

# OFF THE HOOF



“Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time. Regret for the things we did not do, that is inconsolable.

*Sidney J. Harris*

**A**t the time of writing it is blowing a gale outside and since the wind has changed direction no doubt it is heralding worse weather to come.

After the floods of the summer things for some people have still not got back to normal and indeed, some are still living in caravans with a promise of being in their own homes by April. Hopefully lessons will have been learnt by the powers that be and precautions can be taken to prevent it happening again.

The bad weather of the summer also caused the local horse shows to be cancelled. Unfortunately, the only date I have at present is for East Halton Show which is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Hopefully the dates for Goxhill and Barton will not coincide as they did last year and the weather will permit them all to go ahead.

There seems to be a few new faces and horses in the village so it will be interesting to see if they compete and what they do.

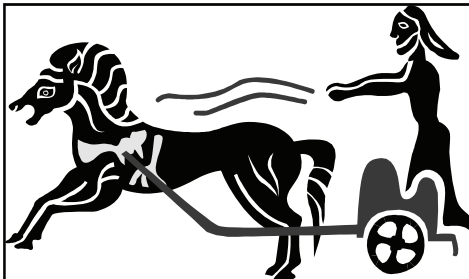
Chloe Foulston and *Billy Wizz* seem to be cementing their relationship and are to be seen regularly trotting around the village and down the marsh with ever growing confidence which is good to see.

Joanne Burns attained 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Grand Prix Final at Arena UK just before Christmas on Mr. Ward's (of Appleby) *Fine Painting*. She has also qualified two other horses, Swallow and Jeffrey for the Blue Chip Winter Championships in April.

I find it strange that human nature always wants to do that which

is forbidden. With the legislation regarding foxhunting it appears that the Brocklesby Hunt has even more of a following than it ever did particularly amongst car followers. It is also true to say that any new faces are regarded with great suspicion. I do believe they are operating within the law. It is good to see hounds work, particularly this pack as they are the oldest pack with the cleanest lines in the country.

There seems to be an increased interest in driving and Helen Wickham is currently to be seen long-reining through the village in preparation for a trap. Personally, I have only ever been driving once and I must admit I kissed the ground when we arrived back at the yard safely! However, it is good to see and I believe at one time local shows had a driving class so perhaps these will again be resurrected if more interest is shown.



Helen was instrumental in organising a saddlery and table top sale in the Memorial Hall back in October which proved quite successful. I saw many faces I had not seen for years and it is always nice to catch up. Hopefully this will be repeated. Needless to say, I did buy more than I sold!

Thieves have been rife in the area over the past few months and seem to be targeting trailers and 4x4's. These must be professionals because of the lengths they go to and they must have a ready market for the makes of vehicles they are taking. For trailers, make it as difficult as possible for them to take by parking something in front, putting both wheel and hitch locks on as time is important to them. Postcode the top of the trailer so it can be spotted from the air or make it personal to you by having something painted on it so it is easily identifiable. Keep a note

of the chassis number and of course get it insured. The most reasonable rate I have found is through the NFU. If you buy a trailer get the chassis number and the other number checked before you part with your cash, to make sure it has not been stolen. This can be done through the Police or a trailer supplier. Even if it all checks out get a receipt. I say this from the heart as I sold a trailer and two years down the line it was found to have been stolen. I could not find any paperwork and even if I had, no doubt it would have been useless. The outcome was the Insurance company took the trailer away and the person I sold it to claimed their money back off me. In theory I should have then gone back to the person I purchased it from but the trail stopped with me, so I lost out all ways. I will not get stung like that again (I hope).

With more than our fair share of mud it is inevitable that mud fever will rear its ugly head again so the tip of the issue for prevention. Make sure legs are clean and dry. Before turning out, apply Baby Oil liberally to the legs. When they come in at night it should just hose off clean. Inexpensive, accessible and it works... just what we want.

Well all the Christmas parties and Do's are past, but what about getting your glad rags on and going to the B.S.J.A Summer Ball? It is on 4<sup>th</sup> July at Market Rasen Racecourse. You do not have to be a member and there will be a coach from the village so you do not have to drive or worry about Taxis. If it sounds good to you contact Joanne Burns on 07980137416.

This article would not be complete without mentioning the sad death of Brian Adams who lost his fight with Cancer. Brian

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was a well known character in many walks of life apart from the horse fraternity, which was borne out by the attendance at his funeral. He was well liked and took time to speak to everyone with a laugh and a joke. Deep sympathy is extended to his wife Iris and family. He will be sadly missed

In the light of that dreadful cruelty case in Amersham concerning all those poor horses, there is a petition on line on which they are hoping to get 1000 signatures. The site is:

[www.voicesforhorses.co.uk](http://www.voicesforhorses.co.uk) and click on the petition button.

I figure that if there are 200 horses in Goxhill and many more people who are involved with them, then Goxhill people can make a significant difference nationally, and all through the pages of the ***Gander***.

Keep your news, tips and results coming in. Until the next issue..

Take care – Ride safely.

***Aileen***  
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