

# **WES NEWS**

**March 2020**

***The Official Magazine of the  
Western Equestrian Society,  
formed in 1985***

**Issue 102**





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## WES TRAIL AWARD SCHEME

*The Society's Trail Riding Award Scheme is open only to members of the Society*

The Scheme is very simple - any WES member who hacks out for pleasure (training and schooling do NOT count) in a western saddle can record their hours and qualify for an award. The horse does not have to belong to the rider, but must be ridden in a western saddle.

- The scheme is subject to a once only payment of £40.
- Participants can download a log sheet from the **WES web site** ([www.wes-uk.com](http://www.wes-uk.com)) on which to record their hours spent hacking. If you do not have access to the internet forms can be obtained from **David Hudspeth, Old Police House, 14 John's Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts., NG12 2GW**
- Subject to ratification\* the following awards will be made:
  - **75 hours:** Commemorative certificate.
  - **150 hours:** Commemorative certificate.
  - **250 hours:** A certificate plus an inscribed silver belt buckle\* supplied by Montana Silversmiths, subsidised by £50.00 from WES funds, the price to be confirmed at the time of purchase.
  - **500 hours:** Certificate plus option to purchase trail award merchandise embroidered with the Trail Award Logo obtainable from WES Merchandising.
  - **1,000 hours:** Option to purchase a Trail Award Jacket, embroidered with the Trail Award Logo, obtainable from WES Merchandising, together with 1 year's free membership of the Society.



*\* To qualify for the silver belt buckle and other benefits claimants must have maintained continuous membership of the society since joining the scheme. In the event of membership lapsing for any period the claimant's participation in the Trail Riding Scheme will be deemed void. Rider records must be submitted to the Society on an annual basis when requested. Clothing supplied will vary depending upon the fashion as the time of request.*

For details of the WES Trail Awards Scheme, please contact David Hudspeth, Old Police House, 14 John's Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts., NG122GW

### WES MERCHANDISE

For a wide range of  
clothing with the WES  
embroidered logo  
please visit the  
**TOTAL CLOTHING  
SHOP**

[WWW.totalclothingshop.co.uk/wes](http://WWW.totalclothingshop.co.uk/wes)

### WES WEBSITE

Please visit the WES  
website for  
information on the  
Society, details of  
shows clinics, etc.

[www.wes-uk.com](http://www.wes-uk.com)



## Society Information

Council Members			
Position	Brief Job Description	Name	email
<b>Chairman:</b>	Spokesperson and figurehead of the society.	<b>Ann Hughes</b>	<a href="mailto:wesmembership595@sky.com">wesmembership595@sky.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Manages council, organises meeting etc.	<b>Debbie Langford</b>	<a href="mailto:debbie@ferndown-com.co.uk">debbie@ferndown-com.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Overseas the financial affairs of the society	<b>Holi Richardson</b>	<a href="mailto:hrichardson742@gmail.com">hrichardson742@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Contact with any membership queries	<b>Ann Hughes</b>	<a href="mailto:wesmembership595@sky.com">wesmembership595@sky.com</a>
<b>Health and Safety:</b>	Monitors Health and Safety to ensure with legislation, etc..	<b>Patrick Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:Wes-safety@hotmail.com">Wes-safety@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Area Co-ordinator:</b>	Point of contact for the area reps.	<b>John Ayles</b>	<a href="mailto:alberta.ayles@btinternet.com">alberta.ayles@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Show Co-ordinator:</b>	Organises all activities of the society.	<b>Michael Carder</b>	<a href="mailto:wesshow@carder.me.uk">wesshow@carder.me.uk</a>
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Promoting the society in the media	<b>Jim Lyner</b>	<a href="mailto:wespublicity@mail.com">wespublicity@mail.com</a>
<b>Youth Officer:</b>	Promotes activities for youth members	<b>Louise Hunt</b>	<a href="mailto:Louiseh2015@gmail.com">Louiseh2015@gmail.com</a>
Other Society Contacts			
<b>Animal Welfare Adviser:</b>	The person to report to with any animal welfare issues.	<b>Louise Hunt</b>	<a href="mailto:Louiseh2015@gmail.com">Louiseh2015@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trail Award Scheme:</b>	Administers the Trail Award	<b>David Hudspeth:</b>	<a href="mailto:Hands-on-qh@ntlworld.com">Hands-on-qh@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>Liaison Contact</b>	Go between with other like-minded societies.	<b>Yvonne Newbegin</b>	<a href="mailto:yvonnenewbegin@gmail.com">yvonnenewbegin@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Maintains WES website	<b>Dawn Lewry</b>	<a href="mailto:tallbird21@hotmail.co.uk">tallbird21@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>WES News Editor</b>	Edits WES News and distributes it electronically to those members who have subscribed	<b>Chris Thompson</b>	<a href="mailto:cpa.thompson@btconnect.com">cpa.thompson@btconnect.com</a>



## Area and County Representatives

Area rep. names are in **BOLD**, County rep. names are in *bold italic*

Area No.	Area Covered	Representative Name	email
1	Grampian and Highlands	<b>KATHY BRIGGS</b>	<a href="mailto:pyenjack@btinternet.com">pyenjack@btinternet.com</a>
2	Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	<b>MICHELLE SURGEY PRICE</b>	<a href="mailto:unziptheflare@gmail.com">unziptheflare@gmail.com</a>
3	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire	<b>SARAH HAMLIN</b>	<a href="mailto:sarah.hamlin38@gmail.com">sarah.hamlin38@gmail.com</a>
		<b>PAM PURSLEY</b>	<a href="mailto:pam@pursley.co.uk">pam@pursley.co.uk</a>
	Devon:	<i>Linda Thompson</i>	<a href="mailto:thompson_linda@hotmail.co.uk">thompson_linda@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Wiltshire	<i>Toni Bendall</i>	<a href="mailto:wuineapeggs@hotmail.com">wuineapeggs@hotmail.com</a>
4	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	<b>ANGIE TAYLOR</b>	<a href="mailto:angie@whittonstalltaxi.co.uk">angie@whittonstalltaxi.co.uk</a>
	Tyne and Wear	<i>Jo Powell</i>	<a href="mailto:webster.powell@btinternet.com">webster.powell@btinternet.com</a>
5	Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Greater. Manchester	<b>CHRISTINE OUTRAM</b>	<a href="mailto:christineoutram1@icloud.com">christineoutram1@icloud.com</a>
	East Yorkshire	<i>Margaret Kemp -</i>	<a href="mailto:mekemp.wes@gmail.com">mekemp.wes@gmail.com</a>
	Lancashire	<i>Georgina O'Connor</i>	<a href="mailto:activepeopleandpets@gmail.com">activepeopleandpets@gmail.com</a>
	West Yorkshire:	<i>Lesley A. Wilkinson-Lyner</i>	<a href="mailto:lesleyannw1@gmail.com">lesleyannw1@gmail.com</a>
6	Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire	<b>MANDY HAWKINS</b>	<a href="mailto:wesarea6@gmail.com">wesarea6@gmail.com</a>
	Glamorgan	<i>Yvonne Allen</i>	<a href="mailto:ylallen@aol.com">ylallen@aol.com</a>
	Powys	<i>Fran Groves</i>	<a href="mailto:frangroves@aol.com">frangroves@aol.com</a>
	Dyfed	<i>Julie Wilson</i>	<a href="mailto:rainbow.eggs@btinternet.com">rainbow.eggs@btinternet.com</a>
	Gloucestershire	<i>Gill Parker</i>	<a href="mailto:bronze@gillparker.co.uk">bronze@gillparker.co.uk</a>
	Herefordshire	<i>Bruce Lawrence</i>	<a href="mailto:bclsph123@icloud.com">bclsph123@icloud.com</a>
	Worcestershire	<i>Roger Wells</i>	<a href="mailto:rwells613@gmail.com">rwells613@gmail.com</a>
7	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.	<b>VICKY EASTON</b>	<a href="mailto:Vicky.wes7@gmail.com">Vicky.wes7@gmail.com</a>
	Leicestershire	<i>Stephanie Goodacre</i>	<a href="mailto:stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com">stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com</a>
8	Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex	<b>JO GALLAGHER</b>	<a href="mailto:paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com">paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com</a>
	Sussex	<i>Vicky Burger</i>	<a href="mailto:victorial_burger100@hotmail.com">victorial_burger100@hotmail.com</a>
9	Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	<b>JO TURTLE</b>	<a href="mailto:joturtle@btconnect.com">joturtle@btconnect.com</a>
10	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire., Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands	<b>SARAH CAMERON</b>	<a href="mailto:pale.rider@live.co.uk">pale.rider@live.co.uk</a>
	Cambridgeshire	<i>Sarah Cameron</i>	<a href="mailto:pale.rider@live.co.uk">pale.rider@live.co.uk</a>
	Bedfordshire	<i>Abbey Brotherton</i>	<a href="mailto:brotherton499@btinternet.com">brotherton499@btinternet.com</a>
	Northamptonshire & Buckinghamshire	<i>Stacey Collins</i>	<a href="mailto:mail@stacey-collins.co.uk">mail@stacey-collins.co.uk</a>
	Warwickshire, West Midlands & Oxfordshire	<i>Wendy Scott</i>	<a href="mailto:Wendy_Scott@Talk21.com">Wendy_Scott@Talk21.com</a>
11	Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside	<b>KAYREEN JONES</b>	<a href="mailto:kayreenjones4@btinternet.com">kayreenjones4@btinternet.com</a>
12	Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde	<b>PATRICIA O'MICHAEL</b>	<a href="mailto:barbarellababy@hotmail.com">barbarellababy@hotmail.com</a>
13	Dorset and Hampshire	<b>ANNE BATLEY</b>	<a href="mailto:a.batley@ntlworld.com">a.batley@ntlworld.com</a>



