

# Off the Hoof



*'It doesn't take long, but it do all take time.'*  
Mrs. Plumb

We are now well in to 2007 and unfortunately I missed the Spring edition of the Gander.

You may have read in the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph* that I had a horse trapped in a plough and that the Fire Service battled for an hour and a half to release her, tying ropes around her legs to pull her free. This newspaper doesn't allow accuracy interfere with a good story! I do not possess a plough as such (and I am a Miss not Mrs).

The Fire Service were excellent and, guided by myself and the vet from Rase Veterinary Centre, were with us for about half an hour and we could not without their muscle power. Mr. & Mrs Clifton were there throughout and their son-in-law Grant assisted in pulling her over to get her in a better position. I will be eternally grateful to them all, especially as it was Mrs. Clifton's birthday and the family were due to go out. I think she appreciated the twelve firemen though! Mr. Girdham who first raised the alarm, stayed in the road to direct the Fire Service to where they needed to be.

The *Telegraph* missed a good opportunity to report on how good neighbours and community spirit still exists, instead of all the doom and gloom that they usually report. It would also have been nice if they could have been bothered to call and ask how the horse was the following morning. As for the mare *Honey*, she has fully recovered and looking well for her age. I was touched by the many people who had read the article and rang

to find out how she was, thank you very much.

In the terrible storms earlier this year most of us had a little bit of damage, but Jo Burns lost the roof to five of her new stables. Luckily, it had been seen to be moving and they managed to get the horses out, although they said the noise had been horrendous, which was very frightening to all concerned. Jo has asked me to pass on her thanks to all who offered her help and support at that time. It is hard enough to find space for one extra horse, but in situations like this, it is good to find a good community spirit in Goxhill.

Jo is still working hard and qualified '*Daniel*' for the British Amateur Finals Grand Prix in December at Arena UK where he was placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also qualified Yvonne Willis's '*Swallow*' for the Blue Chip Winter Championships at Solihull where they came 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> on her own horse '*Magali*' out of a class of approximately 120. Since then she has qualified '*Swallow*' and '*Just June*' for the Welsh Masters in August. '*Just June*' has also qualified for Scope BSJA Summer Championships in August.

It seems that Goxhill riders are once again in trouble for misuse of the footpaths and have the threat of fines placed on them. Please do not ride on the footpaths. I know it is like a race-track down Ferry Road when the tiler-ies finish work and the cars parked along Thornton Road do not make things any easier. In the last edition of the Gander it was reported that *Green Ramper*, *Little Ramper* and *Nan Brigham* were the only bridleways. I think the writer had forgotten the one from off *Mill Lane* and out by *Farrows Pond*. The other one which I believe causes the most controversy, is the one by the side of the Church. It is not a very good one and the one on the other side of the Church would be better, but as I usually say, "use them or lose them." Perhaps more routes for bridleways could be found

for the ever growing horse population of Goxhill.

This issue's tip: Keep a child's fishing net by the water troughs in fields. All sorts of debris can be quickly and easily removed from the surface helping to keep the water fresher. Remember, the hot weather is on its way, so out with the fly fringes, nets, insect repellents and don't forget sun creams for nostrils and eyes, particularly for light coloured horses to prevent sunburn. Ideally they should be brought in during the day and turned out at night. It is also time to be vigilant and remove ragwort from pastures.

New regulations concerning the welfare of animals during transport came into force on January the 5<sup>th</sup>. It is mainly aimed at businesses but details can be found from Defra at:

[www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare)  
Or State Veterinary Service:  
0845-603-8395.

e-mail [wit@svs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wit@svs.gsi.gov.uk)

The British Horse Society is working hard to submit a draft policy on safe distances of wind turbines from equestrian rights of way and roads. Hopefully, more will be known by the next issue.

Dates for your diary:

**Goxhill Show** from 9am 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. D. Faulding). All enquiries to Sue Hrynyk on **01469 588940**, please.

**East Halton** 4<sup>th</sup> August

Those who rang me for a free feed scoop were not disappointed although I do have a couple left if you missed out last time. Please keep your news coming in and any tips you may have to share with us.

Until the next edition Take care and Ride Safely!

*Aileen*  
**01469 530643**