

THE CASPIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY



SPRING/SUMMER 2013

CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1076026

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VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell

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ADVISOR TO COUNCIL

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PLEASE NOTE COPY DATES for "THE CASPIAN" MAGAZINE
Spring/Summer - 1st April * Autumn/Winter - 1st October

All submissions to be sent to Vicki Shortis (see above) by these dates please

Dear all,

For once, I think our part of the South West has had the easiest winter. Just about everywhere else seems to have suffered rain, snow, ice and high winds, with all the misery that such a bitterly cold winter brings, especially to owners of livestock. Muddy fields and the high price of hay and feed have made it a tough winter, so by the time you read this, I hope Spring has finally arrived where you are. If you have foals due, I wish you sunny, peaceful days to watch their enchanting capers and a chance to relax in the knowledge that your horses are well fed, warm and happy!



During the winter your Council have been working, even though I had to cancel our January Skype meeting due to family illness. I was unable to Chair our Spring meeting in mid-March, but Ruth kindly stood in for me and Council had a very productive meeting. Plans are afoot on several fronts, as we do our very best to get Caspians through these parlous times, despite many horse owners having to put financial survival above most other horsey matters.

In late May, CHS will again be at Suffolk Show. Dreda Randall will be generously providing two Caspians for our stand and their riders for our ridden demonstrations. Hopefully our new tent will NOT blow away this year as this show was looking very promising until the storm!

The main event this summer of course, has to be our Caspian classes, to be held by special invitation at the prestigious and very popular Ashby Show in mid-July. This is our chance to show the horse world that Caspians mean business and we have exciting developments and spin-offs planned, not least a Grand Parade of Caspians and part-breds in the Main Ring. Ashby Show Committee is very excited that we're coming, with pre-show publicity promised. Therefore I earnestly appeal to all members, whether a Caspian owner or not, to come along and get involved if you can. We will need people on the CHS stand and extra leaders for showing horses. Can you help? We'd *love* to see you and you could make all the difference!

Our AGM looks as though it is going to be a bit different this time, thanks to a kind invitation by member Farokh Khorooshi to host it in his film studio in Buckinghamshire! This time we're holding it mid-week, to see if that suits people better (to avoid weekend horse shows) and it's a bit earlier too. (If you haven't been to a CHS AGM before, this year might be a very good time to try it!)

This is my chance to thank those people who give their free time and skills on Council to help arrange events and explore every possible way to promote and preserve the Caspian.

As holders of the Stud Book of Origin for the breed, we aim to get the Caspian – and CHS - talked about and included everywhere it needs to be, both in the wider horse world and within EU Equine Legislation. Ruth Staines does a terrific job, dealing not only with UK registrations and endless form-filling for DEFRA, but also working on behalf of our European members. We have recently welcomed Chris Fluskey to Council and look forward to adding Farokh later this summer. It seems very fitting to have somebody from the Caspian's home country involved.

I hope our 'CASPIAN' magazine is a prelude to a really good summer. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather and please don't forget to take some photographs for our website's Gallery

Best wishes, Liz Webster

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Under the Data Protection Act (1984), members should be aware that their details may be held on computer in accordance with the Act. This information will be used for circulating Society material and the compilation of member lists.

EDITOR:**Vicki Shortis**

Dear Members, as I write this I am looking out at a warm sunny day, the daffodils are out suddenly, having been in bud for weeks, I have seen a butterfly and some swallows and I'm feeling warmer. I think it has been the most bitterly cold winter I ever remember. My two OAPs were being turned out with two turn-out rugs on to make sure they kept warm & dry.

We are looking forward to the events which are arranged for this year. We hope many of you will be able to attend at least some of them. Please do come and meet us and if you can spare an hour or two to lend a hand it will be much appreciated.

We have included the details in this copy for your information, but if you need more information, please do contact us, (details inside front cover).

Included are some interesting articles, a lovely story from the early days in Australia, by Liz Webster, another about our newest, youngest Caspian breeder Harry Thirlby, an interesting veterinary article and much more...

I would like to thank Liz Webster, who has helped with putting this magazine together and whose support I could not have managed without.

TREASURER:**Ray Austin****Donations and Raffles, 2012 / 13**

The amount of donations received from members was £1,515 and those who gave these generous donations receive our grateful thanks.

The total received from raffles was £341 – thank you to those who supported the raffles.

This means that a total of £1,856 has been raised to help promote the Caspian!

Fundraising

There is a way we can *all* raise money for our CHS in our daily shopping! How? Become a member of 'EASYFUNDRAISING'. The Caspian Horse Society is a member. All you have to do is to log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register. **CHS then receives 15% of what you spend from over 2,000 retailers in the UK**, e.g. Marks and Spencers, John Lewis, Waitrose, Tesco and many more leading brands.

(For a user-experience account, see the article on page 29 – Ed.)

MEMBERSHIP:**Vicki Shortis**

Hello again. This may be the last time I write to you wearing my Membership hat, which I have been wearing since 1998. As you know, Sarah Anderson was unable to take over last year due to family problems, but still wishes to in the near future. In the interim period, Pat Bowles (Membership Secretary before me), has offered

to do it again. If you have forgotten to renew this year, please contact Pat (see inside front cover) as soon as possible.

I would like to welcome our new members to our society and look forward to meeting you. I would also like to say 'thank you' to those who have renewed their subscriptions on time and 'thank you' again if you have paid by Standing Order and saved yourselves £2.00. Please can I also remind you, if you do pay tax in the UK, to fill in the Gift Aid form and return it to me to raise funds for CHS at no cost to yourself? Your continued support is very much appreciated

DEAR MEMBERS...

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As you must be aware, your Council works very hard for the Caspian Horse Society. We give our time voluntarily, but there are times when some of us could do with an extra pair of hands.

This is where you might be able to help in some way. It may not be needed very often, but if you can spare a little time, have a particular skill and feel you would like to help in some way, please contact Liz Webster or Pat Bowles.

You will find contact details inside the front cover. We look forward to hearing from you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 29th & 30th (Wed. & Thurs) SUFFOLK SHOW, Trinity Park,
Ipswich – CHS stand, Ridden Demonstration.

JULY 6th (Sat.) HANBURY COUNTRY FAIR, Nr. Droitwich, Worcs.
Caspians exhibited and paraded with commentary, Information.

JULY 7th (Sun.), CHS Summer Council Meeting, Shawell, Leics.

JULY 14th (Sun.) ASHBY SHOW, Heather, Nr. Ashby de La Zouch,
Leics. Classes for Caspians. Grand Parade of Caspians.

AUGUST 28th (Wed.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, by kind
invitation of Mr Farokh Khorooshi, Great Horwood, Bucks.

OCTOBER 13th (Sun.), CHS Autumn Council Meeting, Shawell, Leics.

NOVEMBER Christmas Lunch (date and venue to be notified.)

I have received notification of two deaths since my report in the last magazine but on the positive side, I have received six stallion returns for UK and two from the Netherlands.

Much of my work over the last six months has been with DEFRA. At the end of last year, I was invited to sit on the 'UK Equine Identification Quality and Efficiency Review Project Passport-Issuing Organisations 'Working Group'. We had one meeting near the end of last year, when DEFRA expressed its concern over the quality of some passports. The intention was to reach a consensus over improving passport quality, without being too burdensome on the smaller PIOs. However, it did begin to look as though the cost of producing passports would increase.

There was supposed to be another meeting at the beginning of this year, when the method of making amendments was to be discussed. Then the horsemeat scandal broke and there have been no more meetings of this particular group, although work is going on with many groups, at all levels. It looks as though the National Equine Database is now sorely missed. Enforcement officers requiring checks on horses now have to go through DEFRA for information, which passes the enquiry to all 75 PIOs. In some cases, information has to be provided within 48 hours, difficult for small organisations. It seems the matter of keeping drugs out of the human food chain, which is now shown to be linked with horse welfare, is very much work in progress. Once decisions have been taken on how to proceed, the Society will of course inform the membership. Meanwhile, please ensure you keep all your paperwork up to date, sending passports to me promptly for any amendments, and have your passports ready for your vet before treatment is given.

SPARK PERSIA by Fiona Morland

Spark Persia died on the 10th September 2012 in Victoria, Australia. She was only nine years old. She'd had an ovarian tumour diagnosed several months previously and this had been removed by key-hole surgery. Although she appeared to make a good recovery, after a little while she began to suffer from associated ailments,

including increasing bouts of colic, and it was this that caused her death.



