



FPS-MESG Newsletter – Spring 2009

“Forelock”

Happy New Year! 2009 has started with the North Leicestershire social dinner at the end of January. We must thank Jane for organising this, especially as she is recovering from a hip operation that she had at Christmas. I'm glad to say she's down to one crutch and we all wish her continuing progress. Shows have also started; I know there were some on the weekend of 24-25 January as my Kent mare collected some ribbons and a qualifier!

Your committee is meeting on March 7th. If any of you have ideas or suggestions for get-togethers local to you, with or without ponies, do please come forward and let us know. We will help and advise where we can. I hope to see you all at the Fell Spring Show, in Bucks, on March 22nd – bring mother too – I know it's Mothering Sunday!

The Sandringham Show now has a firm date, Saturday May 16th, and the Sponsored Estate Ride follows on Sunday May 17th. Remember “Fell Friends” are also welcome. All 2008 competitors will be sent a schedule, all new participants can contact Lisa Dunger, Sarah Prior-Parry or myself, or download one from the FPS website. We would also like help, either casual or on the organising committee. Anyone got a few hours spare in the year??

Good luck with your showing, competing and breeding programmes in 2009.

Judy A Hill

MESG Co-ordinator

2009 Diary dates

Friday 27 February – MESG Points Awards dinner, Six Hills Hotel (A46 Fosse Way Six Hills, Leics LE14 3PD - this is not the old venue at the golf club!). Accommodation available. Ring Jane Glass first to book place and for menu on 01509 880261. £5 deposit required.

Sunday 22 March – MESG Fell Spring Show, Bury Farm Equestrian Centre, Slapton, Bucks & pre-show social dinner at the nearby Carpenters Arms pub (full details below on page 2)

Friday 27 March – MESG Social dinner, Six Hills Hotel (A46 Fosse Way Six Hills, Leics LE14 3PD) Accommodation available. Ring Jane Glass first to book place and for menu 01509 880261. £5 deposit required.

Saturday 4 April – Fell Pony Society AGM – see FPS magazine (due out in March) for details of venue.

Sunday 10 May – MESG Fun Show, Lambley Show Field, Gotham, Nottingham. Classes ranging from the traditional show classes to trotting, handy pony and games. Schedule and entry form will be posted on the MESG page of the FPS website when ready, or contact Christine Poole on 0115 984 4729.

Saturday 16 May and Sunday 17 May – MESG Sandringham Show and Sponsored Estate Ride. Show on Saturday for registered Fells and 'Fell friends', to include a traditional trotting class. Sponsored ride and drive round the Sandringham estate on Sunday. For schedules (available in March) contact Lisa Dunger: SAE to 41 Church Road, Wolferton, King's Lynn Norfolk PE31 6HE or lisa@lisadunger.wanadoo.co.uk or see FPS website

Sunday 7 June – Aylestone Native Pony Show, Manor Farm, Ashby Magna, Leics. Lots of classes for all members of the family, including an expanded range of qualifiers this year hopefully to include NPS, P(UK) Royal London, Showlands and Dressage qualifiers. SAE to The Aylestone Stud, JLB Stables, Mill Lane, Blaby, Leicestershire LE7 4FG, or phone 0116 2787 486 (before 9pm only) As always sponsors are needed!

Sunday 28 June – Blaston Show, Blaston Road, Slawston LE16 7UF. Includes M&M classes – contact Ann Lee on 01858 555311 or see www.blastonshow.co.uk

Sunday 26 July – MESG Fun Show, Lambley Show Field, Gotham, Nottingham – details as above

Sunday 6 September – MESG Ride & Picnic, Gotham, Notts - details from Christine Poole (0115 984 4729)

Sunday 13 September – FPS Southern Show, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire OX7 6AB. Schedules available in April. SAE to Sadie Densham, The Spinney, Duns Tew, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 6JT or from FPS website or www.fellsouthernshow.com

Sunday 27 September – MESG Fun Show, Lambley Show Field, Gotham, Nottingham – details as above



Events yet to be confirmed

Showing Clinic, near Thame, Oxfordshire, date T.B.C, come along with/without ponies for some top tips from M + M judges on how to make the best of your pony, in-hand and ridden demos to watch. Contact Lorna Brooks on 01844 350404 for details.

Native Pony Dressage Day, Seer Green, Bucks, July 2009. A chance to compete against other hairy ponies in a friendly environment. Part-bred natives and cobs welcome too. Tests from walk/trot to pick a test novice/elementary, to include NPS/TopSpec 2010 qualifiers. Further details from Georgina Blair on 07796 685992 or see www.nativeponydressage.com

Possible Joint Show with Chiltern & Thames Valley Connemaras, Berkshire College of Agriculture, 21 June 2009 – still to be confirmed, contact Georgina for details.

Keep up to date with planned events by checking the MESH page of the Fell Pony Society website - go to www.fellponysociety.org/UK_Area_Groups/Mideast/

MESH Points Awards Scheme 2009

Two big changes to the MESH Points Award Scheme this year. The scheme will run for the whole calendar year, so any activities members and their ponies have already done in 2009 will count - please get your forms filled in retrospectively for these events. The other change is that all points gained at MESH organised events will be doubled – as you can see there are plenty of events planned over the season, starting with the MESH Spring Show (details below), so we hope to see lots of members out collecting points.

Forms and details of the scheme, open to all MESH members and their ponies, whether Fells or 'Fell Friends', are attached to this newsletter. Please photocopy them if you need more forms. Your first entry in the scheme (pony/category) is free, further entries are £2 each.

