

Northern Shetland Enthusiasts

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Those in the theatrical profession often say that you should never begin a performance with an apology. However, it is so long since the last contact that you deserve an apology.

As we, hopefully, approach better weather and lighter nights then thoughts will stray to foaling and showing and what a welcome distraction from all the concerns of weather and fodder!

There is no doubt that the harsh weather put pressure on feed supplies and hay was definitely scarce and prices increased. Add to this the slow start to spring grass and no doubt people will be so pleased to get ponies out to grass when it grows.

Those who have tried to sell ponies have had mixed success but one thing is agreed by most of them and that is that prices have been low and ponies have been difficult to sell at a price that represents their value; thus they have often brought them back home.

We have also had one or two members who have had health concerns over the winter and we wish them well for the future.

You may recall that last year we were invited to participate in a show at Beamish Museum? We did think that we might have had the opportunity to assist in organising a Shetland only show however, the museum has a full programme and so this year we are finalising our involvement as part of the 3 day agricultural show at the museum in September. If we can then we will try and arrange the Sunday after Egglestone show and seek a fuller programme. More details will follow but this would be the 19th September.

We will be trying to sort out an event for the group before the summer shows but in the meantime there will be a Horse and Camel Race Night at Trevor and Carol's at Whitehill Farm Pelton on Friday 30th April – all are welcome and the proceeds will be for charity and possibly Lanchester Show. The Labradoodle Show is on the Sunday and again all are welcome. As always with Trevor there will be a few “eccentricities”.

The Yorkshire Show Group have their show on the 11th April at York – details from Joy Barugh at Birchmoor

We have been asked if there is anyone looking for a companion pony on loan – give me a call if you need the details.

This year it is the turn of the mother stud book to host the International Shetland Show and this will take place at Hickstead on August the 7th and 8th. see the Society web site.

This is the last year that we will not be asking for a subscription so enjoy the giveaway at a time when others are planning to take more of your hard earned cash.

We are trying to organise a visit by the President of the Society to one of our gatherings and when a date is agreed we will let you know.

It is so long since the last communication it seems a lifetime since several members of the group went to the breed show on the Shetland Islands.

Briefly, it was well worthwhile with great hospitality from our hosts and a well organised show. Everyone seemed happy with the results and the sea journey did not cause the “upset” that many people feared, although the return journey did threaten to spoil the party. It was probably a fitting end that an island pony took the Supreme. Lets hope it is not another hundred years before they hold another Breed Show on the islands.

Congratulations are due to Karen Nixon and the Pink Machine (wait until you see her wagon) Her team of young riders and well prepared ponies achieved a first in terms of the Shetland Grand National and it has almost gone un-noticed.

Karen went to Olympia at Christmas with FIVE qualified riders. This is the first time this has been achieved and then each day the ponies performed so well that they picked up ticket after ticket – a great achievement and one that has had a reward. Karen is now getting calls from around the country to produce ponies for other owners. Well done!

Those who saw her team in Shetland agreed that they were well behaved and well turned out and a real credit to Team Knix. It is good to see someone prepared to take 9, yes nine, young riders out each week and give them this experience.

So, some of the events that have been happening and some reminders of what is to come.

Best wishes to everyone for their foaling, showing and playing in the months ahead.

Regards

Keith

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