explicit, a grey or brown Fell would not do, Magic was black.)



In March 2013, after a lot of discussion with some people who were selling a black Fell Pony, we went to look at him and when Findlay saw him he started hyperventilating in excitement and signing 'Magic, Magic, Magic'. I rode him, Findlay had a little walk around on him to see how he reacted to Findlay on his back (as Findlay has very low muscle tone he is floppy and unbalanced) and we got him vetted, which he passed with flying colours. A week or so later, after a long journey north, Magic arrived in Scotland.

Since Magic's arrival Findlay's Dad and myself; our extended family and friends; Findlay's development consultant; and his therapists, have all been astounded at the difference he has made to Findlay's life. His makaton signing has come on in leaps and bounds, as he is determined to tell everyone about Magic. Also, although Findlay has very severe sensory issues, meaning that he doesn't cope

well with a lot of textures; smells, water etc; he insists on helping me with Magic's feeds and filling his haynets, even though he finds it really hard. Sometimes he will gag and shudder while he is helping, in reaction to the textures; but he does it as it is all for Magic.

Magic is amazing with Findlay and Iona; he is so gentle with them and walks around the school like an angel when Findlay is on him. Iona is more severely affected by the condition than Findlay; she doesn't respond and show interest in very much, but Magic always brings a smile to her face and she loves putting her hand on his muzzle. Magic will happily stand for ages with his head in her pram so she can touch him, or with his head on Findlay's lap in his wheelchair so Findlay can stroke him. Iona's physio has given us the go ahead for Iona to start doing therapeutic riding on him which I think she is going to love once she has recovered from her recent major abdominal surgery.

At the beginning of the year I 'didn't do' hairy, chunky or ponies, but now I am completely under the Fell Spell, they are such versatile ponies and their personality is fabulous. Magic has no idea what a very special pony he is and how grateful we are to him.

(I wish to point out that the fluffy headcollar was chosen by Findlay, hehe, he loves purple and turquoise hence nearly everything Magic has is in those colours.)

Charlotte James



## Graysons Chip "goes West".

After years of wanting an American bred horse to fulfil my dream of riding western I bought a Fell. Not very American, but my 2 daughters who I had to share with were 7 and 9 so I could hardly put them on a 16 hh Appaloosa. We chose a family pony and I couldn't have made a better choice.

Graysons Robbie, known fondly as Chip, arrived, and we did all the normal family riding events. We went show jumping, did dressage and showing, never coming home without rosettes—but the western dream was still there. When the girls grew older, one didn't want to ride and the other bought her own pony and I was left on my own with Chip. I turned him into my dream cowboy pony. We went to western clinics and we re-trained from English style to western. Last summer we went to our first show the Western Equestrian Society area championships—nothing like being thrown in at the deep end. We had had only a handful of lessons, but we went, and he was the only little fat hairy there amongst the quarter horses and Appaloosas.

Chip went into the show pen as if he had done it all before and when he was placed the whole arena burst into applause. This little hairy pony had made my dreams come true.

When I decided to purchase a youngster to take over from Chip in the future, this horse would be just for me. The passion for Fells had got too deep, so along came Greenholme Hania, a 2013 foal purchased at Bill Potter's open day. I asked Bill if I could name him, and as he's one of Greenholme Warriors offspring and "Hania" is Native American meaning "spirit warrior", Hania he became. Hania's future lies totally in the western equestrian world—it's a lovely calm way of riding and handling and is open to any breed.



## Gunna, my multi-trick pony

Summer 2013, when I was 11 years old, was probably the best summer I have ever had. That was mainly because I was able to take my fell pony, Gunna (Murthwaite Gunsmith), to pony club camp. I'd been to watch pony club camp the previous year but had never taken part. We bought Gunna in July 2012, just before camp and we just weren't ready to do it in that year but watching all the activities I was just desperate to try it all with him. Gunna was my first very own pony although I had been having lessons for a few years. My godmother had loaned us a little Shetland called Rambo when I was 2 years old but he was quite old and sadly died when I was about 6 years old. We didn't look for another pony straightaway as my mum and dad wanted to see whether I was really, really interested before making that commitment. I worked very hard on them and convinced them. We went to see about 15 ponies from Connemara to New Forest, bearing in mind all the pony club activities we would want to do. We mainly looked at older ponies, thinking that they would have been there and done that and be steady enough for me as I was still inexperienced. The discovery was quite rapid that older experienced pony doesn't always mean steady. And that "forward going" can have many meanings...

We heard about Gunna from a friend of the family who had known him since he was a foal and had helped break him in. She knew my abilities very well, so when she suggested that she knew of a fell pony that was for sale that would be just right for me, we knew we had to go and see him. Gunna was only just over 4 years old when we went to see him. We thought that his age and inexperience might rule him out, but having tried many older ponies that didn't suit me, knew that there was nothing to lose by trying him out. It was torrential rain that day, not ideal weather at all for trying a pony out for the first time. But this was not just any pony, this was a Fell pony. Gunna and I bonded straightaway and I had a very strong feeling that he was the pony for me. We had another try out in better weather and I knew I really wanted him. He passed the vet inspection with flying colours and shortly after he came to live with us on our farm in North West Durham.

Over the next year we learnt together as we were both inexperienced. Schooling, jumping, very basic dressage, happy hacking. We started out at small

pony club events over the winter. He is very excited when he arrives at pony club but quickly settles down to whatever the task may be. He may not look like the typical pony club pony but that does not stop him giving everything his best effort, and he always has admirers. Anyone who does not know much about fell ponies may think they are just one-trick ponies that just hack through the hills. They couldn't be more wrong. Fell ponies are a multi-trick pony. They can do just about anything, but maybe not the Olympics dressage or puissance. I'm looking forward to showing him in fell classes too in the future and when I'm old enough, I'd like to take him to the North East Area Group Fell Pony Camp.

