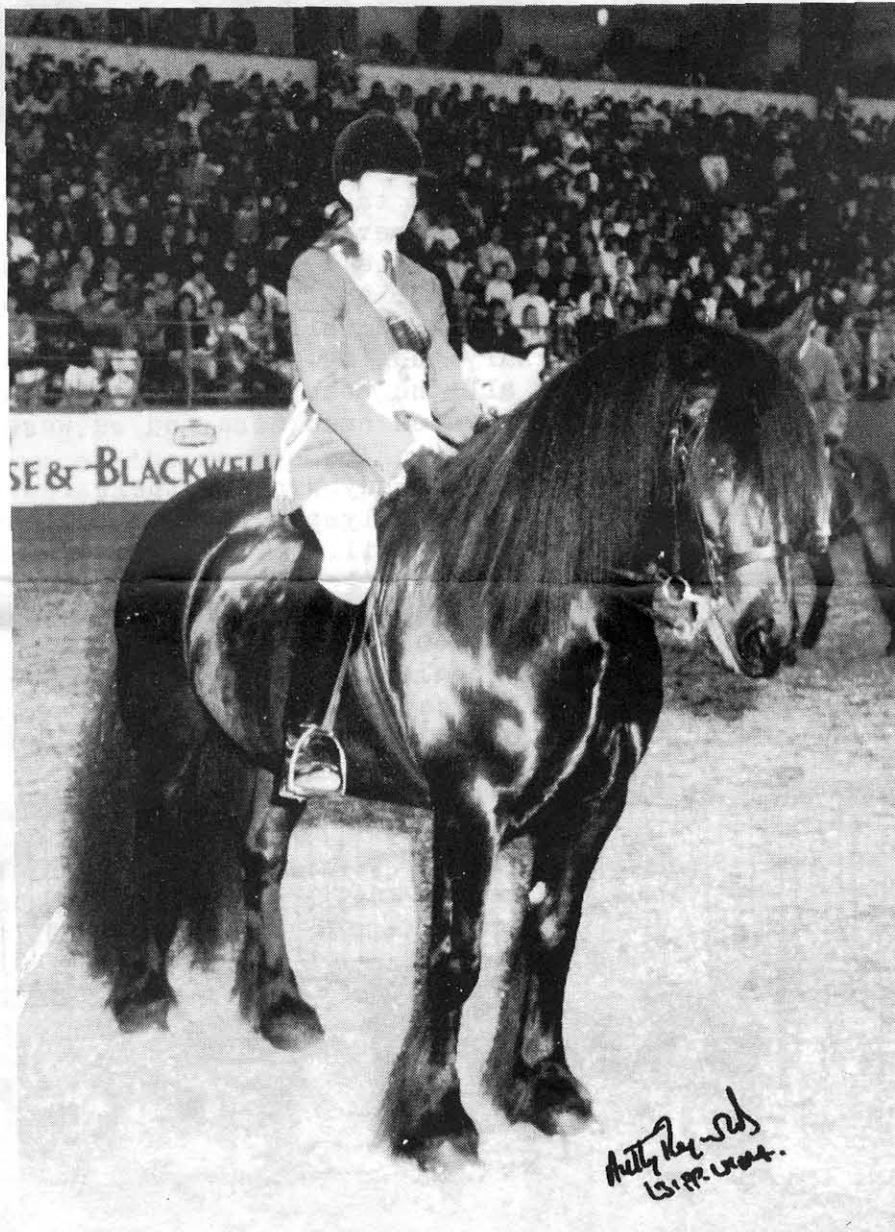


FELL PONY SOCIETY



MRS OLWEN BRIANT'S LUNESDALE LUCKY LADY

OLYMPIA 1988: The breed was represented in the final of the National Pony Society Mountain and Moorland Ridden Championship by Mrs. O. Briant's Lunesdale Lucky Lady who was given the reserve championship, the highest position achieved by a Fell in this competition. Mrs. Briant writes - "My daughter, Lizzie, has been showing mountain and moorland ponies since she was four years old, starting with Dartmoors then a Welsh B. When she outgrew these we bought a Connemara and then started to look for a Fell pony.

"We saw Lady at the Royal Lancs. Show this year and admired her from a distance and then at Ponies of Britain we were delighted to learn that she was for sale. Lizzie tried her, fell in love with her, and we bought her. It was an additional bonus that Lady had qualified for Olympia.

"Lady settled in amazingly quickly when we brought her home and charmed us all with her intelligence and lovely nature. We then gave her a holiday until the end of September. We had been lucky enough to qualify our Connemara for Olympia the previous two years and through trial and many errors had gained some experience in producing a pony for the showing in December.

"We were fortunate in that Lady had been well schooled, so we hacked her out four or five times a week up our hills to build up her muscles. Poor Lady seemed more surprised each time we produced yet another thermal rug but with her long thick mane we decided it would be unfair to put a hood on her. We did, however, close her top door at night so that her neck did not get cold and grow a coat. We turned Lady out almost every day to play with her thermals under her New Zealand! Lady obliged by keeping her summer coat until Olympia.

"Lady loves travelling and when we arrived at Olympia in the early hours she was bright and happy. We had taken her to three different indoor schools in the area during the previous weeks to get her used to being inside but we knew it was impossible to recreate the atmosphere of Olympia. We did, however, introduce her to Christmas trees and tinsel.

"Lady took everything in her stride whilst being ridden in and behaved perfectly in the preliminary judging. I certainly did not envy the judges their task of placing all the beautiful ponies. Lady seemed to enjoy the atmosphere in the afternoon even more and we were delighted to receive the best of breed award.

"To see my daughter, Lizzie, and Lady receive their reserve championship awards under the lights at Olympia is difficult to put into words. Lady is our first Fell pony but will certainly not be our last, and her generous kind temperament has completely captivated us all."



MARES AND FOALS AT MISS JANE GLASS' WOLDS STUD

TWENTY TWO YEAR OLD HADES HILL SONIA (LEFT) WITH HER THIRTEENTH FOAL,
WOLDS MAGPIE, TWO DAYS OLD, BORN OCTOBER 1988, AND TWENTY YEAR OLD
HELTONDALE ROSE V WITH HER THIRTEENTH FOAL, WOLDS SONG THRUSH.



DEBBIE COWDERY AND HER TANDEM OF FELLS

"Carriage driving and Horse Driving Trials in particular is one of the fastest growing equestrian sports in Britain today. The Fell pony is becoming one of the most popular breeds in the sport and makes an ideal driving pony in every way. The popularity of the Fells has much to do with the success currently being enjoyed by many drivers in all classes of the sport - from singles to teams. Two of the most successful Fell driving enthusiasts at the moment are H.R.H Prince Philip, competing with H.M. The Queen's team of Balmoral Fells, and Debbie Cowdery, who has gone straight to the top of the pony tandems class with her Fell ponies.

