



The SaddleMag

THE VALE OF AYLESBURY WITH GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS HUNT

APRIL 07
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- to eat, drink and enjoy!

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The SaddleMag

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The views expressed herein are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the magazine. While every care is taken to ensure accuracy, regrettably we cannot be held responsible for any errors.

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If you would prefer not to receive this magazine in future, please notify Susie Bell.

With special thanks to all our contributors. If you would like us to publish your story, article, news or photographs, please contact Susie Bell (see left).

Cover Photograph by John Bell: two riders taking part in the Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride fly over the aeroplane fence at RAF Halton in fine style.

Copies of most photographs in this magazine may be purchased. Please contact Susie Bell for details.



WELCOME

If you've just received this magazine for the first time, it's probably because you've been involved in one of the many events organised by the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt (the Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride, Shire Lane Hunter Trials, point to point racing etc). We hope you enjoy our new-look magazine! Regular readers rest assured that despite the new coat of paint and broader outlook, there'll still be plenty of hunting news and views. JB & SB



Miriam Smith retires as editor: the contribution and dedication of Miriam Smith (right) to the Hunt magazine cannot be emphasized too strongly. She has worked with and supported me as editor since 1997, and before 1997 she assisted Daphne Aidley for many years. Miriam typed all the copy (32 pages including the adverts) and she was the driving force behind the advertising, without which we could not have produced the magazine. She was also responsible for the finance of the magazine which she handled with great efficiency and diplomacy – not an easy job when funds are difficult. We worked as a great team and I personally would like to thank Miriam for all the help she has given me and the magazine over many years. WS

Congratulations to John and Susie Bell who have re-designed the magazine and given it a fresh, modern image which we hope will attract many new readers and advertisers. The magazine committee's aim is to broaden the circulation of the magazine and reach other equestrian disciplines as well as hunting. We hope all our loyal readers and contributors will continue to enjoy the magazine in its new form – and that it will inspire many more contributors and advertisers to come forward. WS

You may have missed the Vale of Aylesbury sponsored ride at RAF Halton on 25th March, but there's still time to enter the Garth Hunt Club Spring Ride on 27th May

at Marlston Farm. Details from Amanda Stewart on 01491 684151 or e-mail amanda.stewart@btconnect.com. SB

Ben Sargeant is running the London marathon on 22nd April to raise funds for the Countryside Alliance. You can sponsor him via www.countryside-alliance.org.uk or phone 01672 519470. Michaela Pulman (Mrs Ryde) is also running the marathon, in aid of Spinal Research. Sponsor Michaela at www.justgiving.com/michaelaryde. Both are causes close to our hearts! SB

Olivers kindly loaned the Hunt a quad bike for the 2006/7 season and it has proved itself invaluable. It is for sale now at the very reasonable price of £4,850. All enquiries to Olivers on 01923 265211 (see also their advert on p8). The previous Hunt quad bike was raffled on Christmas Eve to raise funds and the lucky winner was Zara Vitry Trapman of Ley Hill. SB

Our apologies to everyone who has sent us articles or photos for inclusion which haven't appeared in this issue. Please don't let that put you off sending us material for the next issue – we will try to fit everything in next time! The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is Friday 15th June. JB



with Alan Jackson, chairman of the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt

Q HAVE YOU RIDDEN ALL YOUR LIFE?

A I was born in Chesham and introduced, at a very tender age, to gymkhanas (remember them?) and the occasional hunt by a horse-mad sister. However education and a career intervened firmly until 1980 when I thought 'it would be nice to take up riding again'. One horse and some hunting, and then more horses followed rapidly. Since then, I have been a subscriber to both the Vale and the Bicester hunts but I have not always been able to hunt as often as I would like because of my work commitments.

Q HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN PART IN ANY COMPETITIVE RIDING?

A During the 1970s and early 1980s, I worked for Whitbread, who sponsored the Badminton Horse Trials, and Beefeater Steak Houses (part of Whitbread) sponsored team chasing and inter-hunt relays. I had a lot of fun team chasing with the Beefeater Bouncers team – made up of some well known but now sadly departed riders from these hills. We were not called the Bouncers for nothing...

My work meant I spent quite a lot of time in Canada, western USA and Australia and I became acquainted with quarter horses. I was even offered the chance to do some bulldogging at a local rodeo near Vancouver until I found out what it was!

Q WHAT IS IT ABOUT HUNTING IN PARTICULAR THAT ATTRACTS YOU?

A My early rationale for hunting was to escape the pressure of the commercial world. A horse is great leveller and has no respect for status: fail to concentrate and you'll see just how quickly you and said horse can part company and how brutally fast the ground

appears – I know this to my cost, not that it deters me in the least. I soon learnt that the price of a hunting fall was that your flask was always empty once you were re-united with your horse. You can't really think about anything else when you're hunting, and that's the beauty of it. I am currently Chairman of several companies and still have to do quite a bit of diary juggling to fit my hunting in but I try to get to as many meets as possible. So far, the season has gone well.

Q WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT HUNTING OR WORKING?

A My wife Lesley and I quietly farm what would no doubt be called a 'hobby farm' by most people. Lesley breeds Hereford cattle which she greatly enjoys showing on the county show circuit. As we currently have over seventy head of cattle 'hobby farm' is perhaps a bit of a misnomer – 'money pit' would be more appropriate!

Q DO YOU ENVISAGE A ROSY FUTURE FOR HUNTING?

A Over the last twenty-five years I have seen first hand the changing face and fortune of the countryside, farming and hunting and count myself fortunate to have hunted when antis, bans, bypasses and rural development were all in the future. However, we cannot live in the past and progress is a matter of fact: even within the constraints of the current ban I firmly believe we are blessed with some wonderful country, and a young, enthusiastic team at the kennels should encourage as many people as possible across the social spectrum to join us and enjoy hunting in its latest form.



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INTRODUCING THE NEW ENTRY

The Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt began the 2006 season with a new huntsman, whip and countryman. Gerald, Josh and Mark are profiled here.

GERALD SUMNER

Gerald is our new huntsman. He was born in Chipping Norton and as a child hunted with the Heythrop with Tony Collins. He gained valuable experience whipping in as an amateur to Anthony Hopkins at the Heythrop.

After completing three years at the Shuttleworth College of Agriculture, Gerald worked for ten years as an agricultural contractor, farming in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Norfolk. Returning to hunt service, he acted as amateur whip for three seasons at the Cotswold for huntsman Julian Barnfield. This was followed by four seasons as kennel-huntsman at the Puckeridge.

Gerald is married to Kerry and has a delightful son, George, who is nearly 18 months old.

Gerald has brought Phoenix, a black and tan hound from the Puckeridge, who has hunted with us this season. On the subject of hounds, Gerald has asked if a few more puppy walkers would like to come forward. Puppy walking is a very important part of a hound's education and you would be doing a great service to the hunt and its future. Please get in touch with Gerald at the kennels if you are interested in finding out more about puppy walking.

JOSH BENTLEY

Josh has joined us this season as our whipper-in. He has hunted since he was a child and grew up around hunt kennels. He comes from a hunting family and was brought up near Scarborough and, after leaving school, he went straight into hunt service.

He served two seasons with the Middleton and one with the Suffolk before coming to us.



MARK NORRIS

Our new countryman comes from Enfield Chase country in Hertfordshire. As a teenager Mark whipped in to the South Herts Beagles and then he worked in a rescue kennels for four years. This was followed by working as an animal technician at a research centre.

Having worked on a farm and as a landscape gardener, Mark returned to hunting as a kennelman at the Quorn and he has helped with the terriers both at the Puckeridge and the Hampshire Hunts.

He is engaged to Sarah Valentine and they have two daughters: Lily, who is three and a half years old and Molly who is ten months old.

Everyone at the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt offers a warm welcome to Gerald, Josh, Mark and their respective families and we very much hope that they will all enjoy life at Kimblewick for many years to come.

TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: Gerald and Josh on hound exercise, The Kennels, 12th August 2006

OPPOSITE TOP: Gerald and hounds at Woodrow Farm, Wigginton, 2nd November 2006

OPPOSITE RIGHT: Josh at Northfield Grange, Aldbury, 15th February 2007

OPPOSITE: Mark, with two of his terriers



ROSGAN SHOWJUMPERS: FROM MUD TO GLORY

Judy Ross lays bare Whelpley Hill Farm's best-kept secrets

Many of you will have ridden very close to my farm and never realised that the hairy horses in the fields carry some very serious long-term hopes for show jumping success!