At last, the week came to go to pony club camp. This was a very hot week in the middle of a very hot summer. We didn't stay overnight, we travelled in each day. Frantic cleaning of my dirty pony took place the day before camp. And again, each morning. Every day was full of different exciting activities from pony club games to dressage and some days we went on woodland rides over quite steep ground. As the typical pony club ponies struggled and panted up the hills, Gunna powered up them.



Every day we had the dreaded tack and turnout judging at the start. I had thought we had done a pretty good job but sadly for Day 1, only 8 out of 10. And yet some of the others in my group were getting 10. Okay, more effort required. Day 2, still just 8. More effort yet again. Day 3, 8.5 out of 10. So we were getting there but still more effort. I woke up extra early for Day 4, the final day. Mum and I put a massive effort in and he was looking amazing. Coat gleaming, hooves shining, mane and tail flowing. We were so proud. Tack and turnout, 9 out of 10. Result. The last day is a competition day where teams compete against each other. We did a small show jump round and a small course of working hunter type jumps. He absolutely loved the working hunter jumps and flew around them. I was so proud of him, and myself. So then the morning finished off with a "relaxing" Woodland Ride. What a morning it had been, but very, very hot. A lovely morning for the ride ..... until he saw the big muddy puddle. He started pawing the water. I realised that he was getting lower but left it too late to stop him. He didn't roll, he just sort of sank. Clearly on this very hot day we had just got him too clean. I'm sure the look on his face must have been very satisfied bliss. He got up again, nice and cool, and muddy. Good job the tack and turnout wasn't in the afternoon. I now know the signs to watch for when a pony is going to lie in a muddy puddle or water. All part of my learning.

We did a quick clean up before the pony club games and the presentation of rosettes. What an amazing week. I was more tired than I had ever been before but very happy indeed.

I love my Gunna, he is a loyal friend, very dependable ... but never dull or boring. A classic cheeky Fell pony. And he's all mine.

By Laura Hunter (age 12)



## Peepings Merlin

I just wanted to say that my Fell pony Peepings Merlin was the biggest part of my recovery programme to help me to recover from my total hip replacement in October 2013. I started walking with him starting with one crutch and then to NO crutch. I couldn't think of a better way to walk back to health.

Thank you

June Boyne Kerry



## Murthwaite Very Dainty

This is my 4 year old fell pony, Murthwaite Very Dainty. She is a pony who 12 months ago wouldn't canter. We have accomplished so much already at her young age. With her being my first youngster she has taught me a lot of new skills. This is one of my favourite pictures of us enjoying a day's sport out hunting with the Holcombe. Due her excitable nature around other horses I was very worried to how she would react but she took it all in her stride (with a bit of excitement

too). To my surprise we both loved it. Someone once asked me why I have a fell pony if I want to hunt but I say why not. She is safe and has stamina but most of all her sure footedness ensured a safe passage over the roughest of country.



Thanks

Melissa Gray



## Raisbeck Robbie

Raisbeck Robbie is a brilliant pony, 5 years old and has never put a foot wrong. I have owned him nearly a year. I live in Flixton, Manchester, but Robbie is stabled in Altrincham.



I have shown him, but hacking and now charity collecting are number one. He is going onto a busy retail park in Altrincham near Christmas to stand outside Pets at Home raising money for our local animal sanctuary, the SEA society for abandoned animals. I have a Santa sack full of hay for him. The children will love him. Then I'll be standing outside Aldi on the last Sunday before Christmas again shaking our tins and yo ho hoing. Can't wait.

Robbie raised £275 from his 2 appearances. He had loads of adults and children all around him. He stood in a

disabled-parking space for 1 ½ hours without moving. What a star.

Erica Gee and Raisbeck Robbie



## Dalehead Jewel

Dalehead Jewel is our new addition to the family. She is an eight-year-old grey Fell mare, sired by the great Lunesdale Mercury who is across the water at the Vermont Firefly Farm, and out of a Dalehead mare.



Lady is a very sweet little mare whom I fell in love with over the summer of 2013, and I was lucky enough to have a very understanding mother who helped me buy Lady when she came up for sale in October 2013.

Lady has been a broodmare for the majority of her life, producing three lovely Thornbeck foals (Leo, who is currently in Europe standing at stud; Ann, whose whereabouts are

unknown; and Baron, who is starting life as a driving pony) and a beautiful grey filly for the Crow Trees Stud.

She is very nervous, but coming on in leaps and bounds. Lady will hopefully be doing her first inhand show at the Yorkshire Dales, Highland, Fell and Shetland Show in Skipton, North Yorkshire in April.

With any luck, I also hope to take her in the novice ridden classes once she is broken and coming on. So far I've only sat on her bareback, but I'm still alive at the moment.

I have to admit I have never been a big Fell Pony person, even with my mother loving the breed and having Fells for the past twenty-odd years. I've always liked my Traditional Cobs, and have a cracking coming three-year-old. But Lady is my first Fell Pony, and she is very special to me. I hope to have her competing and experiencing everything from ridden show classes to showjumping, to dressage and horse agility.

I would like to thank the Crow Trees Stud near Harrogate for the opportunity of having and loving Lady; without them, I wouldn't have my dream girl.

Kim Hinds



## Foalsyke Fell Ponies

A lot has happened since the last issue of the FPS magazine. In October the BBC filmed at Foalsyke Stud during a vet visit. Hopefully the Fell ponies will be included in the soon-to-be-shown documentary. The ponies were very well behaved so they should be a good advert for the breed.

We've started breaking a couple of young mares, 'helped' by the yearlings and foals - so even they have had the saddle on. I'm looking forward to the lighter nights to get more riding in.

Unfortunately, Foalsyke Charlotte had major eye surgery after a tumour developed, resulting in the removal of her left eye. She's coping well. Although it's early days I think she'll manage quite nicely. So at this year's breed show we'll be entering the Fancy Dress as Pirates, complete with eye patches.