Persia was the youngest of the five Caspians who came to Australia with me in 2004. She was a great character and got on well with everyone, human and equine. She gave visiting children pony rides with good humour and tolerance and, in fact, I think she wouldn't have minded being a dog. She is a great loss and will be much missed.

Our condolences to Fiona in her sad loss. Ed.

I have represented the CHS at two meetings in Central London. First was the **National Equine Forum**, an annual meeting of all relevant organisations. The afternoon speech is always from our Patron, the Princess Royal and the topics tend to be interesting, but seldom for serious debate of current concerns - questions were limited - but these were often seriously presented in the papers. For example, a presentation was given by a government Minister on the equestrian work of DEFRA (doing a wonderful job protecting the UK from new diseases and, of course, on passports!)

Papers were given on the current work of Riding For The Disabled and the importance of volunteering; an analysis of one important centre by its enthusiastic director on the therapeutic physical benefit to be gained. This year's prize-winning undergraduate paper studied the joints of 5 physically disabled youngsters to see what was gained by riding; and there was an enthralling account by a young disabled Olympic equestrian competitor with no control over her lower legs, on how to win gold medals in dressage.

The Olympics were dealt with by several papers: – on the expected legacy for equestrianism; the originally stiff opposition to the location of equestrian games in Greenwich Park (a lobby argued that a countryside sport should be held in the country and would utterly fail in London. Local dog walkers were literally and metaphorically put out.)

On Health, there were papers on grass, good bad and indifferent and its implications for the health of a horse. Another presentation dealt with the Newmarket Equine Hospital's work on the variations in colic and the improvements in treatment; sadly, colic requiring surgery is showing little improvement in outcome. After one bout, a horse is likely to be prone to more episodes.

By contrast, the meeting of the **BHS Breeds Committee** focused on key issues facing Breed Societies - mainly the future of NED's data and the continuation or otherwise of a central store of equine data. Some 'bread and butter' concerns were: how can DEFRA be persuaded to bring forward legislation to deal with equine identification? If micro-chips are part of the answer, then how can we ensure that they can actually be read? How can we ensure that data recorded about the micro-chip is accurate? Whose signature should be on the document? Most societies insist on it being that of a vet., but it is not legally compulsory and the authorities apply no sanctions to a careless vet.

Most equine groups (including breed societies) agree that some kind of central equine database is urgently needed, but there will be *no* government funding and, to be really useful, it should include more data than required by NED – so who will pay and how should it be organised? The British Equestrian Federation has set up the Equine Sector Council (ESC) to look at this, to be done by those already heavily involved in other equine matters, so it is unlikely to work quickly. The

ESC has divided the horse world up into a variety of sectors to make sure no area gets missed: vets, leisure/recreational horse/pony owners; sports horse and pony owners; thoroughbred racehorse owners and breeders; sanctuaries and welfare organisations; enforcement bodies; slaughterhouses and other end of life options, to be consulted separately.

The ESC intends to set up a Central Equine Information System (ECIS) - far more than a database. DEFRA will not run or fund it, but seeks to hold a veto on who will and what it can do. Without an agreement, DEFRA will not release the data from NED's data base, which it currently holds. It is not using the data, but will not allow anyone else to use it. This angered some Committee members, but seems to be legal, as NED's database held personal information, under Data Protection rules. These mean that DEFRA itself cannot use the NED data – and could set off umpteen legal cases if disregarded.

The Committee argued that the ECIS's importance to Government for disease surveillance means they should contribute to its funding. Hopes of a subsidy rest on them being scared by the horsemeat scandal, which seems unlikely. The best hope may be to restart checks on animals imported into the UK - five years ago a check stopped importation of a horse from Brazil. The real risk of disease from Rumania and Belgium was not being addressed.

The second main concern was welfare. The BHS and British Equine Federation are planning a one-day conference involving as many equine groups as possible, perhaps at Aintree. The morning session will concentrate on problems caused by irresponsible breeding and veterinary centres having a second vet on call to deal with castrations that go wrong. The afternoon will focus on helping owners wanting to breed to select mares to produce useful, saleable foals. Anyone interested will be encouraged to attend.

Linked to this basic problem must be a drive to geld colts. The main idea is to set up centres where colts can be castrated at costs well below normal (in one case £70 was the fee). To be successful the scheme must rely on the essential co-operation of vets, as it depends on a local vet being on call in case a castration goes wrong.

Similar initiatives are designed to guide owners through the difficult problem of having their animals put down. Many may suffer because their owners will not take this decision. Sometimes the reluctance is financial. Ponies can be so cheap that a purchaser is shocked to find that the cost of euthanasia and disposal will be many times what they originally paid. Sometimes the problem is genuinely emotional. The BHS has set up a scheme called 'Friends at the End,' to train volunteers in 'bereavement counselling' for traumatised owners.

The National Fallen Stock Company had recently released a survey pertaining to the destruction and disposal of horses. Few members of the Committee had received this survey. Find it at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M6GQNBK>

A LETTER FROM THE ICS CHAIRMAN

Brenda Dalton

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When I retired as Registrar I hadn't planned on taking up office as Chairman of the ICS. Standing on the outside it was obvious why individual breeders felt that the Society did nothing for them, even though there is a lot of work done in the background. It is also obvious that as technology escalates we have need of volunteers who would be able to help us with website changes, news gathering and specialised assistance with bloodlines, showing and producing, and keeping us up to date with the galloping rules and regulations imposed upon us by our countries, especially in the EU.

I also learned that there is a great deal of misunderstanding. E.g. many people are unaware that there are two Societies in the U.K. and why this is so. Breeders in the U.S.A. are particularly misinformed about a number of matters and I would like to request that people contact me personally on <daltonb@talk21.com> rather than talk to people who may have an 'axe to grind'. They would then have a reply that can be circulated openly rather than being the subject of 'Chinese whispers'.

My hope is that we can encourage National Societies to take part more widely in the day to day running of the International Caspian Society and to ask individual breeders to make useful suggestions to their societies in order that interest in the breed can grow. In these austere days it will not be easy and we need the help of each and every one of you.

To start this procedure, three assistants have been voted in to help, for one year; Ruth Staines, Pandora Rene (due to their interest in the post of Vice Chair at the recent elections) and Brian Smith- Boyes, who proved his worth as Registrar and is happy to help us with whatever spare time he can find. I rather hope that at the end of that time three different people, hopefully in other countries, will wish to become involved for a year and learn about the work of the ICS. If you feel that you have the expertise to help us, particularly with our website, we would love to hear from you.

On a personal note, I lost my lovely Spark Shirine Shara last summer and I can't get used to my paddocks without the exquisite colour that she and her mother, Shirine, produced.

The wet summer meant that I was only able to get hay in September and straw in October – in 2012 we took hay in May! Hay was £7 a bale when I purchased mine and straw was £4. The local farms lost acres of crops under water and my poor Caspians waded about in mud during the short time each day that I could let them out. March brought bitter east winds and freezing nights which dried the ground and we are now desperately in need of rain – ironic isn't it?

I hope everyone has come through winter intact and that any foals due will be delivered safely. My very best wishes to all,

Brenda

In addition to being the CHS Treasurer until his retirement, John Sansome has been Treasurer to the International Caspian Society almost from its inception. Over the years he has had to cope with ever-changing technology and was responsible for creating Paypal facilities for our website. He was always a huge support to me as ICS Registrar and it was comforting to know that he was available to consult whenever his sound advice was needed. It is fitting that his position will now be filled by Raymond Austin and I look forward to having the same knowledgeable and convivial working relationship with Ray that I had with John.

Thank you, John, for all the years of help, loyalty and friendship.

Brenda Dalton

SUFFOLK SHOW, 29th & 30th May, Ipswich

Last year our tent, along with many others, was blown apart by overnight gales after the first day and the show was cancelled. This was disappointing not only because we lost our new tent, but because we'd seen that Suffolk Show holds good potential for Caspians. We'd had plenty of visitors and Meteor and Oriole had behaved impeccably through much patting and many photographs.

We are delighted to have received an invitation to visit Trinity Park again, taking the same space in the Equine Village. We will now put on a twice-daily demonstration by our Caspians in the exercise ring opposite the stand, which last year was occupied most of the day by Suffolk Punches!