"Debbie's Fell ponies are trained at the family's Strathmilligan Carriage Driving Centre in Dumfriesshire, where the 'Tynron' Fells are bred and schooled for driving. The Cowdery family's involvement with Carriage Driving goes back a long way - John Cowdery (Debbie's father) has been driving four-in-hand for nearly forty years and began coaching with the Household Cavalry Coach in the 1950's.

"The family's involvement with Fell ponies goes back to 1979 when they went out on the Royal Fells - Tartan, Swallow, Merlin and Roy (the latter is still driven in the Duke's team) whilst on holiday at Balmoral. Debbie's mother, Pat, was particularly impressed by the versatile Balmoral Fell ponies and enjoyed riding them so much that she decided that she would like one of her own to ride. So, in September of that year, John bought Dene Betony Blossom and gave her to Pat as a Silver Wedding present! Dene Betony Blossom and Dene Duchess (who was bought by a friend at the same time and kept at the Cowdery's stables in Windsor) were both bred by Mrs. Newall in Northumberland and shown in hand with some success. Both ponies were great fun to ride and were quickly and easily trained to go in harness. They were both broken in to drive alongside one of John Cowdery's Irish Greys, an old 'schoolmaster' known as 'Radar' and were soon going as a pair. John drive Betony and Duchess in their first event at the Windsor Park Equestrian Club in the spring of 1980. Later that same year, Martin, one of the Balmoral Fells, was also sent to the Cowdery's for training.

"Dene Betony and Duchess proved to be good driving ponies and excellent under saddle. In 1981, Debbie jumped Betony round the sponsored obstacle ride in Windsor Park and rode her in the Inter Schools Dressage Competition. Betony also won second prize when shown in hand at the Windsor Forest Show and, in 1982, took first place in the ridden class at the Ponies of Britain Show. The talented mare went on to finish in second place

at the British Driving Society show at Smiths Lawn and in 1984 completed the sponsored drive around Windsor Great Park with Debbie at the reins.

"In 1985, the Cowdery family moved up to Dumfriesshire, in the south west of Scotland, to start up a Carriage Driving Centre near Thornhill, after Andrew Cowdery (who had just started competing with his father's team of Irish and Hungarian greys) was paralysed in a swimming accident. From the new stables, John Cowdery was able to continue to drive his four in hand at coaching events and start teaching carriage driving. He also drove his grey team at the Holker Hall Driving Trials in 1986 and has written a book called 'Carriage Driving' on the sport. The Fell ponies, when they were not being used for teaching driving and giving lessons, were ideal for trekking - and groups of riders from local hotels come up to ride in the beautiful Tynron Glen. The Strathmilligan Fells grew in number with the purchase firstly of Dene Bugle Blossom (Betony's full sister) and then, later, Dalemain Bugle.

"Dalemain Bugle - or 'Boysie' as he is known - was broken to drive and went exceptionally well in single harness. Debbie started competing with him at local club events in 1986 and drove him at the East of Scotland's Seacliffe event at North-Berwick. Their national debut was at the new Drumlanrig Castle Event where they improved steadily in spite of adverse weather conditions, and Debbie rounded off the season by finishing third with Boysie at Hoghton Towers. In May of the same year, the first of the 'Tynron' Fells was born. Dene Bugle foaled on May 23rd and Tynron Trumpeter - a bonny colt foal - was a welcome addition to the growing herd of Fells.

"1987 proved to be a big year for Boysie and Debbie. They finished 5th first time out at Seacliffe at the start of the season but had improved dramatically by the time the Islabank Event came around, at Coupar Angus, Perth in May. Debbie won the Novice Single Pony from fourteen other entries in the class and qualified for the National Championships at Windsor in September. In July, Debbie took Boysie to Floors Castle and drove in the Open Single Pony class. Then, in September, they made the long journey south to compete in the Famous Grouse National Championships. Boysie excelled himself in the dressage phase and they were placed second but were almost defeated by the thick mud and terrible conditions on the cross country marathon - and dropped to 7th place. However, they made up for the disappointment on the marathon by winning the cone driving phase of the competition and pulled up to sixth place overall.

"Debbie's first outing with a tandem of Fells was at the South West of Scotland Club's Birkbush Event, when she drove Boysie and Betony together. The outing was such a success that Debbie was determined to compete in the pony tandem class the following season. However, Betony and Bugle had both been covered by the Fell stallion, Gibside Danny Boy, and were confirmed in foal, so it looked as if Debbie would have to find another pony to drive in tandem with Boysie. The search for a suitable pony was on and, in November, John was offered one by Ronnie Mowbray, the Carlisle horsedealer who had previously supplied John with several of his fine Irish greys for the team. This pony, it transpired, had come originally off the fells but nevertheless it was just right for the job. So Buster joined the Cowdery Fell team and was broken in single harness by John and Debbie in December.

"Throughout the winter, Debbie worked hard on the two Fells and soon had them going well in tandem - with Buster in the wheel, stocky and strong, and Boysie in the lead, bold and brave. Once again, the local South West Club Event proved to be an excellent opportunity to gain some experience of competition without the pressures of a full national event and Debbie's tandem looked very promising.

"Fortunately, Debbie was able to use the 'Charlie Wylie' carriage she had driven single the year before and John supplied her with a working set of tandem harness but she still needed a full set of tandem show harness - so Debbie set to work herself making it! During the winter, Debbie went away on a saddlery course to learn all about saddlery and harness making. Then, with the help of the family, she set up her own business, Key Saddlery, supplying equestrian equipment, making and repairing saddlery and harness. The tandem harness was her first finished set - and was beautifully

made. Since then, she has made further sets and bits of tack for other people and continues to expand her workshop. So, when Debbie got married in April to David Key, who works for the Duke of Edinburgh, their wedding presents included an industrial leather sewing machine and a variety of saddler's tools!

"Even their honeymoon was cut short so that they could take the Fells to the Seacliffe Event. In a class of three tandems (the other two were horse tandems) Debbie finished second and it looked as if everything was going well. However, bad news was waiting for the family on their return from Seacliffe. Betony had produced a big strong colt foal but it had died hours after being born. Unfortunately, the vet said it was a haemolactic disorder that killed the foal and there was nothing that could have been done to save it. Bugle foaled shortly after and produced a healthy filly foal - Tynron Trousseau - which brought the Strathmilligan Fells up to six in number.

"Debbie's first full national event with the tandem was Islabank, Coupar Angus, where they were second behind Ursula Hirschberg's experienced New Forest ponies. Then, in June, she took them to Holker Hall Driving Trials in Cumbria. They were second after the dressage and finished in first place after the tough marathon phase. Holker has one of the most demanding cross country marathons in Britain and proved a severe test of the stamina and fitness of the Fells. But the Strathmilligan Fells finished in fine form and proved that Fell ponies can compete under any conditions and are as well suited, if not more so, to the rigours of driving trials, as any other breed - provided they are well trained and fully fit.

