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We keep hoping for a bit more sun but since it is now August there is not much time left. Should it become really hot do be aware that horses get sunburn too. Particularly horses with white muzzles and socks. Use a high factor sunscreen or bring them in during the day and put them out again at night where possible. This may also help to alleviate the midges biting and the awful sores of "sweet itch".

Possible Laminitic horses and ponies would also benefit from being brought in, with non-edible bedding and water. I hear of more and more horses getting it and the onset can be so quick. There are now more things on the market as there is a better understanding of the disease. Ready mixed feed for laminitics is ready available along with supplements. A new one on the market called Lamin Tec 5-HT sounds interesting and for more information contact Battles www.battles.co.uk

Goxhill Show was once again a great success with many of our local riders having a really good day. Eva Border won the Ridden Hunter on Teresa Leaning's horse *Sebastian*. Well done Eva!

Jill Fisher was placed with her horse in the Veterans and *Billy Wizz* with Chloe Foulston was also in the ribbons.

As always, it takes months of preparation by the Committee to organise the show and without the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Faulding for the use of their land it would not be possible. They are desperately short of helpers the night before the show in the setting up of rings and jumps and the night after the show in taking it all apart again and clear the field. I spoke to lovely young men who said they would be willing to assist next year and possibly gather some of their friends. I do hope they will and I will remind them in the spring edition. Or knock on doors!

It is important we safeguard our smaller shows for all sorts of reasons. Both Ulceby and Barton Shows have stopped so we only have Goxhill and East Halton and East Halton is in danger.

When most of the local shows started the dates fell in between haymaking and harvest. As the weather pattern is all over the place the two now coincide.

At East Halton the whole family is involved. It then becomes economically not viable if two tractors and two men are playing with ropes and jump poles when harvest is ready to be done or they are playing catch up on hay making so decisions have to be made year by year.

Now, just a quick word on bridleways. I know people can get quite cross with horses leaving droppings on the roads but it does not carry disease like dog poo. Green Ramper is still within the 30 mile hour limit and doggie doos should be picked up. Our horses tread in it and we continue our ride with flies buzzing all around us so please have a bit of consideration. I was riding through one day with a friend when a man (he knows who he is) picked up his dogs leavings. We both commented how good he was when he proceeded to swing the little bag round his head and catapult it over the hedge! I believe there are bins at either end so no excuses.

I know it doesn't bear thinking about but winter is nearly upon us. Time to get all the rugs out washed, repaired and reproofed. I have someone collect mine and returned the following week and they are very competitive. If you have some and would like the number or alternatively you could leave them with me please contact me.

A few months ago I had some people from London staying with me and I left a copy of the "Gander" by their bed. Over breakfast I asked if they had read it. They replied, "Yes, but cor blimey you don't arf bang on about 'orses". I think they missed the point!

I cannot close this edition without the mention of the death of Julie Portess who died in hospital last month. Julie was well known amongst the farming community in Goxhill. Her husband, Eric kept Shire horses, which he loved. They farmed down the Marsh for many years until Eric became ill. Julie moved into Barton and continued to keep active particularly on the Country and Western front helping every month at Barnetby and joining in the odd line dance. She will be well remembered and greatly missed.

That about wraps it up for now so until the next time.

Take care – Ride safely.

Aileen

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