

THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2014 - volume 29





Vyv Wood-Gee's Hoddom King Kong providing the perfect view on the Coast to Coast route. *Photo, VW-G*.

Dates for 2014-2015

Sat 18 October '14 – Promise Auction & Supper, Stoneybeck, Nr Penrith

Sat 25 October '14 – Annual Show and Sale NWA J36 Rural Auction Centre

Sun 2 November '14 – Foal & Youngstock Show, Newton Rigg, Nr Penrith

1 January '15 – FPS membership due for renewal

1 February '15 – Deadline for Spring Issue Sat 28 March '15 – AGM, Orton

Sat 9 May '15 – Stallion Show, Dalemain

Sat 8 August '15 – Breed Show, Dalemain

Sun 13 September '15 – Southern Show

Sun 20 September '15 – Performance Trials

Sat 24 October '15 – Annual Show and Sale



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Mrs C Ross-Thomson Chairman: Mrs Eileen A Walker Vice-Chairman: Mr Andrew Thorpe Secretary, Treasurer: Mrs K Wilkinson

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Council

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 C Roberts, Mr D Wilkinson. To retire 2019: Mr G H B Mallinson, Mr P Metcalfe, Mr W S Potter, Miss C Simpson.

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THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

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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.

Editorial

Digital Version of the Fell Pony Society Magazine

From Spring 2015 the Society's yearly accounts will be included in the Magazine itself, instead of as an additional printout. Also, following some discussion on social media about ways to save the Society money on postage costs, the Society plans to provide the Magazine as a digital download to Members who request it.

Members who choose digital delivery will receive access to a Portable Document Format (PDF) version of the Magazine, available via DropBox. It will not be available to anyone other than paid-up members of the Society. They will also receive a digital version of anything, eg voting papers, that the Society usually sends out with the paper copy of the Magazine. Members receiving the PDF version of the Magazine will not receive a paper copy – it is an either-or choice.

They will get everything that goes into the print edition but it will be a smaller file size, with pictures rendered for quick download and on-screen viewing. PDF files can be displayed by an internet browser or by the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which most PCs will have, and which can be downloaded free if needed, from Adobe's web site, http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/

To see what a PDF of the Magazine will look like, go to the Society's website and look at the "Newsletters" section of the menu. Each of the Magazines is posted in this way on the website, 6 months after the date of issue. I actually make that PDF at the time of editing, so it is no real trouble to provide it securely on DropBox once the paper copies have gone to the Post Office.

The Office staff now need to know if you would prefer to receive YOUR copy of the Magazine in PDF format. If you would like this option, please contact the Office by email and register your interest, providing your membership number and the email address you wish to use. The DropBox access details will be sent to that email address.

If you prefer to continue receiving the Magazine as a paper copy, don't panic you do not need to do anything! You will receive the printed version as normal unless you definitely tell us otherwise!

This issue contains some cracking articles and equally astonishing photographs. Many thanks to our enthusiastic contributors who are clearly keeping the Fell flag flying very high indeed.

Deadline for the Spring issue will be, as always, 1st February 2015.

Sue Millard

Chairman's Report – August 2014

It's been great to have a proper summer this year with lots of sunshine and warm summer evenings allowing most pony events to go ahead as scheduled. The only down side to this has been an abundance of grass so keeping ponies at the correct weight has been a real problem.

The FPS Office moved into Appleby mid February and is now firmly established in a front room at Bank House. We didn't realise how much memorabilia we'd collected over the years until we had to pack it into a smaller space. Katherine has recently taken on the dual role of Secretary/Treasurer so that she can deal with the day to day finances of the society. Anne Hogg has joined the team as part time administrative assistant providing much needed help at busy times in the office. We advertised for someone to oversee the FPS finances and prepare the books for the accountant but need not have done so as we had the perfect candidate, Elizabeth Parkin, already helping us. Elizabeth is now the FPS Financial Advisor and I've been working closely with her preparing a monthly budget so that we can monitor our income and expenditure throughout the year. It's a pleasure to work with such a dedicated, knowledgeable and supportive team.

Over the summer I've really enjoyed the opportunity to socialise and attend many events organised by our support groups as well as the Native Pony Festival which took place in the north east. The Native Pony Festival was a new event giving all native ponies the opportunity to be shown in-hand, ridden and over a working hunter course. Unfortunately it was on the same day as the Murthwaite Stud open day organised by the North West Support Group so being a member of the organising committee for the Native Pony Festival I had no option about where I had to be. Next year's Native Pony Festival will take place on Sunday 28th June so please make a note in your diaries as it is an event not to be missed. In July I went to the Lownthwaite Stud open day, at the home of Christine and Alison Morton, organised by the North West support group. It was quite challenging to guess the use of many agricultural items which had been carefully displayed for our pleasure.

At the beginning of August we held our annual Breed Show at Dalemain by kind invitation of the McCosh family. Competition was fierce as most classes were very well supported. The Supreme Champion pony was Banksgate Vember, owned and bred by Mr & Mrs Ashcroft and the HOYS qualifier went to local girl, Courtney Savage with Castle Hill Rose. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved in turning out so many quality ponies on the day for everyone to enjoy.

Mid August I was invited to attend a 'Meet the Pony' event at The Helm, near

Oxenholme, which turned out to be an extremely interesting afternoon (please see separate report) Later in August I went to the Townend Stud training day organised by the Young Person's Committee. Margaret Wilson and family escorted us into various field and introduced us to lots of broodmares with foals, who were so inquisitive they just had to come and meet everyone and have a stroke. My thanks go to everyone involved with hosting and organising all these events, not forgetting those who contributed to the excellent tea at Townend.

Please remember that there will not be a meeting this autumn but we are holding a social evening and 'Auction of Promises' on Saturday 18th October. There's still time to make a promise if you would like to support the 2014 FPS fund raising event. Finally, if you are looking for or considering owning another pony, then please remember to come to the annual pony sale on Saturday 25th October at Kendal Auction Mart.

Eileen A Walker

President's Report

We have had a lovely Summer down here in the South of England, but now a slight feeling of the forth coming Autumn and Winter advancing, colder mornings and evenings and the ponies are rapidly growing their winter woollies.

A few weeks ago I had a lunch party for the candidates, who hopefully will be up to running the South East Support Group. It has been a non starter for many years, with me included trying to get people enthusiastic enough to start the group, but when it all came to it they all vanished into the woodwork! I have great faith in the new candidates. Susie Newton from Ardingly and Jules Jordan from Hayling Island. Susie and her willing mother Dianne Calvert have run a very successful Connemara group for many years. The Fell Ponies will hopefully be joining in on their activities. Susie has become fairly hooked on the Fell Pony, since having borrowed her first Fell Underwoods Nimrod for her daughter Amy, then very young she had him for a few years, he taught her a lot. The second a young bay colt Underwoods Tom Tom. They are attending a variety of excitements; shows, clinics etc. encouraged and also ridden and trained by mother.

I do congratulate the hopeful South East Group and wish them a lot of luck and support. Please give these lovely ladies all the help and support they need. The South East has been a non starter for too many years, it's time they caught up with other groups. I think there must be a good few Fell Pony owners who would be willing to help Susie and Jules.

All the best and lots of good luck.

Charmian Ross-Thomson

Secretary and Treasurer's Report

I can't believe that I've been in the 'new' office since February! Most of the mail is coming in correctly addressed to Bank House now, with only odd letters ending up at Great Asby.

We're still waiting to hear from DEFRA regarding the new regulation on equine identification and understand that the EC will be resuming discussions in September.

The Breed Show was well supported by both exhibitors and spectators and although the weather forecast was poor for the Stallion Show there were a good number of spectators present. The South Cumbria Show enjoyed continuous success again this year. All 3 shows made a profit in 2014. Thank you to all those who gave sponsorship, and who helped in any way to make these events a success.

Thank you to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, for her donation sent together with warmest wishes for the forthcoming year.

The Horserace Betting Levy Board have confirmed our grant at the same level as this year for 2015, enabling us to continue paying premiums such as the Performance Points Awards and Stallion & Mare Premiums at the Breed Show; we are very grateful for this help.

The office is heading into a very busy time with entries to check for the sale, production of the sale catalogue and the issue of the Autumn Magazine, followed by hopefully a steady stream of foal registrations up to the end of the year.

I am now the Society's Treasurer taking care of the day to day finances, banking and the paying of bills etc. Elizabeth has kindly agreed to oversee the finances on a monthly basis, working on the budget and preparing and submitting the annual return to the accountants, so thank you to Elizabeth for agreeing to stay with the Society in that capacity. I would also like to thank Council and in particular Eileen Walker for continued support.

Best wishes

Katherine Wilkinson

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Please note that our President Mrs C Ross-Thomson's term of office ends in 2015. Please could any nominations for the office of President be submitted to the Office before 1 January 2015. Nominations must be in writing and accompanied by a signed statement from the person proposed that they are willing to stand for election. Election will be by a poll held at the Annual General Meeting in 2015.

Letters to the Editor

I am attaching a copy of a letter that has been sent out to circa 20 leading UK organisations, which has also been sent out to all Fell pony breeders who participated in the survey. Please feel free to publish this and to add an editorial comment inviting all members of the FPS to lobby Defra as soon as possible in support of the letter's proposals. Keep up the good work with the magazine.

Best wishes,

David

Recommendations to Defra made on 28th December 2013:

Report: Recognising extensively grazing, hefted, acclimatised Fell ponies as biodiversity: their conservation and sustainable use

Approximately 50 key players are receiving my very recently completed Fell pony report (Report 20-12-13 – Fell pony 2). On 28th November 2013, recommendations contained within the report were submitted to Defra for their consideration as part of the 2013 Rural Development Programmes consultation process.

I am writing to them also to ask them to support my request for formal confirmation that, in 2014, Defra will:

1. Recognise the Fell breed as biodiversity.

2. Afford extant extensively grazing, often hefted, acclimatised Fell breed-lines status equal to that of 'at risk' wild species. (This justifiable recognition will increase the Fell pony's intrinsic natural capital value.)

3. Implement adequate conservation measures to ensure the survival this Fell pony sub-population within English (and UK) ecosystems.

4. Acknowledge that the conservation of farm animal genetic resources, including extensively grazing, undomesticated Fell ponies, must be a primary objective of future agri-environment schemes.

5. Designate agri-environment breeder supplements and 'indispensable biodiversity' incentives to ensure the future provision, management and breeding of closed, acclimatised herds for beneficial grazing, including within ecological restoration and re-wilding schemes.

I am hopeful that Defra will actively support these five major proposals.

The report's comprehensive recommendations, if acted upon, could enhance biodiversity conservation and secure the future of extensively grazing Fell ponies and their owner-breeders. Recommendations have significant, controversial implications for all extensively grazing English – and potentially all UK – native pony breeds, and for extensively grazing equines presently not recognised as belonging to any breed within the UK.

I expect to publicise the report's major findings more widely in 2014.

Yours sincerely, David Murray (FRGS)

If you have enjoyed (or endured!) riding the Mary Towneley Loop of the Pennine Bridleway, or it is on your list of "things to do", I am writing to ask for your support.

This wonderful route, beloved of many horse-riders, is under threat from more wind turbine development. If proposals by Coronation Power and Peel Energy go ahead the Loop will effectively be broken in the south western section.

I have attached my own letter of protest for your interest and information, and one from a local bridleways group, and would ask you to sign our MP Jake Berry's petition at the following link www.notonourhills.tk

If you would also be prepared to write a letter of protest please let me know and I can forward details.

Help us to protect the "wild and romantic terrain of the Pennine bridleway" and preserve this national trail for a future generation of Loopers.

kindest regards,

Chris Thomas, Peers Clough Farm, Rossendale BB4 9NG

www.peerscloughfarm.co.uk

New Fell Pony Publicity Leaflet

We are very grateful to Lakes & Dales Co-operative (part of Scotmid Cooperative), of Burrowgate, Penrith, Cumbria, who have funded, in full, the printing of a new FPS publicity leaflet. It is going to Reed's at the same time as the Magazine.

If you know of a location where these leaflets could usefully be given out free to promote our beautiful native breed of ponies, please contact the Office to arrange to get some.



Georgina Mallinson with Wolds Red Kite, First Ridden winners at the Breed Show at Dalemain



Deborah Vychinski's Boutime Wooster, Reserve Supreme Champion at Derbyshire Fell, Highland and Dales Pony Show



Lucy Hogg from Appleby won the novice ridden championship at the Breed Show with Wansfell Anzin; the reserve championship went to Margaret Wilson's Townend Apple Blossom ridden by Kate Watson.



Horse of the Year Show qualifiers at the Breed Show, Castle Hill Rose ridden by Courtney Savage

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1104945

Held at Orton Market Hall on Saturday 29 March 2014

The Chairman opened the meeting and explained the reasons for the proposed Special Resolutions:

That Clause 4 (General Meetings) are amended:

i) To remove article 4.2

When put to the vote the majority of members voted in favour of the resolution with 3 abstentions.

ii) To remove the words shown in bold type as below:

4.4 All General meetings other than the Annual General Meeting and the Autumn General Meeting be called Extraordinary General Meetings.

When put to the vote all members voted in favour of the resolution with 1 abstention.

That Clause 8 (Council of Management) is amended:

iii) To add the word in bold type as below:

8.4 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.

When put to the vote the majority of members voted in favour of the resolution.

The resolutions were duly passed.



We acknowledge and credit photographers wherever possible. Many of our events are photographed by Claire Simpson, FPS Press Officer, who also contributes reports for this magazine and for several national equestrian publications. If you have sent a photograph and it is not attributed, please accept our apologies!