"After a moderate round in the cones, Debbie finished the event in second place but the Fells had certainly proved themselves. At Floors Castle in July they were third in every phase and finished third overall in a very strong pony tandem class. The Fell tandem after just competing in three out of six national events had reached second place in the 1988 Carriage Driving Points League Championship - a superb start to the season.

"While having several Fell ponies in training at present for clients and driving enthusiasts, Debbie has now put a Fell team together with the help of her father, John, who has a wealth of experience in team driving. There is a strong possibility that she may compete with them this year if a sponsor can be found to help with the cost of new equipment and extra staff that this will entail. Debbie has the determination to win and perhaps will be challenging the Duke of Edinburgh whose other Fell team is so successful. It should be an interesting competition and should further help to establish the Fell as one of the top breeds in competitive carriage driving"



MARY LONGSDEN DRIVING HER PAIR OF FELLS



MARES AND FOALS AT LOWNTHWAITE

Fell Pony Society members, Lyle and Mary Nygaard from Florida have sent in the following account of their search for suitable Fells to set up the first Fell pony stud in the United States, and the problems of transporting ponies to the other side of the Atlantic.

"Our search for Fell ponies to import into the U.S. as foundation breeding stock was not an easy task we found, but thanks to several people, the right ponies were finally located, and the complicated process of vetting and transport to the U.S. was underway.

"The big day finally arrived when our five Fell ponies would fly to the U.S. Our son's friend, Robert McFadzean of Perth, who, like our son, is a farrier, had the enormous task of collecting the ponies, having them vetted, filling out form after form, and transporting them to the airport for their flight to the U.S.

"The day the ponies were scheduled to leave England, we set out with our truck and horse trailer for the long trip to the quarantine centre in New York state, some 1300 miles from our home in Florida. The ponies would be in quarantine for three days, so by the time we got there, hopefully they would be ready to be released for their trip to sunny Florida. Release day was a busy day at the ultra-modern quarantine facility - our five Fells had the company of 42 other horses on their charter flight to the U.S. so there was a long line of trucks and trailers waiting to collect their various loads.

Our turn finally came, and Lowmoat Samson was the first to load but, since he had passed by two Thoroughbred mares in season, his mind was on other things and he didn't have much interest in loading into the trailer. Even with two professional handlers plus Lyle at Samson's head, he broke loose in an attempt to go back to the mares with whom he had instantly fallen in love. Lyle still held him but Mary did a stupid thing by putting her hand out in an attempt to stop Samson. It really wouldn't have been so stupid but there was a post behind Mary's arm which she was not aware was there, and Samson proceeded to wrap her arm around it! Off to the hospital emergency room with Mary. Back into the release barn with Samson. At the hospital, Mary was informed she had indeed broken both bones in her right arm. In fact, she had done such a good job of it that surgery was recommended to repair the broken bones. Into the hospital for Mary. The doctor then advised that surgery could be postponed for a few days if she preferred to have it done at a hospital near home.

"So the original plan for getting the ponies home went awry, so institute plan B. Our son, Eric, flew from Florida to New York to help his

father bring the ponies home while Mary was left to nurse her broken arm in the hospital in New York. She was finally released with full arm cast but only if she promised to fly home and not drive back with the truck and trailer.

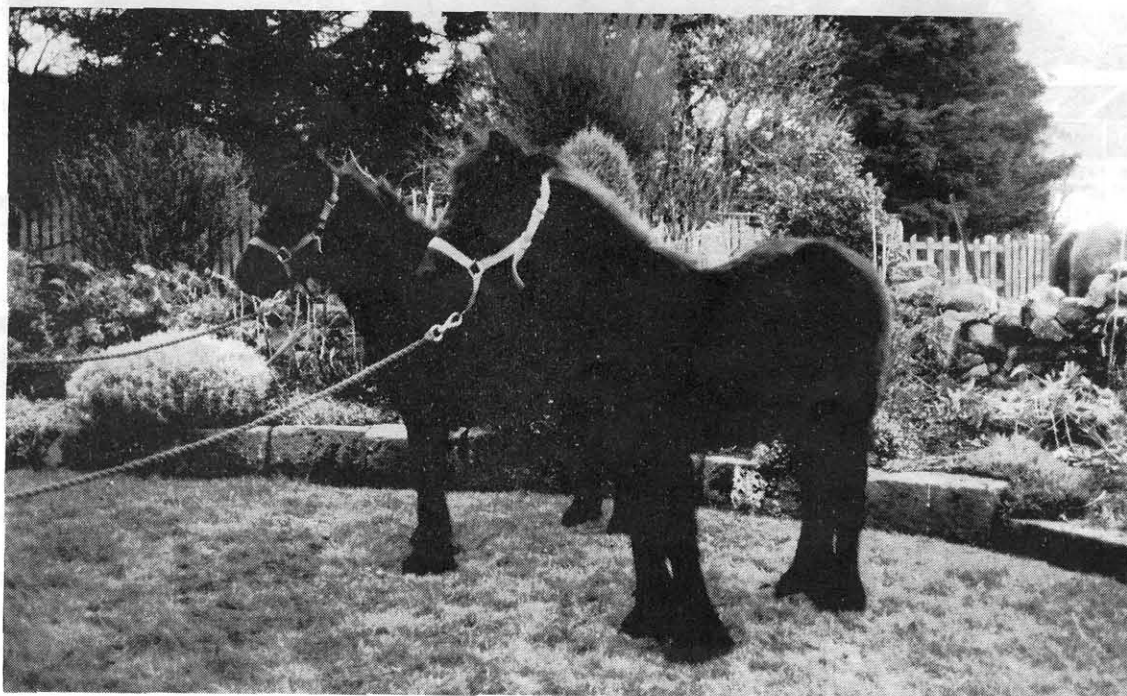
"The next day, the five Fells were finally loaded at the quarantine centre, and Lyle and Eric took off for Florida with a planned layover in Pennsylvania to have our harness maker take a look at the Fells to determine the size required for the pair harness we have on order with him for future use. Waverhead Bonny was chosen by the Amish harness maker for measuring and she proved to be a fine example of a good Fell temperament. The Amish, or plain people as they're known because of their religious beliefs, still use horses and buggies for transportation, farm with horses, and do not use electricity or other modern conveniences. A good number of the Amish are truly great craftsmen when it comes to harness making and carriage building. Well, Bonny came through with flying colours as she stood in the very strange surroundings of the dark barn with flickering gas lights as the harness maker tried on a harness we'd brought along for size comparison. For well over an hour she stood there in full harness complete with bridle and bit. She was as patient as could be. What a trooper!

