

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



Greetings to one and all, and welcome to our Newsletter for Summer 2010. We had our most successful lambing ever, the ewes lambed first and it was like shelling peas. The 16 hogs (last year's lambs) which followed had a few problems, but they should be better next year. Unfortunately our sweet Beltex tup (ram) died, which was a great shame as the ease of lambing was probably down to him.

### The Beacon

Whereas this area is a wonderful place to be at any time of the year, the local wild areas of common land are better explored in the summer, with less chance of sinking in the mires!

Beacon Hill is a unique place, owned by The Crown Estates, subject to rights of "common" whereby local landowners (including Richard's brother-in-law) are given rights, for example, to graze livestock and cut bracken or collect stone, as well as a place on which individuals have open access for quiet enjoyment.



It rises to 1,800 feet, and from the highest point you can see Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons. Radnorshire Wildlife Trust's conservation lease covers 5,000 acres, with the mission statement "to preserve, maintain and enhance the landscape, historic and archaeological interest and flora and fauna".

The Beacon is criss-crossed by miles of footpaths and bridleways, where only the wind and birdsong disturb your thoughts, and has over 400 archaeological sites, the oldest dating back to around 450 AD

Why not take a trip to The Beacon and experience its beauty for yourself!

### Seasons!

After the dry spring, we now have flaming June, and farmers further down the valley are starting to harvest their silage and hay. We're a bit later up here in the hills, but let's hope the good weather will last. Summer of course, is the whimberry-picking season, which is something to look forward to.

Early summer is a lovely time, the crystal clear skies mean glorious views, and woodland walks provide a delicious coolness, with the scent of wildflowers and moist earth. Every morning and evening a blackbird perches high in the ash tree and sings his little heart out!



Springtime orchid

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### Recipe for Whimberry Pie

1-1.5lbs whimberries, picked over, washed and dried  
6oz sugar  
1 level tablespoon flour  
8ozs shortcrust pastry.  
Mix whimberries, sugar and flour.  
Line a 7"-8" pie plate with the pastry, fill with fruit mixture, and cover with remaining pastry. Glaze and bake Gas Mark 6 (200°C, 400°F) for 10-15 minutes, then Mark 4 (180°C, 350°F) for 25-30 minutes. Serve warm with a huge bowl of custard!

Variations:

Blackcurrants  
Redcurrants  
Blackberries & apples  
Gooseberries  
Rhubarb  
Apples

### Never Wert Birds\*

Bettws Wood near The Anchorage is recovering from a mass felling of trees a few years ago, and is now home to many pairs of skylarks. I walk the dogs through there most days, and the air is full of their distinctive song. This, combined with the breathtaking view and the freshness of the air, like a fine wine, makes me feel really blessed to live in this beautiful place, it's like a slice of heaven – truly food for the soul.

\* "Hail to thee blithe spirit, bird thou never wert."  
To a skylark by P B Shelley.



New Cwm Farm from Bettws Wood

### Daisy

Our oldest resident is Daisy, and after a bit of a health scare last autumn, she wintered really well, possibly due to the dense polar-bear coat she grows. She tends to hang on to her winter woollies until midsummer and as it gets a bit itchy, I gave her a good grooming with a curry comb. After half an hour the yard was ankle deep in fluff with no discernable difference to Daisy. Six year old Emma decided to finish the job, and thanks to her diminutive size, was particularly effective when brushing Daisy's tummy.



Daisy and Emma

### Hatched, Matched & Despatched

We have sold Eve, our potential show jumper, to a wonderful competitive home. She came third in her first competition, and she won the second! One of the teenage daughters is going to Hartpury College in September to do Equine Studies, and is taking Eve with her.

Our aim is not just to sell horses, but to place them in the right home, and it's so nice when it works out so well.

Cara, one of our paying guests – a skewbald mare of sofa-like proportions, died in February, following a short illness.

### Freesat TV

This area is due to "go digital" next April, and in preparation for this, Oak and Sycamore holiday cottages at New Cwm Farm have now been provided with Freesat television facilities. This gives access to 140 digital channels, radio stations and services, including HD and BBC iPlayer. New Cwm must be the most up-to-date early nineteenth-century cottage in the area!

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