

THE CASPIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY



SPRING/SUMMER 2015
50 Year Anniversary Issue

CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1076026



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Ms Kay Taplin (International Registrar)

Dear Members...

Well, the Caspian Horse as a breed has now been in existence for fifty years – Louise would have been so proud! This is being celebrated by the wonderful photography of Caspians around the world by Colin Barker. I am sure you are all following the diaries on our website. And we are looking forward to the International Conference to be held in Iran in September. It is really encouraging to note the upsurge of interest in the breed in the Caspian's homeland.



This year has already been tinged with sadness by the deaths of two tireless workers for the breed, Jaffa Jenvey and Rosemary Harris. You will find tributes to them within the magazine. The Hopstone and Runnymede Caspians are their wonderful legacies, with descendants worldwide.

We must not rest on our laurels, however, as numbers of Caspians now being bred are necessarily small. Two more of the large studs, Henden and Lanhill, have now been dispersed, but this has meant some of our members have acquired more Caspians and some are starting their driving and riding careers, which can only help raise the profile of the breed. We look forward to following their progress.

Our AGM this year takes place at the glorious Long Close Gardens, and we are lucky to have Dr Mim Bower, of Cambridge University, to talk about her genetic work studying aspects of equine history. A number of you kindly provided hair samples from your Caspians to be part of the project, which will make her talk doubly interesting.

The society will be having a presence at a number of shows this year, with the classes at Ashby in July, the stand at Emley in August, some entries at the World Breeds Show at Moreton Morrell in May, and, if we have enough support, classes at the AEMHS Championship Show in September. Please will all Caspian owners make a special effort to get their Caspians out and about in this fiftieth anniversary year – and as an added incentive there is the Points for Performance Scheme!

Penny Walster and I (Penny keeps Rosemary's stallion, Runnymede Felfel) attended Rosemary's funeral at her local church, St Mary's, Thorpe. She had a glorious send off, however sad, with a full requiem mass, a choir, Handel's anthem 'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth' and a eulogy by family friend James Fraser giving us a fascinating picture of Rosemary as an extraordinary woman. And of course the service had been meticulously planned by Rosemary herself!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible -and your Caspians - during the year.

Best wishes,

Ruth

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*(*Caspians present)*

22 nd March	Spring Council Meeting – Shawell
17 th May	Annual General Meeting, Woodhouse Eaves
5 th July	Summer Council Meeting – Shawell
12 th July *	Caspian Classes, Ashby Show
1 st August*	Emley Show, West Yorkshire (tbc)
7-9 th September*	4 th International Caspian Conference, Iran
13 th September*	AEMHS Grand Championship Show, Northants (tbc)
25 th October	Autumn Council Meeting, Shawell

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From the Editors Vicki and Liz

In the two previous issues of 'The Caspian', we asked whether anybody would like to help defray the rising costs of production and especially of postage of the printed magazine. Sadly no extra funding has materialised. In the light of this, Council have reluctantly decided that hard-won CHS funds should be better spent than adding to Post Office profits! This is therefore the last issue you will receive as a printed booklet, mailed to you by post. The Autumn/Winter 2015 and future issues will be emailed to members as a pdf file, in linear format. Several members already request their magazine to be sent by email, so we hope you will all enjoy your Caspian news just as much this way. If you have recently changed your email address, do please notify us straight away so that you will still be able to receive the magazine.

Members who cannot receive email will continue to be sent the magazine in paper form. We are investigating whether it can be home produced in booklet or A4 document format. We hope therefore that this final booklet version of 'The Caspian' will be enjoyed and treasured as the last of its kind! Thanks, as usual, to all our contributors for the interesting articles you will find between these covers!

Registrar Ruth Staines

2015 is going to be a relatively bumper year for Caspian foals, with five being expected in UK and four in the Netherlands. Breeders should remember that DNA parent verification is now mandatory to register pure bred foals, full details when you apply for registration. I will receive hairs as in the past, with an extra fee and will send them to Gus Cothran in Texas for verification. This is not retrospective, although it is recommended that parents be tested also, otherwise there will be a generation who may have their profiles on file but will not be able to be checked against their parents. All owners will receive a copy of the lab profile. (Members outside UK may continue to use their own labs if they have done so in the past.)

At the end of November we were audited to see how we complied with DEFRA's 'Minimum Operating Standards'. The auditor was from the horse world himself, extremely knowledgeable, understanding and helpful. While we can always do more to live up to expectations, we have had no instructions from DEFRA to change anything. Please note we are expected to inform Trading Standards where passport regulations are not being met. Next year new EU regulations come into force, mostly concerning layout of the passport. In July 2016 we should have a new Central Equine Database. Passport details will be uploaded to it so enforcement and welfare agencies have easier access to information.

Stallion and For Sale lists will now be available from the CHS website or by request and SAE from the Registrar.

Treasurer John Sansome

Anyone who gives a donation or pays a subscription to a charity such as the Caspian Horse Society can agree that the charity may claim Gift Aid on monies paid. This will not cost the giver one penny extra, but raises useful funds for the charity.

For the CHS to claim Gift Aid, a form will be sent to you on request. Once completed, please return the form to John Sansome, Apt 3, The Grange, New Road, Burton Lazars, Melton Mowbray, LE14 2UU, john.sansome@btinternet.com The Gift Aid form is also within the Membership Application/ Renewal form. If returning it with an application for membership, please send the whole form to Mrs Pat Bowles, Membership Secretary, 22 Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham, Lincs., NG33 4RJ, pat.bowles@btinternet.com For the Society to claim Gift Aid, you must pay UK Income Tax of more than the amount claimed.

Membership Pat Bowles

There are still some subscriptions outstanding, so it is difficult to give a precise number of 'paid up' members. However our database shows 88 members.

With Angela's help, I am creating a new data base which will be easier to use and extract the facts from. Fortunately, although we have lost some of our older members, we're recruiting new ones from amongst the people who have been rescuing Caspians, so our total membership remains more or less the same.

Secretary: With the sad death of Rosemary Harris, who contributed so much to the role for so long, we have lost our long-standing Company Secretary and office address. It goes without saying that we are eternally grateful to Rosemary and will miss her wise and convivial presence at Council meetings. However, we are relieved and delighted that Angela Davies, who is currently Secretary to the Council, has been helping with the work until a new Company Secretary is elected/appointed at the AGM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2015

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This year's AGM is several months earlier than the last two - we hope we'll be joined by more members than ever at the start of the season. Long Close Gardens



in Woodhouse Eaves are well known to gardening enthusiasts in the region and we will be holding our AGM at the very best time of year for rhododendrons and azaleas.

We are very grateful to Mr John.Oakland, for his kind permission and to Helen Thirlby, who grazes Caspians next door, for the idea. We

will be starting the AGM at 11.30 a.m. and Council will be providing lunch as usual. After that our speaker, Dr Mim Bower, will be telling us about 'Ancient DNA and the History of Horse Husbandry in Central Asia'. There will be spaces between and after proceedings for a stroll around the sumptuous gardens.

STEPHANIE REEVE JENVEY ('Jaffa') By Brenda Dalton

Jaffa was born on 31st July 1919 and died four months before her 96th birthday on 8th March this year. Since a stroke in late 2012, she had suffered from vascular dementia, a cruel illness that wiped out all her memories of a wonderful long life and a wide and loving family. At the time of her death she had two children, five grand-children and five great-grandchildren.

I first met Jaffa Jenvey, Rosemary Harris, Suzanne Dore, Jenny Quinney and Liz Leich, amongst others, at an early British Caspian Trust (CHS) AGM. Jaffa would have stood out in any crowd. She was strikingly beautiful, with a lovely head of red hair and it would have taken many women hours to achieve the overall appearance that came naturally to her. It was this same red hair that had earned her the nickname 'Jaffa' (orange) from birth and it was a story she loved to tell.



It was obvious from the start just how close she was to her daughter, now Liz Webster, and how much they enjoyed each other's company. Jaffa was full of fun, with a driving force that led the two of them to promote the Caspian in every possible way. Promotion through every media, television, newspapers, magazines, show stands and show classes went seamlessly alongside the crucial breeding, breaking to saddle and harness and starting the first Caspian Society in the UK, with the related newsletters and organisation it entailed.

But this was just the tip of Jaffa's iceberg. She drove ambulances during the war and helped to clear bodies after the Coventry blitz. Later she learned to fly light aircraft. I am writing this on the morning of the Grand National Race at Aintree, just a few miles from where I live. Jaffa and her husband took Louise Firouz to see Red Rum win his third National, celebrating with Noel Le Mare, a friend of theirs to whom this phenomenon of a horse belonged.

I remember Jaffa for her strength, her humour and her wisdom and I have to thank her personally for entrusting Shirine to me.