"The rest of the trip home was long and hard for the ponies, even with the layover. The trip took some 26 hours plus the layover. It was an uneventful trip the rest of the way, though extremely tiring for the ponies, but they finally reached Florida, the land of palm trees and bikinis.

"Once home, the Fells were turned out into their respective paddocks, and they spent that first day totally stretched out on the ground soaking in the warm Florida sun. The trip certainly did not seem to effect the two colt's appetites. There was, and I emphasise WAS, an orange tree in their paddock. We discovered that the 'boys' really did like oranges as they ate every single orange off the trip, including the leaves. The tree is now a bare stump of twigs and branches!

"Back to the saga of the broken arm . . . The ponies arrived in Florida before Mary did. Within a day or so they seemed to be completely rejuvenated and none the worse for wear. Too bad the same could not be said for Mary. Off to the specialist for her, then it was off to the hospital again. This time it was four hours of surgery to repair the broken bones along with steel plates and screws installed and bone grafts to hopefully help mend the jigsaw puzzle bones, followed by five days recuperation in the hospital. Mary now has enough metal in her arm to set off all the airport security systems! we can't blame Samson - we all do crazy things when we're in love!

"They all seem to have gentle dispositions but Bonny more so than the others. You cannot walk near the paddock without her running up to greet



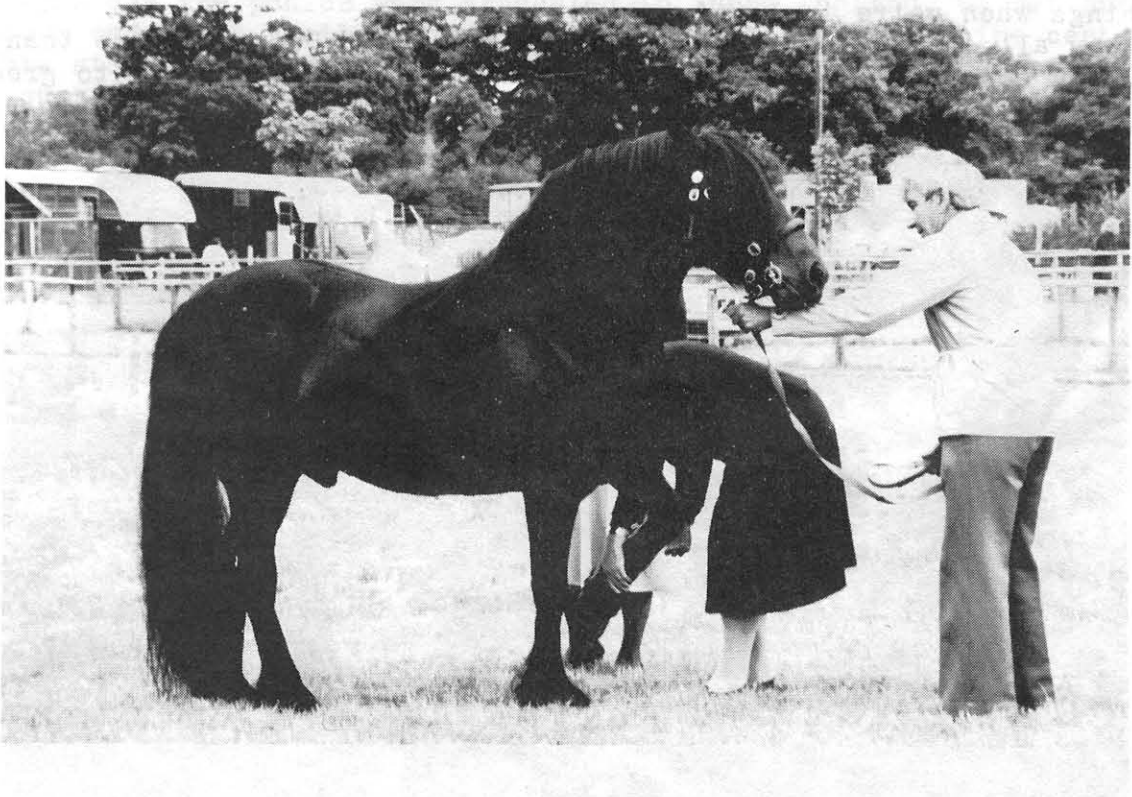
THE LOWNTHWAITE FILLIES BEFORE THEIR JOURNEY TO AMERICA

you, looking for that extra pat and attention. The two weanling fillies, Lownthwaite Orange Blossom and Lownthwaite Evelyn, did not have much handling and, as a result, were quite shy and skittish. It did not take Evelyn long to warm up to us humans but Blossom thought otherwise. Blossom refused to come with the others when it was time to go to the stalls to eat and get out of the daily sun. Due to our climate, the Fells are kept in the cool shade of the barn during the day and turned out at night when it is much cooler. Well, Blossom wouldn't have any of this. After a few days of letting her have her own way, it was decided she would have to learn to come like the others. So Lyle and Eric attempted to catch her - but Blossom had other ideas. Just when she was cornered, she jumped the four foot high fence to escape - only to run and join her stablemates which was the intent in the first place. Blossom was sentenced to several days of solitary confinement during which she received a lot of special handling and attention and took long walks with Lyle. She quickly discovered we weren't so bad after all.

"We truly enjoy each and every one. They each have their own distinct personalities, likes and dislikes, which they are quick to let you know. We are pleased that they are settling in so nicely. They all still have a good share of their winter coats but they are gradually thinning. We chose to bring the Fells into Florida in the late fall in order that they could get accustomed to our climate by going through one of our winters before having to go through our summer which is very warm and humid. During the winter our days average 70° F. with nights about 50° F. However, the past few weeks we have had unseasonably warm temperatures in the 80's. Hopefully, they'll all shed out enough before their first show which is scheduled for February at the Florida State Fair.

"We look forward to a rosy future for our Fells. As our show season begins and the Fells participate, we are confident that there will be a great deal of interest generated in the Fell breed.

"Many people have been instrumental in our endeavour and, at this time, we'd like to thank you all for your assistance, your time, your support, and your sincere interest. We've made some wonderful friends along the way. Thank you. Our door is always open to visitors so don't hesitate to stop by if you are in our area. As we southerners say, 'Y'all come!'"



