

The SaddleMag

THE VALE OF AYLESBURY WITH GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS HUNT



DECEMBER 07
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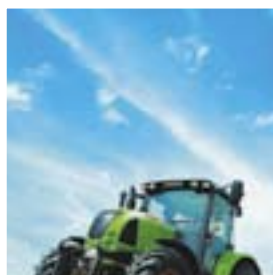


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*If you would prefer not to
receive this magazine in
future, please notify
Susie Bell, below.*

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The views expressed herein are those
of the contributors and not necessarily
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tors. If you would like us to publish your
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please contact Susie Bell (see left).

Cover painting by Brian Panter: Christmas
Eve 1968, returning to the hunt kennels.

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

HUNT NEWS

The new Sponsor a Hound scheme is going fabulously well with over £1000 raised to date. Sponsors have already been able to pay for a vet's bill of nearly £400 for unlucky Wonder '04, who had to have surgery after serious stomach trouble, so all you generous sponsors out there with beautiful certificates on your mantelpieces can rest assured that your money is going in the right direction and making a difference where it really matters. Wonder has since made a good recovery and sends his grateful thanks to everyone who has sponsored a hound so far.

The man to talk to if you would like to become a sponsor is Ian Parkinson (07850 305565), so please contact him as there are plenty of hounds still looking for sponsors.



disappointed. Anyone who has been to the Cabaret in previous years will know what a treat it is; anyone who hasn't but buys a ticket this year will discover just how good February can get; anyone who doesn't buy a ticket may find February the cruellest month. Ian Parkinson (see left) has the details.

Michaela Ryde's gorgeous Weimerana is giving birth soon and pure-bred puppies will be available mid-January. See her advert on page 17 for contact details.

Peter Viney would like us to make it clear that his video diaries of Jim Randall (article, August 2007) are available on loan, free of charge, from Chesham Library.

The date for the annual Hunt Cabaret is Saturday 23rd February 2008 at Haddenham Village Hall. You might think that's a long way off but tickets will sell quickly so put it in your diary and don't be



Correspondence...

Sir,

There is a reference to 'Peter Janes, foot follower' (August '07). That is a description which might be construed as placing me a little above my station since I am basically a car follower.

In that capacity, I do quite frequently dismount but, alas, only for short distances. At my age my 'pins' are rather worn out, resulting in a tendency to induce – and sometimes to cause – falls from a low altitude. Note the word 'falls', which in my case is these days correct.

But I think it more appropriate when referring to involuntary tumbles by riders to remember that 'Ladies and Gentlemen do not fall – they are thrown!' This is really a suggestion that all ground-level members might cloak any donation with the suggestion that they are donating to the possibility that they themselves may have a fall at some future date. In that case, the word 'fall' is quite correct.

Peter Janes

On that note, The SaddleMag would like to wish **Majid Mohammadi** a speedy recovery after an operation on his shoulder in November. We hope to see him hunting again as soon as his wife lets him get on his horse. Luckily, it's not the same horse that threw him and gave him a bad shoulder in the first place!

The SaddleMag received a letter from **Geoff Allen**, a life member of the Garth & South Berks Supporter's Club, expressing his delight at Peter Viney's account of Jim Randall. Geoff started his hunting connections early in life, going to school with George

Bucknell, younger brother of Jack, future Joint Master of the Garth & South Berks, and he was friends with Jack and followed the GSB on foot and bike for many years after his father took him to his first meet at the end of World War II.

A policeman by trade, Geoff was sometime chairman of the Eton College Hunt Supporters' Club and combined whipping in to the RMA Sandhurst Beagles with running a pub near Wokingham after he retired from the police force. Before Geoff and his wife moved to Dorset, they followed the South Oxfordshire and Old Berkeley Hunts by car a few times. In his spare time, Geoff now shows his coloured cob, Jethro, in a London trolley and an original Stratford cart. He qualified for the National BDS championships in 2005 and won the private driving class at Dorset County Show this year. You might have seen his photograph in *Horse & Hound* in 20th September issue (page 94).

'We have to keep hunting going,' says Geoff, a sentiment echoed by us all.



A SLOW START TO THE SEASON

As you may know, we had a much delayed start to the hunting season. What were the reasons behind this?

When the original foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak struck on August 3rd, the Hunt took immediate action to ensure that we followed DEFRA guidelines and, more importantly, the wishes of the livestock farmers throughout our hunt country. So rides were curtailed and no early morning hound exercising took place. Hunting lines or drags were banned by law. More importantly, farmers were not permitted to move their livestock from farm to farm, to market and, for some time, not to abattoirs either.

With the lifting of all the restrictions outside the original infected area in early September, DEFRA removed the legal ban and, after consultations with livestock farmers, three early morning line hunts were held in arable or woodland areas. Then to the great dismay of all the farming community we learned that DEFRA had jumped the gun and there were further outbreaks in Surrey. We were banned by

law again throughout our area – though it should be stressed that we would not have gone out with the outbreak live in any case. Again livestock farms were largely locked down.

To add further worry to the farming community Bluetongue had just struck in East Anglia and was heading south and west. Whilst this disease can not be carried by horses or the hunt, and hunting would not be affected by law, movement restrictions meant that many local farmers could not send their animals to market or to abattoir or outside the Bluetongue protection zone, which includes all our hunt country.

DEFRA do seem to have tried harder this time and restrictions under FMD have been gradually reduced. However Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire all remained in the restricted zone until October 21st. The week before that hunting was allowed to resume, by law, on a strict biosecurity licence. We did go out in selected areas only where there was

no livestock and where adjoining farmers agreed to have us.

At the time of writing (late October) there is still a restricted zone around the original outbreaks. The VAHGSB will not go near to this zone. All movement restrictions under FMD regulations having been lifted in the rest of our hunt country, the Masters have resumed early morning line-hunting from October 23rd where welcomed by farmers and landowners, and have scheduled the opening meet for November 10th.

We should all appreciate the enormous strain all this has put on the livestock farming community and realise that Bluetongue is an ongoing worry for them, especially those with sheep. So, please, everyone be extra careful should you cross fields with stock in them, especially with gates. Without the farmers' goodwill we cannot exist. The VAHGSB will always take their advice before any others.

Guy Portwin, Deputy Hunt Chairman



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A DAY AT THE (HOUND) RACES

The Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks' first hound racing day at the Kimblewick kennels was a roaring success for hounds and spectators alike.



These hounds are last year's puppies and have only been entered into the main pack this season, so they were a little confused by the notion of racing over fences but, with huntsman Gerald and whip Josh giving vocal encouragement from the front, they soon got the idea and produced two exciting finishes. Bellman '07 won the first race sponsored by K.S. Waddington Horse Transport for owner Anthony Donovan and jockey Jess Waddington, while Hornet '07 won the second, sponsored by Nolan Best, for owner Ian Grieg and jockey Richard Mills. Richard

The weather wasn't the best on the day of the hound racing at the kennels (27th October) but it didn't seem to put many people off as well over 100 punters turned up to see the spectacle. Hound racing is a new venture at the VAGSBH kennels but hounds and hunt staff took to it like ducks to water, providing us with an afternoon of fun that gave everyone the unmissable chance to see Gerald and Josh leaping with an astonishing speed and elegance over a series of obstacles with hounds close behind them.

The races' main sponsor was Aston Mullins Stud, giving us seven races on the card with the first race starting at 1.30pm. Hounds were paraded near the start by their handlers before each race to give everyone a chance to place their bets at the Tote (run by Roger and Sarah Edmunds), and then they were released to run a course of 100 metres over four fences including a rather large tiger-trap. A miniature bottle of champagne was up for grabs for every winner, with jockeys competing for £10 per race.

The first two races were rather haphazard since they were races for the young dog hounds and young bitch hounds respectively.



is better known as a show horse producer but he obviously makes a gifted jockey, too.

Dominic '05 took the P.J. Sparks-sponsored dog hounds race for David and Dawn Waters and the bitch hounds race, sponsored by Ashworths of Henley, went to Dorset '05 for owner/rider Clive Gough. Dorset put in some stupendous leaps to get ahead of her rivals. Piper '02 made all to win the veteran hounds race for owner Sue Parkinson and jockey daughter Vicky, kindly sponsored by Mr & Mrs G Munn. The runners for the sixth race, made possible by Mr and Mrs R Edmunds, came in exactly in their number order, with Burglar '05 snatching victory for Sylvia and David Miller.

The seventh race, sponsored by Clive Gough, was a championship for the winners of the earlier races, with the well-backed Dominic '05 emerging victorious. The ownership and ride for each of these runners were resold at auction by able starter and auctioneer Nolan Best, so Dominic's delighted new owner was Paul Foxley and the jockey was Jess Waddington. Paul won a magnum of Lanson champagne for his efforts and Jess £25. Jess had a particularly good day as she had already piloted Bellman, the winner of Race 1, to victory. Perhaps she should consider a career in hound racing? Second was Hornet '07, owned by Jane Vowles, new to the mastership of the Hunt this season.

A vivid and informative commentary was provided by Guy Portwin throughout the day. He kept everyone up to date with runners,



winners and any gossip that happened to come his way. Judge and Senior Master Alan Hill, assisted by course vet Bob Baskerville, counted the runners past the post and, though there were a couple of non-finishers, there were no steward's enquiries or objections to mar the day for Course Secretary Sarah Biddle. Kate Robertson, kennels groom, kindly allowed a thriving bar and barbecue to be set up out of the wind in the stables, where Geoff Munn, Paul Winterbottom and Sue Parkinson worked

hard to keep everyone supplied with excellent food and drink. And finally, special mention should go to Joe Hill, who ran practically every race ahead of the hounds and jumped the fearsome tiger trap more times than anyone could count, as well as running race results back to the announcer between races so that people could collect their winnings from the Tote promptly.

This event turned out to be a major fundraiser for the Hunt, raising over £1,500, and it is definitely a fixture for the summer next year, so you may confidently expect to see it appearing in the hunt calendar of events of 2008 and beyond. If you didn't come this year, make sure you go next year!

If you missed sponsoring a hound in the races, you can always sponsor one for a whole year (see page 2 for details)

OPPOSITE PAGE, FAR LEFT: One, two, three... GO!

OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: Gerald shows a nice turn of speed over fences

ABOVE: Joe and friend get overtaken at the last fence

LEFT: Vale of Aylesbury Hunt Supporters' Club President Geoff Munn presents the championship prizes to jockey Jess Waddington



Authentic French Cuisine prepared for you at home, from £25 per head

The festive season is upon us, and for most of us that means more time than usual slaving over a hot stove. But why not give yourself a break and let award-winning chef Alain Madoui, formerly at the Half Moon, Cuxham, do all the slaving in your kitchen for you?