Whelpley Hill Farm, high up on the Chiltern Hills between Berkhamsted and Ashley Green, is the birthplace of Rosgan horses. My late husband and I decided some years ago to start a breeding programme for show jumpers to continue our shared interest in the sport after our own riding days.

Having bred Irish Draught-cross horses for some time we realised that to obtain the level of performance we required, we needed to change to European blood lines and to selectively collect a few extremely well-bred mares.

Our very first purchase was a three-year-old Selle Français mare by the World Champion stallion Galoubet. Divine des Cabanes started in the ring with me riding her and we achieved considerable success at Novice level.

The ride was then passed onto Simon Crippen (then only 16 years old!) who went on to have phenomenal success with her. They won the Newcomers final at Horse of the Year Show, were 6th in the 7-year-old Final and also the grade C, and were 8th in the Foxhunter, all in the same year – a still unbroken record for any horse to qualify for four National Finals in the same year let alone win or be placed in all of them. Cabane went on to compete on the British Young Rider squad for all of Simon's three years in that category. She is now a part of my stud and we have just broken in her eldest progeny – a three-year-old filly. Look out for Rosgan La Divina, Rosgan Divinity and Rosgan Viva La Diva in the future!



RIGHT: Tjelke L winning the 6-year-old championship in 2006

Since then, purchases have included Graine de Quito by Quito de Baussy (Team World Champion), Genette Kervec by Laudanum, Juanita by Papillon Rouge and Tjelke L by Hors La Loi. Graine has bred four foals while Genette is Grade A and has jumped up to International Trial level. She may retire to stud in 2007. Juanita is Grade B. Tjelke L is currently 6 years old and won both the 5- and 6-year-old Grand Prix at the Festival of Show Jumping at Arena UK in 2005 and 2006. There are also several young horses who are just starting their competition careers.

Of the original Irish draught-cross stock we retained just one brood mare, Rosgan Reward, who produced two excellent progeny when crossed to the warm blood Lars Irco G: Rosgan Irco Lara is a successful dressage horse for her new owners in Staffordshire and Rosgan Irco Dora now a Grade A show jumper who was placed at her first International show recently with Simon Crippen. Dora will remain here at stud after her competition days.

Since the death of my husband, Terry, I have continued with the breeding and I

have three mares in foal for 2007 – two to Solitaire, a Dutch bred stallion by Voltaire, and Divine des Cabanes is in foal to Couleur Roubin, a Holstein Grand Prix show jumper ridden by Ludger Beerbaum.

With few exceptions I shall only breed with mares that have top class bloodlines, attain Grade A show jumping level themselves and are sound and of good temperament. I use top class performance stallions from Germany and Holland and all the studwork is done by Artificial Insemination.

This is not a cheap way to breed. Not only are the purchase and import of semen expensive, but it is essential to use veterinary surgeons that specialise in this type of work. (The mares are scanned every six hours, day and night, when using frozen semen!) However, I hope and believe that this is the right way to maximise the success of my stock.

Next time you pass by – perhaps on one of the bridleways near us, please look at those muddy, hairy, monsters and think that somewhere under the mud there may be the next winner of Olympic Gold!




Linda Barker

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The Bobcat has been a great success in their work on the Forestry Commission's most sensitive conservation areas because of its low environmental impact.

As well as large-scale estate work, A&M Contracting can tackle most outdoor tasks, small as well as large, from jump building at Shire Lane to domestic patios and ponds (director Andy Nash even tells us that on occasions when the weather has prevented outdoor work, they've turned their hands to kitchen building and decorating too!).

Andy's also asked us to say that in the unlikely event you have a job to be done outside which *doesn't* feature on their list, please do give him a call – much of their work comes from repeat business, and you really can't ask for a higher recommendation than that.

The Indominatable in Pursuit of The Unwearable

Christian Schwetz tries a different form of hunting with the Connaught Square Squirrel Hunt.

Mornings often challenge my sense of reality, and certainly when I opened the e-mail regarding a mounted squirrel hunt in central London I rubbed my eyes. Surely Guy Portwin has better things to do? Reality check in place, I concluded that it must be true and equally that I simply had to go. When else was I to get the chance to hunt down Rotten Row and support the sport I love? My lack of trailer was obviously a small obstacle that would simply have to be overcome. Places were strictly limited so I was thrilled to be given one. Blains were equally thrilled, no doubt, to empty my bank account. Nevyn, my Welsh Section D, could barely contain himself.

The event was, of course, an elaborate PR stunt. Organised by the Connaught Square Squirrel Hunt with its half-couple of squirrel hounds (Dylan the Jack Russell), a sock drag was to be employed. The Old Surrey Burstow

and West Kent had generously agreed to provide a pack of hounds and lend an air of reality to what promised to be the shortest hunt ever. Sadly, an article in the Times blew our cover and the antis had a complete sense of humour bypass so the mounted event was called off amidst threats of disruption and the paired cold feet of the Metropolitan Police and the insurers. Although I doubted the assurances of good behaviour freely given by Nevyn concerning the blessing of the horse ceremony, you can imagine my disappointment.

Ridicule is the most potent weapon of the disenfranchised and accentuating the ridiculousness of the law was achieved by forming a hunt dedicated to the elimination of the sock. The hunt was formed by Merlin Hanbury-Tenison last year after he had been reprimanded by the police for allowing his dog to chase a squirrel, and it's named after

the square where our dear leader has his new house. It brings to hunting, I suppose, one post-modern and green innovation, the re-usable quarry.

Undaunted, Duncan Macpherson JM let me know that the event would take place on foot. We were requested to come in full hunt attire, black not tweed, as the 'gentlemen' of the press were to be present. A small internal debate concluded that if I was to lend full support, it would have to be visible.

So it was that on the Sunday morning of the 17th September, with the sun beating down on my raging hangover and seasonally ridiculous attire, I poured myself into my car.

Tube travel is my preferred option, but on this occasion, I demurred. What after all was my cover story to be – fancy dress party, gay club? Neither would have sounded convincing on a Sunday afternoon...



Dripping and shaking like a leaf at the combined effects of the night before and the media frenzy, I forced myself to the bar and sought the most obvious consolation. This was swiftly followed by a mutual attachment between me and Sue from the Surrey, in similar attire and also sporting shades, for we were both in fear of our jobs, she as a member of the prison service and me as a freelance for several trade unions, whose sense of humour is about as elastic as rotten leather. Outside, we were immediately smothered by cameras and well-wishers alike. Duncan arrived on his moped with Dylan riding pillion. Speeches made, I set to work with the camera. As a photographer, I have organised many a media line-up but never had to simultaneously participate in one. There was one outside the pub, and after a brisk walk, outside Blair's house in Connaught Square. Then a brisk trot down to Hyde Park. All you royalists out there will be thrilled to learn of the drive-by show of support by Charles and Camilla just as we were about to cross the road into the park.

Flagging already and after yet another line up, we realised that we were expected to run with the field after the sock, not once, but four times for the cameras. Yelp! After leaving the appropriate distance between Merlin and our half-couple we stampeded off amidst blood curdling cries and much waving of crops. Delirious laughter appeared to be my default reaction. My word, this was almost as thrilling as the real thing! However Sue and I soon concluded that we were desperately unfit and longed for our mounts to provide the ambulatory assistance that we've come to rely on in normal proceedings.

The quarry out-run and duly dispatched, we were all set for another run. I served once more in the field and then decided to lie down on the grass and hide behind my camera. Correction: to get stuck into some



real work and get some pictures. Two more runs at full gallop then the blow for home, home being on this occasion a welcome return to the pub, the Duke of Kendall, its hunt-friendly landlord and his fare. There I met with Kevin Keating, filmmaker of *The Battle of Westminster*. Visibly left wing if you know what I mean, but with a firm passion for civil liberties. He would be very happy for us to screen his film. Is anyone in a position to help?

A quick drink and I was off to this magazine's compilers for a debrief before retiring gratefully to bed. It had been a long day.