## Society Approved Judges

**The following is a list of members holding WES judging cards.**

*(Prob. = Newly approved judges who are required to stand alongside existing judges for at least one show before accepting a judges appointment).*

**Lucy Adams** (Lincolnshire) Tel: 07833 357682

**David Brindley** (Wrexham) Tel. 07778 591196

**Michael Carder** (Cambridgeshire) Tel: 01354 692011

**Johanna Cotton** (Wrexham) Tel. 07984 141973

**Scherie Dermody** (Cheshire) Tel: 01270 780620

**John Dodds** (Northumberland) Tel: 01434 220130

**David Hudspeth** (Nottinghamshire) Tel 07977 530954

**Louise Hunt** (Kent) Mob: 07712277812 email: [Louiseh2015@gmail.com](mailto:Louiseh2015@gmail.com)

**Bruce Lawrence** (Herefordshire) Tel: 07791 323192

**David Lloyd** (Hampshire) Tel: 01252 875896

**Bob Mayhew** (Hampshire) Tel: 07818 445562,  
email: [bobmayhew62@gmail.com](mailto:bobmayhew62@gmail.com)

NB. (Bob also holds NRHA.DE, and judge emeritus for AQHA, APHA, NCHA & NRHA)

**Tanya Rowe** (Norfolk) 07786 968517

### ***WES Judges Committee***

The following Judges are members of the WES Judges Committee:

Mick Carder (chair),  
Bob Mayhew,  
David Lloyd,  
Scherie Dermody



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## Society Approved Instructors

**The following is a list of WES Approved Instructors**

<b>John Fyfe</b>	Tel: 01316649715 Mob: 07957 555 989
<b>Sandra Loder</b>	Tel: 01975 41270 Mob: 07825549728
<b>Janet Burwood</b>	Tel: 01293 782014 Mob: 0771 5833349
<b>Tammy Greaves</b>	Tel: 01425 610278 Mob: 07824 664795
<b>Tanya Rowe</b>	Tel: 01379 854949 Mob: 07786 968517
<b>David Lloyd</b>	Tel: 01252 875896
<b>Arlene Cluness</b>	Tel: 01464 871264 Mob: 07776 251944
<b>Emma Chapman-Ionie</b>	Tel: 01969 623688
<b>Kayreen Jones</b>	Tel: 01620 892632
<b>Bruce Lawrence</b>	Tel: 01432 820081 Mob: 07725 501207
<b>David Deptford</b>	Tel: 01354 651944
<b>Michael Langford</b>	Mob: 07834 958900
<b>Catherine Wright</b>	Tel: 01608 730039
<b>Kirsty Hewitt</b>	Tel: 01932 340358 Mob: 07932 029558
<b>Scherie Dermody</b>	Tel: 01270 780620 Mob: 07930 410128
<b>Tim Keeley</b>	Tel: 01824 750463
<b>Bob Mayhew</b>	Tel: 0239263 2145 Mob: 07818 445562



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## From the Editor

Welcome to the 102<sup>nd</sup> issue of WES News, I hope that you find it interesting

The meeting notice and other documents for the AGM on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Holiday Inn, Hinkley Road, Coventry have been included in this issue for those who prefer to receive them electronically.

This winter seems to have been going on for ages, and I feel sorry for those who have had their homes, businesses or yards flooded out. Although I live next to a river the house is on a mound so is unlikely to flood; however, the stables where I keep Brego are low-lying with many of the paddocks currently waterlogged or actually flooded

Still, the days are now getting longer, and the rain is getting warmer so we can start looking forward to Spring and hopefully some warm dry weather so that we can all dry out.

At the time of writing this, we still do not know the impact of the Corona Virus outbreak will have on meetings, but hopefully the AGM will go ahead and will not be impacted by the outbreak. So, assuming it is still going ahead, please try and attend so that there is a good turnout and you can have a say in the running of the Society.

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## Chairman's Report

*By  
Ann Hughes*

As I write this, we are fast approaching March and the New Year celebrations are a far distant memory. It has not stopped raining since September and my heart goes out to all of you that have been affected by flooding, whether it be in your home or your stables or your business. I am lucky enough to be on the top of a hill with sandy stony ground that does not reflect the amount of rain we have had. I have seen pictures of some of you knee deep in mud or under water and it is just so sad to see.

The Events Calendar is filling up fast, thanks to the hard work of the area and county reps, let's hope that the rain gods give us a reprieve to be able to get to the venues.

Membership numbers are starting to go up which is encouraging, it hopefully means that you are enjoying the events you go to and more importantly having fun.

The instructors committee are all working hard on your behalf to recruit more instructors, it will give a greater diversity to the knowledge they bring and ensure that at a WES event, your instructor is one of the best in the country at teaching the art of 'riding western', whichever discipline you may want to compete in.

Roll on the good weather, let's be optimistic and look forward to those long sunny days of summer.



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## **Area Coordinators report**

*By  
John Ayles*

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Area Reps Meeting/AGM on the 15th March.

Your input/idea's/thoughts are very important to take the Society forward.

We need to get as much feedback from members as possible, so please attend the AGM to put your point of view.

If you cannot attend please contact your rep to ask the question on your behalf, alternatively you can also ask me. ([alberta.ayles@btinternet.com](mailto:alberta.ayles@btinternet.com))

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## **Youth Officers report**

*By  
Louise Hunt*

After serving with WES council for a year now, I feel a more formal introduction is necessary.

I'm Louise Hunt and currently the serving Youth Officer for WES. Like many of us, I have been riding all sorts of horses almost since I can remember. My current focus is to encourage more young riders to get involved with Western riding, after all, youth members are the lifeblood and future of Western riding and indeed WES. I have been riding western for 5 years, and before this I was involved in retraining race horses and eventing. I had my eyes opened to 'Western' and was totally bitten by the bug with the great horsemanship techniques, methods the ethos of calm aids and soft hands.

In this time with WES I have successfully run a western youth club as part of another western club, and also become a qualified WES Judge.

As Youth Officer I am here to support and help all Youth members, parents / guardians & also Area reps! Any ideas anyone may have, will always be taken on board.

I am hoping to run a Youth Clinic this year which will take place in Cambridgeshire (details will be out soon) and also a youth camp next year but I need to know if this would be of interest to any of you. These events take a great deal of organising, especially with added emphasis on Safeguarding, Health and Safety, etc. and really need the full support of our members.

I would like to encourage Area reps, if you do have youth members and are putting on an Area show please put some Little Britches classes on the schedule!

WES is now offering free membership for "Little Britches" i.e. youth members under 10, so please make sure you sign up. We have Little Britches classes at the National show and I am hoping to put on a small pre show practice for youth riders / Little Britches wanting some pre show training! Please contact me for more information and if you wish to book.

I am so excited to announce the launch of “Little Britches online showing”, I have launched this as a parent myself I know how hard it is to get out to shows, plus this will be great for youth riders to practice show patterns, receive feedback, showing tips, get a certificate in the post & a rosette. The first online show entry deadline is March 22nd, this will be Showmanship & Horsemanship! Once you have submitted payment and entry I will email you the patterns, get practising, get a parent or friend to video your pattern, then send it to me ! I will then judge all the entries, and provide you with some tips, feedback, and the results will be posted online & emailed to you! Winners will appear in WES news. If you would like to send in a picture of you & your pony with the certificate that would be great!

