

BORDER HOLIDAYS AND HORSES – Adams Anchorage and New Cwm Farm Newsletter for December 2008



Greetings one and all, welcome to our December newsletter. Many apologies for the late issue of some copies of the September newsletter, my fail safe system unfortunately – failed. My son in law has now installed an idiot-proof computer programme, which should solve the problem.

Seasons!

We are now having snow at the proper time – the snow in October was a bit of a shock, and totally unprecedented. Winter is magical. The trees heavy with hoar frost, followed by blue-and-golden days, the blue-black of a December night with its millions of stars (no light pollution here!), and the milky way like a sash of sequined lace. Tingling fingers and toes, and roaring log fires in the evenings. And a huge saucepan of stew. With dumplings. Bliss!



Four Footed profile

Bill – postscript.



Our number one working sheepdog, Bob, died recently. This means that little Bill is now our only sheep dog and the responsibility of working our sheep now falls entirely on his slender shoulders. He has willingly taken up the mantle, and on one recent cold horizontal-rain Sunday, Bill brought our flock back from grass keep on his own, with Richard following in the Land Rover, shouting the occasional instruction. Little Bill never faltered, and possibly because he is having to grow up fast, he has the potential to be the best working sheepdog Richard has ever had.

Hatched, Matched and Despatched

Bee Bee, our little chestnut mare, has gone on loan as a companion to a friend's pony.

Bob our best dog has been tragically killed by two cows (not ours) who mistakenly thought he was a threat to their young calves. He was 8 years old and in his prime.



Bob had a lovely soft mouth - Richard could signal out a ewe to Bob, who would catch her by the wool on her neck and hold her until Richard got there. Bob was a sensitive soul, and if Richard shouted at him too much, he would go and sit in the back of the land rover – sort of “stuff you”. Bob was an exceptionally good working dog. We miss him.



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No Such Thing as Bad Weather – Only Wrong Clothes!

We do get a lot of weather in this area, and you have to dress accordingly, and preferably in layers. I personally dislike trousers. I prefer skirts, and if it's cold I just pull on another one. Someone may ask me "How cold is it Nancy?" and I could reply "Three skirts". Four skirts is seriously cold, but in the heat of the summer I may wear only one skirt. As a dress!

In the same vein, the father of a friend of mine measures journeys in cigarettes. "How far is it Dad?" "Oh, about four fags."

Newcastle village show

The recent Garden Show in Newcastle was a resounding success.



There were competitions in handicrafts, baking, vegetables, flowers, and photography.



The event was so successful, this turned out to be the First Annual Garden Show!



Live Music!

In a rural area like this, we tend to make our own entertainment to a large extent, and every weekend and most Wednesdays, there are live acts at The White Horse Inn and The Sun, in Clun. There are open mic nights, and acoustic jam sessions, so that everyone can join in. On sunny days some musicians practice outside in The Square, treating the locals to "music while you shop"!

December

- 1 & 2 – Royal Welsh Agricultural Winter Fair, Builth Wells
- 6 – Bishops Castle Christmas Lights Festival & Street Party
- 6 – Craft Show at St John the Baptist Church, Bishops Castle
- 6 – Welshpool Winter Festival
- 13 - Newtown Male Voice Choir, Kerry Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 – Concert of Music for the Christmas Season, St John's Church, Bishops Castle 7.30pm
- 14 – Newtown Santa Run
- 14 – Clun Ramblers Christmas walk & lunch
- 15 – Christmas Lights Switch-On & Carols, The Square, Clun. 7pm
- 17 – Clun Ramblers/Perambler walks Clun Memorial Hall 10am
- 17 (&22/23rd) Carol Singing around Clun 6.30pm
- 18 – Ludlow Race Meeting, 12.40pm.
- 19 – Carol Service, St George's Church, Clun, 7pm.
- 20 – Bishops Castle Farmers Market, Town Hall, 9am – 2pm
- 21 – Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Bettws y Crwyn. 6.30pm.
- 21 – Quiz Night at the White Horse Inn, Clun, 9pm.
- 24 – Christmas Eve Crib Service, Clun 3pm
- 24 – Midnight Communion, Clun. 11.30pm
- 31 – Clun Ramblers/Perambler walks and pub lunch at White Horse Inn, Clun, Memorial Hall 10am.

January 2009

- 1-5 – Festive Crafts, The Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, 10am-4.30pm
- 4 – Quiz Nights, White Horse Inn, Clun, 9pm.
- 7 – Clun Ramblers/Perambler walks, Memorial Hall 10am
- 14 – Clun Ramblers/Perambler walks, Memorial Hall 10am
- 17 – Flicks in the Sticks, Clun Memorial Hall 7.30pm
- 17 – Bishops Castle Farmers Market 9am-2pm at the Town Hall.
- 21 – Clun Ramblers/Perambler walks Memorial hall 10am
- 21 – History Group – Kerry Bowling Club 8pm
- 28 – Clun Ramblers/Perambler walks Memorial hall 10am.

February

- 14 – Flicks in the Sticks, Clun Memorial Hall 7.30pm

See website for updates.

If you would prefer not to receive this Newsletter, please let us know by email, snail mail or phone.