

## BORDER HOLIDAYS AND HORSES – Adams Anchorage and New Cwm Farm Newsletter for Winter 2011



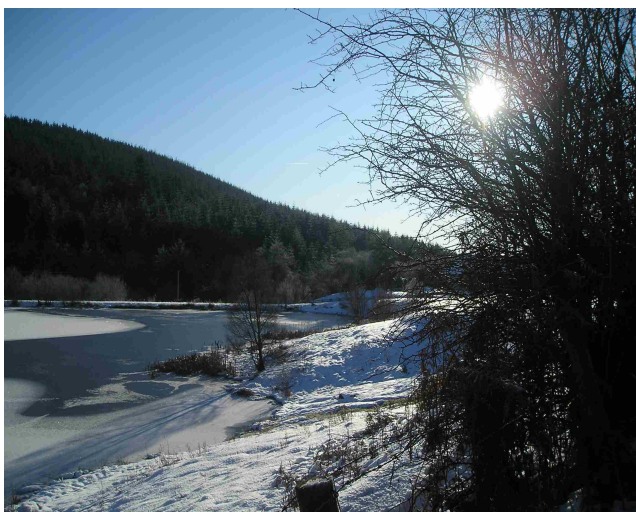
Seasons greetings to all readers, and welcome to our Winter Newsletter. We've had quite a lot of changes recently, more of that later.

The summer and autumn have been very dry nationally, but up here in the Blue Remembered Hills, we have had plenty of rain along with the mild temperatures. Our grass has never stopped growing, and is growing still! This has meant we have had lots of grazing, and our hay crop has been sweet and plentiful, quite a comfort as we face another winter. Let's hope we don't get the arctic conditions this time!

### Seasons!

It's difficult just now to believe that we're approaching December, the weather is so mild, and positively warm on some days. Autumn seems to be extending later this year, the trees reluctant to cast off their leaves, the mists settled in the valley in the mornings and clouds of chattering starlings.

Winter has a magical quality, with its amazing starry night skies, and blue-and-golden days. There's nothing better than a log fire on a cold evening, with a big bowl of home made stew and dumplings, and eating yourself to a standstill!



### Ringing the Changes

Following a review of the holiday cottages at New Cwm Farm we have had to accept that they were not profitable and have reluctantly decided to close the business. This is a great disappointment, as we have met so many lovely people over the past few years. One couple bought Oak Cottage a toast rack, the gentleman said they liked to buy their holiday accommodation a present! We would like to thank everyone who has stayed at New Cwm Farm, our lives have been enriched by meeting you.

The static caravans and campsite at The Anchorage will still be open from Easter to October each year.

### Trooper – male chauvinist (pig) horse

Misty's fourth foal is now a fine upstanding 4 year old. His dad was Drayton, a well known Thoroughbred x Irish Draught stallion. Trooper himself remained a stallion until a couple of months ago, and he is daddy to three sons. It could be the surfeit of testosterone, but whereas he tolerates men, he has always regarded women as an irrelevance. That includes me, and he's my horse!

Earlier this year, Trooper trod on a nail, or similar, and he was agonisingly lame – literally on three legs – for many weeks. The vet came time and time again, and said we should turn him out, but as you can imagine, I was embarrassed for people to see him. He was so bad, I feared he would have to be put down. Fortunately he has come sound, and Richard is riding him now. (The vet's bill was somewhere in the high hundreds!)

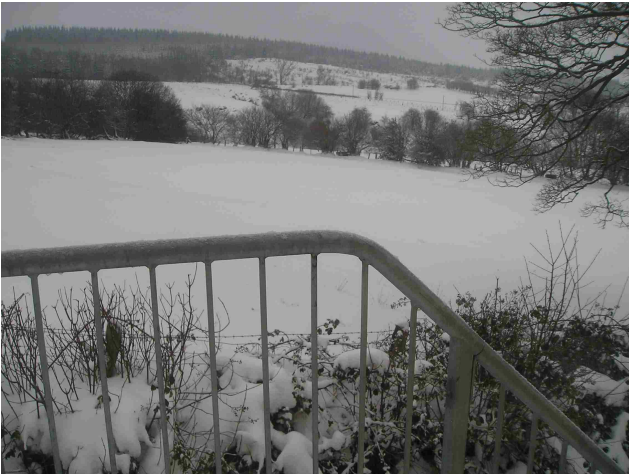
### Local Talent

The South Shropshire Hills is an area which is conducive to creative ability, be it painting, writing, poetry, or in the case of our neighbour, sculpture.