TOP: the half-couple of squirrel hounds (Dylan the Jack Russell) and the joint master

ABOVE: The joint master with the quarry

FAR LEFT: the thrill of the chase

All photographs by the author

Do you want to know more?
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ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT Starter's orders; a young spectator gets up close and personal with one of the Vale of Aylesbury foxhounds; the crown jewels; playing the numbers game

OPPOSITE The 'real' racing in 2006 was competitive, but the pony races really stole the show...



Have a flutter at Easter

For 20,000 racegoers, the Easter Saturday Point to Point at Kimble is a permanent fixture in the social calendar

This year, the ever-popular Easter Saturday point-to-point at Kimble racecourse falls on 7th April.

Gates are open at midday and there are six races on the card plus two pony races (see right). The first race starts at 1.30pm, but if you beat the rush and get there when the gates open you'll find plenty to keep you busy before the real business of racing gets underway.

Stallholders come from all over the country to exhibit at Kimble and you can find anything from binoculars to country clothing to wicker baskets to old-fashioned sweets – with a whole load of other things sandwiched in between.

The Game Conservancy Trust have a stall, as do Riding for the Disabled and, of course, the Vale of Aylesbury Supporters' Club will be selling its usual mouth-watering array of homemade cakes, jams and pies of all sorts, plus eggs and other local produce.

There will be about 20 on-course bookmakers in evidence, plus the Tote, for those all-important bets on each race and, of course, it's always worth giving

one or two pounds to the smiling raffle-ticket sellers as you get out of your car to make sure you're in with a chance of taking home one of the massive bottles of whisky or champagne that are up for grabs: if your horse wins, you can celebrate; if he loses, you can commiserate!

If you're hungry and you didn't have time to put together your own luncheon hamper, don't worry – there are stalls selling hot food all day, such as jacket potatoes, beefburgers and chips, along with doughnuts for when you desperately need that four o'clock sugar rush.

The mid-afternoon highlight comes when The Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt's hounds are brought into the parade ring between two races and that's always fun to see. If you join them in the ring, as everyone will be invited to do, there's a real danger of getting licked to death by dozens of exuberant, friendly, loveable hounds. If you stay outside, you can enjoy watching everyone else getting licked to death – and probably also see one or two ice creams disappear down the wrong throats!

Pony Racing was added to the card at Kimble in 2006 for the first time and proved itself a hugely popular spectacle.

Two races were staged for ponies 13.2hh and under and 14.2hh and under, both with jockeys aged between 9 and 15. Several travelled from far afield, and it was great to see many ponies entered who regularly hunt with the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks.

The 13.2hh race saw a maximum field of ten run over approximately half a mile. Charlie ridden by Joe Hill won, carrying on the family tradition, with My Boy ridden by Tommy Quesnel second and Rebecca Bullock on Weydown Sunflower third.

The second race was run over a slightly longer trip. Sparky Boy ridden by William Twiston-Davies was victorious and has since been placed in the Charles Owen Pony Racing finals held at Aintree. Emerald Girl ridden by Lucy Quesnel put up an exciting challenge coming in second with Gaby Hill riding Stonebridge Cascade third.

I am reliably informed by my own children that pony racing is fantastic fun. In 2007, races will be held at the Kingston Blount meetings as well as at Kimble. Competition is sure to be hot!

If you know of any budding Frankies or APs please contact me, Jon Quesnel, for more information on 01491 576338.

Don't forget, there are also three more point to points this season at Kingston Blount: 21st April, 12th May and 27th May, first race at 2.30 in all cases.



News from your Hunt Clubs

Social events and fund-raising with your local Hunt Club

The South Oxfordshire Hunt Club Invite you to their
'Off the Hoof' Country Team Challenge

Saturday 9th June 2007, Meadowbrook Farm, Moreton,
Nr Thame. £80 per team (limited entries)

Teams of four people, all over 18 years and one to be a lady!

Each member to participate in 4 events (clay flurry, cast fishing,
quad course and scurry)

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best 'Old Git' and best lady

Pool Shoot throughout the day and scurry event for children

Food & refreshments all day followed by Prize Giving, BBQ,
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Entry Form

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Team Captain

Contact Number

Address

Team Member's Name and Phone Number:

1

2

3

4

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ENTRIES CLOSE MONDAY 4 JUNE.

Please phone for times between 5-9pm on THURSDAY 7 JUNE

Garth Hunt Club:

21st April: Point-to-point at Kingston Blount racecourse. First race at
2.30pm.

May: AGM with guest speaker Clarissa Dickson-Wright.

27th May: Spring Ride in the Pang Valley.

8th September: Henley Show at Greenlands farm, Hambleden.

Helpers always wanted!

Old Berkley Hunt Club:

7th April: We are manning the cake stall at the Kimble point-to-point
and always welcome cakes, jams and home produce of all sorts. Please
bring them on the day or deliver them in advance to Terry Fryer (see
page 1 for details).

15th April: Clay pigeon shoot

9th September: Shire Lane Hunter Trials

South Oxfordshire Hunt Club:

9th June: 'Off the Hoof' Team Challenge (see separate advert)

23rd June: Farmers' Ball at The Oxfordshire Golf Course. Tickets £40
to include three course meal and coffee. Disco & Bar.

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ST HUBERT, THE PATRON SAINT OF HUNTING

Father Neil gives us a history lesson

St Hubert is believed to have been born to
a noble family circa 656 AD at Maastricht
in the Netherlands and to have died in 727
AD in what is now the Brabant region of
Belgium.

Apparently, St Hubert loved hunting, and
tradition has it that whilst out hunting on
Good Friday he had a vision of a stag with a
crucifix between its antlers and heard a voice
warning him that if he did not turn to the
Lord and lead a holy life, he would quickly
go to hell. This was a spiritual turning point
in his life and, after the death of his wife, he
renounced his worldly wealth and titles and
began studying for the priesthood.

St Hubert became the first Bishop of Liege
and played a major part in converting the
inhabitants of the Ardennes to Christianity.
Indeed, he is known as the Apostle of the
Ardennes.

We don't know exactly when St Hubert
was first invoked as the patron saint of hunt-
ing, or when the tradition of blessing hounds
on his feast day, 3rd November, began but he
was very highly regarded during the Middle

Ages and the custom of blessing hounds
continues in France and other European
countries. In Britain several hunts begin the
season with a blessing, including the Vale of
Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks.

RIGHT AND BELOW: Father Neil blessing hounds at
Woodrow Farm, Wigginton, 2nd November 2006



50 YEARS IN THE SADDLE

Heather Munn celebrates fifty years of hunting

At the 2006 Boxing Day meet on
Cholesbury Common, Master Val Barr
presented Heather Munn, formerly Hunt
Secretary of the Vale, with a framed
photograph to commemorate Heather's
fifty consecutive years of riding to hounds
with the same Hunt.

Heather started hunting at the age
of ten with the Old Berkeley Hunt in the
1956-57 season. In those days, the Old
Berkeley met on Chorleywood Common
amongst other places you couldn't
imagine hunting from today, and their
Boxing Day meet was held in Amersham
High Street.

The very first day Heather went hunting,
the meet was at The Dumbell at Hornhill,
and she was collected from the end of her
drive by a group of local hunters including
Daphne Agelesto (now Aidley). Together,
they hacked to the meet, had a great day,
and from that moment on Heather was
besotted with hunting.



Cliché

Shopping with a passion

THE LOOK

Be inspired by fabulous clothes with a new, strong femininity this season. There is a clearer silhouette to jackets and skirts, jeans are iconic rock chic, knits are essential, especially the sweater dress. For evening, look for that 70's and 80's inspired party dress.

The must-have cover up this season: the parka. A classic design that gives an instantaneous cool edge, casual or luxurious feeling with fur trims.

Coats with fabulous styles to suit every occasion, shearlings or wool: the epitome of the understated elegance.

Tailoring is new, much more sleek, after seasons of fluid fashion a wave of tailored trousers, from lean and skinny to slouch and wide.

Look smart with neat skirts and jackets tailor-made for women, in decadent brocade, pinstripe or soft tweed.

Femininity is full on and all about the dress: the tea dress, the prom dress, the halter dress, the strapless dress, the wrap dress and the babydoll.

Cashmere knits, soft and subtle or a bold statement with a flash of red to lift your winter wardrobe.

Mix rock attitude with romance, denim studded or sparkly, glamour goth with black lace or a bit of baroque, just love it.

The belt is Autumn's key accessory: it's all about the waist, oversized, skinny, chain, studded, patterned or chunky.