MR. J. H. KNIGHT'S HIGH HEATH JASON

SPRING PERFORMANCE TRIALS: Barry Allen writes "We are again indebted to Mr. John Hodgson for the use of the picturesque Rydal Park Farm, near Ambleside, for this year's Spring Performance Trial. The event will take place on Sunday 18th June 1989. There will be a briefing for competitors at 11.30 am followed by the National Pony Society Mountain and Moorland Working Hunter Championship qualifier, then the trials with dressage, cross country and show jumping phases. There is a choice of two heights of jumps on the cross country course plus natural obstacles such as a gate, and the show jumping phase will consist of low rustic jumps. Full details and dressage sheets will be sent on receipt of entry forms. Prize money for the qualifier will be £10 first, £8 second, £5 third and £3 fourth. For the trials, section rosettes will be given to sixth place and there will be specials and section trophies. We are grateful to Mrs. Jean Ward of Lamplugh for donating a cup, to be known as the Burns trophy, for the overall winner of the trials.

"Anyone travelling over 100 miles is entitled to a £10 travel allowance, and overnight stabling is available at Wynlass Beck Riding School, Windermere (Tel. 096 62 3811). If anyone experiences difficulties over stabling or accommodation they should contact Barry or Cath Allen (Tel. 0657 4528). Volunteers for judging on the cross country course will be welcomed with open arms! Entry form at the back of the newsletter. Fees: Qualifier £2, trials £4.

AUTUMN PERFORMANCE TRIAL: This will be held at Pict Hall, Blawith, near Ulverston, Cumbria by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Baxter on Sunday September 10th at 12 noon. A perpetual trophy, the Tarnbeck Tankard, will be presented to the winner and all entrants will receive a commemorative rosette. Rosettes will be awarded to sixth place overall and special rosettes will be given for the best performances by junior and senior riders. An entry form is attached at the end of the newsletter.

LOWNTHWAITE ROB TROPHY: The winner of the Lownthwaite Rob trophy for 1988 was Admergill Ursula, owned by Mrs. E. Robinson who uses her versatile mare for all types of work both under saddle and in harness.

STALLION SHOW: The stallion show will be held at Dalemain, Penrith, by kind invitation of Mrs. S. McCosh on Saturday May 13th. Schedules will be sent to everyone who competed in 1988. Will others please apply for schedules or collect them at the Annual General Meeting. Once again, stallions must parade at the show to be eligible for an At Home premium and books must be back in the secretary's hands by September 1st. Judge for the stallion show this year is Mr. P. Boustead, Blackpool.

BREED SHOW: This will be held at Brougham Hall Farm, Penrith, on Saturday August 12th by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Helme. Schedules may be collected and signed for to save posting out at the Annual General Meeting or at the stallion show. Otherwise schedules will be sent to everyone who exhibited in 1988. Others should contact Mrs. Laing, Twislehope, Hermitage, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland (Tel. 038 73 76272) for a schedule.

Margaret Murray has contributed the following piece on the summer Breed Show - "The summer breed show must be one of the dates that Fell Pony Society members note down in their diaries. As well as being a shop window for breeders, it's a chance for the one pony owner to compete in a variety of classes where everyone from the most professional to the most novice has a good opportunity of taking home at least one rosette. For those members who are not showing it's a good day out, a chance to meet old friends and catch up with the news. And, of course, it always a lot of fun being a ringside judge!

"During the last few months I have been sorting through and marking past catalogues. For the interest of members, I have made up a file of all the eighteen years of show catalogues which will join the photographs, etc. on view at the meetings and the shows. It has been fascinating to trace the development and growth of the show from it's small beginnings at Dalemain in 1970 to the present busy show with it's four rings, each full of classes that we have now.

The first two shows were held at Dalemain but in 1972 we moved to Brougham Hall Farm where, thanks to the kindness of Mr. & Mrs. Helme it has been held ever since. The show has grown from twelve classes in 1970 to the thirty that we have today. With 104 entries, the first show was very well supported, and they increased steadily with 140 in 1975, and 179 in 1977, to reach a record in 1978 of 180 ponies. Thereafter entries levelled off to between 150 and 170 until about 1984, since when they have decreased to the 140 that we had last year. In 1970 there were 33 exhibitors showing 104 ponies, and in the record year of 1978 there were 64. An interesting point is that, since that year, despite the numbers of entries decreasing, the number of exhibitors has remained steadily in the 60's.

"Over the years the classes have grown and expanded, but in some ways they have remained remarkably similar to those of the first show. Then, the twelve classes included a costume class, handy pony, and a driving class as well as 5 in hand and 2 ridden classes. Now we have 15 in hand (including the groups) classes and the riding classes have expanded to 8 - including the qualifying class for Olympia. One class that sadly has been dropped is the Junior Judging. It ran for the first three years but as the show became busier and less time was available, it was dropped, but it gave one or two of our present judges their first taste of judging. Gradually, over the years, new classes have been added, on request, so that now with our thirty classes we have a very varied programme. Surely, there must be something to suit everyone.

"As each year passes, the display of cups grows more impressive. Thanks to the generosity of people over the years we have some really beautiful trophies. As well as the four championship cups, every class now has it's own trophy, and with each year's winners engraved on each one even the newest become special, while the older ones keep the memories of past ponies alive.

"I have no official records of the weather but over the years I think we have been fairly lucky - or is that just my optimistic nature! Of course, we haven't always had beautiful sunny days but I can remember only one really very wet day and that was about the second show at Dalemain. The show that stands out in my memory was one when the weather was extremely blustery. I had been allocated a very grand and brand new frame tent. What luxury! Sadly, it had not been built to withstand a northern gale and by lunchtime it gave up the unequal struggle and the frame collapsed. I had to retreat hastily and work, under great difficulty, from the back of Miss Bickersteht's Range Rover.

"Organising the show is an non-stop, albeit an intermittant, affair. As the committee members clear away the day's accumulated litter and pack up all the necessary paraphernalia we are already holding an informal meeting - picking over the details and discussing the successes and mistakes of the day. The show committee members all have their tasks to do and although we are each working independently throughout the year, the organisation runs fairly smoothly. However, running four rings and thirty classes is nothing if not hectic and, on show day, I for one often feel I could do with the seven pairs of arms and legs of the Indian goddess! The smooth running of the show depends on plenty of helpers, and that is what we are desperately short of. Last year was particularly bad and it comes to something when two of one's judges have to steward for each other. The highlight of my day was the incredibly kind lady from Wales - I still don't know her name - who came to our rescue and stewarded unceasingly all day. We would like to say a very big thank you to her.

"Anyone who feels that they could do some stewarding, or would be free to help in any way will be welcomed with open arms. Please just suggest yourself to any of the show committee members. 'Many hands make light work' goes the old proverb and it would certainly contribute to the smooth running of show day.

"Despite the hard work - and the moments of suspected insanity - the day is always enjoyable, and I hope the competitors feel the same way. Stuck in my tent all day, I sometimes think I see more fell ponies at home in my own fields than I do at the show. Nonetheless, as I drive wearily home at night I feel I've had a grand day and I'm looking forward to next year."



