

## BORDER HOLIDAYS AND HORSES – Adams Anchorage and New Cwm Farm Newsletter for Spring 2010



Hello everyone, here (rather tardily) is the Spring 2010 newsletter. The delay has been caused by the production of our latest brochure. This was easy to conceive but difficult to deliver, and every mother will know what I mean!

Thank you for all your Christmas cards and seasons greetings, and also for the many kind wishes for Richard's recovery. He continues to improve, but it will be a while before he's back on a horse.

### The End of an Era.

Last December we lost dear Bonnie (Katherine's first pony) at the age of 36. She lay down under the big ash tree below the stables and made it clear she didn't want to get up. We, of course, respected her wishes, and Katherine and I were both with her when the kind lady vet gently put her to sleep. There were many tears shed and much alcohol consumed that night.



We were privileged to share our lives with this wonderful pony for 22 happy years, and she was guest of honour at Katherine & Mike's wedding in 2004. Bonnie's passing has left a huge void that no other pony could even begin to fill.

A tribute page will appear on the website in due course.

### Seasons!

Another real winter! Apparently the coldest for 31 years, it was certainly the snowiest around here for a very long time. I had to fetch out my Really Serious winter coat and padded ski trousers (there are times when even four skirts isn't enough!) My car was snowed-in the garage for several weeks; I forgot what colour it was. Ah yes, alligator blue.

We had guests in Sycamore Cottage over the festive season, and the white Christmas made their holiday even more memorable. I have enjoyed the winter with its exquisite beauty, but it has been difficult getting to feed the stock, especially as Richard was still incapacitated. My hay bay roof collapsed under the weight of snow, but with a cherry picker, some new timbers and a telegraph pole, my favourite builder was able to effect a lasting repair.



But no matter how hard a winter may be, the wonder of spring inexorably follows. We have had the pleasure of many weeks of snowdrops during the long cold spell.

March came in like a lamb – gorgeous sunny weather - but it was dry, dry, dry. The parched land ached for rain and when it came, sweet and refreshing, it took over a week before the fields began to show welcome green tinges. I understand snow is forecast, will March go out like a lion?

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### Lambing Season

As I write our lambing has just started. We only have 54 to lamb this year, including 16 hogsgs (last year's lambs). All the hogsgs are expecting singles, and although the scanning of the ewes only revealed one three, several of those scanned for doubles (twins) have produced an extra lamb! Short term the ewe can probably manage to feed them all, but as the lambs get bigger and demand more, we either have to supplement with bottle feeding, or remove one lamb to rear on the bucket, and leave the ewe with a more manageable double. We were very impressed with the "Lambing Live" programmes on television with Kate Humble and Adam Henson. Lambing really is just like that!

The lamb born last August is called Tiny Lamb, and she is delighted to have some playmates at long last. Compared to them she is not tiny at all, but they don't seem to mind.



It is lovely to see the ewes with their lambs out in the fields in the sunshine.

### Forthcoming Events



The next big event in this area is the Clun Green Man Festival over the three days of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May), comprising a medieval street fayre and lots of live music. There will be maypole and Morris dancers, and the traditional

battle with Frostie, the Snow Queen, on Clun Bridge. The Green Man has to win; otherwise there will be no summer in the Clun Valley!

See [www.clungreenman.org.uk](http://www.clungreenman.org.uk) .

After all the hustle and bustle of the Clun Green Man festivities, it's nice to come back up into the hills, to New Cwm Farm, or The Anchorage, and enjoy the peace and serenity of this beautiful place.

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

See our website for more diary events.



Exercising our dogs and grandchildren near The Anchorage.

### Comments?

We really do welcome comments of all kinds. We get many plaudits, which is of course wonderful, but equally we welcome suggestions for improvements, as we would much rather know why we have fallen short, rather than have guests vote with their feet.



Welcome spring flowers!

### New Brochure

I enclose a copy of our new brochure for your information, and we hope to see you soon!