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1104945

Held at Orton Market Hall on Saturday 29 March 2014

Mrs Walker opened the meeting and told members of the friends that the Society had lost over the last twelve months: Mrs June Langcake, member & breeder; Mrs Henry Harrison, member, breeder, FPS panel judge, former Council member and past president, Mr AV Naylor, Darcy Howell, Mr Philip Turnbull, Mr LF Hardy, Mrs Anne Garcia, Mrs Colin Parker; all huge supporters of the Society who would be greatly missed. She asked members to show respect to them and their families by observing a minute's silence.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Mrs F & Miss L Awde, Miss B Bell, Mrs J Bennett, Mr I Brunskill, Miss G Callister, Mrs S Camp, Miss J Charlton, Miss L Charlton, Mrs G Cockbain, Mrs S Densham, Mr A & Mrs R Douglas, Mr W Ford and Miss D Ford, Miss J Glass, Mr M Goddard, Mr D & Mrs H Graham and family, Mrs S Hardy, Mrs J A Hill, Mr D Howe, Mrs G Kilburn, Mrs A Knight, Mr B Mallinson, Miss D Meikle, Mrs C Morland, Miss A Morton and Mr GH Morton, Mrs M Murray, Mrs M Raines, Mrs P Randell, Mr J M Rawlinson, Mr W Robinson, Mrs C Ross-Thomson, Mr D Wilkinson and Miss M Wilkinson, and Mrs M Wilson. Mrs Walker commented on the good turnout today, in comparison to last year when the snow affected attendance.

2 Approval and adoption of Autumn General Meeting Minutes of 27 October 2013

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Miss M Longsdon, seconded by Mrs L Chamberlain, and agreed by the members.

3 Matters arising from the minutes of the Autumn General Meeting held on 27 October 2013

Mrs Walker told members that the Young persons committee was now organised and a meeting had been held prior to the AGM.

4 Chairman's Report

Mrs Walker reported that since Mrs Wilkinson's appointment as Society Secretary in June 2013, the Society has been running on the absolute minimum of staffing to complete the ever increasing workload. The Society Office moved from Great Asby to Appleby during February and now settled in ready to take on some additional office help. Mrs Walker placed an advert in the Spring Magazine but neglected to include a closing date so it was decided today will be the closing date. If anyone wished to apply, then to speak to Mrs Walker at the end of the meeting. Mrs Walker expressed grateful thanks to Mrs Parkin for keeping things rolling and coming into the office whenever needed with her expertise and to help out at really busy times.

Peahill Basil features on the front of our Spring Magazine after being made famous by his television appearance when ridden by Matt Baker from Country File. Another Fell pony ambassador! Mrs Walker gave a big thank you to Mrs Millard for producing another excellent magazine containing many informative articles and photographs. She requested that members please continue to send in stories and photographs throughout the year and not just before the deadline for the next edition.

Council had decided that 2014 will be a special fund raising year for the Society. Mrs Walker will be asking the Area Support Groups to organise a sponsored event to help raise money for the Society but if any individual would like to donate, that would be brilliant. One of the earlier suggestions was for Council members to hold a sponsored swim across Lake Windermere but after a great deal of discussion, we declined on Health & Safety grounds (of course) so we have agreed to hold a social evening and 'auction of promises' to be held on Saturday 18th October. If anyone would like to make 'a promise', then please speak to Mary Longsdon.

Finally, Mrs Walker thanked everyone who helps the Society. Mrs Walker said how amazed she is at the number of individuals who are involved in so many events, and that she hoped everyone would have an enjoyable summer doing what they enjoy most with their Fell ponies.

5 Council Elections

Mrs Walker reported that as a result of the postal voting all 4 Council members who had stood for re-election (Mr Mallinson, Mr Metcalfe, Mr Potter and Mr Roberts) had been re-elected and Miss C Simpson, a new candidate, had been elected. Mrs Walker thanked Miss Fairburn who had also stood for election and said that she hoped she would stand again.

6 Adoption of Accounts for year ended 31 October 2013

There had been no questions received prior to the meeting from members. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mrs Charlton, seconded by Mr Roberts and agreed by members.

7 Resolution to appoint Brosnans Chartered Accountants as Accountants to the Society

Mrs Walker confirmed that Brosnans was the new name of the firm previously known as Langdales Accountants Ltd.

The resolution was proposed by Mrs Brunskill, seconded by Mr Roberts and agreed by the members.

8 Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Mrs Wilkinson reported that the office had moved into Appleby in mid February. She thanked all those who helped with the move over the weekend to enable her to be up and running on the Monday morning, as it was much appreciated.

Mrs Wilkinson referred to her report in the spring magazine concerning the latest Horse Passport legislation which has been introduced by DEFRA and in particular the new Minimum Operating Standards which came into effect on 1 February 2014. The legal responsibilities of owners in relation to Equine Passports is now available on the website and will be sent out with passports and passport application forms. She reminded members that they should take time to read it as it affects all owners of a horse/pony. The registration form will be reprinted soon, therefore she asked breeders not to use any old forms without checking with the office first.

As 2013 registrations were completed by the end of January the office was able to get the stud book edited and printed and it's available for sale today, along with the 2015 calendar. Calendar competition winners can collect their prizes today too. Registrations have fallen again, but we are still seeing a similar number of transfers of ownership and the number of Society members remains around the same with those members not renewing being replaced by around the same number of new members.

Schedules and entry forms for the Stallion Show and Breed Show can be downloaded from the Society's website. Paper copies are also available today.

The Society has received the grant from the Horserace Betting Levy Board, and is very grateful to receive the same level of grant as last year. Mrs Parkin has been working on a monthly budget since the beginning of the new financial year in November and so far the Society is on track for breaking even by the end of this year.

Finally, Mrs Wilkinson thanked Mrs Parkin for helping out in the office and as Treasurer and to Mrs Walker who has been a great support to her since she took over as Secretary and Council for their help and support.

9 Reports from Sub-Committees

Mrs Robinson, Conservation Sub-Committee, reported that the current committee lacked expertise and that anyone interested with knowledge in the field to contact her, then a meeting can be arranged.

Mrs Robinson, Show Sub-Committee, told members that schedules were

available for both the Stallion show and the Breed Show. Both shows would be held on the larger field at Dalemain. Sponsorship has been requested in the form of prizes or monetary. Sponsorship for the toilets had already been received for the Stallion Show. There will be additional classes at the Breed Show and Gelding classes will continue at the Stallion Show. Mrs Robinson reminded members of the need for help on show days as runners, gate attendants etc. Mrs Murray has resigned as Show Secretary due to home circumstances.

Scotland SG – Pleased with the coverage in the magazine.

NWSG - Mrs Miller reported that the group has a website and facebook page now set up. Aware that some members don't have access to a computer so have produced a flyer with details of events. The Group held a successful lunch and talk earlier in the year and they will be holding a Fun Ride in August, Open Day at Lownthwaite on 20 July to commemorate their 125th anniversary, Foal & Younstock Show in November and Mrs Hogg, Treasurer is planning to arrange some training days. Reminder that some events need booking.

MWSG - Miss Longsdon reminded members of the Derbyshire Fell and Dales Show to be held on Sunday 15 June, judge Miss Jennie Charlton. Also MW Spring Show 13 April, Judge Mrs Ruth Eastwood, entries close on Tuesday 1 April.

NESG - Miss Mawrey reported that the Fell & Highland Pony Camp, is fully subscribed, to be held May bank holiday weekend. Hexham Native Pony Show has been postponed for this year. Performance Trials extra help requested, anyone interested in helping contact NESG Pleasure ride beginning of October, venue to be arranged, suggestions welcome. Successful lunch with a brilliant talk given by Miss Mary Longsdon, was held in February.

MESG - Sandringham Show 10 May, Miss Jennie Charlton will be the judge.

SWSG - Miss Russell reported that the Southern Show will be held 14 September, good fun show, Jubilee Show in Cornwall to be held in June and possibly an open day at the Severnvale Stud later in the year.

YP Committee - Mrs Miller reported that the first meeting had been held earlier today, hoping to hold educational events for under 35's, but some events will not just be for under 35's, plan to hold special classes and rosettes for juniors. Townend training day already set up for 23 August, booking required. Open Day at Murthwaite on 28 June, not just for under 35's, Mr Capstick to conduct a breed talk. Website and facebook page set up.

Judges Committee – Mrs Ward reported that Mr Morland, Mr Metcalfe, Mrs Cockbain, Ms Prior and Mrs Hodgson were the elected judges for the assessment held in September.

3 trainees attended – Mr Saunders and Mrs S Mallinson going onto their second year and Miss Read starting this year as a probationer. Assessment Day this year

will be held on 28 September by king invitation of Mr B Mallinson, judges this year are Mr Wilkinson, Miss Callister, Mrs Eastwood, Mr Sutcliffe and Mr Howe. Mrs Ward reported that 50% of the Society's panel judges are over 60, many over 70, so would like to encourage younger applicants to the scheme. Applications for the assessment can be made online.

Mrs Millard, Overseas Sub-Committee, reported that all was very quiet but the committee would be meeting soon to look at re-certifying the branches for the forthcoming year. Branches in Denmark and two in North America are still active and we expect to re-issue their Branch certificates for 2014 once the accounts have been submitted at the end of March. Branches in Belgium, France and South Germany would not be applying for certificates in 2014 but representatives from these countries are still be willing to promote the Breed and be a point of contact, and the Society appreciates their willingness to help.

Mrs Hodgson asked if there is a minimum age for applying to the Probationer Judges Scheme. The website states that applicants must have been a Full Senior member of the FPS for a minimum of 3 consecutive years.

10 Approval of Honorary Member

At a previous Council meeting Mr Charlton was proposed to be an Honorary member of the FPS in recognition of all the years of hard work and dedication he has given to the Fell Pony. Proposed by Mrs Brunskill, seconded by Mr Roberts and show of hands that members approved of this, all were in favour. Mr Charlton accepted and said that although this was a great shock, he thanked members and valued the honour. It was very much appreciated. Mrs Walker thanked Mr Charlton for all that he had done for the Society over the years.

11 Any Other Business

Council had asked that all questions requiring a detailed answer be submitted in writing prior to the AGM.

Four questions had been received in connection with the article in the Spring magazine "Fell Ponies threatened by Conservation?" written by Mr Bill Potter. Mr Bill Lloyd spoke on behalf of Mr Potter, and then read out the questions.

Mr Lloyd brought members up to date with the situation that grazing rights have been challenged by Natural England (NE). The solicitor employed by the Potters had written to NE asking them for the basis for the 20 ponies having to come off Birkbeck Common, NE replied to say that there would be a \pounds 20K fine for breach of conditions, if the ponies were not removed from the Common by 1 May. NE have applied the law without the case being heard, case to be submitted; there are legal questions relating to grazing rights. These are being challenged and the matter will have to go to court.

Questions:

1. Does the Fell Pony Society (acting by its Council) agree that the preservation of the Fell Pony in its natural habitat is currently being threatened by Natural England's grazing policies?

2. What action does the Fell Pony Society intend to take in general in support of breeders with grazing rights on commons designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and

3. What action does the Fell Pony Society intend to take in particular relating to the treatment suffered by Mr Bill Potter at the hands of Natural England on 11 December 2013 the facts of which are related in a letter sent by Mr Potter to the editor and printed in the Spring newsletter?

4. If the answer to questions 2 and 3 is that the Fell Pony Society intends to do nothing then is the Fell Pony Society prepared to see the loss of an important herd from the fells?

Mrs Walker read out a statement which NE had provided in response to these questions and suggested that NE attend the May Council meeting for discussions.

Dear Eileen Walker

Fell Ponies on Birkbeck Common

A recent article in the Fell Pony Society's magazine regarding Birkbeck Common in Cumbria (Fell Ponies Threatened by Conservation) contained some factual inaccuracies that Natural England would like to correct.

Firstly, Natural England fully supports the aims of the Fell Pony Society to "foster and keep pure the old breed of pony" and we wish to see the breed continuing in good numbers. We also recognise that, in the right circumstances and in appropriate numbers, pony grazing can have beneficial effects on the vegetation mix on upland commons.

Birkbeck Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and this is a national designation enshrined in UK legislation. The area is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (The Lake District High Fells Special Area of Conservation) which establishes additional international responsibility and recognition of the area. With both of these designations come statutory obligations for both Natural England and those who use the area.

We fully support sustainable grazing on common land which leads to recovery of the natural habitat for which protected sites, such as SSSIs, are designated. In the case of Birkbeck Common an assessment carried out last year showed that whilst it was very encouraging to note that some of the SSSI area was in a 'recovering' condition; other parts were not recovering and this is due to inappropriate grazing. We would be very happy to discuss the evidence from the monitoring and explain in more detail the outcomes we are seeking for the site.

As this is common land there are inevitably many parties with an equally legitimate interest in its management. Natural England has been working with the graziers here for many years to try and find solutions that work for those with an interest in the site. So, it's very encouraging to report that the majority of graziers wish to be party to a Higher Level Stewardship agreement which will pay them to manage the common in a way that enhances the environment.

We are disappointed that it has not yet been possible to find a way forward that suits everyone with an interest in Birkbeck Common, including your member. There are more than 4,100 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England and Natural England tries its hardest to work in partnership with their owners and occupiers to facilitate the interests of all parties.

Our local advisers would be very happy to talk to anyone who has an interest in the common to discuss the situation and to explore options with them.

The article states that "Natural England took it upon themselves to round up the Greenholme herd." This is incorrect. A gather did take place last year but this was carried out by the owner of the common, not by Natural England.

The author of the letter is correct in stating that consent for grazing is needed from Natural England on SSSIs under Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Representatives of Natural England were present at the gather as observers and our interest in the ownership of the ponies was as a result of unconsented grazing on the commons.

I hope this explanation makes the situation somewhat clearer. As the issue of grazing on SSSIs is complex and important to both graziers and Natural England, I am very keen to meet with the Council of the Fell Pony Society to explain Natural England's statutory responsibilities and our aspirations of working with graziers on commons to achieve an acceptable outcome for all parties. To this end, I will be in contact with the Society to find a date to meet you.

Finally, can I please ask that you consider reading out this letter at your AGM on Saturday 29th March and open up the offer of a discussion to other members of your society who feel it would be useful.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Lund

Team Leader, Solway, Border and Eden Land Management Team, Cumbria.

Mrs Walker thanked Sophie Quick for bringing in her felt picture inspired by her participation in the learning with fells programme last year and in particular her visit to the Greenholme Stud. Mr Potter features in the picture as well as the ponies!

Mr Morland asked what Council were doing regarding the finances of the Society, and asked if they had considered increasing the membership fees? He suggested that the Society would face worse difficulties in the future than it was in now. Mrs Walker said that Council did not propose to increase membership and the work done on the budget indicated that the Society would break even by the end of the current financial year which would be an improvement on the previous 2 years when a loss was made. Miss Longsdon reminded members of the fundraising event, an 'Auction of Promises' to be held in October.