Originally from the Limoges area, Alain left France forty years ago and 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, as well as in the kitchens at 10 Downing Street for Sir Edward Heath, and for President Pompidou.

His style is a mix of classic French and nouvelle cuisine, using only the freshest, best quality produce, with everything cooked freshly to order in your kitchen.

From only £25 per head for a three course menu, Alain can provide all the food (and wine if required), a full service of Limoges china, crystal glassware and superb cutlery. On the day, he will be joined by a member of his team who will assist in the preparation and serve your meal. When the feast is over, 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, without even worrying about who's doing the washing-up at midnight!

So if you are considering a party, why not let Alain take the pressure off, and bring a little bit of authentic France to your home?



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GOOD PUB GUIDE 2006



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I'm going to Olympia!

The world-famous Shetland Pony Grand National is run every day of the Olympia Horse Show. The SaddleMag finds out how to become one of the elite jockeys.

The Shetland Pony Grand National is one of the top displays at the London International Horse Show at Olympia every Christmas. Many of you will have seen it on TV or been to Olympia and seen the show for yourselves but have you ever wondered how those fast and furious jockeys on those fast and furious Shetland ponies get there? It's not as simple as you might imagine...

This Christmas will see the 26th Shetland Pony Grand National take place at Olympia. The first race was organised in 1981 by Pat Renwick who ran them all until she retired three years ago and gave the job to Nigel Trott, who has himself been involved with the miniature Grand National for 15 years. Nigel now organises the display and qualifier races that take place during the year and lead to the grand finale week at Olympia.

Shetland pony racing is run in line with Jockey Club rules, which means that all riders have to wear an approved hat, back protector and long boots. One small difference is that whips are not allowed to be carried. You must be over nine and under fourteen years old and – importantly – you must be under 5'1" on the day of the first race at Olympia to be eligible to ride in it, even if you have qualified correctly that year, so don't go doing any excessive growing if you qualify! In addition, your pony must be a registered Shetland and you and he must have attended six independent events together in the year before you wish to take part in the races. This is to prove that you are a competent combination and that your pony has the manners and temperament to take part in a race safely and properly.

The ponies have to be good all-rounders as well as well-mannered, as these six events may include a Pony Club show, working hunter pony classes, and general showing and jumping classes. If you can get your card stamped at six shows, you are permitted to ride in a display race, which is one step towards a qualifier race. Display races, like qualifiers, are run around the country at many horsey events. There have already been display races at Badminton Horse Trials and the Royal Windsor Horse Show this year, and the first two qualifiers were held in June, one in Shropshire and one at Newbury Racecourse. Win a qualifier and you have earned your place at Olympia, a serious highlight of the year for many jockeys and their ponies. Races are three furlongs long and, according to the photographer who was present at Olympia last Christmas, these ponies go at two-thirds of the speed of a Thoroughbred racehorse around the track!



ABOVE: Hannah Blaby, left, racing on 'a lot mad' Sonny.

Only ten ponies and jockeys will qualify for Olympia but those that do get to spend the whole week at the show, with two races a day every day on the programme. Of the ten ponies that qualify, eight take part in each race so that two rest each time. Nigel Trott says that Olympia is the icing on the cake for the lucky jockeys: it's enormous fun, it teaches them a lot about life in the fast lane and it raises a lot of money for charity. Ponies and their jockeys come from all over the country to compete and the qualifiers are very hotly contested indeed. Some contestants even come from as far away as Shetland itself.

The Shetland Pony Grand National raises a huge amount of money every year for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. Jockeys are required to raise sponsorship to enable them to run in the races and at the end of the 2006 racing season Nigel was able to hand over £17,000 to the hospital, the largest annual figure yet. He estimates that the Shetland pony racing has raised £350,000 in its 26 years and if you should ever visit Great Ormond Street, you will see the plaques on the walls commemorating the vital equipment that this long-running pony racing series has enabled the hospital to buy. It is a massive contribution to children's welfare by anyone's standards.

Hayley Head used to race Shetland ponies successfully when she was younger and qualified to ride at Olympia one year, which she says was fantastic fun. She loved the whole racing experience so much that now, aged 21, she trains her and her mother's five Shetlands for children like Hannah Blaby (see over the page) to race. Hayley trains ponies and riders at her mother's yard, Gillian's Riding School in Clay Hill,

Enfield, and loves helping children learn to do what she enjoyed so much. Of course, having raced herself, Hayley knows what it's like to win and lose, and her support for the youngsters is invaluable. This is Hannah's first year in Shetland pony racing; she rode her first race at Badminton Horse Trials and she is extremely excited about it.

If you don't quite fancy a Grand National complete with fences, Nigel also organises a Shetland pony racing open day at Epsom, which was on 15th July this year, where jockeys and their ponies race the final three furlongs on the famous Derby track itself. It's been going for the last seven years and is the only flat race in the series. It's an extra special event because very few people ever get to gallop along the one and only Derby track... unless you're Frankie Dettori, of course, and he raced down it 14 times before he achieved his first ever Derby win at last this year.

Are you interested in racing in the Shetland Pony Grand National? For further information about joining the Shetland pony racing series, please contact Mr Nigel Trott on 01469 540561 or 07831 339121. You can also e-mail him on nigel@shetlandponygrandnational.com or send an SAE to him at Ridge Acre Farm, Broad Green, Broadwas, Worcestershire, WR6 5NW.

The Olympia Horse Show runs from 17th-22nd December at Olympia. For tickets, visit their website, www.olympiahorseshow.com, or call 0870 143 2202.

RIGHT: Hannah, on Lucky, with one of her many red rosettes

BELOW: Hannah on Hewi, her first beloved pony, at a show



Hannah Blaby, aged 10, will be one of ten riders taking part in the world-famous Shetland Pony Grand National this year. She describes what it's been like to qualify for the 2007 race.

My name is Hannah Blaby and I am ten years old. I started riding when I was seven years old at a local riding school. My mum then got me my first pony called Hewi. I loved Hewi so much and took him to lots of local showing shows and won lots and lots of rosettes. I then started to jump on Hewi and did well but then I knew that if I wanted to jump really big that I needed a pony that jumped higher. I was really really sad and cried when Hewi had to be sold but luckily he was sold to a lovely boy called Jake who looks after him really well and is very local so I get to see him all the time.

At the yard that he has gone to there is a lady called Hayley and she was looking for someone to full-loan her pony called Lucky. I have moved Lucky to my yard now. He is 14hh and a skewbald and is the most fantastic pony in the world – apart from Hewi of course. I have taken him to lots of shows and am getting quite good on him now and won two firsts the other day. I also went to RAF Halton where I was a bit scared but I really, really loved it and got a gold award.

Hayley also has Shetland ponies at her yard, called Gillian's Riding School, and for lots of years she has been racing them. She asked me if I would be interested in racing in the Shetland Grand National. I now race a Shetland called Sonny who is a coloured Shetland. He is lovely but really mad and so, so fast! I had my first race at Badminton Horse Trials this year and then I went to Windsor where I came second in the final.

By the time you read this I will have also been to Shropshire and the West Midlands and then to Newbury racecourse. These races are qualifiers for Olympia – it would be the best thing in the world if I got to race there. Sonny is really fast but can be a bit mad, or a lot mad, so I need to keep him under control. Recently I went to a local show on him and got a 5th in the junior jumping class and he was a really good boy. Well, that's all at the moment. I will let you know if I qualify for Olympia!

Hannah's mother recently sent me an update on Hannah's progress:

Hannah qualified for Olympia on Sonny in the first qualifying race. She also had her first flat race on Epsom racecourse, where 30 shetlands set off to race three furlongs. It was really exciting and she came second. For this race, the ponies were all sponsored so Hannah met her sponsors, which was very nice for her. We were able to place bets at Epsom: Hannah was the second favourite so the odds weren't great but it added a bit of fun to the race. She also went to Hickstead with Lucky and won the 10-and-under championships which was wonderful.

A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Though he no longer rides to hounds, Brian Panter's passion for horses still shines brightly through his art.

Brian Panter, resident of Loosley Row near Princes Risborough and long-time actor, painter, writer and modeller of horses, is the artist behind the painting you see on this issue's front cover. A snowy scene of the then huntsman, Jim Bennett, and his whipper-in, Jim Stevens (better known as Steve), returning to kennels after the Christmas Eve meet in 1968, it captures the moment perfectly. That day hounds met at Dinton, hunted through Standalls Farm amongst other places and finally blew for home, Brian says, near Slurry Banks between Walldridge and Ford.

Hunt supporters with long memories may remember Brian as the chairman of the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt Supporters' Club at the time of the first amalgamation in 1970. It was a time in the Hunt's history not unlike the more recent joining of the Vale of Aylesbury with the Garth and South Berks and, while

he says modestly that he suspects he wasn't a very good chairman, he and the Hunt are still here to tell the tale, so he can't have been all bad.

'We thought hunting was hard done by in those days. We had no idea!' he says, referring to the recent hunting ban.

A friend of Jim Bennett's, Brian has read Jim's recent biography and says it brought back many happy memories. Brian spent his early days with the Navy, as did Jim, and the two men had much in common as well as a love of hunting – though it is unlikely that Jim would ever have been in the first Nescafé advert in 1955, which Brian is proud to have done. Now 83, Brian no longer hunts or acts but he still paints and makes exquisite model statues of horses, so look out for his work locally and snap one up if you can, or ask him if you may commission a model of your favourite hunter... he would do it beautifully.

BELOW: Christmas Eve 1968 (detail) by Brian Panter



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The Three Pigeons the Meet on this fine hunting day,
To quote the old song, “’Tis as balmy as May”,
Harry Wilkins K.H., with the Packs drawing nigh,
The Hounds are the Pride of our old friend Jim Highe.

The Master and Huntsman ‘Bill’ Brunskill by name,
Has cubbed all the coverts from Nuneham to Thame,
He and Judy, his wife, are welcomed by all
the Old Un’s, the Young Un’s, the great and the small.

They move off to Draw, a sure find, of course,
We would be surprised not to find in Chown’s gorse,
The Lookouts are posted, the Field canters along,
They look to their tackle and right any wrong.

We’ll now take a look and see who is out,
All the Millers are here, of that there’s no doubt,
The Field Master as ever will lead the Brigade
O’er a rail or ‘The Brook’ or a big ‘cut and laid’!

Those who follow the Hunt know the Brigadier well
The fences he’s jumped are too many to tell,
He cuts out his ‘line’ and gives a great lead,
A Foxhunter always, “Just one of the Breed”.

Sir Robert is here on his trusty old grey,
He knows every inch of the country they say;
A hunting man keen and the man for his job
There is none to compare with our Secretary ‘Bob’.

Mrs Miller and Cynthia, their ‘chestnuts’ a pair,
When the work is “cut out” you will find them both there;
Holland Hibbert is here, and so is his wife,
They’ll be there at the Finish, you may bet your sweet life.