The stallion Stenerskeugh Bonnie Lad is now back in work after a winter break. I'm hoping to get a few endurance rides under our belt this year, because we've had a couple of years off for various reasons. I hope I will have my own transport too, which will make things easier.

Finally I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and successful 2014.

Anne Richardson

Foal Syke Farm

Co. Durham



## Peahill Basil on BBC's Countryfile

On Friday 24th January Matt Baker and the Countryfile team came to Silecroft to film a feature for the primetime BBC1 programme, which will be shown on 9th February.

*Basil was impeccably behaved for Matt and took to the cameras like an old hand.*



Basil and his horsey friends are the ones that you see galloping along the beach each week on the opening credits of Countryfile. The BBC have had so many enquiries about where it is that they decided to do a programme on the making of the opening credits...and this is where we came in. Our fabulous Fell pony, Basil, took the starring role when Matt decided to ride him rather than any of the other ponies.

Basil was impeccably behaved for Matt and took to the cameras like an old hand. He galloped along the beach with his mane and tail flowing looking like a real movie star. Matt loved him and even did a little talk about the origins of Fell ponies and what they were used for. Basil narrowly missed out of being on the opening credits because, in typical Fell pony style, he wasn't in the mood for going any faster that particular day. He has also never been a big fan of getting his lovely feathers wet - he will do anything to dodge dipping his toes in the water. Basil is already a local celebrity and has appeared on TV twice before. He regularly goes to Muncaster Castle to give pony rides and is their 'Mascot Pony'.. He loves being at the castle - I think he has ideas above his station...

Last year he appeared on a CBBC programme called *Marrying Mum and Dad...* this was a programme where children designed and planned their parent's weddings. The one Basil was involved in was a Medieval themed wedding at Muncaster castle. He had to be draped in medieval style garlands and parade in front of the castle as part of the wedding procession. Once again, he was a natural and wasn't bothered by the cameras or the medieval band..

The other programme was an ITV programme about OCD where the sufferer found that horse riding was a real source of relaxation from the everyday stresses of the illness. Basil once again took to stardom like a pro.

Basil has his own Facebook page (look for Peahill Basil.) and has over 300 friends who love to know what he is getting up to with all his adventures. They were very pleased with the pictures of a celebrity on his back.

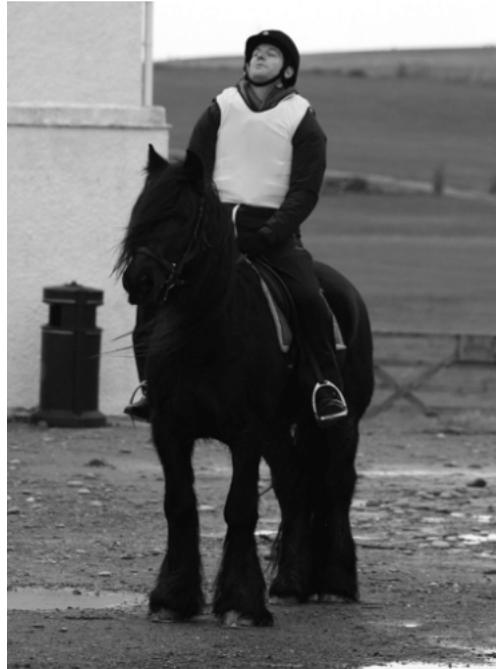
His fame is international - having featured twice in the 'Fell Pony Express' - which is the Fell Pony Society of Northern America's biannual magazine.

Peahill Basil really is one of a kind, not only for his fame and personality; he is the only "Peahill" that has ever been bred. Out of Rackwood Velvet and by Heltondale Bracken, Basil was bred by Eileen Walker in 1996 and was her one and only "Peahill" before she starting using the "Rackwood" prefix for her foals. We have owned Basil for 4 years and he is a real 'all-rounder'. He has done all our long distance trail rides - climbing over many of the Lake District fells. I have ridden him round the Mary Townley Loop and he does beach rides everyday. He even enjoys his lessons with Pony Club and has been known to do some show jumping competitions.

He is also a typical Fell who knows his own mind. He has been known to go backwards rather than forwards and can plant his feet very firmly when he doesn't want to do something. We wouldn't change him for the world though - he has the biggest character and the most loveable nature of any pony I have ever known.

Cath Wrigley & Emma Garnett

Murthwaite Green Trekking Centre



*Basil looking as though butter wouldn't melt while Matt does some stretches.*



## Lownthwaite Fell ponies celebrate 125 years

The Wales family have been breeding Fell Ponies since 1889, when Thomas Wales and his mother Mary moved to farm at Lownthwaite as tenants of Lord Hothfield's, Appleby Castle Estate. As a tenant farmer he was required to take on the 'hefted stock', 30 cows, 100 sheep and 50 ponies as part of his tenant's contract.

It was Thomas's son Harry who first registered ponies in the National Pony Studbook. These appeared in Volume XXI, Fell Section. He registered four Fell Ponies, bred at Lownthwaite, with recorded pedigrees; using his own name as both breeder and owner and the name of the farm he now owned, Lownthwaite, as a suffix. This meant that the ponies did not appear together, for then as now the studbook was printed in alphabetical order of pony names. The four ponies he registered were:

Jenny of Lownthwaite 6367, born 1926, named after his mother.

Lucy of Lownthwaite 6368, born 1923, named after his daughter.

Mary of Lownthwaite 6369, born 1922, named after his grandmother.

Sarah of Lownthwaite 6370, born 1926, named after his wife.

