

Northern Shetland Enthusiasts – Very late Spring Newsletter

Firstly, my apologies for not being in contact with you all sooner – the list of excuses is worth a Newsletter in its own right but perhaps the only worthwhile excuse mentioning relates to the difficulty around the time involved in finding a Pink Lycra Leotard to celebrate a ‘significant’ (and prolonged) birthday for Trevor (affectionately known as Doodle Pimp) Shaw at the Stonecellars Stud and Kennels ...it is a long story.

Starting with good news –NO SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2008

Anyone who has paid we will carry the payment forward for 2009. This gesture reflects the support we have had over the last few years which has put a healthy balance in the bank.

NEXT EVENT Jersey Farm Hotel – Wednesday 7th May 2008 - Standards/Miniatures/Llamas and John Watson who has a wealth of stories and judges miniature horses as well.

Also Carol Shaw (Stonecellars Labradoodles and Shetlands) was in Holland recently at a Championship Stud and she has a few pictures and a brief chat prepared.

Arrive from 6.00pm (or earlier) eat then or after the main event when we see the ponies – John will show us around about 6.45/7.00 – we have our room for the night and you can eat afterwards and stay to socialise. Carol is to follow the ponies at around 7.40 (ish) for 20 minutes or so – you can order a meal to follow this or eat before. Make it a family night out.

The Jersey Farm Hotel is just outside Barnard Castle on the A67 on your right coming from Darlington and is well signposted and they have their own website for directions <http://www.jerseyfarmhotel.co.uk/>

Then there is the SPSBS Breed Show which is at Bishop Burton and it is on August 9th (AGM) and 10th Great site and venue great day – see you there. Secretary Ruth Gibson

STOP PRESS

Race Night hosted by Carol and Trevor Shaw – special activities for the Labradoodles Charity and Lanchester Show – at Stonecellars Stud – Pelton, Chester le Street Saturday 25th April – Dog show on 26th. 7.00pm onwards

All are welcome to what was a really entertaining evening last year – ladies races, mixed races, men only and some not so sure – professional turf accountant – all the trimmings – bring your own refreshments and enjoy all the excitement of the races in a purpose built enclosure where you can almost dope test your own jockey (someone said your jockey may be a dope – but that is a little unkind – but come to think.....) Just turn up and bring your friends as many as you like.

Keep an eye on the Newsletter in the future as John Campbell nears the end of his epic video which is a commentary on the last few years of the Group. He will have to go some to improve on the last video about judging which was well received and well thought of.

Some people are going to Germany for the International Show in July and this time we hope a 'wheel does not come off' with their plans. Good Luck.

Early News – The 2009 Breed Show will be in Shetland and they have already started to plan and take bookings for lorry places. There is going to be a week long festival with a whole range of activities and events – sounds really good. Details from: To register your interest in this event, please visit www.shetlandponybreeders.com and complete our online survey and sign up for our e-news service. Otherwise, call Fiona Dally on 01595 744964 to register your interest and to let us know if you are interested in travelling with ponies to attend the Breed Show.

This will be 15th to 23rd August 2009.

Foals have started to arrive, the grass is growing (did it ever stop?) and generally everyone is gearing up for another season.

Well done to Di and Wilf at the Parlinton Stud, Gary Snaith and Sara White who all did well at the Yorkshire Group Show on 13th April – Lauren Bell also won a young handlers class; good start. (Her mother will be pleased!!!) Joan Headon at Langa also managed to win with her yearling filly without any antics although this did mean she did not get a medicinal whiskey!!!

However, I did indicate last year that I would like to step down as the co-ordinator of the group. I think it is time for new ideas and fresh thinking. I have put a page on our web site which can carry Northern Shetland Enthusiasts' News and I will be happy to continue to do this and print the labels etc for the Newsletter. What I was hoping was that we could urge volunteers or twist arms for one or two members to do one event a year and then ask another small group (or individual) to do the next and so on so that no one person had to do it all. I have been fortunate to have some excellent help from a whole host of people who I feel sure would continue to assist anyone who comes forward. Please contact me if you feel you could organise an event or even if you have an idea about what we could do.

Access to the Northern Shetland Enthusiasts' Page is www.butterbysketlands.co.uk and then click on the link at the top for Northern Shetland Enthusiasts. There will also be information about the Breed Show on there very soon.

Finally, best wishes for a trouble free foaling and successful showing season and hopefully I will see you at the Jersey Farm and/or the Race Night.

PS Ask someone about the very special Breed Show raffle prize or see the picture on Gerry Hart's site – you have to dig a bit.