

WES NEWS

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

December 2020

Issue 105



**Merry Christmas
And
A Happy New Year**



Contents

WES Trail Award Scheme	2
WES Merchandise	2
WES Website.....	2
Society Information	3
Area and County Representatives	4
Society Approved Judges	5
Society Approved Instructors	6
From the Editor.....	7
Chairman's Report	8
Area Coordinators Report	9
Youth Officers / Virtual Show Report	9
Deadline for Next Issues	12
Cover Picture.....	12
COVID Highs and Lows.....	12
2020 A year to remember	14
Area 6 Show.....	17
Area 6 Summer Camp.....	22
Tuffy's Adventures	25
An Important Lesson.....	28
Pony Mad Girl.....	30
12 Equestrian Days of Christmas	31
Area Round-up.....	33
Area 1	33
Area 2	33
Area 3	33
Area 4	34
Area 5	34
Area 6	35
Area 7	36
Area 8	36
Area 9	38
Area 10	38
Area 11	38
Area 12	39
Area 13	39
Event Notifications.....	40
For sale and Wanted.....	42



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) 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

WES Website

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

www.wes-uk.com



Society Information

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



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	KATHY BRIGGS	pyenjack@btinternet.com
2	Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	MICHELLE SURGEY PRICE	unziptheflare@googlemail.com
3	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire	SARAH HAMLIN	sarah.hamlin38@gmail.com
		PAM PURSLEY	pam@pursley.co.uk
	Devon:	<i>Ann Webster</i>	annequus@aol.com
	Wiltshire	<i>Jane Brain</i>	j1412b@hotmail.com
4	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	ANGIE TAYLOR	angie@whittonstalltaxi.co.uk
	Tyne and Wear	<i>Jo Powell</i>	webster.powell@btinternet.com
5	Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester	Margaret Kemp	mekemp.wes@gmail.com
	East Yorkshire	<i>Harry Scargill</i>	hbscontracting@outlook.com
	North Yorkshire	<i>Nickey Smith</i>	nickeysmith.wes@outlook.com
	Lancashire	<i>Georgina O'Connor</i>	activepeopleandpets@gmail.com
	West Yorkshire:	<i>Lesley A. Wilkinson-Lyner</i>	lesley@thehooovesgroup.com
6	Avon, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Worcestershire	MANDY HAWKINS	wesarea6@gmail.com
	Pembrokeshire	<i>Julie Wilson</i>	rainbow.eggs@btinternet.com
	Gloucestershire	<i>Gill Parker</i>	bronze@gillparker.co.uk
	Herefordshire	<i>Bruce Lawrence</i>	bclsp123@icloud.com
	Glamorgan	<i>Yvonne Allen</i>	ylallen@aol.com
	Powys	<i>Fran Groves</i>	frangroves@aol.com
	Worcestershire	<i>Roger Wells</i>	rwells613@gmail.com
7	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.	VICKY EASTON	Vicky.wes7@gmail.com
	Leicestershire	<i>Stephanie Goodacre</i>	stephaniegoodacre@btinternet.com
8	Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex	JO GALLAGHER	paul.joanne.gallagher@btinternet.com
	Kent	<i>Victoria Burger</i>	victorial_burger100@hotmail.com
	East Sussex	<i>Vicki Holden</i>	vholden26@yahoo.co.uk
	West Sussex	<i>Rebecca Bendall</i>	rebeccabendall@sky.com
9	Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	JO TURTLE	joturtle@btconnect.com
10	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire., Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands	SARAH CAMERON	pale.rider@live.co.uk
		JANE GIBBS	jane_gibbs@rocketmail.com
11	Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside	KAYREEN JONES	kayreenjones4@btinternet.com
12	Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde	PATRICIA O'MICHAEL	barbarellababy@hotmail.com
13	Dorset and Hampshire	ANNE BATLEY	a.batley@ntlworld.com



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

David Hudspeth (Nottinghamshire) Tel 07977 530954

Louise Hunt (Kent) Mob: 07712277812 email: 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

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

WES Judges Committee

The following Judges are members of the WES Judges Committee:

Mick Carder (chair),

Bob Mayhew,

David Lloyd,

Scherie Dermody



Society Approved Instructors

The following is a list of WES Approved Instructors

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



From the Editor

Welcome to issue 105 of the WES News. When I did the COVID special back in the spring of this year I never once imagined we would be having another lockdown or the tier system that we are now living under. The long and the short of it is that this issue is dedicated to COVID.

I have heard COVID likened to an unwelcome guest who comes to stay; you didn't want them to come in the first place, but they came, and now they won't go and you are stuck with them. At least at the time of writing, the new COVID vaccines are starting to be available, so there is possibly hope for a return to some form of normality sometime next year.

COVID has forced us into new ways of working and communicating with friends and colleagues. John has done an Area Reps meeting using ZOOM, which was a great success by all accounts. Maybe this will be the new norm for future meetings.

There has been some discussion "behind the scenes" about the future of WES News. Options discussed included reducing the frequency to 2 or 3 times a year, changing the format to a newsletter, with possibly one issue a year in the current format as an annual. Feedback from readers is that people like the current arrangement, with a PDF copy 4 times a year. Based on this I hope to continue this current arrangement. However, this does depend on people sending in articles, news reports, show reports, and even area reports (even if it is to say nothing is happening in the area). Please send them to me **in good time** as having everything arrive in my in-box on the last day runs the risk of something getting missed

Some people have said they would like a return to the printed version in the post. Sorry folks this is unlikely to happen. The reason that the printed version was stopped, and the WES news changed to a digital format was primarily cost. I have done a very quick, and probably not accurate, guesstimate of the cost per member of going back to a printed copy and it is around £50 a year per member. WES, like many societies, is struggling to maintain its current membership and putting the membership up by that amount would almost certainly reduce the membership. So, this option is a non-starter.

If someone really wants a printed copy, the current format has been designed so that if you print it double sided you will have a printed copy that is as close as possible to the previous printed version.

The other change is that it has been decided that WES News should be an opt out magazine rather than the current opt in situation. This is because it currently only reaches approximately half of the membership. So, if you have suddenly found WES News in your in tray and don't remember requesting a copy this may be the reason.

I am hoping to have a letters section, and a for sale and wanted section where members can advertise items for sale or look for items they want. I think this should be a members' perk and do not intend to charge for private adverts. My "spare" western saddle is advertised there.

When I started putting this issue together, I was concerned that it would be a very thin issue as not much has been possible with COVID, the various lockdowns etc, so a big **"Thank You"** all those who have managed to organise an event, and to everyone who has contributed to this issue. Please keep the articles, poems, anecdotes, Area and County Reps reports, and everything else for the magazine coming in.

Whilst on the subject of Area Reports I was saddened to read in the Area 3 report that Sarah and Pam are stepping down and they cannot find anyone to take on the Area Reps Job. Hopefully by the time you read this somebody will have stepped up to the plate and taken it on.



