

# THE CASPIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY



AUTUMN/WINTER 2013

# THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

*Registered Charity No. 1076026.*



**PATRON:** Mrs Ateshe Firouz-Larssen

**PRESIDENT:** Mrs Jane Holderness-Roddam CBE, LVO

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Mrs Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell

**HON.MEMBERS:** Mrs 'Jaffa' Jenvey, Dr Gus Cothran,  
Dr Shahram Dordari

**MEMBER EMERITUS:** Mrs Pat Bowles, MBE  
(Temp.Membership Secretary)

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**Mrs Ruth Staines (Chairman and Registrar)**

**Dr Rosemary Harris (Company Secretary,Breed Liaison Rep.)**

**Mr Ray Austin (Treasurer)**

**Mrs Elizabeth Webster (Co-Editor)**

**Mrs Vicki Shortis (Co-Editor)**

**Ms Janet Dedicoat (Council Member)**

**Ms Barbara Smathers (Council Member)**

**Mrs Helen Thirlby (Council Member)**

**Ms Penny Walster (Council Member)**

**Mr Chris Fluskey (Council Member)**

**Mr Farokh Khorooshi (Council Member)**

## ADVISORS TO COUNCIL

**Mrs Brenda Dalton (International Chairman)**

**Kay Taplin (International Registrar)**

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## LETTER FROM THE (NEW) CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

It is with some trepidation that I have taken on the chair of CHS! I have, as some have commented, been dropped in at the deep end, what with the Yorkshire neglect case and the changes in passport legislation after the horsemeat scandal. Both these subjects are reported more fully elsewhere in the magazine.



On a happier note, we have much to look forward to, particularly the fiftieth anniversary of the re-discovery of the Caspian breed in 2015. Colin Barker, the renowned photographer, is working on a prestigious calendar and other events are in the planning.

I am delighted to report that the CHS has been invited back to be a part of the show at Ashby de la Zouch again, on 13 July 2014. This will be their one hundredth show! I do hope even more of you will be able to bring your Caspians next year, it is so important that the public can get to see Caspians showing themselves at their best, particularly to counteract any bad impressions that may be left by the poor animals in Yorkshire.

For those who do not know me, I was introduced to Caspians by Louise herself: I was lucky enough to ride with her in Iran on five occasions. When I went out for the first time I was working for our local theatre and we were to produce Cinderella as our pantomime that year. I wondered if I could find a Caspian to pull the coach? Louise put me in touch with CHS, and the late Alan Whitley kindly offered me one of his, but in the end the logistics of distance and economics prevailed and we settled for a local white Welsh pony instead. But from then on I was sucked in.....

Best wishes,  
Ruth Staines

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## ON BECOMING PATRON OF THE CHS

**Ateshe Firouz-Larsen**

During one of the few quiet moments at the Ashby Show this year Elizabeth Webster took me aside and asked if I would become Patron of the Caspian Horse Society. I was quite at a loss for words because it was such an honour to be asked, but also because I was not sure if I would be up to the task.

Caspians have always been a part of my life. Growing up, we were either scouring the mountains of Gilan and Mazandaran looking for them or competing with them. Thanks to the Caspian I became a rider and have never looked back. My daughter, Leyla, was put on the back of our Caspian mare before she could walk.

I have wanted to become more directly involved with the Caspians for some time but the demands of our farm, my family and maintaining three horses at

international competition level precluded involvement anywhere else. But this was a too wonderful chance to miss. I do not take becoming Patron of the CHS lightly. I feel an immense debt to this amazing animal for all that it has meant in my lifetime. I also believe very strongly that we are at a turning point. My mother, Louise Firouz, is no longer with us and as such, the strength of her ultimate authority is no longer there as a beacon guiding us in the right direction. It is upon us to establish the proper guidelines and procedures for the different societies. This would ensure that the structure is strong enough to outlive personalities and would thus help safeguard the fragile future of the Caspian.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, 2014**

More information to follow in the Spring Magazine.

### **SHOWS:**

**MAY 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** (Wed. & Thurs) **SUFFOLK SHOW**, Trinity Park,  
Ipswich – CHS stand, Ridden Caspian Demonstration.

**JULY 13<sup>th</sup>** (Sun.) **ASHBY SHOW**, Heather, Nr.Ashby de La Zouch,  
Leics. **CLASSES FOR CASPIANS AND PART-BREDS**  
**GRAND PARADE OF CASPIANS AND PART-BREDS.**

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS:** (dates to be confirmed)

**MARCH/APRIL** - Spring meeting

**JUNE** - Summer meeting

**OCTOBER** - Autumn meeting

**JANUARY** - Winter meeting, usually Skype

**AGM:** Date to be confirmed.

*(Remember that Members are welcome to submit questions for discussion at Council meetings. Please ensure your question is notified to any Council member by seven days beforehand, if possible.)*

### **OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

Annual Subscriptions due

Copy date for Spring Magazine

**1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

Copy date for Autumn Magazine

**31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

Last date for Stallion Returns

Foals should be registered, micro-chipped  
and passported by 6 months of age or  
by 31<sup>st</sup> December, whichever is the later.

## **TWITTER OR NOT?**

Have you got Twitter? Nope.

Have you got FaceBook? Nope.

Have you got Whatsup? Nope.

What *have* you got? A life.

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## **THANK YOU, FROM THE OLD CHAIRMAN!**

**Liz Webster**

At the AGM in August, I announced my retirement as your Chairman, a post I have much enjoyed for five years. This followed directly after four years as ICS Chairman, so I felt ready to let somebody else bring new ideas. In all, I have been deeply involved with the promotion and preservation of Caspians for most of the last 42 years! But this is not the end – I will remain on Council for as long as they will have me and have again taken up the post of Co-Editor and typesetter of this magazine.



At the Autumn meeting of the CHS in October – Ruth's first as Chairman - I was delightfully surprised to be presented with a most beautiful photograph by Colin Barker of one of my favourite Caspians – Runnymede Fel Fel. This was inscribed with suitably gracious wording and now has pride of place at home. In addition to this – as if more was needed - I received a gift membership for the Royal Horticultural Society and plenty of vouchers to spend (from this you'll probably gather that my other interest is gardening!) I intend to thoroughly enjoy myself next Spring when I can make full use of both. Big thanks to all who gave so generously, I feel much appreciated, which is nice!

### **EDITORS - Vicki Shortis and Liz Webster**

Welcome to this Autumn /Winter issue of 'The Caspian' - not everyone's favourite time of year, with winter round the corner, but we have had a lovely autumn.

Liz and I have been very busy collecting copy for this addition. We have a very smart, eye-catching new cover and think you will agree that there is a wide variety of interesting articles to read, many thanks to all who have contributed articles for inclusion. Did you know that 'The Caspian' is sent to CHS members in the U.S.A., Australia, Sweden, Norway, Bermuda, Portugal, Holland and France, as well as the U.K.? We can also send it via email so members can read it on their iPads, etc.

We receive many compliments about this magazine, saying how much members look forward to receiving it. On Council we have been discussing the quandary of the cost of producing two copies of 'The Caspian' each year and whether some of this money would be better spent in some other way for the benefit of the breed? At the Spring Council Meeting it was decided that we should only produce one magazine per year, but we found it difficult to decide whether we should produce it in Spring or Autumn! There seems to be a need for it at both times. The magazine often contains archival content, which is interesting to record and recollect when reading back-copies.

But at the last Council Meeting we came up with the idea of finding a sponsor to help cover the production costs, so we could continue to have two magazines per year. The outside back cover would be handed over to the sponsor to advertise themselves. It could be the same sponsor for an agreed number of issues, or a different sponsor for each one. If any of you have any suggestion as to who might be interested, please contact Liz or Vicki. Also feed-back from you, our members, is highly valued.

It is great having Liz back as Co-Editor. Two heads are better than one, as we both think of different things to include. Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a successful, happy and healthy New Year from Vicki & Liz.

### **TREASURER – Ray Austin**

It has become necessary to investigate our banking procedures, as the service we have received over the last year from our current bank, HSBC, has been unacceptable. I have researched the services and costs of the major providers to find one that suits our requirements and one stands out from the rest. I am at present completing the paperwork to change to Barclays Bank, which should be completed for the change-over to take effect from the end of the year.

Between May and September, £15.00 has been credited to CHS via Easyfundraising. It's easy to log on when shopping - thanks to those who have done so. If more Members join them, we'll watch our total credits increase. Please log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) to see how easily we can raise more funds for the CHS.

I took over as temporary Membership Secretary from Vicki Shortis in the spring and have now spent many hours condensing all the details onto Excel spreadsheets. I am pleased to say that we have already welcomed some new members this year and there are several more in the pipe-line. The total membership is now 85 and I hope to get it back to 100 before I hand it over, so if any of you can persuade a friend to come and join our happy band I would be most grateful!

## **SECRETARY/BREED LIAISON REPORT - Rosemary Harris**

Unfortunately ill health of various sorts has meant that I could not operate in my usual way as Secretary. However, as your delegate to the BHS Horse and Pony breeds Society Committee, I have been able to keep tabs on a very interesting group.