MRS ANNE GARCIA RIDING FLASH BELLE

Mrs. Garcia from Devon writes - "About four years ago, I was looking for a pony to ride as Shap Lodge Duke was getting on in years. Duke and I went up to the N.P.S. show at Malvern and there, through the kind offices of my good friend Jane Glass, I was put in touch with the Boustead family. We had a long chat about Fell ponies in general and about a grey four year old mare in particular. I had in mind a black or brown gelding but a good horse is never a bad colour or so they say. The next day Duke and I trundled up to Clifton, near Penrith, and two days later it was the Fell pony show day. Duke performed well in the working hunter pony and veteran classes. I again met the Bousteads. On my way home from the north, I went to see and ride the grey pony near Blackpool. I found a willing, forward going pony who took trains, buses and lorries in her stride, not at all spooky but rather green. I thought that the fates had decided for me and said that I would like to buy her. As I now have a single horsebox, I couldn't take her with me as Duke had to be got home. About a month later, Peter Boustead brought her halfway down to the service station near Malvern on the M5. She transferred trailers and travelled very well down here. Whether it is because she is grey or not, she is a very different pony from any of the Fell ponies I have had pass through my hands. She is very willing and intelligent with a tremendous memory. In her early days she could be quite nappy. She behaved abominably at shows, fly kicking both in hand and under saddle. Show her a jump and she was better as she loves jumping but we could have a rodeo on the way to the jump. She is certainly a character - she can be difficult to catch and a little nasty about it. I think it must stem from her early days when I think she must have been teased. When she is fit and clipped, she is very ticklish and madam's grooming has to be done very gently. Catching her, she likes something in a bowl.

"Belle loves hunting and is very good with hounds around her. Many a time I have spotted the fox as the pony has alerted me. If we get behind, she can always go the right way. Of course her short legs can't keep up on the moor but with a following wind downhill we can go almost as fast as the Thoroughbreds or go over the top of the bogs rather than in them. Belle has now been out hunting 100 times in four seasons.

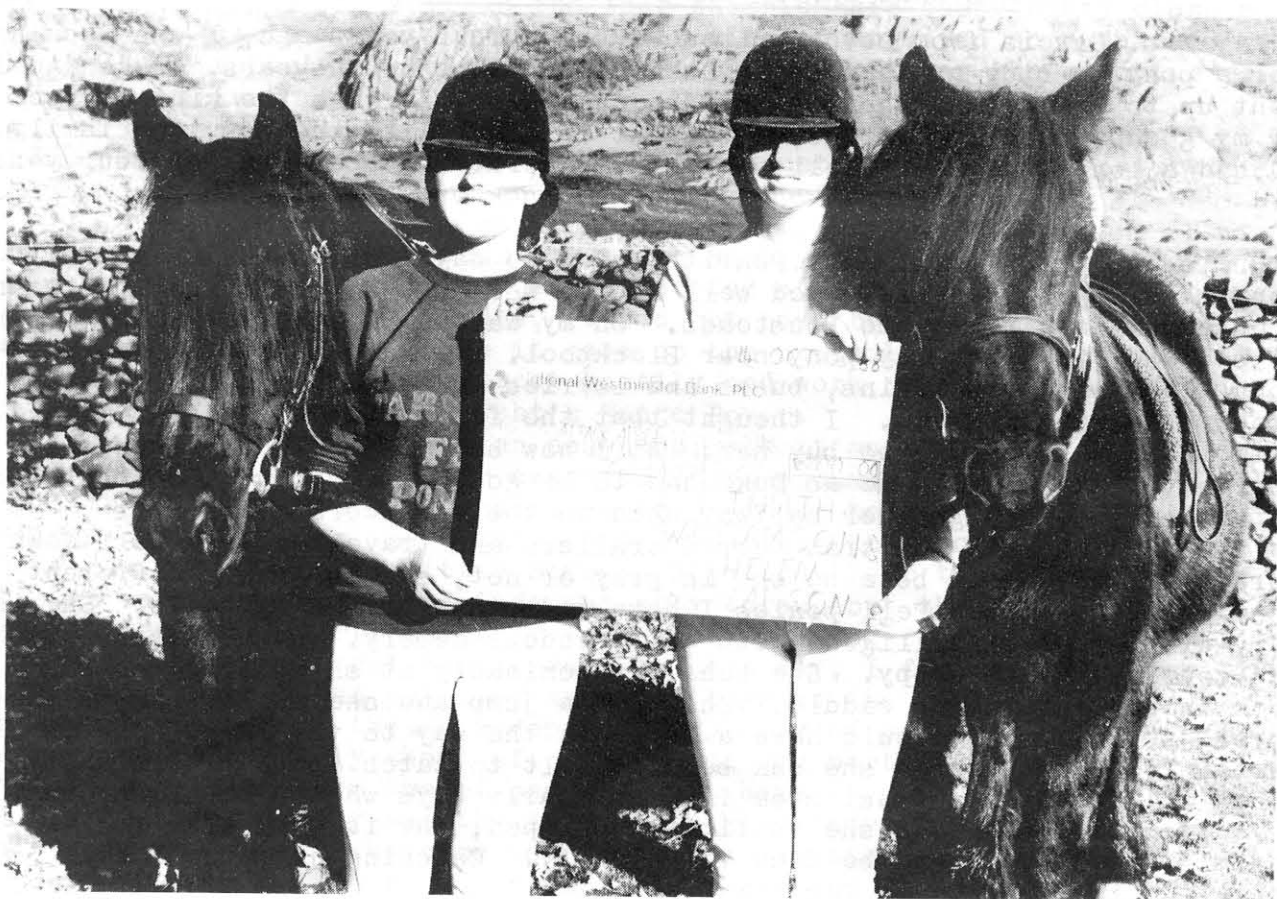
We both enjoy long distance riding. We are not fast enough for the serious rides. We have done two of them; August 1987, four of us did a 3 day and 2 night ride across Dartmoor; August 1988 we did a 5 day and 4 night ride around the north west part of Cornwall and Devon.

"Belle and I have done two rides raising money for the Devon Historic Churches. 1987 we did about 20 miles locally and visited 10 churches. We also dropped in at a local show and did some clear round jumping. Belle was somewhat puzzled by the end of the day as we kept going towards and turning away from home. It took us seven hours with a stop for a drink. 1988 a friend and I did ten different churches and chapels. I boxed over to her. At one tiny church on a rocky tor the bells were pealing and the ponies didn't mind the noise. We rode right up to the churchyard gate - it took us all day. Our hunting knowledge of the country helped with bridleways and friendly farmers. We take the church magazine to an old lady of 90 who loves to see Belle. We have also done other charity rides.