TRIBUTES TO JAFFA

I first met Jaffa when I became a member of the Caspian Horse Society, quite a few years ago. She always greeted you with a few words and a friendly smile. I found her to be very charming and graceful in her manners. **John Sansome**

Jaffa was an original introducer, promoter and supporter of the Caspian and a sad loss to all, especially to Liz and family. I have many fond memories of this great lady. **Janet Dedicoat**

Jaffa was a wonderful woman with a great spirit who guided us through so many years. How fortunate for us all in the family of Caspian enthusiasts that the gift of her time and love and passion contributed so much to the breed. **Kay Taplin**

It has been a long hard time for her, but I am glad that Jaffa is at peace at last.

Pandora Best

I did not know Jaffa very well, but I will always remember her as a very attractive and lively lady, immaculately turned out and very interested in the Caspians, especially those that she and Liz “rescued” and brought on in the early days. She always attended the AGMs and came along to quite a few Council meetings to lend her support. I am so lucky to remember her in her palmy days - a truly lovely lady. **Pat Bowles**

I feel very privileged to have known both Jaffa and Rosemary very well for 35 years and am very saddened by their loss. They will be much missed for many reasons. I feel that without their input over the years we would not have either the breed or the society so well established. **Vicki Shortis**

THE START OF ‘HOPSTONE’ CASPIANS.

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A Tribute to Jaffa from Liz

In 1972, I went to Kent to meet the first two Caspians newly imported to the UK. Mrs Mary Nieble had imported two Caspian yearlings from her friend Joan Taplin in Bermuda. She called them ‘Fred’ and ‘Mabel’ - I learned their amazing story over lunch. Six months later I was still intrigued enough to buy them for what she paid, when vandals kept letting them out of their field and Mary feared they would soon be killed by traffic. I needed some financial support to buy them and after fully ten seconds’ thought, my mother – Jaffa Jenvey - became my partner in the venture. ‘Fred’ and ‘Mabel’ were revealed to be ‘Amu Daria’ and ‘Roshan’. Louise Firouz soon introduced herself by letter to tell us what a special breed we had bought into.

In 1973 we met Prince Philip's three Caspians at Hampton Court and Windsor Castle. Soon he lent them to us on permanent loan so they could join the breeding pool. We became friends with Colonel John Miller, the Crown Equerry, who pulled many strings to help bring Caspians before the public and was CHS President at the time of his death.

In 1974 we imported the first Iranian-bred Caspians, became good friends with Louise and met Muriel Harris, who had bought the newly imported colt Karoun, unseen. Amu and Roshan joined them at my parents' house, Hopstone Lea, once the quarantine period was over. We formed and based the Caspian Stud (UK) there, so our prefix clearly had to be 'Hopstone'. In 1975 we established the UK stud book and formed the British Caspian Society – first outside Iran. By then we had gained our wonderful partner, Arthur Griffin ('Griff') and with his financial help we imported Caspians twice more from Iran and once more from Bermuda.

Although riders and horse owners for many years, we had done no stud work, so it was lucky that our early attempts to increase their species were tolerated so kindly by the Caspians. After a steep learning curve, we bred many wonderful foals, over 18 years. By the mid-1970s, Louise and I had pulled together the first International Caspian Stud Book - sitting among Caspian ID cards spread over the carpet, so they could be put in order. A firm called Countrywide Livestock printed the results in the two first and only printed and bound editions of the International Stud Books (the 'red books'), which incorporated Louise's Iranian breeding records.

Most early evenings at Hopstone Lea were enlivened by foals rocketing round the paddocks, springing about like lambs and calling in high little whinnies - my Mum's favourite time. Our young-stock soon blazed a trail for Caspians around the world. In 1980 we went to Australia and New Zealand to see the Caspians we had exported and met owners 'down-under'. We took Caspians to the prestigious Royal Show for 15 years, drove Caspians around the UK, paraded with Red Rum at Doncaster racecourse, and appeared on film, television, radio and in the press. Our Caspians were performing well in several spheres and we received a great deal of media coverage, not least because of their rarity.

Jaffa charmed sponsors and buyers and boarded helpers at Hopstone Lea whenever we ran the Caspian Breed Show. She loved a challenge and always threw herself into everything with gusto.

The grey stallion Hopstone Mustapha and grey gelding Hopstone Chahar-Shambe (right) competed very successfully with Christine Belton for several years in



National Driving Trials. They also took part individually in show-jumping, ridden dressage and gymkhana with Chris's two young daughters.

It was with great sadness that, following the deaths of my father Charles, Griff and the owner of rented grazing, Hopstone Lea had to be sold. Jaffa lived in a cottage nearby for a while, but the stud was closed in 1989. Mum much enjoyed our Caspian friendships and was as proud as I am of Hopstone's part in establishing this wonderful breed across so many parts of the world.



Hopstone Kaftar was the star of the West Australian Heroden Stud's Display Team. Here he is with owners Tony and Betty Gyles back in the 1980s, when he was a constant winner ('never beaten') in the driving ring at top shows in W.A.

OBITUARY

ROSEMARY LOIS HARRIS

By Audrey Renton*

Rosemary was born in Charlton, South London, on 28th February 1930 and passed

away on 31st March. Her funeral took place on 29th April at St. Mary's Church, Thorpe, near to her last home in Virginia Water, where a full Eulogy of her amazing life was given by a friend, James Fraser. At time of death she was Company Secretary and the 'office address' of the Caspian Horse Society, although she had recently been unable to contribute as much as she wanted to, due to her health problems.



As small children, Rosemary and I used to go to Mersea for holidays, together with our mothers. Rosemary claimed that the war saved her education, for as an evacuee she was sent to school regularly. Her school was evacuated to Abertillery in Wales, but her hosts were so sure they would be bombed and killed that Rosemary withdrew all the money from her Post Office account and one free afternoon, took the train back home to New Eltham, arriving before she was

missed in Wales. She arrived with just 2/6d (12.5p) left in her pocket, preferring to be bombed with her family rather than strangers. The school would not have her back so she was transferred to another and evacuated to Tonbridge Wells.

She had a lifelong interest in horses, sometimes riding the milk cart pony down her road, perched on top of the harness. Early in the war my grandfather found a bungalow we could rent instead of Mother and Grandmother having to live in the air raid shelter and back kitchen. Whenever they could, Rosemary's family came for a few nights' sleep and Rosemary spent all her summer holidays with us. A local woman kept a small farm and three horses and a pony. She was part gypsy and lived in a genuine gypsy caravan on the back lawn of the farm house. We learnt to ride with her and help with farm work. When under pressure to clear a field and thresh the corn, she was sent six soldiers to help. In the evening she sent us to return a borrowed horse and cart on our way home, saying "you two have done more useful work than all six of these soldiers".

At Queen's University in Belfast she gained a first in Geography and then a PhD in Social Anthropology at University College, London. Her doctoral research focussed on the Nigerian Mbembe tribe. In her twenties she took two solo trips to Nigeria, culminating in a report published by HMSO. Her first teaching post was at the University of Sussex, after which she moved to a lectureship in anthropology at UCL and was appointed Emeritus Reader in Social Anthropology by UCL, after retirement. She rose to become one of the pioneering anthropologists of her generation, with a sharp, incisive mind for observing and analysing human behaviour. More work in Ireland produced her papers *Prejudice and Tolerance in Ulster* followed by *Power and Powerlessness in Industry*. Her academic interest in anthropology led her to studies in depth into inner city violence and football hooliganism.

Rosemary always had an active life in the community – she was Secretary to the Governing Body, Governor of the local Primary school and Secretary and member of the Parish Church Council of St Mary's, Thorpe, the church she usually attended. She and Muriel lived at Virginia Water, in the same road – Trotsworth Avenue – that she would return to after Muriel's death.

When Muriel became interested in Caspians, Rosemary supported her, buying Llanarth Princess Anne (Pollyanna) and driving her. Polly produced a very good half-Caspian, Prester John. They chose the prefix 'Runnymede' for their stud and it has become much respected in the Caspian world. Muriel bought two Welsh Section A mares and produced several very good half-breds by Karoun. (They had moved to Eglantyne, Nun's Walk, Virginia Water, which had a larger garden).

By then my family had moved to a bungalow with three acres of land and converted stables and I frequently had their Caspians in my care. I drew a line at foaling because I was working and needed my sleep! The mares went back to them at such times and five foals were born at Nun's Walk.

After Muriel's death the number of horses dwindled. Karoun had died, but Runnymede Felfel, now 23, proved a worthy successor. He will now remain with Penny Walster, with whom he has lived since Pat Bowles' retirement from the Bytham Stud, where he was at livery for several years.