Perhaps the most unusual piece of information is that ‘taking temporary leave of her senses’, its Chairman, Mrs Pat Campbell, celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by jumping by parachute out of a plane, presumably clasped by a stalwart and handsome partner! Her jump was completed successfully and raised over £2000 for BHS Welfare and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The CHS owes Pat Campbell a great deal of thanks for her interventions and advice on our behalf over the years.

The BHS Committee meetings have presented detailed responses from breed societies to the problems caused by Defra’s withdrawing all funds from NED and its somewhat optimistic expectation that PIOs would meet the bills instead. All breeds believe that an equine database is essential and that although NED’s demands were sometimes considered obnoxious, we shall all be the poorer without it. It is feared that groups who issue passports merely to make money out of them will do so at the expense of those who are interested in preserving accurate records.

## **REGISTRAR – Ruth Staines**

I have had nine deaths reported in the last six months, but five foals have been born to CHS members in UK this year - four fillies, plus Henden Bella’s colt. This mare was formerly owned by the late Brian Wood, our Bloodlines Adviser for many years. A purebred has also been born in the Netherlands.

I still cannot reveal the final passport legislation from EU, but draft legislation and guidelines are being discussed and there will be some changes in requirements for the makeup of the passports. I am hoping that this will not mean that we have to increase the fees. After the horsemeat scandal it is more important than ever to ensure that passports are issued within six months of a foal’s birth or December 31 of year of birth (whichever is the later) and that changes of ownership and deaths are reported within thirty days. There may well be more stringent checks, so please keep your paperwork up to date.

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## 2013 POINTS FOR PERFORMANCE WINNER!

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Well done to *all* our Points competitors this year! Ashby Show earned all competitors double points for any placement, so it was well worth taking part in the Points competition. Perhaps those who didn't remember to return their cards this year will take note for next time! We would like to see more of you taking part in any type of competition besides (or as well as) Ashby, to help bring Caspians out of the shadows and into the public arena. The main essential is to ask Helen Thirlby for a Points card at the start of the season and remember to fill it in, get it signed by show secretaries and send it in by October 31<sup>st</sup>!!

The result for 2013 is fairly inevitable, as they deservedly won the Championship, so particular congratulations must go to Points Winner Bytham Justin Time and his owner, Penny Walster. Penny will receive the Points Rosette and a treat for Justin!

### **WINNER: Bytham Justin Time- 96 points (Penny Walster)**

Runnymede Meteor – 69 points (Dreda Randall)  
Bytham Churchill – 42 points – Dreda Randall & Partners  
Lanhill Antimay- 39 points (Angela Leadbetter)  
Bytham Star- 35 points (Helen Thirlby)  
Bytham Oriole – 30 points – Dreda Randall  
Runnymede Fel Fel- 22 points (Penny Walster/Rosemary Harris))  
Bytham Lindsay- 20 points (J Duckett)  
Bytham Lucy Locket – 18 points (Dreda Randall)

### **ANNUAL CHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014 BECOME DUE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL!** (They can be paid from 1<sup>st</sup> January)

Please continue to help preserve and promote the Caspian Horse! CHS relies on your subscription to help fund the projects you read about in this magazine. Council members are all volunteers, so every penny goes towards the Caspian.

If you pay by cheque, please consider changing to payment by Standing Order. It saves reminders, is easier for everyone and can be easily cancelled. We even knock £2 off the annual subscription! Please ask Pat Bowles to send you a CHS form.

Please pay cheques to 'The Caspian Horse Society' and write 'Subscription' on the back. Send to: Mrs Pat Bowles, 22, Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham, NG33 4RJ by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Your support is very much appreciated.

If Membership Forms are needed, please contact [pat.bowles@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.bowles@btinternet.com) or telephone 01780 410908.

OUR NEWSLETTER is sent out to members by email, between the twice-yearly magazines. If you have not received one, please contact [v.shortis@sizzel.net](mailto:v.shortis@sizzel.net) to make sure that we have your current email address.



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## NOTES FROM THE ICS

Brenda Dalton (ICS Chairman)

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The north west of England is benefiting from a glorious late autumn. Blue sky is broken only by the sound and sight of V-shaped formations of thousands of Whooper Swans making their winter return to the reserve at Martin Mere. Spread across almost the entire sky they sometimes confuse the leaders of the flocks of Pink-footed geese, leaving the sanctity of the Mere to graze daily on the acres of vegetables grown abundantly in the nutrient-rich soil of the Lancashire plain.

The 'flight path' of some ICS member societies seems to be suffering the same confusion: which flock to follow. Obviously, the ICS will follow the democratic instructions of its members but the divisiveness of just a few people could spell the end of a communal set of rules that keeps the entire breed on the same path.

Louise Firouz' daughter, Ateshe, recently agreed to judge at the annual Caspian Show in Iran, which was usually judged by her mother. Whilst there, she took the opportunity to meet and unify the breeders and enthusiasts that I had been talking to in recent months. She also toured some of the studs and was able to report that they had some of the nicest Caspians she had ever seen. I am delighted to say that an extremely able and dedicated team will take up the registration of the Caspians in Iran. They will ensure the future of the authentic Caspian, following ICS rules, as set by Louise. The Caspian will survive in Europe, Scandinavia, the US and Australasia but will it be the Caspian that Louise intended? The American Shetland is an elegant, charming animal, but it is not a Shetland!

I am delighted and relieved that, at long last, Louise' memoirs are in print. The first manuscript was accepted by Penguin Books way back at the time of the Salman Rushdie affair. They held it for some years without publishing, due to the furore brought about by Rushdie's book 'The Satanic Verses'. It was accepted by a second publisher back in the 1990's but Louise was reluctant to add anything that might be detrimental to her beloved Iran and, again, the book was held back. I had negotiated the release of the manuscript just weeks before Louise died and had hoped to go to Iran to finish it with her. It was a privilege and a huge responsibility to finish the book. I hope she would have been pleased with the end result.

Having dealt almost solely with registration matters for twenty years, I originally agreed to return as ICS Chairman for one year in order to help set the path for the future. Now it seems that I may have to accept being a part of it for longer. 43 pure-bred Caspians were registered with the ICS from August 2012 to 2013.

We are inviting suggestions to improve the ICS website.

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On a Wednesday for the first time, seventeen members and five guests gathered on 28<sup>th</sup> August by kind invitation of Farokh Khorrooshi, at his film studio and home near Buckingham. The AGM Agenda covered all the usual items, during which, delegates heard reports from the Council officers:

Vicki Shortis had handed the job of Membership Secretary to Pat Bowles earlier this year. Pat has created a new database which currently lists around 85 members, so our memberships are rising steadily.

Secretary and Breed Liaison Secretary, Rosemary Harris, has unfortunately had health problems for most of this year and Chairman Liz Webster read out her report for her (see Council Notes).

The accounts were approved, subject to audit. Ray also requested that CHS change banks, due to on-going problems with HSBC and permission was given unanimously.

The Retiring Chairman, Elizabeth Webster, reported on a generally encouraging upward trend for CHS, which holds the stud book of origin for the Caspian breed, and its official acceptance as the senior Caspian Society. Despite the difficult financial climate in the horse world, we are gaining new members and keeping most of our existing members. CHS encourages owners to compete with their Caspians and to have more Caspians and part-breds broken to ride and drive.

The Caspian Gene Bank will need considerable funds to set up but is considered a vitally important step in conservation of a rare breed. All members are encouraged to fund-raise to help the work of the society and its projects.

Sadly she had to remind everybody that horse welfare was high on all horse societies' agendas. Caspians have suffered as much, if not more, than native breeds from the feed shortages and high prices caused by last summer's wet weather.

CHS attendance at Suffolk Show had unfortunately been blighted once again by wet weather and Council must consider whether to go again next year. However, Ashby Show's first Caspian classes were considered a great success by both Ashby Show and the Caspian competitors, so it was hoped that we would be there in 2014 with even better classes and more good weather. A continual tape of photographs taken at Ashby by Ruth Staines, Brenda Dalton and Colin Barker played throughout the day.

The Chairman was delighted to report that, while at Ashby, she had asked Ateshe Firouz-Larssen (Louise's 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter) to be our Patron. Ateshe had said that she would be honoured! As her mother was Patron until her death in 2008, this seems entirely appropriate!

Liz thanked the Council, who work so loyally for the CHS and Caspians. In her turn, she had reluctantly decided to retire from the Chairman position, but intended to continue on Council for the time being, as co-editor and typesetter of the magazine.

Voting results for Council places were announced, with Helen Thirlby, Vicki Shortis and Penny Walster being returned and Farokh Khorrooshi welcomed to Council.

Delegates expressed concern about the Caspian welfare case in Yorkshire. The Chairman assured them that CHS was fully co-operating with those in charge of it but sadly publicity was not permitted until the case was concluded. To a suggestion from the floor, it was decided to set up a Welfare Fund which would be dedicated to the rescue of such cases in future. It was noted that five of the horses had been rehomed by CHS members, and all were relieved that the owner was not a CHS member.