Mr Morland commented that the Judges Assessment in 2013 was a complete disaster as the candidates were asked to comment on the ponies after the judges had placed them. Mrs Ward confirmed that the trainees were asked to comment individually with a judge then the ponies were placed by the judges.

Mr Van der Zee asked if the Society would consider issuing 'credit card size' membership cards in the future; the secretary would look into it.

Mrs Littlejohn asked if the implications of Scottish Independence has been considered if successful in September. Mrs Walker said it hadn't been discussed but would be at the next Council meeting.

Mr Morland asked how much HBLB grant had been received by the Society this year. Mrs Walker confirmed it was £3820 as recorded in the accounts. He also asked for details of its expenditure. As the question had not been submitted prior to the meeting Mrs Walker advised that the information was not to hand but would be supplied upon a written request. Mr Morland suggested that the fees for the Stallion License application to be paid for out of the grant. Miss

Chadwick pointed out that in comparison to other breed societies FPS membership was cheap and provided a very good magazine twice a year.

Miss Longsdon thanked Mrs Walker for her work as Chairman and said that she had retired at just the right time.

12 Presentation of Awards

Mr Charlton advised that Prince Philip was to present the Edinburgh Award for driving in the form of a medallion, to be presented annually and the winners to be recorded on a board retained by the society. Unlike the monetary awards presented by the HBLB the competition would be open to driving exhibitors worldwide.

Mrs Hodgson offered to replace the trophy awarded to the performance points winner as the original shield had not been returned by a winner several years ago despite numerous requests to return it. An Inglegarth pony had won the award that year.

Mrs Robinson and Miss Brunskill presented the awards and rosettes for the Performance Points. The Lownthwaite Rob Trophy was presented to Lownthwaite Romany, owned by Alison Knight. Unfortunately Alison was unable to attend due to work commitments; Mrs Wilkinson read out her thanks for receiving the award.

Mrs Walker closed the meeting before members had tea and the raffle was drawn.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015

The following members retire from the Council in 2015 and are eligible for re-election:

Mrs S Charlton, Mrs G M Cockbain, Mr J Greener and Mr M Rawlinson

Members wishing to make a nomination for Council should obtain a form from the Office and ensure that it is delivered to the Secretary on or before 1 January 2015

POSTAL VOTING FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ballot papers will be sent out with their Spring magazine to those eligible to vote. Completed ballot papers have to be returned to the scrutineer appointed by the Council not less than 10 days before the date of the AGM. No member is entitled to vote if his/her subscription to the Society has not been paid on or before 15 February 2015. You will find details on Votes of Members under Section 7 of the Articles of Association, and Election to the Council under Section 8.6.

PLEASE REMEMBER FOR 2015 AND SEND YOUR BALLOT PAPER TO THE SCRUTINEER BEFORE THE DEADLINE. DO NOT WASTE YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE RUNNING OF YOUR SOCIETY.

FROM THE OFFICE

• If we don't already have your email address please let us have it, as it's often the most efficient way to correspond.

• 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.

• The Society's Facebook page is not administered from the office, therefore if you have specific query please call the office, Tel: 017683 53100 or email secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk

• Just a reminder that it is a legal requirement that change of ownership should be notified to the Society within 30 days of the change. Also don't forget to send in the passport for updating when a pony has been gelded. There should be a form in the back of the passport or you can download one from the website.

• It also a legal requirement to return the passport to the Society when a pony dies; it can of course be returned to you, if requested, after cancellation.

Katherine

FELL PONY SOCIETY BANK DETAILS

Account Name: The Fell Pony Society Limited.

Bank: Lloyds, 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 $\pounds 2$ for transactions up to $\pounds 100$ and $\pounds 7$ for transactions greater than $\pounds 100$.



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY Fees & Charges 2015

Registration and Other Fees

	UK	UK	Overseas	Overseas		
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member		
To Register Colt or Gelding - registrations received to 30 November						
	£10	£20	£15	£25		
To Register Fi	To Register Filly - registrations received to 30 November					
	£15	£30	£20	£35		
To Register C	olt or Geldin	g - registrations re	eceived 1 - 31	December		
	£20	£40	£25	£45		
To Register Fi	illy - registrat	ions received 1 - 3	1 December			
	£30	£60	£35	£65		
Late Registrat	ion (does not	t include cost of p	arentage test)		
	£50	£100	£55	£105		
Transfer of C	Transfer of Ownership (UK)					
	£10	£20	£15	£25		
Transfer to Gelding						
	Free	Free	Free	Free		
Register a Prefix - UK Rate						
	£40	£50	£60	£70		
FIS test kit						
	£40	£50	£45	£,55		
DNA kit						
	£50	£60	£55	£65		
Duplicate Passport (does not include cost of parentage test)						
	£50	£60	£55	£65		



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY Membership Fees 2015

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. You can send your payment before 1 January if you wish.

No member is entitled to vote if his/her subscription to the Society has not been paid on or before 15 February 2015. 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. The Directory page is http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/member_dir.htm.

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, or to Sue Millard — sue@dawbank.co.uk.

Please remember to update your details with any changes when appropriate.

Listings will be removed if current FPS Membership lapses.



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY FPS Stallion Licensing

It is 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 are:

	To include	
	DNA & FIS kits	If already FIS*/DNA** tested
UK member	£120	£80
UK non member	£240	£200
Overseas member	£125	£85
Overseas 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.

Saturday 18th October - FPS Autumn Social

at Stoneybeck Inn, Bowscar, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8RP. 1 mile from M6 Junction 41. Hot Buffet Supper at 7pm, followed by Auction of Promises. We will take phone and internet bids! (Details later.) Tickets £12.50. Please contact Mary Longsdon, Tel / Fax: 01629 640709, or the FPS Office.

The following 'Promises' are offered (we will happily add more!):

An Escorted Ride on Hamsterley Common, Picnic Lunch and Rackwood Stud visit. Items from Tack Shop. Handmade set of shoes and belt. B & B for 2 plus ponies & lesson. Holiday cottage for 2, 1 week in Derbyshire. 6 Bags of Horse Feed. Horse gear. Stallion Service. A Day's Carriage Driving. 50 bales of hay. A dozen eggs a week for 1 year. One day Salmon Fishing on the River Lune. Stallion Service. Weekend in a Tepee at Rakefoot Farm, Keswick. Taster session of carriage driving.

5'9" New Zealand Rug. B & B for people and ponies, weekend of sale, 2 miles from NW Auction. Hanging basket made from horse shoes.



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY The 200 Club: Draw Results January - August 2014

	Nos	Name	Prize		Nos	Name	Prize
Jan '14 May '14							
1st	212	Mr H Beesley	£25.00	1st	267	Mrs J Copeland	£25.00
2nd	363	Mrs J Blair	£15.00	2nd	308	Miss E Cawley	£15.00
3rd	435	Miss B Bell	£10.00	3rd	242	Mrs J B Phillips	£10.00
4th	228	Dr E J Whitley	£5.00	4th	234	Mrs I Potter	£5.00
Feb '14 Jun '14			4				
1st	201	Miss N Merry	£25.00	1st	231	Mr W S Potter	£25.00
2nd	261	Mrs L M Corrick	£15.00	2nd	346	Mr K A Anderso	n £15.00
3rd	318	Mr J Morris	£10.00	3rd	242	Mrs J B Phillips	£10.00
4th	294	Mrs S F Denshar	n £5.00	4th	319	Mr J M Wayman	£5.00
Mar '14 Jul '14							
1st	230	H Wenden	£25.00	1st	204	Mrs S Stewart	£25.00
2nd	345	Mrs S Pomfret	£15.00	2nd	435	Miss B Bell	£15.00
3rd	239	Mrs R A Forsyth	£10.00	3rd	337	Mrs J R Howard	£10.00
4th	249	Mrs J Down	£5.00	4th	240	Ms G Callister	£5.00
Apr '14	Apr '14 Aug '14						
1st	203	Mrs S M Ventres	s £25.00	1st	393	Mrs D Bowles	£25.00
2nd	368	Miss J Glass	£15.00	2nd	226	Mr P Boustead	£15.00
3rd	353	Mrs A Twiname	£10.00	3rd	364	Miss H Wallis	£10.00
4th	399	Mrs C M Merry	£,5.00	4th	353	Mrs A Twiname	£5.00

Still only $\pounds 12$ to join - and look at the prizes. You don't have to be an FPS member to take part in the draw.

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

All profit goes to the Society's funds.



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY 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, Beckside, Rosehill, Gilsland, Carlisle, CA87DP

Five judges from the FPS Panel are chosen at random at a Council meeting to serve on this Committee. Of these five, two are selected to remain on for two years, with 3 new judges selected at random plus two as reserves.

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 B Mallinson, Miss H Mawrey, Mrs CH Robinson, Mrs K Wilkinson, Mr D Wilkinson.

Show Committee Report

I am very pleased to report that both the Stallion Show and Breed Show would seem to have been very successful this year. Although the Stallion Show could have had better weather, it could also have been a lot worse! The weather for the Breed Show was beautiful and we are so lucky to hold both Shows in such a lovely setting. Our thanks go to the McCosh family for use of the field.

We added extra classes to the Breed Show programme this year and opened up some classes to allow two and three year old colts to be shown. We were also very grateful to receive Sponsorship for a number of classes; Rachael proved very good at twisting arms! Next year we will be adding a Traditional Riding Class as several people have requested one. We have also been asked to put on WHP classes again, although this very much depends on being able to get helpers to set up and run the classes – Interested? If so please contact me or our Show Secretary Rachael Brunskill.

On the subject of help, we are still desperately short of help on Show Day. We would be very grateful if anyone could spare us some time, even just an hour or so to help on the gate, or as a "runner" between the rings. Again, if you feel you can help please get in touch.

Thanks, as always, go to the members of the Show Committee for their work, the people who steward the classes and help on the day and to those of you who help pack away everything at the end of the day. And a big 'Thank You' to all the competitors and spectators who come along and make all the hard work worthwhile!

Overall, I think we have had a good year. The only slight down side was the amount of litter left on the field after the Breed Show. Most people seemed to manage to bin their rubbish, but a minority didn't, and in a couple of cases, I know who you are! Please be more careful in future - the Show Committee have enough to do without having to litter pick the field.

Christine Robinson

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.

Sandringham Show

Once again the FPS MESG Show in May was held on the Royal Estate at Sandringham by kind permission of HM The Queen.

Pre entries for this year's show were very disappointing, probably due to the poor weather in the preceding weeks.

The day dawned drizzly and breezy but as usual the organising committee were in good spirits. Surprisingly the secretary's tent was still in situ on the showground given the overnight wind! As the morning began the weather improved and there were a lot of on the day entries.

The Fell judge this year was Miss Jenny Charlton of Linnel Fell ponies, ably assisted by her steward Chrissie Hill, who has made this job her own over the past couple of years. Fell pony entries were down on previous years but those who came put on a good show.

The in hand classes in the morning produced Karen Dipper's filly Conway Clara Brown as best yearling with Maxine Chapman's Wellbrow Fury topping the line in the 2 and 3 years old class. Wellbrow Fury, handled by Philip Ward-Burton went on to take the Youngstock Championship, a new class for this year.

Nicola Ash's Ludworth Viking, handled by Luke Frary, was top Fell stallion, Karen Bradley's Castle Hill Kitt first placed mare and Sarah Prior's Broxdown Tornado, handled by Louise Bishell, first in the gelding class.

The overall in hand Champion was Ludworth Viking, with Wellbrow Fury as Reserve Champion.

The lunch break was followed by the ridden classes, starting with a win for Lis Dunger's Shepparton Tara in the Adult Novice class. The Adult Open class was won by Nicola Ash's Ludworth Viking ridden by Lesley Frary who also went on the win the Traditional Walk and Trot class.

Unfortunately, as in the in hand classes, we had no junior ridden entries.

The Ridden Fell Champion was Ludworth Viking with Jane Glass's Murthwaite Looks Promising taking the Reserve spot. Supreme Champion was a rerun of the Ridden Championship with Ludworth Viking and Murthwaite Looks Promising in the same positions.

Ludworth Viking went on to become Champion of Champions at the end of the day, taking the title over the Supreme Champions from the Fell Friends, Dales and Highland rings.

Fells also took the top three places in the Trotting Time Trial, sponsored by Linnel Fair Dinkum who was very sorry not to be there to win the blingy rosette she paid for! Catriona Paterson's Meres Just-a-Mo came first with Margaret Lambeth's Ferrymount Tristar second and Julia Prentice's Newtimes Silver Ghost third.

Murthwaite Looks Promising made a clean sweep in the dressage winning all three tests. Meres Just-a-Mo was second in the Preliminary test with Shepparton Tara taking fifth place. Meres Just-a-Mo was second in the Novice test. She was also placed second in the Open Working Hunter Pony, was the best Fell WHP and WHP Reserve Champion.

Grateful thanks go to Jenny Charlton who did a fine job, steward Chrissie Hill, secretary on the day Donna Oakley and her helper Heather Bowen, Judy Hill on the megaphone, and everyone else who helped in any way. Thanks also go to our sponsors who make the show viable. Lastly a big thank you to all the competitors and beautiful ponies who helped to make the show a success. We hope to see you all again next year-bring your friends!

Jean Bateson

The full results can be found at www.fellponysociety.org.uk /showresults.htm



Nicola Ash's Ludworth Viking, ridden by Lesley Frary, was Champion of Champions, taking the title over the Supreme Champions from the Fell Friends, Dales and Highland rings. *Photo, Jean Bateson*.

Midlands West Support Group – Festival of Fells Spring Show 2014

The 2nd Annual Festival of Fells Spring Show was once again held at Tedsmore Equestrian Centre, West Felton, Shropshire. Competitors travelled far and wide to attend, stretching from Cumbria in the North, Leicestershire in the East and Gloucestershire in the South, and Judge Ruth Eastwood had some good quality ponies forward in all of her classes, which was a reward for her epic nine hour journey (not helped by various accidents on the motorway) from the West of Scotland.