125 years on from when Thomas Wales and his family moved to Lownthwaite, his great grandchildren, Christine Morton and Frances Awde, and great-great grandchildren continue to breed Fell Ponies. The Lownthwaite herd continue to roam the Northern Pennines in much the same way they did back in 1889 and represent one of the last hefted, semi-feral herds. This herd is not merely a random group of ponies but consists mainly of family members related to the ponies which Thomas "took on" in 1889. The ponies are kept in a similar manner as they always have been fillies, geldings and mares both young and old are "at the Fell" for the most part of the year. Mares are brought in-by for foaling and covering because stallions are not allowed on the Fell. At weaning time the foals are kept inside whilst their mothers return to the Fell for the winter months. We continue with this tradition to ensure that the ponies retain their hardiness and sure footedness.

To commemorate the 125 year anniversary of Lownthwaite Fell Ponies we are running a points scheme for Registered Fell Ponies starting from 1st March 2014. There are sections for Ridden Showing, In-hand Showing, Dressage, Endurance, Driving and Performance. A number of commemorative rosettes will also be awarded at shows during the year. We are also holding a writing competition, 11 years old and under, 18 years old and under and over 18s. The topic is "why your pony is special" and why they deserve to be awarded a commemorative rosette. Ponies must be registered in the Fell Pony Society Studbook, and their registered name and number along with your contact details must be on the back of your entry. Entries must not exceed 1000 words and the competition will be judged by the Gamblesby coffee morning group. All entries are free and the closing date for

both the points scheme and the writing competition is the 1st November 2014. Please note that entries will not be returned. For further details please contact Alison Morton on 01768 881216, via e-mail [mortongamblesby@farming.co.uk](mailto:mortongamblesby@farming.co.uk), or visit the Lownthwaite Fell Ponies Facebook page and our website [www.lownthwaitefellponies.co.uk](http://www.lownthwaitefellponies.co.uk).



*Left—Frank and Thomas Wales with champion stallion Johnny Walker. Right—Harry Wales' pony by Peepings Swell, used daily for shepherding. Centre—still at the heart of it all—the Lownthwaite herd on the open fell.*



*Alison Morton driving Lownthwaite Fingerprint at the Southern Breed Show in 2012*



## Fell Ponies promote the South Pennines.

In September 2013, the BBC's Inside Out documentary series featured the South Pennines.

This hidden area of upland between Manchester and Leeds was considered and rejected as a National Park when these were being set up in the 1950s. The area was considered to be too industrial, but now there are moves afoot to raise the profile of this historic landscape, celebrating the natural and architectural heritage that powered the industrial revolution.

The South Pennines is a rugged area with a huge number of paths, tracks and trails that provide some of the best places in England to walk, cycle, mountain bike and horse ride.

Windswept moors, craggy rock outcrops and shining Victorian reservoirs cover the uplands. The dramatic valleys are wooded with mature native trees, fields are bounded by drystone walls, and canals, rivers and tumbling waterfalls bear testament to the watershed that has shaped the landscape and history of the region.

The earliest transport links between the gritstone towns, villages and upland communities were of course, the wonderful ponies from which our modern Fells are descended. For centuries all the necessities of life such as salt, milk, coal and lime were carried over the Pennines by packhorses, whose agility and strength enabled them to negotiate the steep slopes.

Using the high routes to avoid the boggy valley bottoms where there was danger of ambush, the packhorse trains established a network of trails paved with causey stones. Distinctive packhorse bridges with low sides allowed the transport of packs weighing up to 16 stone.

So...when adventurer and presenter Paul Rose wanted to get the authentic experience for the documentary... he approached Peers Clough Packhorses for a gentle walk through the Pennine landscape and evoke a sense of history that we continue today.

Our locally bred Wellbrow ponies Danny and Target were the perfect gentlemen and true professionals,



demonstrating all the best attributes of their breed - patience, enthusiasm and good manners.

The South Pennines provide some great locations for shopping, eating, drinking and accommodation - a perfect location for a family adventure holiday or adrenalin filled weekend with friends.

Wellbrow Fells provide great ponies, and Peers Clough Farm provides a great place to stay and ride them.

[www.peerscloughfarm.co.uk](http://www.peerscloughfarm.co.uk)

[www.wellbrowfell.co.uk](http://www.wellbrowfell.co.uk)

[www.peerscloughpackhorses.co.uk](http://www.peerscloughpackhorses.co.uk)

[www.paulrose.org](http://www.paulrose.org)

[www.southpennines.co.uk](http://www.southpennines.co.uk)



## Greenholme Gambler



Greenholme Gambler, winner of the 2013 Yearling Section of the Fell Pony Society Points Awards. By Greenholme Warrior out of Greenholme Bonny, he is much loved, and I am looking forward to spending many years having fun and enjoying ourselves together. This award is icing on the cake after a 'rocky' start to the showing season (due to extreme excitement issues..) but now we have got it together and there is no looking back. Thank you Mr and Mrs Potter for breeding and allowing me to purchase such a wonderful pony, I will treasure him.

Debbie Roberts-Jones. Trefarclawdd Farm, Oswestry



## Kerbeck Fire Cracker

2013 has been a rewarding year for Kerbeck Fire Cracker and Gillian Kilburn. The dressage duo have won the title of 2 dressage series at Cumbria Riding Club and Ellen Valley Riding Club following multiple wins at Prelim and Novice level throughout last year.

Gillian bought Cracker as 2 year old in 2002 from his breeder ,Christine Robinson of The Kerbeck Fell Pony Stud in West Cumbria. After backing him, she began his initial flatwork training before taking a back seat, as I competed Cracker in Showjumping, Dressage and Eventing at Pony Club for many successful years.

In 2010 Gillian began competing at Cumbria Riding Club in a sphere of events but mainly dressage. Since then, the pair have won a dressage series every year and in 2012, won the Fell Pony Society Dressage Award. Early success in Prelim classes allowed them to form a great partnership in the dressage arena, and now 3 years later they are saying goodbye to Prelim after many wins and focusing on Novice and Elementary classes for 2014.



Cracker is well known for his quirky attitude; buck-jumping his way round cross country courses and regularly climbing over his stable door. But since turning his hoof to dressage, he has settled down into his work proving very eager to learn and tends to wear his sensible hat...most of the time.