There’s a Master of Draghounds, a Guardsman, you’ll note
A Thruster is he with his swallowtailed coat,
His brother is with him, just ripe for the fray
And uphold the good name of a Royal Scots Grey.

‘Tony Muirhead we see on his heavyweight bay,
They have given him leave from the ‘House’ for the day;
He’s as good in the saddle as he is in his ‘Seat’
A Sportsman, a Member, a hard man to beat.

That’s Mrs vere Spencer, with her husband near hand
A Secretary too, by whom wire is banned;
That strong looking cob which is right up to weight
Carries Mr C.Crump, in quite regal state.

Milton Harris is here, and he’s brought out his Son
They are keen hunting men who’ll enjoy a good run;
Charlie Rowles, the ‘Old Gallant’, is up on his grey
It will help you to watch him when hounds get away.

Yonder there are the Barbers, two big un’s, one small un’
They’ve had a long hack, as they came from march Baldon;
That’s Ellis, a new man, an amateur sailor,
On a beautiful bay that must be a ‘nailor’!

Guy Thomson is mounted on what’s “Really the Goods”
He’s not often this side, he is nearer the Woods;
Mrs Gemmal well known for her wonderful Racer
‘Gregalach’, renowned is her national chaser.

That’s Bernard, a soldier, of whom it is said
“He prefers to dismount o’er his good horse’s head”
From Bledlow, Miss Ryland, joins in with the throng
Just keep her in view and you won’t be far wrong.

Miss Macdonald of henley has come from afar
Mounted “The Best” on her chestnut ‘Red Star’,
There’s ‘Josephine’ too, with Tom Bury across,
Who can show ‘im the way on a Point to Point course.

Here’s Graham, a chaser, the owner of Lare,
They are worth ‘looking over’ when you’ve time to spare;
And Wainwright, a gunner, on leave for a spell
Loves a burst with the Hounds, or the burst of a shell.

Major Landsberg’s from Bicester, but he’s also S.O.
A credit to both, as I’m sure you all know;
Mrs Adcock a lightweight, likes ‘em “Little and good”
Fast in the open and the best for the wood.

Then Mrs Hoare-Nairn likes a “young ‘un” to “make”
By kindness she does it, she hates the word “break”,
From Britwell the Whitakers come for a Hunt
When anything’s doing they’ll be well to the front.

From the Heythrop the Beaufoys arrive with their Box,
Their horses ‘good lookers’ from muzzles to hocks;
On that chestnut there, you see Mrs Banks
She’s leaving us soon, a great loss to our ranks.

The Podwells arrive, they are brother and sister
And hunt a great deal with ourselves and the Bicester;
Mrs Batt and her daughter each take their turn
From either of them there is much you may learn.

Ted Brown from Wood Eaton, worthy to his sire,
Dad went with the “best”, he was known as a flyer;
From Tetsworth comes Hutt with a steed to his taste
You should see him “perform” but you’ll have to make haste.

There’s Miss Christie Miller, from Swyncombe she hails,
At “home” in the hills and at “home” in the vales;
The Gollans from Peppard, who go with the best
Have forsaken the “Staghounds” to give us a test

That’s Clinkard nearby, keep him well in your mind,
If you stick to him closely you’ll not be behind
Now Woodcock comes up, he is a bit of a “Bird”
You’ll find him first flight, you may take my word.

Some old Berkeley’s are here, and welcome they are,
Sportsmen they be, for they come from so far,
Let us give them a Hunt that will make them look back
With joy to their day with the South Oxfordshire’s Pack.

You cannot mistake the “Ex Hunstman” George Baker
Who fills in his time as a “hunting jump” maker;
Ted Castle and Cox, who both come from Thame
They’re on opposite sides, but their road is the same.

There are many more here, but my time’s getting short
And some I’ve forgotten, perhaps more than I ought,
To the ones that I’ve missed, and there’re many of these
Will you kindly accept my apologies please?

There’s a stir in the covert, a whimper, and hear
A Fox is on foot, of that there’s no fear;
Keep still now and watch to see where he breaks
A good Hunt depends on the line that he takes.

Hark to music! Stand by for the fun
Cram on your hats and prepare for a run,
Sam Ashton has viewed him, a “dog” by his look
Slipping away with his nose to the “Brook”.

Spartham Bog on his right, for Cornwell he makes
So now for the Brook and the toll that it takes;
Hoare-Nairn has a dart and over he goes
Harvie Shrimpton is in it, right up to his nose.

Jack Castle is over, and so is Joe Hill,
Jane Pauling has taken the deuce of a “spill”,
A Naval Commander who has long left the Sea
takes a dip in the fresh water as neat as can be.

The Soldiers from Cowley get “thinned out” a bit,
Bill Barnard’s horse peeped, a “hard one to sit”,
Jimmy Meade takes it on at the hell of a pace
Showing the way to his good lady “Grace”.

Mrs Elliot on ‘Jim’ “sailed on” at the Brook,
‘Jim’ never gave it much more than a look
But spread himself out and left it behind
then settled him down for a big stake and bind.

The Balfours and Barnards are on the right side,
They make nought of a brook; be it ever so wide,
They’ve South Oxfordshire Hunters that all know their job
From the big “sixteen hander” to the bright chestnut cob.

The Stokenchurch Doctor, Doctor Elliott you know
Had a bit of a scramble, he was going too slow,
His horse is a novice at water as yet
His “Jockey” will teach him in no time, I’ll bet.

With Cornwell right handed for Adwell we steer,
A few empty saddles are left in the rear;
Sam Ashton has taken a look at some kale
His downfall was caused by a very stiff rail.

As ever the Brigadier, well to the front,
Is showing the way that a man ought to hunt;
The Master with Hounds is cheering them on
The pace is a “killer”, it cannot last long.

To the main Oxford road the Hounds run a treat,
They’re full of strong running, the fox must be beat;
A moment’s short check, then on! Forrard On!
The fox has been viewed, he has only just gone.

Bernard Rowles has come up, but he didn’t last,
The next fence but one saw him properly “grassed”
Then judy came down and so did N. Crump,
Judy’s a soft one, but Neville’s a bump.

The Barrys, The Colonel, the Mrs and Jeanne
Kept well to the line on which the Hounds ran,
Till a fence or a rail took its toll of each one
But they mounted and finished, they’re not to be done.

Thro’ Chalford then Sydenham towards Hempton we fly,
Hayes Dashwood has found one a trifle too high,
His breeches are torn and his hat is smashed in
“An expensive game, hunting” he says with a grin.

Mrs Whitehouse, her husband, and Betty Ruck-Keene
All “come to grief” e’er the rushes are seen,
A turn to Penn Farm helps those at the back
It gives them a chance to come up with the Pack.

Weatherby here took a fence by the “roots”
In the ditch you should see him, just breeches and boots,
His chestnut horse waited for him to remount
He’ll be in at the “Death”, on that you may count.

To Coldharbour we speed, the railway is passed,
The pace has decreased, but it’s still very fast;
Ralph Keene said “good-bye” to the hunt about here
We couldn’t all see it, but ‘twas easy to hear.

Ross Cheriton smashed thro’ a new post and rail
Which put an “Amen” to his part in the tale;
A Shrove Furlong the hunted one came into view
He may go one Field but surely not two.

In the field below Foxhills hounds are close to his brush
And now they are into him, in with a rush,
Then over he rolls, with a snarl on his face
He has fought a great fight, he has lost a great race.

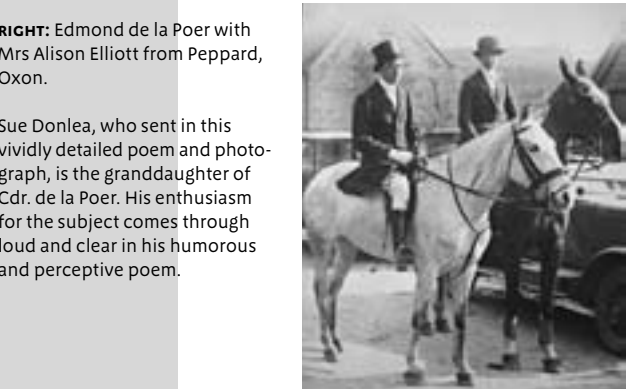
The Master jumps off and he “breaks up” his fox,
The Riders examine their horses for knocks,
With well loosened girths each takes a deep breath
They’ve had a great hunt, they were in at the “Death”.

So here’s to the Fox, to the Hound, to the Horse,
To the Keepers and Breeders and mainly, of course,
To the “Farmers”, great Sportsmen, our thanks know no bounds
You who cherish and love the South Oxfordshire Hounds.

In the passing of years we have all heard the cry
That hunting will cease in the near bye and bye,
When the sun has been darkened and the moon gives no light
At the end of the world, there’ll be hunting alright.

‘Tis the sporting mens’s motto “You must play the game”
It’s the “word” of the Briton, that made for the Fame
Of the country we love, and possessions so great,
We must foster the Breed for the good of the State.

And where do you find the best Sportsmen of all?
In the village, the farmhouse, the cottage, the hall!
In the heart of the country, where one and all strive
To retain our Tradition and keep Hunting alive.



Sue Donlea, who sent in this vividly detailed poem and photo-graph, is the granddaughter of Cdr. de la Poer. His enthusiasm for the subject comes through loud and clear in his humorous and perceptive poem.

20 Years in a Western Saddle

Bill Martin and Barbara Dickens have been riding at Eatons' Ranch in Wyoming for years.
Bill invites you to look in on their favourite holiday.

When the Editor asked me to write an article about the ranch in Wyoming where Barbara and I have been taking holidays for over 20 years now, I was at a loss to know what to write. I knew that nobody would read a travelogue article about what we did every day and what our horses were called e.g. "Day 1: Got up, had breakfast, got on board Trigger, etc", but what would people want to read?

So, I settled for where the ranch is, why we like it and why we keep going back, together with a few pictures.

First, the ranch. It's called Eatons' and it's in the Big Horn mountains just outside Sheridan, a sleepy western town in the north east corner of Wyoming close to the border with Montana. It has its own website, which gives information on how to get there. We usually drive up from Denver, Colorado a distance of 430 miles. The ranch is the oldest guest ranch in America and was started by the Eaton family, who still own and operate it, back in 1879, moving to its present location in 1904. It has over 7,000 acres of varied terrain and there are about 220 horses in any given year.

Why do we like it? Simple! They match horses to riding ability and you can ride out on your own without an escort. You can have a wrangler to guide you until you know your way around and after you have shown that you are competent on a horse (which could exclude some VAGSBH subscribers, admittedly) they are a happy for you to go solo. You get a trail map (of questionable value) to help you but the horses are the most reliable guides.