Getting the day off to a good start was Mr R Relph-Briggs of the Birkett Bank Stud taking the first class, the Stallion Class with the up and coming four year old, Greenholme Elect. The two and three year old colt class winner was by a pony which had been bred by the Conkertree Stud and imported from Europe. Rebekah Adshead bought Conkertree Peanut before he was born, having known and ridden both his sire and dam, and the weanling made the big journey over the seas to join her in Shropshire, making his showing debut at the Spring Show. The Yearling Class followed, with Claire Connor's Townend Lacey taking the top spot, having been very successfully shown as a foal. Sadly no two year olds forward this year, but the three year old class was ably won by Wellbrow Elsie, owned and shown by Amanda Rodger. Elsie then took top honours in the Youngstock Championship followed by Townend Lacy in Reserve. Greenhead Blooming Heather owned by Lynne Chamberlain of Graceland Stud was the Mare in hand winner, which bought a smile to her owners face as she had been purchased not having done anything and had been to two shows in the same number of weeks and won both her classes, taking the Bewcastle Boy Blue Qualifer for the Midlands East Group only the week before. Sleddale Tommy was our first qualifying pony for the Midlands West Group having won his Gelding In hand Class for owner Marie Williams. Our Adult In hand Championship was awarded to Greenholme Elect, with Jenny Crane's Murthwaite Windrush Reserve.

Ridden classes started in earnest after lunch. HOYS partnership Murthwaite Windrush and Steph Wheway continued their winning ways and won both the Stallion and Open ridden classes and another pony from the same Stud, Mr T B Capstick's Murthwaite Iceman took the Novice ridden title for the Crane Family. The ever popular Traditional Walk and Trot class proved to be the biggest class of the day, with veteran star Wellbrow Jacko strutting his stuff to take the red ribbon for Tracy Last. Cargenwater Jane was the eventual winner of the first season Novice class for 12 year old rider Ellie Adams who travelled from Mid Wales. We were lucky to see the first competitor to show at the Spring Show side-saddle. What an elegant sight from Jessica Downham and Dalewin Jewel, maybe she has started a trend for the future? The ridden Championship was hotly contested, with the final decision being given to Murthwaite Iceman as our Champion over Murthwaite Windrush who settled for Reserve.

For the first time this year the Group introduced Over Height and Section X In hand and Ridden classes, giving those owners of registered ponies who fall in this section of the Studbook a chance to show under a FPS Panel Judge. As there is currently nobody offering this type of class, we were pleased to offer this unique opportunity. Our In hand and Ridden winner was Julie Dimelow's Ralfland Falcon, who eventually went on the claim the Section X/Over Height Championship.

It was an easy choice for the judge in the Supreme Championship which went to the three year old filly, Wellbrow Elsie, almost leaving her owner in tears, and the ever popular Stallion, Greenholme Elect taking the Reserve Supreme.

Having had a full day of showing, Ruth said "What a pleasure to travel from Scotland to judge some lovely ponies. My Supreme Champion caught my eye the moment she walked into the ring due to her lovely movement, nice limbs and pony characteristics. For the time of year there was some well turned out ponies, with quality down the lines in all classes."

We hope to see lots more new competitors next year for our 3rd Annual Festival of Fells to be held the 2nd Sunday in April; more details will be published closer to the time on the Midlands West Support Group webpage. Thank you to all who supported and made the day such a successful one.

Diane Key



Winners of the Pairs Class at Oswestry, Murthwaite Windrush (left) and Murthwaite Iceman. *Photo, Diane Key*.

Dorset Show

A lovely day with sunshine all day resulting in a few sunburnt faces at the end.

This was the first time I didn't show my pony at the show. Usually I hand over secretarial duties on the day to someone else. This year I spent the day in the tent making sure the show ran smoothly, I hope! I never thought it would be as exhausting, in fact I was convinced running round the ring with Maggie was much easier work!

Lisa & Martin Hurn Bridge E.C made us very welcome & have made some improvements to the facilities. The walk through from the car park was much appreciated by everyone. Also the pasada surface now has a fence & gate making it a second arena. 20M x 40m just right for our Dressage tests. Impossible now to leave the arena during the test!

As usual more entries for the In Hand classes, some of the largest classes we have had this year. A lot for our judge Mrs Campbell to choose from. Unfortunately quite a few ridden classes only had one pony put forward.

Star of the day was Bewcastle Blossom who looked stunning, Michael must have had the polish out. She was In Hand champion & went on to take the Supreme Championship. Also as Michael is a South West group member Blossom is our first qualifier for the Inter Area Championship held at the Southern show in September.

Reserve In Hand Champion was Severnvale Gypsy Rose - George Guy & Leanne Russell.

Ridden Champion & Reserve Supreme Greenholme Yabadabadoo - Nicola Mayling

Reserve Ridden Champion Lathomdale Crystal - Helen Parker

All ponies entered and those of our helpers received a bag Of Hilton Herbs Herball treats. A very big thank to Hilary and her team at Hilton Herbs for their continued support of our show.

First prize winners received a Haynet and those in 2nd place Fell Pony Society notelets.

A very big thank you to all my helpers on the day & to all the show sponsors, there would be no show without either of you.

Thanks to our regular competitors and to those who came for the first time look forwards to seeing on 3rd May 2015 when we do it all over again (HELP).

Sharron Camp

The Fell Pony Society Stallion and Colt Show 2014

The Fell Pony Society held its annual Stallion and Colt Show at Dalemain near Ullswater on 10 May 2014. The Society is very grateful to the McCosh family for allowing it to use such a wonderful setting. There was a good attendance, with lots of spectators, and entries up on recent years; but the poor weather forecast appeared to put some of the competitors off as several were not forward on the day. The show now includes classes for geldings which helped boost the numbers forward.

The judge for In-hand, Ridden and Driven classes was Michael Rawlinson from Kelso, breeder of the Thornbeck ponies. Michael was particularly pleased with the number and quality of the entries in the yearling class, which he felt boded well for the future; and also the standard and variety of the entries in the driving class, which he said made it quite a difficult class to judge.

The overall Supreme Championship went to Bert and Carole Morland with their home bred Lunesdale Warlord, a seven year old shown by Russell Sutcliffe. The Reserve Supreme went to Rob Relph-Briggs with his four year old, Greenholme Elect, bred by Bill Potter. Interestingly both the Supreme and Reserve were sired by Bill Potter's stallion Greenholme Warrior, whose progeny



Reserve Supreme went to Rob Relph-Briggs with his four year old, Greenholme Elect, bred by Bill Potter. *Photo, Claire Simpson. More photos in the Colour section.*
were very successful in the Fell Pony Society Performance Points awards for 2013 winning him the stallion performance award.

Hayley Reynolds took the youngstock championship and yearling class with her own Murthwaite Sid bred by Thomas Capstick. David and Katherine Wilkinson won the class for two year old colts and youngstock reserve championship with their homebred Brackenbank Oscar by Lownthwaite Gary. Gary himself won the class for senior stallions for Hilary Lightfoot and he looked exceptionally well at 23 years old.

The class for ridden stallions was won by Miss N Speak's four year old Bracklinn Drambuie, bred by the Smith family from Perthshire and ridden by Hayley Reynolds.

The class for ridden geldings was won by Nicola Chippendale with her five year old Rackwood Duke, who was also third in the class for geldings in hand.

Jackie Parkinson won the driving class with husband Dougy's pair of bay ponies, the full brothers Tynebank Danny Boy and Tynebank Brown Bobby. Courtney Savage won the gelding championship and was second in the driving class with the consistently successful Murthwaite Sako .308, again bred by Thomas Capstick. The full results can be found at www.fellponysociety.org.uk /showresults.htm

Claire Simpson

The Cumbria Fell and Dales Pony Show 2014

The Cumbria Fell and Dales pony show, jointly organised by the Cumbria Dales Pony Society Area Group & the Fell Pony North West Area Support Groups, was held at Penrith in early June. The event is sponsored by Carrs Billington Agriculture, Penrith, the Paragon Veterinary Group and Jenkinson Forest Products kindly allow use of the field.

Organisers Ellen Jones and Hilary Fawcett and their team put in lots of hard work to ensure the smooth running of the event; which has various classes designed to encourage young and novice riders and ponies; as well as catering for the seasoned campaigners.

The Fell pony in hand classes were judged by Roy Ottink from the Netherlands. Roy awarded the championship to the Smith family from Perthshire's Bracklinn Norah and the reserve to Townend Fantasy shown by Penny Randell. This decision was ratified by the ridden and WHP judges, who joined Roy to judge the overall supreme.

Bracklinn ponies have been enjoying a very successful season with Norah and the stallion Bracklinn Jackpot taking the prestigious St John's Wells trophy for the best two in hand ponies at the Royal Highland Show for a fourth time, meaning that they win the trophy outright. Meanwhile Penny took the Fell championship at the Great Yorkshire show with Townend Daydream for the second time, and was also in the final six in the 'Cuddy' Supreme in Hand Qualifier for the Horse of the Year Show.

The Smith family also took the youngstock championship with Bracklinn Tess with Glenis Cockbain's consistent Carrock Snowdrop in reserve.



The Championship went to the Smith family's Bracklinn Norah and the reserve to Townend Fantasy shown by Penny Randell. This decision was ratified by the ridden and WHP judges, Sheila Brooks and Robin Avery, who joined Roy Ottink to judge the overall supreme. *Photo, Claire Simpson*.

The ridden classes were judged by Robin Avery who awarded the championship to Castlehill Rose ridden by Courtney Savage, winner of the NPS/Ringside Stud M & M Open class. Anneli Ferrier and the veteran winner Ludworth Rufus took reserve.

In the junior classes Chloe Snowden and Urwins Sentimental had a fantastic day, winning best turned out, young rider and young handler classes; then taking the champion young handler, and reserve championship junior rider overall with Sophie Jones and Lunesdale War Dance taking the championship. Abbie Walton and Jamathad Abigail took the reserve to Chloe in the young handler class. The working hunter pony classes were judged by Sheila Brooks from Kelso, who awarded the championship to Lunesdale War Dance and Sophie Jones, with Anna Metcalfe and Meres Javlin in reserve. Sheila said that she likes native ponies to be true to type, and that she was very impressed with the winning pony which obviously knew its job. The full results can be found at www.fellponysociety.org.uk/ showresults.htm

Claire Simpson

The Fell Pony Society South Cumbria Show 2014

The Fell Pony Society South Cumbria show was held at Crooklands near Kendal and included in hand, flat ridden and working hunter classes. Paul and Bev Metcalfe, Julie Robinson and their helpers again did a super job of creating a lovely friendly show with a great atmosphere.

Julie held a WHP mini-masterclass in the morning which was thoroughly enjoyed by the competitors who all benefitted enormously from the one to one training that she provided.

The overall supreme championship went to the novice ridden winner and judge Glenis Cockbain's choice for ridden champion, Greenholme Caitlin, a six year old mare shown by Katie Duxbury. Caitlin was out on the fell at Shap and relatively unhandled until December last year, and it is a real credit to Katie that she has come on so well in the six months that she has worked with her.



The overall reserve supreme was the in hand champion, the very consistent six year old mare Lownthwaite Heidi, here with breeder Alison Bell, left, and judge Judith Williamson. *Photo, Claire Simpson. More photos in the Colour section.*

The overall reserve supreme was the in hand champion, Alison Bell's very consistent six year old mare Lownthwaite Heidi; Heidi's dam Lownthwaite Bramble took second place in the veteran ridden class at 24 years of age.

Judith Williamson judged the in hand classes, Judith likes to see good movement, and was very pleased with the quality of the ponies forward, but she mentioned that some ponies were carrying too much weight and that some of the youngsters did not behave well in the ring and as a result did not show themselves as well as they might have done.

The reserve in hand was Juliet Coate's homebred five year old bay gelding Rosefell T Reg by Murthwaite Mr Right. T Reg, who was also reserve last year, won the in hand stallion/gelding class; and took the junior ridden championship, and second in the open ridden class for stallions/geldings with Anna Metcalfe.

Helen Jones judged the WHP classes and awarded the champnionship to 14 year old Sophie Jones, who won the novice and intermediate classes with Lunesdale War Dance; a six year old gelding by Greenholme Warrior, who has not been broken in for very long, but certainly has a talent for jumping. War Dance also took the reserve flat junior ridden championship. Anna Metcalfe who won the open class took reserve with Meres Javlin. The full results can be found at www.fellponysociety.org.uk/showresults.htm

Claire Simpson



Bill and Isobel Potter with the Stallion Performance Points award. Greenholme Warrior's progeny accumulated the most points in the Performance and Youngstock Scheme during 2013. *Photo, Claire Simpson*.



Breed Show Ridden Champion Lunesdale Warrior Queen (rider, Anna Metcalfe) and Reserve Castle Hill Rose (rider, Courtney Savage) with judges Beverley Hodgson and Jean Ward. *Photo, Claire Simpson*.

Judge Ruth Eastwood, with MESG champion Murthwaite Windrush, ridden by Steph Wheway. Kaitlen Robinson and Andy at Pony Racing Camp at Doncaster - a winning combination at the Pony Club racing day Haydock in September. *Photo, Northern Racing College.*







South Cumbria Supreme Champion Greenholme Caitlin ridden by Katie Duxbury.

Stallion Show driving winners, Dougy Parkinson's Tynebank Danny Boy and Tynebank Brown Bobby driven by Jackie Parkinson. *Photos, Claire Simpson*.





Stallion Show Champion, Mr & Mrs Morland's Lunesdale Warlord shown by Russell Sutcliffe.

Stallion Show Ridden Champion Bracklinn Drambuie, owned by Miss N Speak, ridden by Hayley Reynolds. *Photos, Claire Simpson*.





South Cumbria WHP champion and reserve: Sophie Jones with Lunesdale War Dance, and Anna Metcalfe with Meres Javlin. *Photo, Claire Simpson.* Below: riders and ponies on the NW Area Fun Ride from Kerbeck Stud, Lamplugh, Cumbria.



The 42nd Fell Pony Society Breed Show 2014

The Fell Pony Society held its annual Breed Show at Dalemain near Ullswater on 9th August 2014. The Society is very grateful to the Hasell-McCosh family for allowing it to use such a beautiful setting.

The overall supreme championship went to the Ashcroft family with the in hand mare champion, Banksgate Vember, a five year old mare who had not been shown since she was a two year old; Vember also won the best shod foot class. The Ashcrofts also won the stallion progeny class with Vember, Brando and Elidor, all ponies sired by Banksgate Jackdaw, and all class winners on the day; Brando winning the class for ridden novice stallions or geldings, and Elidor the yearling fillies.



