



## Newsletter 5.

This is the fifth newsletter we have produced and, to date, they seem to have been well received; if you have any comments on topics you prefer to read please tell us. We have plenty of information to give you but confining it to four pages can be a problem because keeping it light enough to get past Post person Pat can cause us trouble. Hence the new format.

Officer Dru has started the campaign to educate the young people in the community, with schools attending Brimpts; where they took part in presentations and met the ponies. They were also taken on a short walk, with the ponies, around the various routes on the farm. Millford School also brought the very special children, who took part in the Jubilee Challenge, for their training with the ponies. We are convinced of the therapeutic value of working with ponies. To that end we have set up a programme called **Pony Power.**

THE Devon County Council outdoor education provider Devon Discovery has incorporated the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust's (DPHT) **Pony Power** programme into their extensive list of outdoor activities for school children. The two hour sessions help young people understand more about local cultural heritage and the importance of the environment with an emphasis on Dartmoor National Park.

The programme begins with a light background to ponies on Dartmoor before students are shown how to approach, catch, lead and groom the ponies.

"We ran a pilot test last week which went very well indeed" said Claudia Radmore of Devon Discovery.

"The emphasis is on building confidence and encouraging teamwork. It's not just about patting a pony - they learn stable management and have the chance to handle them."

With DPHT pack ponies the children are then taken on a one hour walk which includes the history of tin mining on Dartmoor with emphasis on archaeological remains, before having 30 minutes to handle the pony.

"We had one girl who was visibly shaking about learning how to catch a pony. The sense of achievement when she did it was just incredible - she grew in confidence for the rest of the session and all her peers were right behind her."

It is the charity's aim to work with a wide range of clients from schools, special needs students, youth offenders and visitors to Dartmoor.

Pupils from St Michael's Primary School, Kingsteignton had their first session last week.

"Our day can only be described as fantastic.

The children were so excited about going and it lived up to and was even better than many of their expectations. There were great activities to develop team work and patience skills. One child did not stop smiling the whole time. All they talked about were George, Charlie, Golden Flame, India and Rolo laughing about their experiences. **I would sum the day up as a unique educational experience and would recommend any school to get involved. To see the children's enjoyment and pleasure just summed up why I went into teaching",** said Kate Arnold of St Michael's.

**For more details on the Pony Power programme please contact Dru Butterfield on 01626 355314, or DPHT, Dartmoor, Devon, PO Box 397, Newton Abbot, TQ12 9AT.**

In April we held two Pony Power Days at Pennywell, thanks go to Chris Murray and his staff; where Vanessa Bee excelled herself by training, guess what? ALPACAS!!! in the round pen. We also took **Blue**, our new pack-pony, donated by Kerry Smith and John French and trained by Vanessa and Philip. He behaved himself admirably and should prove to be a sound asset for the charity.

In April, Michael Lees, the renowned local artist, visited the centre to prepare the outlines for a painting of Dartmoor Ponies from which the trust will benefit by way of print sales. Details next time. Jenni, "The Hat", organised a successful raffle at the Cockington Riding Club. She raised £60-00 on her own, well done Jenni.



We also had a demonstration of a unique piece of equipment called a Pony Saddle Chariot. We thought that this was a super fun idea and we hope to become agents for the manufacturer to sell them in the

South West. The picture shows Dru enjoying her first drive as a charioteer.

This month we will start the pony reviews with **Rolo**. He went to his maternal home farm, Holwell, where he, along with six others; was castrated. Philippa and Sebastian Hughes looked after us all so well and the ponies each had their own loose box for their operation carried out by Ullly Arnold, Veterinary Surgeon. Rolo had been really fired up lately and was becoming a handful to control. He would have minutes of madness then stand and look at you as if to say, what the dickens is going on? Joy and the other girls were disappointed that he was growing up and was no longer the little foal. He has blossomed from the proverbial ugly duckling into a beautiful young gelding. His summer coat is almost through and he has taken on the form of a true Heritage Pony while still retaining his gentle nature. He and **Charlie** vie to be first for attention and adore meeting the visitors.

Pto.