Jonathan Bytheway has the prodigious talent of (believe it or not) chain saw carving! He has the ability to see a piece of wood, and

picture the sculpture within, be it animal, bird, or a character from *Wind in the Willows*. His spectacular carvings cost from only £20 upwards. Contact him on 01686 670920.





### A Poetic Reminder

Sometimes . . .  
 When the rains gallop,  
 And the wind snorts through  
 The stable's widening cracks,  
 And my arctic fingers can't feel  
 To grip bucket and pitchfork,  
 I wonder why I'm doing this.

Then . . .  
 You shuffle your huge feet gently  
 Through the crisp straw,  
 Catch my shoulder with a nudge,  
 Breathe a warmth into my space.  
 And I know.

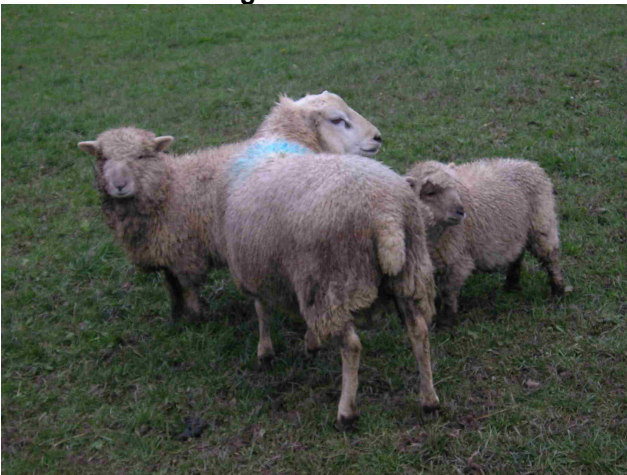
- Anon.

### My new-to-me Car

I have gone up market and now have a beautiful silver Mondeo. I call her my Young Lady, and she's quite a character. For instance she will lock or unlock the doors for no reason, so I have to take the ignition key with me whenever I get out of the car, or she might lock me out! She's just a push-fit in the garage as she's bigger than my last car. I must say I didn't realise how many silver cars there are until the first time I tried to find her in a car park. A few weeks ago I walked straight past her twice at the Stiperstones, and there was only one line of cars!



### Our three remaining lambs

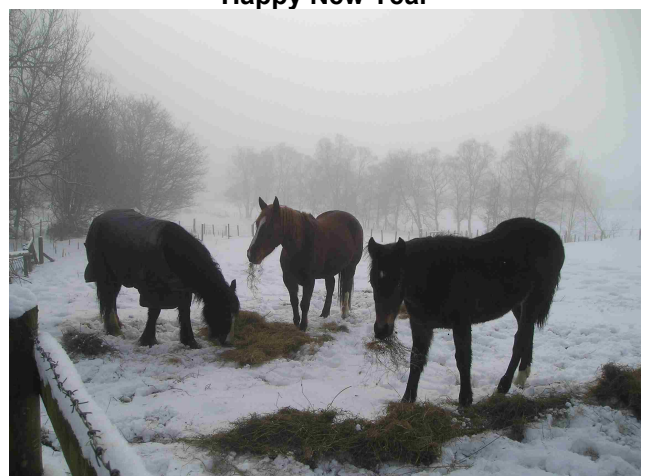


Small Lamb, Sunday Dinner and Tiny Lamb

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

Nancy Adams  
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**Merry Christmas  
 and  
 Happy New Year**



Thomas, Diamond and Dragonflye