The AGM was followed by an enjoyable and mostly al-fresco lunch and wine, provided by Council members. After lunch, Farokh gave a fascinating talk about his work filming with animals against a green screen, for use in advertising and other media. These included snakes, crocodiles, chimpanzees, bees, chickens, sheep, reindeer, elephants, lions and tigers! We were amazed he had escaped unscathed, but he pointed out that he was always in comparative safety behind the camera and left it to others to handle the animals!

In a brief Council meeting afterwards, Council voted for Ruth Staines to take up the position of Chairman. We are extremely grateful to Farokh for his generosity and had a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day.

**RARE OPPORTUNITY: We have found some back copies of The Caspian, going back to 2000. First come, first served!**

**Once they are gone they will be very rare indeed and could become a collector's item of the future.**

**Each copy - £1.00 plus SAE, UK only. For overseas inquiries and to buy any issues, please contact [yshortis@sizzel.net](mailto:yshortis@sizzel.net)**

**All monies received will go to the Caspian Welfare Fund.**

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## **WARNING: SYCAMORE TREES COULD BE DEADLY TO HORSES**

John Webster wrote a very informative article on Atypical Equine Myopathy (AM) in the last magazine. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Horse & Hound reported that a new study published in the Equine Veterinary Journal has revealed that **toxins from the seeds of the Sycamore** are the likely cause of the condition in European horses. Horses can be more vulnerable when kept on sparse pasture, where dead leaves are on the ground.

Horse and Hound's veterinary adviser, Karen Coumbe, recommends that concerned owners talk to their vet. Ideally, clear the leaves away and make sure there is plenty of grass or hay for the horses to eat.

## ASHBY SHOW RESULTS 2013

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### 1. Licensed Caspian Stallion or Gelding, 4 years old & over.

**BYTHAM JUSTIN TIME** (Runnymede Felfel x Henden Noor), Ms P Walster

**RUNNYMEDE METEOR** (R Felfel x R Amber), Mrs D Randall.

**RUNNYMEDE FELFEL** (Forstals Barewa x Hopstone Banafsheh), Dr R Harris

**BYTHAM CHURCHILL** (R Felfel x Hen Aludi), Mrs D Randall & Partners.

### 2. Caspian Mare or Brood Mare or Mare with Foal at Foot, 4 yrs & over.

**BYTHAM STAR** (R Felfel x Henden Noor), Mrs H Thirlby

**LANHILL ANTIMAY** (H Anti Eda x Lanhill May), Mrs A Leadbetter

**HENDEN BELLA** (H Basil x Hen Mirabelle) & colt foal, Ms B Smathers.

(Rosette for Best Foal)

**BYTHAM ORIOLE** (H Zebedee x R Penny Royal) Mrs D Randall.

### 3. Caspian Youngstock 1 to 3 years, colt, filly or gelding – None forward.

### 4. Part-Bred Caspian, any sex, any age. Rosette to Best 3 year old and Under.

**BYTHAM LINDSAY** (Bytham Cayman x Fronback Showgirl, {Welsh Sec.A}),  
J Dennett.

**BYTHAM LUCY LOCKET** (B Bobby Dazzler {<sup>1/2</sup> Welsh Sec.B} x B Abigail),  
Mrs D Randall.

**BATHLEYHILLS ALULA** (Thistledown Copper Lustre, {Welsh Sec.B} x  
H Aludi), Mrs H Thirlby.

**HERBILICIOUS** (B Bobby Dazzler x Bella [breeding unknown]), Mrs H Thirlby.

### 5. Ridden Pure or Part-bred Caspian, any sex, any age, including lead-rein.

**RUNNYMEDE METEOR** (R. Felfel x R. Amber), Mrs D Randall,  
Rider: Charlotte Archer-Goode, 16 (Rosette for Best Rider)

**BYTHAM CHURCHILL** (R. Felfel x H. Aludi), Mrs D Randall & Partners,  
Rider: George Gipson, 14

**BYTHAM ORIOLE** (H Zebedee x R Penny Royal) Mrs D Randall.  
Rider: Pagan Kerntaler, 10

**\*SHOW CHAMPION\***: BYTHAM JUSTIN TIME

**\*RESERVE CHAMPION\***: RUNNYMEDE METEOR

**BEST RIDER ROSETTE**: CHARLOTTE ARCHER-GOODE

**FOAL ROSETTE**: ARJUNA ALMAAS SHAH (Arjuna Akbar Shah x Henden Bella)

## ASHBY SHOW 2014

### PUT 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY IN YOUR DIARY!

Yes - we have now been invited to hold classes at ASHBY'S 100<sup>th</sup> SHOW, to be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2014! Make sure you don't miss a great day out with your Caspian or Part-bred next year! Even if you don't have a horse, come and join in the fun anyway – we will need helpers, stewards and leaders on the day!

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## JUDGING AT ASHBY SHOW

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**Ateshe Firouz-Larssen**

I had the honour and pleasure of being Judge at the Ashby Show in July of this year. I spent two unforgettable days in the Leicestershire countryside with my most charming host, Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell. Ashby is an important gathering, certainly in numbers of contestants and it was wonderful to see the Caspians at this event.

I was impressed, touched and heartened at the dedication of all those involved in the organisation of the Caspian Horse Society stand, as well as the participants who brought their well-cared-for Caspians. The BBC's Persian Service was present and their well documented and professionally filmed and presented piece was very well received by the Persian community at large.

The small number of entries did not detract from the overall quality of the entries. They were well presented and nicely handled, even though the stallions and mares were in close proximity. It was also very nice to see the ridden classes. The Caspian is such a talented equine and I firmly believe that their future lies in their use as a top quality child's mount. One of the highlights of the day was the Caspian parade, so skillfully managed by Liz Webster in the grand Main Arena of the showground.

I hope to see many more of these events in the upcoming years. Maybe the success of Ashby's first Caspian classes will encourage other Caspian breeders and riders from far and wide to attend in the future.

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## A WONDERFUL EVENT FOR CASPIANS

**Janet Dedicat**

The 99th Ashby Show was a well-supported, enjoyable and successful event, especially with the first appearance of the Caspian Horse - how lucky we were to be invited to hold classes there. Weather, situation and ground were excellent. The Ashby Committee were extremely welcoming and all needs were met, mostly by the untiring work of Jane Harding, who provided us with a good ring, stand location and accessible lorry park within easy reach of the Main Ring.

I was delighted to see the Caspian Horse once again holding its own in the public eye. Many years ago I was fortunate to help Robin and Jenny Quinney, who were huge in promoting the Caspian under saddle, in harness and in-hand at many large County Shows. Sadly most of these events have gone and therefore it was a challenge to hold classes at the invitation of Ashby Show.

All Caspian exhibitors had made big efforts to attend the show. Their turn-out and presentation of stock was to a high standard and this was commented on by our prestigious judge, Mrs Ateshe Firouz-Larssen. She was delighted with the variety of exhibits.

Looking from the outside in, I must comment on the temperament and behaviour of the Caspians present, whether stallion, mare, filly, colt or gelding, for example when the Air Ambulance had to be summoned to an accident just behind our Ring.



*Emergency helicopter landing (top right of photo), with unconcerned Caspian (left)*

This caused chaos in the lorry park, with horses and ponies breaking loose, hunters, native breeds and show ponies bucking, bolting and rearing in adjacent rings to us - yet not one single Caspian displayed any sign of upset or fear and all behaved impeccably, even though closest to the scene. I was also impressed by the gentle, well-behaved qualities that they possess, when they are surrounded by children, parents, dogs, pushchairs etc., with tannoy's bellowing instructions and music. Few other breeds displayed this.

To sum up this event, thank you to all Committee members, judges, stewards, volunteers, friends and owners who made this a show to remember. Congratulations on your achievements. The Caspian has made an impact....and ROLL ON the 100th Ashby Show!