Runnymede Karamat, (shown above with his matching foals) a chestnut stallion typically bred by Rosemary Harris, was amongst the first flights of Caspians to the USA in 1994. In her last years, plagued with leg ulcers, Rosemary was devoted to her King Charles spaniel Toby, who has now been happily rehomed by the Cinnamon Trust, a charity she supported.

Rosemary was furious with herself for overturning her car in her last few days – so typical of her attitude to life.

*(*With thanks to James Fraser for additional notes from his funeral Eulogy to Rosemary)*

TRIBUTES TO ROSEMARY

I hope I am not being unfair to say that Rosemary entered the Caspian world on the coat-tails of her sister Muriel, who chose and purchased the stallion Karoun from the first shipment of Caspians imported directly from Iran into the UK. Very soon Rosemary became an indispensable vertebra in the spine of the first UK Caspian society, where she continued, often as Secretary, until her death. She acted as liaison between the Society and other pony groups, giving up her valuable time and resources whenever her work as a lecturer in London allowed.

Rosemary's Caspians were bred under the Runnymede prefix, as were Muriel's Caspians, amongst them being the lovely Runnymede Karamat, one of the first stallions to be exported to the USA.

I will remember Rosemary for her thoroughness and her gentle nature. In my Obituary for Jaffa, I recalled some of the people who were present at the first AGM I attended. Sadness is not a word that covers the fact that none of these people are now with us, but without them we would probably not be here, writing/reading this today and I salute them for their faith and their fortitude. We have all benefitted from their efforts. We have a lot to thank them for and we miss them.

Brenda Dalton

Rosemary was a great asset to the Society. Over the years she worked very hard, including setting up the first Constitution and making the Society a Limited Company. For many years Rosemary was the Company and CHS secretary, also CHS representative at the BHS Breeds Committee meetings. **John Sansome**

Rosemary meant a lot to me as she was the person who helped me learn about the Caspian. I remember chatting about the CHS, Council, Caspian horses in general and of course our lovely PeJe. When I actually got to meet her, she was very welcoming (as everyone was) and spent time with me when I didn't really know anyone. She will be very sadly missed by many people I know - such a dedicated lady, devoting most of her time to the CHS. **Sarah Anderson**

The Harris sisters spent a good part of their later lives working for the Caspian. Muriel was one of the first owners to become a founder member of the Society and she and Rosemary worked hard to promote the breed through their imported stallion, Karoun. The Runnymede prefix is much respected in Caspian circles. The fact that it was started and mostly maintained in their back garden only adds to its interest.

Although Rosemary had been unwell for a couple of years, she remained optimistic that things would soon get better and she would get back to the coalface, right to the end. She believed strongly in the Caspian and I hope she knew how much we valued her intelligence and skills as our Company Secretary for so many years. I will miss her, like all those who have become her friend through her Caspian work. **Liz Webster**

Rosemary was a fabulous lady, who I spoke to on a regular basis. We laughed only a couple of weeks ago about just how naughty Fel-Fel can be and how he forgets his age!!!!!! **Penny Walster**

I found Rosemary a tremendously intelligent and a very sound-thinking person whom I respected enormously. I didn't know her background, but I always did know and could gather her dedication to the breed of the Caspian. **Liz Mansfield-Parnell**

I am saddened to hear of the passing of Rosemary. She has always been a stalwart supporter of the Caspian and we will miss her knowledge and humour. Always keen to support wherever needed and her absence will leave a huge void. **Janet Dediccoat**

Rosemary and her sister Muriel were stalwarts of the Caspians and always took great care to try and breed to the correct breed standard. I kept their Caspians at livery for over 12 years and they were wonderful owners.

Rosemary was such an efficient secretary and during my Chairmanship was a tremendous support, dealing with all the constitutional problems, especially on the charitable side and representing the CHS on the Breeds Society Committee. I depended on her a lot. It is sad that she had so many problems latterly and could no longer be active with the society. She is a great loss to us all. **Pat Bowles**

We are pleased to say that the arrangements for the International Conference in Iran to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the rediscovery of the Caspian horse are going well. A hotel close to the Caspian Sea has been commissioned for the duration of the Conference and Show and transport is being arranged. Several invited speakers have already confirmed and as soon as the finer points have been sorted out full details will be circulated.

Elsewhere in this magazine is a tribute to two people who have been stalwarts in the UK since the Caspian was first introduced into the world at large. At the same time I have recalled other stalwarts that are no longer with us. They are the people to whom we owe the fact that we breed Caspians today and it is up to us to continue their task.

The importance of introducing the breed to new, younger, owners and breeders is evident. This is a huge 'ask' during these serious economic times, which have produced large numbers of horses that are unsalable, given away, abandoned and even neglected.

Thank you to all the people who have stepped in to give homes to horses that for various reasons have found themselves in need. I would also like to say thank you to all the unsung Caspian owners and breeders who carry on quietly behind the scenes. It isn't easy and we salute you all.

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CASPIAN CONFERENCE

Rasht, IRAN, 7th to 9th September 2015

The fourth International Caspian Conference is a *once-in-a-lifetime* opportunity for Caspian lovers to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Louise Firouz's amazing discovery in the birthplace of the Caspian! The Conference is being organised by the Equestrian Federation of Iran, in co-ordination with our Patron, Ateshe Firouz-Larsson, acting on behalf of the International Caspian Society. As an advisor to the ICS, I have also been assisting them with planning.

Invited speakers and workshops will cover a wide range of topics of interest to horse-lovers and breeders of the Caspian. Supporting the Conference will be demonstrations and optional excursions, to interest delegates from several countries and there will be opportunities to visit other fascinating and historic places after the Conference.

There will be a Caspian Horse Show after the Conference, where visitors can see Caspians and displays of horsemanship featuring Caspian Horses. A parade of Iran's native breeds of horses is also being planned.

Details are still being finalised, but full information will soon be available on the ICS and Equestrian Federation of Iran websites and there will be a link to the ICS site from the CHS website. The Federation intends to produce a Conference

package for speakers and delegates. This will include visa application /accommodation / transport in Iran etc. A downloadable form will be available on the ICS website. Contact Ateshe as soon as possible if you would like to attend the Conference and she will liaise with you regarding your accommodation and setting up your visa application process. Her email is ateshe.firouz@gmail.com I have just gone through the visa process for my visit to Iran in April to help plan the Conference and must thank Colin Barker, who went to Iran last August, for his guidance. Here are some tips!

Advice to British people on obtaining a visa: Since the political closure of the embassies in Tehran and London, British people have been going in person to the Iranian Embassy in Dublin to present their application and collect their visa. At this time the Federation is establishing whether an application from UK can be handled by post if sufficient time is allowed. If you do have to go to Dublin, the procedure is reasonably straightforward, provided you follow closely the advice given on the Iranian Embassy in Dublin website www.Dublin.mfa.ir

The Federation aims to have all visa applications processed by mid-July, since August tends to be a holiday month in the British Isles. As the visa is valid for one visit within a three month period, it will cover the period of the Conference. Once you have downloaded the application form from the website, notify Ateshe that you wish to attend and the Federation will apply for your visa.

I am told that the weather will be cooler in September than July or August, but that is purely relative! It will also be fairly humid in the Rasht area.

Having just been out there, I am now a willing source of advice on what to pack! Ladies are required to keep their hair covered with a scarf and should not wear tight, revealing clothing. A long-sleeved shirt that is not tucked in – or a dress - over trousers is ideal. Contact me on lizwebster08@gmail.com if you need further guidance. Really hope to see you in Iran!

CHS WEBSITE, www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk

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We are indebted to Colin Barker, Ateshe Firouz-Larsson and Farokh Khorrooshi for the fascinating calendar diaries now on the CHS website. Iran (August 2014) and Texas (March 2015?) are already there, liberally illustrated with their splendid photographs among Farokh's memories of the visits. The Sweden diary is coming soon.

Besides the diaries, there are plenty of other fascinating things to see on our website and it is extremely informative on all matters Caspian. We are updating and adding material to it all the time. When available, we will include videos of Caspians in action and there will soon be information about the 4th International Caspian Conference in Iran, so do keep checking regularly.

Atoosha Nassiri, Iran

At first I should thanks to my best friend, Fahimeh Vaezi, who reconstruct horse Caspian school in Tehran and train the children professionally and make them ready to enjoy and love horses and little by little be strong and have good style for big horses. She gather all, sport, art, knowledge, prospectively and good manner and pure mentality for our children.



I have a BA in painting. I love horses and especially Fahimeh (shown above, on Ateshe's left) is a best friend for me, and she give me an opportunity to put all my favourite activity beside each other and I have done these painting with her encouragement and respect. When she talk about Mrs Louise Firouz and her love and attention to Caspian horses and hard work on them, we feel we should paint her interests in color on the walls that one day was belongs her and her aim, she wants to keep them alive.



At 12th of February, with Romina Tamiri's help I started the first design (above) and step by step I complete it and feel excited at every step.