They wrangle the horses in from the plains each morning, saddle them up for you and off you go. On return you just hand over the horses, they do all the rest. You can ride two out of

any three sessions a day (morning, afternoon and evening) or all day (morning and afternoon combined). Barbara and I have often gone out and not seen anyone else all day. The scenery is breathtaking, both mountains and open plains and you can often see deer, coyotes, prairie dogs and other critters. Those who are young and keen can also get up early (around 6am and help wrangle in the horses.

Whilst on the ranch we live in comfortable cabins, some of which are designated premium and cost a bit more but are well worth it. Meals are taken at shared tables in the communal dining room, which is dry so you need to stock up in your cabins from the liquor stores in town. The other guests are an eclectic mix of mainly American families with a sprinkling of Europeans. A few people go on their own. Some families have been going to the ranch since the 1920s and 1930s (not the original family members!). The ranch try to sit 'old hands' with newcomers. The food is best described as plain American.

What else happens? There is fishing on the ranch for those who are interested and a golf course some miles away but the ranch is essentially about riding. There are side trips that can be taken, for example to Little Big Horn where Custer made his last stand, and occasionally the rodeo comes to town but that's about it. The website gives all the detail.

So why do we keep going back? Well solo riding, good horses, breathtaking scenery, interesting wildlife and comfortable cabins just about says it all, and it all happens outside our hunting season. So get on a plane and saddle up with confidence if you think this sounds like it's for you.

For more information, go to www.eatonsranch.com



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News from your Hunt Clubs

Social events and fund-raising with your local Hunt Club

The **VAHSC** hosted the perennially popular Quiz Night on 19th October at Haddenham Village Hall: 60 people in teams of four were entertained royally by **Steve Nash**, quiz-master, who kept some very tricky questions coming from 8pm until 9, when the now traditional, top class fish and chip supper was served.

The Haddenham fish and chip shop always does a great job of getting so many diners out and onto tables piping hot in double-quick time – and necessarily so: all those overworked brains clearly needed feeding as the newspaper wrappers were rapidly emptied and binned. There was no let-up in proceedings, though, and Steve had everyone's rapt attention once more with the second half of the quiz. With three separate sections and some very quick-fire interval rounds open to individuals (those came with an instant £1 penalty for a wrong answer), teams had to be good at practically everything to have a chance at the prizes and puzzled faces were evenly spread across the room.

In the end, after a tense scoring session, the South Oxfordshire Hunt Club took the best hunt club score, winning four decent bottles of wine and a very handsome silver cup. The Hertfordshire Hedgehogs emerged as the non-hunt club winners, taking home four decent bottles of wine while, at the other end of the spectrum, the Old Berkeley Beagles received four wooden spoons for being the worst hunt club team and the Tripods received four bottles of water for being the worst non-hunt club team. One can only assume that their collective knowledge was somehow entirely avoided by Steve's questions!

After the team event, **Danny Buckland** auctioned off 20 enormous baskets of top-quality fruit to raise funds: every single basket went to a good home (at the time of writing this, your correspondent was still working her way through the bananas!) and the evening eventually finished at midnight, such was the dedication of several people to ensure that the bar's takings were up to the usual standards. The Quiz Night raised nearly £250 for hunt funds so our thanks go to Ian Parkinson for organising it and making sure it went so well.



Vale of Aylesbury Hunt Supporters' Club:

Come and try your hand at ferret racing on 7th Dec, 7.30pm at Haddenham Village Hall. Contact **Poo Kent** 01844 291276 for details. £10 per person including supper.

The VAHSC has been keeping a high profile presence at local shows this year: Ian and the hunt staff had a stand at Bucks County Show and Thame Show, amongst others. They have been doing a great job raising people's awareness of hunting and selling merchandise, including the 2008 Hunt calendars.

It is time to renew your VAHSC membership if you haven't already: it costs £12 per person, or £25 for family membership, and you get a 10% discount on merchandise and events plus access to the meet cards and, of course, *The SaddleMag*. Please make cheques payable to the 'VAHSC' and send them to **Paul Winterbottom**, Membership Secretary, Westbourne Cottage, 44 Orchard Way, Holmer Green, Bucks, HP15 6QU.

Old Berkeley Hunt Club:

A DVD of the best bits of the last ten years' hunting –
The film they tried to ban...
With more fallen redcoats than The Last of The Mohicans!
The thrills, the beauty, the passion!
All the old stars...
And introducing Alan's Fillies of 2006.
Cert XC

Directed by Malcolm Angell of False Trail Studios
Distributed by the OBHC
Yours to own on DVD in time for Christmas!

Send a cheque for £10 (payable to OBHC)
to **Christian Schwetz**
130 Broad Street, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 3ED

Garth Hunt Club diary dates:

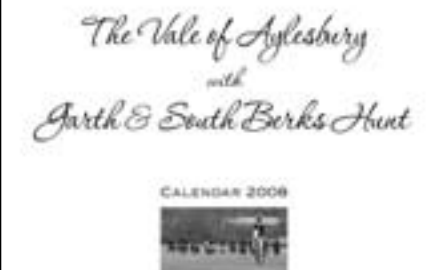
The Snowman's Ball will be held at the prestigious Phyllis Court Club (www.phylliscourt.co.uk) in Henley-on-Thames on Saturday 19 January 2008. Tickets are £65 and the fun runs from 7pm–2am with a champagne reception followed by a four-course dinner. There are rooms available for overnight guests but these are limited so please book early. For more information/tickets/room bookings please call **Amanda Stewart** on 01491 684151 or 07775 754057 or amanda.stewart@btconnect.com, or **Maggie Luck** on 01256 763872. You may arrive by helicopter, boat or car!

Amanda is also organising the increasingly popular Spring Ride on 25th May 2008. The ride has trebled in size since it began four years ago and was featured in *England's Equestrian* magazine and *The SaddleMag's* August issue.

Nolan Best is organising an inter-hunt show jumping competition at the Berkshire College of Agriculture in Burchetts Green on 30th Dec for those of you wishing to work off xmas pud. Contact Nolan on 01189 304101 for details.

Hertfordshire Hunt Club:

The 2008 Hunt Calendar: The new calendar (right) is now on sale and proving very popular. You can buy a copy at any meet or by post for £10 plus £1.70 p&p. To order by post, send a cheque (with your name and address) to **James Dickson**, Grove Farm, Flamstead, St Albans, Herts AL3 8BA. To pay by credit card please call **Emma Pearse** on 01582 873263s. Please remember if ordering by post to include your address. And don't forget the **HHC notecards**: They make really great Christmas cards if you're still looking for inspiration. Available as above.



The South Oxfordshire Hunt Club:

The annual invitation Clay Shoot for Farmers, Earthstoppers and Gamekeepers was held at Peter and Celia Peakes' at Golden Manor, Pyrton on 5 July. There was a good turnout despite the terrible weather. It was more like autumn conditions than summer with heavy downpours, thunder and lightening. However, the shooting continued regardless and the results were:

The Major Mann Cup – (for Farmer entry) to Michael Stevens (junior)
The Greenaway Cup – (for Earthstopper) a tie between T. Gatmell, H. Greenaway and R. Greenaway
The Naylor Cup – (for Keeper) to K. Ayres
The Pool Shoot – also won by K. Ayres
The Team Tropies – a tie between Bud Cole's Team and Mick Stevens's team
Thanks to the Peakes for hosting the shoot, Roger and Sandi Hance for setting the shoot up and Tony and Maggie Naylor for cooking the food which was most welcome and, of course, to everyone who helped make the day go so well.

Diary Dates:

We now have new dates for 'Off the Hoof' and Farmers' Ball. Contact either **Di Wynn** on 01844 212116 or **Jane Stevens** on 01844 216076 for any of our events:

December – Countryside Carol Service – Mulled wine, soup and roll £5, date TBC
March – End of Season Supper with club AGM – date TBC
April to June – Tuesday night Clay Shoots
Saturday, 12 April – 'Farmers Hunt Ball' at Oxfordshire Golf Course, Milton Common, Thame. £40 ticket (and there will be an auction of 6/8 lots)
Sat 31 May – 'Off the Hoof' team challenge at Meadowbrook Farm: £80 per team (Clay Shoot 'Flurry', Quad bike course, Scurry (fun obstacle relay race) and Cast Fishing (into hoops).
Sat 20 September – Thame Show Ball – date TBC

We always welcome new members for £10 per annum.
Please contact **Jane Stevens** on the above telephone number.

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All proceeds go directly to the welfare of the hounds

FLYING ROUND RAF HALTON

New prizes and incentives to raise more sponsorship at the 2008 Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride

It's that time of year again: while you're wondering whether the extra mince pie you're eating to soak up that seventh glass of port really will count as one of your 'five a day', the Halton Ride* committee will be slaving over a pot of hot creosote-substitute, preparing for the 2008 ride.

We're very lucky that it always sells out early, and from the smiles on people's faces as they collect their rosettes afterwards I'm sure that's because the course is as enjoyable as we think it is, not just because there's precious little else to do with a horse on a Sunday in March.

It's vital that riders do have a good day out, and all our helpers on the day put a lot of time and effort into making sure they do, but at the end of the day we organise the ride to raise money for local charities like the Chiltern Air Ambulance, Wendover Riding for the Disabled and Stocklake Park School for children with learning difficulties (see our website for full details of the charities we support). Again, we're very lucky because many of our riders raise substantial sums of spon-



A GLIDER FLIGHT COULD BE YOURS...

sorship each year, and thanks to them we can be generous in our gifts. But I'm the treasurer, and for treasurers, more money is always better, even though we give it all away after the ride.

So, how are we going to raise more this year? We could just increase the entry fee or the minimum amount of sponsorship we ask people to raise, but we're altruistic – we wouldn't be organising a charity cross-country ride if we weren't – and we didn't want to do that. It doesn't make business sense, but the ride will cost the same to enter in 2008 as it did in 2005.

Instead of charging more, we're taking a chance, and hoping that if we offer a

reward to riders for raising more than the minimum sponsorship, they'll step up to the challenge. For every rider who raises just £10 more than the minimum, there'll be a special rosette, and, thanks to a generous gift from Jane Brogan at Robinsons mail order (www.robinsons-uk.com), we're able to give a £20 Robinsons voucher to every rider who raises £100 in sponsorship. That's just a little something to say thank you for putting in the time and effort it takes to raise that much. We also have six, instead of last year's five, prizes for the riders who raise the most (including an 8GB iPod nano for the top junior rider, exclusive glider flights from



A BONUS FENCE BRAVELY TACKLED



CHAMPAGNE FOR A LUCKY FUNDRAISER

RAF Halton and vouchers for the horsey mecca that is the Bellingdon End Shop – see the schedule or website for the full prize list) which we hope will encourage people to try and knock John Richardson and Bryony Jones off last year's top spots.