Luckily Dreda and Emy Randall always attend Suffolk Show, with an assortment of animals including, naturally, a Suffolk Punch! Dreda has kindly agreed to squeeze in Runnymede Meteor and Bytham Churchill (Casper), and bring a pen for the stand and all feed and tack. They have promised some riders from Emy's riding school for Meteor and Casper. Their friend Laurie (and now ours), who was such a help last year, will be available when not helping them with their animals.

With another new, and hopefully more gale-proof tent, Ruth Staines, Vicki Shortis and Liz Webster will 'man' the stand. There will be a warm welcome there to any members who fancy a day out at a fabulous agricultural show and who will support us ringside for the demos!

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 to make sure that we have a current email address for you.

ATYPICAL EQUINE MYOPATHY IN GRAZING HORSES

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John Webster Vet MB, PhD, MRCVS

Atypical Equine Myopathy (AM) is currently a great cause of concern to horse owners, including Caspian owners. The disease almost always affects horses at pasture and in most cases proceeds to death within three days of the first onset of symptoms. It is particularly distressing because, once the diagnosis has been made, it is usually untreatable. The condition has been recognised for over 60 years. We know a lot about the pathology, the prognosis and the risk factors but we are still uncertain as to its cause.

The acute form of AM involves severe destructive changes in muscle, especially the muscles of respiration. Symptoms are sudden in onset and include stiffness and muscle pain, leading progressively to weakness, hypothermia, increased difficulty in breathing and collapse. Death is likely to occur within 72 hours. Breakdown products from the damaged muscles are passed in the urine, turning it dark brown. This gave the disease its earlier name 'Atypical Equine Myoglobinurea' - atypical because the common cause of myoglobinurea is "Monday Morning Disease", severe muscle damage resulting from overworking unfit horses. Mortality in animals that show acute symptoms of AM is over 75%.

The disease has been recorded throughout Northern Europe and is increasing in prevalence. It is most commonly seen in young horses, although all ages are susceptible. It is almost certainly caused by a toxin ingested at pasture. The exact nature of the toxin is as yet unknown, but it probably originates from fungi or bacteria within the environment. There is no evidence to suggest that a virus may be involved. In other words, each individual horse picks up the toxic agent from the environment; there is no transmission of infection between animals. The risk factors are reasonably well recognised. The highest incidence is in spring, especially after wet, frost-free winters. Horses are more at risk when they are in low condition, the quality of the pasture is poor and the pasture has a heavy covering of manure or fallen leaves. This suggests to me (although this is unproven) that the toxin may not be in the grass itself. Hungry horses, with limited access to quality grass, pick up the toxin when scavenging for other sources of feed from the leaves and seeds of trees and shrubs.

One can attempt treatment of affected horses. This involves bringing them into warm, well-bedded stables to prevent hypothermia, intensive fluid therapy, analgesia and aggressive treatment with antioxidants. However, despite such heroic interventions the prognosis is extremely poor. When breathing becomes very difficult, euthanasia is recommended on grounds of compassion. On a more positive note, it is possible to identify other animals in a preclinical state from a blood test for creatine kinase (CK). These animals should be removed from the pasture at once and fed more generously.

While it is impossible to guarantee freedom from AM (e.g. with a vaccine) it is undeniable that the risk can be greatly reduced by proper attention to pasture management and ensuring that animals maintain satisfactory condition over winter through proper attention to supplementary feeding and parasite control. The fact that horses at pasture under three years of age are particularly at risk can probably be attributed to their higher nutrient requirement for growth. They are more likely to be in poor condition and therefore exceptionally hungry.

In short therefore, AM is a terrible condition to experience but there is a lot one can do to avoid it.

WORLD HORSE WELFARE REPORT

By Jane Holderness-Roddam

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With all the recent hype about the horse meat scandal and the harsh winter conditions, World Horse Welfare has been inundated with calls offering to help, donate money or even just ask what could or should be done about the growing population of unwanted horses and ponies. They have been particularly busy looking into the following situations:

- The plight of thousands of horses being transported live across Eastern Europe to Italy in indescribably awful conditions has been highlighted by a vote by MEPs to bring in legislation to limit journey times and review the current welfare laws which do not go far enough to protect horse welfare.
- The shocking revelations about the treatment of horses here at home in a Cheshire abattoir were sickening. Again, World Horse Welfare set up a petition to the Food Standards Agency to fully investigate the situation and suspend further operations at the site until proper procedures have been put in place and the law is being complied with to protect these defenseless animals. It is also calling upon DEFRA to install and monitor CCTV cameras in all English slaughterhouses.
- The indiscriminate breeding of horses has seen a 50% rise in horses being taken into World Horse Welfare's four re-homing centres since 2006. All horse charities have seen a similar rise, with the current estimate that 6,000 horses or ponies are at risk of needing rescuing or re-homing. This puts a huge strain on all charities.

World Horse Welfare works tirelessly in several countries abroad, including Senegal, Nicaragua, South Africa, Central America, Gambia. They train and educate horse owners, whose lives depend on their horses, to look after their horses effectively by teaching them how to fit tack, shoe correctly, treat and prevent wounds, as well as fitting fly fringes and providing water, etc., which all help to make these working horses' lives more bearable.

Visit www.worldhorsewelfare.org for more information on how you can help.

≈ ASHBY SHOW ≈

CATTOWS FARM, NORMANTON LANE,

HEATHER, LEICS. LE67 2TD

*By kind invitation of Ashby Show Committee.
Open to members of any ICS member Caspian Society*

CASPIAN CLASSES, from 11.30 a.m.

Judge: Mrs Ateshe Firouz-Larssen, Belgium

Licensed Caspian Stallion or Gelding 4 yrs. old & over
Caspian Mare / Brood Mare / Mare with Foal (mare 4 yrs. & over),
Prize for Best Foal.

Caspian Youngstock 1-3 years old, colt, filly, gelding
Part-bred Caspian (any sex, any age), Rosette to Best 3 yrs. old & under
Mixed Ridden, any sex, any age. Rosette to Best Rider

Special Trophies to Winners. Double Performance Points

GRAND PARADE OF CASPIAN HORSES

Main Ring (Approx. 2 p.m.) All entrants are welcome, including part-breds. Persian rugs, bridles, costumes etc., may be worn by pure-bred Caspians (and/or their leaders!). Commentary.

Schedules, Entry Forms, Directions –
*from Janet Dedicoat (CHS members will receive them) or contact her
on 0121 445 1984 or email <j.dedicoat14@gmail.com>*

Entries close 22nd June

***Stabling can be arranged off-site by the Ashby Show Secretary,
Contact <info@ashbyshow.com>.***

**Ashby Show is THE place to be this summer. Whether you
own a Caspian or not - DON'T MISS IT!**

CASPIANS AT ASHBY SHOW, JULY 14th

Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell, Vice President, CHS

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At a CHS Council Meeting last October we discussed ways of promoting this wonderful breed of the Caspian Horse to the public. It was suggested that we might hold our own Show again, but our last Show received a sad lack of support and was cancelled after much preliminary work. After much discussion, we felt that we should try again - if possible without lots of costs and in a good location to gain entries. My idea was to hold our Show **WITHIN** an existing show, by asking if they would consider hosting us on the promise that we would organize and run it all ourselves, but share the venue and facilities. The Midlands area was thought to be a good location to gain entries from surrounding Caspian breeders. I immediately thought of my local large, popular Agricultural Society Show, held at their new showground near Ashby de la Zouch (Leicestershire).

When I rang the Show Secretary, she seemed very interested, and suggested I came along to the Horse Committee Meeting to expand on the idea. She explained that they were dropping a certain section of the Show this year and, if all agreed, the CHS could provide an interesting and unique attraction to fill that gap for the Show.

I took our leaflets and told the meeting about the Caspian Horse and the CHS. To my delight, they were excited at the prospect of hosting us *and* giving us a slot in the main Parade, even explaining the area of the Show ground that we could use. So next morning I quickly rang Liz Webster, our Chairman, to tell her the exciting news! **YES**, we had a showground and at no cost to us, as Ashby Agricultural Society had offered to host our Show and share all their facilities.