The next one, with blue and gold patina, was started at 22 March, the second day of our Norooz holiday, and the NoroozAbad club had blue sky and fresh green leaves and smooth wind that whisper us to be refresh and be powerful to show everybody our job, which is love and respect to Caspian horses and this lovely picture for bringing gift for King at Norooz time, make us want to keep it for eternity on the wall.

We should say to love Caspian horses and dear Mrs Firouz and Fahimeh Vaezi for ever.

OUR NEWSLETTER is sent out to members by email, between the twice-yearly magazines. If you have not received one, please contact y.shortis@sizzel.net to make sure that we have your current email address. This also applies in future to the MAGAZINES. Archived copies of both can be seen on our website.

I flew to Iran in late April by Turkish Airlines via Istanbul, arriving in Tehran early in the morning, which is apparently normal to avoid the heat. I was met by Ateshe Firouz-Larsson, with Fariba Hossein Abadi, VP of the Equestrian Federation of Iran and Jenny Nicholls, Ateshe's cousin and the image of a young Louise. The delightful Jenny accompanied us to most places, photographing and filming for a documentary she is making on Iran and Caspians – something to look forward to.

Our car journey to Rasht, driven by Arash, took about six hours, stopping for food and drink enroute. I was not sorry to leave the rather dingy outskirts of Tehran (we avoided the centre) for the mountains and greenery of the Rasht area and was relieved to reach the Kadus Grand in late afternoon - the hotel will be used for the Conference. We had passed a 'Caspian' standing stoically in an open truck with the wind tugging his mane, while travelling at around 60 miles an hour on the motorway! Our first day was not over yet though – we still had a planning meeting with the representatives of the hotel and the Conference Organisers, followed by another with Caspian judges in preparation for the planned Breed Show the following day, before we could creep to bed at last.

Our drive next day to the Rezvanshahr Horse Show took about an hour, with the weather worsening by the mile. We saw 'Caspians' by the roadside twice - Ateshe reminded me that this was where Louise had found most of her Caspians, in exactly that way. The show ring had been set up on grass by the beach of the Caspian Sea, but our Judge's pavilion faced inland, opposite the stand where most spectators would sit. We became very glad of that as the wind built up, the rain started and the waves grew behind us!

Ateshe and I wandered 'backstage' for a few minutes to see what was awaiting the judges – Ateshe, Babak Shaki and me. A lot of horses of varying shapes and sizes were tied to anything possible, such as this black stallion, on a verandah! There were some beautiful Caspians, but a few others had obviously just been brought from the roadside. Several arrive in open-topped trucks and had to leap on and off them - no ramps.

Too soon we were called into the ring to begin our task. We each had to award points out of 10 for overall impression, head/neck, body/topline, legs, action. We took our time with the first class – two foals - but were soon asked to get on with it as there were 60 horses waiting to be judged!!! I thought how glad we'd be at Ashby to see even a third of those entries!

We judged each age and gender, which meant a lot of classes, much point scoring and some quick adding-up by the Secretary before the result could be announced. Competitors had a tendency to leave the ring before and after their horse was



judged, so this usually meant finding them from ‘backstage’ somewhere. The winners paraded proudly around the ring, but without a rosette or prize. A shame considering we learned that one or more of them had travelled over 1200 kilometres to be there. Imagine *that*, with your horse in an open lorry.



The stunning bay stallion that had won in August when photographed by Colin took the Championship. I photographed him as he was about to leap onto the white truck behind for the nine hour journey home. His picture from August was on the show poster, but there were several bay horses there and no name on the poster.

A lovely three year old chestnut filly owned by Mr Afshari was Reserve Champion and Cyrus, the grey stallion featured in the Calendar, came 3rd in class. We gave two television interviews and I was introduced to too many important officials to remember names. Much Farsi was spoken and translated by Ateshe on my behalf, for which I was extremely grateful.

During the morning, our helpful friend Navid Yousefi collected hairs from all but a few of the entrants, along with micro-chip numbers, names and addresses, so that Caspians from Iran can be included in research on the breed. With borrowed sweaters and jackets we finally finished the judging and warmed up over lunch, where Ateshe and I were photographed with just about everybody in the room. We made our way back to the hotel for a hot shower via filming a fascinating walnut biscuit maker in a street in Rasht. The biscuits were delicious!

I had been told that I would be making a presentation on showing Caspians in a Judging Seminar the next morning, so the last thing I did before collapsing into bed was to write up my notes for the following day!

The first part of the Judging Seminar took place at Mr Afshari's factory next morning. Ateshe's Powerpoint presentation showed twenty aspiring judges what good horse conformation looked like and then looked at Caspian characteristics. All in Farsi, so rather lost on me. Lovely photos though!

I was next, with no Powerpoint. Navid stood beside me translating every few sentences. My talk was called "Why do we show horses?" I took them through the reasons why Caspians should be seen looking good in public and how they should judge and evaluate a Caspian. In the light of the previous day's experience, I described aspects of horse care, training and handling for showing, presentation in the ring and how judges should help Iranian owners to improve in each area..

A practical workshop followed after lunch, in the huge barn and covered school owned by Mr Afshari, across the road. Here various horses and several Caspians are housed. The Caspians live on the first floor and reach the ground via curving ramps down each side. First time I've seen that. A beautiful grey mare and her

dark foal in a round walled pen caught my eye and several chestnut and bay Caspians frolicked in the sunlit show arena – a lovely sight.

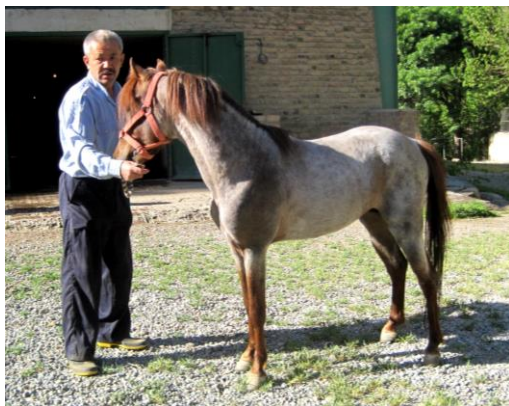
Ateshe and I ‘judged’ four of Mr Afshari’s Caspians and showed the ‘student judges’ how we would award marks out of ten (between five and eight is usually awarded. Luckily I’d done it before, in Sweden). He was very good natured about the criticism!

Jenny had spent the afternoon filming in the mountains with Arash and family, and arrived back at the hotel too late to do the interview with me that she wanted.

The following day it was to be the turn of the students at the stables again, so before the start, Jenny and I found a quiet place where she could interview me for her film.

Four different Caspians were presented for the students to judge and then defend their marking. This was done very carefully and largely correctly, although it was noted that judging is always a subjective matter! I was put on the spot by Ateshe when she asked me to judge those same horses and award marks, with my explanation. All the student judges will receive a certificate from the Equestrian Federation for attending the workshop and I was impressed by their eagerness to do the job right and spread the vital information to owners. I wonder if the improvement will be noticeable in September!

After a brief discussion on show planning and missing breeding records with Mr Afshari, we set off rather late for Tehran. As darkness fell, Ateshe decided to break the journey at Louise’s old house at Kurdan, now owned by her son Caren and wife Leila, instead of staying at their Tehran house. Here we spent a very comfortable night and took the chance to look at Caren’s fabulous Caspians – a stallion, two mares and three colts, stunning and very typey. This handsome roan colt (right) has already been sold.



I could have stayed longer at this lovely place, but we had to meet Fahimah Vaezi, who runs her riding school at Norouzabad - another important place in Louise’s life. It’s much bigger than I imagined. At both places, Ateshe pointed out all the buildings and trees built and planted by her father, Narcy Firouz.

At Norouzabad we saw the murals painted by Atoosha Nassiri, who has written in this issue and met Mr Soheil Yousefnia, owner of the glossy World of Horses magazine and Chairman of the Show Committee of the Equestrian Federation. He has been a good friend to Louise and is an avid supporter of the Caspians. Fortunately Navid was there to translate for me (and later dropped off at my hotel a gift from Soheil of four magazines featuring Louise and her Caspians – all in

Farsi!). Having only 'met' by email, it was also good to meet Fahimeh face to face and hear how she uses Caspians to teach children.

Fahimeh drove us into Tehran. I was taken to lunch by Fariba, while Jenny and Ateshe went through their photos and film at Leila's house. Fariba took me to see the Persian Crown Jewels, among them the famed Peacock Throne – a most astonishing experience. The display was incredible – jewel-encrusted gold made into everything you can think of – especially 'hubble-bubbles' (hookahs), sword scabbards and crowns! There were literally bowls of diamonds, emeralds, rubies and pearls...