So please, if you're entering this year, don't stop asking people to sponsor you when you reach £30. Just ask a couple more people, raise £40 instead, and on behalf of the charities we support we'll say thank you with that new rosette – anyone can take home a silver rosette for completing the course, but the black and gold one says you did something special. And if you can reach £100, you'll be within sight of a prize, Robinsons will have helped to offset your entry fee and our charities will love you. Everybody wins.



THE NEW TOP JUNIOR PRIZE: AN 8GB IPOD NANO

* Officially it's the 'Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride', but after a pint or two of creosote, 'Halton Ride' is a lot more manageable. We were thinking of you when we christened our website just www.haltonride.org.uk.

John Bell, Treasurer



ROSETTES FOR EVERYONE

Date: Sunday, 16th March 2008

Entry forms from: Susie Bell, Garners, Heath End, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3UE. Tel: 01494 758408

E-mail: info@haltonride.org.uk

Website: www.haltonride.org.uk

See also: entry form enclosed with this magazine

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NICKEL KING was the leading event horse sire between 1990 and 1995. He was a successful racehorse and bred numerous foals, some still competing and hunting successfully today. The two most famous are KING WILLIAM and PRINCE PANACHE – both competed in the Olympics. King William also won Badminton 4* (1992) and Prince Panache Fair Hill USA 4*.

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A Place in Italy

Some people have all the luck! In May this year, Christian Schwetz was invited to stay at an Italian castle. The real wonder is that he returned to tell us about it.

Half past May found me rather improbably in a small castle in Lazio, in an eighteenth-century painted salon, dining with Count Antonio Mancini Caterini and doing my best to impress him that I should be coming to teach landscape photography there next year. All was cordial and serene until we got onto the subject of hunting. As we know, Italians like nothing better than to blast away at any unfortunate animal no matter how small or insignificant. However, the subject of foxhunting produced an explosion of enthusiastic delight.

I spent the next few hours, increasingly lubricated, waxing lyrical on my experiences and the traditions and eccentricities of hunting. There is only one hunt in Italy, and it's very exclusive. Titles higher than Count are a requirement of entry. The proposed first day of photography was scrubbed as Antonello, as the Count now urged me to address him, decided that we simply must go riding in the morning.

Suddenly, my position was beginning to appear rather more interesting – and secure.



May is already hot in Lazio, so after breakfast by one of the 10 arenas, I was mounted on Moorella, a 16.2hh, dark bay aremara/Thoroughbred mare. Antonello took his gorgeous 'estphalian... and his groom Elvis, named for his ability to iake. The country was superb. Green rolling hills and ancient ak forest much like our beloved Bucks, except beautifully arm. Trots and canters through barrelled forest paths opened endless vistas of green pasture and distant peaks. After a 10-hour hack, we came to a restaurant beside a secluded lake. ith the horses in the corral, and after brief negotiations with e squiffy patron, we set out our picnic and tucked into the cal delicacies, all washed down with the local red.

Reclining in the grass and considering the return journey, I realised that there was something missing from our ride thus far. Something without which no ride in the English countryside would be complete. Roadwork! In over two hours we had only crossed two roads. Rather indignant, I demanded of Antonello how such unbridled pleasure could be allowed.

Apparently its normal there. In Italy the right to roam is taken seriously. One can ride round the perimeters of most fields, which are, in any case, seldom gated. Perhaps this reflects a more communal idea of land ownership or maybe we were merely following in the footsteps of the brigands. For this area is the border between Lazio and Tuscany. The former was a papal possession and the latter, republican. In the vacuum between, the brigands flourished. Much of our journey was along the 'Brigands' Way'. Such is the area at our disposal here that we could have gone for five days in a series of circular rides, always ending up back at the castle.

A welcome sight by late afternoon, we spied the castle through the trees. After a shower and a rest, supper was served on a long table in the cavernous, open-fronted cantina. More wine was supplied by Antonello and more hunting stories by me.

The morning after, I decided that it really was time for some work and captured some images for my website of equestrian portraiture, which is now up at www.4legsgood-photographic.com (15% donation to the OBH Club from all commissions received through the hunt). If anyone would like to find out more about a riding holiday at the castle, please feel free to contact me on 07808 721054 or at farenheight451@ntlworld.com.



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Pony Club Focus

THE OLD BERKELEY HUNT (NORTH) PONY CLUB

Georgie Clark, joint DC with Rosie Thornton, reveals a thriving, active club



Some of my most vivid and fond memories of my time as a Pony Club member were cubbing with the the Old Berkeley Hunt under the watchful and strict eye of Alan Wootton – woe betide any of us ‘out of control’ Pony Club kids who dared to overtake him!

Soon after, I joined the Old Berkeley Hunt North branch (the Chilterns branch was formed in 1968 to take in members from the Hemel/Chesham/Amersham borders). As I was then living in Bovington, I transferred and had many happy years with the OBH Chilterns under the DCship of Nene Darvell, who always followed the field in her Rover car accompanied by her father and two Sheltie dogs. Jim Randall contributed greatly to the branch and I remember his excellent instruction and guidance at many rallies. However, little did I know then that I would one day be involved in the running of the OBH North and, much less, married to an ex-member!

The OBH North was formed in 1957 and takes in the Kings Langley and Watford areas. At present the membership is 176; 27 of those being boys, ages range from 4–22 years. I don’t wish to sound biased but we love having a good number of boys in the branch as they are usually very natural riders and offer a good balance amongst the groups and teams and they too enjoy the boy/girl ratio! We like to feel we are an all-ability branch and therefore offer training in a wide

range of disciplines: show jumping, dressage, cross country, hound exercise, mounted games, tetrathlon, polocross, riding and road safety, quiz training, stable management talks and a new experience of le Trec. All training and activities in the holidays and evenings only happen thanks to the fantastic committee and parents we have, who manage to offer incredible support both physical and ‘emotional’ even though most are work.

We are very fortunate to have the use of Great Westwood Equestrian Park for our main training ground which is so easily accessible from the M25. Here we also hold



our Open Eventing day and Area Mounted Games and Tetrathlon competitions. For our annual daily camp (usually 80 children) we have a lovely secure site on a farm owned by an ex-member in Chipperfield. Our Open Summer show is held in Bovington. The senior group have a four-day residential camp at outside equestrian establishments. The visiting instructors come from a number of competitive backgrounds and are all well qualified and practised in teaching at Pony Club rallies. Our older members are involved in teaching and assisting younger groups and as a Junior Committee organise and run a few rallies where they raise money for their chosen charity. As we have a large number of under-12 members, we have formed ‘The

Thelwells’ group, who wear their own T-shirt designed by a young member, and we hold special Thelwell rallies just for them.

Every summer, teams are entered in the three Area levels of showjumping, eventing and dressage. Teams at junior and senior level compete at Area qualifiers at Mounted Games and Tetrathlon. This year, we have had considerable success, with two of our members qualifying for the championships in intermediate showjumping and dressage, and our intermediate boys Tetrathlon team won the Mitsubishi Motors National Championships at Hartpury College in August.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the OBH North branch, whether it be teaching, judging, competing, transporting members, scoring and admin work, first aid or just being there with a member, because without you there would be no Branch and nothing for Rosie Thornton (Joint DC) or me to do in the holidays and weekends!

TOP, L-R: The winning boys intermediate tetrathlon team, August ‘07: Oliver Bloom, Tom Clark and Tom Shephard
CENTRE: Some of our members and adult escorts out with the VAGSBH
BOTTOM: Summer Camp this year – the St. Trinians Musical Ride!



OBH (HUGHENDEN) DO THEMSELVES PROUD

Melanie Biswas, reports on the rigours and joys of Pony Club Summer Camp

Nothing kicks off the summer holidays better than junior camp week. Preparations start many weeks before, when the realisation hits that your child’s unfit, fat, hairy pony, blissfully unaware gorging in the field, must be transformed into a lithe, pristine well-oiled machine, capable of enduring the week’s activities and the strict morning turnout inspection from our PC instructors.

Thankfully, although standards are extremely high, the atmosphere at OBH Hughenden junior camp is wonderfully friendly and relaxed. The setting at Monkton in Speen is idyllic. John and Gillian Goodall have been so generous in allowing us to use their beautiful farm again this year and we were blessed with sunshine.

A record thirty-two children attended camp this year with an unprecedented number of boys. Monkton was able to cope with the onslaught perfectly with groups divided between XC, manège, gymkhana, show jumping and dressage arenas. While some members honed their riding skills, others joined their instructors for informative stable management sessions.

The cross-country course proved to be very popular. The children tackled every jump with great gusto, whoops of delight and a few yeehas. We did witness one loose pony galloping for home after ditching its rider, but to our great amusement was closely followed by one loose mummy who nearly out ran it! Hacking in Great Hampden woods with the kind permission of Lord Hollenden was an adventure for our young riders who picked wild raspberries and spotted wildlife during their ride.

The highlight of our week was a visit from the MFH, Huntsman and a selection of impressive and friendly hounds fresh from early morning exercise. As the Huntsman demonstrated the different commands on the horn the hounds responded perfectly on cue from the confines of the lorry. The ponies also reacted to the horn by growing in size from 12.2 hairies to 16hh hunters, breaking free from their tethers to join the hunt. The boys managed a few notes from the horn, despite it slowly filling with spittle. Strangely the parents declined the offer of a turn! The children were enthralled and bombarded us with requests to go hunting. Meanwhile we were busy mentally planning our horse’s fitness regimes. Should we get to ride them this summer, maybe we could have a go, too? A good PR exercise all round, I think.

The children became more ambitious during the week as their confidence grew and it was rewarding to see the improvement in their riding. Sadly it all came to an end too quickly, with a final day competition and prize giving. Two families won the turnout prize for the third year in a row; astonishingly one had two boys and a grey pony! We are planning sabotage for next year...

A comment made to our DC, Lindsey Abbott, gave her the best thanks she has ever had when a new member said he wished it wasn’t the last day. The junior members of the OBH (Hughenden) will undoubtedly have left camp with cherished memories, new friends and a more secure seat!



To join the Old Berkeley Hunt (North) Pony Club, call Georgie Clark on 01923 463333

From Skydiving to Dentistry, Leap by Dizzying Leap

Dorian Harwood, equine dentist, describes the tortuous path that has eventually led him to his most fulfilling career to date.

You probably think that equine dentists are very boring people on the career line somewhere between accountants and actuaries, don't you? Well, people who stare into horses' mouths all day, getting slobbered and trampled on by indignant equines not much taken with having the teeth closest to their (tiny) brains rasped with something that wouldn't look out of place in a medieval torture set, can't be the sharpest knives in the set, can they? Well, we defy you to call Dorian Harwood, rider, skydiver and equine dentist extraordinaire, *boring*. Anything but!