There will also be a Hi Point trophy over the 4 online shows (8 classes) in total which will be presented to the overall winner at the AGM. The entry form for this is out now !

I am hoping that this can provide a ‘first step’ into horse shows and showing, without the pressure of entering a big arena of your first big show etc

As a memory jog, I would to also like to remind you all that Youth members & Little Britches members can also sign up to the trail award scheme, the entry fee still applies to youth, but it would be fabulous to see a youth member achieve the 250 hours’ trail riding buckle! Who knows you may be able to achieve this in the summer holidays! And what a brilliant achievement it would be to show at school when you go back in September !

Happy Riding 🐾



## Dates for your diary

Youth Events or events containing Youth classes

**March 2020** - Online Youth Show

**11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020** - Burley Villa WES/AQHA Easter show, Youth classes !

**May 2020** - Online Youth Show



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**July 2020** - Online Youth Show

**July 2020** - Youth Clinic ( Cambridgeshire) Date TBC

**27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020** - WES National Show

**September 2020** - Online Youth Show

**October 2020** - Youth Clinic ( Date TBC )

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## Deadline for next issues

Here are the submission dates for the next issues of the WES News:

Issue 103      Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Issue 104      Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The Magazine will typically be published 1-2 weeks after these dates.

**Please submit your reports, articles, etc. in Word or as an email, with pictures and Graphics as JPG files.** If you are sending in an advertisement, please send it as Word or a graphic so it can be resized as necessary to fit the available space

Finally, please do not wait until the last minute to send items to me. Receiving 8-10 Area Reports plus any articles on the final day runs the risk of something getting lost in the rush. Indeed, this issue was delayed for a day by a very late report from an Area Rep. It very nearly did not get included.

If you have a report or an article, please send it to me as soon as you have done it. My email address is [cpa.thompson@btconnect.com](mailto:cpa.thompson@btconnect.com) Thank you

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## Cover Picture

Louise Hunt, the Youth Officer on “Rest our Case” AKA Marcus.

With all the winter weather recently, I thought that a summer picture was called for.

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## Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir:

In response to the letter from Wendy Scoot in the last magazine, I would like to show the picture of the cup that WES bought to be presented at the AQHA-UK Breed Show last year. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do it as they were very short staffed and we were quite close to date of the show, but look out for the 2020 show.

As WES is an all-breed society we welcomed the generous gift of the trophy from another section of the western world and as they are the Quarter Horse Breed Society in the UK it is only natural that they would want to support the Quarter horse. WES and the other breed societies are trying to work more closely together for the benefit of western riding as a whole, with WES being the only all-breed society it is a great chance for us to hold out the hand of friendship to all no matter what breed of horse.

Ann Hughes





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## Notice of Annual General Meeting and Proposed Agenda

*15<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Western Equestrian Society which will be held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Holiday Inn, Hinkley Road, Coventry. CV2 2HP (junction 2 on the M6) commencing at 2pm, in the Walmsley Suite, with tea and coffee provided in the Academy Foyer.

**Do not forget to register your vehicle on arrival.**

A copy of the agenda, together with a draft of the Society accounts are attached.

Anyone who has any items they would like to be included on the agenda should submit them to the WES Secretary, ([debbieflay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:debbieflay@hotmail.co.uk)) or Monmouth Ash Farm, Horton Heath, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 7JS, no later than the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

**A final version of the AGM Agenda will be available from the WES website from 1<sup>st</sup> March and details will be published in WES News due out on early March.**

**Please note that WES News is now provided electronically. If you are not receiving a copy please go to the WES Website and sign up!**

Members should also note that the following Council roles become eligible for election at this meeting.

**Treasurer** – Holi Richardson has been co-opted into this role. Holi is prepared to continue, and her position needs to be ratified.

**Youth officer** – Louise Hunt has been co-opted into this role. Louise is prepared to continue, and her position needs to be ratified.

Note although these roles have been co-opted for now the positions are open to anyone within WES who may wish to stand.

Brief details of the roles are given below. If anyone wishes to stand for any of the above positions, they should submit a brief CV as soon as possible stating the role for which they wish to stand to: WES Secretary, Monmouth Ash Farm, Horton Heath, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 7JS.

### Proposed Agenda

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's report
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Election and ratification of Officers,
  - Press and publicity, the existing officer is happy to continue.



- Health and Safety, a volunteer would be appreciated for this role please.
- 8. Selection of Charity Class for WES Nationals
- 9. Agenda items submitted by the membership
- 10. Open forum
- 11. Date of next meeting.

**Break.**

**Presentation of Medals and the Bill Sheppard Award.**

**Job Descriptions of Posts that need ratification**

**Treasurer**

The treasurer oversees the financial affairs of the society and ensure they are legal, constitutional and within accepted accounting practice, ensures proper records are kept and that effective financial procedures are in place.

- Monitor and report on the financial health of the Society.
- Oversee the production of necessary financial reports/returns, accounts and audits.
- Liaise with relevant council members and/or volunteers to ensure the financial viability of the organisation.
- Make fellow council members aware of their financial obligations and take a lead in interpreting financial data to them.
- Regularly report the financial position at council meetings
- Oversee the production of an annual budget and propose its adoption at the last meeting of the previous financial year.
- Ensure proper records are kept and that effective financial procedures and controls are in place, ie:
  - Cheque signatories
  - Expense payments
  - Others as appropriate
- Appraising the financial viability of plans, proposals and feasibility studies for society activities
- Lead on appointing and liaising with auditors/an independent examiner.
  - Area bank account signatories
  - WES banners held by Areas
- Organise election/re-appointment of Area Representatives in accordance with the Constitution
- Develop and maintain written guidance for Area Representatives that is fully consistent with the Constitution and, where appropriate, provide induction training for incoming Area Representatives
- Act as liaison between Council and Area Representatives, and specifically with the Society's Treasurer regarding receipt of Annual Accounts from each Area
- Act as the first point of contact for Area Representatives and provide advice and support as and when required
- Take a lead role in arranging the annual Area Representative's meeting
- Attend and provide reports to Council meetings (at least 3 a year)
- Attend and provide an end of year report to the WES Annual AGM



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## **Press and Public relations officer:**

Press and Public relations is about managing reputation. To promote the Society in all areas of the media and to liaise with Area Representatives in respect of publishing their activities. To manage an advertising budget and seek editorial content within publications in association with advertising.

The role can be very varied and will depend on the amount of time the volunteer has to devote to the activities however as an overview the role includes:

- planning, developing and implementing a PR strategies for the Society;
- liaising with both Council and Area Reps;
- liaising with and answering enquiries from media, individuals and other organisations, often via telephone and email;
- researching, writing and distributing press releases to targeted media;
- collating and analysing media coverage;
- preparing and supervising the production of publicity brochures;
- devising and coordinating photo opportunities;
- organising events including press conferences, exhibitions, open days and press tours;
- Liaising with the webmaster in maintaining and updating information on the Society's website;
- sourcing and managing speaking and sponsorship opportunities;
- Managing the PR aspect of a potential crisis situation.

## **Youth Officer**

To promote both the membership of Youth within the Society and to organise Youth Activities for Society members

- To promote and increase the number of Youth riders within the Society
- To organise clinics specifically for youth riders within the Society
- To liaise with other organisations to the benefit of Youth riders within the Society
- To manage and account for the Youth budget

## **Health & Safety**

The health and safety officer offers expert knowledge and skills in order to generate and promote a positive health and safety culture. This represents a key role in helping to control occupational risk

- making changes to Society and Policies practices that are safe and comply with legislation;
- preparing health and safety strategies and developing Society policy;
- carrying out risk assessments and considering how risks could be reduced;
- outlining safe operational procedures which identify and take account of all relevant hazards;

- Assist in in-house training with show managers about health and safety issues and risks;
- keeping records of incidents and accidents and producing statistics for council;
- keeping up to date with new legislation and maintaining a working knowledge of all [Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#) legislation and any developments that affect the Society