### **...AND WHAT DID YOU ALL THINK OF ASHBY?**

- *A great honour and an inspiration to be amongst such dedicated and hard-working people. Ateshe Firouz-Larssen (Judge)*
- *(the Parade) was a great showcase for the breed and the horses looked brilliant... lots of comments from the crowd about how special they were. Jane H-R*
- *The horses were beautifully presented, a picture of health, a real credit to you and to the society ... a salute to Ashby to show them how well we can put on a show. Liz M-P*
- *It was lovely to see the Iranian contingent chattering away and Anahita's delight to be filmed with Meteor. I couldn't have been happier with the way it went. Liz Webster*
- *What a nice event this was and how superbly did our Caspians show themselves to the public - a display to be proud of! Janet Dediccoat*
- *It was a fantastic day, as my first attendance to a show I look forward to Ashby next year. Ray Austin*
- *The BBC guys have given a glowing report back to the office! Farokh Khorrooshi*
- *It was absolutely b\*\*\*\*y brilliant ... thank you to you all! Helen Thirlby*
- *Can't agree more with Helen!!!!!!!! Penny Walster*
- *Lovely day, beautiful ponies, wonderful atmosphere... great teamwork. Brenda Dalton*
- *Great show, tremendous effort made by everyone involved, hope future shows are as good. John Sansome*
- *A wonderful show.... (thanks to) the horse owners for their supreme efforts in the heat, and all the preparation beforehand! So fantastic to have Ateshe there. Ruth Staines*
- *A wonderful day and all the Caspians beautifully presented. Pat Bowles*
- *A memorable day. Here's to making more happy memories! Barbara Smathers*



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### IMAGES OF ASHBY - Clockwise, from top left:

1. Bytham Justin Time, (winner Class 1 & Championship) with Penny Walster & Ateshe Firouz-Larssen
2. Bytham Star & Helen Thirlby (Winner Class 2)
3. Colt Foal with Henden Bella (Foal rosette)
4. Lanhill Antimay (before Angela sprained her ankle)
5. Jane H-R and a busy scene at the CHS stand
6. Bytham Lindsay & Ms J Duckett (winner Class 4)
7. Runnymede Meteor & Charlotte Archer-Goode, (winners Class 5 & Reserve Championship)



The new CHS tent made its first appearance at Trinity Park, Ipswich, which hosted the Suffolk County Show on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May this year. Sadly, unseasonably poor weather again reduced show attendance overall and we noticed fewer visits to our stand in the cold and damp conditions. Nevertheless, Suffolk Show has a good



reputation amongst County shows and is the place to be if we want to show the Caspian in that part of the country. It has the bonus of being reasonably close to Dreda and Emy Randall's stables too - a prime source of well-schooled Caspians and riders!

Ruth Staines, Vicki Shortis and Liz Webster furnished and 'womanned' the CHS stand with merchandise, plenty of information and good photographs on the breed and Dreda and Emy supplied Casper (Bytham Churchill, *on right*) and Meteor (*left*, an old hand at shows) for the 'Aaah' factor!

These two attractive and beautifully turned out Caspians drew the usual crowd of enthusiastically horsey children to the stand.

Twice-daily ridden demonstrations in a nearby ring were given by their young riders, Pagan Kernthaler and Charlotte Archer-Goode, who most helpfully provided a rider's good impression of the Caspians at the stand and rode over to talk to ringside spectators after the demonstrations. Next year, we're promised jumps in our display ring, so we may be able to put on a more interesting show.

Dreda also entered Meteor and Casper in the In-hand Foreign Breeds class early on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, where they achieved a 3<sup>rd</sup> for Casper and 4<sup>th</sup> for Meteor! Well done – another chance for spectators to see Caspians!

*We hope you will come and visit us on the stand - better still, would you like to join us and help to promote the Caspian? It's great fun and we meet all sorts of interesting people. For more information email [vshortis@sizzel.net](mailto:vshortis@sizzel.net)*

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## **ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?**

Last winter was very cold and seemed to last forever. Then summer arrived and stayed. We've had a lovely Autumn, too. What next? Are you prepared? Moscow received its first snowfall on the 1st October - this is an unusually early foretaste of winter!

## **NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT?**

If you're stuck for an interesting Christmas present for someone special, how about giving them a year's subscription to the Caspian Horse Society? We will send you a copy of the latest Magazine and a Christmas card for you to give on Christmas Day.



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## CASPIAN BREEDER RECEIVES 10 YEAR BAN

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### “An appalling case of animal neglect and irresponsible horse ownership”

A protracted animal welfare investigation by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Regulatory Services, involving the neglect of dozens of horses and causing unnecessary suffering to some, was concluded in Barnsley Magistrates Court on 12 September 2013, with a 10 year ban on keeping horses being imposed.



The Court heard that Barnsley's Animal Health Officer initially responded to a complaint about a dead horse, apparently due to malnutrition, earlier this year. Other horses were in a similar condition, one with several untreated sores. Investigations revealed further horses apparently abandoned without feed or water.

*Left: This horse had its leg caught, but was too weak to rise*

A foal estimated to be 6-18 month old could barely raise its head and was too weak to stand. Some horses were removed under the powers of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. On veterinary advice, the foal was treated in an emergency equine unit and is now fully recovered and adopted.

Deborah Thomson of Royston, Barnsley, owned many Caspian and Arabian horses, located at various sites within the Barnsley area. Of 76 found, 46 were examined and body-scored by a vet. A large proportion were undernourished, suffering from malnutrition, had sores or were lame and required veterinary treatment. More were found at the owner's home in cramped, over - crowded conditions, covered in faeces and urine.



*This horse recovered and was later adopted.*

Attempts were made over several months to work with Miss Thomson to improve conditions, but she failed to take the necessary action. On veterinary advice, further horses were removed from her care. In addition she had mixed healthy horses with horses carrying Strangles (a highly contagious disease caused by *Streptococcus Equi*). She auctioned several of the horses at short notice at York Sales in late July, the highest price paid being £60.

Guilty pleas were entered for various offences under the Animal Health Act 2006. Deborah Thomson gave assurances to the Court that all horses had been sold or gifted. She was sentenced to a 9 week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and 15 sessions of the Women's Offender Specified Activity. Sums of £2,698 prosecution costs and a victim surcharge of £80 were imposed and she was banned from keeping horses for at least 10 years.

Councillor Roy Miller, Cabinet Spokesperson, Development, Environment and Culture, said:

“This was an appalling case of animal neglect and irresponsible horse ownership. Hopefully this prosecution will send out a strong message that such cruelty will not be tolerated and action will be brought against owners failing to look after their animals properly.” (*Extracts printed by permission of the Trading Standards Press Office*).

**Footnote:** *Deborah Thompson is not a member of CHS. However, some CHS members attended York Sales and five of her horses have been rehomed. Follow-up continues.*

*A Caspian Welfare Fund has now been set up by CHS (see below) and Ruth Staines will contact those members who have kindly offered homes, should further horses require re-homing in due course.*

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## EASY FUND-RAISING FOR CHS PROJECTS

16

This is fund-raising without effort! (Well – perhaps a little to start with, but after that it’s a doddle!)

To raise much needed money for the CHS projects, please visit the website <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/> where you can register and start fundraising for the CHS simply by shopping for yourself! Select "Caspian Horse Society" as your cause, click on 'Find & Remind' to see which of over 2000 well-known names are participating and claim your donation BEFORE you start shopping. The website will confirm that your purchase will be recorded and tell you by email within 30 days how much is being donated to the CHS. It won't cost you a penny extra and once you automatically go via the *easyfundraising* page to purchase, it does not interfere with your shopping pleasure! It's a really easy way to generate funds for CHS projects like these below - the more members take part the better!

**WELFARE FUND:** the Welfare Fund is being set up to help rescue Caspians in current and future welfare cases: contact is Ruth Staines;

**GENE BANK:** the Gene Bank aims to preserve and make available the semen of stallions specially selected for their rare bloodlines and Caspian qualities;

**SCHOOLING CASPIANS:** we would like to help owners with training and schooling Caspians so they can go out and win plaudits for the breed in performance;

**DISPLAYS AT SHOWS:** and we would love some financial sponsorship to promote the Caspian through the CHS display stand at as many shows as possible;

If you would like to help, please just write on the reverse of the cheque or state on the bank transfer which project you would like to support;

**GIFT AID:** If you pay tax in the UK, Gift Aid is another way we can earn more from the taxman without it costing you a penny more. Ask Ray Austin if you need any forms or guidance – and thank you;

**BEQUESTS:** Ray can also help if you would like to leave a Bequest towards the work of CHS.

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## LULU - MY 2013 PROJECT!

17

By Helen Thirlby

In June this year I began the search for an older companion to keep my five young Caspian and Caspian crosses in check! I saw an advert on Facebook for three Caspian mares due to be put to sleep if new homes couldn't be found very quickly.



The mares were in the care of Barnsley Council, so after contacting them and being offered a 13 year old bay mare, Rob and I drove to Sheffield to collect her. All we knew was that she had been rescued in early February and since then had received high quality, appropriate care.

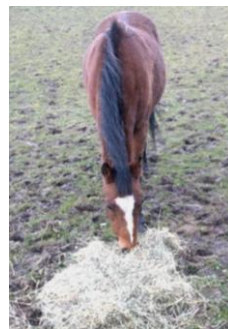
We were shocked when we got to the yard and saw just how poor she still was. But she was friendly and quiet and our hearts went out to her as she stood next to her mother and a friend in a pen. The carer was worried that she wouldn't separate well from the others, but she walked into the trailer like an angel and was totally calm right from the start. She definitely knew that we were OK.

Once home, I started her on a high quality feed balancer, top spec cool condition cubes twice a day and good meadow grazing. I wormed her fully and had her teeth done within two days. Her teeth were in a horrendous state. My dentist worked on her for two hours with her power tools. The effect was instant - Lulu could eat properly for the first time in years!

I discovered recently that she was originally rescued several years ago almost in a state of collapse. She had a three month old colt at foot and was nursed back to health, remaining at a sanctuary for three and a half years. Unfortunately for her, a change of management sent her back to her owner, only for history to repeat itself.

Lulu has the most amazing temperament - very bonded to me and extremely intelligent. I also have a pure-bred four year old mare and a two year old filly. These three are the brightest of all my ponies and stick together like glue!