Later, supper and a stroll with Fariba along Tehran's unique illuminated bridge and park finished the day. I said goodbye and thanked Fariba profoundly for all she is doing for the Conference and the Caspians... I managed two hours' sleep before I was collected by taxi for the airport at 02.30!!

NEWS FROM FRANCE

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This article was sent in by Fran Smith-Boyes for the Autumn/Winter issue of 'The Caspian', but for lack of space we promised to include it in this issue. Through no fault of hers or the Caspians, her business did not thrive, but we wish her better times in the future.

Fran writes: 2013 saw the demise of the riding school to whom we had lent six Caspians and two crosses. We'd hoped it would get the breed better known. There were other problems, but the death-knell was the weather – three months of wet weekends from late 2013 and no covered arena. Its owner, Christelle, wrote in better times (*below*)...

THIS GREAT HORSE

by Christelle, *Stables Gabas, 64420 Lourenties, France*

After experiencing most equestrian activities, the birth of my daughter stopped me riding dangerous racehorses. I opted for an equestrian centre, but was looking for ponies. Shetlands are cute but stubborn and lots of other things that do not teach what I want. I needed something else ... but I started with nothing, not a penny! I met Fran and Brian, Caspian breeders, who offered to help - an opportunity for me, I could not expect better. These passionate Caspian breeders extolled the strengths and capabilities of these little horses they have protected and preserved with tenderness and love for decades.

The Caspians come to the stables and work begins on dressage before the club opens its doors. And there ETTONEMENT TOTAL! I'd never worked or trained horses as intelligent, working with good heart at absolutely everything demanded, despite a fairly strong character, but this makes him good at everything he does. These horses are athletes and pop...like deer! They are born jumpers, stand perfectly and are extremely nice to humans.

Opening of the club - already 20 registered. Will Caspians be nice with five to six year old children who have never ridden? The Caspian has a "gas Sacret" ...: he

has blood! And then the second surprise, the Caspians are ADORABLE, walk and trot quietly and are very gentle with children. I am impressed again ... next time the children already know how to ride and now I wonder what will happen?! Amazement! The Caspians are still nice, but responsive and phenomenally easy to work - an ideal breed for me.

I could write for hours - they are great in their heart, in their intelligence at work. Although their size averages 0.95 - 1.10 m, at the equestrian centre they are never called "ponies". These are horses! Thanks to Fran and Brian I have new loves in my life, a new passion and will do everything for the Caspian breed to be preserved and recognized in France.

THE SWEDEN INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

by Emma Lindahl

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The Swedish Caspian Horse Association was represented at the biggest event of the whole year in Sweden, the Sweden International Horse Show in the Friends Arena. It was a unique gathering of all Sweden's different horse breeds for the very first time. The visitors were able to meet and pet the horses and representatives from the SCHA were present to answer all kinds of questions from the visitors, which numbered just over 84,000 and thousands of them went home knowing what a Caspian horse is. We handed out hundreds of brochures to people that were interested in the breed and wanted to know more about the beautiful Caspian horse. The Swedish society is very pleased with all the attention that the breed got.

A lot of people came by our stand after they had read a very popular book in Sweden ("*Analfabeten som kunde räkna*" / "The Girl Who Saved The King of Sweden"), written by Jonas Jonasson, where they had read about the black Caspian stallion Morpheus, who was exported to China from the Knivsta Stud!

We are now crossing our fingers that we will be able to come back again next year!

BOOK REVIEW 'The Man who Listens to Horses' by Monty Roberts.

When Monty Roberts was thirteen years old he went off on his own to the Nevada Desert to watch mustangs in the wild. What he learned about their methods of communication changed his life for ever. This is the fascinating life story of a man whose unique methods reveal the depth of understanding that is possible between man and horse. (See '*Natural Horsemanship, Pt. 2*' by Chris Fluskey, page 29)

THE CALENDAR PHOTO SHOOT – SWEDEN

Farokh Khorrooshi

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Colin Barker and I travelled to Sweden in February 2015, to photograph Caspians for the 50th Anniversary Calendar. We stayed as guests of Margareta Lindahl and her daughter Emma. During our photographic session in Sweden, we witnessed an extraordinary demonstration of the Caspian's eminent suitability as a child's 'pony'.

The Holy Grail of parents with small horse-loving children is to find them a kind, responsive mount (no more futile kicking to move them), on which they can be comfortably seated, with the balance and hands of a confident little rider. Ideally such a mount will keep up with the child's developing skills, enabling the small rider to compete with confidence and success, while gaining ever more valuable skills. A huge advantage, therefore, of learning to ride on a Caspian – a small version of the horse they will eventually ride as a young adult - is that there will be no need for a child to relearn balance, seat and aids when stepping up. For the lucky child, a taller Caspian part-bred would be the ideal next step.



One photo location at the picturesque village of Fagerberget in Björbo, Dalarna, several hours drive from Stockholm, was found by Christer Hedbom, a local farmer and friend of the Lindahl family.

On the third day of the shoot, Christer asked whether his young, horse-loving grand-daughter could come along and watch. This was greeted with enthusiasm by Colin

and I as we very much wanted some willing children to pose with Caspians in some of the shots.

Seven year old Ella Hedbom (*in pink*) arrived on day four of the shoot, with her younger brother, father and grandmother. They soon got busy, helping to keep the show going behind the scenes. During an interval, young Ella asked if she could sit on Sham, one of the Caspian mares awaiting her turn to be photographed. She had never ridden before, but Margareta and Emma readily agreed.

Ella and Sham hit it off straight away. Almost immediately and to the astonishment of everyone, Ella was very soon riding both Caspians off the lead-rein and along the icy road (thanks to studded



shoes). She was accompanied by the very competent young rider, 10 year old Astrid Ring. Naturally Ella had to land a part on one of the Calendar pages too!

The Calendar, which celebrates the 50 years since Louise Firouz found the first Caspians, will be launched in October 2015. Meanwhile we have the best possible proof that a Caspian horse is the ideal mount for a child!

EMMA LINDAHL adds: MCC Tabriz's Sham (by Spark Tabriz x Woodstock Taliyeh, Maroun's last foal, was born in 2004 and bred by Felix and Joyce Covington in Texas, USA. Sham came to Sweden in 2006 with two other mares, one colt foal and the stallion Marida Manzel, who was bred in Australia and is now in the UK. The colt is now MCC Kerdar's Knight, head stallion at Nordiclights Stud and currently the most winning Caspian stallion in Sweden. Sham has competed in dressage and is shown with 40 points (gold standard).

Darkhorse Shimari (D. Shiron x D. Rajkumari), was bred in the UK and foaled in 2000. Shimari was our family's very first Caspian and my first pony. I competed with Shimari in pony racing and show jumping. When I was getting too tall to compete with her we decided to breed from her. That was the start of the Nordiclights stud and Caspian breeding in Sweden. Some years later, we were reading in a Swedish horse magazine that the famous show jumping rider, Malin Baryard-Johnson, was looking for a good pony for her child. My mother (Margareta) and I discussed whether she should have a Caspian Horse and that it would be great promotion for the breed in Sweden if she did.

When they were at the biggest show in Sweden, my mother bravely walked up to the rider when she was signing autographs and asked her if she would be interested in having a Caspian on loan. Some weeks later, Malin Baryard-Johnson contacted us and we gave her Shimari on loan for a couple of years, during which she taught their child the best possible way to ride a horse. Shimari had been back home for approximately one year when she joined the photographic shoot.

DORSA STARTS A NEW LIFE

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Swedish CHS member Anne-Helene Stagardh has sent us a photograph of Dorsa, one of the then pre-foundation mares which were imported to Germany in 2007.



After enduring an unbelievably hard journey, Dorsa was subsequently 'rescued' to Sweden by Gunborg Johnsson. Dorsa and one of her progeny were approved for registration as a foundation Caspian in 2012, but it could not be finalised until a second foal was approved in Hungary, two years later. Meanwhile, she had gone to a new owner, who has broken her to saddle. Dorsa* is shown with her eight year old rider, Freja,

both doing very nicely thank you! Anne-Helene is now a member of CHS and Dorsa* and both progeny are fully registered with CHS and ICSB, so it's a nice result all round. If this mare could only talk, what a tale she could tell!!

NEWS FROM THE UK

WORLD BREEDS CLASSES

22

Our 2014 Ashby judge, Chris Porter, is keen to promote World Breeds classes. There are now more of these classes, where Caspians can enter and be seen amongst other non-British breeds, as well as the usual classes for in-hand, ridden and driven ponies. Here are a few suggestions, but there are many more. Check schedules for WBC and other classes on their websites.

Devon County Show – 21-23 May, Westpoint, Exeter

Saddlebred UK Festival Show for Foreign Breeds, 24th May, Moreton Morrell

Suffolk County Show – 27-28 May, Ipswich

Derby County Show - 28th June, Elvaston, Nr Derby,

Ashby Show – 12th July, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics.