Here we must interject, with our second castration day report, this time held on a gloriously sunny day at Brimpts. We had three veterinary surgeons present with nurses and a whole gang of volunteers. Thirteen colts were operated on and all went home safe and well at the end of the day. The Vets. led by Hugh Peplow, and his staff all worked hard. Thanks also go to The Donkey Sanctuary for supplying the necessary drugs free of charge. Each pony had a volunteer guarding him while he recovered, and they were allowed how ever long it took for them to get up. The ponies were all operated on in a field and "family groups" were kept together to reduce any stress. None of the ponies were



physically restrained to have the injections to sedate them, as all had previously been accustomed to people and had been in a round pen with an experienced trainer and given a

basic level of handling. Thus proving that our methods do work. I won't show you the pictures of an op., I can see the men wincing from here, and yes, we had all the jokes.

**Charlie**, he is putting on condition as the new grass comes through, although, he is hanging on to his winter coat. He still adores attention and will still stand untied to be groomed. He finds travelling difficult and sweats up when confined; so we are working on short journeys in the trailer and visits to the stable to reassure him. He has recently been helping me to paint the fences with preservative, standing behind me resting his head on my shoulder.

**George** has been testing us with spells of non co-operation when being caught. He soon gives in because he loves to go for a walk and he also goes for trips in the trailer. He has been to events with Golden Flame and always behaves so well that we can forgive him his periods of teenage moods. His coat has come through and he looks a picture with his lovely bright bay coat and his black mane, tail and lower legs.

**Golden Flame**, still a bit portly but coming on, has a marvellous temperament and is dearly loved by all. She is the boss and now with a new pony, Blue, with little India here for a few days she is in her element. One look from her to the others which says, "don't even think it"; is enough to keep control.

**Starlight** has become more trusting of late and knows her place in our small herd. She is, however, showing signs of her other stifle giving notice of causing her problems. We will monitor the situation and should the need arise we will give her another operation. George is her half-brother and is not showing any of the signs of this trouble.

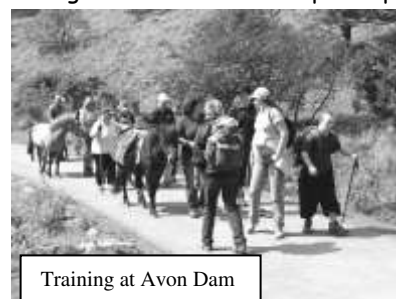
**Blue**, is as his name suggests; a beautiful grey who, in a certain light, is almost blueish. He came to us from Kerry Smith and John French both of whom are wonderful friends and supporters of our charity. He has been trained

to carry a pack-saddle by Vanessa and Philip at Positive Horsemanship and is settling in to the new herd very well. He has a lovely gentle nature with people but will not be pushed around by the other ponies, except Flame.

**Frosty**, another new boy, very aptly named, is also a grey and comes from the same farm and common as **Blue**. They know each other and have formed a strong bond. Frosty has a lovely gentle nature and is very responsive to command. He has been trained as a pack-pony and has been taken round the Tin Mine Trail with children. He is settling in with the hooligans very nicely.

On a different note they have all been wormed and treated for lice. I know that you will be squirming with that, but it is a fact of life. Our centre is in the heart of one of the wildest places in the country and we have all kinds of critters in the undergrowth, on trees and wandering around. The ponies all behaved very well when we treated them and we did not have to wrestle them round the paddocks. The lice feed on the dander (hence dandy brush) or scurf when the animal is shedding its winter coat. The need for good grooming becomes obvious here. Fortunately, we are told, that the little darlings don't like us so we are not at risk.

**NOW**, The Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge. Get your tissues out! Dru has achieved, through hard work, long evenings spent organising her team of volunteers and countless days training in the wet and cold the completion of an outstanding event and all the accolades she gets, she deserves. Thanks must go to Vanessa and Philip, Sarah and Nigel and Seamour Rathmore (Horse and Hound magazine) who, along with Dru, got the four ponies, Golden Flame, George, India and Blue around the eight mile mountainous course. The ponies were used as motivational tools to help the children from The Mill Ford School, Plymouth, to achieve a life enhancing walk, which for them, was the hardest thing they have ever done. The children are so special to us at the Trust and helping them is an honour. When they came up the last hill to the finish line, with smiles beaming across their faces, they were all cheered and clapped by the waiting crowd and there were tears rolling down the cheeks of proud parents and people who



Training at Avon Dam

did not know them alike. The achievement made by all the children in this event is immeasurable and is something they can be justly proud of. We, who are the able-bodied, can only

wonder at their courage. After the walk Golden Flame was at the rear of the trailer, about to be loaded, to go home; Joy and I approached the trailer from behind her, having been at the finish line. She had not seen us since she left Brimpts the day before; she raised her head, pricked her ears and whinnied; just as she does to us at Brimpts. She had picked us out from all the other people around her; how special is that?