I left school aged 16 with not much. I was already involved with horses and riding for Kim Barzilay, who was starting her business as a dealer. I met Kim at my local riding school and at 14 became her milk boy as she was a milk woman doing a round for Express Dairies in Amersham. When I left school I became a groom which, what with riding for Kim as well, took the fun out of the horses so I gave it up after a year. After that, I worked for a building firm for seven years and learnt to do most things.

When I was 26, a good friend of mine whose wife was riding my Anglo Arab, asked me if I fancied doing a parachute jump for charity. Why not? And so started my next passion. In the meantime I sold the Arab to my friend's wife, which gave me free weekends for skydiving. In 1997, the club I was jumping at came up for sale so I and my new business partner bought it and ran

BELOW: Skydiving in California, 2007



ABOVE: Dorian being slobbered on by an very patient patient

it for two years before I sold my share and went to work at my current club. I have done over 2,000 jumps and now work as a cameraman at weekends filming people doing Tandem Skydives. I am also part of a four-way formation skydiving team, working as their cameraman. My camera work has been on the TV and I've been in the Guinness Book of Records for the British record of 16 skydivers jumping out a hot air balloon at the same time. I have been fortunate to get my trips paid for by the teams I work with and I've made three trips to California in the last three years. The first time I managed to get cut up on landing by another skydiver and ended up with a dislocated shoulder, a broken arm at the shoulder socket and two fractured vertebrae. I flew home early, saw an orthopaedic surgeon on the Tuesday and was back doing dentistry the following Tuesday... Ah, the joys of being self-employed! My physio told me I had the worst dislocation you could get and should forget about skydiving for at least a year and a half, but four months later I was jumping again.

Back in 1993 I found myself out of work after the recession hit the building trade, so the father of the girl I was dating asked if I could give him a hand in his workshop for a few weeks where he made road-marking equipment; I'm still there today.

My boss is a cool and laid-back guy who lets me work whatever hours I like as long as there is stock to sell, which fits in great while I build up my equine dentistry business.

And in 1994 I qualified as a fitness instructor. How did I get into dentistry? Well, after coming out of a longish relationship I had a bit of spare time on my hands... One afternoon I was walking my dogs and popped in to see my old friend Kim.

'Just had the horse dentist in,' she said. 'You'd make a good dentist.' I spent that evening searching the web and, in August 2003, I went to West Virginia for a course in Equine Dentistry.

Trying to get a start when I came back was hard: most people either already had a dentist or just didn't bother with them. Luckily, Kim had a never-ending supply of horses and was happy for me to practise on them free of charge.

The person who is responsible for my ongoing training and development is Ivan Stockdale, brother of showjumper Tim. I met Ivan at Shardeloes Farm a month before I went to the States and he tried to put me off dentistry but, on my return, the yard manager, a good friend, would let me know when Ivan was due and I'd make sure I was there. Finally, he gave me his tools and told me to show him what I could do. I must have done something right as he took my number and asked me to give him a hand next time.

From there, the long path to taking the British Equine Veterinary Exam started. To be a 'horse dentist' in the UK you don't actually need any formal training – anyone can start up – but now BEVA are trying to change the Veterinary act and make some procedures illegal for non-qualified persons to perform, hence the exam. To be able to take the exam, you have to first

do an Advanced course, and to be accepted for that course you need two references from two vets who have seen your work and are happy with it.

From there you put yourself forward for the final exam, for which you must have two references, 300 dental charts with 40 advanced procedures overseen and signed by a vet and to have spent at least five days working with a Dental Technician who has already passed the exam. BEVA will ask them if they think you are ready to sit the exam. It's a tough process. I've spent the last three years working with Ivan at every possible opportunity and in September 2006 I joined the ranks of the very few BEVA qualified Equine Dental Technicians.

The great thing about being an EDT is that I'm making a difference to every horse I get to see: even if the owners don't notice, the horses certainly will. I'm lucky to have done a wide variety of things in my life but the two I enjoy the most are the dentistry and the skydiving. I still ride regularly but just for fun. It took a while to find my vocation in life but it was worth it.

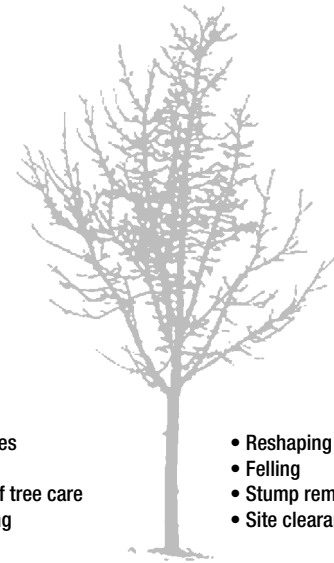
To contact Dorian, either to arrange a skydive or some tooth work for your horse, call him on 01494 816512 or 07967 662779, or you can e-mail him at dorzharwood@btinternet.com. He is BEVA/BVDA approved and a member of the BAEDT. To find out more about equine dentistry or look for an equine dentist in your area, visit <http://www.equinedentistry.org.uk>.



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ALL ABOUT WORMS

Adrian Farrington BVSc MRCVS from Baskerville, Horgan and Partners, talks about the hidden dangers of worms.



Every horse owner has heard about the danger of worms but without some knowledge it is hard to understand the full impact of a worm infestation. Intestinal worms can seriously damage your horse and in some circumstances can kill it – even if the burden is not life-threatening your horse may lose condition. Implementing an effective worm control programme is one of the greatest responsibilities of a horse owner.

Why should we worm our horses?

Worms are parasites living in the intestines of the horse. Mild infestations may just cause a loss of condition, whilst large burdens can cause a variety of more serious health problems including: diarrhoea, weight loss, and colic. In severe cases this ultimately proves fatal.

By implementing an effective worm control programme, you can help protect the health of your horse. With a little knowledge, it is an area of care that is easy to take control of.

How does my horse catch worms?

Your horse will get worms if it grazes pasture contaminated with eggs or larvae, passed in the droppings of infected horses and donkeys. Pastures can remain contaminated for up to 2-3 years once horses are removed, so even if your horse is turned out alone it could still be at risk. Horses most at risk from heavy worm infestations are young or older animals,

due to a weakened immune response, or those in grazing paddocks with a high stocking density.

The most common types are small and large redworm, large roundworm, tapeworms, and the insect larvae, bots. Of the parasites that affect your horse, the most common and harmful parasite today is the small redworm.

Worms Common to Foals

1. *Parascaris Equorum* (large roundworm): This is limited to foals and yearlings as older animals develop immunity. Larvae are eaten and then migrate through the liver and lungs, causing a nasal discharge or coughing in severe cases. Adults mature in the intestine.

Problem: May cause ill-thrift, colic or rupture of the guts as adults can measure 20cm plus and in large numbers can cause a blockage in the intestines.

Treatment: Most wormers are effective. Worm and groom mare prior to foaling, and clean the foaling area (the eggs are very hardy and also stick to the mare's coat). Foals between 2-9 months should be treated monthly.

2. *Strongyloides Westeri* (Fig 1): This is limited to foals under six months.

Problem: Large numbers may cause persistent diarrhoea.

Treatment: Ivermectin is effective (table 2).

Worms common to adult horses

1. *Strongyles* (large red worm):



Three major species affect the horse: *S. vulgaris*, *S. equinus*, and *S. edentatus*. Larvae are eaten and then migrate through internal organs for 6-10 months, before returning to the intestine.

Problem: Larval migration may cause blood vessel lesions (thrombosis, aneurysm or infarction), colic, liver damage, or peritonitis (infection of abdomen lining).

Treatment: Larvae are susceptible to ivermectin and moxidectin (see table 2).

2. *Cyathostomes* (small red worms, Fig. 2): These are the most common and frequently account for over 95% of the worm burden. Larvae are eaten and burrow into lining of the intestine, where they can encyst and 'hibernate' for the winter.

Problem: Mass reactivation and emergence of larvae in early spring causes significant damage to the intestinal lining and consequent diarrhoea.

Treatment: Adults are susceptible to most wormers, but encysted larvae are best killed by moxidectin (see table 2).

3. *Anoplocephala perfoliata* (tapeworms, Fig. 3): Segments containing eggs are passed in droppings. The eggs are then eaten by an intermediate host (a mite living in the environment). Larvae develop inside these mites which are eaten by horses as they feed. The larvae then develop into adult worms and attach to the horse's large intestine.

Problem: The greater the burden, the greater the risk of colic.



Treatment: Treat with Praziquantel twice a year in spring and autumn (see table 2).
4. *Gasterophilus* species (bots): Clusters of yellow eggs laid on the hairs of legs and shoulders by flies are licked off.
Problem: Larvae may cause digestive tract irritation.
Treatment: Use ivermectin or moxidectin in the winter when the flies are dead to break the cycle (see table 2).

Strategies for Control and Pasture Management

In most situations, re-infection from pasture is a serious problem, so there are two complementary aspects to control: treating the pasture *and* treating the horse. The availability of infective larvae on pasture is markedly increased in early summer and late autumn when environmental conditions are warm and wet. Heavy rainfall following a dry summer (and hence a build up of eggs) may cause ‘super-infection’ with consequent attacks of colic in grazing horses.

The most effective way to reduce pasture contamination is to remove droppings regularly. In optimal conditions, eggs can develop into infective larvae in less than one week, so that twice weekly removal is necessary.

In addition to climatic effects, the infective potential of pasture is increased by: a high stocking density, over grazing (which forces horses to graze close to dropping patches), multiple changes of horses and the presence of young horses.

Resistant parasites can only survive by producing eggs and larvae to infect the next host. Pasture cleaning prevents this.

Drug Dosing

There are three main strategies when considering dosing.
1. **Interval dosing:** The traditional and most common approach with the administration of a wormer at regular intervals. Appropriate intervals must be adhered to and these depend on which wormer has been used. To avoid problems of resistance change wormer to a chemically unrelated class of drug every 12 months (see table 2).
2. **Strategic dosing:** Involves worming at

specific times of the year to disrupt the seasonal cycle of transmission: encysted small red worm larvae in late autumn, tapeworms in spring and autumn, bots in winter. Problems may arise when we have abnormal weather patterns or if there are heavily infested horses in the group.
3. **Targeted strategic dosing:** This would be the recommended strategy in most instances and in well-managed groups of horses. Baskerville, Horgan and Partners recommend this method. In conjunction with strategic dosing, individual worm burdens are assessed with faecal egg counts, and treatment is ‘targeted’ accordingly. It is the most reliable and ultimately the most cost efficient worming.

Table 1 is an example of a strategic dosing regime using Equest and Equest Pramox and controls all species of worms. The moxidectin in Equest is effective for 13 weeks, which allows giving just four doses a year, 3 months apart.