"We have had a lot of fun with native pony events. Belle won the Native Pony of Cornwall One Day Event in 1986 and 1987, was second at the Native Ponies of Devon hunter trials in 1987, and everyone knows of our escapades at the Fell Pony Rydal performance trials in 1987 and 1988. We have also had a go in riding club hunter trials and one day events. We might try some dressage and combined training this summer.

Duke and Sebastian of Shilstone Rocks, who is 26 this year, go riding in the summer when Sebastian is at a farm nearby. Sometimes Duke joins him if I go away.

"This summer Belle and I hope to go riding in Wiltshire with one of my sisters. I plan to bring Duke up to the show with my daughter and grand-daughters."



HELEN AND JUDITH WILLIAMSON WITH LOWNTHWAITE ROSSETTA AND HER DAUGHTER
TARNBECK EBONY QUEEN

Helen and Judith Williamson riding their mother's Fell mares, fourteen year old Lownthwaite Rosetta and ten year old Tarnbeck Ebony Queen took part in an endurance and pleasure ride through Grizedale forest and by doing their ride as a sponsored ride raised over £200 for the Cumbria Heart Attack Appeal fund.

BARNINGHAM FELL PONY SHOW: The second Barningham Park Fell Pony Show was held on Saturday July 16th 1988 by kind permission of Sir. Anthony Millbank. The results were as follows -

Mare, four years and over	-	Mr. D. Eltringham's Southwick Beauty
Gelding, four years and over	-	Mr. D. Eltringham's Lownthwaite Starwish
Mare with foal at foot	-	Mrs. N. Earnshaw's Townend Brandy VII
Colt or filly foal	-	Mr. G. R. Coatsworth's Rackwood Prince
Yearling	-	Mrs. G. Cockbain's Carrock Pollyanna
Two or three year old	-	Mr. W. S. Noble's Heltondale Maydeu VII
Best turned out pony & rider	-	Miss S. Brydon's Heltondale Cläre
Traditional riding class	-	Miss K. Earnshaw's Townend Polly XV
Riding class	-	Miss K. Earnshaw's Townend Polly XV
Non prize winner	-	Mr. G. R. Coatsworth's Rackwood Velvet
Driving class	-	Mr. J. B. Marsden's Dene Claudius
Youngstock cup	-	Mr. W. S. Noble's Heltondale Maydeu VII
Champion	-	Mrs. N. Earnshaw's Townend Brandy VII
Reserve champion	-	Mr. W. S. Noble's Heltondale Maydeu VII

"Our sincere thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors and spectators for so kindly supporting us once again and our special thanks to Mr. J. Hunter who kindly agreed to judge the ponies at short notice.

"This year the show will be held on July 15th at Barningham Park (near Greta Bridge off the A66 between Bowes and Scotch Corner) at 10.30 am. There are seven in hand classes including a gelding class and non prize winners, and three ridden classes, turnout, traditional and open, and two driving classes, one being a qualifier for the N.P.S. mountain and moorland driving championship held at Malvern in August and for the Thimbleby and Shorland Championship at the National Carriage Driving championships at Windsor in September.

"Schedules will be available in April from Mrs. Margaret Wilson at Townend (Tel. Caldbeck 638) or Mrs. Earnshaw (Tel. Teesdale 21261). Also, a combined Fell and Dales show supper dance is being held at the Morrill Arms, Greta Bridge on Friday 13th October. Details from the above."

WINDERMERE FESTIVAL SHOW: Torrential rain during the week before the 1988 show hampered preparations but on Sunday July 10th the clouds gave way and during the afternoon we actually saw the sun! The event was again staged at the National Park Centre, Brockhole, which provides such excellent facilities. Mrs. Laing's sale tent was in evidence providing information to the many holiday makers visiting the centre. The large classes were judged by Mrs. R. H. Ball and winners received prizes donated by a variety of sponsors in addition to the usual rosettes. There were a total of 82 entries for the eleven classes. Mr. J. Bell's Barbondale Pearl was champion with Mr. E. M. Wilson's Townend Candy reserve. The traditional trotting race was won by Mr. D. Wilkinson riding Brackenbank, and this rider also won the prize for the rider with the best traditional dress judged by Mrs. Rigby from Out Rawcliffe.

Barry Allen writes "This year the Fell Pony Show will be held at Brockhole on Sunday 9th July as part of this year's festival. Some classes at this popular show have in the past been open to all registered mountain and moorland breeds but entries other than Fells have been poor and it is hoped that we will not lose friends by restricting the show to Fells this year. The judge will be Mr. Peter Lawson, and classes commence at 10.30 am. In addition to the usual in hand classes there will be working hunter and show jumping sections and the traditional bareback trotting race. The handy pony competition will be our breed qualifier for the Norwich Union Safety First Family Native Pony Championship to be held, with substantial prize money, at the East Anglian Native Pony Society Annual Show at Huntingdon in June 1990. Full details will be included in the Windermere Show schedule bit, in brief, the emphasis will be on safety - suitability of tack and dress, and safety of the pony rather than speed or conformation. A schedule will be sent to all who exhibited last year and copies will be available at the A.G.M. or from Barry Allen, Tarn Bank, Arnaby, The Green, Millom, Cumbria, LA18 5HZ. Tel. 0657 4528

POINTS SCHEME WINNERS: The results of the 1988 senior and junior points schemes are appended. Blank performance sheets for this year are obtainable from Miss C. Dodd, North Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria (junior points scheme) or Clive Richardson, 19 Dragley Beck, Ulverston, Cumbria (senior points scheme).

Seniors - 1st - Mrs. D. Cowdery-Key's Dalemain Bugle
2nd - Miss Tesni Sexton's Wolds Goldfinch
3rd - Mrs. P. Norris' Wolds Siskin
4th - Miss J. Brindley's Eden View Moonstroller
5th - Mrs. C. Johnson's Drybarrows Lady Jane
6th - Miss C. Allen's Lazybank Bolero

Juniors - 1st - Miss Rebecca Bell & Barncross Royal (Owner - Miss Dodd)
2nd - Mr. Robert Allen's Tarnbeck Princess
3rd - Miss Rebecca Minson's Wolds Oriole
4th - Miss Ruth Ward's Joss Green

LOWTHER: The Society have again been invited to hold Fell pony classes at the 1989 Lowther Driving Trials. The classes will be held on Saturday August 5th starting at 10.30 am prompt. The judge will be Mrs. A. Newall, Northumberland. Please be in the collecting ring fifteen minutes before your class is due to start. Entry and car passes will be sent out after the close of entries. There will be a championship trophy plus rosettes and prize money in all classes. Please see entry form at end of newsletter for class details.