The key to the look, is a pared-down approach with muted colours and sleek clean silhouettes or layer up and create drama with a mix of striking fabrics and bold designs: pile on the textures to welcome winter in style.



THE WISH

With Autumn/Winter collections arriving daily, we have new and established fashion labels to add to your wish list!

Are you tempted by Armani Collezioni, Lamberto Losani, Maxmara, iBlues, Fenn, Wright & Manson, Marilyn Moore, Feraud, Christian Lacroix, Ochre Cashmere, Weekend, Rock & Republic, Stephen Collins or Shirt Passion?

Perhaps our new labels such as Ruth Tarvydas, Lato B, DtLM, Flora Kung or Day Birger and Mickelsen will excite you.

FOR YOU

You are special at Cliché. We would like to offer to you a privilege which entitles you to the assistance of a personal consultant, 10% discount on any purchase and complimentary gift wrapping or next day delivery. Simply ask for a Cliché Gold Card.

PHILOSOPHY

There is an ideal which makes Cliché unique. The ideal is quality. Quality and the continuity of it, throughout our store, it's about our fastidious attention to detail. Striving to create a unique shopping experience in a relaxed environment.

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For more information call the team on:
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Authentic French Cuisine Prepared for you at Home

Alain Madoui, award winning chef, formerly at the Half Moon, Cuxham, has decided to take his talents to a new level, and to bring an authentic French dining experience direct to your home or office, whether it's a casual lunch for a few friends or a special dinner celebration.

Originally from the Limoges area, Alain left France forty years ago for a short break to learn English and he's still here! He has worked extensively through the United Kingdom, France and as far afield as Australia. Alain has cooked at the very best restaurants in the world including the renowned Mirabelle Restaurant, Carlton Towers and Fleurie in London, to name but a few. He also cooked in the kitchens at 10 Downing Street for Sir Edward Heath, and also for President Pompidou.

His style is a mix of classic French and nouvelle cuisine, using only the freshest, quality produce he can find, with everything cooked freshly to order. He frequently travels to France to select ingredients and fine wines.

Alain can provide both food and wine, and has a full range of Limoges fine china, crystal glassware and superb cutlery, which can be hired for your event.

On the day itself, Alain will be joined by a member of his team who will assist in the preparation, and serve the food. At the end of the meal, the kitchen will be fully cleaned and Alain and his assistant will leave. You, on the other hand, will have been able to sit back, relax and enjoy the company of your guests, and have experienced a small part of France.

So if you are considering a party, why not contact Alain to discuss the options available?



'The food is excellent, relying on fresh produce carefully sourced both locally and from further afield (many ingredients are collected on weekly trips to France)'

GOOD PUB GUIDE 2006



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A DAY OUT FOR THE BIRDS

Lesley Sunderland goes shooting with the South Oxfordshire Hunt Club on its Ladies' Clay Shoot Day

The South Oxfordshire Hunt Club members recently organised a very popular and enjoyable day: a Ladies' Clay Shoot.

I do shoot but, when I noticed the day advertised on the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks website, I immediately sent off my £30, knowing that at the start of my shooting season it would be valuable practice, especially considering that I hadn't picked a gun up since last season. I even got the ladies' team from the charity event held yearly at Bingham's Park Farm at Water End near Berkhamsted enrolled for extra company.

The day started at 10am at Manor Farm, Whitchurch, home to Guy Bond, a dedicated shooting man of great talent and expertise. I arrived first but soon a steady stream of vehicles arrived practically in convoy, and everyone met to enjoy coffee and biscuits.

Guy introduced himself and his fellow instructors to us: Roger Eames, a man of many talents and quite a following, John Grace, also a well respected instructor, and James Tootall, a young, handsome, truly committed man. This had to be the best team of instructors possible! We couldn't believe our luck.

An astonishing 33 ladies turned up on a windy Sunday morning so we were divided into three teams: the A Team for those with shooting experience, the B Team for those with minimal experience and the C Team for the beginners.

I was in the A Team along with my friends from Berkhamsted. We started with a very thorough safety talk from Guy, which kept our attention, especially when he described in detail what could happen to a person that inserted the wrong cartridges down the

wrong barrels! Point well and truly taken!

Then off we went down the grassy field to the shelter of the three traps in a slight hollow, gratefully out of the wind, with our allotted tutors. We had the gorgeous James.

Our first trap was a clay going away from us and after the warm-up our scores improved considerably. Then we swapped traps and our next one was coming towards us on the left and turning to the right. I expect there are appropriate names for these flying missiles, like teal or widgeon, but they escape me at the moment. Once James got it into my head that I was shooting to the left, then I managed to hit them... well a few, anyway.

Our last trap was a clay coming towards us and dropping. Most of our team did really well on these but I must say I struggled. Looking at how others shoot makes you realise how everyone has a different way of judging a shot. Jordan succumbed to James' suggestion to change to her left arm and she hit almost everything she aimed at. How amazing that he knew she would be better off shooting from the opposite side! I learnt so much in that three hours, including the need for more tuition.

The top gun in our team was Emily Harbour (pictured above), who had to now compete against the other team's top guns, who were Sarah BG, Lynn Guthrie (apparently her first attempt at clays) and Nicola Bullock. After a very close shoot-out Emily won. She is also the reigning south Midlands Novice and Ladies Point to Point Champion 2006 – some girl, huh?

At last it was time to go back to the house for a lunch created by Guy himself – no wonder they call him 007! Walking up the field



there was that quiet feeling you get when you are completely satisfied with a day and you wonder why you don't do it more often.

Lunch was a delicious spread of jacket potatoes, beef stew, cheese, beans and bread followed by drinks. When I looked at the faces, I only recognised Kate, Elaine and Ali from The Hunt Kennels at Kimble, but I knew we all had something in common now. Emily was presented with a trophy from Guy and the expression on her face says it all.

My thanks go to Annie Roads and the members of South Oxfordshire Hunt Club for all their efforts and for such an interesting day. The club is £10 per year to join and they have a varied selection of events going on. Thanks must also go to Guy and his team of instructors; we all hope we see you again soon – very soon.

To contact Guy Bond: tel. 01296 641936 or go to www.gbshooting.co.uk

To contact Annette Roads for events at the South Oxfordshire Hunt Club: e-mail her at boomerroads@hotmail.com. See p14 for more SOHC news.

Pony Club Focus

THE VALE OF AYLESBURY HUNT PONY CLUB

DC Donna Westermann profiles the club

The Vale of Aylesbury Pony Club covers an area from Aylesbury to Amersham in one direction and Haddenham to Chesham in the other. Established in 1931, we welcome anyone who owns a pony or a horse. With membership currently at 150, we're probably one of the larger branches in Area 12.

We offer training for tetrathlon, hunting, mounted games, hunter trials, eventing, dressage, show jumping and pony racing, and members can take all of the Pony Club tests, as well as a variety of achievement badges, such as bandaging and first aid. Instructors include Gail Keen, Katy Payne, Mia Cutting, Danielle Protheroe, Jackie Punell and Bella Tschaikowsky.

We run inter-branch and open shows including show jumping, dressage, hunter trials, mini one day events and tetrathlon, and one of our members, Chloe Aston, was selected for the Mini Majors at Olympia 2006. We also organise many social events, such as quiz nights and trips to Olympia and to visit the King's Troop.

We have our own club field at Meadle, and use Milesfield Farm and Bury Farm EC at St Leonards for training and events, not to mention hiring Patchetts, Addington Manor, Rose Hill and Great Westwood on a regular basis. None of this would be possible without the tireless support of our fantastic committee, parents and landowners, together making a very happy and successful Pony Club branch.

To join the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt Pony Club, call Donna on 01844 213231

HOW TO OUTRUN YOUR PARENTS

Katie Stimpson of the VAH PC goes hunting for the first time

On Saturday 2nd December 2006, I went hunting for the first time from Hawthorn Farm at Great Missenden. We were down our yard early to plait and smarten up, and then travelled over to meet our escorts at Middlegrove Farm. We hacked down to the meet, which was a little way down the road from Middlegrove.

The excitement mounted as we joined the rest of the hunt and the hounds mingled with the horses. We set off across the fields after a short speech and a sound of the horn. It was lovely to ride through the fields and over the jumps in this very picturesque area. It was great fun to have a charge across fields and up



the hills – and also rather amusing watching my parents trying to keep up on foot! After a couple of hours of thoroughly enjoyable riding, we decided to call it a day and return to the boxes.