Lulu is now up to weight, happy and content. I have left written instructions detailing arrangements for her should I die before her, because even over my dead body I will absolutely not allow that to happen to her again!!



*The CHS is subject to English law. Overseas members are accepted on the understanding that any actions by members against the society are brought within the UK legal jurisdiction. The CHS is affiliated to:*

*The International Caspian Society*

*The Central Prefix Register*

*The British Horse Society*

*The British Association of Equine Societies*

**Calling all Caspian owners!**

We plan a special Art Calendar to mark the 50 years since Louise Firouz first discovered Caspians in 1965! The Calendar will be launched at a special Celebration in November 2015, ready for the Christmas market. It will be entirely devoted to Caspian Horses, pictured by the renowned equine photographer, Colin Barker. We are indebted to film-maker and new Council member, Farokh Khorrooshi, for the introduction to Colin and sometimes they will work together.

A quietly competent man who loves and understands his subjects, Colin is a real catch for the Caspian world – well-known, highly respected, commanding high fees for a commission ([www.colinbarker.co.uk](http://www.colinbarker.co.uk)). He has already photographed some Caspians and came to Ashby Show in July, but needs more images. To launch the Calendar on time, Farokh and Colin must establish a proper working programme.

Producing a calendar may sound easy – but to be extra special requires care, patience and commitment from all involved. Colin must find suitable Caspians and capture the perfect image against an appropriate background, in weather conditions which convey the season. He must skilfully find and refine the best image. Many will be discarded, but finally his Calendar will provide a unique insight into Caspian Horses and the people and landscapes in their lives.

Colin's time is precious and we all want the Calendar to be the best celebration of the Caspian, so please contact us as soon as possible! The commitment and co-operation of owners will make all the difference to meeting the deadline.

To plan a photo session, Colin needs to know what Caspians you have, (hopefully your best) and whether ridden or driven, foals etc. He'll need your address, landline / mobile telephone numbers, whether town / countryside and what sort of backgrounds you have. For the right image, distance is not a problem.

After initial contact, Colin asks you to photograph some backgrounds in your location with a digital camera (not necessarily rural, or 'chocolate box' pretty) and email them to him, to help him plan the shoot. He will discuss plans with you and advise on how to prepare for the session. On the day, have your horses ready. Don't wait until he arrives to catch them up! Photography may take a full day or more and *will* require your presence, so please reserve enough time and keep to the agreed arrangements if possible. Food and water would be welcome, too!

Colin needs to capture the year-round care involved with keeping horses. For the winter months, he will require a hairy Caspian in winter coat - and there could be mud, rain, mist, snow, wind, dawn or sunset involved, (but remember that Caspians in summer coats may be competing for space with many others!)

The Calendar should be a moving tribute to Caspian Horses. It will be sold to CHS members and Caspian lovers worldwide and, in prestige locations, to the public.

*To have your Caspians immortalised in this unique project, please contact Ruth Staines - she will pass information to Colin and Farokh. Head your email 'CASPIAN CALENDAR' so that it can be easily found when forwarded to them. Ruth is waiting to hear from you! [chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com](mailto:chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com)*

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## THE STONEHOUSE GANG

### As told to Liz Webster by Roy Reynolds

19

In 1938 Harry Webb, a newspaper reporter, was listening to cases in Birmingham's juvenile court and was struck by the fascination that the "gang" idea had for youngsters. He realised that while delinquency is exciting, young people may see responsible behaviour as comparatively dull. So starting with just two boys, he launched the 'Stonehouse Gang' to give young people a sense of purpose, adventure and excitement - as relevant today as ever – and the positive effect the Gang has had on the lives of many youngsters over the years is truly inspirational.

Now - in case you're wondering what the link is between Caspians and the Stonehouse Gang, here it is!

**First a little background information:** The artist Roy Reynolds (who painted the portrait of Prince Philip's Caspians - Rostam and Khorshid Kola) and his brother Rodney were early Gang members. Roy's family went to live in South Africa, but he returned in 1963, when the Gang was celebrating its Silver Jubilee. To commemorate this, Roy painted six portraits of prominent Gang members, which included Gang founder Harry Webb and HRH Prince Philip, (the Gang was an early pilot of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and is still closely involved today). One of six young national art competition winners accompanied Roy on each portrait session. The overall winner went to Buckingham Palace. This 'boy' is now a top artist and art academic in Canada, having been adopted by Harry Webb and his wife.

2013 marks the Gang's 75 year Anniversary. A visit by Prince Edward, to open their new Computer Suite, was the main event to celebrate this (*right*). Coincidentally, it is also 50 years since Roy painted Prince Philip! The painting has hung in the room at the Gang headquarters in which it was painted all these years and they are very proud of it.



While telling me about the Stonehouse Gang, Roy also told me about an Exhibition held in Hereford in February 1978, in aid of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund. It was held in association with the 'Friends of Herefordshire Museums and Arts' in the Brian Halton Gallery, Hereford. From the Royal Collection, the Palace loaned Roy's painting of the Caspians for the exhibition, with the beautiful black and gold easel that it rested on, next to the golden Coronation coach in the Royal Mews and the write-up displayed there about the Caspians and the painting. The exhibition was attended by the Lord Lieutenant for Hereford and Worcester, the Mayor of Hereford and, of course, Roy.

Roy has always supported good causes and charities and has done this through his work. It pleases him tremendously that his paintings continue to be used to good effect, especially now that he rarely paints any more. [www.rpreynolds.com](http://www.rpreynolds.com)

Last April I was excitedly looking for a surprise first pony for my youngest son Charlie's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, when I stumbled across an advert for a Caspian horse on the internet. I had never heard of the Caspian breed before so did some research. We were captivated by these little horses and the breed's history. Already proud owners of four rescue ponies, the thought of bringing home a well-bred, well trained little horse was very exciting.

I contacted the owner. We were told that the Caspian in the advert had already been sold, but there was a young Caspian just starting his education at his temporary home for training from his original breeder. We couldn't wait to meet Kinton Kopek and set off that weekend to say hello.

We were greeted by a gaggle of children who were very excited to be around horses. One of them fetched Kopek from the field and set about tacking him up. I could see the tension starting to build for Kopek, but was reassured that he was coping well and happy in his initial training. We accompanied Kopek as they hacked to the woods and glimpsed how willing this genuine little chap was. He was incredibly handsome, with a lovely golden sheen to his coat.

Charlie's birthday was not until June so we agreed that Kopek would be delivered the weekend before the big day as a surprise. I asked for Kopek's education to be stopped as I was happy to work with him at home.

I can still remember the huge smile on Charlie's face as the trailer pulled into the drive and off walked Kopek. It was love at first sight. However, the pony which stepped off the trailer was a nervous shadow of the pony we had met in April. To minimise his stress, he was turned out into the paddock. His rug was removed and he trotted off, clearly happy to put some distance between himself and humans.

We quickly realised that all was not well with Kopek. He was tight with tension, his back was hunched and he was unbalanced. He also had severe sweet-itch and was bargy and ill-tempered. Charlie quickly became scared of his new best friend and refused to go near him. But we loved him and believed that deep down, he was still the genuine, happy go lucky dude we had first met.

We set up a training plan with Sophie Hildreth, our 'Think Like A Pony' instructor. Over the next months we focused on Kopek's health, ground work and balance. He found it difficult to accept treatment but we persevered with shiatsu and massage to help the tightness in his body and reduce his stress levels. We worked on his confidence and respect, giving him ground work puzzles to solve in order to stimulate his brain. He is one clever little horse!

A year later the genuine, happy Kopek is returning. Charlie has started lessons with Kopek and has slowly overcome his fear. His first ride on Kopek was a huge achievement







for us all. Since those first few tentative steps, Charlie and Kopek have passed the first two riding badges for the 'Think Like A Pony' Club.

Charlie entered Kopek into a junior Horse Agility class this summer and achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place with his fantastic handling skills. Next year, Charlie is determined to enter Kopek in the local show.

It's amazing to see the transformation in this little horse over the last year. Charlie and

Kopek share exactly the same date of birth so Charlie thinks that they are brothers. He is now becoming the perfect first pony that we had set out to buy and we wouldn't swap him for the world!

*The 'Think Like a Pony' Club, [www.thinklikeaponyclub.co.uk](http://www.thinklikeaponyclub.co.uk) teaches children a natural approach to horsemanship – how to understand pony behaviour and look at the world through a pony's eyes.*

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## VICKI'S HINTS AND TIPS

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**How to make an inexpensive Hay Steamer:** You need a plastic container such as a wheelie bin, a wall-paper steamer and a drill. Drill a hole in the bottom of the container large enough to insert the hose pipe from the steamer. Put something like a plate draining rack in the bottom, so the hay is raised and the steam can circulate.

To use, fill container with hay, fill steamer with water, connect to the electric power and switch on for approximately 30 minutes. Then switch off and disconnect steamer from the electricity.