SO NOW IT IS UP TO US, Members and breeders of Caspians. Come and show off your Caspians to the world! The BBC will be there to film the Caspian show and the winners, who will receive specially commissioned CHS trophies for each class. We must give them a fabulous impression of ourselves and have our Caspians well-schooled and turned out to *perfection*.

Ashby having offered us all this and the interest it will raise, I am hoping that for our involvement in their Parade – for which we will give a commentary and the history of the Caspian breed - anyone who has them can bring any traditional Persian bridles, rugs or tack to be worn or displayed. It would really make a wonderful sight for the public watching the Parade. The show has a huge public attendance and we want them to leave with a lasting memory of our presence at their show - fulfilling our objective of giving the Caspian breed and the CHS some really good publicity.

Please **DO COME**, and **ENTER** your Caspian or Part-Bred! **THE MORE the MERRIER!**

IF YOU CAN HELP as a leader in or out of the ring, or on the CHS stand for an hour or two, it will be much appreciated and should be fun! Contact Janet Dedicoat or Liz Webster (contact details inside front cover) as soon as possible. Please note the dress code for when in the ring. Jeans are not welcome!

HELLO TO CASPIAN OWNERS & SUPPORTERS!

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We're so lucky to have this wonderful opportunity to present Caspians to the wide, varied audience at the 99th Ashby Show - we've been made so welcome. Come and exhibit in the variety of classes on our Schedule, or support at the ringside and enjoy a wonderful day out with the family; the showground opens at 8.30am for the public. See directions below - it is well signposted from all routes. Their website www.ashbyshow.com gives good information for exhibitors, visitors, trade stands, catalogues etc. and is worth a visit, or contact them by email info@ashbyshow.com or phone 01283 229225.

This is a One-Day Show, so has no onsite stabling, but lists of stabling and hotels/B&Bs can be found on the website or contact them by email. Both website and catalogue list twenty Showing Regulations for Competitors. Please read them carefully. To avoid problems on the day, do remember your responsibility to have the appropriate documents required by current ministry regulations, (e.g. passports) for admittance to the show.

We are so lucky to have an expert judge, well-informed on Caspians and such a great opportunity to have our stock assessed under her scrutiny. BBC Persia will be filming and broadcasting to an even wider audience - a truly unique moment.

This show runs like clockwork. Be prepared and punctual for your classes - stewards will help. Respect each other and enjoy the day. Exhibit your stock safely, well presented and follow correct dress code for handlers and helpers in the ring. In the Spring 2005 Caspian magazine, Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell wrote a wonderful article on 'Showing your Caspian at its Best' - well worth the search for useful tips. After the disastrous 2012 season - cancellations, floods, mud, gales - let's look towards a successful show that is fun and interesting - GOOD LUCK!

Janet Dediccoat.

DIRECTIONS TO ASHBY SHOW

Cattows Farm, Normanton Lane, Heather, Leics., LE67 2TD

From M42/A42 - Leave at Junction 12, take B5006 South, shortly turn 1st left onto Measham Road. Go through village of Packington and join Heather Lane/Normanton Road/Ashby Road/Heather Lane. Cattows Farm is on a restricted access lane well back from the road on the right, before Heather.

From A447- Enter Ibstock then join Melbourne Road. Turn west (left) for Heather at double mini roundabout in Ibstock. Join Ashby Road, Pisca Lane, through Heather, continue on Normanton Lane. Cattows Farm is on a restricted access lane, well back from the road on the left.

From M1 - Leave at Junction 22, take A511 towards Coalville. When the dual carriageway ends, filter left onto B585 Beveridge Lane. Head towards Ibstock and join Leicester Road. At Co-op roundabout turn right (west) onto Ashby Road. Go straight over double mini roundabout onto Pisca Lane, through Heather, continue on Normanton Lane. Cattows Farm is on a restricted access lane, well back from the road on the left.

AGM - A DAY AT A FILM STUDIO!

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Our AGM will be different in several respects this year. It will be held earlier in the year - **on Wednesday 28th August** - so that our horse-owning members can attend shows at weekends. Many of those who come to our AGM on a regular basis are retired, so we hope we can welcome them again, along with a few more! We would also like to see some of our younger members, who may be on holiday then.

The AGM day, with a delicious lunch included, will be held by kind invitation of Farokh Khorrooshi, at his film studio in his beautiful barn, at home at Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire. We would like to welcome as many members as possible to what promises to be a most interesting and memorable day. Farokh has promised to tell us a little bit about his work with the animals.

Our host, FAROKH KHOROOSHI, is an Iranian born advertising director, who joined CHS some three years ago. He is an enthusiastic rider, who visited Louise Firouz's house in Kordan in 2011 and photographed her Caspians.

Farokh bought Bywater Meadow in 2000 as a millennium project, with a view to building a barn, where he could train animals of all shapes and sizes for his film work and do some farming at the same time. His farm is due for its organic certification in June this year. Farokh has offered to host this year's AGM in his barn/studio in August. The barn has an internal space of some 2500 square feet with a smooth concrete floor and overhead lighting. The building design was copied from the traditional architecture of the nearby town of Woburn. He has since created a small lake at the farm to provide a natural habitat for all kinds of wildlife.



The full address of the farm is:

Bywater Meadow, Pilch Lane, Great Horwood,
Bucks., MK17 0NX.

(Full directions will be included with AGM documents.)

Farokh has family in the area of Iran where Louise kept her Caspians. He was photographed recently at the studio with Louise's daughter, Tossa Firouz-Larssen (above), after they all met at the nearby Addington Horse Trials, where Tossa's daughter Leyla competed for Belgium!

Photos: Ruth Staines

INTERVIEW WITH BETTY GYLES OF THE HERODEN STUD, WEST AUSTRALIA

By Liz Webster

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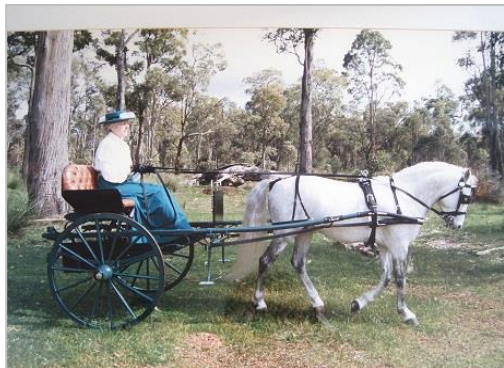
From the start, Tony and Betty Gyles showed that they were made of different stuff to most people! Newly married and finding themselves with nowhere to live in post-war UK, they went to live in Kenya. Tony eventually joined the Kenya Police, one advantage of which was entitlement to six months' home leave every four years, with three adult air fares to the UK or cash in lieu, if travelling another way. By this time



they had five children, so they took the latter, using the money to import the first diesel-powered long-wheel-base Land Rover to Kenya. They drove from Nairobi, across central Africa to Nigeria, then north through the Sahara Desert to Algeria and Morocco, thence to Gibraltar, Spain, France and back to the UK – “Father, Mother, five children and the family’s black Labrador!”

They repeated this journey when they left Kenya after it gained full independence and returned to Portsmouth. Between 1964 and 1971, as well as raising five children, they owned and ran a 12-bedroom hotel and two restaurants there! Going to live in Australia must have seemed a complete doddle after all this. Two years ago, Tony died and Betty moved back home again to Southsea at Portsmouth, to be near to some of her children. This is where I visited her just before Christmas.

On entering Betty’s sunny apartment, the first thing I saw was a large framed photograph of Betty driving Hopstone Kaftar, the Caspian stallion we sent all the way to Australia as an eight-month old colt. The gum trees and Australian bush behind them in the photograph are a far cry from the gentle green paddocks of Hopstone Lea. Over lunch, we talked about Betty’s exciting years with Caspians through the 1970s and 1980s.



Kaftar was foaled on 19th April, 1978 to Taliyeh. His sire was Mehran. Both had arrived on the first flight of Caspians from Iran in 1974, along with the colts Karoun and Taliyeh’s foal, Maroun. As a youngster, Kaftar was dark grey, but Betty’s photograph showed a handsome, pure white stallion. Between the

grey and the white lies the story of the wonderful 'try anything' attitude of the Caspian and of courage and determination by the Gyles family.