It was a very enjoyable day – although we did get very muddy! Many thanks to Elaine Wallis for organising the escorts and sorting out the day and enormous thanks to the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt for allowing us to hunt with them.

ABOVE: Katie Stimpson (on the coloured pony) jumps one of the many challenging fences at the meet at Hawthorn Farm on 2nd December 2006

GOT TIME ON YOUR HANDS? JOIN YOUR LOCAL PONY CLUB!

Bethany Wallis, also of the VAH PC, tells us what she gets up to at her Pony Club

My sister Millie and I joined the Vale of Aylesbury Pony Club at the ages of 5 and 8 and over the years have been given the opportunity to learn new disciplines such as dressage, showjumping, cross country, gymkhana, polocross and tetrathlon. In the summer, we have a fab week at camp with its grande finale of the legendary musical ride, where each group and their ponies gets to dress up to a theme and ride a display to music.

Also in the summer we have our beach ride! Four brilliant days in Norfolk where we can ride our ponies on the beach, go crabbing or just chill out in the field with a barbeque and friends. During the winter we have fortnightly rallies indoors, and weekly outdoor rallies all summer. There is always a rally to go to in the holidays.

Thanks to the Pony Club we have been able to improve our riding, try different things, take part in team events and,

above all, we have made loads of new friends. All this has given us the confidence to take our ponies hunting, which we both love, and I also had the wonderful experience of racing Clive Gough's Sheltand Pony, Minnie, at Windsor a couple of years ago. I hope to take my pony, Monty, racing at Kimble (see page 12) this Easter. Who knows what we will try next – whatever it is, it won't be boring.

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THIS SEASON'S HUNTING



TOP: Northfield Grange, Aldbury, 15/2/07
MIDDLE: The Lee, 21/12/06
BOTTOM: Poors Farm, Hailey, 11/11/06



ABOVE: Harriet Griffiths (left) and Lucinda Corrie, members of the Woodland Hunt Pony Club, The Rising Sun, Witheridge Hill 30/12/06



TOP: Cholesbury Common, 26/12/06
BOTTOM: Northfield Grange, Aldbury, 15/2/07

IS IT TOO BIG TO GO AS HAND LUGGAGE?

Steve Quince buys a hunter on a day trip to Ireland

At the end of last season my previous horse, Whiskey, a 15hh grey Connemara gelding strained the suspensory mechanism in his near hind leg. This took most of the summer to heal and the vet (Chris Blackmore) recommended that I either hunt more conservatively or not hunt him at all. I did not trust myself to hunt conservatively, so I sold the horse to a hacking home in the yard next door. Whiskey is happy and sound in his new home and the new owners love him.

I then spent six weeks looking for a new hunter in England. I drove what seemed like all over the country in my search. I was looking for but couldn't find a bold, scopey, robust young horse with experience of hunting that would not cost silly money. I also realised what a good horse Whiskey was and that it was going to be difficult to find a replacement that would be as good as he had been.

In December, I spoke on the telephone several times to Paraic Kelly of Ballinasloe, Ireland about a 15.2hh cobby piebald gelding that he was selling. The horse had hunted several times with the Galway Blazers. On one of these occasions the horse had hunted for five hours carrying Paraic for the first hour and a different rider for the last four hours. The horse had also been loose schooled over 1.35m jumps and won a wall jumping competition.

Paraic took some photos of the horse and got a friend of his to e-mail them to me. The horse looked and sounded ideal but Ireland was a long way to go. Gill Nash, the owner of the livery stables where the horse would be kept agreed that from the description the horse would probably be just what I wanted. Gill also said that the horse possessed the 'show jumper's bum' so it would be likely to have a scopey jump. Since I needed to ride

and jump the horse, I decided to go and see it. Gill agreed to accompany me to provide professional advice.

Paraic informed me that Aer Arran flew from Luton to Galway, the nearest airport. The original plan was to fly out one day, see horses, stay at a bed and breakfast overnight and fly back the following day. I checked Aer Arran's website and found that there was an early flight from Luton to Galway and a late flight from Galway to Luton. Since Paraic agreed to pick us up from the airport and drive us back, we could therefore do the visit in one day.

A few days later we left Chorleywood at 7:20am and arrived in the Luton Airport terminal to catch the 9:30am flight. As we passed through security I had my riding clothes in a sportsbag and my riding hat in the other hand. A jobsworth baggage handler told me that I was only allowed to take one item of hand luggage. I pointed out that the second item was a hat and if he objected, I would put the hat on my head at which point he backed down. We took off 15 minutes late but, amazingly, this was the only delay that we experienced.

Shortly after take-off we went through low cloud so we could not see England from the air. As we flew over north Wales the low cloud cleared and we saw Anglesey. A short time later the pilot announced that we would soon be crossing the Irish coast north of Dublin. I had my first sight of Ireland. It seemed to be made up of lots of small fields.

As we only had hand luggage we walked through the airport terminal in a few minutes and met Paraic in the arrivals area.

As we were driven to the yard I noticed that this area of Ireland was principally agricultural and consisted of small fields

separated by stone walls. Any horse who hunted here would very quickly learn to be careful over jumps. After approx 40 minutes we arrived at the yard.

We looked at several horses in their stables prior to having a cup of tea or coffee in their house. Paraic said that he had other horses that might be suitable for me if I was not interested in the piebald gelding. He also said that every horse in the yard was for sale. During this introductory period we met Paraic's parents Christy and Mary who made us feel extremely welcome. After refreshments in their house, I got changed into riding clothes because it was time to try some horses.

Paraic tacked the piebald gelding up and literally vaulted on. Initially he rode the horse around a track onto the road so that I could see that the horse had a 'good step'. He then rode him in a large sand arena that was a bit soggy in the lower end due to the huge amount of rain that had fallen over the previous days. He jumped the horse over a decent sized jump. Gill pointed out that Paraic was a phenomenally good rider and the horse would be no good to me if I could not ride it.

So I was given a leg up and began riding the horse. Although somewhat green in his flatwork the horse felt powerful and as if it could really jump. I jumped the horse over a reasonable fence that was a lot lower than the one Paraic had just jumped, rode it through their farm past all the farm machinery and down the road a short distance. The horse seemed fine in traffic so that was another box ticked. I definitely was keen on the horse when I jumped off. Gill said that the price asked was about right, thought that the horse would pass the vet and suggested that I think about it over lunch in their house.

After lunch, Paraic rode another potential horse, a Connemara gelding. We also saw an unbroken 16.3hh cobby coloured gelding who looked like he would carry a substantial amount of weight. Another unbroken horse was loose schooled over decent sized jumps. However I had made a decision.

Subject to vet, I agreed to buy the piebald gelding and gave Paraic a cash deposit to be refunded if the horse failed the vet. I inspected the piebald gelding's passport for breeding but it did not contain any information. It did show that the horse was born in 2001 so he was only just six. I asked what the horse's stable name was and he didn't have one. Paraic said that he could arrange the transport of the horse from Ireland to Gill's yard for about £200. He needed to check with them but expected to use McMahon's because they were 'good horse people'.

Later in the afternoon Paraic drove Gill and I back to Galway airport in plenty of time for the 6:45pm flight to Luton. We landed

at Luton at 8:15pm and I dropped Gill off in Chorleywood at 9pm.

After our trip the horse passed the vet. I also spoke on the telephone to the vet who performed the examination. He told me that the certificate would say that the horse is suitable for hunting/pleasure riding and there would be no additional comments.

I sent the balance of the purchase price using a bankers draft via registered post. Paraic then passed the horse to McMahon's. The horse stayed in a stable at a yard not far from the docks until the sea was calm enough for it to go on the ferry from Dunleary to Holyhead.

Whilst waiting for the horse to arrive I looked at lists of horses names on the internet and eventually named him Roscoe.

Roscoe was not allowed on the ferry until Sunday morning due to rough seas. He arrived in Chorleywood at close to 10pm on a large lorry that was partitioned for 12 horses. I met the lorry in a layby just off the M25. The

lorry followed me into Chorleywood village using the only route suitable for a large horsebox. Roscoe was towards the front of the lorry but there were three or four horses in front of him. The lorry driver said that hundreds of horses come across from Ireland every week.