Preparing the magazine is a bit of a family affair. Whilst I put it together from what is sent in, my wife, Hilary, who is not a WES member and does not even ride, proofreads each issue and makes suggestions for improving the layout, etc. I should like to thank her for the effort she put in correcting my mistakes.

I hope everyone is managing to continue to enjoy their horses in these difficult times and is also staying safe and well.

Finally, may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a better New Year than last. If anyone is staying up to see the New Year in, please make sure 2020 leaves. Stay safe and well everyone.

Chairman's Report

By

Ann Hughes

Chris has dedicated this magazine to Covid Stories, so I am going to look back at a year that has been good, bad and downright ugly. I have had to, very sadly, cancel so many things throughout the year, but it has been good to see that the events that were held gave so much enjoyment to those that participated. Hats off to the guys that organised things, I am sure your reward was the smiley faces you achieved after all your efforts. It is something that we can take away as one of the good things this year, and with the feedback we have had, will possibly become something to take forward to the coming years.

It has been a rollercoaster of ups and downs for me, I started off the year with a torn ligament in my shoulder, not too debilitating I hear you say, but it meant I could not get the saddle on my horse!!! I was looking forward to going to New Zealand on March 17th, which was going to give the ligament a chance to heal having two weeks of rest. That was just before the proverbial ---- hit the fan. Had a call from my sister on the Saturday (14th) before I was due to fly, to say that New Zealand had just closed its borders to visitors, so unless you were prepared for two weeks quarantine it was a no-brainer, had to cancel. That was also the day I had to cancel the AGM. The stress of that weekend brought me down with Shingles, not something I would like to repeat.

Then the full lockdown, nothing much changed for me really, other than I lost my job, but things carried on as normal at home looking after the horses and the pack of dogs. I very much missed all the shows and clinics though, and was really looking forward to the Nationals, I was so keen for that to go ahead and was gutted when the college said it was not going to be open for business and even if they had opened up, the hoops we were going to have to jump through to adhere to the hygiene safety would have made it impossible anyway. Little did I know I would not have been able to compete anyway, as Chime had a bad one of her PSSM episodes (thanks to the local hunt) three days before it was due to start and she would have been in no fit state to go.

Another trip to New Zealand booked for the end of September, cancelled, again no flights allowed in. So, Chime obviously decided I needed something to do instead, and went and cut her fetlock joint open, quite a nasty one too.

So now we have reached November and both of us are almost back to full health, but no-where to go, although we do not normally do much during the cold and wet months of winter anyway. So looking forward to next year, does not look too promising at the moment, but we have a few months to hope that things can start up again, when we get to enjoy our ponies and meet the friends we have not seen for a year or so.

Wishing you all an early Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, and hope you all manage to stay safe and healthy, both two and four legged. We can only hope this wretched pandemic wears itself out and leaves us all in peace in the very near future that would be the best Christmas present ever.



Area Coordinators Report

By
John Ayles

Thank you all for your hard work you have carried out behind the scene's trying to arrange events during these very difficult times.

Some have gone ahead but most have been cancelled due to Covid restrictions, but all the work trying to sort out trainers/venue's carries on whether they go ahead or not.

We had a WES 1st this year with a Zoom Area Reps Meeting which was a great success, holding a Zoom Area meeting maybe the way to go next year (and its free).

Youth Officers / Virtual Show Report

By
Louise Hunt

Firstly, I would like to say Thank you to everyone who has supported the Virtual Shows & photo competitions! It has been a pleasure to organise and Judge these events.

Our Halloween show was fabulous, and it was so good to see so many of you make such an effort with fancy dress! The outfits & attention to detail were amazing!! Two new youth members participated, and one was our youngest WES member.

As you are all probably aware we are now running our “ Goodbye 2020 Virtual show”, which has a whole range of classes & levels, and David Hudspeth & Bob Mayhew will be Judging some classes too. We will be running a Hi point for each level and the person with the most points in each level will win a gorgeous Hi Point rosette.

I am also running a Festive photo competition alongside this so make sure you enter! It's only £1 per photo entry and the rosettes are stunning! (ask some of our past winners !)

We also have a special WES Christmas raffle, with the chance to win a hamper full to the brim of goodies, including a £10 voucher towards any WES approved event. Tickets are only £1 each or buy 5 get one ticket FREE! This will be drawn live on Christmas Eve. Tickets can be purchased by contacting me via email or Facebook messenger.

From feedback I have received the Virtual shows will continue especially as some people are unable to travel to events etc

Entry forms must be in by December 22nd for the Goodbye 2020 Virtual show, and video entries must be sent To the correct Judge by 28th December.

Youth members –

Our Virtual show series will continue again in January

- 1st - Entries in by [21st February 2021](#)
- 2nd - Entries in by [11th April 2021](#)
- 3rd - Entries in by [30th May 2021](#)
- 4th - Entries in by [31st July 2021](#)

This will continue as per before where there will be 2 patterns per show, and each rider will receive a certificate, rosettes, feedback & practice exercises.



Gill Raymond - Photo completion Fancy dress
Reserve champ



Diana Meryl Hicks - Photo competition Ranch
Winner



Phyl Drummond - Photo Competition Fancy
Dress winner



Jenson Broadhurst - Halloween Fancy Dress
winner & Pleasure class winner !



Nancy cooks winning Pumpkin Carving



Ann Hughes - Photo Competition Ranch Reserve champ



Phylis Drummond - Showmanship Photo show Champion



Paul Gallagher - Showmanship Photo Show Reserve Champion



RULES

- Videos must be filmed from where J is marked on patterns
- Any videos not filmed in the marked place will be DQ'd
- This virtual show will be run under WES rules (except that any Little Britches who wish to take part and do not have a western saddle may still join in. Christmas jumpers optional!)
- Videos must be sent to the correct judge by 20th December 2020.
- Videos will be judged on first view only
- A local ruling carrying a 10 point penalty will be applied for any prompting on pattern
- Videos must be of a good quality

PRIZE MONEY!

1ST PLACE - £5
2ND PLACE - £3
3RD PLACE - £2
ONLY PAID IF 6 OR MORE ENTRIES IN THE CLASS

GOODBYE 2020! WES VIRTUAL SHOW

Entry forms to be in by 22nd December & Videos to be in by 20th. Any queries contact Louise Hunt at Louiseh2015@gmail.com

CLASSES £5 EACH

NON MEMBERS UNAFFILIATED CLASS £7 PER CLASS

01

- A- Youth & Little Britches Showmanship
- B- Novice Rider Showmanship
- C- Amateur Showmanship
- D- Open Showmanship
- E- Unaffiliated Showmanship

02

- A- Youth & Little Britches Horsemanship
- B- Walk / Jog Horsemanship
- C- Novice Rider Horsemanship
- D- Novice Horse Horsemanship
- E- Amateur Horsemanship
- F- Open Horsemanship
- G- Unaffiliated (Non member class)

03

- A- Youth Ranch Horse
- B- Novice Rider Ranch Horse
- C- Novice Horse Ranch Horse
- D- Amateur Ranch Horse
- E- Open Ranch Horse
- F- Unaffiliated (Non member class)

04

- A- Youth & Little Britches Trail
- B- Walk / Jog Trail
- C- Novice Rider Trail
- D- Novice Horse Trail
- E- Amateur Trail
- F- Open Trail
- G- Unaffiliated (non member class)

JUDGES - BOB MAYHEW, DAVID HUDSPETH & LOUISE HUNT

Our Goodbye 2020 Virtual Show is all set, patterns and booking forms are now available. If you would like a booking form emailed please contact me via Louiseh2015@gmail.com



WES Christmas raffle hamper prize! Tickets can be purchased now 😊



Deadline for Next Issues

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

Issue 106 Friday 26th February 2021

Issue 107 Friday 28th May 2021

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

The theme for the next issue will be Winter and Spring. So Winter or Spring stories, Winter or Spring photos, etc. what about your winter highs and lows for a compilation? Don't worry if you have a off-theme article or story, all contributions gratefully received

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.

