



# OFF THE HOOF

“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain”

Dolly Parton b.1946

What a winter it has been so far!

It was lovely to see so many snowmen around the village and some of them were superb.

Christmas is long gone and we are well into 2010. At last the daylight hours are stretching out with a promise of Spring on the way.

Usually this brings panic, particularly with pony owners, with the first flush of grass with the threat of Laminitis. It has been reported that owing to the snow laying so long it has sparked off an early growth of fresh grass and Laminitis has come early this year catching a few owners out. No doubt there will be another flush so we cannot afford to be complacent.

After reporting in the last edition of the Gander how well the bridlevays were looking when Martin Peeps had cut them back, I walked through Nan Brigham to see the remains of a burnt out car leaving all sorts of debris. Rubbish has been thrown into the dyke and someone has tipped hedge rubbish down there.

I will never understand the mentality behind this. A vehicle must have been used to take it down there so why not take it to the tip. The only days they are closed are Wednesdays and Thursdays so this should leave every opportunity to go. In the summer months they are open until six.

I have reported this to the Public Rights of Way officer and it should soon be cleared. Our Council Tax pays for this so if you do know who the culprit is, please report them and help keep Goxhill a village to be proud of.

On the subject of bridlevays, I had hoped to have some good news on the access of another one but unfortunately it has not come to fruition.

For many months communication between myself, Anita Greener (Public Rights of Way) and Network Rail, along with North Lincolnshire South Humber Bank Development Officer, have been ongoing to use the disused railway as a permissive bridlevay. North Lincs Council were prepared to clear, maintain and take on the liability of the scheme but at the last minute it all changed and the reply which came back was, “It is Network Rail’s position, supported by Economic Development and Transport Planning that, in view of possible future developments the status of the disused line remains as it is.”

I am really disappointed as on the face of it I cannot see why not, but obviously they have plans to reopen it in the future and I wonder if it is in any way linked to the developments at Immingham. Only time will tell.

Going way back to November, Jo Burns took three

horses she had qualified for the National Amateur Championships. Although she came home with several places she did not win. Apparently there was a points system running, where first prize was a car and second was a jumping saddle. Jo dipped out and came third for which there was “nowt”.

Audrey Hunt’s horse, Mac, who Jo is jumping, has his first competition in a couple of weeks and is going well.

A new addition to her yard and another one for her to compete, is an eight year old named “Red Bolero” (no prizes for guessing the colour!) He was imported as a four year old and it will be interesting to see his progress. As her yard is full, Jo is having to employ staff to keep up with it all, which I think has taken her quite by surprise.

I mentioned in the last edition that she had been nominated to stand as a prospective candidate for the B.S.J.A. Area Rep for Lincs and Humberside and I am happy to confirm she has been duly elected, so well done Jo.

The area AGM is on 12th April so those wishing to attend make a note in your diary.

A date still has to be arranged for Pelham Tack’s lecture on bits and biting which will take place at the Civic Hall Immingham. It is hoped to attract students from Bishop Burton, Lincoln Agricultural College and other training establishments as well as the general public so watch out for advertisements and their web site.

The book signing they organised with Emma White, for “My Internet Horse” went quite well.

The British Horse Society needs your help to back a campaign they are launching which affects everyone involved in the horse industry, albeit a once a week rider, a yard owner, farrier, horse dentist or vet. For more information please go to a new campaign website [www.RethinktheHorseTax.org](http://www.RethinktheHorseTax.org). The BHS are urging everyone to sign the on line petition to the Prime Minister and to write to your M.P. It only takes a few minutes, it is important and it keeps our ever increasing costs down. It is a very unfair tax, so make your views known.

For those people with small ponies who have been struggling to get brushing boots which fit and do not roll around. Woof Wear are manufacturing extra small ones for ponies under 12.2 and under £20 so ask your stockist, telephone 01208 265920 or [www.woofwear.co.uk](http://www.woofwear.co.uk).

By the time this drops through your letter box Spring will be here so check your fencing, spring clean stables

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