So far I have found him to be ideal and hope to take him hunting in a few weeks when I am more used to him and I am a bit fitter.

So that is how I bought a new hunter on a day trip to Ireland. It took a bit of organising, a lot happened in one day but I still cannot believe how smoothly the day went. The way the horse is currently turning out, I would recommend the process because I think that I have bought a very good horse for a very reasonable price.

BELOW: Paraic with Roscoe just before check-in



I know what you did last summer...

Ever wanted to buy a young pony and bring it on to sell as a summer project?

Tina Mash, then aged 16, did exactly that and tells us how.

My name is Tina Mash and in the summer of 2005 I needed to get a summer job to earn some money so I could buy a laptop – I was going into the sixth form in September and I knew this would be a good thing to have. The trouble was I also wanted a pony.

I put the idea to my mum and she ummed and ahhed, and I never really got a definite answer. One day my mum and I went with one of her friends to find a horse for the friend. When we were there the lady had a little pony for sale and I asked to see it. He walked out of his stable and looked a bit shabby and unhealthy but straight away I saw his character in his gentle but witty eye. He had the most amazing name – ‘Dundee Spirit’, how perfect! He was a perfect size for what I wanted. Mum was not convinced but I asked if I could see him ridden and ride him myself. I saw him walk into the school and be a bit naughty I thought: ‘Wow just what I want!’

I have always wanted a pony that I need to get after once in a while and I thought what a challenge it would be to get this pony and sell it at a profit within a couple of months. As I was watching him approach a jump he bucked and nearly made the rider fall off. I thought: ‘This pony is so mine.’

I wanted a pony for the summer that I could make a definite improvement on so I could make a bit of money. It would be much more fun than working in a shop for the summer! I also wanted to do senior Pony Club camp as I had not done Camp for a couple of years and missed it very much.

Dundee had come over from Ireland where he had done a lot of cross country but not much else. He had the most amazing jump but had no idea how to go round the arena. He was a bit poor-looking too.



I thought I could get him fit and build him up, teach him some flat work and take him show jumping.

The day of his arrival came – after much persuading of the parents and the money situation. When he arrived we had a saddler at the ready to kit my new pony out and the next day I went on my first proper ride and came across a bit of trouble. He didn’t want to leave the yard but we could not work out why for a bit... until we saw the pigs.

Pigs! My brother had pigs and Dundee was scared of them. We tried everything: sticking him in a stable right next door to them, letting him look at them, making them run around the yard not too close to him but enough for him to see that they were OK, but the problem didn’t go away. I just had to give in every time and lead him past the pigs instead of riding him. He preferred to see me in the corner of his eye as reassurance.

The next day our friends were going cross country training to Deep Mill and offered to take us in their trailer. Mum said we would go and just hack him round and do a couple of small jumps. Well, he was unbelievable! He loved it and jumped everything – the bigger the better. I knew we had bought a winner.

Dundee’s main weakness was dressage, the same as mine really, so once a week we had an hour’s lesson with a lady called Rebecca who was a professional. She improved both Dundee’s and my performance but we still weren’t great. He didn’t like to stay in the arena and when he did he just wanted to complete the test as quick as possible. He also used to try and canter everywhere. His best area was cross-country and the trick was to just sit there and enjoy the ride – don’t tell him what to do.

Over the summer I took him down to my godmother’s stables and they helped me with Dundee. We fattened him up and I had lessons on him everyday, maybe twice. They have wonderful woods to hack out in, so twice a week I would take him out on a gentle hack to relieve all the stress from learning in the school. The Sussex downs were his favourite! My godmother’s daughter is a three-day event rider and is soon to compete at Badminton. She exercises her horses ready for the cross country on the downs; she does sets of gallop, canter and hard trot. Dundee Spirit loves to be up on those hills galloping his little heart out with the wind in his hair and the mud splashing up on his tummy.

We stayed in Sussex for about five weeks and then, when he came home, I tried to go out every weekend. I did Pony Club camp, which he loved. We worked on dressage, show jumping and cross country.

Then I took him out to compete at local shows. We won every jump-off he got into – the bigger the jumps, the better he liked it.

People were asking me if he was for sale or going to be for sale because lots of people knew he was a summer project. He got loads of compliments. The first cross country competition we did was a Pony Club one day event over a pre-novice course and he just flew!

When we wanted to sell him we advertised him on the Pony Club website. It was really important to me that he went to the right home where he would be loved and with a good rider who could let him have a good time. I had some interest but when people came to see him and ride him they were not really impressed because he wasn’t in his best environment: we were showing him in a small field with a few small show-jumps and not enough real space to show him really operating. Three people came to see him but he wasn’t right for them.

Then one family sounded very interested. They wanted a cross country pony to compete at Pony Club Tetrathlons. We decided to show him off on a cross country course. We met them there and they brought their daughter’s

trainer along to help. I showed him off by a good canter and then I jumped a few fences – he loved it, of course.

By the time the girl got on he was very excited and wanting to jump everything in sight but she did some flat work on him and then some jumps. She had a grin from ear to ear and she loved him straight away! After a big discussion over the price he was sold to a very nice family. I was incredibly sad to see him go but it was my project. He was the best pony I had ever had. Fun, talented, beautiful, and a delight to ride.

The family have kept in touch and let us know of his successes. He qualified as an individual for the Tetrathlon National Championships where he did really well and has won many other things.

And I got my laptop!

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Please contact *Ali Hughes* on 07973 182379 for more details.

Recollections

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OBITUARY: CHARLOTTE AGELASTO

Heather Munn remembers a well-respected hunting lady

Charlotte was born in Leeds 102 years ago, one of five siblings. She was educated locally and went to Durham University where she attained a MA degree in Latin and Greek. She then went to Sussex to teach Latin and Greek at a boy's prep-school. In 1931 she married Augustus Agelasto, whom she had met at Cambridge, and they had three daughters, Christine, Monica and Daphne. The family at that time were living in London.

In 1937 they moved to Beaconsfield and during the War years Charlotte worked for the WVS while bringing up the girls, her husband being away on War duties.

While the girls were growing up, Charlotte's interests turned to hunting with the Old Berkeley East and the girls also started hunting at that time. With no petrol available, what with post-war rationing, the family's mode of transport was pony and trap. If they wanted to go hunting, Charlotte would harness the pony to the trap, tie Christine's pony to the back and off they went to the meet.

In 1945 the family went to live at Pednor and they all hunted regularly from there. Charlotte was known to hunt seven days a fortnight with the Old Berkeley! She also walked hound puppies for a number of seasons. On top of all that, she kept up her teaching locally: she taught Latin and Maths at the Farm School, Wendover Dean, which is now Mayertorne Manor, and then at Piper's Corner. She wrote prep-school text books and one of her greatest feats was to translate Aesop's Fables into Latin! She was also commissioned to write a series of horse books for beginners.

In 1954 she became District Commissioner of the Old Berkeley Hunt East Pony



Club and then, in 1960, the South Branch of the Pony Club until her retirement in 1962. In the early fifties she was Secretary of the Chesham Agricultural Show, which was a big event in its time.

Charlotte enjoyed travelling: she visited many parts of Europe, enjoying art and architecture, especially in Greece and Turkey and, of course, her beloved Venice. She gave many talks on Venetian art, upon which she was a great authority, and she made her last visit there aged 98, always staying at the same hotel and always staying in the same room.

Charlotte and her daughter, Christine, moved to Ballinger twenty years ago from Amersham after the death of her husband, where she enjoyed her goth and her rooth birthday parties. She was determined to

reach 100 – she wanted to join the Queen Mother! She was very proud of her four grandchildren (two living in America and two living here) and more recently her two great grandchildren.

She enjoyed marvellous health until her latter years when failing eye-sight became a burden. This was a severe blow to someone who was an avid reader and crossword solver – she derived enormous pleasure from her books. Her knowledge was second to none.

She was well known for her forthright personality. She did not suffer fools gladly, but she was always fair: she did not hand out compliments readily but if she did you knew you had done well.

She died in March 2006 and is greatly missed by her family and friends.