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 Thank you

Cover Picture

“Waiting for Santa” by Verity Thompson. Her range of cards and other things can be seen on her Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/VerityThompsonIllustration/?ref=page_internal

COVID Highs and Lows

A compilation

Daniel Gwaller

Low moment, taking a new horse and entering the western world, thinking I knew best and being fly bucked to the floor!!!

High moment, hacking the same horse outside of the arena and feeling the breeze on my face

Sara McKinnon-Snell

Low point was not being able to see my horse for 6 weeks in the first lockdown and receiving my new saddle after 7 Months for it to be returned to be re worked to the high point of getting said saddle and starting to ride again and enter Online shows !!

Vicki Holden

Hi all, my low point was having to have our 26 yo thoroughbred pts 🙄 My highlights were rounding up cattle with Chris Palmer and completing a 150km ride for research challenge during lockdown

Chris Palmer

My low point was when the vet told me not to buy Monty as he was lame (Bought him anyway) & Having my Billy Cook saddle pinched. 😊

My high points were winning the UKBHA Barrels/ Poles back in 2016 - Watching Carolyn compete in the speed trials on Monty - Rounding up cattle with Vicki & Tuffy & The Versatility Ranch Clinics at Bodiam International Arena

Rebecca Bendall



Low of having a cheeky loan horse that convinced me I couldn't ride and having real troubles with the correct canter leads 😞! Highs my husband buying me said loan horse and us finally clicking. We now do flying changes and everything (although we are both a work in progress) 🍷🍷🍷❤❤❤

Katheryn Seggie

Low has to be intermittent lameness and my saddle no longer fitting!

High has to be conquering hacking demons with my best friend and finally getting to explore the countryside!

Jo Gallagher

My lockdown Highs

During lockdown..far from being stuck indoors, myself and my other half took the opportunity to hack out together in the glorious summer weather we had on the quietest country lanes ever!

We had to be conscious of many cyclists and walkers that were also taking advantage of roads with no traffic .but on the whole it was so lovely to be able to ride out together without having to worry about traffic.

We also managed to take two of our horses to the beach three times ..which was well worth the hour and half drive.

The sea air is so wonderful and invigorating ..and you feel energised after spending a few hours there. These were definitely my Covid highs this year.





All the best for 2021!

2020 A year to remember

By

Kayreen Jones

Well we are here, the beginning of December heading rapidly towards a new year 2021.

Hopefully most of us will have got here intact, still sane and still have our horses and our social bubbles. Admittedly the social bubbles haven't done much bubbling! Most of us no matter where we are in the UK will have encountered massive changes to our lives this year. From losing people dear to us, losing contact with friends and family sometimes for months on end. It has been a difficult year for people in general. If you run your own business months of Lockdown saw businesses crumble and just when we thought we were on the up!! Another regional, national or area lockdown to push us all back down into semi seclusion and reclusive state.

To start with the hours exercise seemed great and I have seen more people out "exercising" than I have ever seen. Coupled with additional litter, camping in bizarre places and people not aware of how to cycle past horses nor walk their dogs past them! Has proved interesting and no doubt for some difficult and tense moments. Not seeing friends and having that social network to have a coffee or a pint with has been difficult for all and intolerable for some.

However, I have to reflect on what I have written above! The first paragraph is very reminiscent of horse training or coaching in general. We think we are on the way up, make changes we think will work and then bang out of the blue we are back to square 1 and seem to be regressing in our training rather than progressing. I suppose this year has given us all a time out, time to reassess how we live our lives, what is important to us and with no or very little events to go to we have had more time to inwardly focus and perhaps change something we do or think or reassess a training plan or relationship that has not been working.

Despite me writing last time about my mare that I bred I thought we were back on track sorted out our demons and moving forward full of expectation for next year....woo hoo roll on 2021!!

Hmm in the middle of the year I decided, after 17 years of being at the same livery, to move. Never in a million years would I have thought this would be emotionally such a hard thing to do. I had to admit that in order for me and my horses to move forward, stop treading water and progress both personally and professionally I needed to go somewhere else. Where I was is really hacking heavenuntil lockdown. The push I needed was being told that I had to sell one of my horses as she was chasing loose dogs in her field!! I am not going into it any further however suffice to say in this case that mare was non-negotiable and within 24 hours I had found a new yard and by the end of the month had moved. This really made me realise I had to get braver, take some chances and stop making excuses. Things I am VERY!!! Good at.

So, moving the horses to a new yard let me really see more of their personalities they were now in a smaller area and more dependent on me for companionship, food and a change of scenery each day. Previously they had been in a herd of 8 horses, so I was really an inconvenience. Now I was an active member, and the switch was immediate and powerful.

The horses I had thought of as standoffish and very confident turned out to be very affectionate and enjoyed spending time with me. Favourite game became chase mum with the wheelbarrow and tip it over and run away! Often, they would just hang out with me walking with me as I poo picked, stopping when I stopped but engaged and interested in what I was up to.

At least two were, my older mare could not cope, was on high alert all the time and even after 6 weeks was unsettled, looking to the horizon and agitated.



New Pastures

Like us in Lockdown she missed her friends, her pair bond in the herd which turned out to be not my other two horses! She missed hanging out, eating grass and I don't know watching the sun go down.

It was very marked and more obvious after all I had been through in lockdown myself. Like me she could cope with the normal day to day stuff go to work, saddle on go for a ride come home make tea sort of stuff. But ask her to change or do something different and her strategy was not the coping mechanism I thought it was and it appeared as fight or flight.

Moving her back to her old herd was not an option, I spent a lot of time with her going over the same training, groundwork etc. to build her confidence only seemed to be pushing her away more. The last straw was a meltdown in the middle of the road and we looked at each other and both knew there was no way forward.

I suppose I am talking horses here but I know a few relationships who have had the same moment over the last few months! Really, we are not complicated at all. Fight or flight, run or stay and see what will happen or decide to find another way. We are just like our equine companions; the only difference is we complicate things with too much humming and hahhing and self-doubt. We seem to have lost that gut instinct that animals have, we try to keep everyone happy and instead of being happy ourselves make ourselves miserable because we are scared of change.