**WARNING:** Do not use near any open water or outside, to avoid rain contact.

**How to check if your horse is ingesting sand, which could cause colic:** Fill a glass jar about three-quarters full of water, then add a pebble of your horse's dung and gently swirl until the dung has broken up. Any traces of sand will sink to the bottom. Due to the nature of grazing, most horses will pass some sand, but too much could mean your horse is at risk of Sand Colic and should be moved.

**No need to be cold if you have horses!** Make briquettes out of horse dung by using a newspaper briquette-maker. Stack them in a criss-cross fashion and leave to dry. They burn on wood burners or open fires like peat - I gather they are not too smelly. There's lots of information on the internet.

### Study on Laminitis

World Horse Welfare is funding a new four-year study aiming to help horse owners reduce the impact of Laminitis. The study is to be undertaken by the Animal Health Trust (AHT) in Newmarket, in partnership with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London. Horse owners interested in taking part in the research project are asked to register their interest via email to [danica.pollard@aht.org.uk](mailto:danica.pollard@aht.org.uk)

Sarah Anderson

My daughter decided that for her seventh birthday party, she wouldn't do the usual play place or adventure party, but take a few close friends for a carriage driving experience. They all enjoyed it so much that she kept on about it, asking if we could train our Caspian, PeJe, to drive as well as ride. By coincidence, another CHS member was selling her harness, so we took the opportunity to buy it. PeJe is very good and enjoys any kind of attention. This includes having us playing about getting the harness to fit and then walking behind, "driving" him. He is very tolerant and appears to accept the different bit and, of course, the blinkers. He has been excellent and enjoyed it as much as us, I feel.



*PeJe during rusty bag training.*

Once we were walk-driving up the lane and horses began galloping up the fence line on either side. He did go all silly and rear a bit, but did not bolt off or drag us anywhere (thankfully!) I think the blinkers initiated this behaviour, as he couldn't see what he could hear, which was all new to him. We simply spoke calmly to him and he carried on (albeit at a jog instead of a walk).

Since then, he has been excellent and responds well to the verbal aids. We have spent time in the past long-reining him and getting him used to unusual objects, such as walking over a tarpaulin or having a plastic bag rustling over him. He did not like this to begin with (!) but over time has built up trust and will almost ignore it now. We are hoping to get him trained professionally and have just purchased a basic vehicle, although will need to check that it fits correctly before we actually use it.

In the meantime, we plan to spend some family time together getting it back into tip top condition. Once we are confident with its fit, we look forward to many happy journeys onboard.



*Note PeJe's attentive -left ear!*

We are all looking forward to getting involved in this new angle of horsemanship, especially Tony, who is too big to ride him. Watch this space!!



**From Stichill Sapphire, in the Scottish Borders** (*as told to Anna Bergmann*)

Hello, this is Stichill Sapphire, writing to you from Scotland, where I was born. I'm by Bytham Bobby Dazzler out of Runnymede Amber, so I'm three-quarter-bred, though some people say it's hard to see much Caspian in me and that I look more like a small barn door! My job is to show everyone how nice a part-bred Caspian can be and ultimately to go to Pony Club rallies and show how well we would perform as a working hunter pony.

I was taken to two small shows last year. This year I have been to much more grown-up ones, including the Border Union (*above*), which is the largest agricultural society show in the Scottish Borders. I have been much admired by some jolly knowledgeable people.



*Fred I – Rug 0*

Fred (Bytham Orient, *left*) has had a busy year too. In Spring and Autumn he stayed with friends, to be ridden by their capable children. He learns things astonishingly quickly, so there are plans for him to go to one or two parties next year to show himself off. He has also covered my own mother, Amber, who we are pretty sure is in foal and Anastasia, a Skyrian mare (Greek breed) from the only herd of them in the UK, taken on by a local vet who has always been full of praise and admiration for the Caspian breed – more news of them next year.

We had lots of visitors in May, when 'She' gave a talk on Radionics as part of the BHS's Borders Festival of the Horse. We were all scrubbed up to be viewed beforehand and Fred was ridden and jumped in the field beside the car park.

The summer weather has been kinder this year, with fewer skin problems and less midges about – she's tried a new product this year called Kill Itch, which has been really effective and we have garlic in our feed every day. Heat and heavy rain – and the cumulative effect of last year's rain - has produced an almighty amount of weeds and ragwort, despite 'her' diligence with the fork. There is far too much white clover - we're told it can be harmful as it produces arsenic at certain stages in its growth. Research shows it may be a factor in Grass Sickness and not as benign as we thought, causing photo-sensitivity, swelling and colic. A good spray next spring with Grazon may deal with the clover and buttercups, which can cause laminitis and a nasty rash on the face. 'She' has treated a number of horses coughing from their pollen too.

As autumn approaches, we're thinking about the potential problems that winter brings, with frosted grass posing a risk of laminitis and colic and hoping the weather will be kind to us.

Daybreak - heralded by the dawn revelry of frolicking Caspian hoof beats and an impatient waterfowl cacophony eager to forage the creeks. The Kelpies spring to attentive action, informing any sleepy human that daylight is burning!

I fall out of bed and into wet weather gear. It is time to head to the hayshed and start the rounds of Mitanni Caspian Stud. I am greeted by an equine chorus. Quiet contentment follows that first mouthful of lucerne hay - one of my favourite sounds. Spring brings warming days and unpredictable rain. Flood season! New



life is hatching in the nesting box. Enter – and risk the wrath of a broody Silkie hen. Mitanni has turned green, with lush spring grass and budding fruit trees. Twenty nine horses live here - twenty three are Caspians.

Mitanni's resident stallion is Zarin Taze Majara, (*bay, on*

*right above*), imported from the UK by Fiona Morland. Taze is well-mannered and magnanimous to his young and boisterous paddock companion, Shady Acres Neo (*chestnut, above*) and the kangaroo mob grazing his paddock. Taze and Neo's spring revelry is palpable in their racing footfalls and eager faces, as they greet the morning by serenading the mares.

Tomorrow is Halloween, a young activity in Australia, eagerly taken up by local children. It is an opportunity to dress up and visit country neighbours. Mitanni's Caspians will be waiting at the paddock gate for treats from their young, be-costumed visitors. I will look on at the excitement and fun, along with a couple of harried mums. We will discuss Halloween costumes, laugh and reaffirm why we chose this country life. The early mornings, trepidations of floods, bushfires and snakes are far outweighed by the preservation, for future generations, of Caspian horses, heirloom tomatoes and unstoppable Kelpie pups.

## ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ, SPRING ISSUE:

1.St Ledger; 2.Medusa's blood; 3.Sefton; 4.1981; 5.1918; 6.K & H; 7.Oysters wrapped in bacon; 8. Famous showjumper; 9.The Dales; 10.Champion Jockey; 11.Louise Firouz; 12.Iran; 13.A City & Horse Race; 14.Polo; 15 Horse Carriage; 16. Dartmoor, Exmoor, Welsh, New Forest, Dales, Fell, Highland, Shetland; 17.War Horse; 18.Classical Horsemanship; 19. Appleby Horse Fair; 20.The Tolt; 21.Rode from Buenos Aires to New York, then wrote about the trip; 22.Grey; 23. £25.00; 24.Rode naked through Coventry; 25.Black Bess; 26. Real War Horse, reviewed his true story in The Caspian Autumn/Winter 2011; 27.The International League for the Protection of Horse; 28.Yes; 29.Either Mouleki or Pouseki; 30. Vanner.

The winner was Naomi Thomas, who now has a copy of Brenda Dalton's fascinating book 'The Caspian Horse'. Congratulations!

Jenne Timbs, Jasenna Stud, Queensland, Australia

After returning from Equitana in late Nov 2012, I noticed a few scratches on the inside of Markazi Azadeh's hind legs. She was 11 years old at the time. They were of so little consequence that I did not even bother to disinfect them. How she got them remains a mystery as she was in the foal paddock, which has no obstructions. Over the next three weeks both back legs became seriously infected, despite my best efforts using Betadine, various poultices and homeopathic remedies. Azadeh was also running a constantly high temperature. I called a local vet, who scratched his head and said he had never seen anything like it before. He took blood samples, gave me a bottle of penicillin and charged me the earth.



After two days it was evident that the penicillin was having no effect, so the Manly Road Vet Hospital, which has a dedicated equine team, became involved. Luke came to see Azadeh and his first Caspians. He also shook



his head and said he had never seen anything like it. The entire upper part of her inside hind legs (inguinal area) was full of tiny pustules, even bursting out on her lower legs with a lot of swelling. Luke returned on Monday when the labs would be open, to take a biopsy, with Christine their equine medicine specialist. You guessed it - she had never seen the like either. Over the weekend I had stopped the poultices and washed the area ready for the biopsy and by Monday there was a lot more pus visible, so the poultices must have been doing something. Christine even noticed a large pustule under her belly. Instead of a biopsy, a

sample of the pus was taken to be cultured. The results showed the culprit to be *rhodococcus equi*, which causes 'rattles' (lung abscess) in foals, but to which adult horses should be immune. Thus the correct diagnosis was **cutaneous rhodococcus equi infection** - an extremely rare condition. The vets found no other identical cases in their literature searches and may write a paper about it.