Judges Ruby Williams and Alistair Smith with their Supreme Champion Banksgate Vember, handled by breeder Tony Ashcroft. *Photo, Claire Simpson*.

Reserve supreme went to Julie Robinson's ridden and junior champion, Lunesdale Warrior Queen, ridden by Anna Metcalfe from Killington who had recently qualified for the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) Mountain and Moorland Championships. Bert and Carol Morland were delighted to see other Lunesdale ponies win their classes; including the winner of the class for two year old fillies and youngstock champion, Lunesdale Moonlight; who had only been off the fell for four weeks but took everything in her stride; and Lunesdale Lord who won the gelding championship for Jill Gilthorpe.

Mr D C Thompson's mare, Drybarrows Dot, won the class for mares over eight years old and took reserve championship for mares in hand. Mr Thompson also won the class for the pony with the best unshod foot with Drybarrows Jess II. David Howe's Rundales Trooper won the class for yearling colts and took the reserve youngstock championship.

Ponies owned or bred by the Wellbrow stud had a good day with the offspring of Wellbrow Carmen, namely Cari, Mikado and Fury, winning the mare progeny class; and Cari, Mikado and Elsie taking second in the stallion progeny for Heltondale Mountain Mist II. Elsie and Fury won the classes for three year old fillies and two year old geldings respectively; while the eight year old Moonstone won the class for senior geldings and took the reserve champion gelding title for Mrs Donnan.

As to be expected entries came from far and wide to compete in the HOYS qualifier, but the winner was a local entry, Courtney Savage with her 13 year old mare Castle Hill Rose. Courtney had planned to retire Rose from the show ring, but thought that she would have one last outing at the Breed show. Rose proved that she still thoroughly enjoys competing by putting on a superb performance to take the HOYS ticket. Courtney and Rose also won the reserve supreme ridden championship.

Lucy Hogg from Appleby won the novice ridden championship with Wansfell Anzin; the reserve championship went to Margaret Wilson's Townend Apple Blossom ridden by Kate Watson.

The ridden veteran class winner was Anneli Ferrier and Ludworth Rufus; the in hand veteran winner was Mrs A J Batey with Greenholme Sasha.

Other Greenholme-bred winners included, Greenholme Dec who won the open ridden class for stallions or geldings with Bethan Lewis; and o Rebecca Potter's colt Greenholme I'm The Lad shown by John Potter which won the prize for the best foal.

Winner of the filly foal class was John Cockbain's Carrock Elsa. The winner of the mare with filly foal was Barry and Tracey Mallinson's Lune Valley Petal. Barbara Bell's Waverhead Polly VI won the class for mares with colt foals. Barbara Potter's Dalefoot Rolo won the class for three year old geldings.

Winner of the best turned out class was Vicky Parker and Thornbeck Andrew; while equally well turned out was Alison Bell who won the driving class with Lownthwaite Heidi.

Dressage tests were run throughout the morning with classes for different ages and abilities. Jane Rawden won the BE 90 Test 95 (Senior) with Murthwaite Looks Promising. Twelve year old Ellie Mitchell (12) won the Preliminary 7 (Junior) with Baronshill Becks. Christine Robinson won the Introductory with Hynholme Amber.

Young people were well catered for with classes for young riders from lead rein

onwards, young handlers and young judges; as well as the wonderfully imaginative entries in the fancy dress class.

The lead rein winner was Lewis Reynolds (5) with Bluemountain Show Me. Georgina Mallinson (7) won the first ridden class with Wolds Red Kite. Red Kite was also a winner of the pairs class for Miss S Jackson, when partnered with Hardendale Liberty and Miss N Jackson. Marianna Stephenson (13) won the riding class for children 13 years and under with Greenholme Buttercup and the reserve champion junior ridden.

Ellie Anderson (13) won the young handlers class with Littletree Heartbreaker; and Megan Wilkinson (14) won the young judges class.

Mary Longsdon MBE judged the fancy dress and chose Georgia Ellis and Scotgate Midnight Rebel and their excellent interpretation of 'Humpty Dumpty' to win the class.

The full results can be found at www.fellponysociety.org.uk/showresults.htm



Best foal, Greenholme I'm the Lad, owned by Rebecca Potter. *Photo, Claire Simpson*.

Youngstock champion, 2-year-old Lunesdale Moonlight, shown by Joe Tighe, with her breeders, Mr & Mrs A W Morland. *Photo, Claire Simpson.*



The Edinburgh Prize for Driving

Presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

To be awarded internationally to a single or multiple turnout of registered Fell ponies, for achievement in Driving.

The Fell Pony Society Council is thrilled to inform all 'whips' internationally of a new award presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. There will be 25 Edinburgh Prizes, one to be awarded each year from 2014 onward.

For 2014 only, the Council would like to invite any Members of the Fell Pony Society, or FPS-recognised FPS Overseas Branches, who drive a registered Fell pony or ponies, to submit all their achievements for 2014, with a relevant photograph, to the Secretary by January 5th 2015. The driving members of the Council will then decide who shall be the initial winner of this Prize. The Prize will be presented at the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

For 2015 onwards, all participating members will have to complete a form over the year, similar to the Performance Awards form, with relevant signatures confirming their achievements.

All ponies must be registered Fell Ponies and the owner or the driver must be a member of The Fell Pony Society, the Netherlands Fell Pony Society, or a member of an FPS-recognised Overseas Branch.



Area Support Groups - Contact Details for All Areas

Scotland

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

South - Alistair Smith.

North West

Frances Miller, Chairman.

Anne Hogg, Treasurer: Email: annehogg04@aol.com Tel: 07841 705 585.

David Wilkinson - wilkinsonfellponies@hotmail.co.uk; Cath Wrigley - catherine.wrigley@sky.com; Emma Garnet - emmalouise112@outlook.com; Gwen - don-gwen@tiscali.co.uk ; Hazel Kirkham - hazellstead123@hotmail.com; Megan Wilkinson - wilkinsonfellponies@hotmail.co.uk; Lucy Hogg - annehogg04@aol.com.

Web site: http://nwasg.weebly.com/

Facebook group page: https://www.facebook.com/nwasg

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

Joan Dorman, Membership Secretary, 01335 350301.

Alyson Hurcomb, Activity / Performance Awards, 01283 569228.

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

North East

Eileen Walker, Home phone 01388 763607, Mobile 07990 521205;

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Midlands East

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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

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 at sharron.camp@montybear.co.uk

Web-site: http://www.fellponysw.org.uk/ and

http://dorsetfellshow.co.uk

South East

Contact: Susie Newton, The New House, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, West Sussex,

RH17 7PL. Tel: 01444 831425, Mobile: 07989982886 or e-mail susie.newton@btinternet.com

Facebook page "Fell Pony Support Group - South East"

SE Group E-mail: fellponysocietysegroup@gmail.com



North East Support Group

It's been another busy year for the North East group so the committee would like to thank you for your continued support. Since the last magazine we have hosted a number of events.

In March we held our third study day at Stonechester, near Crook, County Durham. Our focus for this year was preparing ponies for a dressage test. Twelve ponies attended the event with Wendy Murray instructing us in the movements of a prelim test in readiness for the up and coming Native Pony Dressage. We all learnt a lot and certainly went home having many things to practice!

Highland and Fell Camp (or Hairy Camp as it's more lovingly known!) was the next event in our calendar over the bank holiday weekend early in May. It was a great weekend to not only improve the performance of our ponies but also socialise with friends old and new!

Unfortunately the Hexham Native Pony show didn't run this year, but it was nice to see some of our members supporting the new Native Pony Festival at Throckley.

We have three ponies forward to represent us at the Southern Show this year. Eileen Walker showing two Rackwood ponies and Anneli Ferrier showing a Ludworth pony, we wish them the best of luck.

Our next event is the Performance Trials, at the Charlton's Linnel Wood. Plans are being finalised and we're hoping for a fine day. If you've not yet taken part in the event it is a great day for those who love to share their Native ponies and show the world what they can do. It's also a great day for spectators too so come along and support the event.

The committee are in the process of planning our events for next year, our first event of 2015 will be our Sunday lunch and details of this will be emailed out to North East members in the New Year along with our newsletter but will also appear on the support group area of the FPS web page.

The North East support group is trying to do its bit for the planet so could we request that if you've not already done so or have changed your email address that you send your details to Eileen Walker at the following address: Eileen@rackwoodfellponies.co.uk

If any of our members would like to receive a paper copy of our newsletter in the New Year then please send an SAE to Eileen Walker at Abbots Close Farm, Fir Tree, Crook, Co Durham DL15 8DL

Finally thank you for your support in 2014 and here's to a successful 2015. Sarah Pringle, tel: 07810122239.

North West Area Support Group

The North West Area group have had a busy year, and some very successful events for our members. At the beginning of March we all came out of hibernation for a lunch at The Crookland Hotel, with guest-speaker Steph Wheway, who shared her experience of qualifying Murthwaite Windrush for Horse of the Year Show, and the thrill of riding at the annual showcase. It was a great opportunity to have a get-together after a long wet winter!

LOWNTHWAITE STUD 125th ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY



Christine Morton, Alison Bell and Frances Awde at Lownthwaite Open Day.

We were blessed with fantastic hot and sunny July weather to wander amongst the Lownthwaite herd and this year's five foals turned out at Gamblesby, with views of the impressive range of fells behind. Alison Wales-Bell, Christine Morton and Frances Awde arranged their spacious barn for visitors to meet one of the resident stallions, Lownthwaite Sant-Alfio, alongside a beautiful 1904 round back gig [driving vehicle], and a tabletop display of historical farming implements which we were all challenged to identify! There was also an illustrated timeline of 125 years of Fell-pony history, including some interesting and surprising facts. It is remarkable to think of Christine & Frances's father Frank Wales, along with his father, attending the very first General meeting of The Fell Pony Society in 1946, when it was estimated there were only 50 registered Fell Ponies in total, 36-40 of which were mares, and quality stallions were limited.

25 years later Mr. Wales bred Lownthwaite Star Trek, who was described by the late Joseph Dargue (a former-FPS President), as the best Fell Pony he had ever seen. The Lownthwaite Stud have bred many influential ponies over their 125 year history, which have been exported all over the world. Lownthwaite Gary, now 23 years old, was one-time Supreme Champion at the Stallion Show, and has stood at the Waverhead Stud for many years, siring some hugely successful ponies. With Alison's inherited knowledge and enthusiasm, I hope we will see the Lownthwaite Stud flourish long into the future! The raffle raised £80, £40 of which was donated to the FPS, and the remainder to the NW Area Group.



Barbara Bell with a foal at Lownthwaite

FUN RIDE & BBQ

At the beginning of August our members enjoyed a dry day for our fun ride at North Lamplugh, the home of Kerbeck Fell Ponies. Christine Robinson welcomed us to North Fell Dyke to ride through the fells, and stunning scenery surrounding Lamplugh. All attendees were treated to a fantastic buffet lunch and BBQ supplied by Christine and her husband, together with Susan and Rachael Brunskill.

NW AREA AGM, 25th OCTOBER

I am standing down as NW Area chairperson at our AGM, as I will have relocated (with a heavy heart) to Gloucestershire by the time this is published! The AGM will be held at the Kendal Auction Mart, and we will meet in the cafe shortly after the last lot has gone through the ring. We will be appointing a new chairperson, as well as welcoming any new members who would like to join the committee. Please do come along if you are interested in joining.

FPS FOAL & YOUNGSTOCK SHOW 2nd NOVEMBER

This will be held indoors at Newton Rigg Equestrian Centre, nr Penrith. It will start at 11am and will have classes for foals, yearlings, 2 & 3 yr olds. We will have beautiful rosettes and championship sashes, a FPBA special rosette for the best filly foal, Lownthwaite Anniversary Commemorative Rosettes, and generously donated trophies. NB, we are allowing any foals purchased at the FPS sale to make late entries for this show. If you would like a copy of the schedule it will be posted on the FPS website or email me at fvmiller@hotmail.co.uk, & I will send you a paper copy.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK our treasurer Anne Hogg, and our committee David & Megan Wilkinson, Cath Wrigley, Emma Garnett, Gwen Wordley and Nicola Chippendale for their help over the last 12 months. Thank you to all of our NW members who have supported our events this year. I wish you all the best for a very enjoyable & successful 2015.

Frances Miller.

Midlands East Area Support Group

The Summer has seen Midlands East ponies out and about, showing what versatile ponies they are. They have been represented at County, Agricultural and the Native pony shows and of course at Sandringham Show. A non Fell friend told me she had seen ten Fells at Equifest. There has also been activity in Fell and Friends shows giving local owners and children a chance to have fun and learn how to show their ponies.

The Southern Breed Show is on the 14th September, lots of classes including Fancy Dress and Children's classes as well as in hand and ridden. Our two qualifiers for the In hand Inter Area Boy Blue Championship are Lynne Chamberlain with Greenhead Blooming Heather and R. Nichols with Greenhead Bamboozle. A great day out for non competitors and supporters as well as entrants.

Fell and Friends On Line Showing has been an alternative for some people.

As the showing season slows down we are looking more at events run by the group and joining in local events. See below:

MESG and Friends Shows and activities

20th Sept. Macmillan Charity ride Stanford-on-Avon, Northants. Uk Chasers course. Participants can go at any speed, jumps optional. Fells welcome. Contact Kate Merry 01788 823215

28th September Rare breeds show at Slapton, contact 01494 673159

28th September Show at Gotham Leics. Christine Poole 0781742293

5th October Rare Breeds of the Year Show, Houghton Cambs PE28 2DY MESG contact Lorna Brooks 01844 350404

1st November Ayleston Equestrian Dressage and Qualifiers Leics MESG contact Isabel Meadows TUNGU5KA1@sky.com 07758001011

9th November Show at Canaan Equestrian Leics, contact Christine Poole 0781742293

A Horseman's ride, a Church start before the ride with a picnic afterwards, date to be announced.

Christmas activites to be announced. All details will be on www. FPS-MESG.co.uk and MESG Facebook.