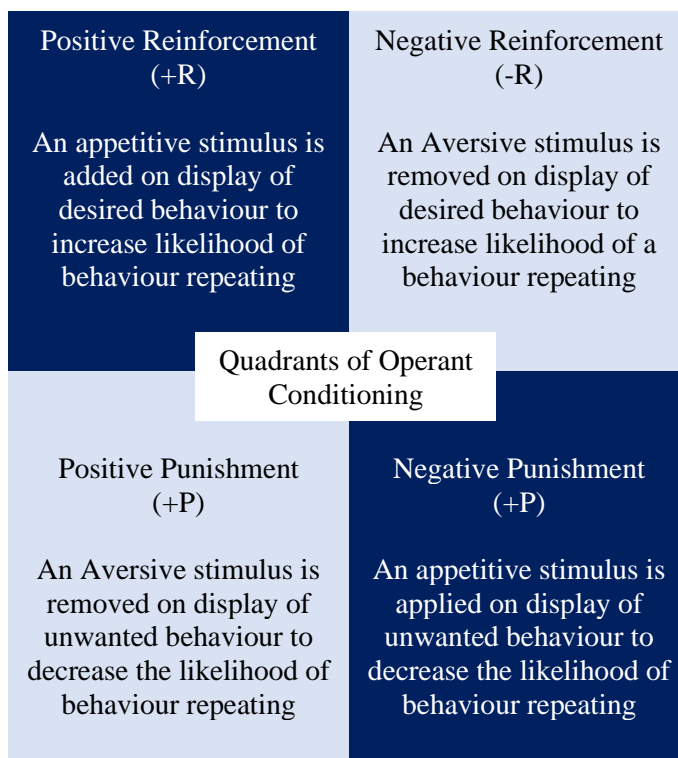
## Positive Reinforcement Training

By  
Alex le Grand

Positive reinforcement training is a science & evidence-based method of training animals (not just horses!). The dog training world has been using positive reinforcement (+R) training for many years although it is only in recent years that positive reinforcement training has begun to become more mainstream in the horse community. You may hear animal trainers and behaviour consultants talk about the use of positive reinforcement training but you may not actually know what this is or how it can be useful when working with horses.

### What is operant conditioning?

All animals learn in the same ways and the main way we work with animals is through **operant conditioning** which is a method of training whereby the learner (the animal) learns through the consequences of rewards or punishments of behaviour. In operant conditioning we have 4 quadrants which are shown in the diagram below:



We make use of these quadrants on a daily basis without realising it with our horses. Below are some brief examples of ways that I have seen the quadrants used with horses.

**+R:** Your horse gets scratches or a treat

**-R:** You squeeze with your leg until your horse steps forward

**+P:** You tap your horse on the bum with a whip as punishment for stopping at the jump

**-P:** You take away your horses feed when he paws the ground



## Why should we use positive reinforcement-based training with our horses?

When choosing between negative reinforcement and positive reinforcement based training, you may ask why you should even consider using positive reinforcement when we have all traditionally been taught to use ‘pressure & release’ (negative reinforcement). Well its not that negative reinforcers are not effective but positive reinforcement alone creates enthusiasm and a desire to learn. You see marine mammal trainers and zoo trainers working with large ‘dangerous’ animals using only positive reinforcement because you can’t use ‘pressure & release’ on a gorilla or lion – it just won’t work.

Positive reinforcement training is both an art and a science and it allows for incredibly accurate communication with all animals. Trainers will more often than not, use a ‘marker’ or ‘bridge’ signal along with a positive reinforcer to train because it tells the animal exactly when they displayed the correct behaviour. The ‘marker’ or ‘bridge’ is a very useful tool and this is what makes everything crystal clear for the animal.

A practical horse training example could be; if I am training a horse to trot long and low, I may use a target (more on that later) whilst long-lining to get the horse to trot with their head down and the second I see the horse even think about moving their head down I can use the marker signal and reinforce.

## Why does positive reinforcement training create an enthusiasm for learning?

Positive Reinforcement training uses the ‘reward’ circuitry in an animal’s brain and therefore causes an increase in the amount of dopamine and oxytocin in the animal’s body (these are hormones associated with pleasure). This is a side effect of positive reinforcement training – and a rather good one. This means that when we are using positive reinforcers, we are encouraging the horse’s intrinsic ability to feel good and therefore feel good about what we are asking of him.

## Why does the marker signal work?



*The Editor long reining his stallion Brego using Alex’ methods. The offside rein is actually sitting across his withers Photo by Alex.*

+R trainers use a ‘marker’ or ‘bridge’ signal to mark the exact moment when the animal has displayed the desired behaviour so that they can then follow up with a reinforcer such as food or scratches. This signal means that we do not have to feed the animal the second they display the desired behaviour because the marker signal tells the animal: “Yes! That was correct – your reward is coming”.

As well as **operant conditioning**, animals also learn through **classical conditioning** which is where two stimuli are paired. For example, a horse learns that the arrival of the yard manager in the morning means he is about to be fed – I am sure many horse owners have seen this reaction!

Just as horses can associate a person with feeding time, they can also associate a clicker (marker signal) with food. +R Trainers will initially do what is called ‘charging’ the clicker where through repetitions of the clicker noise and food, the animal will quickly associate strongly that the click means food is coming. +R trainers will also then teach a horse to target as one of the first behaviours (the horse must touch their nose to a cone or other object). The trainer will click when the horse investigates the cone, then they will click when the horse touches the cone, then they will build the steps up to the horse moving to go and touch cone, etc. At this point the clicker means “good!” and “food is coming”.

### **What are the practical applications for positive reinforcement training?**

The only limit to what you can train with positive reinforcement is your imagination. Trainers make use of shaping (breaking an overall goal behaviour into small steps also known as successive approximations) and will reinforce each step as they go with the horse.

An example is teaching an already +R trained horse to do shoulder-in: A +R trainer could start this by leading the horse and then asking using a target for the horse to bring his head in whilst placing a hand (1oz of contact) on the horse’s shoulder. A positively trained horse at this level would already know what 1oz of contact means and how to respond. As the horse would keep in that position for even a second, the trainer could mark and reinforce that behaviour. Using shaping, the trainer could then each time ask for a step further whilst keeping in that position until they are able to walk along a whole fence line keeping in that shoulder-in position. Once the horse had got to this point, the trainer could then add the cue of simply placing their hand on the horses shoulder whilst walking along and using their other hand to ask for the horse’s head in.

This example would be for a horse who was already +R trained and therefore would understand each of the cue’s the trainer used to ask for the movement. The point of this, however, is to show that even dressage movements can be trained with positive reinforcement training. I would urge you to take a look at Georgia Bruce (a +R trainer from Australia) and her horse rumba in this video: to see the possibilities of what can be achieved with +R training.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tbhd2zvgR9E>

I truly believe that positive reinforcement training is the future of horse training – it is already used as the mainstream method of training with so many other animals, there is no reason it cannot be brought into the mainstream horse world as well.



*Alex Le Grand is a qualified equine behaviour consultant and trainer. His approach to training and horsemanship in general is based on the motto of setting up horses to succeed. His approach mixes equine behaviour and psychology as well as complementary therapies*

*He can be contacted via his web page, [www.naturalequinetraining.co.uk](http://www.naturalequinetraining.co.uk) or his Facebook page [facebook.com/naturalequinetraininguk](https://facebook.com/naturalequinetraininguk)*



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## Winter at Cairnleith

*By  
Kathy Briggs  
Area 1*

By far the easiest way to survive winter in my wee corner of Scotland is to hibernate or emigrate.... However, if neither of these is possible, then here is my alternative.

First off, you will need a basic survival kit.

Top of the list, a really good pair of wellies, and by that I mean Industrial strength variety !

A close second, are waterproofs, not showerproof, or drizzle proof, but ones which can withstand Niagra Falls quantities of water and still keep you dry. (If you find any, please can you let me know??)

Thermals are advisable, though choice of style is entirely up to you.... T-shirt... Long sleeves...and nowadays there is the option of thermal over-trousers..

Last but not least, you will need a pair of gloves... Thermal gloves that are also waterproof can be hard to find, so I tend to go for waterproof as a priority...

Oh, I nearly forgot ... You will also need a P.R.A.T. hat... They are hardly a fashion statement, but will keep the rain off your specs, and the wind oot`ya`lugs.

So, armed with this basic kit, let us venture outside, and I will introduce you to the Croft.

On second thoughts.. as it is blowing a hoolie out there, and the hail is horizontal, chuck another log on t`fire, and I`ll mek us a brew....

Being on top of a hill at the head of a valley, means that the scenery is impressive, and during the summer, we are rarely troubled by flies, (they would have to be bionic to cope with the "breeze" that always seems to blow!) But it also means that there is very little between us and the North Sea....

This has been my home now for many, many, years, and in all that time we have had little in the way of heavy snow. With the temperature well below zero, it is often too cold to snow. In fact, only twice have I been able to walk along the tops of fences, (and have to dig out the flock from the drifts, ably assisted by an excited collie dog!)