In the space between competitions, the duo have regular dressage lessons with BHSI Christine Hamblin and train up to 3 times a week in the arena at home, leaving Saturdays for nice long hacks with a few friends and family at the Kerbeck stud.

Gillian and Cracker are a prime example of “hard work pays off.” As my mother and one of my childhood ponies, they are both my inspiration for riding and for life. Their level of dedication and commitment to what they do has never faltered and has shown everybody that it doesn’t matter who you are or what breed of horse you have—you get the best results if you put the hard work in. “Well done, Mum and Cracker.”

Sarah Kilburn-Wilson.



## Looking Ahead—FPS Southern Breed Show 2014

2014 is the 25th anniversary of the Fell Pony Society's Southern Show and planning is underway to make this year's show, on Sunday 14 September at Crown Farm, Ascott-under-Wychwood, an extra-special event. Every pony competing on the day will receive a special anniversary rosette, and so will all our helpers, so if you haven't got a pony come and join the fun on foot - there are plenty of jobs to go round. And there's plenty of activity happening before the show. For the talented artists among you, we are running a competition to design some Fell-related artwork for the front cover of the catalogue - the catalogue is A5 size, and printed in black and white - entries close on August 1 (full details on the show website). We're also putting together a booklet about the first twenty-five years of the show, from its early days in Horspath with 14 classes through to the current five ring circus. If you have memories, schedules, catalogues, results or photos from past Southern shows please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you. The Show has a website ([www.fellsouthernshow.com](http://www.fellsouthernshow.com)), Facebook group (FPS Southern Show), e-mail: [fellsouthernshow@gmail.com](mailto:fellsouthernshow@gmail.com), and you can also write to the Show Secretary at 18 Gurnells Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield HP9 2XJ.



## Looking Ahead—Royal Highland Show 2014

The Fell entry at the Highland show has been rising steadily over the last number of years, and we are now at the stage where we feel we can warrant our own Fell section with a Fell panel judge. It is the largest remaining Royal show so we think it's only right that Fells are given their own section. Our case has been put forward to the RHS and they have replied saying that they will see how the entry levels are in 2014 and make a decision from there. It is therefore vital that we get as many Fell ponies entered and shown at this year's Highland show as possible. The Show dates are 19th-22nd June.

For those who have made the journey to the Highland before, you will know what a fantastic event it is. The show itself states that it's "the greatest show on earth" and we agree. There are a million and one things to do and see so it's well worth making a holiday of. So could all Fell owners from far and wide consider adding it to their show calendar for this year and bringing their ponies to the Highland. A large entry in 2014 will put us in a very strong position for having our own Fell section in future years.

Schedules will be on the Highland Show website at the beginning of March with the closing dates being 21/4 for paper entries and 28/4 for online entries. Anyone with any other questions regarding the show is welcome to contact the FPS Scottish Area Group: Ally Smith, tel: 07884002685.



## Fell Ponies—Book Review by Bob Orrell

### Fell Ponies

Jenifer Morrissey



*Observations on the Breed, the Breed Standard, and Breeding*

When, in the 1960s, I was keen to buy a pony to carry me over the Lakeland Fells on my first ‘Saddle Tramp’ journey, I went to ask the advice of Tommy Pearson who farmed at Caldbeck. As well as being a pony enthusiast and judge, he had the doubtful honour of once being stopped by the police for exceeding the speed limit between Caldbeck and Wigton in a pony and trap. “That Fell geldin’ would have gone all day, and that’s the type thee wants to get for the journey,” said Tommy in his gruff Cumberland voice and, not shy of voicing his opinions, went on, “but mind thee gets a traditional heavy-built Fell. Some breeders are ruinin’ the Fell by breedin’ spindly-legged, long-backed ponies for the show-goers to win cups and rosettes with, but they’d be useless work hosses.”

Sadly, Tommy is no longer with us, but he would have enjoyed meeting Jenifer Morrissey, an American Fell Pony breeder who farms in Colorado in the Rocky

Mountains and has just published what I believe will become a classic among the annals of the Lake District’s native pony. A large soft-back book, 28cm x 22cm, at first glance the title *‘Fell Ponies—Observations on the Breed, the Breed Standard, and Breeding’* gives the impression of an academic tome overflowing with charts and statistics. While there are certainly plenty of both, there is a whole fund of advice, good sense and interesting comments based on the author’s experience of owning and breeding Fell ponies.

Having steered a diplomatic course around the differences of opinion that simmer amongst Fell Pony owners, Jenifer throws a brick into the wasps’ nest by commenting, “As a newcomer to the breed, I was under the impression that anything bred from registered parents must be considered a Fell. Now, with a few years of experience under my belt and after observing hundreds of Fell Ponies, I recognise that if care isn’t exercised when breeding, it is indeed possible to produce ponies that do not reflect the breed standard...I have seen Fell Ponies that barely fit within the standards, despite being bred from Fell Pony parents whose pedigrees go back generations... ‘What is a typical Fell Pony?’” She goes on to speculate, “Is it too late to Change?” and “Does it Matter?” Food for thought.

This excellent, extremely well-researched book is a ‘must have’ for all lovers of Fell Ponies. My only negative comment is that the dark contrast of some of the photographs obliterates the subject. It is available from Amazon £18-39, post free, or if you would prefer to support your local bookshop the ISBN number is 9780615910864.

Bob Orrell



## Ponies Past: Abbey Highwayman 1973—2013

A.k.a. “Freddie”—Sire, Linnel Flamenco; dam, Laithes Heather Bell.

*We don't usually carry long articles about deceased ponies, but in view of Freddie's extraordinarily long life—he reached the astonishing age of 40 years and seems to have found most of it funny—we're making an exception.*

August 1995 was traumatic, with my mother and father-in-law dying within two weeks of each other, and with my husband working abroad I took our then 14 year old twins to Somerset at the end of that month to sort out a problem which had arisen with father-in-law's house. The twins asked if we could ride out on our last day in Somerset before returning home to Surrey, and that's when my love affair with Freddie first began.