Use a weigh tape to give the correct dose, and worm at the correct interval for the wormer being used.

With good pasture management and by monitoring the worm burden with faecal egg counts, a plan such as above can be tailored to a horse’s individual needs – feel free to talk your vet about your specific situation! Faecal egg counts are extremely useful as they identify the most common types (small and large redworm and large roundworm) of parasite, and give an indication of the number of adult

worms in the intestine which, in turn, gives a measure of the degree of pasture contamination. Analysis only sometimes recognises tapeworms, due to the sporadic release of eggs by tapeworm, and will not indicate the existence of bots.
A horse faecal egg count of 1,000 eggs per gram can produce a pasture contamination of approx 80 million strongyle eggs per week.

On livery yards with large numbers of horses, faecal egg counts may be impractical and interval dosing maybe the only safe option. Ideally all horses should follow the same programme and be dosed at the same time. Newly acquired horses should be wormed and isolated for two days before grazing with existing stock.

Remember, small red worms are the most important to control as they encyst/hibernate in the gut wall over winter and can go undetected in a faecal egg count. Therefore, at the end of the grazing season all horses should be treated against small red worms (*cyathostomes*). A single dose of Equest (moxidectin) or five daily treatments with Panacur Equine Guard are the only wormers to do this.

For further information on the care of horses and ponies, together with a comprehensive range of information leaflets, please visit www.hampdenvets.co.uk. Baskerville, Horgan & Partners is the Equine Division of Hampden Veterinary Hospital.

Table 1

Season	Worms to target	Wormer
Spring/April	Hibernating Cyathostomes/ Tapeworm	Equest Pramox
Summer/July	Redworms	Equest
Autumn/October	Larval Cyathostomes/ Tapeworm	Equest Pramox
Winter/January	Bots	Equest

Table 2

Wormer	Active drug	Worms specifically killed
Equest	Moxidectin	Adult red worm, encysted and larval red worm, bots
Eqvalan/Furexel/Panomec/Eraquell	Ivermectin	Adult red worm, large red worm larvae, bots
Panacur/Panacur Equine Guard	Fenbendazole/ Fenbendazole 10%	Adult red worm/small red worm larvae at 5-day dose
Pramox/Equitape/Equimax	Praziquantel	Tapeworm
Strongid P/Pyratape P	Pyrantel	Double dose for tapeworm (not as effective as praziquantel)

CYNTHIA PITMAN: OBITUARY

First printed in the Daily Telegraph on 13th October 2007

Cynthia Pitman, who has died aged 94, was a lifelong hunt follower who was still riding to hounds in her mid-eighties, always at the head of the field and undaunted by weather or terrain; in her hunting colours and black top hat, she cut a slight but unique figure as the oldest woman in Britain regularly to ride in pursuit of the fox.

For some 70 years in season, she hunted for three days a week, rain or shine, and always rode out sidesaddle (she could not ride astride), cubbing in tweeds and bowler but, after the opening meet, dressed in full skirt and hunting jacket – blue and buff with the Duke of Beaufort’s hunt, black with the Vale of the White Horse. The whole outfit was crowned by a top hat of gleaming black silk.

Among her favourite hunters was Munster Bank, a bay gelding on whom she was painted by the foxhunting artist Lionel Edwards in the 1960s, and her last horse Douro, bought from the Queen through her brother, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, a Crown equerry.

Cynthia Geraldine Amy Miller was born on December 7 1912 at Shotover Park, Wheatley, her family’s Oxfordshire estate. Both her father, General Alfred Miller of the Scots Greys, and her mother, died when she was still quite young and she and her younger brother were looked after by a nanny.

She was educated at Abbot’s Hill school, Hemel Hempstead, before returning to Shotover to live the life of a leisured young lady. In 1930, when she was 18, she was presented at court and launched into the London season from the family town house.

Her passion for horses began with ponies when she was still a small girl; her father had been Master of the South Oxfordshire, and the whole family rode.

It was in the hunting field that she met Tim Pitman, grandson of Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of the shorthand system, whom she married a year before the outbreak of war, and with whom she settled at the village of Long Newnton, on the outskirts of Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

During the war she ran a Land Army canteen and had a narrow escape when an RAF bomber crashed on her house and destroyed it while trying to land in fog at a nearby airfield.

In 1946 she and her husband moved to Eastcourt Park, a 400-acre Cotswold estate with manor house near Malmesbury. Shortly after it was built in 1662 the house was visited by Charles II’s wife, Catherine of Braganza, whose coat-of-arms can be seen above one of the fireplaces.

During the last war the house was commandeered by a school, and the couple lived in a cottage on the estate until the school left and the house was restored.

From here she would drive to join the Beaufort and Bathurst (later Vale of the White Horse) hunts – normally three days a week and going with the best of them, her cousin recalled – until she finally retired nine years ago.

In 1992, to mark her 80th birthday, Cynthia Pitman hosted a joint meet of the Duke of Beaufort’s and the Vale of the White Horse hunts. ‘I’ve had a wonderful hunting life,’ she told *Horse & Hound* magazine, ‘and I’m so lucky to have the health and fortune to be still enjoying it.’

Cynthia Pitman, who died on October 1, married, in 1938, Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart (‘Tim’) Pitman, a director of the Pitman family publishing and printing firm. He died in 1990, and she is survived by their four daughters.



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Blenheim Stud Revisited

When Shetland ponies met The Society of Equestrian Artists, there were some unexpected results, reveals Karoline Thorpe



ABOVE: Is this close enough?

After the article in the Spring 2006 issue of this magazine by my mother, Jill Evans, we had an e-mail from Mrs Jackie Henderson, who is a member of the Society of Equestrian Artists.

Jackie came out in the spring to see us with a view to holding a workshop here painting the Shetlands. She took loads of photos, and then arranged to come back with her friends later in the year.

In the meantime we were invited up to London to the Mall Galleries, for a private viewing of the latest annual exhibition in July, to be opened by Lord Oaksey O.B.E. So up to London we went on the hottest day of the year. What an eye opener the Art was! Fantastic! Some pieces seemed rather strange but on the whole it was great. Jackie had six pieces at the exhibition and the one I really liked was The Musical Ride: the colours were really vibrant, and the feel of movement quite amazing.

On the appointed day of the visit, 16th August, we watched the weather closely, and we were lucky – it was not too hot, yet nice and bright.

I managed to get an invitation for our local young artist, Oliver Harbour, to join Jackie and her friends for the day. They started by going round all the ponies with the cameras for well over an hour, and then

we put four mares and their foals, two in each paddock, for the close work.

The group stopped for lunch and had a general chat about what they had done in the morning and we answered any questions that they had about the ponies. After lunch, we put the four mares and foals back out with the rest of the gang, so that Jackie and crew could then spend the afternoon doing landscapes. Jackie spent a lot of time with Oliver and even had him playing with pastels for the first time. He said he found it very challenging, not to mention having to watch out for little people nibbling him and upsetting things!

The group stopped at 4 o'clock for tea and a discussion about the day's efforts. I hope Jackie, Oliver and friends enjoyed themselves – I know the foals did, as they have never had

so many people to attack, nibble and play with all in one go!

It would be nice to see the ponies on canvas, perhaps even at next year's Exhibition in the Mall Galleries (even if it does mean another trip up the Smoke), so watch this space – we may see a Blenheim Pony up in lights yet...

The Society of Equestrian Artists are at www.equestrianartists.co.uk. They put on exhibitions all over the country that are well worth a visit.



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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.

GOT NOTHING TO DO? WANT SOMETHING TO DO?

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

December 2007

- 1 **PATCHETTS:** unaffiliated show jumping
- 1 **BERKSHIRE RIDING CLUB:** B.D Medium/FEI Show
- 2 **TWESELDOWN:** Point-to-point, Tweseldown Racing Club
- 2 **MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE :** Winter Indoor Show Jumping
- 2 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 2 **SNOWBALL FARM:** Unaffiliated Indoor Show Jumping
- 2 **KEYSOE EC:** BD Dressage
- 3 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 4 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Novice Evening Show Jumping
- 4 **BERKSHIRE RIDING CLUB:** Robert Pickles Clinic
- 4 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 5 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 5 **BERKSHIRE RIDING CLUB:** Douglas Hibbert Clinic
- 5-6 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage Clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 6 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Unaffiliated Indoor Dressage
- 6 **ADDINGTON EC:** Affiliated Dressage
- 7 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage Clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 7 **BERKSHIRE RIDING CLUB:** BD Dressage Day
- 8 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Novice Indoor Show Jumping
- 8 **ADDINGTON EC:** Unaffiliated Winter Dressage
- 8 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 8 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 9 **KEYSOE EC:** Showing
- 9 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Junior BSJA
- 9 **ADDINGTON EC:** Indoor Hunter Trial
- 9-10 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage
- 10 **ADDINGTON EC:** Clear Round Jumping Evening
- 10 **HALL PLACE:** Evening Dressage
- 10 **SNOWBALL FARM:** Affiliated Dressage
- 11 **ADDINGTON EC:** BSJA Senior Show Jumping – adv. Show
- 11 **KEYSOE EC:** Jennie Loriston-Clarke Demo
- 12 **BERKSHIRE RIDING CLUB:** Douglas Hibbert Clinic
- 12 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors PA
- 13 **ADDINGTON EC:** Affiliated Dressage
- 13 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve-Young
- 15 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Hairey Scaries Christmas Showing Show
- 15 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 15 **KEYSOE EC:** Indoor Eventer Trial
- 15-16 **ADDINGTON EC:** BSJA Senior Show Jumping
- 16 **DUNTHROP:** Point-to-Point, Farmers Bloodhounds
- 16 **SNOWBALL FARM:** Unaffiliated Indoor Dressage
- 16 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 16 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Unaffiliated Indoor Dressage
- 16 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors Am
- 16 **HALL PLACE:** Show Jumping and Christmas Show

- 17 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 18 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Open Evening Show Jumping
- 20 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Unaffiliated Indoor Dressage
- 20 **ADDINGTON EC:** Unaffiliated Winter Dressage
- 20-21 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 21-22 **ASCOT RACECOURSE:** Family Day – the BGC Christmas Meeting
- 22 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping for Ponies
- 23 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping for Horses
- 24 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 27 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Annette Lewis
- 30 **BCA, BURCHETTS GREEN:** Inter-hunt Show Jumping, Garth & South Berks Hunt; Contact Nolan Best on 01189 304101
- 30 **MILTON KEYNES EC:** Winter Indoor Show Jumping

