



OFF THE HOOF

“The further back you look, the further forward you are likely to see” Sir Winston Churchill

The “Off the Hoof” article was noticeable by its absence in the last edition of the “Gander” for which I apologise. So much seems to have happened since the last edition it is hard to know where to start.

It was well reported in the Telegraph of a horse being rescued from the drain down Sykes Lane. This goes to prove that no matter how experienced a rider is or how old and quiet a horse may be accidents can still happen in the blink of an eye. The horse sustained lacerations to its legs, which happened whilst it was being assisted out. I believe it is now almost fully recovered and the rider is still here to tell the tale. The Fire Service was called to the incident and I believe a helicopter was also involved in the rescue.

People in Goxhill are generally quite sensible and helpful in these situations as they were when horses escaped their field and were running loose down Thornton Road a few months ago. Everyone stopped their cars and several people jumped out their vehicles to assist. These were people I recognised as

having horses so were quite aware of the dangers it could incur as horses natural instincts take over and a person could be mowed down as the horse would not necessarily see or hear a human. Thankfully all the horses were returned unscathed to their own yard and the owner breathed a sigh of relief.

Goxhill Show has been and gone for another year and thanks are extended to Mr and Mrs Faulding for their kind permission for the use of their land.

It was a beautiful day the attendance was high as was the quality of the competitors. A raffle was held with many prizes from local firms including a beautiful signed painting by Dianne Hennchen. Ann Lawtey donated one of her bespoke fascinators as she has started her own business to make hats and fascinators which are unique to the wearer. If you have a special occasion have a chat to her on 07811180833 or visit her website www.MabelLilyHats.co.uk.

The final proceeds are not known at the time of writing but it is estimated exceeding £1000 which will be donated to the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance. The Committee is now starting to plan for next year.

The British Horse Society ran its annual “Ragwort Awareness Week”. It highlighted the need for more to be done to remove this extremely poisonous weed and the fact that the Ragwort Control Act of 2003 was not being enforced. We can see this particularly on the verges of motorways and roundabouts. There are a few spots on the roadside in our village, which should be dug, out and

burnt. Rubber gloves should be used when handling the weed. For those who do not recognise it they should watch for a bright yellow daisy like flower with leaves not unlike a dandelion but with wavy edges.

The BHS also ran a National hi-viz survey to investigate what and how, if any, riders are wearing. If one is worn it gives Drivers an extra three vital seconds to respond. For a car travelling 30mph this is equivalent to the length of a dressage arena so come on walkers, cyclists and riders more hi-viz.

I am pleased to report Jo Burns is “officially” back in the saddle after her injury although she still has to attend Physiotherapy sessions. After being given the all clear she had a 4y.o roll on top of her but she assures me she stuck her broken leg out to the side! For a change Jo was on the other side of competing and ran the Area 24 Show at Western Lawns Cambridgeshire and will be with a team at Arena UK in September. Unfortunately she missed all the Championships she had qualified for so hopefully next season will be better for her. Jo has started teaching again and is now studying for her Level 3 teaching exam so we wish her luck with that.

Good news for the would be show jumpers amongst us. An initiative by British Showjumping to create a Club which should provide members with money saving and other perks. It also makes it easier to qualify for championships. For more details on the Club and categorisation visit www.britishshowjumping.co.uk or call the British Showjumping Sport Team on 02476698812.

For those who need jumps at home I can recommend Sam who will make jumps to your own specification or BSJA Standards. These are excellent jumps at a competitive price. Call him on 07541541966.

Carol Sanderson’s horse “Final Desire”(Twiggy) gave birth on 29th June to a very handsome leggy colt by Le Docteur. As Le Docteur has now been castrated, the foal has been named “Limited Edition” and Eddie to his friends.

Twiggy is in foal again to “San Malo” who is the replacement stallion for Medoc who sadly died last year. Carol’s horse, Casse Cou, ridden by Kate Johnson qualified for the British Dressage Masters at Hickstead at both Medium and Advanced Medium. They came 10th and 12th in some very experienced company so they were very pleased.

Another aspiring dressage rider is Theresa Leaning who is having brilliant success with her 16.3 chestnut Dutch Warmblood “Witness”. “Witness” is only 8 so has plenty of time to mature and develop further so a very exciting prospect for the future.

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