On 24<sup>th</sup> December, in a desperate rush to beat the Christmas closures, blood samples were also taken from our three foals. Our dedicated vets drove them directly to the labs, where haematology, biochemistry and blood smear examinations looked for infection indicators. An ultra sound of Azadeh's lung area also showed evidence of abscesses, normally seen in foals with this infection. Looking back 6 months or more, I remembered the strange cough Azadeh sometimes had and a day when I thought she exhibited heaves. It subsided and remained at bay as long as I dampened her lucerne hay. Perhaps it had been *rhodococcus equi* all along. I suspect the horrible hay full of flood silt which I received after the 2011 floods to be the culprit, despite my arduous efforts to remove the dust before feeding.

*Rhodococcus equi* is difficult and slow to kill. Rifampicin is the only antibiotic that will work effectively on this bacteria, but must be run in tandem with another to help prevent resistance developing. Foals are usually placed on Clarithromycin Rifampicin Paste, but adults cannot be given clarithromycin due to the risk of colitis (diarrhoea), which can be fatal. So we had to have a special Rifampicin powder made up, which we gave with Doxycycline powder, to help prevent resistance. As a precaution we gave Qadash, Azadeh's three month old foal, a course of the foal paste and thankfully he did not develop any sign of Rattles. Sadly he and his Mum had to be separated from the other mares and foals to prevent Azadeh from shedding more of the bacteria into their paddock and increasing the risk of the foals becoming infected.

Over several months Azadeh slowly improved, the pustules dried up and the swelling reduced and she started to move more freely again.



However, in early May 2013 (in her 5<sup>th</sup> month of antibiotics) it became evident that the bacteria had become resistant and she started to crash very fast. The swelling increased, pustules started to reappear and she lost weight very rapidly. The most disturbing symptom was her laboured breathing. She was hardly eating and I felt that the only thing keeping her going was

her dedication to her foal, then 7 months old. We quickly weaned Qadash, making sure he was still close by so as not to add more stress for Azadeh.

Luke was suspicious that some immune deficiency had made her susceptible to the infection in the first place. We discussed other options but all were very expensive, with little guarantee of success. At her worst, the vets measured her heart rate at 56 bpm and her breathing at 40 breaths pm and we knew it wouldn't be long before it would be kindest to euthanize her. I remember telling vet Rebecca that I was not quite ready to give up on Azadeh just yet. She gently suggested that I didn't leave it too long, to avoid the added expense of an out-of-hours call-out.

So what was I to do? On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 I stopped the antibiotics. Was there any chance that natural remedies would turn this situation around? In consultation with a friend, Leisa, who has done some homeopathic study and using my own information and intuition I started to choose homeopathic remedies. I broke many of the rules, often combining up to eight and giving them several times morning and night, also into her stable trough so she would get a dose every time she drank during the night. We ordered "The treatment of Horses by Homoeopathy" by George Macleod from the UK and studied it for more information. Alternative vets are very thin on the ground in Australia, but I do know one. His only suggestion was to try some injectable homeopathics from Germany, which we did.

We added vitamin C and brewers' yeast to her feed and gave her Protexin paste (probiotics). At about the 10 day mark I could tell for sure that she had stabilised. I also gave her a couple of doses of Grapefruit seed extract (5 drops) in organic

coconut oil, syringed into the mouth. I kept up the homeopathic regime and continued to research and share my problem with anyone who would listen.

I followed every lead I was given, and in the end chose two more treatments: Stabilized Electrolytes of Oxygen, 10 drops into 60ml water – syringed into the mouth, morning and night, and a Hulda Clark Zapper, reputed to kill bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. I used the zapper intermittently, but more frequently at first, 2-3 times a week. I also have a ritual, every night before leaving her stable, of straightening her forelock before placing my hand on her forehead to pray for her. One night I forgot and as I left she called out to me and came over to the gate for her prayer.

When she was eating well enough we put one cup of oil soaked psyllium husks into her feed for 3 consecutive days to help clear out any silt that may be sitting in her gut. Over time we adjusted her feed to include more mineral powders and shifted her over to Mitavite Gum Nuts, an easy to digest feed for older horses. In mid-July we also added turmeric powder to her feed as an anti-inflammatory. During July her coat started to shed and by August she was looking fairly sleek and nicely filled out again, she also started trotting out of her stable in the morning.

On the 7 August Luke was out for a Hendra Vaccination and as his custom, he also checked Azadeh. To my delight he declared that both her heart and breathing rates were normal, although the lungs sounds were still a little harsh. “Whatever you are doing, it’s working,” he said.

Toward the middle of August we dropped the treatments back to once a day and slowly phased them out around the end of the month, wanting to see if she could maintain by herself. Since then she has had two setbacks - a runny nose and temperature for a few days (along with 6 other horses that contracted whatever was going around) and a bout of colic. By the end of September she was starting to exhibit signs of regression, chewing small sticks in the morning, resuming her funny stance and reducing her feed intake. Some slight swelling had also returned to her lower back legs, and a pustule seemed to be starting under her belly. Needless to say I quickly reinstated my treatments, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October added



another: **Equine Stem Cell Nutrition**. This is a fairly new product which promotes the release of more stem cells from the horses own bone marrow, leading to faster repair and regeneration.

*Azadeh & Qadash in happier days*

Once again Azadeh is improving. No doubt it will be a long road to full recovery, but I am so thankful we are finding ways to fight antibiotic resistant bacteria. If anyone has experienced anything similar, Jenne would like to hear from you.

**[jasennastud@bigpond.com](mailto:jasennastud@bigpond.com)**

**Dick Kearley, United States**

Some years ago, my wife announced that she wanted a “warm-blood” horse to ride. My daughter was riding a Welsh pony at the time so I thought, “How cool would it be if I could find a little warm-blood, so mother and daughter could ride together?” There were none available, but I found an article stating that the Caspian was the original “hot blood.” I made an arrogant leap of logic and said “I’ll just get a Caspian and create my own warm-blood.”

I obtained a couple of Caspians, intending to breed them to more “cold-blooded” horses to create the little warm-blood - the start of our Caspian adventure. I soon learned how special they are and put off cross-breeding for several years. I also observed some cross-breds along the way -we leased a Caspian x TB cross and observed some Welsh x Caspian crosses. We were not happy with what we saw. They were fine looking animals but did not seem to carry the Caspian mind (to me the most important Caspian attribute). My daughter was riding a Welsh x Quarter Horse pony with a heart as big as New York and the brains to figure out anything a Pony Clubber might want to do. This wonderful pony turned me toward the Quarter Horse.

I had two Quarter Horse mares with excellent pedigrees. A Western Pleasure type and a stock horse with cutting horses way through her pedigree. I may have been breeding to what was available, but that was better than average. I wanted to breed a stallion with a good mind to a mare with a good mind.

The results of the two matings (to a Caspian stallion) were positive. Both offspring are between 13 and 14 hands, with the W.P. mare nearly two hands taller than the stock horse. This is a great size for children aged 10 - 15 years old and can be ridden by small adults for training. The filly out of the W.P. mare is in a Pony Club home, ridden by a teenage boy who lost his first pony a couple of years ago. She is not a competitive horse and does not care to jump, but the boy loves her kind and willing intelligence. The colt out of the S.H. mare is opinionated (like his mother) but, in the words of his owner, “the easiest horse I have ever trained.” Extremely competitive, he recently finished 4th in his first sanctioned U S Eventing Assoc. Competition, finishing on his Dressage score, double clear in both Stadium and Cross Country, ridden by a 13 year old girl who can hardly believe her luck to ride him and is amazed at how he obviously enjoys Cross Country. The Caspian stamina and work ethic comes shining through on Cross Country as he zeroes in on the jumps and flies over them.

We now have a half-brother (different stallion) to this little fireball, saddled and learning to jump – same story, easy to train, willing, co-operative, athletic and fearless. This fellow should be in competition in the next few months. His rider is a jumper, so he will probably appear in the show jumping ring.

A cross-bred colt out of a registered Hanoverian mare is waiting in the wings, a breeding hoping to pick up a little more size. This was not breeding the smartest to the smartest. The Hanoverian mare is well trained in dressage, but she has some



“dumb-blood” moments. In two more years I hope to report how this breeding really turned out.

In summation, I think the Caspians’ place in the modern sport-horse world may be in cross-breeding. We Caspian owners understand the beauty and value of the pure-bred but the competitive world demands a larger pony. Most of our young riders have outgrown the purebred Caspian by the time they ride well enough to compete. The cross-bred fills the gap between learning to ride and competing on larger breeds. Breeding good mind to good mind seems to be the key.

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## THE BOWEN TECHNIQUE

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Jann Turner

Jann Turner has worked professionally with horses for 40 years. Her career has included competing in affiliated eventing and show-jumping, running events, teaching, judging and producing other people’s horses. Jann is now running a Horse Sanctuary and Rehabilitation Centre. She reveals “I use the Bowen Technique, massage and lymphatic drainage. For the lymphatic drainage I went to Germany and worked with a team of specialist vets to get my qualifications. I also give lecture demos, talks and teach students on care and management of the horse and the Bowen Technique”.