We expect our horses to adapt and just move on to new things but really after this year let's look at ourselves and how adaptable have we been?

Probably not very if you choose to look at Facebook. Humans don't like change, it unsettles us, so why do we expect our horses to embrace change? New routines, venues, new trail bridges, metal gates instead of rope gates. Different buckets, different feeds, clipped, non-clipped rugs on rugs off! The list is endless. But.... Put ourselves in their place and think of this year how have YOU done? Take a minute to reflect.....



So my mare? She has gone to a friend on loan so she can hack on in a non-pheasant environment, with other horses and so we can have a break from each other. I have raised a beautiful, well rounded horse from birth, backed her, taken her out and about and had a lot of fun. But now she needs something more that at this time I cannot give her. It was a hard, emotional and traumatising decision for me but a no brainer for her.

I was still humming and pondering when the transporter arrived to collect her, and I loaded her. With tears in my eyes, I shut the door.



The transporter, who I have used a fair bit with my horses and clients, turned to me and quite succinctly said "braw horse hen, but no for you. You've done a great job now let her go and do the job you bred her for with someone else"

So I reckon this year what have I learned? Patience, being comfortable in my own company better IT skills (I can now work ZOOM) that really I don't do change well either but with the right support and the right input and moving forward and not back I will get there or we will get there. I am probably a bit horse myself.



Smell the flowers, step back and move on.

So I moved on, I have two lovely young mares and I bought a nice (just backed English, highland gelding) I do like a challenge! I am at a nice yard with nice people and I can let down and breathe. But.. I need to remember when we ask our horses for these changes and get cross when they don't "get it" think about this year step back a bit and breathe, think why may be we need to present it in a different way a bit like 2020 being presented to us!

Roll on 2021!

Area 6 Show

By

Mandy Hawkins

(WES Area 6 Rep)

Our first event of the year was the Area 6 show which was held on 15th and 16th August. We had originally planned a pre-show clinic on the 15th but due to the rescheduling of the American Paint Horse Camp from earlier in the season we decided to just have the show instead.

We had one class of Freestyle Reining on Saturday evening and the main show on Sunday. Who knew we had so many Freestyle reiners in Area 6.....We had 8 entries in freestyle reining! It was a really fun evening with a great atmosphere and a variety of music ranging from Black Beauty, to disco, to The Beastie Boys and pretty much everything in between.



The Freestyle Reiners

The early hours of Sunday morning brought some heavy rain but by the time we started the show at 10am it had pretty much dried up and remained fine all day, the thunder and rain started about 15 minutes after the last horse left the arena, so perfect timing all round! I must mention and thank our judge Bob Mayhew and his clerk, and our show team, Show Manager Bruce Lawrence, Announcer

Tina Lawrence, Show Secretary Lynne Stanley, Ring stewards Ros Sheppard and Stephanie Oakley and Freestyle reining clerk Dani O'Brien for all their hard work.

We had several members who were new to showing but the support and help given to them from other members was absolutely amazing, what a great bunch of people you all are!



Helen Smitham and Mister Smart Dancer at their first ever WES show



Claire Law with Pearls Margarita at their first WES Show



Camilla Mascall with Goldies Star riding in their first reining Class

AREA 6 SHOW RESULTS

Freestyle Reining (8 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
2 nd	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons
3 rd	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law
4 th	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
5 th	Smoking Money Pit	Nicole Sherwood
6 th	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
7 th	Goldies Star	Camilla Mascall

DQ	Glo Whiz It	Julie Magnus Hannaford
----	-------------	------------------------

Open Showmanship (4 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Lone Guns O'Lena	Ally Brimble
2 nd	Earlys Rising	Verity Rollinson
3 rd	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law
4 th	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham



Walk Jog Trail (9 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Woodbuc Skipped Socks	Mel Riley
2 nd	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
3 rd	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
4 th	Lone Guns O'Lena	Ally Brimble
5 th	Goldies Star	Camilla Mascall
6 th	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
7 th	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
DQ	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons
DQ	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law

Walk/Jog Pleasure (9 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Lone Guns O'Lena	Ally Brimble
2 nd	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
3 rd	Woodbuc Skipped Socks	Mel Riley
4 th	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
5 th	Earlys Rising	Verity Rollinson
6 th	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
7 th	Goldies Star	Camilla Mascall
8 th	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
9 th	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law

**Youth Trail
(No Entries)**

Novice Rider Trail (6 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Miss Peek A Boom Etc	Yvonne Allen
2 nd	George	Camille Geisz
DQ	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
DQ	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons
DQ	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
DQ	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham

Novice Rider Pleasure (7 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
2 nd	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
3 rd	Woodbuc Skipped Socks	Mel Riley
4 th	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
5 th	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law
6 th	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
7 th	George	Camille Geisz

Novice Horse Trail (8 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	George	Camille Geisz
2 nd	Smoking Money Pit	Nicole Sherwood
3 rd	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
4 th	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons
5 th	Miss Peek A Boom Etc	Yvonne Allen
6 th	Goldies Star	Camilla Mascall
DQ	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
DQ	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown

Novice Horse Pleasure (5 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Step Along Dynamite	Andrea Dickens
2 nd	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
3 rd	Goldies Star	Camilla Mascall
4 th	Miss Peek A Boom Etc	Yvonne Allen
DQ	George	Camille Geisz

Open Pleasure (2 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
2 nd	Step Along Dynamite	Andrea Dickens



Walk/Jog Horsemanship (11 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Earlys Rising	Verity Rollinson
2 nd	Woodbuc Skipped Socks	Mel Riley
3 rd	Lone Guns O'Lena	Ally Brimble
4 th	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
5 th	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
6 th	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
7 th	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law
8 th	Glo Whiz It	Julie Magnus Hannaford
9 th	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons

DQ	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
DQ	Step Along Dynamite	Andrea Dickens

Novice Horse Ranch Riding (3 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	George	Camille Geisz
2 nd	Smoking Money Pit	Nicole Sherwood
3 rd	Miss Peek A Boom Etc	Yvonne Allen

Open Ranch Riding (No Entries)

Youth Horsemanship (No Entries)

Novice Rider Horsemanship (6 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Glo Whiz It	Julie Magnus Hannaford
2 nd	Miss Peek A Boom Etc	Yvonne Allen
3 rd	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
4 th	Skipalena	Lee Parsons
5 th	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
6 th	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons

Novice Rider Reining (6 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Glo Whiz It	Julie Magnus Hannaford
2 nd	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
3 rd	Pearls Margarita	Claire Law
4 th	Lone Guns O'Lena	Ally Brimble
5 th	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons
DQ	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham

Open Horsemanship (1 Entry)		
Place	Horse	Rider
DQ	Smoking Money Pit	Nicole Sherwood

Novice Rider Ranch Riding (5 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	George	Camille Geisz
2 nd	Kernow Rhapsody	Sally Brown
3 rd	Miss Peek A Boom Etc	Yvonne Allen

