

## Northern Shetland Enthusiasts Summer Newsletter

Welcome to what are definitely sunnier times as far as the weather is concerned. But as with most things there is always an alternative view and no doubt you will have discussed the concern people are having for their grass!! It is bizarre that at the Spring offered us little or slow growth and then the sun came and now without the rain the grass is not coming through. Still the hay is good!

We are now in the showing season with most people through their foaling. It is always sad to hear of the loss of foals (or any pony for that matter) so hopefully most of you have completed an uneventful foaling?

We have not organised any event for the summer as the clash with shows is difficult but the good news is that we have completed arrangements with Beamish Museum for a bigger and better show this year!

**So make a date in your diary for 19<sup>th</sup> September at Beamish Museum for a 1.00 till 4.30 Shetland Show.**

This year the show is **affiliated** with a full complement of rosettes. In addition to the hugely successful Pit Pony Class we have remembered to add the Yearling Class and a chance for the oldies (no not the exhibitors) the ponies with a veteran class.

The Schedule is being printed and it will be available on the Northern Shetland Enthusiasts page of the Butterby Shetlands Web site in the near future. Postal copies will be available from Beamish Museum. Regrettably, we were not able to secure a qualifying round of the Shetland Grand National but this remains a possibility for future years.

We are the final part of the three day agricultural show at the museum and a good crowd is assured. We also have the opportunity for a show stand to display some items from the Shetland Society Shop and they would like us to have a pony present for people to admire – offers from willing helpers will be much appreciated.

We are really hoping to cement this event into the showing calendar so please try and support us and bring friends along – they can look around the museum as well as show the ponies.

The International Show will soon be upon us with healthy entries from many countries. This will be at Hickstead in Sussex over the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> August. Good luck to all of those of you who are attending and competing. But if you are not going to Hickstead .....

There are Shetland classes at the Show at Streatlam on the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> August – you can get details from LESLEY DELAP [lesley.delap@btinternet.com]

The Shetland Society AGM will be at Reading in October for those who wish to attend.

We are still trying to confirm a visit by the President to one of our meetings and hopefully we will get a date for this in the not too distant future.

For all of you who are keen to ensure that you are doing the very best for your ponies then **Defra** have just published (late 2009) a new guide for the **Welfare of Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their hybrids**. This is a comprehensive document with some good references to organisations which can assist with advice and guidance on a whole host of topics relating to the welfare of your ponies; feeding tethering, stabling, exercising, weight, etc. It is worth a look or getting a copy.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/cruelty/documents/cop-horse.pdf>

Please get in touch and let us know if there is anything that you would like organising for the Group.

We have an offer for a stud visit after the showing season and before the winter but anything else that you would like then please let us know and we will do our best to make it happen.

Enjoy the summer and watch this space for more information on the **Beamish Show**.

Best Wishes

Keith Hutchings – Northern Shetland Enthusiasts

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