Notts/Derby - 26th July/20th September, Long Eaton/ Breaston.

Emley Show – 1st August, Emley Mast, West Yorks.

Equifest – 12th -16th August – East of England showground, Peterborough.

CHAPS Championships – Aug/ Sept (tbc), Arena UK, Grantham, Leics.

Royal London Show 20 – 23 Aug (qualifying classes 1st day) Onley, Rugby.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: A few members have been 'out of kilter' with the payment dates of their annual subscriptions by Standing Order (and a few with cash/cheques too!). All subscriptions are due on 1st April once you have joined CHS (unless you joined after January 1st 2015). To help our accounting, we would be grateful if you would now make sure you have paid your 2015 subscription and change your bank arrangements to pay your Standing Order on 1st April as from 2015. Thanks so much for your continued support.

ASHBY SHOW 12/July/ 2015

Janet Dediccoat

Dear members and supporters,

Just a few words from me, to remind you that, once again, we have been invited to hold classes at this popular and interesting show, on 12th July.

Interest in our Caspian Horse Society stand has been growing year upon year with more visitors and a growing volume of spectators at our ringside. With more articles and advertising, Caspian Horses are starting to catch the eye of the public, so please come and support our classes at this show and put your stock out in front of them. We have had good press over the last two shows, so let's build on it with more success this time. I look forward to seeing you there!

Ashby Show

(The 101st Show)

**CATTOWS FARM, NORMANTON LANE,
HEATHER, LEICS. LE67 2TD**

Sunday, 12th July 2015

By kind invitation of Ashby Show Committee.

CASPIAN CLASSES, from 12.00 noon

*Open to members of any ICS member Caspian Society or registered Caspian or Part-Bred. **Double Performance Points.***

Judge: Mr Ian Woodward

Class 1 - Licensed Caspian Stallion or Gelding 4 yrs. old & over

*Class 2 - Caspian Mare (4 yrs. & over) / Brood Mare / Mare with Foal -
Special rosette for Best Foal.*

Class 3 - Caspian Youngstock 1-3 years old, colt, filly, gelding

Class 4 - Part-bred Caspian (any sex, any age), Rosette to Best 3 yrs. old & Under

Class 5 - Mixed Ridden, any sex, any age. Rosette to Best Rider.

PARADE OF CASPIAN HORSES

in our ring after the classes

With commentary, including information on individual horses

All entrants are welcome, including part-breds.

Persian rugs and bridles may be worn by pure-bred Caspians if preferred

Schedules, Entry Forms, Directions –

Request from Janet Dedicoat (CHS members will automatically receive them).

0121 445 1984 or email <j.dedicoat14@gmail.com>

ENTRIES CLOSE 24th JUNE 2015

Stabling can be arranged nearby by the Ashby Show Secretary,

Contact <info@ashbyshow.com> (asap - first come, first served)

**THIS IS OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR! Good Caspian entries are
vital to ensure our presence at Ashby in years to come**

**PLEASE COME WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR CASPIAN...
...but preferably with!**

CHS policy is to encourage the *use* as well as breeding of Caspians, in order to publicly demonstrate their known abilities as a superb mount for children - for dressage, jumping, gymkhana and driving. Evidence of good performance is a vital selling point, not just for the individual but for the breed as a whole. It is the very cornerstone of a genuine and valuable market for Caspians and part-breds. Trying to sell unbroken stock purely on the basis of rarity is usually very hard work. The Caspian has to make its mark in a competitive market in far more practical ways these days.

Early handling and timely breaking and schooling your Caspian is absolutely key to this. If breaking isn't possible yet, he should still be taught good manners and, beautifully prepared, shown in-hand whenever possible. The main aim is to raise public awareness of the breed, so if you own a Caspian or part-bred, I absolutely *entreat* you to play your part in achieving this goal! Request your Points Card *right now* from Helen Thirlby and take both card and horse to as many events as possible this summer before 1st October, to win a special rosette and sash. Remember - Ashby brings you double points!

Another helpful tip: To win a CHS rosette for Highest Placed Caspian, tell Helen at least 10 days before you enter a show and she will send a rosette to the organisers for you to win. (More points!)

VERY BRIEF NOTES FROM THE NORTH

From Bytham Orient – aka Fred - in the Scottish Borders

We've had an incredibly kind winter with plenty of frost and sunshine keeping everything dry, which makes life so much nicer for us animals. You can see me here having a spin with my rider, Katie.



Now Spring is here, it's time to start preventative measures against the sugar and the midge! We're being given the homeopathic sweet-itch combination of Caladium, Sweet Itch and Culicoides and 'she' is mending a few holes in my midge-proof onesie! She's also hit on some natural products sold by a company called Freestep, to guard against laminitis, developed by a specialist life

science company, Phytorigins. They received research grants from the Welsh Government to analyse the diets of free-grazing Welsh Mountain ponies and

identify significant medicinal compounds relevant to obesity control, laminitis and gut microbial bacteria populations.

Their *Lamalert* helps those who gain weight easily and are prone to cresty necks and fat deposits, which damage insulin levels - the only natural product she's found to maintain blood glucose levels. Its essential minerals make up a balancer which negates the need to feed one and we like the taste, unlike many herbal products.

The starvation regime necessitated by laminitis - especially if caused by EMS - can be really stressful. It can cause ulcers, for which they produce *Gastro G*, also based on naturally occurring substances and cheaper than proprietary products.

I wish you all a happy summer free from any of these nasty afflictions!

A QUICK UPDATE ON OUR CASPIANS Helen Thirlby 25

All our horses wintered out on a hilly farm, with just grass to eat and all look fantastic at the moment. I currently have twelve pure bred Caspians in my care and



one part-bred. The pure breeds range from three 'dope on rope' two year old fillies up to a fifteen year old Darkhorse mare.

The part-bred is the four year old filly - Amelia. Her sire is Penny Walster's exceptional Welsh Section B stallion Thistledown Copper Lustre and her dam

is Henden Aludi. Amelia is four years old this year and ready to be brought on after being backed last summer. She has exceptional movement, looks and temperament and will be an asset to any family.

Bytham Star is now six years old and slowly being reintroduced to the backing process. Henden Minoo and Bytham Parimetta are both in foal to two of Barbara Smathers' fabulous stallions. The mares are due in June and July and are both blooming appropriately! We continue to enjoy our Caspians and will be striving to find appropriate homes for some of them this year.



'BAMBAM' (aka Bere Sahira, bottle-fed foal) by Rosie Gilbert, Willow Farm Equestrian

Today, for the first time, Bambam calmly learnt to lunge, wear a bridle, wear a saddle and trot on the lunge with saddle. Her little man had a sit too!

I expect her to perform Grand Prix dressage by the end of next week, if this rate of progress is kept up!

STRAIGHTNESS TRAINING By Maria Marquise Baverstock

Five years ago I saw a video of a friend in Luxembourg doing dressage with her Akhal-Teke. She was using an endurance saddle, with her muck boots casually slotted into cage stirrups - a bit of exercise to keep her endurance horse ticking over through the winter but not your average "riding-club dressage". Light, subtle contact, the horse beautifully balanced in a soft outline, it immediately caught my eye. This was the dressage I've been intuitively looking for. I learnt that Noelle had attended clinics with the Danish classical dressage trainer Bent Branderup. Following links to his Academic Art of Riding, I devoured articles peppered with Bent's eccentric quotes and decorated with proud images of Baroque horses performing fancy movements. Much work was done 'in-hand' and looked very striking.

Further enquiries led to the Dutch website of one of Bent's former students, Marijke de Jong, whose first UK clinic I attended in 2011 in Somerset, with my two Akhal-Tekes. Straightness Training (Marijke's brand of Academic Art of Riding) focuses on a horse's natural asymmetry. All horses find it easier to bend one way than the other, many horses have mismatched hooves (one flatter than the other) and most horses find canter lead easier on one rein. Straightness Training recognises this and helps the horse to develop its muscles more evenly to enable it to carry a rider without strain and injury.

The horse is first trained from the ground, in a Viennese-Iberian-style cavesson, and learns to bend evenly both ways, to shift the weight off the forehand and develop self-carriage without weight on its back. From basic circles and straight lines the horse progresses to all classical dressage elements: shoulder-in, travers, renvers, half-pass, pirouette and piaffe. Riding is introduced fairly early on, but is not a pre-requisite to progressing to advance-level elements on the ground.

My best Straightness Training horse is a slightly-built 14.2hh 17-year-old mare, with an 'eagle eye' and obvious Central Asian type. With a history of laminitis, although now sound, her hoof health remains fragile. She's a comfortable, safe and very fast mount, but the in-hand work has become so addictive! We are steadily progressing with in-hand work, have mastered half-pass and are learning walk pirouette. To say she loves it is an understatement! If I put a cavesson on her in the stable and open the door, she walks out by herself towards the sand school, stops by the gate and waits for me to catch up.