Novice Horse Reining (6 Entries)		
Place	Horse	Rider
1 st	Smoking Money Pit	Nicole Sherwood
2 nd	Step Along Dynamite	Andrea Dickens
3 rd	OT All Eyes on Me	Mandy Hawkins
4 th	Glo Whiz It	Julie Magnus Hannaford
5 th	Mister Smart Dancer	Helen Smitham
6 th	Steady N Fast	Colin Parsons

Open Reining (No Entries)

Photos from the show



Freestyle Reining Mandy Hawkins and OT All Eyes On Me



Open Showmanship and Open High Point Winner Ally Brimble and Lone Guns O'Lena who also won Walk Jog Pleasure



Walk/Jog Trail Mel Riley and Woodbuc Skipped Socks



Novice Horse Trail, Open Trail and Novice Horse Ranch Riding Camille Geisz and George



Novice Ride Horsemanship, Novice Rider Reining and Novice Rider High Point Julie Magnus Hannaford and Glo Whiz It



Novice Horse Reining Nicole Sherwood and Smoking Money Pit

Area 6 Summer Camp

By
Mandy Hawkins
(WES Area 6 Rep)

Our second event was the Wes Area 6 Summer Camp originally planned for June but rescheduled for 11th to 13th September. We had 3 groups of riders each riding twice a day on Friday and Saturday and then once on Sunday morning. The format was slightly different this year due to the extra measures in place to comply with Covid regulations, meals were on a take away basis and socially distanced but thanks to Tina we were all extremely well fed. I am not used to eating 3 meals a day with deserts every evening but we were worked hard by Bruce which helped us burn off a few of the extra calories we had consumed.

All riders and their horses made a lot of progress over the 3 days thanks to his expert tuition even my line dancing has improved marginally since last year! I still don't have a clue which is left or right though!

The annual area 6 Camp is probably the most popular event of the year with places usually selling out within a matter of a couple of days of dates being announced, Area 6 members always get offered places before it is advertised elsewhere so keep an eye out for next year's dates and be sure to get in quick if you are interested. Even if you have never attended a camp before, if you are nervous, if your horse is a bit green please don't worry, don't be shy as I can assure you the camp is always brilliant fun, everyone is really welcoming and supportive no matter what stage of your journey you are at and you are guaranteed to learn loads. Unfortunately, I only have a few photos of this year's camp but if I come across any more I will try and share them.



Our wonderful hosts Bruce and Tina Lawrence



New to Western Victoria Perkins-Campbell and her horse Princess taking part in their first WES Camp.



Helen Smitham got to have a go on Smartie, I think it was the highlight of her year judging by the smile on her face.

As mentioned earlier we are incredibly lucky to be welcomed to the home of Bruce and Tina Lawrence at Valley View Ranch for some of our events so for those members who haven't managed to visit there yet I thought you may like to see a couple of photos of the facilities on offer there. As well as an extremely large outdoor arena, a 20 x 40 warm up arena, a round pen, a cross country course, a canter track, permanent and temporary stables, a camping field, bunkhouses they now have planning consent to cover and extend their top arena and install a sliding surface.



Permanent stables



The training barn



Part of the cross-country course



The cross-country course and part of the arena



The cross-country course and part of the arena



The Canter track



The saloon bar



The saloon tables



The carpark and camping field



The Bunkhouse



Some of the temporary stables

Tuffy's Adventures

*By
Victoria Holder*

The adventures of Tuff, Dude and Vicki – a year in lockdown together

So after what has been a rather strange year for everyone and a pretty rubbish year for us last year due to Tuffy's injury, on reflection it has probably been the best year for Tuffy and I since our partnership began. We may not have competed much but being fortunate enough to still be able to see Tuffy every day despite the lockdowns, I have spent more hours in the saddle this year than ever and we have really had some adventures together.

I have always been a very 'Happy Hacker' but this year hacking took on another meaning for us, being able to really explore our new surroundings together both on our own and with friends. At the beginning of the first lockdown we moved to a new yard which is surrounded by a 450 acre woodland and a 20 minute drive to the beach – perfect! It has been an absolute joy to see the changing of the seasons as we ride through the beautiful forest and fields.



As we were hacking out together so much I decided to try and complete a 'Ride for Research' challenge with a friend. Tuffy and I completed 150km in a month and raised over £200 for Cancer Research. We went everywhere that month from the beach to Bewl water and all around Battle. Tuffy definitely earned a few extra carrots!



As the lockdown continued into the summer we made the most of the lovely sunny weather we were fortunate enough to have and as soon as we were allowed to venture out, Chris Palmer and I took the boys to my friend's dairy farm to play around with the cows. Tuffy absolutely adores working cattle and Chris soon learnt that Monty did too! We bought two herds in for milking and herded up some young stock in the fields. It was only during our last lope towards home that Chris nearly came a cropper as Monty spooked at the chickens!



As the end of summer approached, we competed in our first show in 2 years at Lazy G, Willow Farm. It was a great day, not because we came home with a few ribbons, but because it was the first time in a very long time we had been able to get together with all our western friends and spend time doing what we love. After hearing of our success, my mum even plucked up some courage and came to have a ride on Tuffy at the stables. It was the first time she'd been on board for over 30 years! It had been quite a busy summer for Tuffy and he enjoyed a well-earned week off whilst I was away in the New Forest!



It was a bittersweet summer for us though as during September we lost our 26 year old thoroughbred, Lloyd, who I loaned for many years. It was a very sad day, but we felt comforted in the knowledge that he lived a good life, was loved by many and enjoyed his few years of retirement in the field. He will always have a special place in my heart.



As autumn approached and the weather turned, we continued with our hacks, even managing to fit in a cheeky ride to the pub before it closed for the second lockdown. Tuffy loves a cider! We attended a few WES clinics and I organised a group trail ride around Bewl Water (although Tuffy decided it would be a good time to pull a sickie so I had to cycle it instead). We took part in a ranch versatility clinic at Bodiam with Doug Allen which was fantastic, and we also joined a local medieval re-enactment group where we practice skills at arms and mounted combat. We hope to participate in local events next year so watch this space!



So after what has been a fairly uneventful year for most, looking back, Tuffy and I seem to have made the most of it and kept ourselves busy! It has certainly helped me to keep sane in these difficult times. I hope 2021 brings more of the same plus a few more WES events and shows that we can attend. Bring it on!



An Important Lesson

By

Danial Gwalter

I think its safe to say that by this point in the year we have all come to understand that 2020 was not as expected. For the most part, 2020 was dominated by a global pandemic resulting in disappointment as events and activities planned throughout the year were bought to a resounding halt.

For me, however, I count myself incredibly lucky as in 2020, I fulfilled a life long dream to join the western world, own an American paint horse and commence my journey as a western trained natural horseman.

At 44 years old you may think that this is simply unachievable, however, I live in an English dominated equestrian family, in fact, my Wife (Mrs Dan) has been a keen eventer for over 30 years and as such I felt well-positioned to make this transition.