But for the most part, it is the rain, hail and freezing winds that cause the problems. Where I come from, this type of wind is often described as "lazy" ... Too \*\*\*\*\* lazy to go round you, so it goes straight through...

The rain turns the track into slurry, and we slither and slide from barn to field. Once there we get stuck in the gloop. (this is where the wellies really come in to their own, as a good pair will remain on your feet....) Most of the time the Wonder Pony will stand patiently and let you use him to pull yourself out and back on to firmer ground.... But occasionally he doesn`t, and then, as most of us know, life can get very interesting....



When the weather freezes, a whole new set of issues arise.... Breaking the ice on water buckets with a sledge hammer is a normal occurrence... breaking an ankle on frozen mud ruts is to be avoided, skating on frozen puddles can put Dancing on Ice to shame, but please remember that your partner weighs half a ton, and try and avoid the queue in A&E waiting to get plastered....

Only twice this winter (so far!) has our lane been turned into the Cresta Run. Ice melt re-freezing is a hazard that we are very used to, and the different ways of negotiating the hill, with no traction, and avoiding the kink at the bottom (which could lead to either going off the bridge and in to the burn direct, or going through my fence (electrified) and then into the burn,) can cause many a heart-stopping moment.....

So, yes, the winter here is long, dark, and cold, with a generous helping of rain, hail, sleet and snow of the horizontal variety, but would I want to live anywhere else ?

On balance, the answer has to be “No”.

On a frosty, freezing, morning when the air burns your throat, the light is amazing. The sunrises and sunsets have to be seen to be believed. On clear nights the sky of deep, deep, black, is studded with thousands of stars, each one brighter than its neighbour. And then on the rare (for us) occasions when the gods throw a ceilidh, the heavens come alive with a kaleidoscope of colour and light. And that really will take your breath away! Then, leaving them to their celebrations, come back inside to the roaring warmth of the fire and snuggle down with the dog and a mug of hot chocolate and say a grateful “ thank you” that you are lucky enough to call this place Home!

*Editor's note:*

*Kathy lives about 25 miles north of Aberdeen, near Ellon, so when the East wind blows there it can feel as if it comes straight from the Russian Steppes.*

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## **My Western Journey**

*By  
Heather Ronaldson*

It all began in the early 1990's when I was first introduced to an American Quarter Horse named Patty's Affair. At the time friends, Mike and Louise Forsyth had Patty on loan from Stuart and Kathleen Harrower. She was a beautiful kind mare with a shining black coat but what surprised me was how light she was to ride and having done English riding since I was a school kid mainly on riding school ponies, then onto hunters and jumping horses, I wasn't used to a horse so light and responsive, at least not to this degree.

I hadn't heard of Western Riding before apart from on the telly watching John Wayne and the likes, but I now had a new interest and was intrigued to find out more.





I read as much as I could and found that there was, in fact, the odd show in Scotland so I went along to a couple to see what it was all about. To be honest, I thought they all looked a bit odd, dressed in their show gear, which in those days was much more basic than now. My other half will sometimes comment on how I thought it was like Gunfight at the OK Corral, without the guns of course but it wasn't long before I was joining them and feeling it was quite 'normal'.

In those days there wasn't the luxury of big indoor arenas with stabling so most of the shows were held in a field with a roped off area for our arena or, if we were lucky, an actual outdoor arena, if there happened to be one in the area. The horses were tied to trailers or hobbled. This I found interesting but when taught correctly, the horse seemed quite happy to munch grass whilst hobbled. One horse I particularly remember, I'm sure it belonged to Angela Davidson, would hop to the next patch of grass and never seemed concerned about what was going on around it. I have to add though, I have never taught this to any of mine, ground tie yes, hobble, no.

At the time I was introduced to Western Riding, I was going to riding stables twice a week, so when my other half asked if I would like to get my own horse, the search began.

For me, the only horse was the American Quarter Horse or a cross if I found the right one.

The search led me to several horses which didn't quite fit the bill, that was until Iain and I drove to Manar Stud at Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, to meet Shuna Mardon and the wonderful mare, Xanta Depth Charge.

Shuna was so interesting to chat with and over a cup of tea we learned more about Western Riding and how she got into it, her horses and their breed lines. I still find Shuna one of most knowledgeable horse people and love watching her ride on her now chosen breed, the Norwegian Fjord Horse.

Needless to say, we bought Xanta. On the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1993, she became my equine partner as I began to learn the art of western riding.

Xanta put up with a lot over the years as I tried what I thought was the correct way to do things, only to realise how much easier it was for us both when I eventually got it right.

The Western Equestrian Society has played a big part in my journey. I've been a member for what will be nearer 30 years than 20. I love seeing the different breeds and how well trained a horse can be with the right support.

I have travelled to England to watch the WES Championship Show. One of the things I enjoy about Western Riding is how friendly everyone is, always willing to help or exchange some friendly banter. This seems to go hand in hand with a western saddle!!

WES, like other organizations I have come to know over the years, has become a reference point for many different things associated with Western riding and I appreciate the work that goes into, not just the shows but get togethers with our horses and without, clinics, organized rides and just someone on the end of the phone/email to pick their brains and get advice if needed. I hope to be able to take part in more of the above this coming season.

Xanta is sadly no longer with us but I will be forever grateful to both her and Shuna for the ‘leg up’ they gave me when I needed it most.



*Heather on “Little”*

Since Xanta, I have been fortunate enough to have had PQH Aint Missbehavin who is now with her breeder, the lovely Joanne Clark of Blue Moon Quarter Horses, on broodmare duties and doing a great job may I add and with me are Blues PinUp Girl, MH Little Surprise and they have just been joined by Nyx At Night a lovely black filly which I acquired from Roslin Stud in Devon. I honestly didn’t go looking for a black horse but it seems to have gone full circle, colour wise at any rate.

**The journey continues...**

## My Western Story

*By  
Louise Fraser*

I was introduced to Western Riding last year. I have to admit, the first thought that popped into my mind was “Cowboys”! However, as I discovered and in the words of Bob Mayhew, Western Riding is more about “...a way of riding lightly, so that horse and rider move together softly in harmony.”<sup>1</sup>

I will start by telling you a bit about my riding experience. Originally from the Borders, no members of my family were horsey people. However, many of my friends were horsey. I started taking lessons/ hacking out in my teens and continued until I was around 30. I always wanted a horse of my own but, circumstance and, a feeling that I did not know enough about horses to own one, put my dream on hold. I also had a bad experience when trying out a horse that was for sale, and the effect of that was to really knock my confidence.

Fast forward 13 years – the desire to own my own horse was still there!

I started riding again in a riding school and put out some feelers, asking for the advice of almost every horsey person I knew. One of those people was Kim Collier who all WES members will know.

Kim very kindly put me in touch with Zoe who owns a supermodel of a Sports Horse called Zeta. Zoe was looking for a sharer and was happy for me to share Zeta 3 days per week. Zeta is ridden Western and has had a great education, she was pretty forgiving with me given fact I was very nervous and a novice horse owner.

<sup>1</sup> The Art of Western Riding, Bob Mayhew with John Birdsall at page 19.



I started very slowly with Zeta – initially grooming only and then progressing to groundwork and lunging in the school. I had a couple of sessions on the lead rope and then I progressed to riding Zeta in the school solo. Gradually, the nerves started to go, and I really enjoy the sessions I do with Zeta in the school. I am progressing through all the basics of groundwork and we have mastered forward, back, circles and whoa so next objective is lateral work, engagement, being brave enough to lope and walking in hand on the hacking tracks before progressing to hacking out.

I haven't been able to get Zeta along to any of the playdays yet as her owner tells me she gets a bit hot headed when in a new environment.

But, if I can work on gradually moving Zeta out of her comfort zone over the course of the summer, maybe we will get along to Oxenfoord later this year!

As well as sharing Zeta, I recently purchased a young cob filly called Indie.

Indie is approx. 18 months and was a poor soul when I came across her .....you can all imagine how the rest of the story goes.



Once she is a bit more settled and trusting of me, I will definitely bring Indie along to some of the play days to do in hand work... watch this space.

If of interest to WES members, I'd be happy to write an article a couple of times a year to update on how things are progressing with Zeta and Indie. I am also doing some interesting courses this year – A 5 day foundation course with Kelly Marks and an Applied Behaviour Course in modules, over the next 12 months.