Working from the ground creates a new dimension in our relationship with the horse and when successful creates a unique bond, synchronicity in movement and emotion. I'm also working with a 20 year old Welsh named Sonny Boy (*left*).

I met Caspians some years ago through Ruth Staines and felt an immediate affinity with them, probably because I had owned Akhal-Tekes for some years. As I was recollecting my discovery of Academic Art of Riding and the fulfilling journey it has been, I suddenly thought how nice it would be to teach dressage-in-hand to a Caspian. When I retire I will look for my dressage Caspian. Meanwhile, if any Caspian owners would like to learn more about Straightness Training, please let me know. Website links - <http://www.bentbranderuptrainer.com/>
<http://straightnesstraining.com/>

TALES OF KRISTY AND KASTOR

(Now known as Rostam and Arthur) Saskia Murk-Jansen

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Finally they arrived - Kinton Kristy and Kinton Kastor - two Caspian rescue colts. Since the time I knew that they were coming, I have been dreaming about their futures. I lost one of my two Caspians a few years ago, so a team is not on the cards, but three Caspians could be driven in a unicorn. However, a unicorn, like a tandem, requires a leader and not every pony is cut out to be a leader. Casper, my remaining Caspian, is a case in point - he is a great wheeler, goes single or pair, but is a complete liability in the lead. So the first hurdle of my lovely adventure would be whether one of the new arrivals looked like leader material.



I watched them carefully as they explored their new home. Coming down the lorry ramp it was Kastor who came first, even though Kristy was the one being encouraged to go. Once down, Kastor was bolder and quicker to explore but also quicker to turn and run. Kristy waited and watched and took his lead - it looked as though Kastor might just be a leader!

Horses to be driven together need names that sound distinct – so with Casper already in residence, Kastor would need a new name. The name Atur seemed to suit him – *Fire of Life* in ancient Persian – but I chose the gentler form of Arthur. Handsome Kristy looked like a Rostam – the hero of Persian legend. Two epic heroes seemed appropriate!

Soon it was time for their first lesson in the school. As I hoped Arthur would lead, I decided to take him out first. My daughter stayed with Rostam in the stable while I took Arthur into the school. I had attached a lunging rein to his head collar so that I could keep out of the way should he decide to go for a buck and a kick. To begin with all went well, but I let the rein go slack and in a flash Arthur got tangled in it. Fortunately he took his lead from me (another good sign) and as I murmured calming words he let me hold him still by the head collar and pull the rein back through his legs.

Then it was Rostam's turn. After some initial lack of comprehension he settled to walk alongside my daughter. We then let both of them graze in the yard and amused ourselves with doing things to alarm them - making ponies bomb-proof always pays off at some point! It was windy so my daughter danced around the yard waving empty feed bags, her friend kicked a bucket about, and I let a large bag billow behind me. By the end both ponies barely watched our antics as they grazed – unlike passers-by on the bridleway, who clearly thought we were completely mad!

CHARLIE AND KOPEK, SPRING 2015 **Kath Linacre** 28

So far, playtime for Charlie and Kopek has mainly been limited to weekends but with the lighter nights now, we can't wait to get out and about. Charlie's relationship with Kopek goes from strength to strength. Since Charlie was diagnosed with dyspraxia last year, we've encouraged him to spend more time on the yard, as riding is such fantastic therapy for core muscle strength and co-ordination. We've also learnt to allow Charlie to be in-charge of the agenda. The only rule is that during time on the yard this is totally up to Charlie.

I've been amazed at how well Kopek has responded to this change in direction. I must confess that during the winter our time with the horses is limited as we balance family life and working full-time within daylight hours. Even with little handling, Kopek has come into spring every inch the confident and well-mannered friend that Charlie needs him to be.

He's not fazed by Charlie's many weekend adventures. Quite the opposite - he seems to be thriving under Charlie's care and attention. He was an excellent skeleton model for Charlie's chalks when he wanted to learn more about horse anatomy – Charlie can name the major bones in the human and horse skeleton and loves pointing out where a horse's knees are!



There were giggles and laughter when Charlie gave Kopek his first bath of the year and tried on his new fleece pirate pyjamas, especially as Charlie has a matching onesie.

When Charlie decides that their adventures will include riding, Kopek's new Western saddle makes them both more comfortable and confident. Charlie loves the sheepskin seat and the pommel makes him feel secure. His confidence and balance have

improved, so the ride is also more comfortable for Kopek.

We are looking forward to lighter evenings so pony adventures can take place after work and school. Kopek does suffer from sweet itch but we hope that Cavelesse, prescribed by our vet, will help with this in 2015. We are hoping to attend the Ashby show if we can keep Kopek's mane and tail. Charlie has asked if he can take Kopek to a show so this seems the perfect place to start!

NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP – Pt. 2 Chris Fluskey 29

After reading Part One of my Natural Horsemanship article I hope you can understand the benefits of this training method. Both our Thoroughbred and part-bred Caspian are fluent in their own language of horse. Now we understand and can communicate with them and vice versa, we continue to reap the benefits. We now also have a previously blank canvas in a soft and gentle Welsh Section D gelding, who had only just been halter broken when he arrived. He was a little underweight so we decided to feed him up and let him be a horse for a few months before trying to educate him. His hunger made him a little ill-mannered and he wanted to get to the grass quickly. Like most people, I don't like this.

I used basic horsemanship to make the good easy and the undesired difficult. I don't dominate the horse and if they wanted to, I'm sure that they could plough through me with ease. I use my calm demeanour and, more importantly, knowledge to my advantage, enabling me to immediately make the undesired action very difficult. Should the horse do something "silly", I use horsemanship to settle him down and show him that he will get to the grass quicker if he walks calmly and safely behind me. In this way I take my place as natural head of his world.

Horsemanship also proves useful to the rider. There is a specific technique that we teach to both horse and rider - a simple form of relaxation that helps the horse cool down if spooky and helps the rider maintain both composure and control of the situation. First the horse is taught to bend his head to his shoulder as a warm up and that this is a place of calm and relaxation, by using horsemanship. It's taught from the ground beforehand and re-enforced when mounted. It offers control of the horse by not allowing them to become excited and provides physical control over the horse's movements (NOT dominance), as a horse cannot perform most "silly" acts with his head by his shoulder. He cannot buck, rear or run, as he is unbalanced. He has also learnt that this is his sanctuary from scary things. It can be a good indicator of growing anxiety, as he will instinctively put his head to his shoulder to calm himself down. It allows the rider to approach difficult situations and with practice and persistence, the horse will learn not to be frightened.

Many may find this method takes longer than simply "riding through" a problem, but what you will find is that riding through an issue only serves to "shut down" the horse and does not resolve the fear. The horse fears the consequences more than the scary thing, often resulting in pensive behaviour and in extreme cases, bolting!

To know more about natural horsemanship, consult a professional or feel free to ask me. I am sure I can point you in the right direction. The names to look for are Monty Roberts, and Warwick Shiller ...next time I will go into more depth.

POLO - INVENTED AND POPULARIZED BY THE ANCIENT PERSIANS

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Polo was first played in Persia between the 5th century BC and the 1st century AD. Polo was at first a training game for cavalry units, usually the King's guard or other elite troops. To the warlike tribesmen, who played it with as many as 100 to a side, it was a miniature battle. In time polo became an Iranian national sport, played normally by the nobility. Women as well as men played the game, as indicated by references to the Queen and her ladies engaging King Khosrow II, Parviz and his courtiers in the 6th century AD. Persian literature and art give us the richest accounts of polo in antiquity.