Midlands East Support Group Contact details

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Isabel Meadows – Performance Awards 07758 001011

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Janet Blair – Tel: 01494 673159

Norfolk

Lisa Dunger – Tel: 01485 541097 Jean Bateson – Tel 07969 084120 Essex, Cambridge & Suffolk Jo Whitelaw – Tel: 01437 832734 Julia Baldwin – Tel: 07766 395799 Northamptonshire Kate Merry – Tel: 01788 823215

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire

Vacant

Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland

Jane Glass - Tel: 01509 880261

Lincolnshire

Nicky Ash & Karen Duncan – Tel: 07771 590938

Oxfordshire - Vacant



John Greener's Kinkryhill ponies wintering out in 2010.

Midlands West Area Support Group

Group Leader: Mary Longsdon Tel: 01629 640709 Secretary: Diane Key Tel: 01785 822723

So far for 2014, the Midlands West have held the following events.

Sunday April 13th ~ Spring Festival of Fells Show at Tedsmore Equestrian at Oswestry, Following the success of last year's inaugural show, we had a bumper amount of ponies forward for judge Ruth Eastwood to cast her expert eye over. The fun Fell classes were judged by Mrs D.M. Key. The main show championship results were as follows

Young Stock

Champion:	Wellbrow Elsie	Mrs A Rodger
Reserve:	Townend Lacey	Miss C Connor

Adult In Hand

Champion:	Greenholme Elect	Mr R Relph-Briggs
Reserve:	Murthwaite Windrush	Mrs J Crane

Ridden

Champion:	Murthwaite Iceman	Mr T Capstick
Reserve:	Murthwaite Windrush	Mrs J Crane

Supreme Champion

Supreme: Wellbrow Elsie Reserve Supreme: Greenholme Elect

The qualifier for the Bewcastle Boy Blue In Hand Championship (at the Southern Breed Show) was Sleddale Tommy owned by Miss S Davies.

We would like to thank all our generous sponsors and Ruth Eastwood for travelling all the way down from Scotland to judge.

We will be holding another show in the Oswestry area next year. The venue is yet to be arranged and we would welcome any sponsorship (no matter how small) and encourage ALL Midlands West Fell Pony owners to attend and support the show. As usual there will be classes for everyone!

In May, the annual pleasure ride over Cannock Chase took place. This was again organised by Sandra Newcombe and once again everybody had an enjoyable ride. However this year it was noted that Fell ponies were conspicuous by their absence!! Nevertheless, many thanks to Sandra for organising another lovely ride and to her daughter Nikki for leading the ride. In June, the annual Fell, Dales and Highland Pony Show at Bakewell Show Ground was well attended with good entries. The Fell Pony section was judged by Miss Jenny Charlton.

The main championship results were as follows.

Young stock

Champion:	Carrock Snowdrop,	G Cockbain
Reserve:	Wellbrow Elsie,	A Rodger
Adult In Hand	d	
Champion:	Boutime Wooster,	D Vychinski
Reserve:	Littletree Busy Lizzie,	E Barnes
Ridden		
Champion:	Greenhome Warbler,	C Wigley
Reserve:	Ludworth Viking,	N Ash

Supreme

Champion: Greenholme Warbler. Reserve: Boutime Wooster.

The qualifier for the Bewcastle Boy Blue In Hand Championship (at the Southern Breed Show) was Wellbrow Elsie owned by Mrs A Rodger, reserve Murthwaite Laura Trott owned by Mr P Steeples.

Please note that there are show results and some photographs of these events available on our group web site at www.westmids-fellponies.org.uk

Next Events

At this time the annual Leg It (trotting races) at Seighford is on hold. An alternative venue is being considered but as yet no firm plans have been laid down.

Sunday 2nd November – Annual Luncheon and Open Group Meeting at the home of Elizabeth Marshall at Merefield, Oaks Green, Sudbury, (Near Uttoxeter), Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 5HX.

This year we are combining our annual luncheon and group meeting. If you would like to attend the morning meeting we will be starting at 11.00am prompt. Fully paid up members will be advised of the agenda. If you have not paid up your $\pounds 5$ subs for this year, you can still pay on the day and attend. Your input is greatly valued!

If you only would like to attend the luncheon and afternoon events please come along for 12.30. In the afternoon there will be a guest speaker from the RDA, Fell Pony Photo Show, Pudding Competition, Raffle, presentation of the annual Performance Awards and Fell Pony Society merchandise for sale. If you would like to attend this highly popular event please telephone Elizabeth Marshall on 01283 585358 or Diane Key 01785 822723. Please book at least one week before as places are limited.

Christmas Social ~ Following yet another successful pre-Christmas social get together in Montgomery, organised by Debbie Roberts-Jones, Debbie is hoping to organise a similar event again in December. Details of this will be available in our next group newsletter or from Face book. Alternatively please contact Debbie Roberts-Jones on 01691 652843.

The autumn issue of the Midlands West Group newsletter will be available after the November meeting, if you have any sales or wants to be advertised FREE OF CHARGE please contact Diane Key on 01785 822723 or email diane@fellpony.me.uk

If you would like to join the Midlands West Fell Pony Support Group please contact Mr B 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.

Thank you for your support \sim new members with or without ponies are always very welcome.

Diane Key

Happiness is...

...riding Orton Hall Davie in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Lots of steep hills for mad upill gallops!

Scilla Bainbridge

Lincolnshire



A Summer of Fell Pony Events....

The Fell Pony Society Young Person's Group was formed last year, and one of its aims is to educate members on Fell Pony conformation and breed type, and to promote a greater understanding of semi-feral herds. At the end of June, the Murthwaite Stud hosted our first Young Person's Group event, in the heart of Fell-Pony country.

Mr. Thomas Capstick, who has bred some of the most successful Fell Ponies in the show ring in recent years, including Murthwaite Windrush who won at HOYS in 2013, welcomed everyone to view more than sixty of his ponies, including this year's mostly-brown foals, and his two resident stallions (Murthwaite Look At Me and Wellbrow Lancashire Lad). We were treated to a demonstration of a working pony by Courtney Savage, who showed two Murthwaite geldings working in harness, pulling farming implements and a flat-bed cart, which was used to give rides to some young members, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This was a fantastic opportunity for more than eighty visitors to see Fell Ponies in their natural environment, and enjoy the immense scenery of the Howgill fells, 2000ft above sea level.

On a very hot July day, The Severnvale Stud in Gloucestershire hosted a stockjudging and showing clinic. We all met at Frampton church, in the beautiful village alongside the river Severn. The Severnvale Stud was formed in 1994 by George Guy, who has been a significant promoter and supporter of the breed in the south of the country for many years. His grand-daughter Leanne Russell - our YPG chairperson - has been seen showing the Severnvale ponies around the country for the past 20 years. Michael Goddard - FPS judge and breeder of the Bewcastle ponies - talked our forty visitors through the Breed Standard, illustrating it by using a handful of Severnvale ponies. Michael also gave some useful showing hints and tips to make the best of your pony and to make the judge's life a little easier! All visitors were invited to get amongst the ponies and have a hands-on experience, including the extremely kind resident stallion Severnvale Ivor. We were all invited to examine a good hock, some nice flat, flinty bone, and most importantly, a good Fell-Pony foot. A highlight for some visitors was to travel in style on carts pulled by vintage tractors around the fields of ponies.

The Townend Stud organised a training day in late August, and we were blessed with fantastic weather. Mrs Margaret Wilson, and her daughter Penny Randell organised a brilliant day, and throughout the day the late Eddie Wilson was referenced many times, not only as the founder of Townend Stud, but also as a friend to many, whose knowledge of the Fell Pony was sorely missed. Penny reflected that he would have been happy to see so many young people enjoying learning about Fell Ponies at Townend. We met at Mungrisdale Village Hall in the morning for a presentation on breed type and conformation by Mr. Peter Boustead, FPS and NPS judge. It was an entertaining and hugely informative presentation, with many memorable anecdotes. Peter was able to demonstrate to our younger members how Fell Ponies have changed across the last century, using photographs from the early decades of the twentieth-century to illustrate that Fell Ponies at shows had fine, silky hair, stood around 13.2hh, and had good, flat bone. Visitors enjoyed applying their learning by being asked to judge four Townend ponies, and place them in their chosen order. Happily, most of us agreed with Mr. Bousted's placings, which meant we must have learnt something! Margaret Wilson treated visitors to the most fantastic afternoon tea which had taken weeks of preparation. We were all made to feel very welcome, and thoroughly enjoyed being able to wander amongst the fields of all-black quality Fell Ponies in the sunshine at Townend.

If you would like any further information on events being held by the Young Person's Group in 2015, please visit fellponysociety.org.uk and see the Calendar of Events.

Frances Miller (Secretary): fvmiller@hotmail.co.uk and Leanne Russell (Chairperson): leanne.russell@hotmail.co.uk

Lincolnshire Fell group

Lincolnshire Fell ponies and Friends group held a raffle and a clinic with Protexin Equine Premium Products which was fantastic. We all learnt about the horse's gut and what we can use to help for stress and many other issues. We had a great raffle for everybody, and we must thank Blue Chip, Emerald Green Feeds, Horse Tribe, Kirsty Wylde Portraits, Horse Boutique, Protexin, Jefferies, Vennessa Bespoke Rosettes, Aloequine, Maxavita, Pure Feed Company, Plenty Of Ponies, Chandlers, Nostrilvet and Bridleway for all your support. Please join our group on Facebook for free competitions. We also have an online showing competition page to raise money for the Fell Pony Society.

Hopefully our next event will be with Emerald Green Feeds.

A big thank you to Nichola Ash, Tez Brown and Hayley Coley, Fell Group reps.

British Native Pony Show in Northern Germany

On May 3 and 4 the Reitsportzentrum Hemmoor, home of the Conkertree Fell pony stud, in the north of Lower Saxony in Germany, hosted a British native pony show. Although they are still relatively rare in Germany all native breeds except for the Dales and Exmoor pony were being shown. Most contestants were from Germany of course, but we also had entries from Denmark and Poland. Judge Peter Boustead came over from the UK to judge the classes according to British rules. Saturday, under a marvellous blue sky, started with the inhand classes. The Shetland ponies who had the highest number of enties were judged seperately, andthe others were in gender- and age-specific classes.

The day ended with a barbeque in the heated tent, live music and a lot of interesting and inspiring conversations.

On Sunday the ridden and driven classes were held. Between them we had show hunter, fancy dress and family pony competitions. At the end of the day the champion and reserve champion were announced and proudly received their prizes from the mayor. Both the contestants and judge Peter Boustead praised the good organisation and the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the show.

In-hand mares: 1. Murthwaite Snowdrop, Fell Pony, Jeanette Kunz. 3. Blomberg Silberpfeil, Fell Pony, Sabine und Wolfgang Bauer

Ridden mares: 1. Dalefoot Echo, Fell Pony, Aylin Kay

Champion: Murthwaite Snowdrop, Jeanette Kunz, Denmark

We are already beginning to plan the show in early May of 2015. We will add classes for Gypsy Cobs, both inhand and ridden, young rider and handler classes and a best turnout award. We also plan to have a market-square with booths representing the various breeds, sales booths and a riders' flea-market. If you are interested and want to keep up with the planning, just send a short note to: Equilogics@t-online.de. We will put you on our mail list and you will get all information first hand. We had a blast and are already looking forward to the next British Native Pony Show in Northern Germany

Tinka Fleischer

People and Ponies - Foal Syke Farm

Our Fell ponies behaved for the BBC and were included in the programme "More Creatures Great and Small" - even my Highland bull got in on the act.

After a positive start to the year, an old back injury has recurred so I can't do endurance rides but I am hoping to do a couple of shows at the end of the season.

Foalsyke Black Prince has been sold to a lovely lady who previously had Foalsyke Graham who sadly died, so Prince has gone to keep Foalsyke Ebony company.

Stennerskeugh Bonnie Lad is a father again, a lovely bay colt out of an Arab mare. He's run with her again and with three Fells so I hope for a nice crop next year to go on and do us proud.

Anne Richardson



Winner of the Gelding class at the FPS Stallion Show, Murthwaite Sako .308 shown by Courtney Savage

Amanda Rodger and Wellbrow Elsie

Wellbrow Elsie is a 3 year old filly. She is a very loving pony and has to know what you are doing at all times. I actually went looking for a colt at Andrew and Michelle Thorpe's Wellbrow stud in July 2013, but Elsie caught my eye and that was it, I had to have her. I started showing her at few winter shows and she won two firsts in February this year at Bold Heath. I took her to my first ever breed show and she not only won her class but took Champion Youngstock and Supreme Champion. She has gone on to win many more classes, recently winning her 3 year old filly class at the Breed Show in August and best 3 year old. I would like to thank Michelle for selling her to me, as I've had lots of fun with her.

Amanda Rodger



Coast to Coast, Fell Pony Style



It was Susan Brunskill who first suggested over breakfast early one morning at Fell and Highland camp that I organise a coast to coast ride. In the end there were only two of us: Morven Lawson riding my 14 yo gelding Murthwaite Mikado, and me on 6 yo Hoddom King Kong. Micky has previously twice ridden the length of the country with me, but it was King's first big trip, other than a few days riding over the Cairngorms a month beforehand when he'd demonstrated his prowess as a travelling pony. Even so, it was with more than a little trepidation that we set off from St. Bees, the most westerly point in Cumbria, on a gusty Saturday afternoon in early September 2013. Within the first mile, Micky had made clear his dislike for a level crossing, and I seriously wondered whether we'd make it through the first day, let alone across the breadth of northern England.

The 'official' coast to coast route takes walkers via Ennerdale and then over the Borrowdale Fells to Grasmere, but includes numerous sections of footpath, and others of treacherous bog, so we'd decided early in planning our trip that we would do as Wainwright suggested and devise our own version of his original route. From Egremont we trit-trotted over the fells and through various bogs to Wast Water, where we spent our first night, before scrabbling up the scree to Sty Head and then dropping down the old packhorse route into the Langdale valley. I'd checked beforehand with the National Trust that the bridleway marked on the map was passable. No problem, so I'd been told, so long as it was Fell ponies.



Having done it, Morven and I would beg to differ. Admittedly I can't think of any other breed of horse who would so nimbly and capably cope with sheer rock faces and stone "steps" each with a more than 2 foot drop, and space only for one hoof before the same again. But it's not a route I would recommend to the faint hearted.