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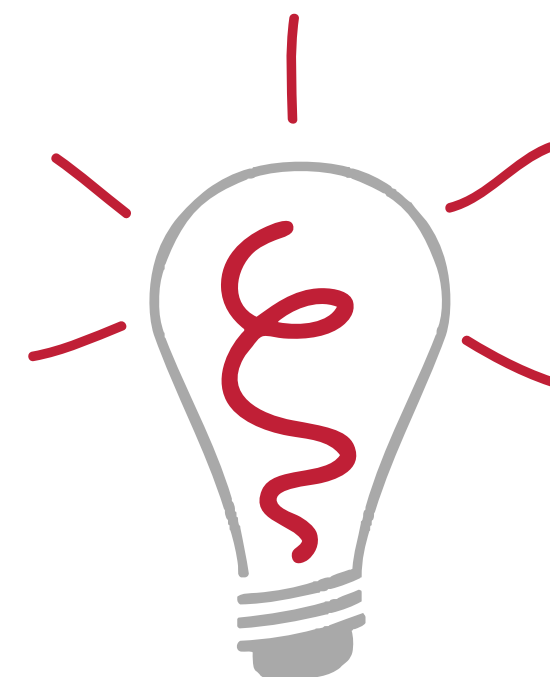
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GOT NOTHING TO DO? WANT SOMETHING TO DO?

Find events run by your Hunt, Pony Club, Riding Club or local equestrian centre here

April 2007

- 2 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Junior Committee Event at Great Westwood (members only)
- 2 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated senior show jumping
- 3 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Flatwork and show jumping rally at Great Westwood (members)
- 4 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Stable management rally at Potten Farm (members only)
- 4 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Show jumping practice day
- 4 **FLAMSTEAD PC:** Rally at Patchetts EC
- 5 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** D+, C and C+ rally at Great Westwood (members only)
- 5 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** B Double Bridle Rally at Great Westwood
- 5 **PATCHETTS EC:** Grasshoppers show jumping at Patchetts EC. www.grasshopperssj.com
- 6 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Trailblazers second round dressage
- 6 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Easter Ride, Widmere Farm, Marlow. For details e-mail Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 6 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated show jumping
- 6 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Trailblazers second round dressage
- 7 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Indoor dressage at Berkshire College of Agriculture, www.sorc.biz
- 7 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Equine Affairs Grasshoppers Intro & Pre-Novice Show Jumping
- 7 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Trailblazers second Round Dressage
- 7 **VALE OF AYLESBURY WITH GARTH & SOUTH BERKS HUNT:** point-to-point at Kimble racecourse. First race at 1.30pm
- 7 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Intro and pre-novice show jumping at Milton Keynes EC. www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub
- 7 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping, Region F show
- 8 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** Winter Woollies Show at BCA, www.tvrc.co.uk (members only)
- 8 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Show jumping training with Ross Irving. For details e-mail Jane Perry at jayne@pyattsfarmlivery.co.uk; www.sorc.biz
- 8 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping, Region F
- 9 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** Pleasure ride at Maidensgrove, 11am, www.tvrc.co.uk (members only)
- 9 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated dressage
- 9 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** ODE Training day and clear round show
- 10 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Cross Country Rally at Berkshire College of Agriculture (members)
- 11 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** D+, C and C+ tests at Great Westwood (members only)
- 11 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Half term novice indoor show jumping

- 12 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Indoor Show Jumping Show, Greinan Farm (members only)
- 12 **PATCHETTS EC:** Stuart Reeve-Young show jumping clinic. www.patchetts.co.uk
- 12 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Unaffiliated indoor dressage
- 13 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Junior Committee Easter Egg Hunt, Great Westwood (members only)
- 13 **PATCHETTS EC:** Annette Lewis show jumping clinic
- 14 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Under 11's Club: the Thelwells at Great Westwood (members only)
- 14 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Cross Country training at Little Marlow. For details e-mail Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 14 **FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER TEAM CROSS COUNTRY** area qualifier at Snowball Farm
- 14 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated show jumping
- 14 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Junior Trailblazer second round show jumping
- 15 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT CLUB:** clay pigeon shoot
- 15 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Senior Trailblazer second round show jumping
- 15 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Open show jumping at Deep Mill Farm. www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 15 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 16 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Show Jumping practice day
- 16 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Dressage
- 17 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Open evening show jumping
- 18 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Show Jumping practice day
- 18 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 19 **PATCHETTS EC:** Stuart Reeve-Young show jumping clinic
- 21 **GARTH & SOUTH BERKS HUNT CLUB** point-to-point at Kingston Blount racecourse. First race 2.30pm
- 21 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Show jumping clinic at Little Munden Farm, Bricket Wood. www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub
- 21 **PATCHETTS EC:** Patchetts Showing Show inc. Ponies UK summer qualifiers and Newark Cup
- 22 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** Combined open training competition at Rosehill EC, www.tvrc.co.uk
- 22 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 22 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 22 **OBH (CHILTERN) PC:** Hunter Trials and Tetrathlon at Great Westwood Equestrian Park. For details call Ros Morris on 01494 864528
- 23 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 25 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** British Eventing One Day Event
- 26 **PATCHETTS EC:** British Dressage Judges Seminar
- 28 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Cross Country Rally at Shire Lane Farm (members only)
- 28 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Hunter Trials
- 28 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Dressage training with Jade Darby. For details call Debby Bignell on 01844 345421; www.sorc.biz
- 28 **PATCHETTS EC:** Patchetts Showing Show inc. Chiltern & Thames Rider qualifiers, Veteran Horse Society qualifiers and unaffiliated classes

- 29 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** Pole work lesson/musical ride at BCA, www.tvrc.co.uk (members only)
- 29 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Dressage clinic with Pippa Haywood at Little Munden Farm, Bricket Wood. For details call 01923 262099 or see www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub/
- 29 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Cross Country Schooling
- 29 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Cross Country training at Snowball Farm. For details e-mail Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 29 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Dressage clinic with Pippa Haywood. www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub
- 29 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage, KBIS Paras qualifier
- 30 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage and Badminton Young Dressage Horse of the Future

May 2007

- 5 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 6 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** TREC Competition at Rosehill EC, www.tvrc.co.uk (open to all)
- 6 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Clear round cross country and show jumping at Deep Mill Farm. www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 6 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 7 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Senior Show Jumping
- 7 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated show jumping
- 7 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** ODE training day
- 7 **GREAT WESTWOOD EQUESTRIAN PARK:** Home Counties Welsh Pony & Cob Society Show
- 9 **PATCHETTS EC:** Annette Lewis show jumping clinic
- 12 **VALE OF AYLESBURY WITH GARTH & SOUTH BERKS HUNT** point-to-point at Kingston Blount racecourse. First race 2.30pm
- 12 **WHADDON CHASE PC:** Tetrathlon and Triathlon at Milton Keynes EC
- 12 **WHADDON CHASE PC:** Whaddon Chase Hunter trials at Milton Keynes EC
- 12 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Summer Dressage Series at Rosehill. For details e-mail Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 12 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 13 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Open eventing competition at Great Westwood (open to all)
- 13 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Escorted ride through Ashridge Forest with refreshments. For details contact annelois@hotmail.co.uk or see or see www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub
- 13 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Hunter Trials at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 13 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 13 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Wendover pleasure ride (members). www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 13 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated dressage
- 13 **GRAFTON HUNT PC:** One day event, Milton Keynes EC

- 13 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Event at Great Westwood Equestrian Park. For details, e-mail rosie@greatwestwood.co.uk
- 14 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 15 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Evening Rallies for members aged 11 and over (place TBC). Every Tuesday thereafter until 17th July (not half term), (members only)
- 16 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** The Thelwells Rallies for members aged 10 and under (place TBC). Every Wednesday thereafter until 18th July except half term (members only)
- 16 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 18 **PATCHETTS EC:** Annette Lewis show jumping clinic
- 18-20 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Horse camp – 2 nights, multi-discipline training at Milton Keynes EC; www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub
- 19 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** Dressage Festival Competition at Rosehill EC, www.tvrc.co.uk (open to all)
- 19 **GARTH HUNT PC:** Hunter Trials, at BCA (members only); www.garthhuntpc.co.uk
- 19 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 20 **GARTH HUNT PC:** Area Mounted Games, at Tilford, (members only); www.garthhuntpc.co.uk
- 20 **WHADDON CHASE PC:** Tetrathlon and Triathlon
- 20 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Dressage clinic (members only) at Deep Mill Farm. www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 20 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated show jumping
- 23 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 24 **PATCHETTS EC:** Stuart Reeve-Young show jumping clinic
- 26 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Equine Affairs Unaffiliated three day event
- 26 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** One Day Event, Clear Round Show Jumping and Cross Country
- 26-27 **HERTS COUNTY SHOW:** The Showground, Redbourn, Herts; www.hertsshow.com
- 27 **THAMES VALLEY RC:** Annual Show at BCA, (members only); www.tvrc.co.uk
- 27 **GARTH HUNT CLUB:** Spring Ride in the Pang Valley. Amanda Stewart, tel. 01491 684151 for details.
- 27 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Cross Country Schooling
- 27 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 28 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated dressage
- 28 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Equine Affairs Unaffiliated three day event
- 30 **FLAMSTEAD PC:** Pony Club Rally at Patchetts EC