Students and teachers from the College Henri Dunant, Royan, France, came to the centre in May and spent a lovely afternoon with the ponies and the volunteers. The children were extremely interested in all that we do and prepared some posters for us, which we have framed and are now displayed in the centre. The children took out an adoption on Rolo for the whole school.

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, a fundraising evening for the DPHT, organised by Sarah and Nigel, was held at The Globe Inn, Frogmore. Margaret Duffy and Ian Bruce sang folk music all evening. There was no entrance charge so people were invited to buy raffle tickets in order to make a donation to the charity. Ian had come down from Edinburgh and both he and Margaret gave everyone a superb evening. The Inn has recently been refurbished and is a no smoking house. The place was heaving and we would like to thank John and Lynda Horsley who run "The Globe" for letting us take over their brand new premises. Everyone had a wonderful evening and there were still people talking with Ian and Margaret when we left just before the witching hour. £284-00 was raised that evening, a superb result.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June we went to Pennywell for an evening handling wild foals. We took three yearling foals straight from the commons and Vanessa and Dru worked with them in two round pens. They were taught the basic foundation skills needed for their future work and we were able to lead them round the display area. They allowed us to pick up their feet and one, known to us as Scruff, loaded into a trailer and turned out to be a super little fellow. The evening was well attended and people were genuinely interested in our handling methods. The net profit from the evening was £120-00.

The picture shows Dru presenting a head collar to one of



the youngsters for the first time. He decided it wasn't too bad and wore it for the rest of the evening.

We also need **foster homes** to winter the foals from this season. Have you a field or land that we could use for Heritage Foals? Well fenced, fair grazing and a water supply. Please give Dru a ring 01626 355314 if you can help.

On the wet longest day, no, monsoon longest day, we went to The Miniature Pony Centre, Mortonhamptsead, to celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday with them. We took **Charlie** and His best friend **George** and they were both fascinated with their much smaller relatives. They behaved superbly and represented the Charity in fine style. Dru handled one of the Centres ponies who was reluctant to conform to correct behaviour. He later became a very easy pony after Dru had found his problem and Suzanne Dufty, the Stud Manager at the Centre, was delighted that he now behaved so well. She said, "I can now find him and his friend a lovely foster home". Thanks go to Kevin and Lisa Ginsberg for inviting us to their delightful centre on their memorable day. The birthday cake was superb.

#### **Forthcoming Events:**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July**, Pony Sale. Please see over for full details.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July**. Widecombe Farmers Market. We will have ponies and a stall there so come and see us. We would love to meet you.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August**, An "Open day" to incorporate a Pony Power presentation and walk around the Tin Mine Trails. The first walk will be from 11am until 12 noon. The second walk will be from 2pm until 3pm. Booking is essential as places have proved to be very popular. We will take a maximum of 15 children on each walk and they must be accompanied by an adult/parent. The cost will be £10 per child, adults go free. The tea-rooms at Brimpts will be open and all the ponies will be in the adoption paddocks. Even if you would rather have a lazier day do come and see your pony. Everyone is welcome and you can meet the volunteers as well, we are all quite good harmless and won't bite you.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. Widecombe Fair. We will be taking ponies to the fair and we will also have a stall so come and support the local farmers and do call in and see us.

Please check our website, [www.dpht.co.uk](http://www.dpht.co.uk) for future events or telephone Dru. 01626 355314.



# 'Dartmoor Heritage Pony Sale and Family Fun Day'

The Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust (DPHT) is running its 'second' annual sale of quality Dartmoor Heritage ponies on **Saturday 21st July** at Holwell Farm - TV's "Forgotten Farm", Widecombe-in the moor, Dartmoor.