My 2020 began with a huge recognition that if I were ever to achieve my dream, I had better learn the basics of riding (I mean, how hard could it be!). I found a local western trainer and commenced my education enjoying the process of learning a new skill.

As the year progress, I joined forums, social media groups and western affiliations meeting hundreds of people (virtually) and consuming as much knowledge as anyone was willing to impart.

I studied people I respected and sought to learn how they understood horses, the biggest problem, however, was that without a horse of my own I was beginning to feel like my progress was becoming hampered as I could only take so many lessons per week and with no way of practising outside of the school, I was beginning to get frustrated.

I reached out to the western community through Facebook and was amazed at how many fantastic, experienced and helpful people were willing to chat and give advice. My search for an American Paint horse had officially begun.

As the weeks passed by I started to find suitable horses and even went to see them, unfortunately, none of these horses matched the picture I had in my mind and there lies the problem, I grew up in a world



with western movies, with tall men riding beautiful horses and looking great. It was this nostalgic memory that I was searching for and it was beginning to feel like an impossibility.

And then it happened, out of the blue, a respected western trainer and judge reached out to me with a photograph of a Paint horse named George. It was at that moment that I knew I was in big trouble! George was “that” horse and on paper was exactly what I was looking for, as the days passed I became increasingly excited at the thought of owning George and this feeling simply heightened when I went to see him in the flesh.

After a bit of a rollercoaster ride of emotions that is commonplace when purchasing (or selling) horses I was overjoyed to become George’s new owner and my equestrian world was complete.

You would think at this point that life would be plain sailing but let's be honest, its 2020 and the journey continued.

My first session with George in the saddle I learnt that well trained western horses are completely different from those that we ride in riding schools. It is safe to say that in the first hour of riding George my cues were terrible, my balance even worse and as such, I encountered my first unrequested lope and fly buck. I also encountered my first contact with the ground and a sense of dread, had I bitten off more than I could chew?

Session number 2 was not dramatically better, albeit on this occasion I saw the signs and dismounted at pace before the fly buck caught me again.

It was at this point that I recognized that I needed professional help a trainer and teacher, after all, I could not expect great point scoring judging if I disgracefully dismounted in this way. I reached out to a trainer who is local to our yard and asked for help. I explained the situation and she agreed to come out and school George to see what was happening.

When she rode George a big part of me wanted him to fly buck (to excuse my novice status), the other prayed that he didn't. It won't come as a surprise to learn that George, when ridden by a competent rider, is a genuine sweetheart, well balanced, keen to please and beautiful to watch. The challenge had become clear, become a competent, balanced rider, understand what my horse needs and provide it consistently.

From this point forward I worked with my trainer each week to school George and teach me, going back to basics and rebuilding the confidence that was lost in the early stages (never under estimate how badly a fall can damage your confidence).

The journey continues and I am sure that I will have more to share in the future, but, for now, what have I learnt so far?

I have learnt that there is no short cut to success and that pride really does come before a fall. The western world is full of helpful, experienced people so just ask.

In the months that I have owned George I have learnt so much more about horses and the essence of horsemanship, I have met many amazing people each of whom have taught me something new and unexpected. But ultimately, I have learnt that horses operate on trust and confidence and that if you are not able to instill these qualities your relationship with your horse will be hampered.

Lastly, I have learnt one lesson that George’s former owner gave me in conversation after my disgraceful dismount. At the end of a serious and heart-wrenching conversation she said to me “Daniel, I want you to remember just one thing and it is very, very important.” I listened intently awaiting a pearl of wisdom on which I could build my riding skills, she continued “Dan, at all times it is very important that you keep the horse between yourself and the ground!”

So here I am, still learning every day but ultimately I am just trying to keep the horse between me and the ground and so far this is working well for me.

More to follow in future months.



Pony Mad Girl

By
Stephanie Goodacre

She'll grow out of it the grown-ups said
Just a phase, it'll pass when she meets a lad.

Baby steps, holding on a red rail
Horse on wheels, white mane and tail
Neddy Daisy with glass bead eyes
Sturdy steady, my first walk n ride.

Ignoring dolls or girlie dress
My outdoor life of mud and mess
TV with Mister Ed, My friend Flicka,
Champion, Bonanza and The Lone Ranger.

Weekly reading - 'Pony' magazine
In black and white, cover title on green.
Favourite books - Silver Brumby of course
The main character has to be a horse.

No 'My Little Pony' in that day and age
I tried Julip model horses, all the rage
A Thunderbolt horse was better by far
12 inch high, my western palomino star.

What to do if you don't have a horse
Invent an invisible one of course
Patchwork Clown, my imaginary mount
Galloping, jumping, and no mucking out.



At last they sent me for riding lessons
Saturday mornings, pony heaven
Coming home smelling of horse and hay
After grooming, saddling up and away.

She'll grow out of it soon, the grown-ups sighed
just a phase? I'll leave you to decide.....

12 Equestrian Days of Christmas

*By
Anon*

We probably all know of the old Christmas Carol the 12 days of Christmas. Ever wondered how many gifts there are over the 12 days? I make it 365.

Some of us may even know of its Redneck version, the 12 Redneck days of Christmas.

But is there an equestrian equivalent?

Here is one idea

On the 12th day of Christmas my horse gave to me

12 Months of livery bills
11 Bales of hay
10 Bags of feed
9 Tubs of supplements
8 Vets visits
7 Shredded blankets
6 Entry fees
5 Tack shop sales
4 Feet to shoe
3 Vaccinations to do
2 New saddle pads
and
1 Empty bank account



Merry Christmas Everyone



Area Round-up

Area 1

Grampian and Highlands

By

Kathy Briggs

Although the summer passed without us being able to have clinics, play days etc, we did manage to get two clinics with Bob Mayhew in September and October. By the feed back , they were a huge success.

For a very sociable group, the restrictions due to COVID were very much evident, but that has become the norm for us all I'm afraid.....And the fact that we were able to go ahead at all is something to be grateful for.

However, I have high hopes that next year will be better; Clinic dates are already booked !!! The weather is going to be perfect and ***** COVID will be long gone. (Well, it costs nowt to dream !!)

As this is my last report as Area Rep. I just want to say a big " Thank You " to Area 1 for making it such good fun, and wish everybody a safe , & very Merry Christmas, and lets hope that 2021 sees something of a return to normality and us all being able to meet up again and have some great new adventures.

Keep Smiling,

Area 2

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire

By

Lesley and Michelle Surguy-Price

Area 3

Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire

By

Sarah Hamlin

You should all be aware now that Pam and myself will be stepping down as Area Reps next year, we originally agreed to take on the posts to keep our Area going, it has not been an easy job as despite our best efforts to organise a range of events in locations across our Area, the uptake was poor and the events never went ahead, this year has been no exception.

We currently have 25 paid up members with 383 members on Facebook, if you are not prepared to become a fully paid up member and take a more active roll there will be nothing to follow on Facebook.