“You can ride, can't you?” asked the owner of the riding centre at Minehead. I couldn't understand his concern as he indicated what appeared to be a docile black pony tied to the barn wall, but I confirmed although I hadn't ridden for some time I was reasonably proficient.

The twins and 3 other people were all

allocated mounts and we set off for North Hill. It was a bit of a battle at first, as Freddie's main aim was clearly to sample as much grass as he possibly could rather than participate in what he decided was another boring hack. I started to relax - too soon - as without warning, while the others continued along the narrow pathway through the woods Freddie leapt sideways through the bushes and onto a previously unseen track. I thought I was a reasonable rider, but in Freddie's opinion obviously not. We sped along the track until we came to a clearing where Freddie braked to a sudden stop - and waited. All attempts to get him moving failed and eventually the riding centre owner and the rest of the party could be heard cantering towards us. “Sorry - forgot to mention Freddie's a bit of a character,” said the centre's owner. “He knows all the short cuts.” And so he did. I spent the rest of the hack cajoling Freddie to keep to the appointed paths rather than hurdle hedges. When we returned to base my offer to untack was gratefully accepted. “Of course, this is Freddie's last season,” said the cheerful centre owner. “He will soon be too old to hack out all day. At the end of the season we usually pass on our older horses to the RDA, but Freddie's not suitable. He'll be going for slaughter.”

I couldn't get those words “going for slaughter” out of my head. My husband said he was sure the Centre would re-home Freddie, but just to set my mind at

rest two weeks later we set off for Minehead “just to check”. When we arrived Freddie and the other horses were tied to the barn wall waiting for what the centre owner said would be the last party to ride out before the season ended, and in answer to my all important question he added, “No, we haven’t been able to rehome him. He’s destined for the meat market”. We didn’t hesitate. Out came the cheque book and two weeks later 22 year old Freddie was delivered to Surrey. As he was about to leave the centre manager produced a tatty piece of paper on which was written a telephone number. “Ring this number when anything happens to him,” I was told. “It’s just someone who was rather fond of him.” I put the piece of paper away and for the time being, forgot about it.

Freddie moved to livery at Pachesham and our adventures began. Pachesham was an event yard full of beautiful horses - and an owner who was not only caring, but who was incredibly knowledgeable and understanding of all breeds. Freddie might have looked out of place, but he didn’t know that. He was allocated the prime stable on the yard from where he was able to monitor everyone and everything. On the days when events took place all the yard horses remained stabled until the competitors departed - except Freddie. He was turned out into the dressage arena which had established 8’ high grass banks surrounding it. Perfect for an agile Fell. How happy he was grazing the top of the banks whilst the perceived hierarchy of the equine world were working. Yes, there were lots of comments from x-country competitors who said the “black pony standing on the banks had put them off” but Freddie didn’t care. He was supremely happy.

Freddie was a “trusty”, never phased by anything, and everyone wanted to ride out with us because of his calming effect on even the youngest, skittish horse. He could be safely turned out with geldings or mares and he had an in-built SatNav. Never need take a map or compass on a hack - Freddie had an amazing sense of direction, and even when riding through the thickest unchartered woodland he instinctively knew the best (and quickest.) route home. Freddie’s prime objective when riding somewhere new was to surreptitiously spot choice grass which his brain registered ready for the next time he passed that way. I had to be particularly vigilant when riding past Yehudi Menuhin’s music school, as Freddie would try every trick in his extensive book to veer into the driveway - and it was not because he loved music.

Freddie’s first few months at Pachesham drove everyone to distraction, in that when it was time to come in he performed an amazing disappearing act. So much time was wasted by so many people. Eventually, when all the other horses had been safely stabled, the field gates would be left open, and when Freddie decided it was time to come in he would miraculously appear and let himself into his own stable. He never changed. When we moved to Oxfordshire I spent many an unproductive hour searching for him. He seemed to know if I was searching because I wanted to ride out, in which case he became Mr Invisible, but he never failed to appear at tea time. One morning I had decided to ride out before letting him out into the field. I tied him up outside the tack room whilst I collected his saddle. I’d just lifted it from the rack as the door closed. Before I could reach it I

heard the outside bolt slide across - trapping me inside. Although I knew there was no-one to hear (unless "Postie" called 2 hours earlier than usual) I shouted - and shouted - and shouted. I banged the feed bin. To no avail. Although Freddie was standing just outside the door, despite the commotion he didn't even shuffle. I decided I would have to break out, and used an improvised crowbar to smash a hole in the wooden door so that I could put my hand through and slide the bolt back from inside. And Freddie? Still tied up, happily standing quietly, obviously delighted to have delayed the trip out, no doubt knowing time wasted on my great tack room escape meant the jaunt would not be as long as originally planned.

My interest in Freddie's past grew and I remembered the piece of paper which had been given to me by the Somerset riding centre owner. I telephoned in the hope of finding out more of Freddie's background - and wasn't disappointed. It transpired the number belonged to the Humber family of Withycombe, who had bought Freddie as a 4 year old from Mr Vaughan (of Lunesdale Rupert fame). Mrs Humber was overjoyed at our contact, as it transpired Freddie had been loaned to the riding centre when he was 15 and her son was no longer around to ride him. This was conditional on him being returned to her care when his days at the riding centre ended. She had visited him regularly and had been horrified when she discovered he had been sold. This was pre-Passports, and we can only hope a similar situation would not arise today. Amongst the papers Mrs Humber gave us was a letter from the BHS West Somerset District Committee dated July 1979 thanking her for permitting Abbey Highwayman to join the Dunster parade, describing him as "an excellent example of an unusual breed", together with a receipt indicating he had won £3 for the "Best Fell".

