



**The Fell Pony Society
Scotland Area Support Group**

Pentland Hills Pleasure Ride – Sat 29th September 2012

The weather was very kind to us on the day of our Pentland Hills Ride. We had a nice, crisp, dry day with a bit of a breeze – perfect for keeping the sweat off some of the hairier participants. The event was organised as joint ride with the Central Scotland Highland Pony Club, and there were 6 Fell ponies and several more Highland ponies (not to mention the invading Icelandic and couple of Welsh ponies), but hopefully we can increase the number of Fells next year if we manage to do the ride again. Ailsa Docherty acted as our guide for the ride and, despite some routes being unavailable due to the weather having been wet for a period up to our ride, she kept it interesting and fun. We had lots of opportunities for some short canters and the braver riders amongst us even managed to pop over a few small logs through some woods. We encountered all sorts of terrain including having to cross some shallow brooks and streams – some found this easier than others (we did identify a few future working hunter ponies!)

I believe we rode for just over 10 miles although we were enjoying ourselves so much, it didn't feel a great distance at all. We were more than ready for our delicious lunch which was prepared for us while we were out riding – this wasn't the standard burgers or soup and sandwiches, but a lovely buffet which included salmon, a variety of cold meats and some new potatoes smothered in butter. Once this was followed by pavlova and cheesecake, it was clear the calories we had burned off were quickly being replaced – but it was definitely worth it.

If people wish, we can organised another ride for next year. We could go somewhere else, but I feel there are still miles of the Pentlands to be explored and it would be nigh on impossible to find such good catering! So, hopefully, see you all again next year.

Photos by Janis Morgan, report by Janice Boyd (FPS Scottish Area Group - Central rep)



Janice Boyd – Chairperson Alistair Smith – Vice Chairperson
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Gwen Rae is now the Press Officer for our Scottish Area Group. Please feel free to forward any activities or events that your Fell Ponies have been doing to her on gwenry6@aol.com

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