



Dates for your diary

- 3rd/4th Affiliated eventing at Oasby, Grantham.
Tel: 01949 829061
- 4th Affiliated dressage at Laughton Manor EC.
Tel: 01529 497410
- 4th Mini Hunter Trial at Kindesella Stud farm, Farlesthorpe.
Tel: 01507 462564
- 4th Burton Hunt Supporters Club Hunter Trial at East Firsby.
- 9-11th Affiliated dressage at Sheepgate EC.
Tel: 01205 870236
- 11th Unaffiliated show jumping at LRAC Kenwick Park, Nr Louth
- 18th Unaffiliated dressage at LRAC Kenwick Park, Nr Louth
- 18th 15+ National Dressage Championship open to all horses and ponies 15+
Tel: 01586 650180
- 18th Affiliated dressage at Elms Farm EC.
Tel: 01630 661314
- 18th Affiliated dressage at Horse World EC
Tel: 01673 849967

Did you know?

Mares are usually pregnant for 11 months – that's two months more than a human mum-to-be and they don't get a baby goody-bag at the end of it! Neither do they get a liking for gherkins with ice cream at two in the morning!

Equestrian life *in the county*

Welcome to October, that special month of golden trees and falling leaves. There is something very special about riding through a thick carpet of leaves that add an extra snap, crackle and pop to riding. Even horses and ponies seem to enjoy that unique sound of walking through fallen leaves.

The summer already seems so distant and it is not long before the clocks change and evening stable work is performed under lights.

However, the summer is not far behind us so let us not shut up shop and get depressed just yet. There are still many events in the autumn calendar and many of next year's summer events are already at the planning stage. Let's take a tip from our horses – they neither know nor care what time of the year it is. Just so long as there are peppermints in someone's pocket, the world is just fine.

Words: Bernard Bale

News on the hoof

Well done to all those from North Lincs Riding Club who rode so brilliantly in the British Riding Clubs National; Horse Trials Championships a few weeks ago.

Junior riders Charlotte Wood, Rebecca Pinder, Libbie Norton and Aby Glover came first in the intermediate team section and Charlotte capped the great weekend by winning the overall champion title on Ice Cool Lad.

There were also great performances from Sophie Trotter, Kristina Gains, Charlotte Kershaw, Sophie Brown, Ali Essex, Lauren West, Freddie Norton and Sian Williams.

The Burton Hunt Branch of the Pony Club has celebrated a great season which included an excellent showing at the Pony Club's National Novice Show Jumping Championship. Step up and take a bow Rebecca Bishop, Amy Elliott, Emma Sanders and Fleur Callaway not forgetting trainer Ian Bennett.

Lauren West is mentioned above but we have to mention her again as the Louth eventing rider has had a fantastic season with several major championship successes. A student at Nottingham Trent University Lauren had a busy summer with her horse Royal Highness. Her greatest triumph was winning a national championship at Draycott House Showground and just as you might expect, she paid tribute to her mount.

"I'm so happy with the season," she said. "Royal has never let me down, he has been fantastic."

South Wold North Pony Club, along with Lauren West, fared very well at the national championships. Libbie Norton, Will Jebb, Stephanie Lake, Fern Pickard, Sian Kirwin, Lily Price, Olivia Smith, Sophie Trotter, Georgie Frow, Ruth Holroyd and Liberty Nichols all represented the area well and there is a rumour that they considered buying a new trailer just to bring back the rosettes!

Spotlight on - South Lincolnshire Riding Club

Maybe it has only been going for just over four years but South Lincolnshire Riding Club has to be one of the busiest clubs in the country, affiliated to the British Riding Club and full of enthusiasm.

Throughout the year the club holds social events, competitions and demonstrations as well as arranging lessons and for all ages and grades of rider from novice to champion.

The club aims to provide riding for all as well as the development and

awareness of equine care.

Basically if you are in the south of the county and you love horses – even if you do not actually ride, you will find that the South Lincs Riding Club is just for you. Want to know more? Drop a line to The Club Secretary at 37 Middlegate Lane West, Frampton, Boston, Lincs PE20 1BX – or enquire at just about any stables in the area.

The South Lincolnshire Riding Club is well worth the enquiry.



Sisters finish seventh in world championships

Long Bennington sisters Sue Mart and Wendy Palfrey achieved an excellent seventh place in the world combined pony championships in Germany.

Support crew Erica Hine from Dry Doddington, driver Mart, back stepper Palfrey and horse Steppers Viceroy - nicknamed Zac - took on the world's best carriage drivers in the picturesque town of Greven.



Straight from the horse's mouth

TOP TIP

Just because the summer outings are over that is no excuse to put away the grooming kit. It is good to keep regular grooming and will save you a lot of work if you leave it until next March!

However, it does raise an often-asked question. My horse or pony's tail is so thick it is difficult to brush – what should I do?

You just have to take the matter in hand – or one hand to be precise. Don't try to brush with both hands. Just take the tail in one hand – whichever you prefer – shake it loose a little to get rid of some of the possible matting through broken hairs and then gently try to brush each strand with a body brush. Only a body brush will deal with a really thick tail – any other kind of brush will probably damage the hair – and you just have to put the effort into it.

There are some tail and mane conditioners on the market if you ask at your local tack shop but it might be worth trying an ordinary greasy hair shampoo to help.

Happy tail brushing!!

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



The Great Outdoors Schöffel

Schöffel Countrywear provides practical yet attractive outdoor clothing for men and women. This season, take to the fresh air and wrap up warm in this excellent range. From socks to coats you will find all you need this autumn.