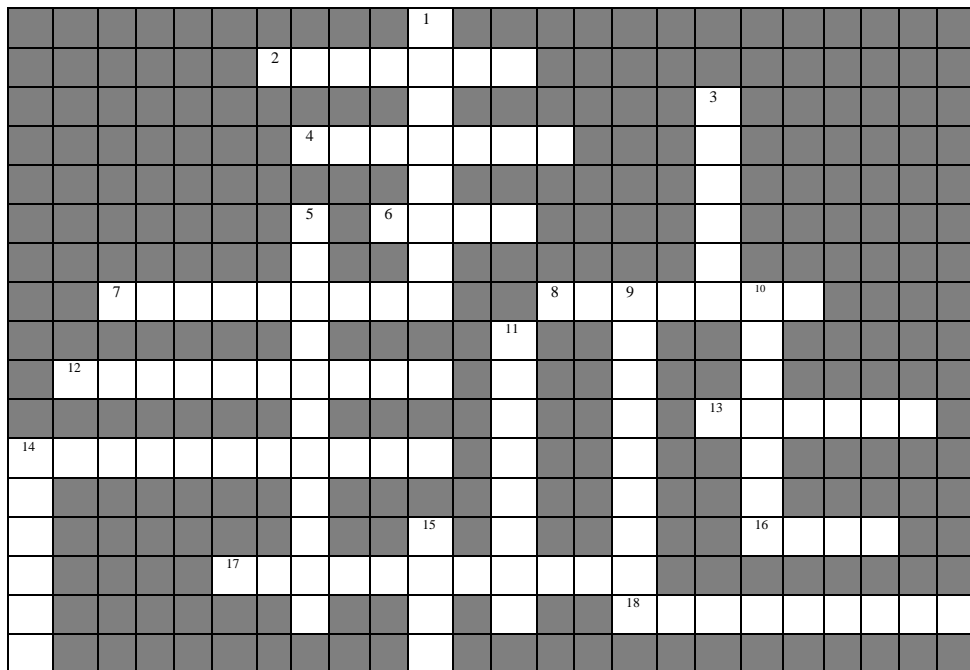
Ferdowsi, the famed Iranian poet-historian, gives a number of accounts of royal 'chogan' tournaments in his 9th century epic, "Shahnameh" (the Epic of Kings). In the earliest account, Ferdowsi romanticises an international match between Turanian forces and the followers of Siyâvash, a legendary Iranian prince from the earliest centuries of the Empire; the poet is eloquent in his praise of Siyâvash's skills on the polo field. Ferdowsi also tells of Emperor Shapur II of the Sassanid dynasty of the 4th century, who learned to play polo when he was only seven years old *on very small horses*.

Naqsh-e Jahan Square, in Isfahan, is in fact a polo field which was built by King Abbas I in 17th century.

SUMMER TIPS Vicki Shortis

- Remember to worm your horses regularly. Consult your vet for the right wormer for the time of year.
- Horses with white markings are prone to sunburn - you may need to apply sun cream daily.
- Neem Oil* for sweet itch soothes, heals and helps keep the midges away.
- A daily clove of garlic helps keep flies away Make sure there is plenty of clean water, check daily.
- Electrolyte supplement in the water encourages horses to drink. So does a little peppermint mouth-wash.
- Check fields regularly for ragwort, dig up, remove and burn the entire plant.
- Keep stored hay off the ground. If you cannot get pallets use old tyres, often obtainable free from garages and tyre-fitting bays..
- If you find straps on rugs are rubbing your horse, plait three strips of old tights and sew one end to the rug and a clip on the other end.

*(*Neem Oil is new to me, but seems to have many uses for humans and animals)*



Across:

2. An enclosure for horses
4. Little muzzle
6. Played by Caspians and kings?
7. A neighbour of the Caspian?
8. A down-to-earth useful joint
12. The eternal Caspian can be seen here
13. Pepper?
14. Silver, ruby, gold, diamond...
16. One of the give-aways on a Caspian
18. Public Debut of the Caspian in UK

Down:

1. The first stud in UK
3. What a Caspian has turned out to be
5. Well-known venue of Caspian classes
9. Conference month
10. The competitor's reward
11. A reminder of time's passing
14. Mountain range in Northern Iran
15. Not pronounced in the Caspian



OUR LAST COMPETITION:

Congratulations to our Baling Twine winner, Fran Smith-Boyes, who receives one year's membership to CHS for this Valentine creation!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE FOR 'THE CASPIAN'?

We'd *love* to hear from you! Please remember the following requirements -

Text: Send your editorial in Word (not pdf) so it can be manipulated. Restrict it to 450 words maximum, (slightly less if you send a photograph) unless requested to write more. We may need to edit or précis your submission.

Photographs: Please email photographs as jpegs, in original size if you can. Ensure the quality is as good as possible and send it as an attachment - we can reduce and crop it as required, without losing clarity. (We can also crop and slightly enhance most home-scanned historical photographs).

Send all submissions to both yshortis@sizzel.net & lizwebster08@gmail.com

DEADLINES: 1st April (Spring/Summer) & 1st October (Autumn/Winter).

Several weeks of work lie between receiving your article and sending you the finished magazine. We can stretch the deadline to 15th of April and 15th October if we must, but otherwise it is hard for the type-setter (Liz!) to deliver the magazine on time. We need your input, so keep sending it in, but please help us to meet our deadlines! Thank you!

Liz and Vicki

RECIPE Vicki Shortis (From Norwich Farmers Market)

Pork Tenderloin in a creamy sloe gin sauce

2 pork fillets	1 shallot, finely chopped
Salt & ground black pepper.	150 mL / 5fl oz Sloe Gin (or Brandy)
25g / 1 oz butter	300 ml / 10fl oz beef stock
1 tsp oil	150 ml/5fl oz creme fraiche (or double cream)

1. Season the tenderloins and brown quickly in hot butter and oil.
2. Remove pork, lower heat and soften the shallots in the same fat
3. Return pork to the pan, pour in the sloe gin and beef stock, cover & simmer for about 20 minutes or until cooked to taste.
4. Remove the meat & wrap in foil to keep warm.
5. Reduce the cooking juices by rapid boiling, add the cream and reduce again by half. Check seasoning.
6. The pork can either be carved at the table and the sauce served separately or sliced and put into the sauce for a quick simmer before serving. It is absolutely delicious served with rice or a selection of vegetables.

CHS BUSINESS PAGE

MEMBERSHIP – Contact Pat Bowles

NB: Membership is valid 1st April - 31st March

Full Voting

LIFE (one-off payment)

£175 UK £200 OVERSEAS

SINGLE £17 cheque £15 standing order

FAMILY £27 cheque £25 standing order

OVERSEAS (voting):

£20 cheque £18 standing order

Non Voting

JUNIOR £9 cheque £7 standing order

OVERSEAS (non-voting):

£12 cheque £10 standing order

SOME BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Register young stock at reduced rates

Opportunity to be on Council

Vote at Annual General Meetings

Include stock on Stallion/For Sale Lists

Reduced Entry Fees at Breed Shows

Receive the Magazine and News Letters

Participate in the Points Scheme and qualify

for a Special Rosette if showing your Caspians

Qualify for CHS awards

REGISTRATION DISPUTES

The Society is only a registration authority and cannot decide ownership or financial disputes, which are a matter for the courts. If you buy or lease a horse, or have a mare covered, do make sure the paperwork is correct. It really is easier to get it right at the outset than to rue the day and have an acrimonious dispute later.

TRANSFERS (*Selling your Caspian?*)

It is a legal requirement for the new owner to send the passport to the PIO (CHS) within 30 days of acquiring the horse for amendment. Please return the registration certificate at the same time.

STALLION LICENSING

Standard (Vet only) licence: Please apply to the Registrar for the application form, to be completed and returned with £15 fee. A CHS-appointed vet must inspect the colt. **Stallion Assessment to Breed Standard**, for licensed

stallions or pre-licence, is also available.

Contact Ruth Staines (Registrar).

FOAL REGISTRATIONS

A foal, pure or part bred, should be registered by the time it is 6 months old. EU requires the foal to be micro-chipped and a passport issued by the same age. DNA parent verification is now mandatory for pure bred registration, for which 40 hairs (with follicles attached) will be required.

For more information please refer to the CHS Rules & Regulations (*available from the Registrar*) which have been amended to conform with DEFRA'S new requirements.

Contact Ruth Staines (Registrar)

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUSIVE OF PASSPORTS:

		PURE	PART
MEMBERS		BRED	BRED
Colts	Up to 6 months	£15	£15
Fillies	Up to 6 months	£20	£15
Colts	6 – 18 months	£25	£25
Fillies	6 – 18 months	£35	£25

NON-MEMBERS

Colts	Up to 6 months	£29.50	£29.50
Fillies	Up to 6 months	£39.50	£29.50
Colts	6 – 18 months	£49.50	£49.50
Fillies	6 – 18 months	£69.50	£49.50

REGISTER PREFIX	£28
STALLION LICENCE	£15
DNA VERIFICATION	£25
DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE	£8
DUPLICATE PASSPORT	£15
TRANSFERS	£5
CHANGES (Gelding, Colour)	£5
CHANGE OF ADDRESS	Free

Documents will be sent to UK addresses by first class post unless special delivery is requested and paid for. Additional overseas postal costs, standard and special, will be added to invoices.

WEBWISE & USEFUL CONTACTS

www.laminitisclinic.org 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/health_care/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.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.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk offer a voucher for free ACTH blood test to diagnose Cushing's Disease, lab fees are covered but you pay vet call out charge.

www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk Our own website with associated links, now updated with more photographs and information.

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 <icsregistrar@hotmail.com>
This site enables e-registration by national Registrars.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1076026

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 3763510 LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES

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

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