

# Dates for your diary

## September

- 3rd- Burghley Horse Trials (3 day event) at Burghley House. Tel: 01780 484502
- 5th- Affiliated show jumping at Laughton Manor EC. Tel: 01529 497410
- 6th Senior affiliated show jumping at White House Farm. Tel: 07778 121653
- 6th Annual charity horse and dog show at Sheepgate EC. Tel: 01205 870236
- 6th Fun Show including showing, show jumping, hunter trial etc at Field Farm, Mumby.
- 9th Unaffiliated dressage (5pm) at Castledyke EC, Gypsy Bridge, Boston
- 11th Dressage clinic with Sarah Payne at Sheepgate EC.
- 12th Senior affiliated show jumping at Elms Farm. Tel: 01630 661314.
- 13th Unaffiliated summer dressage championships at Sheepgate EC.
- 13th Unaffiliated show jumping at LRAC, Kenwick Park, Louth.
- 13th Unaffiliated show jumping trailblazer and David Broom class at Elms Farm
- 13th Affiliated dressage at Laughton Manor EC
- 16th- Senior affiliated show jumping at Arena UK. Tel: 01476 591569
- 20th Pony Club hunter trial cross country at Hackthorn Hall. Tel: 01522 824524.
- 20th Hunter Trial at Elms Farm EC
- 20th Affiliated dressage at Horse World. Tel: 01673 849967
- 20th Unaffiliated dressage at LRAC Kenwick park, Louth.
- 26th Junior affiliated show jumping at Elms Farm.
- 26th- Affiliated dressage at Sheepgate EC.
- 27th Junior affiliated show jumping at Horse World.
- 27th Affiliated dressage at Elms Farm.



MY PONY

# Equestrian life in the county

*Welcome to another edition of Equestrian Life and hopefully there are not too many long faces now we are into another school year. Look on the bright side – it will soon be half-term again. In the meantime there is plenty going on in September and our diary is full of great events. Whether you are competing or cheering on from the side, have a great month of horse and pony fun.*

Words: Bernard Bale

## News on the hoof

Congratulations to Louth's Paul Burgess who has been having a great season with his two rides Freda Curtis and Ellie Curtis. Paul's success has known no bounds this season with many great eventing placings as well as the odd victory. Looks like it could be Paul's best season yet as he emerges as a rider capable of competing successfully with the best in the world.

## Spotlight on riding for the disabled

There is only one thing as good as riding a horse or pony and that is helping someone else to experience that same unique pleasure for themselves.

There are many ways that can be achieved but probably the best known is through Riding for the Disabled. Thousands of riders of all ages have been helped into the saddle through this wonderful organisation which has been going for some decades now and enjoys the patronage of HRH The Princess Royal who said: "It is lovely and very humbling to see the sheer delight of those being helped by RDA. Just to see such wonderful smiles on their faces makes all the effort completely worthwhile."

Could you help? Even if only a little? Why not contact one of our local groups. Here are the details:

Cleethorpes and Grimsby Group – 0845 241 4333

Jetna House Farm (Swinderby) Group – 0845 241 5377

Kesteven Group – 0845 241 5380

Lincoln & District Group – 0845 450 7058

Lincolnshire Wolds Group – 0845 450 7061

Louth Group – 0845 450 7132



# Straight from the horse's mouth

## TOP TIP

So you are determined to try a jump. Many experienced riders may scoff at such a sentence but we all wore L plates for a while and there are some who would dearly love to jump but simply find it hard to pluck up the courage.

There is no shame in fear so if you want to try a jump go for something small and undaunting. Your horse will wonder what all the fuss is about and will give you confidence as you bounce over the mini-jump.

As your nerves start to strain less at the thought of not having all four feet on the ground most of the time it is time to start looking a little more seriously at weight distribution. Your horse will not fancy the idea of jumping with a sack of potatoes either strangling him or perched precariously somewhere in the region of his hindquarters.

Perfect weight distribution – the balanced seat - comes with practice and basically means that you have to be flexible enough to match your horse's rhythm and keep your balanced weight just behind his shoulders. The same thing applies if you are at the canter or gallop but since we are talking about jumping in particular simply imagine yourself as the horse and think how you would best like to carry the weight over a jump.

If you are in a school with a big mirror take a look at yourself and your riding position. If not, ask a friend to watch you and tell you what you are doing right or wrong.

It is a shame not to experience the elation of clearing a jump so find the way that is best for you and give it a shot. Don't worry about falling off – the ground will catch you and your steed will find it hilarious.

Our Top Tip is to conquer your fears by trying the smallest of jumps first and then take a leap of faith – it could be the start of something big.

## Did you know?

The best handlers of Shetland Ponies are children. Both are nearer the ground and Shetlands will pull a lot less with children because they can hold a head collar from a different angle. Kids are also as bloody-minded as Shetland Ponies so the two can cancel each other out when it comes to a rugged determination to rule. Just like children, Shetlands are quite happy to be awkward, make constant demands and always be hungry. Just like kids really.

## PONY EXPRESS

Make haste and send us your news, photos, results and dates for the diary. Equestrian Life is interested in all things horsey so let us know what is going on whether you are a novice rider or an experienced carriage driver. Send to Lincolnshire Life, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW or email [editorial@lincolnshirelife.co.uk](mailto:editorial@lincolnshirelife.co.uk)



# Landrover Burghley Horse Trials

The Landrover Burghley Horse Trials gets underway this month but if you are wondering which day to attend, take a look at the provisional timetable for inspiration.

## Wednesday 2nd September

4.00pm Main Arena: First Horse inspection

## Thursday 3rd September

7.30am Gates open

8.00am - 9.30am Breakfast served in Members' Enclosure

9.00am Shops open

9.00am - 5.00pm Main Arena: Dressage

9.30am - 5.00pm Ring 2: Burghley Pony Club Team Jumping

## Friday 4th September

7.30am Gates open

8.00am - 9.30am Breakfast served in Members' Enclosure

9.00am Shops open

9.00am - 5.00pm Main Arena: Dressage

12.30 & 4.30pm Main Arena: Dressage Display

9.00am - 5.00pm Ring 2: Burghley Dubarry Young Event Horse Finals

12.30pm Ring 2: Stallion Parade

## Saturday 5th September

7.30am Gates Open

8.00am - 9.30am Breakfast served in Members' Enclosure

9.00am Shops open

11.00am - 5.00pm Cross Country

## Sunday 6th September

7.30am Gates Open

8.00am - 9.30am Breakfast served in Members' Enclosure

9.00am Shops open

9.00am Main Arena: Final Horse Inspection

10.30am Main Arena: Show Jumping (in reverse order)

12.30pm Main Arena: Displays

2.00pm Main Arena: The Band and Bugles of The Rifles

2.30pm Main Arena: Show Jumping (top 24 horses)

3.45pm Main Arena: Parade of Foxhounds

4.00pm Main Arena: Presentation of Prizes

From 9.00am -

Ring 2: P(UK) Mini Burghley Event Pony

Ring 2: Racehorse to Riding Horse (HOYS Qualifier)

Ring 2: P(UK) Burghley Event Pony Finals