We are actively looking for our replacements as Area 3 reps to keep our Area going hopefully through to better times ahead, and would ask all of our Facebook members why you asked to join our Facebook page if you don't wish to be a member and take part?

We are considering holding an AGM via Zoom in the next few week, if anyone is interested in taking part please let myself or Pam know.

And finally we would like to say thank you to the few who have continually attended our AGM's each year.

To date neither John, Pam or myself have had a single response

Sorry we don't have anything more positive from our Area,

Area 4

Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear

By

Jo Powell

Area 5

Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester

By

Margaret Kemp

It was with much regret that we learned of the resignation of Christine our Area Representative for several years. Christine has been a very able administrator and has efficiently organised and run 'with a smile' many shows and clinics for us to enjoy. We are most grateful for the time and effort she has given in our Area, she will be very much missed and we pass on to her our very sincere thanks.

Only recently taking on the Area representative's role I have been very fortunate with members not only volunteering ideas but also help and offers of organising pleasure hacks in both North & East Yorkshire. Sharing responsibilities within an Area is good and I am grateful to both Nickey Smith in North Yorkshire & Harry Scargill in East Yorkshire for taking on the Representatives roles in their respective Counties. Also very much appreciated is the continued support & help of our treasurer Gerri & the other County reps. Lesley & Georgina, whose Counties have been generally hit worse since March by restrictions.

What a disappointing year this has been for competitors with all shows being cancelled and few other events held. We replaced the September show, cancelled due to the Askham Bryan College restrictions, with a popular Autumn training clinic at a different venue, using our previously booked show judge, Scherie Dermody as the trainer. Fortunately, we managed a second clinic with Scherie in October but sadly our November event had to be cancelled due to a second lockdown.

As I write many of us will shortly be in tier 3, which does allow outdoor sports but as we are unable to cross boundaries, we have postponed the December trail ride (& hike) that member Bill Tait has planned for us in North Yorkshire. Bill, known as the 'Helmsley Cowboy', escorts British Bridleways rides in North Yorkshire and has recently published an excellent guide to the many rides in the beautiful varied countryside that one can find in that large county. It is excellent reading for anyone contemplating riding their horse in this beautiful area. With detailed instructions & maps of varied rides from the North East coast, across the Moors & Dales, all which Bill has negotiated himself several times. (check Ride Yorkshire Facebook)

For many years the Northern WES 3-day event held Easter time at Bishop Burton College near Beverley in East Yorkshire has been a must for all members keen to improve their western horsemanship and go on with confidence to enjoy some success in shows. Many say that it is a holiday due to the relaxation & socialising that is part of the event! Already booked for 2021 it will start 1pm on Thursday 1st April, through Good Friday & finish 5pm Easter Saturday. Longer distance travellers have later session first day and earlier on Saturday so time to drive home in day light and enjoy the rest of the Easter holiday with their family. This is like all events open to members from other Areas with convenient accommodation on the campus if required.

Our Area Annual meeting in January, will be different this year as Zoom is replacing our usual happy social gathering. But we have clinics booked after Christmas and we are already looking forward to 2021 season with the first show up in North Yorkshire to take place on Sunday 16th May at the Richmond Equestrian Centre.

How fortunate members with horses have been this year, with many of us able to ride out during lockdown – possibly more time as working from home reducing those travelling hours. A big plus also is being able to enjoy the company of our equine friends with no social distancing and to not only talk, but hug them, a real pleasure in the present situation!!

Very Best Wishes for a very Enjoyable (& safe) Christmas & a happy, healthy and ‘free’ 2021

Area 6

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

*By
Mandy Hawkins*

We have been extremely fortunate in Area 6 to have managed to hold some events this summer, whilst staying within the ever-changing Covid 19 regulations. I don't think any other area in WES has managed to host a show or a camp and we have managed to do both! None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the volunteer show team, the enthusiasm of the members and the help from everyone at Valley View Ranch who have been so welcoming and supportive to our members. We are so lucky to have such a fantastic venue with an excellent WES approved instructor within our area.

Our first event of the year was the Area 6 show which was held on 15th and 16th August. We had originally planned a pre-show clinic on the 15th but due to the rescheduling of the American Paint Horse Camp from earlier in the season we decided to just have the show instead.

We had one class of Freestyle Reining on Saturday evening and the main show on Sunday. Who knew we had so many Freestyle reiners in Area 6.....We had 8 entries in freestyle reining! It was a really fun evening with a great atmosphere and a variety of music ranging from Black Beauty, to disco, to The Beastie Boys and pretty much everything in between.



The early hours of Sunday morning brought some heavy rain but by the time we started the show at 10am it had pretty much dried up and remained fine all day, the thunder and rain started about 15 minutes after the last horse left the arena, so perfect timing all round! I must mention and thank our judge Bob Mayhew and his clerk, and our show team, Show Manager Bruce Lawrence, Announcer Tina Lawrence, Show Secretary Lynne Stanley, Ring stewards Ros Sheppard and Stephanie Oakley and Freestyle reining clerk Dani O'Brien for all their hard work.

Congratulations to one of our members Colin Parsons who has just returned from a show at Oakridge last week and rumour has it he had a blue rosette! Well done Colin and Woody!!

At the moment we have no more events organised yet, but I am hoping to pencil some things in as soon as the new Covid regulations become a bit clearer because at the moment they seem to be changing almost daily.



Area 7

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire.

By

Vicky Easton

Hi Everyone, not a lot to report again this quarter because of the Covid situation which I sincerely hope will rectify itself in the New Year. We can but hope!!

No clinics etc this quarter, but thanks to Louise Hunt the Virtual Shows have been a Godsend!! I entered all 3 virtual shows, which has kept me sane the past few months. Both Ann Hughes and Stephanie Goodacre entered a few classes too and I hope that a few of you others will enter the last show of 2020 which you can enter until 22nd of December.

Lots of classes, a big THANK YOU to Louise for organising them and Judging also to David Hudspeth, Bob Mayhew for judging and to Mick Carder for setting the Trail patterns and Micheal Langford for helping with the Youth members questions.

Take care!!

Area 8

Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex

By

Jo Gallagher

Although we have had two clinics cancelled, and had no Summer Training camp this year, for the first time in about 15 years! , we have been fortunate in Area 8 to have had a few events that thankfully could go ahead, and as we go into yet another Lockdown, I think I should report on what we have managed to do with our horses this year rather than what we haven't been able to do.

The first planned event that we were able to go ahead with was our organised Trail ride. This year because of restrictions, we had no BBQ afterwards.. but we did all enjoy a socially distanced picnic after what proved to be a lovely ride through fabulous woodland trails.



Our second event was one to one and pairs lessons with Alan Payne, which was well supported by members. Each pair of riders, or individual rider being able to work on a specific issue. I was able to work around social distancing restrictions by limiting the amount of participants at the venue at any one time, but organising timed sessions whereby those riders could arrive half an hour before their time, and then leave, so that we could maintain the 6 person rule.