Jarrahdale, their nearest town, is a 45 minute drive south east of Perth, in the foothills of the Darling Range of hills and 800 metres above sea level. The Heroden Stud encompassed 14 acres, strip-grazed, with electric fencing separating the mares and foals from other stock. Kaftar left the UK on the same flight as three Caspian fillies destined for the Cheleken Stud, New Zealand, in autumn 1978. Tony and Betty collected him from the transporters at Perth on a day of air temperatures around 40 degrees C, with a label saying 'Gyles' stuck on his rump! He had left Britain in a thick winter coat, so their first priority was to clip him, ready to face an Australian summer.

In 1976 Tony and Betty had taken over the almost black colt Hopstone Tochal from Mrs Jean Beer on a three-year lease, as Jean was leaving for Papua New Guinea. Tochal's story also shows how tough a Caspian can be. Unaccompanied, he was sent on the lengthy journey from Melbourne to Perth by train. Somewhere on the journey, his wagon was shunted into a siding and forgotten. Until discovered three days later, the colt stood in a crate in the blistering heat, without food or water. Following that experience, he spent some time liveried at a riding school, where he was over-awed by the larger horses and kept in a disused goat pen! Betty remembers him being pretty wild and defensive when he arrived at Jarrahdale, but in those peaceful surroundings and with gentle handling, he soon became a sprightly, loving animal, who wooed his mares with great gentleness, although he remained afraid of enclosed spaces. Tony and Betty formed the Heroden Stud, and by the time Kaftar arrived, Tochal had been bred to two Welsh mares and an Australian part-bred.

Betty's daughter Helena, who had tired of teaching pupils to ride on Thelwell-shaped ponies at her riding school, broke all the Caspians to ride. With her ready access to many small riders, she was ideally placed to make the most of them. Betty did the early handling and groundwork, Helena saddled and bridled them, Betty took over for the lunging and long-reining and their grandson Rodney did the backing and riding!

The first public appearance by a Caspian Horse in West Australia was on New Years' Day, 1979, when Tochal was paraded in hand at Ascot Racecourse, Perth. The following year he was ridden in a display at the Australian Stock Horse Society's Annual Show by young Clayton Fredericks, an eight year old boy, whose family owned racehorses. (Clayton was later to take part in the London Olympics, 2012!)

Betty and Tony set up the Caspian Preservation Society of West Australia, with a few founder members, on 4th August, 1981. The Society recognised twelve Caspian Studs and they published the first West Australian Caspian Stud Book in August 1988. The Society was actively supported for many years but sadly, since

the Gyles' retirement, activity appears to have dropped, although there are still pure and part-bred Caspians in West Australia.

Caspian Breed Classes were first introduced at the Autumn Horse Show held at the Royal Showground in Perth in March 1982. After this, Heroden Stud formed the "Caspian Demonstration Team", performing a musical ride inspired by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The team was led by the stallions Tochal and Kaftar, followed by the pure-bred mare Marida Pranses and five part-bred Caspians, all ridden together by Helena's young pupils. Kaftar particularly loved showing off to the music. All riders and horses were dressed by Betty, who made the costumes herself. The children wore white shirts, blue ties and blue / gold sashes saying 'CASPIAN', while the ponies wore blue brow-bands, reins and girths. Betty also remembers making blue dustcoats, banners and lots more items in industrial quantities!



Their fame quickly spread. Soon the Demonstration Team was asked to appear at Race Days, Shows, Fetes and Pony Club days. Kaftar became the undisputed star of the show. Ridden by their grandson Rodney Street, he demonstrated tent-pegging and any manner of mounted gymnastics. No better way could have been devised to show off the Caspians' amazing temperament and their enthusiasm for anything asked of them. The bay stallion Ruba II also sometimes took part. He had been leased from his owner Margot Schabort, by the Cornish family, who showed him in-hand very well.

Between September and March each year, Betty says the family would be showing or competing almost every weekend. They held Caspian Fun Days on a farm owned by the Ginistan Caspian Stud and rented a showground for two years to put on competitions in 'log snagging' (towing a log), long-reining round a course, barrel racing, cavaletti jumping and many more – for which, naturally, Betty made the rosettes!

Betty recounts several episodes with amusement. At the Albany Show, Kaftar was stabled next to a horse which was supposed to be on a diet, but was later discovered to be kindly posting mouthfuls of hay to the dieter through the rails of the stable between them! On another occasion, Betty was actually in the show ring when she noticed that her small daughter, Ann, had carefully stuck Elastoplast on all the ponies' chestnuts.

As Rodney grew taller, it became evident that his height, combined with the leaning required by the tent-pegging, was straining Kaftar's back. It was then that Betty and Tony decided that he should be broken to drive. With Tony driving Kaftar's son, Heroden Gahri (out of a mare by Ruba II bred to an Australian Pony mare) and Betty driving Kaffy, they regularly took part in Driving Club drives,



usually spending two days of camping and barbeques. She mentioned that Kaftar had covered 14.2 km (roughly nine miles) on his own.

When Betty left Australia, she filled two carrier bags with rosettes won driving Kaftar, most of them blue (1st place in Australia). Many were for the 'Period Turnout' classes, for which she cannot recall coming anywhere but 1st! She remembers the time Kaftar got his tongue over the bit just as they entered a show ring, but using only voice commands, they still won the class.

With Betty as groom, Tony also drove the part-bred, Heroden Ghari, in Combined Driving competitions, for which he was ideal. The Australian Pony is mainly Welsh x small Arab with some Timor (a native pony that is quite like a Caspian, usually 12-14 hh.) Sadly, all good things must come to an end. Kaftar died in 2005, aged 27, much loved and missed by the Gyles family.



When Tony and Betty could no longer drive Ghari, he stayed with the Sneyd family and only died in late 2012. Both were wonderful advertisements for the Caspian and gave the Gyles family many years of excitement and achievement.

With a longish drive home, I had to leave long before I wanted to, having really enjoyed the chance to talk over those good times with Betty. The Gyles family gave the Caspian in Australia the very best kind of publicity, using and enjoying their Caspians to the full.

Betty kindly allowed me to digitally photograph her photographs and reproduce some of them here, and hopes you enjoy her story. When I sent her a draft and she saw what I had written about her she said "Thank you for the generous praise, which I'm not sure we deserved, since we had so much interest and pleasure from our beloved Caspians". She is a tough and courageous lady who, I'm delighted to say, has decided to become a member of the CHS! If anybody would like to get in touch with her, I will gladly pass on messages.

I have owned Caspians and Caspian part-breds since I met Pat Bowles in 2008. My friend Penny Walster, of Bathley Hill Stud near Newark, had been out for



lunch with Pat and came back full of excitement about Pat's then stallion, Bytham Bobby Dazzler. Penny persuaded me to use Dazzle on my Dartmoor cross mare and in May 2009, Herbilicious (Herbie) was born. So began my journey with Caspian horses.

My son Harry (now twenty years old) took a keen interest in these little horses and particularly the bloodlines. Harry works for Jane Holderness-Roddam at West Kington Stud and so has lived away from home since shortly after he turned seventeen.

In the late summer of 2011 and early spring of 2012 Harry did his own 'tour' of Caspian owners, up and down the country. I thought this was simply to look at the different bloodlines in the flesh and to further his interest...

Little did I know that by early last year (2012), Harry had purchased three Caspian mares from Fleur Scott at the Henden Stud and loaned another from Penny! Harry casually slipped this information into the conversation while I was driving, probably so that I was unable to hit him, as my hands were on the wheel!!!! Understandably I was concerned, as I do not want Harry to be tied down at such a young age, but... he is now an adult and I must support and not interfere!

Harry then informed me that he had loaned a Caspian stallion from Naomi Thomas to run with these mares. He had again chosen a horse with a rare bloodline and one he thought would complement his mares best. The stallion was 'Teymour Taj', an extremely good example of a Caspian, with an exquisite head. Taj lived with three of the girls for two months and did his job, getting them all in foal first time.

Meanwhile, Harry had sent 'Bytham Philamena' up to Barbara Smathers to be covered by her fantastic stallion, Arjuna Akbar Shah. Philly did not come back into season so we assumed she was in foal. My husband and I collected her from Barbara and brought her to stay with my ponies in Leicestershire. Here she formed a firm friendship with my little mare Bella. Bella and Philly lived happily together for the remainder of the summer.