The day's entertainment starts at 10.30am with some fascinating demonstrations of wild pony handling techniques from the well respected Vanessa Bee of Positive Horsemanship. Vanessa and the DPHT team will have spent an intensive week handling all ponies for the sale, the team will run 'handy pony' sessions demonstrating how easy the ponies are to handle and work with.

Also the opportunity to come and meet **TV celebrity Johnny Kingdom** who has been handling ponies with us in the run up to the sale and will even be trying his hand at selling the ponies he worked with later in the day.

An awesome falconry display will run late morning, a selection of eagles, hawks, falcons and owls will wow the audience with their aerial acrobatics.

Pony stock will be on view from 12noon and the sale will then run between 2pm - 4pm.

There will be a BBQ available with all meat being supplied from the Farm's butchery "Tor to Tor" and visitors will also be able to buy fresh Dartmoor meat to take home too. A selection of stands and stalls will also add to the occasion.

A selection of 30 halter broken ponies will be available, ranging in age from yearlings to backed six year old geldings and mares. Pony breeders will be on hand to discuss their ponies and suitability for your situation.

These tough ponies, born and bred on the Commons of Dartmoor make outstanding riding or driving ponies. They are also perfect for boosting a young rider's confidence; as they are surefooted and are known for their kind and gentle temperaments. They also make excellent conservation graziers and can live out happily all year round with minimal if any supplementary diet.

The Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust became a registered charity in April 2005. The trust has committed itself to raising awareness and the overall value of the indigenous Dartmoor ponies which have fallen into such steep decline. With less than 400 Dartmoor Heritage ponies on the Commons of Dartmoor they find themselves now rated at a critical level. The loss of their precious blood lines are cause for great concern, as these ponies fall ever closer to extinction.

However, there is a simple solution. By raising the value of the stock through handling and holding these specialist sales for more discerning buyers, we can encourage pony keepers to continue to breed them for the commons.

By investing in a Dartmoor Heritage Pony you are helping preserve the indigenous herds of traditional Dartmoor Ponies running wild and free on Dartmoor. Help the DPHT secure their future.

If you are looking for fun and a new family member, or would like to attend the sale with a stand please contact Charity Manager Dru Butterfield for more information and a Sales List on [dru@drubutterfield.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:dru@drubutterfield.fsnet.co.uk) or phone 01626 355314 or 01364 631250 Website [www.dpht.co.uk](http://www.dpht.co.uk)

Vanessa Bee of Positive Horsemanship who will be running demonstrations during the sale on handling ponies and supplying a range of equipment to help manage semi-feral ponies. For more information please contact Vanessa Bee on [mail@positivehorsemanship.com](mailto:mail@positivehorsemanship.com) or phone 01409 221166

Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust Registered Charity No.1109196

Background Information

## Mission Statement

The objects of the Trust are:-To preserve the indigenous Dartmoor Pony from extinction and to maintain its presence on Dartmoor, thus protecting our heritage for future generations.





**1,000 Acre  
site**



**Guided  
walks**

## DPHT Bellever Tor Appeal – Saving Dartmoor Heritage Ponies

The DPHT has secured grazing rights to 1,000 acres of land at Bellever Tor, Dartmoor. This offers us outstanding opportunities to develop our management plan to preserve the ponies. The site comprises some of the best heather heathland on Dartmoor, an abundance of archaeological features and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The land is a wildlife haven, which will benefit from Dartmoor Pony grazing.

This site enables the DPHT to mature young stock which will improve their value. But, most exciting is the opportunity to run a protected breeding program on this enclosed site.

Our main objective will be to manage the pony herds, maintain the fences and grass areas, protect the SSSI's and conserve the streams and wet areas.

Please consider the opportunities.

We can provide a reservoir of Heritage Ponies which can be returned to the moor for the benefit of our children's children; pack-pony walks through our own land and educational and recreational trips for all visitors.

We need to raise £15,000 per year to cover the daily costs associated with pony welfare and land management.

Help save our Heritage ponies and make a donation today.

Thank you,

Hoof print



**Adding  
value**

---CUT HERE---

Then return to: Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust. P.O. Box 397, Newton Abbot, TQ12 9AT. **Thankyou.**

☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ Other

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust.

**Gift Aid Declaration:** As a taxpayer I wish the Charity to treat this  
declaration as a Gift Aid Donation (Please tick box) ☐



**Breeding  
programme**

Your details: Title:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_