January 2008

- 5 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping Derby
- 5 **KEYSOE EC:** Agility
- 6 **TWESELDOWN:** Point-to-point, Staff College & RMA Sandhurst Draghounds
- 6 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Showjumping or Combined Training
- 6 **MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Winter Indoor Show Jumping
- 6 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping Senior Derby
- 7 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 9-10 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 11-12 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 12 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Junior (Coral & Sparkle)
- 13 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Junior
- 13 **BCA:** OBH Hughenden Pony Club Open Show Jumping
- 13-14 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage
- 16 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 16 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve-Young
- 16 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 17 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Annette Lewis
- 18 **PATCHETTS:** Junior Affiliated Show Jumping Evening
- 19 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 19 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 19 **SNOWMAN'S BALL:** Phyllis Court Club, Henley. Contact Amanda Stewart, 01491 684151
- 20 **KEYSOE EC:** showing
- 20 **DUNTHROP:** Point-to-point Heythrop
- 20-21 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 22 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 24 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve-Young

- 24-25 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 25 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Annette Lewis
- 25 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 26 **MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Junior BSJA
- 26 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 26 **KEYSOE EC:** Indoor Eventer Trial
- 27 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 28 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage
- 29-30 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 30 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 30 **CHILTERN EQUINE CLINIC:** £10 Lecture, Breeding your Mare & Caring for the Newborn Foal
- 31 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies

February 2008

- 1 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 2 **KEYSOE EC:** Agility
- 2-6 **PATCHETTS:** British Dressage Winter Semis Southern Winer & Music Regionals
- 3 **BCA:** Wokingham Pony Club Open Show Jumping
- 3 **MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Winter Indoor Show Jumping
- 5 **MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Novice Show Jumping Evening
- 5 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 6 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 8 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Annette Lewis
- 9 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 9 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage Premier League
- 9 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 10 **PATCHETTS:** Patchetts Showing Show; affiliated to Ponies UK inc Working Hunters
- 10 **TWESELDOWN:** Point-to-point South Midlands Area Club
- 10 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage Premier League
- 11 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage Premier League
- 11 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve Young Show Jumping clinic
- 12 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage Premier League
- 13 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 14 **PATCHETTS:** BSJA Junior
- 15 **PATCHETTS:** Dressage clinic with Anna Ross-Davies
- 16 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage Chiltern & Thames qualifier
- 16 **KEYSOE EC:** Indoor Eventer Trial
- 17 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors – Devoucoux Star Championship qualifier (Blue Chip Champs)
- 17 **MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Junior BSJA
- 17-18 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage
- 19 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage Paralympic Winter Qualifier

- 19 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 20 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 21 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve-Young
- 22 **PATCHETTS:** Junior Affiliated Show Jumping Evening
- 23 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 23 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 23 **VAGSB HUNT CABARET:** Haddenham Village Hall, 8pm start
- 24 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 24-25 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 27 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 27 **CHILTERN EQUINE CLINIC:** £10 Lecture, Laminitis: Treatment & Prevention
- 29 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps

March 2008

- 1 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 1 **KEYSOE EC:** agility
- 1-2 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 2 **DUNTHROP:** Point-to-point, Bicester with Whaddon Chase
- 2 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA
- 4 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 5 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 8 **KINGSTON BLOUNT:** Point-to-point, Oxford University Hunt Club
- 8 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Senior Amateurs
- 8 **PATCHETTS:** Showing Show affiliated to Ponies UK
- 9 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Juniors
- 9-10 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage
- 12 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors PA
- 13 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve-Young
- 14 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Annette Lewis
- 15 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 15 **KEYSOE EC:** Indoor Eventer Trial
- 16-17 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 18 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 19 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 21 **PATCHETTS:** Showing Show
- 22 **KIMBLE POINT-TO-POINT:** Vale Of Aylesbury with Garth & South Berks Hunt
- 22 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage Chiltern & Thames Rider
- 22-23 **KEYSOE EC:** BSPA
- 23 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 25 **PATCHETTS:** Show Jumping clinic with Stuart Reeve-Young
- 26 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 26 **CHILTERN EQUINE CLINIC:** £10 Lecture, Colic and Colic Surgery
- 28 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 29 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 29 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 29-30 **KEYSOE EC:** Indoor Driving Chamionships
- 30 **TWESELDOWN:** Open Hunter Trials Wokingham Pony Club
- 30-31 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage

April 2008

- 2 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 5 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 5 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Show Jumping
- 6 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping

- 6 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Jumping for horses, including Trailblazers second round
- 8 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 9 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 12 **NEWBURY RACES:** Jumps
- 12-13 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 16 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors
- 18 **NEWBURY RACES:** Flat
- 19 **KINGSTON BLOUNT:** Point-to-point, Vale Of Aylesbury with Garth & South Berks
- 19 **NEWBURY RACES:** Flat
- 19 **PATCHETTS:** Equine Affairs Grasshoppers Show Jumping Training Competition
- 19 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 20 **KEYSOE EC:** Chiltern & Thames Rider Dressage Championships
- 20 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 22 **KEYSOE EC:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 23 **KEYSOE EC:** British Dressage
- 23 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Show Jumping
- 26 **PATCHETTS:** British Dressage Para Spring Qualifier & Badminton Young Dressage Horse Of The Future
- 26 **KEYSOE EC:** amateur Showing Society
- 27 **KEYSOE EC:** trialblazers 2nd Round
- 27 **PATCHETTS:** Unaffiliated Dressage
- 28 **PATCHETTS:** Affiliated Dressage
- 30 **KEYSOE EC:** BSJA Seniors PA
- 30 **CHILTERN EQUINE CLINIC:** £10 Lecture, Common Causes Of Lameness

Where is it?

- 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
- BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE:** Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444. E-mail: enquiries@bca.ac.uk. Web: www.bca.ac.uk
- CHECKENDON EC:** Lovegroves Lane, Checkendon, Reading Berks. Tel: 01491 680225
- CHESHAM VALE CROSS COUNTRY COURSE:** Cricket Meadow, The Vale, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 3NP. Tel: Sue Bloss 01494 776151
- CHILTERN EQUINE CLINIC:** Model Farm, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. HP8 4AB. Tel: 01494 876555
- THE COLLEGE EC:** Church Road, Keysoe, Beds, MK44 2JP. Tel: 01234 708400. Web: www.thecollegeec.com
- DEEP MILL FARM EC:** London road, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP116 0DH. Tel: 01494 890005. Web: www.deepmillfarm.co.uk.
- DUNDRIDGE MANOR:** St. Leonards Nr. Tring, Herts. Tel: 01494 778226 or 01494 863067
- FULLERS HILL FARM:** Amersham, Bucks. Tel: 07711 199166
- GREAT MISSENDEN RIDING CLUB:** Tel: Ginny Gray, 07736 611222. Web: www.greatmissendenridingclub.co.uk
- GREAT WESTWOOD EQUESTRIAN PARK:** Old House Lane, Langleybury, Kings Langley, Herts WD3 8RS
- GROVE FARM:** Welders Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, HP9 1XS. Tel: 01494 676392
- HALL PLACE EC:** Sulham Hill, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG31 5TX. Tel: 0118 942938
- HIGH WYCOMBE RIDING CLUB:** Tel: Rebecca Brown 01296 747069
- HILL GREEN FARM:** off Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Nr Tring, Herts. HP23 6HD. Tel: Wing Dressage Group, Ms Sally Ann Hoyle 01494 758932
- IRHH IAIN RENNIE HOSPICE AT HOME:** Fundraising Office, tel: 01442 890222
- LITTLEBOURNE FARM EC:** Northwood Road, Harefield,

- Middx UB9 6PU. Tel: 01895 824350
- MIDDLEGROVE FARM:** Great Missenden, Bucks. Tel: Janet Pusey 01494 862985
- MILTON KEYNES EVENTING CENTRE:** Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope, Bucks, MK19 7HQ. Tel: 01908 511329. E-mail: admin@mkec.co.uk. Web: www.miltonkeyneseventingcentre.com
- NEWLANDS PARK:** Gorelands Lane,Chalfont St Giles, Bucks. Tel: Chiltern Heights Riding Club, Rebecca Walker 07739 514570
- NINE ACRES** Chesham Road, Wigginton, Nr. Tring, Herts
- OLD BERKELEY HUNT CLUB (OBHC):** Tel: Frances Aidley 01442 891622
- OBH RIDING CLUB:** Mrs R. Dutton, Rosemount, Pednor Rd, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2ST. Tel: 01494 785279 . www.obhrc.org.uk
- PATCHETTS EC:** Patchetts Equestrian Centre, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts WD25 8PE. Tel: 01923 852255. Web: www.patchetts.co.uk
- THE PONY CLUB:** Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2RW. E-mail: enquiries@pcuk.org. Web: www.pcuk.org
- ROSEHILL EC:** Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 3EB. Tel: 01628 824078
- SHIRE LANE:** Hastoe, Nr. Tring, Herts
- SNOWBALL FARM EC:** Dorney Wood Road, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 8EH. Tel: 01628 666222. E-mail: shows@snowballfarm.co.uk. Web: www.snowballfarm.co.uk
- TWIN TREES EQUESTRIAN CENTRE:** Thomcote Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9AG. Tel: 01767 627414
- WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE:** Warwick New Road, Leamington Spa, United Kingdom, CV32 5JE. Tel: 01926 318128. Web: www.warkscol.ac.uk
- WHITEHOUSE FARM:** Spencers Wood, Berks. Tel: 0118 9884362
- WIDMER EC:** Pink Road, Lacey Green, Nr Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0PQ
- WINDSOR GREAT PARK:** The Crown Estate, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks SL4 2HT. Tel: 01753 860222
- WINDSOR PARK EQUESTRIAN CLUB:** Tel: 01276 472169
- WOKINGHAM EC:** Berks. Tel: 0118 9775549
- If you don't see your club or event represented here, please contact Terry Fryer (see page 1 for details).



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AND FINALLY...



A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



Not at all like last time, we have a new competition for our younger readers, with just one simple question:

What is the name of the hippogriff in the Harry Potter books?

The prize up for grabs is a selection of 12 recently published children's books, worth £50, some of which you can see below:



All entries to Susie Bell at Garners, Heath End, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3UE, or by e-mail to editor@saddlemag.co.uk. Please include your name, address and phone number.



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Here are the best entries from August's competition (the photo was kindly provided by Dorian Harwood (see page 22):

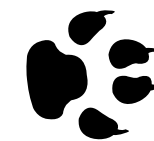
- DIY X-ray kits now in stock with Baskerville & Horgan.
- Jean wondered whether she would be able to follow her new clipping stencil after all.
- Which one's his funny bone?
- Dobbin's glow-in-the-dark Hallowe'en costume was a big hit with the fillies.
- If you can see a horse's ribs you know he's too thin but this is ridiculous!

August's winner is Sugar Buxton (with the clipping stencil), and she wins a bottle of champagne. Don't say we didn't warn you!



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For more information, please contact Majid Mohammadi.