As usual, the scheme will culminate in an awards dinner and the presentation of beautiful rosettes - the awards dinner for the 2008 scheme is on February 27, 2009 (see above).

Fell Spring Show – Start your season among friends

The perfect place start to everybody's season will be the brand new FPS Midlands East Support Group Spring Show at Bury Farm, Slapton, Bucks, LU7 9BT on Sunday March 22, 2009. The show offers a full range of showing classes, with FPS panel judges Sarah Prior-Palmer and Alison Hardy-Edwards, the very last qualifiers for the 2009 NPS/TopSpec Dressage Gala and the opportunity to try working hunter pony with a friendly judge. A late addition to the schedule is a clear round class over the working hunter pony jumps, before the WHP classes take place, to allow people to get over any initial jumping hiccups.

Bury Farm offers an indoor café and tack shop, and the Fell Pony Society merchandise stand will be attendance, allowing everybody the chance to stock up on FPS goods. There will be a photographer present at the show, with the facility to print pictures and also create picture mugs and other goods on site. A raffle will be held on the day.

The show will take place in three indoor arenas, with the warm up on an outdoor surfaced arena, and all parking is on hard standing. Overnight stabling is available at £26/night which includes the use of both human and equine showers. There will be a social dinner at the Carpenters Arms in Slapton (five minutes walk from Bury Farm) the night before the show – all welcome, but pre-booking is necessary.

It's obviously difficult to get a hairy Fell pony ready for a show in March and the judges will be taking a lenient view of any particularly stubborn patches of mud attached to ponies who live out. Ponies with coats in various stages of regrowth after clipping will not be penalised either. The hardy nature of the Fell pony is one of the attractions of the breed, and it will be good to show spectators that ponies can come straight out of a field and compete.

Further information is available on the show website (www.fellspringshow.com) Entries close on March 1, 2009. Please contact Georgina Blair for more information about the show, dinner or to offer sponsorship. Tel 07796 685992, mesgspringshow@fsmail.net, or 18 Gurnells Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield HP9 2XJ.



MESG Christmas Show – Dec 2008

Angela Cairns reports: The day for the MESG Christmas Show (14th Dec) dawned bright and clear, if a little chilly. We were delighted to have Mary Longsdon judging, with Clare Necki ably assisting her and helping to keep the show friendly and supportive. There was a fabulous turnout of both Fell ponies and friends, including an appaloosa and our first encounter with the beautiful Tennessee Walking Horse owned by Lynne Chamberlain. The classes began with a win for Hannah Stathern and Wolds Wheatear in the in-hand best turned out and then the handsome Exmoor, Edwingsfield Nocturne, won the youngstock. The large open class was split into Fells and other breeds and everyone enjoyed a few fun classes including handy pony and fancy dress. The ridden classes were also well attended. Congratulations to Christine Walker for riding Wolds Woodlark for the first time, usually a task left to her daughter, and to Katie Lamyman who came all the way from Market Deeping. Meadowvalley FreeSpirit had a very successful day, winning the open ridden with Jenna Plumb, fancy dress with Joel Cairns (3) and family pony with Jenna and his owner Angela Cairns. We hope we get such a good attendance at our festive show next year.



Stephanie Bissett with Lady Lucibel after winning the Junior Handler (left) and wearing fancy dress (right)



Jenna Plumb with Meadowvalley FreeSpirit, winner of the Open Ridden



Members' Ads

For Sale - Bamboo Showing Canes by 'Fabcanes'

Something 'a little different' - our showing canes are crafted from 100 per cent bamboo cane, totally organic, grown at home and hand finished. No cane is the same, totally unembellished (as required in native showing circles) and under 30" in length as required by the major showing associations. We can also cater for the shorter cane for those younger enthusiasts showing at First Ridden Level. See www.fabcanes.bravehost.com, e-mail fabcanes@aol.com or call Sarah for further information or to order - 07949 0526735 or 01775 821619

Wanted – Quality Fell gelding

For lady rider to participate in a range of activities, including local shows, dressage and pleasure rides. Must have genuine disposition and be good in traffic. Excellent home offered with other natives to the right pony. Ann Lee 01858 555311 or email stuart@leeslawston.orangehome.co.uk

Wanted – Secondhand tweed show jacket to fit 5 year old child (size 22?)

Needed for a little girl who won't ride very regularly, so we don't want to buy her a new one. Has anybody got one that has been outgrown? Condition not important. Contact Georgina on 07796 685992/clandongabriella@fsmail.net

MESG Contacts - (please only phone up to 9.00pm)

Judy Hill – Area Co-ordinator	01455 552534
Denise Bumford – Secretary & Treasurer	01327 262959
Janet Copeland – Membership Secretary	01509 856298
Margaret Enser – Sponsorship	01455 552196
Georgina Blair – Press & Newsletter	07796 685992
Jane Glass & Debbie Hudson – Performance Awards	01509 880261

Area Representatives

Buckinghamshire Georgina Blair – Tel: 07796 685992	Norfolk Lisa Dunger – Tel: 01485 541097
Cambridge & Suffolk Vacant	Northamptonshire Kate Merry – Tel: 01788 823215
Essex, Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Ingrid Foxtan – Tel: 07812 908626	Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Jane Glass – Tel: 01509 880261
Lincolnshire Debbie Castle – Tel: 07866 492742	Oxfordshire Lorna Brooks – Tel: 01844 350404 Fax: 01844 342648

Contact address for correspondence:

Judy Hill, The Bothy, Hall Lane, Bitteswell, Lutterworth, Leics LE17 4LN

Please send all your news for the next newsletter (deadline 1 June 2009) to Georgina Blair at clandongabriella@fsmail.net