Bowen is a simple but effective non-invasive treatment, a wonderful therapy used worldwide on humans and animals. The treatment involves gentle hand moves which are made over muscle and connective tissue at key points in combination and sequences, focusing on the neuro-muscular trigger points of the body. This creates a circuit within the body which can help free congestion, aid circulation and help transmission to and from the brain. It can increase blood supply to affected areas, which in turn releases muscle spasm, eases pain and addresses any skeletal imbalances.

By increasing the blood supply, the lymphatic system can work more effectively, thus being able to clear away dysfunctional debris which can cause tight and painful muscles, which in turn can interfere with the body’s muscle and joint activity.

Whatever the problem in the horse, animal or person, a whole body treatment is given. Due to compensation, the area of indication may not be the area of cause.

“Horses that compete are the same as athletes. This helps them to work at their optimum potential. *A relaxed horse is a happy horse.*”

### **Jann can help if any of these problems relate to your horse or pony:**

Resistance going forward or laterally  
Shortening of stride – not tracking up  
Unresolved intermittent lameness  
Deterioration in performance  
Uneven muscular development,  
Muscle wastage  
Dragging of fore or hind limb  
Uneven or peculiar gait

Head carriage is too high or low  
Quivering, soreness or tension around withers or girth area  
Irritability with tacking up, grooming or rugging  
Cold backed – bucking  
Difficulty obtaining or maintaining condition. Change of temperament.

## CASE STUDY



This chestnut gelding had previously been looked at by a vet and a nutritionist, but no improvement could be made. I found him to be very tight all over and felt he was blocked from his head to his tail. He felt like a plank of wood to work on, there was no movement in his skin or over his muscles and he seemed in a great deal

of pain in certain areas of his body. This horse was in poor condition, lacking energy, was lethargic, stiff, in pain and had no interest in life.

Photographs were taken after three treatments at weekly intervals, then one month after the last treatment. I had requested that during treatment no riding, ground work or grooming was to take place. After this, one month of walking was advised. The result of treatments and walking produced the last two amazing photographs, which I took when I returned to check on the horse. I gave a future program of work for this gelding, which would enable him to compete successfully at riding club level, which previously he had found it physically impossible to do.



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## BOOK REVIEW Vicki Shortis

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**'And Miles To Go Before I Sleep'** (A British Vet in Africa), by Hugh Cran. Published 2007 by Merlin Unwin Books.

*"In 1966, three years after I had graduated from the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, on a cold December day I boarded a plane for Nairobi. I had never flown before. I told people I was only going for a trial period, maybe a year!!"*

I found this a very readable book and was amazed at what Hugh endured to reach his patients, driving many miles over non-existent roads, sometimes having to ford rivers, finally to arrive in the dark to search for the patient in a muddy field, no electric light or water and flies everywhere. After treating the patient, he had to reverse his journey, probably not arriving home until breakfast time to find more calls waiting for him. The feats he achieved were amazing in these conditions and quite often he didn't know if the bill would be paid!!

Hugh still lives and practices in Nakuru and is married, with three daughters.



**Part 1: Caspian Connections**

1. Name of the artist who painted the picture of Prince Philip's Caspians
2. Who is Paddington?
3. Which part of the Caspian is affected with Laminitis.
4. Name of the CHS' late first President?
5. Name of the designer of the cover of 'The Caspian', done for the millennium?
6. Why did Prince Philip's Caspians have to spend two years in Hungary?
7. Name of the author who wrote the book 'The Caspian Horse' in 1999.
8. When and where did the first International Caspian convention take place?
9. Name the Prefix of the first U.K. Caspian Stud.
10. Unscramble the name of a place closely connected with the first Caspians found in Iran, from the words AUBURN AD OUZO

**Part 2: Horses in Fiction**

- 11a) What was the name of Tam O'Shanter's famous mare?  
b) Where could you find her tail now?
- 12a) Who was the equine hero of Michael Malpurgo's famous WW1 story, now a film and stage play? b) Who was his best friend?
- 13a) In Animal Farm, what was the carthorse's name?  
b) What was the name of his friend, the cynical donkey?
- 14a) Who was the equine star of Anna Sewell's best-loved story?  
b) What was his pony companion in the early days called?
- 15a) What was the starring horse's pet name in the film National Velvet?  
b) What was his real name?
- 16a) What was Don Quixote's horse called? b) Who rode Rucio?
- 17a) What was the name of the race of super intelligent horses in Gulliver's Travels called? b) What was the name of the race of sub-humans?
- 18a) Can you name Roy Rogers' horse? b) What horse did Tonto ride?
- 19a) Which American musical began with the words "I got a horse right here. His name is Paul Revere"? b) Who was the actual horse in Paul Revere's ride?
- 20a) In which western film did a horse and rider fall asleep leaning against a wall?  
b) Who played the rider?

*Answers to [vshortis@sizzel.net](mailto:vshortis@sizzel.net), or post to Vicki to arrive by 31<sup>st</sup> January please.  
The first correct reply received wins a box of delicious chocolates!*

**‘Riding through Revolution’** by Louise Firouz, with Brenda Dalton. Foreword by HRH Prince Philip. *Published by Advanced Global Publishing, USA, 2013.*

I was delighted to hear that Louise Firouz's memoirs, ‘Riding Through Revolution’, have now been published and are available, with black and white photos, from Amazon. The book costs £9.69, with free delivery in the UK!

An excerpt in "The Caspian" magazine a couple of years ago had whetted my appetite and when it arrived, I couldn't put the book down. It is the story of Louise's remarkable life, from childhood, and details some of her experiences, including finding and breeding Caspians, along her journey. Louise was an amazing storyteller and I enjoyed some magical moments reading some of the tales I had heard her tell. I thoroughly enjoyed the read except for some moments of frustration with Louise. I found myself asking - where was her righteous indignation?

This book is a must-read and I would highly recommend it. I was lucky enough to get a second copy from Brenda Dalton, with colour photos which really make the pictures of horses come alive. Small numbers of the colour version are available direct from Brenda for £14 plus £1.50 postage in the UK.

(Contact Brenda on [daltonb@talk21.com](mailto:daltonb@talk21.com))

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## **RECIPE - CULLEN SKINK**

**A favourite, comforting soup from Scotland, submitted by Anna Bergmann**

The name of this soup comes from the fishing village of Cullen, in Morayshire.

1oz unsalted butter	1 oz plain flour
A bay leaf	1 peeled chopped onion
12 oz new potatoes scrubbed, cut into small pieces	
1 pint semi-skimmed milk	1/2 pint water
12 oz un-dyed smoked haddock fillet, skinned	
3 oz sweet corn kernels	Freshly ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg	2 to 3 tablespoons single cream
2 tablespoons freshly chopped parsley	

Melt butter in large heavy based saucepan, add onion and sauté for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add bay leaf, stir, sprinkle in flour and cook over low heat for 2 minutes, stirring frequently, add potatoes.

Take off heat, gradually stir in milk and water. Return to heat and bring to boil, stirring. Reduce heat to a simmer, cook for 10 minutes.

Discard pin bones from fish, cut into small pieces, add to pan together with sweet corn, cover and cook gently, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes or until fish is cooked. Add pepper and nutmeg to taste, stir in cream and heat gently until piping hot – sprinkle with parsley and serve with crusty bread.

# **WEBWISE & USEFUL CONTACTS**

**[www.laminitisclinic.org](http://www.laminitisclinic.org)** This is a very informative and helpful site for anyone with a laminitis problem.

**[www.sweet-itch.com](http://www.sweet-itch.com)** For useful advice and information to help overcome Sweet Itch.

**[www.grasssickness.org](http://www.grasssickness.org)** Hopefully you will never come across this problem, but it's worth visiting this site to learn more about this very distressing disease.

**[www.ragwort-ulk.com](http://www.ragwort-ulk.com)** **[www.ragwort.com](http://www.ragwort.com)** Two sites for advice about ragwort.

**[www.yourhorseshealth.com/health\\_care/colic](http://www.yourhorseshealth.com/health_care/colic)** For help with colic. (Note: health\_care)

**[www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)** The BHS site covers a wide range of issues affecting horse and rider and related subjects on a daily basis.

**[www.riding-for-disabled.org.uk](http://www.riding-for-disabled.org.uk)** Where disabled people can obtain information.

**[www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org)** The site where you can learn all about the Pony Club in the UK.

**[www.nntta.co.uk](http://www.nntta.co.uk)** Useful site if you tow a trailer. Ever wondered where you could find the spare part you urgently need, or needed some advice on how to tow with a trailer?

**[www.stolenhorseregister.com](http://www.stolenhorseregister.com)** Tel 0870 870 7107 Horse stolen/missing? Contact the Stolen Horse Register.

**[www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk](http://www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk)** Our own website with associated links.

**[www.caspianhorses.org](http://www.caspianhorses.org)** The website of the International Caspian Society. There is a lot of information here, plus links to other sites. If anyone would like to add a link, contact the Registrar, Kay Taplin, e-mail (after 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan): icsregistrar@hotmail.com. This site enables e-registration by national Registrars.

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