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and spruce up tack and feed rooms.

Organise your spraying. I will be having mine done off a quad so if anyone is interested please contact me. Order the fertilizer.

Ensure your saddle still fits as horses shape changes with age, (as do humans) and flocking in saddles compresses.

So much to do. So little time!

Just a final word on dogs. It is illegal to have dogs on the roads not on a lead.

Generally dog owners are very good and respect horses and even if they are off the lead they take control and call them to heel.

This was not so the other day when a black crossbred dog was getting excited about going into a field and was rushing backwards and forward into a gateway. This

meant it was in sight and then out of sight which is very confusing to even the quietest horse, as horses cannot see in front of them and have peripheral vision (mainly to the side and a little in front and behind) because their eyes are on the side. I asked if he could get his dog and he indicated he would be going into the field. As we passed the field he threw something for the dog, which really startled the horse I was leading, which spun into the back of me and I nearly fell over. She shot out into the road, which was icy and nearly went down. There was a car coming behind us and the driver was very good and stopped, so to him I both apologise and thank.

This all happened so quickly so please be aware of horses and riders. If cars slow down for you acknowledge them. Manners cost nothing but earn respect.

That's it for this issue. Keep your news coming in. Take care - Ride safely.

Aileen 01469 530643

A CAUSE FOR CONCERN!

Letter to the Gander.

I have spent a long time trying to write a catchy article that's funny, direct and will hopefully change people's attitude towards a certain issue. However, I've come to the conclusion that the subject of dog poo cannot be anything other than boring. I'm going to write it anyway, as it is something I feel very strongly about.

I walk a lot around the village, with my children to school and to exercise my dog, and on every street I find myself on a poo slalom course.

Taking on a dog is a big responsibility, not just financially but physically, as no matter their size, dogs need a good walk every day, and inevitably empty their bowels. Now, I understand that as a responsible and law abiding person I would have to clean up after my dog (except in a 60 mile an hour zone, a rule I don't understand, as if it is safe to walk your dog then surely it is safe to clean up after it!)

Unfortunately, it seems not every dog owner in the village feels the same.

My son used to say "naughty dog" when navigating his way past all the dog mess on his journey to school, now however, he says "naughty owner", as I've explained to him that it is not the dogs fault, but the irresponsible owners who have decided not to clean up after their pet.

I'm writing to the Gander as I sincerely hope the said dog owners will read it and feel some guilt towards their lazy and law breaking attitude.

I have become increasingly angry about the amount of poo on our footpaths and I would very much like to name and shame the owners; however they must take their dogs out late or very early.

I encourage all villagers who see these irresponsible dog owners to shame them, personally if I knew their address I would take my shoes, children's shoes, pushchair etc... to their homes for them to clean, after one of us have inevitably stood in or run over some.

The point to my little rant, boring and smelly as it may be is: **PLEASE DOG OWNERS, CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET, AND FELLOW VILLAGERS, SHAME THE ONES THAT DON'T.**

Thank you and a happy (footpath clean!) 2010

Mrs M Wallis.

FOOTNOTE - NLC have an excellent reporting system of such Anti Social Behaviour by channelling any complaints through to their dog warden system, if this fails then any inaction by the NLC can then be followed up via the Ferry Ward Neighbourhood Action Team (NAT) for them to take it to senior managers of NLC, it is then actioned and a thorough time line is drawn up of the action(s) taken or not, for it then to be persued. Any person wishing to report a matter to a NAT is welcomed to contact me and I will progress it for them. **MIKE GATHERCOLE Chair of Parish Council**