Back to the Western way of riding. I do wonder why riding lessons focus on riding round the school, changing the rein, jumps etc yet they don't teach you how to move your horse back and sideways, softness, moving with the horse etc in the early stages of riding? Certainly, I was never taught this in lessons. The Western way resonates with me and is allowing me to create the partnership I have always dreamed of, I still have an awful lot to learn but am lucky to be riding a well trained horse who is patient with me – a Western Schoolmistress!

Wish me luck with Indie! I am working with a trainer but if any members have a lot of experience with youngsters, all advice is gratefully received! 😊

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## **Resilience..... What does that mean??**

*By  
Kayreen Jones*

Resilience, one of the diary definitions is “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, Toughness”

With the weather that most of us have had recently I think a lot of horse owners are a tough, resilient and hardy breed. For those of us with no arenas or stables, this winter seems to have dragged on, and for those of us working full time the weekends are filled with rain and wind!

The conditions for those affected by flooding are much worse in comparison to those of us horse owners having a moan because we cannot ride or are having to slop through muddy fields to ensure our horses are still standing!

However yesterday when I was attempting (it is an ongoing saga!) to ride my oldest mare past the farmers wife’s house. It struck me! Well after I sat on her and despaired a bit because what is a bit of feeling sorry for yourself when things don’t work out! Now don’t get me wrong this is not a new occupation that she has taken up, frustrating yes, and new no!!

Since she was a foal I have walked her out passed this house, we have taken the time of day to chat to the occupants, and she knows the dogs. We have long reined passed the house and we have ridden past the house. However in her head there is an issue!

So as I sat there whilst she threw everything at me to make me turn her around and go home (we were 100 yards from the yard) I was contemplating why!! You know as in why not keep hamsters instead, or go Bigfoot hunting etc. etc.

It came to me:

1. I am a resilient person; I keep trying to be better than I was the day before. I work in some conditions that other riders would baulk at. (During a shoot for pheasants, alongside young cattle and chickens pootling about), Mud and more mud, when they are combining around me and I am trying to practice lope transitions in the straw ruts. The tractor ruts are fab for loping in a straight line and practising changes from one rut to the other!! Try it.
2. I think I listen to my horses (despite what you might think from reading above), give them the benefit of the doubt and always try and ensure I take their opinions into account.
3. I acknowledge my weaknesses! ....sorry guys for the last two years I have blamed my accident and my sister’s accident for my lack of confidence and the feeling of nausea when riding my own horses and hacking out. Now I can ride for clients just not me. So for two years I have beat myself up, felt a failure, wanted to pack it all in, find another hobby, found excuses not to ride etc. Anyone out there felt the same?? I have blamed lack of an arena, lack of money lack of time and so on. Now do not get me wrong I am not saying any of this for sympathy!! Those who know me have seen how badly I can be affected by my own induced anxiety.



Anyway back to the going down the road situation.....sitting there looking at the countryside and smiling at the 5<sup>th</sup> driver who wanted to go down the very road I was trying to hack down. This is a private farm road normally not a soul. I realised at my age it was hormonal, not my fault or anyone else's fault or anything's fault. As we were (well I was) contemplating cat food for her as in going in the tin. I realised I was out riding in the wind, she was mucking about and when she would not go forward I turned her around and backed her down the road. Back up was nice, could have been straighter though.

When she told me she could not possibly walk forward on our next attempt I side passed her down the road. However, and here is the bit, I was not scared, not anxious, not feeling like vomiting over the side of the saddle I felt self-assured I knew how to fix the bits I could and realised the work I had to do to build her confidence or explain why we are going down this track knowing it goes from home. I am off in March so I will walk her out and get on when we are passed the "issue" spot. Hmm more than one way to skin a cat!!

In other words like fellow horse people I was resilient and I loved every minute of it!

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## Flora and Kia:

*By  
Kayreen Jones*

For those of you interested in my youngsters and what we have been up to, the weather has been a bit of a stumbling block.

But.... Kia has now been bitted and bridled twice and is happier in a bridle. I have not worked off her mouth yet still using the head collar and lead rope to flex her. Putting hoof boots on as well as protective boots were a non-issue also! Next came the saddle and cinching up. As you know she has seen and had the pad put on quite a few times she has not had the saddle on and cinched up securely. I did have a moment when I thought she was going to get worried but she relaxed and it passed. We went for a walk, came back and I worked on lining her up at the mount block and leaning over.



I was really pleased with her attitude and calmness. My plan for her is to work on showmanship, confirm the above more and once I am happy she knows the answer to my questions then get on.

Asking Kia to Line up at the mount block and stand. She will get the reward for any small try. She was a little too far away here and I am focussing on her near front to get her to step nearer the block. If she gets stuck I will move her feet and ask her to line up again.



Better this time and I have moved to the next step to let her feel the saddle moving when my foot is in it. (We are both looking at the cat!)

Flora had a break after our trail riding weekend and two weeks ago I got on her in the yard.

The break had done her good she felt lighter in my hands, still sticky moving the hip and shoulder but had not forgotten what I had shown her. She walked forward, backwards and is starting to get the hang of sideways. Again I am happy with her progress and once the weather stops being so wild I will

start hacking her out once I know I have the ability to move her body parts where I want them.



Asking Flora to follow the feel of the rein. My outside rein (nearest) could have been a lot looser.

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Following the feel less resistance this time, however when I move it to my hip I am looking for her to disengage the hind quarters. You can see she has lifted a hind but unsure to follow it through as yet.

However you do it, and whatever you do in limited space or time. Do it well!!



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## Area Round-up

### Area 1

*Grampian and Highlands*

*By*

*Kathy Briggs*

Phew ! Where did the year go ?? I know time is supposed to fly when you`re having fun, but that was supersonic!

At the time of writing this, we have not yet had our AGM, so, although plans are afoot, nothing has yet been finalised as to Fun Days etc. But we have got our clinics with Bob Mayhew all lined up, and really looking forward to seeing him again, ( just hope that we aren`t tooo rusty !! ).

The winter is quiet for most of us up here, as the weather is very much in charge of what we can do, but the nights are fair drawing out and it won`t be too long before we are back in action. ( But I will be keeping that idea well quiet from the Wonder Pony )

So, here is to another wonderful, action-packed year, and many new adventures.....

Enjoy !

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### Area 2

*Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire*

*By*

*Lesley and Michelle Surguy-Price*

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### Area 3

*Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire*

*By*

*Sarah Hamlin*

Area 3 has seen a steady decline in members over the past few years, with just under 50% not renewing their membership in 2018, that was our opening line in our report at the end of 2018.

In 2019 we have managed to cling on to the remaining 50% and maintain membership at around 26 members, yet our face book group continues to grow to over 369 members, with 26 new followers joining us in the last 6 months. I set up a separate group on messenger to welcome these 26 new followers and ask them to express an interest in a clinic we were planning on putting on, for people who are new to western as most of our new followers are predominantly English riders and we thought this might encourage some to join, out of the 26 we only got 6 responses of a thumbs up, so not sure if that was yes they were interested or yes they saw the message. This begs the question as to why do so many people want to follow us yet very few of them want to join in?



In December, Area 3 took part in the Westcountry Equine fair, based at Westpoint Exeter, the indoor equestrian event held over two days contains demonstrations from across the equestrian world and the chance to shop!

We were asked to give a western riding demonstration. We took it as an opportunity to show that WES is an all breeds and all ability group, We followed a demo by Parelli professionals Alison and David Zeund a hard act to follow but our two riders wowed the crowd right from the start especially as Tammy Greaves (Area 13) and Ginny Johnson (Area 3) were in full show bling. Our horses couldn't have been more different with Ginny riding Charlie Brown, a lovely cob owned by Caroline Burrowson and Tammy riding the quarter horse mare Mebe Rageous, owned by Anita Jriva.

Chris Coles provided the background to WES and why we do things differently whilst both horses demonstrated the same moves according to their ability and worked over a range of obstacles,

Pam and I were standing on the side near one of the stands and caught various comments as the horses performed, the 360 degree turn in the box surprised many, especially when Chris commented that normally the box would be much smaller and moved the poles in, the crowd were even more impressed when Charlie Brown came in and did a lovely turn without touching the poles.

Tammy finished our set by riding the obstacles with her horse bridleless, proving the point made by Chris that it's not about the reins.

A big thank you goes to Chris for his ideas on the demonstration and his compering, and to the horses, riders and owners, for, it was a fantastic day to end our year on.

Photographs with kind permission of Nicky Woods Photography.



Look no bridle!!