WINDMILL FARM FELL PONY SHOW: This very successful new show was organised by one of our members, Gwen Wordley, with help from others, and was held last September at Burscough in Lancashire. Judge was Mr. E. M. Wilson who, assisted by Mr. C. Johnson in the riding classes, sorted through the schedule of varied classes. Details of this year's proposed show may be obtained from Mrs. G. Wordley, Moss Farm, Crabtree Lane, Burscough, Lancs.

SALES ITEMS: Mrs. Laing, our sales and exhibition officer, now has a large range of sales items including sweatshirts in all sizes and colours, glass paperweights, table mats, notelets, postcards, mounted photographs and fabric covered newsletter folders. In the near future we hope to add Fell pony mugs and stud book binders to the list. For details and prices of any items please contact Mrs. Laing, Twislehope, Hermitage, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland. Tel. (038 73) 76272.

NEW TROPHIES: At this year's stallion show we will have two new trophies. Firstly a cup to be known as the Heltondale Cup very kindly donated by Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Noble and to be awarded to the best three or four year old stallion. Secondly, another very fine cup generously donated by Mrs. R. Bell of Newcastleton and to be called the Malam Memorial trophy. This cup will be presented to the best yearling colt. Both trophies are perpet

1988 STUDBOOK: Copies of the 1988 Fell pony stud book will be available shortly, price £1.50 plus 20p postage. Copies of all previous volumes are still available for new members.

BREAKING AND SCHOOLING: Following on from the list of members in the last newsletter who were prepared to take ponies for breaking and schooling, the following people are also willing to take ponies to break -

Mr. J. Cowdery, Strathmilligan, Tynron, Thornhill, Dumfries, Scotland.
Miss C. Dodd, North Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria.
Mr. J. P. Gibson, Cut Thorn, Gibside, Burnopfield, Newcastle Upon Tyne.
Mrs. C. Johnson, 13 Oakdene, Chobham, Surrey (Riding only)
Mr. D. Harle, Baal Hill Farm, Stanley, Crook, Co. Durham (Driving only)
Mrs. R. Douglas, The Cottage, Stapleford Hall, Tarvon, Chester.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Owing to lack of space some items sent in for this newsletter have had to be held back for the next newsletter which will be circulated in September. Further items and especially good clear photographs are always welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Clifton Parish Hall, Clifton, near Penrith, Cumbria, on Saturday April 1st 1989 at 1.00 pm. Tea will be served after the meeting. Subscriptions will be collected 12.30 pm - 1.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Election of four council members.
The following retire but have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election - Mr. H. F. Wales, Mr. P. Boustead, Mr. R. Rayson and Mr. J. P. Gibson.
There is one new nomination - Mrs. Sheila Hardy, proposed by Mr. J. Bell and seconded by Mr. C. Richardson
5. Election of officers -
 - a/. President
 - b/. Chairman
 - c/. Vice chairman
6. Adoption of the accounts
7. Secretary's report
8. Reports of delegates and subcommittees
9. Pleasure Ride
10. Dates of Autumn Meetings
11. Any Other Business

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FOR SALE:

Black Fell mare, rising ten years, 13.2 hh. Won in hand and ridden classes. Good in traffic and suitable for novice or experienced rider. Hunted regularly for two seasons. Genuine reason for sale. Tel. (06737) 421 (Lincoln)

FOR SALE:

Wolds Goldfinch. Bay gelding, 13.3 hh. Prolific winner. Supreme Northlight Fell champion in hand, ridden and working hunter pony. Also won show jumping, cross country and dressage. Competed in riding club teams. Only for sale as owner has no time. Offers. Contact Miss T. Sexton Tel. (0954) 50853

WANTED:

Quiet, safe and reliable oversized riding pony. Must be free-going and comfortable ride for experienced adult rider with back injury. Prefer quality aged mare suitable for breeding and broken to drive if possible, but any suitable pony considered. To companion other Fell - light moorland hacking and driven outings. Permanent home for right pony. Contact - Mrs. Hardcastle, Greenacres, Wetherham Lane, St. Tudy, nr. Bodmin, Cornwall.

WANTED:

Has anyone got any Fell ponies in or near Kent (Ashford) that I could come and look at before I commit myself to travelling to Northumberland to look for one? Contact Mrs. Underwood Tel. (0233) 72376

FOR SALE:

'One Fell Swoop' by Susan Millard. Packed with facts about the Fell pony in funny and revealing cartoon form. Available from Mrs. Laing at the Fell pony stand or from the author, Mrs. S. Millard, Daw Bank, Greenholme, Tebay, Cumbria. Price £2.50 plus 60p p+p.

HOLIDAYS:

The safe adventure. High Pennine Rides. Bring your horse to explore the bridleways of Northumberland, Durham and Cumbria. Three to seven day rides or 'Stay Put' holidays at a few selected farmhouses with a variety of day rides and opportunities for friends who walk or cycle. Brochure from High Pennine Rides, Brook Villa, Lanchester, Co. Durham. Tel. (0207) 521911

THANKS:

Lyle and Mary Nygaard would like to express thanks to the following people who provided the foundation breeding stock for New Farm Stud, U.S.A. - Mr. J. Bell & Mrs. Nancy Lightfoot, Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Burton, Mr. G. Johnston and Mr. H. F. Wales. Special thanks to Mr. Robert McFadzean for coordinating transport to the U.S.

RYDAL SPRING PERFORMANCE TRIAL - 18th June 1989

Name of pony
Rider
Owner Address

Tick here if also wishing to enter the qualifier

Name of anyone prepared to act as a fence judge

Please return with entry fees to Barry Allen, Tarn Bank, Arnaby, The Green, Millom, Cumbria LA18 5HZ by not later than 26th May. (Cheques made payable to Fell Pony Society)

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LOWTHER DRIVING TRIALS - Lowther Castle, Penrith. Saturday 5th August

Class one - Mare or gelding, four years or over, to be shown in hand.
Specials for best mare with foal and best foal.

Class two - Yearling, or two or three year old filly or gelding.
Specials for best pony in each age group.

Class three - Mare or gelding to be shown mounted.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NAME OF PONY</u>	<u>ENTRY FEE</u>
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Name Address

. Tel No.

Entries to Clive Richardson by no later than July 8th 1989. Entry fee 75P per class.

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AUTUMN PERFORMANCE TRIAL - Blawith, September 10th 1989

Name of pony Rider

Name of owner Address

. Tel. No.

Please return to Clive Richardson with entry fee of £1 by 25.8.89.

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LATE NEWS: It is hoped to hold an official Fell Pony Society southern show next year, possibly with a small informal trial show this year, and anyone interested in helping to form a small sub committee responsible for organising the show is asked to contact Miss Mary Longsdon, Orchard Cottage, Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset.

Clive Richardson
Hon. Secretary/treasurer
Fell Pony Society
19 Dragley Beck,
Ulverston,
Cumbria.

Tel. Ulverston 52742