Slowed to a snail's pace, it soon became clear we were never going to make it to Troutbeck where I'd twisted someone's arm for a field next to the pub where we were booked to stay overnight. More arm twisting required to convince the lovely man opposite Elterwater youth hostel to let the ponies graze his garden overnight.

Apart from the re-jigging of accommodation, falling 15 miles behind schedule on day 2 also meant we had to ride through the centre of Ambleside on a busy Monday morning instead of quiet Sunday evening, which was my worst nightmare with a pony not keen on traffic. To my relief, calmed by a steady stream of admirers proferring Polo mints, King and Micky never batted an eyelid at umbrellas or double decker buses while they waited patiently for us to restock our saddle bags for a long day ahead.

Cutting across the hills, our route took us from Ambleside to Troutbeck, over Garburn Pass to Kentmere, past watchful Fell ponies down into Longsleddale, and then over Gatescarth Pass to Haweswater. We rode the last few miles by headtorch into Shap, where I'd sweet talked a reluctant B&B into letting us put the ponies on their pocket-handkerchief sized would-be lawn, sandwiched between the main west coast railway and A6. Whether it was exhaustion or bribery with bags of windfall apples, thankfully Micky and King were still in situ the following morning despite the inadequate loops of rope hastily erected in the dark to contain them.

Work and family commitments left no leeway to extend our trip, so still miles behind schedule, we cut more directly east from Shap via Crosby Ravensworth and Soulby instead of the route we'd carefully planned via Orton and Smardale. Along the way we met llamas, motorbike rallies, and endless wagons, tractors and trailers headed to market. Sadly the only person we didn't meet was Mr. Rochester, who we fantasised might pop out from a stately pile (not that he would have fallen for us in our sweaty jodphurs).

Sitting in Kirby Stephen market square enjoying an ice cream, King ticked the next box in a travelling pony's essential repertoire: beach donkey substitute for all and sundry who want to plonk their darling children on a pony's back. Micky looked on nonchalantly as if to say "Been there, done that, got the t-shirt. Come on, let's get going again." And so on via Nateby to a welcoming farm at Keld.

Day 5 started with a rude and sadly not unfamiliar awakening: the sound of hooves trotting up the road, and me knowing there are no other horses for miles around and I'd left mine in a grass field. I raced downstairs rapidly pulling on clothes to find Micky and King trotting back up the road towards Kirby Stephen in search of their riders, who Micky clearly thought were having too much of a lie-in.

Compared with the first four days, our ride through Swaledale was blissfully leisurely. Bemused by an unfamiliar sound drifting across the river, King's little black ears pricked far forward as he stopped to listen to the brass band playing at Muker show. After an overnight stop at a farm near Reeth, we rode on east, via Marrick and Marske, through the middle of Richmond and under the A1 to North Cowton, following Wainwright's route where we could, and where it was footpath only, devising our own off-road Fell pony version.

On Day 6 our luck ran out and the rain lashed down all day as we rode east to Swainby, rivers too high in spate to ford where we'd intended, forcing further deviations from our carefully planned route to Chop Gate. What a relief to hang our dripping gear to dry over an Aga. And that the sun had reappeared by the time we set off again next morning, riding around the northern edge of the Cleveland Hills, and then across ancient tracks and disused railways over the glorious North Yorks Moors to Goathland. Our last day was as varied as the rest - lolloping canters over purple heather moorland, leafy green lanes between patchwork paddocks, past Falling Foss, and a steady stream of tour buses, camper



King doing community service - mowing the lawn of the Lion Inn on a lunchtime break during our coast to coast ride

vans and motorbikes, finally dropping down to Robin Hood's Bay. How proud was I of the two ponies who so gamely clattered down the cobbles onto the beach, totally unperturbed by the hordes of visitors (other than to think about mugging them for their ice creams). The only pity was that our trip ever had to end and there wasn't time to ride back the other way on a different route. Perhaps next time.

Vyv Wood-Gee

FPS Sales List

The Society's web site carries a list of Ponies for Sale, Stud advertising, and Ponies Wanted: http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/sales_list.htm

A payment of $\pounds 10$ per listing/pony is required. Details will be included and remain on the list for a maximum period of three months; or $\pounds 30$ for a year. There is a printable form to guide you when writing your advertisement for the Sales List of Registered Fell Ponies. Please forward advertisement details together with a cheque payable to 'The Fell Pony Society' to:

FPS Sales List, Bank House, Boroughgate, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6XF. E-mail for photo files (up to 3 small ones) secretary@fellponysociety.org.uk.

Holling Black Jack at Dorset Fell Show

I hadn't been to this show before but I was determined to get there this year with my Fell. I had to do the journey on my own as I couldn't persuade anyone to come with me that far (we live in North Devon), but that was OK. Jack (Holling Black Jack) loads well so I don't need help with that, and I planned to meet some of my family at the show.

We set off before 5 am, and finally arrived on the showground at about 9. Everyone at the show was so friendly, and I saw quite a few people I had only chatted to on Facebook before. It was lovely to meet face to face at last.

I met up with my sister and her family – special thanks to Mike who was a star at horse holding while I calmed my nerves with some Rescue Remedy. Yes, I was



nervous, not so much about the in hand class we'd entered, but that later on I was going to have my first ever attempt at a ridden class. Jack had never done one before either so it was a whole new experience for both of us. I did wonder if we would get into the ring at all but when the time came I had gone sort of numb with fear, and we found ourselves in the ring, with me on Jack, and off we went.

Well, we didn't cover ourselves in glory as neither of us had a clue what we were doing, and Jack was most reluctant to leave

the other ponies to do his show. Most of the time he went in the right direction, at roughly the correct speed, and he really enjoyed trotting round with the other ponies. Although we were last I still count it as a win as we had done something way outside our comfort zone.

There is an advantage to being last in both your classes at a show – you do not have to wait for the championships and can go home early. We finally arrived home at about 7 pm – tired but with a feeling of achievement that is priceless. Jack had behaved beautifully all day and I was very proud of him. He doesn't really see the point of showing, but he had put up with it, and such a long journey, without complaint. What a good boy!

I hope I will be able to go to this show again. I really enjoyed the atmosphere and I would like to have a go at the Handy Pony class next time - maybe this could be Jack's forte!

Sue Howes

Lincolnshire's Oldest Teenager

I am living on my own little patch of Heaven thanks to my Fell pony Raisbeck Opium.

Five years ago I was well into my sixties and falls were becoming tougher, not to mention struggling with heavy rugs in gales and losing my reading glasses when trying to plait up or pull tails. I was not ready for over sixties bingo in the village hall so something had to be done.

My first chunky hairy beast a.k.a. a Fell pony was bought from a lovely breeder in Cumbria and then the fun began! Oh I had so much to learn.

I cannot tell you how much we have won as we haven't entered anything apart



from a few impromptu trotting races on the Wolds where nobody can catch us. In fact on my Fell pony I am Lincolnshire's oldest teenager. I can get on her without scaffolding as she is just 13.3 and if she spooks I just land on the other side of her ample bottom. No shoes, no rugs, no fancy feed and up to now no vet bills.

My husband always said that I would grow out of horses. Well I haven't and thanks to Opium he has capitulated and bought our small holding. He got fed up of me living at the livery yard. He hates ready meals!

My wonderful twilight years pony can do pleasure rides, dressage and this week we jumped our first and very large Lincolnshire ditch. The 'flag monster' was just too much for Opium and and it all happened so quickly that my hacking companion was still chattering about World political events, albeit to herself, whilst I was wondering how to get out of the wheat field we found ourselves in.

Living at the fast end of life at pushing seventy - you can't beat it.

Opium is my star and best friend and kindly Aunt to my young Fell gelding Wellbrow Coot aka Scoota. On a final note she is expecting a black hairy Ludworth baby in the Spring so I can forgive her one vice - gluttony.

Erica Norman

Andy the Racing Fell

Andy and I went to pony racing camp, which was held at the Northern Racing College in Doncaster. The only name on his passport is Andy, but his mum's called Eastcote Cygnet and his dad's called Waverhead Model III. It was the best week of our lives as we made lots of new friends and we learned loads of new things including how to race ride and how to push a racehorse on.



I wanted to do this because racing has been my life long ambition and I wanted to make it come true, so pony racing ticked all the boxes for me as it would be the thing to start off my racing career. During the 5 day camp we rode on the circular gallops every day. Andy loved it! He even flew past full Thoroughbreds and never cared one bit.

I would definitely go again if I had the opportunity. After I did this camp I had qualified on all my levels 1, 2 and 3 which has enabled me to pony race.

Andy and I raced at Haydock Park on 7th September and we came first! Yes first! He beat some full Thoroughbreds too! It's an understatement how proud I am of him! Loads of apples for him tonight!

Kaitlen Robinson, Wigan, Lancs

The Lownthwaite Rob Trophy - Lownthwaite Romany



Thank you, I am very honoured to be given this award. When we were living at Penrith it was my Cumbrian farrier that persuaded me to sell my thoroughbred and buy a Fell pony. He already had one in mind for me - so with my thoroughbred sold, I bought Lownthwaite Romany, a.k.a. Lady.

Right from the start Lady and I hit it off. I have always been a mare type of person, preferring them to geldings, so it was a match made in heaven. She was lightly backed so it made my job easy to just carry on. I remember the first outing we took her to was a mock hunt, where my plan was to just trot along at the back and jump some small fences if the oppotunity arose. Well, she had other ideas and was right up front with the big boys. At one point she had to lead the hunt through a river as the big boys wouldn't go through.

We did start off going to some Fell pony shows to do some showing but she was really a "doing" pony. Her first time at the Breed Show she won the novice working hunter, which was a huge surprise. She loved doing the ODE at Linnel Wood; she always jumped a clear round in the show jumping and cross country, and the dressage was just a formality but good for her to do. She loved cross country events, and on one particular course she jumped some rather large tractor tyres. We had show jumping lessons every week. I remember attending a show jumping clinic with her and I was paired up with a lady who told me she was entering for Burghley Young Event Horse and she hoped I would be able to keep up with her standard. It turned out that Lady was far the better jumper. She also turned her hoof to doing Le Trec, but Endurance was really Lady's passion. I joined the local Cumbria Group and began doing rides almost every other weekend.

We started with Pleasure rides with distances up to 15 miles then we progressed to competitive rides up to 40 miles. When we moved from Cumbria to Gloucestershire I was very disappointed that we had done 999 miles and missed getting the lovely 1000 mile rosette. I joined my local Endurance group in Gloucestershire and she continued to compete successfully up until we decided to breed from her.

As I wanted to continue with longer distances we took her to an Arab stallion so we would get longer legs. After the foal was weaned she continued to do some pleasure rides until we decided she had earned her retirement. However last summer she took up Natural Horsemanship and is very happy to be doing a little, keeping her brain occupied. She will be 26 years old this year and I really can not imagine life without her. She has been my One in a Million pony.

Alison Knight



Greenholme Dec undertaking wedding transport duties on July 18 2014 at Austwick in the Yorkshire Dales. Paul Metcalfe brings Juliet Coates (now Mrs Huddleston) safely to the church.
Lownthwaite Martin

I have been the very proud owner of Lownthwaite Martin for the last 11 years. He is an 18 year old Fell pony gelding and he really is my best friend. If I didn't have him in my life I really don't think I would be the person I am today.

Martin was bought for me, as my 18th birthday present, by my mum Lorraine. We bought him from a friend after I'd had him on part loan for a while. We were not a horsey family and I had only started learning to ride when I was taught by a friend on her Highland pony at the age of 16. Needless to say the love of



everything horsey was well and truly instilled in me.

The first ever showing class I entered with Martin was M&M Large Breeds Inhand. You can imagine my joy when we left the ring with a red ribbon and a PUK qualifier! From there we went from strength to strength, we competed at many different riding clubs, numerous championship shows (POY, PUK, FOC etc) and I loved spending every day with my perfect pony.

In December 2007 my mum was diagnosed with brain cancer. By May 2008 her condition was declared

terminal. The first thing she would say to me when I went to visit her would be "How's Martin?" She loved hearing about our hacks and shows - finding out what mischief he'd been up to that day. Carrots were always on her shopping list. She always said to me, "No matter what, take care of that pony." Eventually she had to be transferred from home to the local hospice where she spent her last 5 days. She died on July 20th 2008.

Even though you know it's going to happen it doesn't make it any easier. I could have quite easily shut myself away from the world and given up on life. I became severely depressed and if I didn't have Martin I honestly believe I would still be in a depressed state now. He was my reason for getting up in the morning. Seeing him at that paddock gate was all I longed for. All I needed. That whinny. It almost said to me - *Come on, tack up, let's ride. Let's leave everything behind for a while.* In the saddle I'd feel free from the dark emotions.

Slowly with the therapy provided by my beautiful boy and the support of

family and friends, I got control of my emotions and was able to process my grief.

I got married in 2009 and have since had 2 children. Martin went out on full loan when I was 6 months pregnant with my daughter. T promised my mum that I would never sell him so he was loaned to a fantastic family. They took brilliant care of him for me and I will be forever grateful. Martin is now back in my home town although he is again out on loan whilst I look after my 8 month old son. Once again I have found an amazing family to look after him for me - I am delighted to now call them my friends.

Anyone who meets Martin falls in love with him. He's such a cheeky



pony. His party trick is to blow raspberries whilst nodding his head up and down! He is a cracking jumper and excels in working hunter classes. He can drive and even took my daughter (then 3 years old) in her first ever class - Bonny Pony, which they won!

Through Martin I have totally fallen in love with the Fell breed and I decided to create a group on Facebook (called Fell Pony Group) for other Fell owners and enthusiasts to share their stories and pictures. Never did I imagine that the group would become so popular - we currently have 4,104 members and that number rises every day! Who would have thought that so many people could come together, from all over the world, over the love of a breed - all because of my hairy little Fell pony!

He really is my very own black beauty.

Laura Lafferty

The Equifest Extravaganza

Well, what a summer it has been! My special boy Rundales Jake and I had the chance of a life time to go to Equifest and take part.

Jakey and I are both late comers to the showing world, and have only attended local riding club shows. We were invited to go to Equifest with a very special friend of mine for the experience and most of all to have fun.

My boy and I experienced sheer terror, exhilaration, and the most amazing time ever!