#### Area 4

*Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear*

*By*

*Jo Powell*

#### Area 5

*Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester*

*By*

*Christine Outram*

My second 2 year stint as Area Rep finished at the end of last year, however, no one came forward to takeover so I have agreed to stay on. WES did not get my full attention in 2019 but this coming year should see improvement. Here I have to say a particular thank you to Emma Lonie who has been extremely helpful.

Membership has remained fairly stable this year. We started with 55 and ended with 54 which, on the face of it, looks ok but it would be good if we could find out why people leave and how we persuade them to stay. Something I need to look at this year.

The run up to our first show of the year was, as usual, nail biting. We had an expensive judge and competitors were dropping like flies throughout the week before. Despite this we almost managed to break even surprisingly. The new owners of Richmond have increased the price for 2020 so will have fingers and toes crossed for this year. Askham Bryan was a bit easier but we had so many entries we didn't get through all the classes. We also had some new faces to the area who seemed to enjoy it. We will have to give some serious thought to the order and



number of classes for 2020 at our show meeting. Myerscough will be included in Georgina's report.

The level of sponsorship Emma Lonie got for the show classes was phenomenal. Emma also got Millbry Hill on board for the hi-points sponsorship following the loss of our previous sponsor. The level of sponsorship isn't quite as high as before but very welcome nonetheless. I will be approaching them to ask for continued sponsorship when I send the presentation photographs.

Although membership has not increased this year, I feel the area has some talented and committed members who are improving each year. The clinicians now coming to the area on a regular basis seems to be helping members to improve, and this can only be a good thing and will, maybe, get some new members or persuade some to stay. The Yorkshire side is very lucky to have our Western trainer, Emma, and I have been contacted by a lady interested in becoming a WES instructor on the Lancashire side.

### **Presentations: High Points**

Youth – Scarlett Eyles. Not present. (given to Emma Lonie)

Novice Rider – Seraya Sigsworth

Novice Horse – Amigo (Bill Tate)

Amateur – Val Burdge

Intermediate – Emma Lonie

Open – Emma Lonie

Total High Points – Seraya Sigsworth

Non Quarter Horse – Seraya Sigsworth

Midnight Robbery Trophy (Novice Horse) – Amigo (Bill Tate)

Ranch horse of the year Trophy (overall points) – Seraya Sigsworth

### **Pictures from the AGM**

*(Editor's note: Unfortunately these pictures were sent without any captions.)*





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## Area 6

*Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent,  
Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire*

*By  
Mandy Hawkins*

Unfortunately the Area 6 AGM scheduled for 23rd Feb has had to be postponed due to the venue being flooded. We had considered moving venue but with flooding in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and South Wales and more rain forecast it was decided to rearrange the meeting for a later date to avoid travel disruption.



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The area 6 Summer Camp is now fully booked if anyone wishes to go on the waiting list please let me know.

We have some dates for future events at Valley View Ranch, Ullingswick, Herefordshire, HR1 3JQ:

**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>** Practice Show (details to follow soon)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June** WES Area 6 Summer Camp

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August** Pre-show Clinic with Bruce Lawrence

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August** WES area 6 show (more details to follow soon).

I will be arranging a meeting in the next couple of weeks with members in the Wales area to discuss some local get togethers.

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### **Area 7**

*Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.*

*By*

*Vicky Easton*

Area 7 had a very good year in 2019 with lots of very successful clinics at Sarah Hoods Yard.

The AGM was held on the 23rd February at Downtown, Grantham, with only a few of the regulars attending.

**7<sup>th</sup> March** Our first clinic at Sarah's where Michael Langford is teaching.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** is Alan Paynes Poles clinic.

Nothing so far in **June** any suggestions folks?

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** is the Adventure trail and Picnic ride at Collingham Newark

**16<sup>th</sup> August** a Picnic Ride from Dennis Stock's place.

The Nationals are of course on the 28<sup>th</sup> August so Area 7 people will be getting ready for that, hopefully a few more of our youth riders will be attending..... Such a good idea to run Youth classes over the internet!!

That's all booked so far but watch this space for further information.

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## **Area 8**

*Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex*

*By*

*Jo Gallagher*

### **WES AREA 8 Forthcoming Events 2020**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** Clinic with Lee Rutter, General schooling, Hurst House, Sedlescombe, E SX TN33 0PE (Fully Booked)

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** Bring and Buy Tack Sale 10 – 2, Otford Village Hall, Otford, Nr. Sevenoaks, TN14 5PQ

**April 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>** Approved Show Burley Villa, Hampshire. Contact Tammy Greaves for Info.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** Clinic with Tammy Greaves, schooling and pattern practice. Hurst House, Sedlescombe, E SX TN33 0PE (Spaces available)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>** Garden of England Wake Up Show/Clinic ( All breed western classes), Bodiam International Area,

**May 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>** Garden of England International Show (Western Classes) Bodiam, East Sussex.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** ApHc (Western classes for all breeds) Show Priory EC Frensham, Surrey

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** Area 8 & Area 13 Approved Show, Merrist Wood, Nr. Guildford, Surrey. GU3 3PE

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** Trail Ride and BBQ, fabulous off road riding through woods and fields. Hurst House, Sedlescombe, E SX TN33 0PE

**August 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>** Area 8 Summer Training Camp, Two days training with Susie Anderson and Catherine Wright, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** Practice Show, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL



Pictures from the Area 8 AGM



Pictures from the Area 8 Christmas lunch in Kent





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Picture from the Area 8 Christmas Lunch in Berkshire (Area 8 had two Christmas lunches)



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### **Area 9**

*Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk*

*By*

*Jo Turtle*

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### **Area 10**

*Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire., Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire,  
Warwickshire, West Midlands*

*By*

*Sarah Cameron*

A very warm welcome to all our new members.

WES Area 10 is now up to 50 members which is fantastic.

Some dates for your diaries:

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** Western Dressage Competition at The Fjord Fun Show  
The College Equestrian Centre, Church Rd, Keysoe MK44 2JP  
9-1pm

Organised by Abbey Brotherton

The tests are

WDUK Intro 1

WDUK Intro 4

WDUK Basic 4

WDUK Basic 6



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Please contact Abbey for details [fjordshow@gmail.com](mailto:fjordshow@gmail.com)

Abbey has organised a super judge for you and you can ride the tests in English tack or Western. Please support her.

£12 a test or £20 for two tests.

Rosettes, points awarded.

**Friday May 22nd evening 7pm-8.30pm** Groundwork clinic.

The Fox, Rampton, CB24 8QF

Some of you asked for more knowledge on groundwork.

This is a evening for you to practice your groundwork, share your knowledge with each other.

I will set up a in hand trail course for you to practice.

**Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>** Scherie Dermody is back!

Clinic held at The Fox, Rampton, CB24 8QF

Scherie is extremely popular

Please make sure you get your names down ASAP

The morning will be split in to small groups.

Afternoon session this time will be a fun small show.

Classes and patterns to be decided nearer the time.( eg horsemanship, ranch, trail)

£60 for the day to include a light lunch.

**Friday 17th - Sunday 19th July** Beach Weekend Wells-next-the-Sea

Riding to Holkham Beach.

Area 10 Annual holiday for horses and riders!

Due to popular demand we are back to Mill Farm, Wells-Next-The-Sea NR23 1RE

More details to follow nearer the time.

Non riders, partners and woofs are welcome too.

This is a super venue

Camping/ corralling/ some stables are available.

Usual format arriving after 2pm Friday

Leaving Sunday pm

Food etc to be decided nearer the time.

**Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>** Picnic Ride

(kind permission of Phillip and Sandra Matthews-Brown.)

A ride out and picnic.

10.30am

Washbanks Farm, Coveney, Ely

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### **Area 11**

*Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside*

*By*

*Kayreen Jones*

Thank you to all our members who attended the AGM at the Stair Arms, Pathhead last weekend. The weather was pretty bad but people made it and food was available for those who wanted it.

At the AGM we discussed our financial situation as well as activities that had been successful last year and those which were not as popular. Hopefully we have managed to come up this year with a bit of everything for people. The AQHA Novice show at SNEC on 21.6.20 will have Thistle classes and these will be Novice Horse classes and affiliated to WES so WES riders will get points if placed. If anyone wants to come to the show and requires a schedule please contact myself or Don Thomson. There will be a pre-show clinic on the Saturday (20<sup>th</sup> June) and the show is on the Sunday. Come and make a weekend of it!!

We had another good play day on 26.1.20 we expected it to be low in numbers due to the time of year but a few of us made it and had the use of the indoor arena for a decent length training session.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** April play day at Blackford Glen (thanks to John Fyfe) 11am to 3pm, £20

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** May Play day at Blackford Glen (thanks to John Fyfe) 11am to 3pm, £20

The events have started to go to WES for approval and will be put onto the website once I have a minute to sit down and do them all.