The papers Mrs Humber provided enabled me to contact Mr Vaughan, who had purchased Freddie as a foal from his breeders, Mr and Mrs Dobie of Eyemouth, Berwickshire. A letter from Helen Dobie to Mrs Humber acknowledged Freddie's purchase from Mr Vaughan and stated they had a number of foals and older ponies for sale. Helen Dobie wrote, "although they are highly versatile, they all have a mind of their own and might not do anything". The letter also stated Highwayman's sister was "for sale cheap, as she is too big to breed pure". (We think this might be Abbey Buttercup, who was with the White family when she died aged 34 circa. 5 years ago). In 2009 Mrs Humber came to visit us in Oxfordshire and I am sure Freddie remembered her. He normally ignored anyone outside our immediate family, but as soon as Jean Humber walked through the gate Freddie looked up, whinnied and trotted over to greet her.

Freddie was a real Jekyll and Hyde character, with very definite ideas about his own welfare. Our Vet used to say he was the only equine he knew who could rear on one leg whilst kicking out with both fronts. In fact an ideal circus pony. When we moved from Surrey to Oxfordshire we acquired our own land, and at 27 years old Freddie became Master of all he surveyed. When my daughter went to University her horse went with her and Townend Sandra II (alias Topsy) came as companion to Freddie. Sadly Topsy had to be put to sleep in 2007 aged 26 and

Blue Cross Cupid (Welsh Mountain Section A) was given the task of Freddie befrienders.

When Freddie died in May this year following a stroke he was just into his 41st year, although he had not lost condition. His teeth had long since worn away, and whilst he had just "quidded" grass and hay for several years, he thoroughly enjoyed his 6 bucket feeds a day. Everyone says what a wonderfully pampered life he had, and that 40 is a fantastic age, but it hasn't made his death any easier to bear. There is not a day go by when I don't think about him. He was loving and kind - when it suited him - though at feed time or when saddling, he thought nothing of taking great chunks out of anyone unwise enough to be standing close. He could open doors and gates, and on more than one occasion was caught limboing under the post and rail fencing. He ruled our lives for 18 years. We didn't have holidays or even weekends away. We loved him so much and couldn't bear to leave him in anyone else's care. He was the special one. We had some amazing adventures together. Now he has gone there will be no more adventures, but the memories will remain forever. No-one will ever be able to take those away.

Was Abbey Highwayman (alias Freddie) the last of the Abbey ponies, or are there others still alive? Freddie always seemed indestructible and we believed he would go on forever.

On one occasion when our Vet was away another of the firm's partners, whom we had not seen before, came for the annual vaccination. I remember him asking if we took in boarders; rather puzzled at the question I said, "No."

"Pity," said the Vet. "Seeing how well this old pony is looked after I'm thinking I'd like to come and live here."

God Bless and thank you Freddie.

Sadie Densham

## **HORSEY TABLE TOP SALE**

In Aid Of EQUINE GRASS SICKNESS

All proceeds going to the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Services, Edinburgh

**16TH MARCH 2014 From 10am - 4pm**

**TEBAY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

2mins from M6 Junction 38 (will be signposted from Tebay roundabout)

Time for a spring clean? Bought a new horse? Outgrown clothing? Needing something for the coming season?

**THEN COME ALONG AND GRAB A BARGAIN.**

Book yourself a table for £5. Entrance on door is £5.

To include a cup of tea or coffee and bacon butty or vegetarian option in morning, homemade scones in afternoon. To book a table or for more information, please contact

Lynn Winder on 015396 24553 or 07837658096

**Fell Pony Books**  
from  
**Willowtrail Farm**  
by **Jenifer Morrissey**

**Fell Ponies: Observations on the Breed, the Breed Standard, and Breeding—NEW.**

Full color, 250 pages.

available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or  
[willowtrailfarm.com](http://willowtrailfarm.com)

**My Name is Madie—NEW.**

A remarkable Fell Pony filly tells the story of her first year of life accompanied by photographs from Colorado and Tennessee. Written for pre-teens, Madie's story captivates adults. Full color, 28 pages.

available at [lulu.com](http://lulu.com) or  
[willowtrailfarm.com](http://willowtrailfarm.com)

**A Humbling Experience**

Through more than forty stories and over one hundred color photographs, the author touches on her discoveries of breed history and conservation, natural horsemanship, and the individual ponies in her care.

Available from the Fell Pony Society

And coming in March 2014:

**What an Honor**

(sequel to *A Humbling Experience*)

Available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or  
[willowtrailfarm.com](http://willowtrailfarm.com)



**Poem: Transitions**

On a horse called Autumn  
shiny conker coat a thickening  
rosehips ripen in the hedgerow  
homeward walk a quickening  
'nicker nicker' to her friend in field

calling Winter, winter darkness  
soft eyes eagerly await their  
breakfast

Polly purrs about my wellies  
headcollars off, trot from the  
gateway  
mud until March, have a lovely day

Hope, the horse, Springs eternal  
necking through each other's mane  
still watch for foxy folk a playing  
then canter down cow-parsley lane  
she wickers, "where the heck you  
been."

our swallows make it a Summer high  
shies at pigeon, pigeon-flap.  
cloudy skies, there's hay to stack  
feather fetlocks fly along the gallop  
now, time to talk to bay and black.

by Priscilla Bainbridge, Lincolnshire.  
owner of two ponies, Orton Hall  
Davie and Inglegarth Orion

