

# OFF THE HOOF



“When I am dead, I hope it may be said:  
His sins were scarlet but his books were read”

*Hillaire Belloc (1870-1953)*

It does not seem four months since writing for the last edition of the ‘Gander’ and once again it has caught me on the hop.

Although we have had a few days of sun we have also had a fair amount of rain. I do not think there will be much really good hay about this year. Mine had torrential rain on it after it was cut on more than one occasion. Whilst I have Haylage which has the advantage of being made in a couple of days I will not know what it is like until it is unwrapped. It certainly looked a funny colour!

We are all aware of how prices have risen and the knock on effect, so no doubt it will be more expensive to keep our equine friends. Not only will the hay and straw be dearer but also the grain feeds. It may pay to start thinking about it now. I suspect horses will be kept out longer than usual if the weather permits which will save a little on bedding. Now is the time to get rugs cleaned, repaired or think about replacing some. Horses, like people, lose weight if they get cold and it is much harder to regain it again in the winter.

Take a look at your feeding regime and see if you are meeting your horse’s needs and if there could be a way of saving money but still keep to the ten golden rules of feeding. A constant salt/mineral lick is essential.

Perhaps consider your bedding and if drainage allows you may wish to convert to rubber mats which is an expensive initial outlay but over two years could pay for itself, eliminate breathing problems and is labour saving.

Joanne Burns continues to do well and out of the seven horses she had she managed to qualify four for the Summer Championships which is no mean feat. These take place between 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August on the Staffordshire Showground so hopefully Joanne will have a good ride. **Jeffrey** and **Magali** are her own and **Swallow** is the property of Yvonne Willis. **Just June** also qualified although she will not be competing in the Championships as she is now in foal to a show jumping stallion which is due in May 2009. Something nice to look forward to.

Much thought went into choosing a sire as it is obviously bred for a purpose which is to jump. So often people breed for the sake of it. I would recommend that if you are thinking of breeding to think long and hard about all it entails and to use a proven stallion and stock at a Registered Stud with a good reputation with experienced, dedicated, knowledgeable staff.

Up and coming talent Chloe Foulston with **Billy Whizz** went to their first Pony Club Camp and Chloe attained the “Most Improved Rider” award. They had a wonderful time and learnt a lot whilst having fun.

Alex Lamb on **Foulisworthe Zeta** qualified at Elm Farm near Grantham for UK Rider. The final was at Arena UK in July where he came 5<sup>th</sup>. This was a Regional event in which qualifiers from Lincs, Notts and Cambridgeshire took part. He did brilliantly amongst seasoned riders as remarkably he has only been riding for two years and is actually allergic to horses. Keep taking the tablets Alex!

Not to be outdone, Katie Lamb, Alex’s sister is also doing well on her mare **Megan**. These two have really progressed well together as neither of them had done much before their partnership. They are constantly being placed and attained a 2<sup>nd</sup> at Arena UK in jumping. It has become a real family affair and mum, Jaqui, has attained her first part of HGV so eventually she can take them out when Robert is not available. That’s dedication for you!

Happily Goxhill Show was well attended this year as last year, like most of the local Shows, it was cancelled owing to the weather. Now all the planning starts again for next year!

I have had several phone calls regarding the erection of gates at both ends of Green Ramper. This is being addressed and hopefully they will soon be removed.

I have enquired about the possibility of another bridleway which, if comes to fruition will require a work party of volunteers to clear it. Are you willing to help for a few hours if this is feasible? If so please let me have your name and telephone number so I can form a list. This does not just apply to riders as obviously walkers with or without their dogs would benefit. Whilst on the subject of dog walkers, please remember that Green Ramper is still in the 30 mile limit so you still need to pickup after your dog.

I have not heard of any more thefts in the area of horses but please stay vigilant. Rase Veterinary Centre are Micro Chipping horses for around £16.00 so perhaps this could be done next time flu and tetanus are due. It is quite painless and goes in the crest. It could make all the difference to getting your horse back if it is stolen.

As the sun is putting in an appearance Factor 30 for all those horses with white eyes and noses to prevent sun burn

If you are strip grazing try to make sure your horse/pony can get in the shelter of a hedge to provide shade from sun and flies or out of the wind and rain and water is available.

Particularly if you are on a water meter look at ways of putting up guttering and pipes to troughs and tubs to save water in

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