

## BORDER HOLIDAYS AND HORSES – Adams Anchorage and New Cwm Farm Newsletter for September 2009



Hello one and all and welcome to our September newsletter. Another strange summer - flaming June, followed by a soggy July and an indifferent August. We are promised an Indian Summer, let's hope the pundits are right. It was a good year for wasps. I have dealt with four huge nests and several smaller ones.

September brings the appearance of daddy long legs, and the blooming of the sweet heather and the Michaelmas Daisies - in Welsh their name is Ffarwal Haf - "Goodbye Summer". Our last family of swallows fledged on 1 September from their nest in the hay bay. Let's hope the babies are strong enough to make their epic journey to Africa for the winter.

### Seasons!

Autumn is perhaps the best time for walking in this beautiful area, with its sights and sounds and smells. The weather is not too hot at this time of year, and when the mist rises, the visibility is often crystal clear. The horse chestnuts are the first to start to change colour, regrettably fewer conkers this year. Loads of rowan berries this year, which means rowan and redcurrant jelly with the Christmas turkey!

### Anchor & District Pony Show '09

Held this year in the stunning location of Dai Gardner's hill on the Kerry Ridgeway, it was well supported by local horse owners. The Welsh Cob class was particularly good, as you would expect here in the Borders (see picture above). I helped out with the organisation, but Richard had to give it a miss as he was frantically getting the hay baled up. In the end we had a good crop, but it was a bit of a scramble owing to the weather.

The Pony Show is run as a charity in aid of the Air Ambulance, which any of us in this area may need at any time. During the Cross Wales Walk in June, a lady walked into the Anchor Inn car park having completed the walk, and collapsed. The air ambulance landed in a field adjacent and took the patient to Shrewsbury in the shortest possible time.

### Hatched Matched and Despatched

Richard's big bay mare, Nipper, had a lovely little chestnut foal on 9 June, and returned to the same skewbald stallion soon afterwards. We had been hoping for a coloured foal, but bay is a very strong colour and the stallion would have to have the homozygous gene, i.e. guaranteed to throw coloured to any mare, for Nipper to have a coloured foal. Better luck next time!



Deadly Derek was sold to a nice young lady who lives near Hope under Dinmore, south of Hereford. She wanted a safe hack, and Derek fitted the bill admirably.

Danny, an experienced 14hh pony has been sold to a novice lady nearby to ride out over The Beacon with her friend.

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### Lambing Season???

We had a real shock on 11 August - a fresh lamb! Blackberry, one of our eldest ewes (without a tooth in her head) had a beautiful theave (female) lamb.



Presumably Blackberry was not in good enough condition at tugging time but after a winter indoors stuffing her face on haylage and corn, the sparkle returned to her eye!

### Someone very kind . . .

A friend comes to help me with the garden at New Cwm Farm. On hot days she turns up wearing a low cut vest top and short shorts. Short being the operative word - I've seen knickers bigger than that. Come to think of it I **wear** knickers bigger than that. As far as underwear is concerned, big is beautiful in my opinion.

### The Old Farts



Bonnie and Daisy, aged 36 and 37 respectively.

### New Wheels

My new car is a youthful 14 years old. A Fiesta. Cayman Blue it says on the log book. A cayman is a South American alligator - I didn't know they came in blue. Certainly more of a lady than the Astra, although she can be somewhat coquettish. For example, there is a coded ignition key, allegedly an anti-theft device, and I spend an average of five minutes grovelling and begging it to start. As a result I tend to leave the engine running when I get out of the car rather than waste time pleading with it to restart later. Not quite what the manufacturer intended I think.

### Forthcoming Events

Sept 19/20 - Bishops Castle Michaelmas Fair: [www.michaelmasfair.co.uk](http://www.michaelmasfair.co.uk)

Sept 26 - Flicks in the Sticks at Clun Memorial Hall: "Young Victoria"

Oct 2 - Harvest Festival at St Mary's church, Bettws y Crwyn, followed by Harvest Supper at the parish hall.

Oct 2-4 - Clun Valley Beer Festival: [www.cvbf.co.uk](http://www.cvbf.co.uk)

Oct 4 - Shropshire Mines Trust walk from Snailbeach to Blakemoorgate: Tel. 0300 060583.

Oct 17 - "The Best View in England" declared John Osborne. Guided walk around Clun. Tel. 01588 674080.

Oct 17 - Flicks in the Sticks at Clun Memorial Hall: "Sleep Furiously"

Nov 14 - Flicks in the Sticks at Clun Memorial Hall: "State of Play"

Dec 5 - Flicks in the Sticks at Clun Memorial Hall: "Last Chance Harvey"