This format worked well, and it was one we used again for another training session, this time with Tammy Greaves. Again each pair of riders were able to work specifically on their own issues which I think everyone found beneficial.

Area 8's newly appointed East Sussex County Rep Vicky Holden wasted no time in organising another Trail ride, this time around Bewl Bridge Reservoir, a route of some 13 miles, so not for the faint hearted. This again proved a popular event and attracted riders from West Sussex and Surrey as well as Kent.

I am also pleased to welcome another member to the Area 8 team, new County rep for West Sussex Rebecca Bendall.

I'm pleased to report that I have been able to secure dates in August for next year's Summer training Camp at our usual venue of Plumpton College, so we have at least one event on the calendar for 2021! Let's hope that things will be a little more normal by then and we can all enjoy ourselves.

With Christmas fast approaching I felt I should tentatively organise a Christmas get together and meal, so I have been able to reserve 12 places on two separate tables and a restaurant in mid Kent, and am hoping that as many as possible will attend.

If I am still here next year, then I look forward to catching up with you then.

Introduction By Rebecca Bendall
New County Rep for West Sussex

Hi my name is Becky, I just joined Wes area 8 just over a year ago and have just become County Rep for Sussex. I have a quarter horse called Whatta Smart Smoke, he is 14 and I have had him for just over a year. I originally rode English but fell in love with quarter horses and western riding around 6 years ago and have never looked back. Smoke and I have achieved some amazing schooling this year during lock down. He struggles with correct canter leads but together we cracked it! We are now a great team. He really is the most genuine little horse with a real cheeky character.

I have not organised anything as yet due to COVID but would like to help organise some clinics, rides or shows next year when life returns to a semi normal state! (whatever the new normal will be) I am looking forward to getting to meet some of you next year and attending some clinics etc.

If anyone in my area would like to see anything arranged please let me know and I will see what we can do. Hope to see you all soon



Area 9*Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk**By**Jo Turtle*

Area 10*Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire., Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire,
Warwickshire, West Midlands**By**Sarah Cameron*

Area 11*Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside**By**Kayreen Jones*

Like all other areas in the UK our last few months have been very quiet. We have been unable to make firm plans to meet up with the knowledge that any plans could be scuppered the next week. In Scotland the different councils can have different tiers so I can't go from East Lothian to Midlothian to ride but I can to coach. So as our members are so well spread out we have had very few opportunities to get together. As some of us are friends also we have used face time and Zoom to catch up but for a lot of us it has been a hard and lonely time. Worries about work or not working have kept most of us consumed and even at this point plans for later on in the year and next year are not even been talked about unless accompanied by "touch wood".

Some member took part in the August WES virtual show and I know some of us are planning to do the goodbye 2020 show. Good luck to all. However, there are some online opportunities to keep the horses



ticking over, some may wish to have a go at dressage. There are online competitions just say you are in your western saddle you won't get placed but you will get a score and gives something to work towards.

Get out hacking and wrack up those miles!! Join the trail ride scheme through WES as challenge yourself. If (like me) your IT skills have improved see about a virtual lesson or video an issue and I am sure your trainer/coach or, if you speak nicely to them friendly judge may be able to help. Please bear in mind you may need to pay something towards their time but discuss it with them.

A few of my area members have asked about an Area 11 challenge that could be virtual! Let me know if you fancy that and I can chat to my judging colleagues and see what we can come up with to keep us all going.

There is a new WES rule book which I will email out to members and changes to the Youths. I will get that out in the next day or so. I have noticed that we have lost a few members with people probably not re-joining because what is the point? Please reconsider in all areas in the UK I know times are hard and we all feel a bit down but don't let 2020 knock us down completely!

Anyone interested in Area 11 challenges let me know!!

Until we can all meet in person everyone take care. Our AGM will probably be via ZOOM! So, I will advise of a time and date but you might need to bring your own snacks this year!! Let's start planning a good 2021 and start goal setting now!!

Best wishes to all and roll on 2021!

Area 12

Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde

By

Patricia O'Reilly


Area 13

Dorset and Hampshire

by

Anne Batley

Event Notifications



RULES

- Videos must be filmed from where J is marked on patterns
- Any videos not filmed in the marked place will be DQ'd
- This virtual show will be run under WES rules (except that any Little Britches who wish to take part and do not have a western saddle may still join in. Christmas jumpers optional!
- Videos must be sent to the correct Judge by 29th December 2020.
- Videos will be Judged on first view only
- A local ruling carrying a 15 point penalty will be applied for any prompting on pattern
- Videos must be of a good quality

PRIZE MONEY !

1ST PLACE - £5
2ND PLACE - £3
3RD PLACE - £2
ONLY PAID IF 6 OR MORE ENTRIES IN THE CLASS

GOODBYE 2020! WES VIRTUAL SHOW

*Entry forms to be in by 22nd December
& Videos to be in by 29th.
Any queries contact Louise Hunt at
Louiseh2015@gmail.com*

CLASSES £5 EACH

**NON MEMBERS UNAFFILIATED CLASS
£7 PER CLASS**

01 A. - Youth & Little Britches Showmanship
B.- Novice Rider Showmanship
C.- Amateur Showmanship
D.- Open Showmanship
E.- Unaffiliated Showmanship

A.- Youth & Little Britches Horsemanship

02 B.- Walk / Jog Horsemanship
C.- Novice Rider Horsemanship
D.- Novice Horse Horsemanship
E.- Amateur Horsemanship
F.- Open Horsemanship
G.- Unaffiliated (Non member class)

A.- Youth Ranch Horse

03 B.- Novice Rider Ranch Horse
C.- Novice Horse Ranch Horse
D.- Amateur Ranch Horse
E.- Open Ranch Horse
F.- Unaffiliated (Non member class)

04 A.- Youth & Little Britches Trail
B.- Walk / Jog Trail
C.- Novice Rider Trail
D.- Novice Horse Trail
E.- Amateur Trail
F.- Open Trail
G.- Unaffiliated (non member class)

JUDGES - BOB MAYHEW, DAVID HUDSPETH & LOUISE HUNT

Our Goodbye 2020 Virtual Show is all set, patterns and booking forms are now available. If you would like a booking form emailed please contact me via Louiseh2015@gmail.com



WES Northern Easter Camp 2021

To be held at Bishop Burton College near Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 8QG

Starts 1pm Thursday 1st April through Good Friday to close 5pm Sat 3rd April

For sale and Wanted

For Sale

16 Inch Timberline Phoenix western saddle, with saddle pads, girths and accessories. The timberline is similar to an English Reactor Panel saddle with mobile panels that are meant to adjust to almost any horse http://timberlinesaddlecompany.com/Phoenix_P7P0.html



I bought this as my first western saddle for Brego but you do sit slightly higher off the horse than in a conventional saddle, so it has spent much of its life on a saddle rack and has only been used occasionally.

It is located in Berkshire and any buyer would have to collect

I am looking for £600 for it. If you are interested, please contact me on cpa.thompson@btconnect.com