# Society Merchandise Price List

## CLOTHING (with FPS logo)

|                                               |        |       |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Reversible Showerproof<br>Fleece Lined Jacket | £26.00 | £5.50 | £31.50 |
| Rugby Shirt                                   | £30.00 | £3.00 | £33.00 |
| Hoody                                         | £22.00 | £3.00 | £25.00 |
| Fleece Sweatshirt with Collar                 | £21.00 | £3.00 | £24.00 |
| Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Adult)                  | £17.50 | £3.00 | £20.50 |
| Polo Shirt (Adult)                            | £15.00 | £3.00 | £18.00 |
| T Shirt (Adult)                               | £12.00 | £3.00 | £15.00 |
| T Shirt (Child)                               | £10.00 | £3.00 | £13.00 |
| Fleece Waistcoat (Adult)                      | £22.00 | £3.00 | £25.00 |
| Knitted Hat                                   | £8.00  | £3.00 | £11.00 |
| Hi Vis Waistcoat                              | £10.00 | £1.50 | £11.50 |
| Reversible waistcoat                          | £30.00 | £5.50 | £35.50 |
| Tie                                           | £10.00 | £1.50 | £11.50 |
| Baseball Cap                                  | £8.00  | £3.00 | £11.00 |

## MISCELLANEOUS

|                               |        |       |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Towel                         | £6.00  | £3.00 | £9.00  |
| Faced cloth                   | £3.50  | £1.00 | £4.50  |
| Apron                         | £12.00 | £2.00 | £14.00 |
| Key Fob                       | £1.00  | £1.00 | £2.00  |
| Ballpoint Pen                 | £1.00  | £1.00 | £2.00  |
| Softgrip ballpoint pen        | £2.00  | £1.00 | £3.00  |
| Pencil                        | £0.50  | £1.00 | £1.50  |
| Badge                         | £2.00  | £1.00 | £3.00  |
| Car Sticker - Round or Oblong | £1.00  | £0.50 | £1.50  |
| Car Tax Disc Holder           | £2.00  | £0.50 | £2.50  |
| New Stickers                  | £1.00  | £0.50 | £1.50  |
| Large Lorry Stickers          | £8.00  | £3.00 | £11.00 |
| Mouse Mat                     | £3.00  | £1.50 | £4.50  |
| Tea Towel                     | £3.00  | £1.50 | £4.50  |
| Fridge Magnet                 | £1.50  | £1.00 | £2.50  |
| Tote Bag (large)              | £7.00  | £2.00 | £9.00  |
| Tote Bag (small)              | £4.00  | £1.00 | £5.00  |
| Shoulder Bag                  | £8.00  | £3.00 | £11.00 |
| Wallet                        | £6.00  | £1.00 | £7.00  |
| Table Mats                    | £7.50  | £1.50 | £9.00  |
| China Mug                     | £5.00  | £3.00 | £8.00  |
| Earthenware Mug               | £4.50  | £3.00 | £7.50  |
| Glass Engraved Tumbler        | £10.00 | £3.00 | £13.00 |

## CARDS

|                             |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Christmas Cards (pack of 5) | £2.50 | £1.00 | £3.50 |
| Notelets (pack of 5)        | £2.50 | £1.00 | £3.50 |
| Postcards (pack of 10)      | £1.50 | £1.00 | £2.50 |
| Calendars                   | £5.00 | £1.50 | £6.50 |

## BOOKS / VIDEOS / CD

|                                             |        |       |        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| The Fell Pony DVD<br>A Lifetime with Ponies | £15.00 | £1.50 | £16.50 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|

|                                     |        |       |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| by Roy B Charlton                   | £20.00 | £3.00 | £23.00 |
| Walk On The Wild Side               | £12.50 | £2.00 | £14.50 |
| Fell Diamonds (Jubilee)             | £5.00  | £1.50 | £6.50  |
| Spirit Of The Fell Pony             | £5.00  | £1.50 | £6.50  |
| The Fell Pony (by Clive Richardson) | £7.50  | £1.00 | £8.50  |
| British Horse & Pony Breeds         | £19.00 | £3.00 | £22.00 |
| Jubilee Book                        | £5.00  | £2.00 | £7.00  |
| One Fell Swoop                      | £5.00  | £2.00 | £7.00  |
| Hoofprints in Eden                  | £17.00 | £3.00 | £20.00 |
| Fell Fun & Fell Facts               | £2.00  | £0.50 | £2.50  |
| Showing Native Ponies               | £6.00  | £1.50 | £7.50  |
| Letters Home                        | £8.00  | £2.00 | £10.00 |
| A Humbling Experience               | £19.00 | £2.00 | £21.00 |
| Binder for newsletters or studbooks | £7.00  | £3.00 | £10.00 |
| History CD                          | £13.00 | £1.50 | £14.50 |

## STUDBOOKS / NEWSLETTERS

|                           |       |       |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Black Stud Book 1898-1980 | £5.00 | £3.00 | £8.00 |
| Studbooks to 1999 (each)  | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.50 |
| 2000 to 2006 (each)       | £5.00 | £1.50 | £6.50 |
| 2007 to 2012 (each)       | £6.00 | £1.50 | £7.50 |
| Newsletter Back Copies    | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.50 |

## PICNICWARE

|                |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Clear Tumblers | £2.50 | £3.00 | £5.50 |
| Mugs           | £2.50 | £3.00 | £5.50 |
| Bowls          | £2.50 | £3.00 | £5.50 |
| Plates         | £2.50 | £3.00 | £5.50 |
| Cutlery Sets   | £3.00 | £3.00 | £6.00 |
| Trays          | £5.00 | £1.50 | £6.50 |

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, Bank House, Boroughgate,  
Appleby In Westmorland  
Cumbria CA16 6XF  
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.





*Felt picture of ponies coming in off the fell—inspired by the Learning With Fells visit to the Greenholme ponies at Stony Ghyll, Shap. Made by Sophie Quick (age 11).*

**If undelivered, please return to:**

The Fell Pony Society (Please note new address)  
Bank House, Boroughgate, Appleby in Westmorland, Cumbria CA16 6XF  
[www.fellponysociety.org.uk](http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk)  
© The Fell Pony Society ©



**THE FELL PONY SOCIETY**

**Registered Charity, Number 1104945**

*Printed by H&H Reed's Limited, Southend Road, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 8JH*