As winter approached I realised that Harry would have three weeks at home over Christmas, followed by five weeks with the Funnells at the Billy Stud. I (foolishly perhaps) offered to look after Harry's mares for the winter. The Henden mares were with Harry in Wiltshire and of course I already had Philly.

I began the search for winter grazing, which proved to be almost impossible as everywhere was very wet after the summer. Eventually a friend offered me a great field at her house, but it was six miles from home for me, so quite a journey before and after school every day!

On the first of December my friend and I travelled the 120 miles to West Kington to collect Minoo, Alima and Parimetta. The mares loaded well and travelled beautifully. We introduced them to Bella and Philly and the hard slog of winter began!! Luckily the field had plenty of grass on it, so we didn't need to feed hay. As usual the main time-consumer was poo-picking, something my husband and daughter became very good at, luckily for me! Harry was home over Christmas, so did his fair share of the work, giving me much appreciated support. (Obviously I still had my own six horses to care for.)

At the beginning of January, Harry went off to Surrey and I took on full-time care of all eleven equines. Things became easier as the nights started to get lighter. But ...we have had a long, wet winter and I did find myself counting the days to February half-term, when we were due to take the mares back.



The Caspians were extremely happy and an absolute pleasure to look after. The couple who own the land were enchanted by them. The totally 'unhorsey' husband loved to watch them cantering around and described them as "the most beautiful things he has ever seen!" Their final week with me was spent in a cosy barn munching on a couple of round bales of hay. We

wormed them thoroughly and got them ready to go 'home'.

On February the ninth, at seven o'clock in the morning, my friend and I loaded Harry's mares (plus Bella) into a cattle trailer and drove them back to West Kington. Once again the girls travelled amazingly well and we turned them out into a huge, fantastically sheltered field to continue their pregnancies.

As I write this article the first foal is due at the end of April. Bytham Parimetta is the dam and is looking very healthy and round! The next foal is due at the end of May and the final two in June and July. I am already on the lookout for a very large field in case we require it for next winter! One thing I do not plan to be doing is poo-picking after a potential fifteen horses!

Harry and I will bring news of the foals as they arrive over the next few months.

I am a part-bred Caspian mare living in Nottingham. I am very playful, full of life and character. My owner is the same age as me, 9 years old. He is called Maxwell. He teaches me a lot – he's taught me how to relax and how to think about situations I am in. I can play all of the 'Parelli' games and enjoy myself so much playing these games.

I am not as tall as my grazing buddy, who is a thoroughbred called Nancy. I stand at 13hh. I love spending time in the field with her - she sometimes tells me I am cheeky, but they all love me for it. I have a glossy chestnut coat, but do like a roll in the mud when no one is looking.



I am sometimes ridden with no saddle and just a bareback pad and my owner says in a few months I will not need to be ridden in a bit. I am in a snaffle bridle now and they say I am easy to ride when I go out exploring the countryside. I love riding out in the woods, sniffing new things, seeing the tall trees and people with dogs walking past. Nothing fazes me at all. I love children riding me. I come into my stable at night, next to my best friend Nancy and I enjoy eating my hay and standing for ages to get brushed. I have really strong hooves, my farrier says he thinks my hooves are like 'breeze blocks'. I don't wear shoes.

My owner says he is going to take me to some shows this year. I am not worried at all as I know I will be the best behaved, prettiest pony there. Being a part bred Caspian gets me a lot of attention. People always ask what breed I am! My show name is Bytham Charade, so look out for me if you're in the area. I am a laid-back pony, loving life, with a heart of gold. Thanks for reading this.

(As told to Chris Fluskey)

NOTES FROM THE NORTH

By Runnymede Amber

23



for the part bred Caspian up here. Interestingly she has inherited what would seem to be rather more than her quarter Welsh Section A genes in a number of ways and is also vast for her age!



Stichill Sapphire has generated lots of interest in the Caspian Breed

Hello, this is Runnymede Amber, writing to you from Scotland, where I now live, having been so kindly given to Anna by Rosemary a few years ago, to live out my old age north of the border. Since then I have had a smashing foal by Dazzle (Bytham Bobby Dazzler) - so she's a three quarter bred - called Stichill Sapphire, who is about to be two and is getting pretty good at going to shows to fly the flag

Last year I was covered by Fred ("Bytham Orient") but it was not to be – in fact we hear that many studs had problems last summer because of the weather and in particular the lack of sun. Seemingly we need sunlight to trigger a chain of reactions, starting with the retina at the back of the eyeball through to the hypothalamus and then the pituitary gland, to produce the two key reproductive hormones luteinizing and follicle stimulating, which are carried via the bloodstream to the ovaries of mares and the testes of stallions.

In fact the wet weather has brought nothing but problems and fatalities in all manner of ways, in addition to making life so miserable and such hard work. Skin problems were rife all last summer, with infections seemingly coming from nowhere and quickly going into any area which might have been open and sore, even if not visibly so, from sweet itch or other general itching. Luckily 'she' hit upon a range of products based on Chlorine Dioxide to deal with this, both topically and to spray the stables, and also some tablets to prevent a build-up of algae in water buckets and troughs.

The accumulation of water and toxins on the grass also caused an unprecedented amount of laminitis – though luckily we were all fine. Likewise our vets have seen an exceptional amount of colic with a high mortality rate – some definitely caused by toxins brought by the rain still on the grass and poor quality hay from last summer. We have heard of a number of cases of Atypical Myopathy, symptoms of which include those similar to colic and wonder if there is a connection to the wet conditions – more research is being published on this all the time to raise

awareness of the causes. From a quick referral to the internet it seems that this is the same thing as Sporadic Atypical Equine Myoglobinuria which, it was reported in the last newsletter, has caused the death of two Caspian colts.

The winter months have brought a high level of mud fever, luckily not for us, but Anna has been treating it a lot *radionically for masses of her patients. We have had really restricted turn out through the winter as some of our smaller 'pens' have been waterlogged for months, so we have only been turned out by rota in the big field which drains well – but we are luckier than some who have had no turn out for most of the winter. So we all hope for a kinder spring and summer to come and, of course, for some nice mares for the boys this year.

The range of C D products are marketed as Bio Security for Horse and Rider by Trus-STEED and they combat all forms of bacterial and fungal infection really effectively – actually made up here and the M.D. has been here to talk me through them all – the topical sprays work really well, the Algae Stop really does stop the build up in field troughs and the stable spray kills Streptococci which is the causative agent of strangles, ring worm and a broad spectrum of bacteria, viruses, fungi and spores.

**Radionics, also referred to as 'The Black Box', which is what Anna does professionally, is a form of complementary healing practiced at a distance, using a piece of hair or mane as a 'witness', utilising a pendulum and a variety of instruments to heal both emotional and physical problems.*

VICKI'S USEFUL TIPS

24

1. If your horse has some pink skin, apply sun cream half an hour before turn-out.
2. Make sure your horse has clean water at all times, check water tanks daily and clean regularly to keep free of toxic green algae.
3. Protect from flies with a good fly repellent. Adding Garlic to a daily feed also helps.
4. Another fly tip - share your Marmite sandwiches with your horse!!
5. Put salt licks in stable and fields, salt is an essential mineral.
6. Horses like shelter from hot sun, try to provide it if you have no natural shelter.
7. Nettles are a good source of iron and help put a bloom on your horse's coat. Cut young nettles, wilt for 24 hours to neutralise the sting before feeding.
8. Look for ragwort in your fields, dig up, root and all, and burn in a safe area.
9. Herbs are a natural supplement for horses - sow herb seeds round the edges of the field, such as ribgrass, chicory, yarrow, dandelion, sheep's parsley and mint.
10. Both horses & riders can suffer from pre-competition nerves. Bach Flower Rescue Remedy is worth trying for both humans and horses!

WHY THE LONG FACE?

By Irene French (MRPCH & Hon Member I.H.)

25

The horse's long face contains what is probably one of the most efficient olfactory systems of any British domestic animal. Their long nose has a built in analysing laboratory; namely the vomeronasal organ; known commonly as the organ of Jacobson'. Scientists have calculated that if you could spread out the sensory mucus membrane of the horse's nasal cavity it would probably be big enough to cover the horse's entire body. They estimate that the horse's sense of smell could be hundreds or it could be many thousands of times greater than ours. It is impossible to calculate the wealth of information conveyed by the horse's sense of smell.