Dates for clinics with Bob Mayhew have been released and have been sent out to all members via our winter newsletter for area 11. Please get in touch if you want to ask any questions.

The dates are **May 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>** May 2020 and July **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**.

A big HELLO! To our new members welcome on board and looking forward to riding with you all.

I do hope that we are seeing the finish of the bad winter weather stay safe everyone.

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### **Area 12**

*Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde*

*By*

*Patricia O'Reilly*

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## **Area 13**

*Dorset and Hampshire*

*by*

*Anne Batley*

The last few months have been very quiet for Area 13 due to a number of reasons, not least the weather! Hopefully that will have improved by the time you are reading this report.

We have a number of events happening throughout the year as usual, kicking off with a clinic with Bob Mayhew in May, followed by a series of clinics in subsequent months so participants are able to work on specific things and progress from lesson to lesson. Jackie Palmer has kindly offered her lovely venue for these, near Wimborne in Dorset and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her as it makes my life much easier with organisation.

There are also two shows in June,

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** at Shedfield Equestrian Centre, Botley Road, Southampton, Hampshire. SO32 2HN, this show is affiliated to WES and run by Area 13. This is in conjunction with their big English show which should give us a great opportunity to promote Western riding, so please, please put the date in your dairy and come and make this a great show. If it goes well this might become an annual event. Being affiliated this allows non-members to also compete and we are also running a 'have a go trail' for any equine discipline – show jumper, dressage, side saddle etc all of which are competing over the weekend at this show, there is also a dog agility, so come along and participate in more than just Western! Shedfield have kindly given us the use of the indoor school for the day and I would like to thank the many sponsors who have come forward to support us and contribute towards the costs of rosettes and the judge etc as any entry money will go towards the cost of the indoor school. We have kept the entry fee for each class to £8 in line with the other disciplines and entries will be taken by Shedfield direct. Full detail and schedules should be available at the beginning of April so keep an eye out ...

Our Second show is a joint show with Area 8, on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** at Merrist Wood Arena, Worplesdon, Guildford. GU3 3PE. This is our first collaborative show of the two areas and we hope it is a big success, again put the date in your dairies and come and support. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to try and make this a successful and enjoyable day for everyone, so please support by bringing your horse and joining us on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

You can also support by joining us as helpers if you cannot ride. There are a number of jobs that need filling so volunteers are always appreciated – come and steward, man the gate, scribe for the judge, be a runner etc. Let me know if you are available.

I am also looking at the possibility of a 2 day camp, but no promises with this one, a lot of dates are already taken and we need to find a venue, though I do have a few ideas, but they still need finalising – I'll let you know how I get on.

Remember all the activities put on by WES Areas are for the members, so please come and support, ideally join in with your horse, come and help on the day, bring friends and come and watch – you make the event a great one, without you there is little point! I hope to see you all at as many events as you can make over 2020 – make your presence known and come and say hello.



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**Some Dates for your dairy:**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Clinic with Bob Mayhew**

Venue to be confirmed. (am going to try and book Lloyds Equestrian but will confirm. At the moment I'm looking at a morning clinic, but a number of you have shown interest in morning and afternoon sessions, can you let me know if you would like a whole day clinic, as if enough interest I will organise – if you could let me know by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> I can organise one way or another

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Burley Villa Affiliated Show**

Further information see [www.tammygreaves.co.uk](http://www.tammygreaves.co.uk)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – One day Clinic with Bob Mayhew**

Venue : Jackie Palmer has said that we can invade her place – will confirm address but have it filed so carefully can't find it at the moment!! Near Wimborne, Dorset.

**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> – WES Area 13 Show**

Venue: Shedfield Equestrian, Botley Road, Shedfield, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 2HN

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June – WES Area 8 & 13 Show**

Venue: Merrist Wood Arena. Worplesdon, Guildford GU3 3PE

The schedule is posted on Area 13 & 8 Facebook pages.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July – One day Clinic with Bob Mayhew**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August – One day Clinic with Bob Mayhew**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September – One day Clinic with Bob Mayhew**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October – One day Clinic with Bob Mayhew**

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## Event Notifications



### **WES AREA 8**

### **BRING AND BUY TACK SALE !!**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Otford Village Hall**

**28A High St, Otford, Sevenoaks TN14 5PQ**

**10.00 – 2.00**

**FREE ENTRY & PARKING**

**Coffee and Tea £2 all morning!**

**Come and bring your tack: show clothes, saddle pads, blankets, rugs, spurs, bridles, head collars, saddles, boots etc.**

**OR**

**Come and browse for a bargain, and stay for a coffee and chat !**

**CASH ONLY PLEASE !!**





## **Area 8 Trail Clinic (Surrey)**

**Perfect your Trail**

**With**

**Alan Payne**

**At**

**New House Farm**

**Antlands Lane,**

**Burstow Surrey RH6 9TF**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020 10.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m**

**WES Members £45 pp**

**Non WES Members £55 pp**

**Contact: Jo, WES Area 8 Rep, [paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com) for more information**



## **WES Northern Camp 2020.**

**When:** 9-11 April 2020  
**Where:** Bishop Burton College York Rd, Bishop Burton, Beverley  
HU17 8QG  
**Instructor:** TBA  
**Further details:** Contact Margaret Kemp  
[mekemp.wes@gmail.com](mailto:mekemp.wes@gmail.com) or  
07703 222594

### **Area 8**



#### **Pattern Practice Clinic**

**With**

**Tammy Grieves**

**At**

**Hurst House,**

**Indoor arena**

**Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe,**

**East Sussex, TN33 0PE**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 10.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m**

**WES Members £45 pp**

**Non WES Members £55 pp**

**Spectators welcome**

**Tea and Coffee will be provided.**

**Contact: Jo, WES Area 8 Rep, [paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com) for more  
information**



## WES Affiliated Western Show

(Run by Area 13)

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Schedule available early April

**SUMMER SHOW 2020**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
*New Classes and Qualifiers*

**Side Saddle**  
**Dog Agility**  
**Western Riding**

And Lots more all coming in 2020 look out for the schedule  
Shedfield Equestrian Botley Road Southampton SO32 2HN 01329 835 115

## WES Area 8 & 13 Joint Show

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Merrist Wood Arena, Worplesdon, Guildford. GU3 3PE

Judge: Bob Mayhew.







**WES Area 5  
presents**

**11th & 12th July 2020  
Myerscough College International Arena  
Lancashire. PR3 0RY**

# **The Northern Performance Show 2020**

**Main Arena Sponsor  
Clarke Equine Services**



## **WE OFFER**

- ✓ **40 + classes for all levels**
- ✓ **2 Indoor arenas**
- ✓ **Barn stabling from Friday**
- ✓ **On-site B&B and restaurant**
- ✓ **Ample parking & hook-up**

**Kick up your heels for the  
Saturday night buffet & party**

**Judge - Jitka Kinclova  
AQHA / APHA  
Czech Republic**

**MORE INFO:  
[wes-uk.com](http://wes-uk.com)**

**Secretary 07710 120323  
[www.wesarea5.webs.com](http://www.wesarea5.webs.com)**





## The Western Equestrian Society Area 8 Annual Summer Training Camp: at

Hadlow College of Agriculture, Tonbridge Road, Hadlow, Kent  
TN11 0AL

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Western Clinicians :-

**Susie Anderson** [www.ridewestern.co.uk](http://www.ridewestern.co.uk)  
& **Catherine Wright** [www.westerninstructor.co.uk](http://www.westerninstructor.co.uk)

*3 Hours coaching in two sessions on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Equine Massage Therapist talk and Demonstration on Friday evening. Optional Practice Show to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> August*

<i>Cost includes:</i>	<b>Stable/Accommodation /Training</b>	<b>£340.00</b>
	<b>Non rider place</b>	<b>£75.00</b>

Non – WES Members add £25.00 to each of the above costs.

Cost includes student accommodation, stabling and all tuition.

WES Area 8 will be providing Tea, Coffee and Milk, but meals are on a Self – catering basis. There are three full sized kitchens for your use. You will need to bring your own crockery, cutlery and any cookware.

Alternatively there are several places to eat, including to pubs, within walking distance of the college, in addition to the Broadview Garden Centre Café on the Hadlow college complex, where we will be given a preferential 15% discount on any food.

Contact: Jo WES Area 8 Rep [paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com) for more information