June 2007

- 2 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Show jumping schooling at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details call 01494 676392 or go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 2 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Summer ride at Hambleden. For details go to www.sorc.biz
- 2 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated dressage
- 3 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Equetech Canter for a Cure Sponsored Ride. Closing date 31 May 2007. For details send an SAE to Events Secretary, Equetech, Unit 2 Haybarn Business Park, Cublington Road, Aston Abbotts, Bucks, HP22 4ND
- 3 **FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER** Cross Country and Showing classes, Aston-le-Walls. Run by British Riding Clubs. www.bhs.org.uk
- 3 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Open show jumping (14 years and over) at Deep Mill Farm. www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 3 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 4 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Senior Show Jumping
- 4 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 6 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping

- 7 **PATCHETTS EC:** Stuart Reeve-Young SJ clinic
- 9 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Showing Secrets Clinic at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details call 01494 676392 or go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 9 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Dressage Clinic at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details call 01494 676392 or go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 9 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE HUNT CLUB:** Off the Hoof Team Challenge. For details call Di Wynne on 01844 212116
- 9 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 10 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 10 **CHESS VALLEY BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION OPEN SHOW:** Great Westwood Equestrian Park
- 10 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 10 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Area 7 Riding Clubs Horse Trials
- 12 **PATCHETTS EC:** Annette Lewis show jumping clinic
- 13 **PATCHETTS EC:** BSJA 5 Star Performance Awards Area 39A Training with Mia Korenika (BSJA Accredited Coach). Tel. 020 8445 9029 for details
- 16 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Summer Dressage Series at Rosehill. For details e-mail Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 16 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Dressage clinic with Pippa Haywood (members only) at Deep Mill Farm. www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 16 **PATCHETTS EC:** Patchetts Showing Show inc. Ponies (UK) summer qualifiers and Newark Cup
- 17 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Open Show with Dressage at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details call 01494 676392 or go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 17 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated dressage
- 18 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Dressage
- 18 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated dressage
- 19 **PATCHETTS EC:** Stuart Reeve-Young SJ clinic
- 20 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping
- 23 **FARMERS BALL, OXFORDSHIRE GOLF CLUB.** For details go to www.valeofaylesburywithgarth-andsouthberks.com
- 23 **PATCHETTS EC:** Affiliated show jumping Milton Keynes EC: Horse Trials, Burghley Young Event Horse qualifier
- 24 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Annual Open Showing Show (all ages); www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 24 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated show jumping
- 24 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** British Eventing one day event
- 24 **GREAT WESTWOOD EQUESTRIAN PARK:** Chilterns Shetland Group Show
- 26 **PATCHETTS EC:** Annette Lewis show jumping clinic
- 30 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Show jumping clinic with Chris Haygood (members only) at Deep Mill Farm. www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 30 **PATCHETTS EC:** Unaffiliated dressage

July 2007

- 1 **CHANDLERS CROSS RC:** Lecture/demo on 'How to Bombproof your Horse' with Cpt Chris Haywood at Little Munden Farm, Bricket Wood; www.freewebs.com/ccridingclub
- 1 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Open Show at Slade Farm. For details e-mail Caroline Threlfall at threcoo1@rbwm.org; www.sorc.biz
- 2 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Senior Show Jumping
- 8 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 8 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Unaffiliated mini one day event
- 8 **GARTH HUNT PC:** Smith's Lawn Open Horse Trials www.garthhuntpc.co.uk
- 13-15 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Members' Summer Camp at Milton Keynes EC. For details e-mail

- Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 15 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Open Show with Dressage at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details call 01494 676392 or go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 21 **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RC:** Summer Dressage Series at Rosehill. For details e-mail Susie Pilbeam at susan.pilbeam1@virgin.net; www.sorc.biz
- 22 **GREAT MISSENDEN RC:** Open unaffiliated dressage, Deep Mill Farm; www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- 23 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Dressage
- 29 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** RB Equestrian Jumping Derby
- 30 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Affiliated Senior Show Jumping

August 2007

- 11 **SOUTH BUCKS RC:** Dressage Clinic at Grove Farm, Chalfont St Peter. For details call 01494 676392 or go to www.sbrc.org.uk
- 14-17 **OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PC:** Pony Club Camp
- 20 **SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Cross Country Schooling
- 26 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** British Eventing one day event (3)
- 27 **GREAT WESTWOOD EQUESTRIAN PARK:** Home Counties Welsh Pony & Cob Society Show
- 29 **GARTH HUNT PC:** Mini Championships; www.garthhuntpc.co.uk

Where is it?

- THE PONY CLUB:** Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2RW. E-mail: enquiries@pcuk.org. Web: www.pcuk.org
- BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE:** Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444. E-mail: enquiries@bca.ac.uk. Web: www.bca.ac.uk
- GREINAN FARM:** Chipperfield, Herts, WD4 9LU.
- ROSEHILL EC:** Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 3EB
- DEEP MILL FARM EC:** London road, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP16 0DH. Tel: 01494 890005 E-mail: cath@deepmillfarm.co.uk. Web: www.deepmillfarm.co.uk.
- POTTEN FARM:** Chandlers Cross, Herts, WD3 4NQ
- ADDINGTON MANOR EC LTD:** Addington, Buckingham, MK18 2JR. Tel: 01296 712402. Fax: 01296 711721. E-mail: info@addingtonmanor.co.uk. Web: www.addingtonmanor.co.uk
- MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope, Bucks, MK19 7HQ. Tel: 01908 511329. E-mail: admin@mkec.co.uk. Web: www.miltonkeyneseventingcentre.com
- GREAT WESTWOOD EQUESTRIAN PARK:** Old House Lane, Langleybury, Kings Langley, Herts WD3 8RS
- SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Dorney Wood Road, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 8EH. Tel: 01628 666222. E-mail: shows@snowballfarm.co.uk. Web: www.snowballfarm.co.uk
- THE COLLEGE EC:** Church Road, Keysoe, Beds, MK44 2JP. Tel: 01234 708400. E-mail: info@thecollegeec.com. Web: www.thecollegeec.com
- PATCHETTS EC:** Patchetts Equestrian Centre, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts WD25 8PE. Tel: 01923 852255. Web: www.patchetts.co.uk
- GROVE FARM:** Welders Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, HP9 1XS
- WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE:** Warwick New Road, Leamington Spa, United Kingdom, CV32 5JE. Tel: 01926 318128. E-mail: wci@warkscol.ac.uk. Web: www.warkscol.ac.uk

If you don't see your club or event represented here, please contact Terry Fryer (see page 1 for details).

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Jim has been one of the ultimate ambassadors for hunting. The respect and affection in which he is so widely held is not just a testament to his professionalism but to the man himself.

John Gardiner: Hunt Chairman 1992 - 2006

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The proceeds from Jim's book will go to the Hunt Staff Benefit Society and to the Hunt, which he served and cared about over so many years.

The printing and publication is planned to be ready in time for the Kimble Point to Point meeting this Easter. However, for orders received by post please allow up to 28 days to process your order form. Remember to print your postal details clearly and to enclose your payment and number of copies you require in the form below.

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AND FINALLY... A CAPTION COMPETITION

Amusing captions submitted for this rather alarming picture will be printed in the next issue, with a decent prize to the writer of the best caption (the judges' decision is final, and bribery may be refused). All entries to Susie Bell (see page 1 for contact details), including your name, address and phone number. Here's what the owner of the bruises said about acquiring them:

'When teaching your novice horse to take a hedge with a drop on the far side, make sure he jumps over with you. It is preferable not to make the same mistake twice...

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