Nature did not build this extraordinarily efficient olfactory system for nothing, it evolved over millions of years to keep the horse informed and safe. It is vital to just about everything in the horse's life, communication, introduction, friends, foes, reproduction, rank, predators, food, water, danger, places, directions, etc. It is believed that wild horses can detect a large predator from a distance of at least half a mile; and that Arabian horses in the dessert can detect water from at least half a mile.

Man and horse are natural enemies; one will eat the other. We humans smell like the predators we are, which is an automatic danger signal to the horse. Given time, they get used to us but they will leave us whenever they can to be with safer smelling prey animals. Unlike the dog who is thought to be man's best friend. But this is because the dog's sense of smell informs him that we are predators akin to him and therefore part of his hunting pack.

The horse's sense of smell is the main influence for inducing the production of hormone oxytocin which governs personality and behaviour. Yet most people when dealing with horses never consider utilising the horse's sense of smell to govern behaviour. We only consider the senses with which we most identify, which are sight, hearing and touch; and even taste which is not conducive with training the horse except for bribery.

We all know that if the horse senses danger it often will snort to clear the olfactory sense; this is a 'fearful state' which the horse goes through many times when we are "starting" it; it is not conducive with training or dealing with or with the health of the horse. Fear can be reduced enormously by us smelling 'right'; thus making "starting" and dealing with horses a more congenial affair.

Man has known for more than 5000 years that to approach a wild horse you must hide your aroma. Apparently cave-men covered themselves in horse dung to hide their predator aroma. This allowed them to creep up on the herd.

Don't worry; you don't have to cover yourself in horse dung. Apparently, thousands of years later Greek legends tell of aromatic calming perfumes. They called these aromatics pax which is the Latin word for peace. This method of calming horses was used by man for as long as history can remember, but after the

combustion engine replaced the horse as Britain's backbone of industry, farming and transport, much old horsey knowledge was forgotten.

This ultra safe way of calming the horse with a simple aromatic was re-discovered in approximately 1930 by the author George Ewart Evans whose hobby was discovering old stories, remedies and accents. Pax is still known by the older generation of horse-people as "the best kept secret in the horse world". But in this enlightened age there is no longer need for secrecy.

Irene French is a holder of the Monty Roberts Preliminary Certificate of Horsemanship and an Hon. in "Intelligent Horsemanship", an accomplished Equestrian Sculptor and has re-introduced PAX, the horse calming training perfume.

You can hear all about it at www.paxhorse.co.uk

A CASPIAN CALENDAR BY COLIN BARKER 26

Colin Barker has amassed over 25 years' experience working as a professional photographer, and has always felt encouraged by the positive reaction to his sensitive approach towards the whole image making process.

Based in West Sussex with his partner Françoise and their two whippets, Colin continues his creative development, whilst his eye for graphic detail and love for reportage has enabled him to capture a large collection of memorable images for his solo photographic exhibitions depicting rural pursuits.

Having just completed a photographic project that included capturing images of working heavy horses, between commissions Colin is looking forward to the challenges of capturing some creative images at the other end of the equine scale for the Caspian project.

We are delighted to be working with Colin on capturing images of Caspians for a prestige Calendar. He has been given the contact details of CHS breeders and intends to visit as many as he can over the next year, to gather images which reflect a year in the life of Caspian horses. If you have Caspians and have not yet been contacted by Colin, but would like to be part of the project, please contact Liz Webster.

*Examples of Colin's equine work can be found on his website at
www.colinbarker.co.uk*

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



A big HELLO to all my friends!

The first day of spring has come and gone and thick snow covers our fields. We are all wearing rugs today and hoping that soon the weather will change. Even though I'm 'designed' (nothing to do with labels!) to be dense-coated and hardy, this winter has been long and cold with some biting winds and I have needed plenty of top-up feeding and extra care. Luckily, I have several friends and family looking after me and children often

visit. One friend is Emily, who is fifteen and a sort of Pet-Sitter when she's not at school. She helps out if Mum's away but my Mum and her two 'girls' take care of me most of the time. My 'old Mum', Pat, who I used to live with, visits regularly with another friend, Madge. She and Pat have a combined age of one hundred and eighty years!

Of course, my field friends make the days pass happily. Zoe, the old grey mare, is thirty-two, Johnny the Shetland is twenty-three, I'm about twenty and Gwen, the sheep is thirteen. Try adding that up!

Mum is often telling me how important it is to care for friends and that much can be learnt from them, whatever age-group they are in. Well, we'll soon know about that as one of Mum's 'girls' is expecting a baby in April, so there will be a youngster here for me to entertain. I'm already practicing my pony moonwalk...bet you thought that was me on the ad!



When the weather eventually changes, be sure to be on 'grass alert' and any signs of laminitis, allow time for grooming to aid moulting and shedding and enjoy spending happy times with your friends, families and ponies. Sharing and Caring is my motto...except when it involves **my** feed-bowl!

Hope you like the photos of me and just some of my friends!

Love, Paddington.

TURKMEN PRAYER MAT (NAMAZLIK) FROM NORTHERN IRAN

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Joyce Covington of MCC Farms, Texas, breeder of Caspians in USA for many years and now ICS Secretary, placed the winning bid of £276 for the mat, which had been donated for auction for CHS funds by Ruth Staines.

Ruth writes: "This Prayer Mat was brought back from my first riding trip with Louise Firouz in 1999. I am delighted that this memory of Louise has gone to reside with some of the US Caspians. Louise visited Joyce's farm during the ICS Conference in Texas 1999.

Amidst the isolated landscapes of Northern Iran, its flat wheat growing plains, forested slopes and arid rocky mountains, we would come across villages, the inhabitants of which would ply us with tea, even whole meals and then bring out their carpets, hoping for a sale. It seems the old skills of the Turkmen nomad, sewing, felt making and weaving are alive and well, although the markets for them must be very restricted. Some villages specialised in certain items, such as horse rugs, others even produced silk worms, as their traditional dresses and coats are made of silk. The riders would return with saddle bags bulging with telpeks, (sheepskin hats) and even nosebags woven in the traditional Turkmen reds, while their larger purchases were carried back in the support vehicle.

The Turkmen north tends to be isolated from the rest of Iran, but it contains many riches, both of horses and of crafts. This was the world that Louise Firouz made her own."



PLEASE HELP TO RESCUE A CASPIAN IN NEED!

The nationally dire financial situation is resulting in many horse and pony welfare cases. Like many British native breeds, there are unfortunate Caspians suffering from neglect and malnutrition. Horse sanctuary charities are full, so a refuge must be found amongst those who can give them the love they deserve. That such beautiful horses, with their stunning history, should need urgent help is tragic. Even if you have nobody to ride them, they would make great companions for other lonely horses.

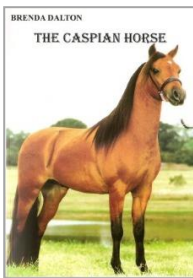
Please consider offering a kind, knowledgeable home to one or more rescued Caspians in need, or donate towards a fund to help rehome as many as possible. If you would like to help, please contact Liz Webster on 01935 475896 or lizwebster08@gmail.com Thank you very much.

'If Wishes were Horses', by Susanna Forrest - a memoir of equine obsession.

Susanna Forrest grew up in the 1980s in my village, but I never knew her. Like many a girl yearned for a pony, she never did get one of her own, but this didn't stop her becoming obsessed with all things equine.

'If Wishes Were Horses' is the story of that all-consuming interest and the author's nerve-racking attempts, later in life, to ride again. However as her journey unfolds, it leads her to horse-fixated princesses, courtesans, warriors, pink-obsessed schoolgirls, recovering crack addicts, national heroines and runaways across the ages. From girl-riders of the Bronze Age, to lavishly-adorned equestrian Victorians and twenty-first-century children on horseback at Brixton, she explores the development of this pony cult from its earliest times to the present times. I found this a fascinating and unique book to read.

BOOK REVIEW by Liz Webster



'The Caspian Horse', by Brenda Dalton. This book was first published in 1999 by Horseshoe Publications and was reprinted in 2010 by Plausible Publishing Ltd., with extra colour photographs.

Brenda was Registrar of the International Caspian Society for many years and has recently been elected Chairman. She is also the breeder of 'Spark' Caspians and has written the most definitive description available anywhere of the ancient history of the Caspian in Persia and the story of how it was discovered and researched by Louise Firouz in the mid-1960s. She covers the fascinating story of its enthusiastic adoption by the West, particularly of the people and studs which launched the breed, to be enjoyed by horse-lovers around the world.