The feeling of terror kicked in when I realised "Oh my, we are now amongst the big ponies!" We entered 3 classes, 2 ridden and 1 in hand class, and to my exhilaration were placed in all 3. I never imagined in my wildest dreams that we would be placed in such strong classes of beautiful Fells and Dales ponies.

I still have to pinch myself, and get that nice bubbly feeling of excitement when I think about the experience and look at the ribbons hung up on my wall.

I may never have the opportunity to take part in something so amazing ever again, but my special Fell pony will always be my super star!

Pam Brier



Vicky Parker and Thornbeck Andrew – TNP Dressage Competition winners

After a break of 8 years I got back into riding and decided I wanted a horse of my own - so off I went looking for a 15.2hh eventer and somehow ended up with a 2yr old fell. I've owned Drew now for over 2 and a half years. When he arrived he was completely unhandled, suspicious and nervous so I had to start from scratch, from halter to learning to lead etc. With guidance and help from Anneli Ferrier I learnt how to deal with a youngster and backed him myself. I now get weekly lessons from Anneli and she has helped keep me and Drew on track throughout the native pony competition.

I gained my points for the Native Pony competition by competing in local dressage competitions, British Dressage Team Quest and the North East Native Pony Dressage. The competition was great fun and experience for me and my pony who travelled to a range of venues serving as invaluable experience in a quieter atmosphere ready for the future. I would say one of my favourite comments from my judging sheets is 'Lovely pony, very happy in his work, a pleasure to watch'.

I am now looking forward to moving up a level to prelim competitions now the Native Pony championship competition has finished. In the short term I am going to do a little bit of ridden showing and I have just competed in our first Breed Show where he was Best Turned Out, 4th in Novice Gelding and 5th in his first go at a Prelim Dressage test. In the long term I'm looking forward to doing a bit of everything from dressage to jumping, and showing how versatile these little Fell ponies can be.



Photo, Shaun Stoker

Ponies Past - Shawfell Shadow, 1980-2014.

Shawfell Shadow, known to us as Toofs (S. Dalemain Nettle, D. Shawfell Star), sadly passed away on the 14th July, 2014. She was the first Fell foal I bred and was



born in Mallerstang, near Kirkby Stephen on a sunny afternoon in May 1980. A black filly foal with good bone and an inquisitive nature. She grew into a strong filly and I broke her in for riding. My daughters used to ride her bareback most of the time and had a lot of fun with her. She was then put on Mallerstang Fell for several years and was brought

down to be taken to the stallion, Tarnmore Prince. We moved house and I was lucky enough to see her filly foal (Shawfell Silhouette 1989-1997) being born on a misty morning in May. What a good mum she turned out to be. She also gave me four more foals all with the Shawfell prefix - Starseed 1995, Sunbeam 1998, Saturn 2004, all colt foals, and a grey filly foal, Seraphim 1999. If anyone knows anything about them I would love to know how they are. Toofs lost her best friend, Lubus, a Fell/Dale gelding who had been with her most of her life, in 2007. She was very upset until I borrowed a pony from Bert and Carole Morland to keep her company. Her last few years were spent quietly grazing with the occasional long walk. She was my friend for 34 years and I miss her terribly. Peace and Love to you my big girl - you will never be forgotten.

Janet Wright

Email: antonywrightassociates@yahoo.co.uk

Fly By Night (Jenny)

I read with interest and not a little nostalgia the obituary about Jenny in the Autumn magazine. I owned Jenny (or Flittles as we called her) from a yearling to about a 5 year old. She was my introduction to Fell ponies when I was working on a farm near Chesterfield in Derbyshire. The farmers had bought a mare called Linnel Flit, in foal, from the sale of Linnel ponies – this would have been around 1980. I guess old Flit had not had much handling and she was put out in a paddock where she refused to have anything to do with people. She duly produced a filly foal that then ran wild with her. When I arrived at the farm as a newly qualified BHSAI the filly was a year old and had never been touched.

With the confidence of the young I set to work trying to tempt the youngster with gentle coaxing and feed. To no avail! I knew that both ponies were under threat of an untimely and unpleasant end and the old mare was very cantankerous not allowing anyone into 'her' field. I persevered with the filly but after a few weeks was no nearer touching her let alone catching her than at the start. I knew that extra help was needed to save this pony so I rounded up three strong farm hands (much easier to catch than a pony) and between us we managed to herd her into a stable.

The bravest of the three, who had apparently worked in a circus, took the headcollar, while the other two kept 'little Flit', as we called her then, jammed in the corner with a metal sheep hurdle. Having got her nose through the headcollar, the man hung on as Flittles flattened the hurdle and carried him round the stable. He probably saved her life that day and eventually her 'hat' was on. The job then came back to me and the next day I managed to get hold of the rope we had left clipped to the headcollar.

In those days of my youth I was certainly braver and so I decided to get her out of the box. As I opened the door she shot out, reared straight up in the air and fell over backwards. When she had regained her feet, (I was still holding the rope), it was as if something in her brain had clicked – life will be better if I trust these people. She then allowed me to lead her round the yard like a lamb and was no more bother.

When she was 3 years old I brought Flittles down to Cornwall where I had relocated. I backed and schooled her and did some local showing and jumping in working hunter pony classes. She had a super jump and was keen and careful. When I felt I had done my job with her I sold her to a friend who wanted a pony for her son. I was still into bigger horses then and wanted something for show jumping. I continued to do some showing with Flittles and we qualified for the Ponies UK Peterborough championships in both WHP and ridden classes. We took her, with some other local Fells and won the fancy dress class as the Cornish nRugby team – ponies and people dressed in black and gold. She was also 6th in the WHP class. The journey to the show was memorable because the lorry broke down and we all had to sleep in the First Aid room on the showground while the lorry was mended.

However Flittles was proving unreliable around small children – she had inherited her mum's territorial nature and would chase intruders out of her field. So she was sold again – happily for her, to a wonderful long term home where she lived out her life, a life that could have been so much shorter if I hadn't fallen for her all those years ago.

Now I too have grown a little older and I no longer want to go show jumping. I am very happy with my beautiful Fells, especially Townend Bonny who is eighteen this year and has been with me since a foal.

Yvonne Watson, Cornwall

'Meet the Pony' Day at The Helm, Oxenholme

The Helm is a prominent hill near Oxenholme, south east of Kendal. The landscape conservation charity 'Friends of the Lake District' own 66 acres here and have Fell ponies grazing to carry out vital conservation work. The Fell ponies remove the grass growth, helping to keep an open sward for wild flowers to flourish.

On Saturday 16th August, I was invited by Judith Moore (Policy Officer) to meet a herd of Fell ponies, owned by Nicola Evans, as part of the Friends 80th anniversary celebrations.

In the middle of The Helm is a small tarn which was dug out in the 1950s for fishing. It was a dry but windy afternoon so Judith and Nicola parked their 4x4 and trailer close to the tarn, as it is in a dip, and then put up a tent. Nicola and her friends caught the ponies and led them down to the tent, which would have been quite an ordeal for anything other than a Fell pony. Wind, tent and pony are not normally a good combination. At 2pm, the advertised start time for the event, there was nobody in sight but then a lone figure appeared on the horizon and in less than 15 minutes we were surrounded by walkers wanting to meet the ponies.

Many of the walkers believed these ponies to be completely wild so were amazed to see them all caught and standing next to a handler. At one point we thought the ponies were going to follow their visitors into the tent for tea and cake! The visitors all had the opportunity to stroke the ponies and to brush them.





Some already knew a little about Fell ponies but most did not so they were eager to talk about their history and connection to Cumbria. They were surprised to learn that Fell ponies were on the rare breeds survival list.

The event was a huge success at raising the awareness of Fell ponies as a conservation grazer and the work done by 'The Friends of the Lake District'. The ponies were the real stars of this event and I felt privileged to be part of it.

Eileen A Walker (FPS Chairman)

Book Review

Travels with a Pony, by Walter Lloyd

Walter Lloyd writes as he would talk, as though you were sitting beside him by an open fire on a June evening at Appleby Fair. There would also be a horsedrawn wagon for the night's sleep, a couple of stout ponies grazing on tethers along the back of the hedge, and harness hanging over the shafts to dry from the day's work.

Despite the title, Travels with a Pony, this is not so much about Walter's own travels, though they inform everything he writes. It's meant to encourage people to use their horses and ponies for work as well as pleasure. Walter talks about how to pick a suitable working pony, cart and harness. He touches on breaking, shoeing, tethering, working with ropes and knots; improvising harness when you need it, and getting your pony to contribute to his own keep by making hay, and ways to farm with ponies, are all considered. This little book is by no means a manual of how to do all that; like a conversation, it is a starting point, mentioning the many things that a novice may need to explore in much greater depth before trying to work with a pony or take to the road for serious travelling. Certainly, the experience that Walter shares provides an insight into an entirely different world from that of horses used for entertainment, leisure or showing.

In a real conversation, I'm sure Walter could and would freely impart great detail about any of the topics he mentions. As that isn't possible in a book of this length, there's a list of web sites and a short bibliography at the end to enable further exploration.

"It provides a series of signposts along the road: what to look out for, what to avoid, and most important – why it is worth bothering."

SM

Travels with a Pony, by Walter Lloyd. ISBN 978-0-9535238-3-2

44 pages, £10 plus P&P

Available from Walter Lloyd, The Caravan, Fairview Lane, Staveley in Cartmel, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8NS, tel: 0774 0053794

Fell Pony Society Annual Sale

To be held at North West Auctions' Junction 36 Mart, Crooklands, Kendal on 25th October 2014.

SHOW 10:00am – Judge, Mr J M Rawlinson In-hand show of Fell ponies: Weaned foals, youngstock and ponies broken to ride.

SALE 11:30am

Older ponies will be sold first this year, and foals last. This is your opportunity to purchase a registered Fell Pony.

A photograph can accompany an entry in the FPS Show & Sale catalogue, and the auction mart will accept telephone bids from buyers unable to attend.

> For more details please see the NW Auctions web site: http://www.nwauctions.co.uk/

Society Merchandise Price List

ltems	Selling Price	P&P	Total	ltems	Selling Price	P&P	Total
CLOTHING (with FPS logo)				Earthenware Mug	£4.50	£3.50	£8.00
Reversible Showerproof Fleece Lined Jacket				Glass Engraved Tumbler	£10.00	£3.50	£15.50
	£26.00	£5.50	£31.50	5			
Rugby Shirt	£30.00	£3.00	£33.00	CARDS			
Quarter Colour Rugby Shir		£3.00	£38.00	Christmas Cards (pack of 5)£2.50	£1.00	£3.50
Hoody	£22.00	£3.00	£25.00	Notelets (pack of 5)	, £2.50	£1.00	£3.50
, Fleece Sweatshirt with Col			Postcards (pack of 10)	£1.50	£1.00	£2.50	
	£21.00	£3.00	£24.00	Calendars	£5.00	£1.50	£6.50
Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Adu	lt)						
	£17.50	£3.00	£20.50	BOOKS / VIDEOS/ CD			
Polo Shirt (Adult)	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00	The Fell Pony DVD	£15.00	£1.50	£16.50
T Shirt (Adult)	£12.00	£3.00	£15.00	A Lifetime with Ponies by F	Roy B Charlton		
T Shirt (Child)	£10.00	£3.00	£13.00		£20.00	£3.00	£23.00
Fleece Waistcoat (Adult)	£22.00	£3.00	£25.00	Walk On The Wild Side	£12.50	£2.00	£14.50
Waterproof Waistcoat	£30.00	£5.50	£35.50	Fell Diamonds	£5.00	£1.50	£6.50
Knitted Hat	£8.00	£2.00	£10.00	Spirit Of The Fell Pony	£5.00	£1.50	£6.50
Hi Vis Waistcoat	£10.00	£1.50	£11.50	The Fell Pony (by Clive Richardson)			
Tie	£12.00	£1.50	£13.50		£7.50	£1.00	£8.50
Baseball Cap	£8.00	£2.00	£10.00	British Horse & Pony Breed	s		
					£19.00	£3.00	£22.00
MISCELLANEOUS				Jubilee Book	£5.00	£2.00	£7.00
Towel	£6.00	£3.00	£9.00	One Fell Swoop	£5.00	£2.00	£7.00
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Apron	£12.00	£2.00	£14.00	Showing Native Ponies	£6.00	£1.50	£7.50
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Pencil	£0.50	£1.00	£1.50		£7.00	£3.00	£10.00
Badge	£3.00	£1.00	£4.00	History CD	£13.00	£1.50	£14.50
Wristbands	£1.50	£1.00	£2.50				
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	£1.00	£0.60	£1.60	Black Stud Book 1898-1980		£3.00	£8.00
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Large Trailer Stickers 22"	£12.00	tbc	64.50	Newsletter Back Copies	£1.00	£1.50	£2.50
Mouse Mat	£3.00	£1.50	£4.50	DICHLCWARE			
Tea Towel	£3.00	£1.50	£4.50	PICNICWARE	00.50	ca 00	65 50
Fridge Magnet	£1.50	£1.00	£2.50	Clear Tumblers	£2.50	£3.00 £3.00	£5.50 £5.50
Tote Bag (large)	£7.00	£2.00	£9.00 £5.00	Mugs Bowls	£2.50 £2.50	£3.00 £3.00	£5.50 £5.50
Tote Bag (small) Coloured Shoppers	£4.00 £6.00	£1.00 £1.00	£7.00	Plates	£2.50 £2.50	£3.00 £3.00	£5.50 £5.50
	£8.00 £8.00	£1.00 £3.00	£11.00		£3.00	£3.00 £3.00	£6.00
Shoulder Bag Wallet	£8.00 £6.00	£3.00 £3.00	£11.00 £9.00	Cutlery Sets	£3.00 £5.00	£3.00 £1.50	£6.00 £6.50
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China Mug	£7.50 £5.00	£2.00 £3.50	£8.50	cionning una picinicware.			
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FPS Calendar for 2015



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Christmas cards for 2014 (pack of 5) £2.50 plus £1.00 postage 83



Bluemountain Show Me, ridden by Lewis Reynolds, and led by Hayley Reynolds, won the Lead Rein class at the FPS Breed Show at Dalemain

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Printed by H&H Reeds Printers, Southend Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8JH