Liz Webster has copies for sale. The special price to members is £7 (normally £8.99). Please add £2 for postage and packing, make cheques out to the Caspian Horse Society and send it to Liz (address inside front cover), who will post your book to you.

EASY FUNDRAISING FOR THE CHS

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 naturally 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 and obviously, the more members take part the better!

It is the 24th of April and yesterday I saw my first 2013 swallow. We have had a very long and difficult winter following a very wet and cold summer. I have never seen the fields looking so bare in April and we are still feeding hay in the field and likely to be doing so for a couple more weeks. Unprecedented, I have never needed to feed hay out much after mid-March. The cold start to the year, followed by strong cold Easterly winds, then snow and more wind has left our pastures devastated and we will probably need to reseed them.

But we are still here. We have not lost thousands of lambs to month long snow drifts, or calves and lambs to Schmallenberg virus. So far all our Caspians and others are well, though some are getting noticeably older and have to have special care and feed when there is no grass.

Our stallions are shedding their coats, weeks later than usual, and looking wistfully over doors and gates when mares go by. Sadly we have no foals again this year, a conscious decision as we have had no buyers for several years. Our boys would love some ladies and we know that they have rare bloodlines precious to the breed that would be better used than fading away in this corner of Devon.

Times are hard for us all but if the Caspian horse is to thrive into the 21st century we do need to find people willing to breed, keep, produce and promote them. Do give it some real honest thought this year. Some of us have spent half a lifetime working for Caspians in one way or another, please think about what you want as a future for these little horses; without your input, time and help it isn't going to happen.

So as I look at the first, very late, bluebells whilst I take Khomet and Kansei out for a spin in the carriage, I wish you a warm, bright and prosperous summer and hope that it precedes a bright and prosperous future for Caspians everywhere.

ICS ENGRAVED TUMBLERS FOR SALE



We are indebted to Brenda Dalton's daughter Judith for six exclusive glass tumblers, beautifully engraved with the seal of King Darius the Great, which shows Caspians drawing his chariot on a lion hunt. The tumblers were engraved by Judith herself and she has kindly allowed us to take a small donation out of each sale.

The price is £8 per glass, plus £2 postage and packing. Please make your cheque out to the Caspian Horse Society and send it to Liz's address, (see inside front cover). I hope Judith will be willing to engrave more, if needed!

A MOSTLY HORSEY QUIZ (with a prize!)

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1. Which is both the oldest and longest in distance of the five English Classic Races?
2. In Greek mythology, the winged horse Pegasus is reputed to have sprung from the slain blood of whom?
3. What was the name of the black horse famously injured during the 1982 Hyde Park bombings?
4. In which year did the famously-kidnapped Thoroughbred, 'Shergar', win the Derby?
5. In what year was the British Arab Horse Society formed?
6. On a 20m x 40m dressage arena, between which two letters is E situated?
7. What are Angels on Horseback?
8. Who was Pat Smythe?
9. Found in Yorkshire?
10. What was Lester Piggott famous for?
11. What was the name of the person who rediscovered the Caspian Horse?
12. In which country was the Caspian rediscovered?
13. What does Derby signify? Two answers required!
14. In which sport is the term 'chukka' used?
15. What is a Phaeton?
16. Can you name all eight horses native to the UK?
17. A story, film and stage show - can you name it?
18. What do the Spanish Riding School horses excel at?
19. A famous Gypsy Horse Fair?
20. What is the extra gait of the Icelandic Horse?
21. What did A.F. Tschiffely do? Two answers required!
22. What is the usual colour of the Carmague horses?
23. In monetary terms, what is a pony?
24. What did Lady Godiva do?
25. What was the name of Dick Turpin's horse?
26. Who was Warrior?
27. What was founded by Ada Cole in 1927?
28. Can horses get Hiccups?
29. What is the Caspian called in Iran?
30. Know another name for a Gypsy horse?

Send your answers to Vicki Shortis by the 1st July. The person with the most correct answers will receive an autographed book by Brenda Dalton about the 'Caspian.' Send to Vicki Shortis at vshortis@sizzel.net or to Costessey House, Costessey, Norwich, NR8 5DG. Remember to include your name and address.

CHS has back copies of some issues of 'The Caspian' magazine, available for £1 + p/p from Vicki Shortis (01603 742012). Please send one A5 self-addressed envelope with 1st class stamp per magazine. If unavailable, your stamp can be donated to CHS or returned to you – please state your wish and which issues you'd like when ordering.

This is a favourite Jamie Oliver recipe, recommended by Chris Shortis. It's available on the internet - nice and easy to do, simple and very tasty.

Tray-Baked Cod with Runner Beans, Pancetta and Pine Nuts

680 g. Runner beans, trimmed and sliced at an angle
1 clove garlic finely sliced
Salt & freshly ground black pepper
Olive oil
4 x 225g of cod steaks, on the bone (or own choice of fish)
12 slices of smoked pancetta or streaky bacon
1 good handful of pine nuts
2 lemons, halved

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/gas 7. Place your runner beans in an appropriately sized roasting tin. Throw in your garlic, a little salt & pepper and just enough olive oil to coat the beans. Mix all around.

Nestle the cod steaks in among the runner beans. Sprinkle with pine nuts & drizzle a little olive oil over the top. Place lemon halves in the tray (they will cook and colour slightly, going jammy, sweet & lemony - fantastic!)

Cook for roughly 15 minutes in the centre of a preheated oven. Lightly lay kitchen foil over the fish for the first 5 minutes, and then remove it. Serve with some nice crusty bread. Enjoy!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013

WERE DUE BY 1ST APRIL! (They can be paid from 1st January)

Thank you very much if you have paid, but it's not too late if you haven't! The CHS relies on your subscription to help with the promotion and preservation of the Caspian, and to fund some of the things you are reading about in this magazine. Council members are all volunteers and we hope you will continue to support us.

A Standing Order saves reminders, makes it easier for us and for you and can easily be cancelled at any time. To encourage you, we even knock £2 off the annual subscription! If you prefer to pay yearly by cheque, please pay to 'The Caspian Horse Society' and write 'Subscription' on the reverse. Send it to the (Interim) Membership Secretary: Mrs Pat Bowles, 22, Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham, NG33 4RJ, as soon as possible. Thank you.

For a new Membership Form, contact her at pat.bowles@btinternet.com, 01780 410908

Full Voting	LIFE (one payment)	£175 UK	£200 OVERSEAS
	SINGLE	£17 cheque	£15 standing order
	FAMILY	£27 cheque	£25 standing order
	OVERSEAS Family: £30 (2 voting adults + 2 n/v children under 18)		
	OVERSEAS Voting: £20 cheque		£18 standing order
Non -Voting	JUNIOR	£9 cheque	£7 standing order
	OVERSEAS (non-voting):		£12 cheque £10 standing order

WEBWISE & USEFUL CONTACTS

www.laminitisclinic.org Telephone help line 0905-105-1051. This is a very informative and helpful site for anyone with a laminitis problem.

www.sweet-itch.com For useful advice and information to help overcome Sweet Itch.

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 **www.ragwort.com** Two sites for advice about ragwort.

www.yourhorseshealth.com/healthcare/colic For help with colic. (Note: health_care)

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.endurancegb.co.uk Excellent site for anyone who is interested to know more about long distance riding. Caspians could do well in this field.

www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk Excellent site covering everything connected with horse driving.

www.riding-for-disabled.org.uk Where disabled people can obtain information.

www.pcuk.org The site where you can learn all about the Pony Club in the UK.

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 Tel 0870 870 7107 Horse stolen/missing? Contact the Stolen Horse Register.

www.thebrooke.org The Brooke gives free treatment to relieve the suffering of horses, donkeys and mules for the poor people in Egypt, India, Jordan and Pakistan.

www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk Our own website with associated links.

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: ICSregistrar@hotmail.com. This site enables e-registration by national Registrars.

http://groups.google.com/group/ICS_Caspian_Horse The ICS Caspian Horse Forum (Do not try to Google it, paste it into the very top of your page)

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REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 3763510 LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES

REGISTERED OFFICE: 27 Trotsworth Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4AN

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