



The Moorland Mousie Trust

To promote and conserve the Exmoor pony

Registered charity no. 1080504

The Old Barn, Moor Hall, Barhill, Madeley, Cheshire. CW3 9NG

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SPRING 2004.



Withypool Stallion 2003. Photograph by Mike Sherwin.

IMPORTANT - NEWSLETTER CHANGES.

Apologies for starting so abruptly, but we need to be sure that everyone reads this. There is a **form and return label enclosed** with this newsletter and we are asking everyone to please fill it in and send it back. **If we don't hear from you we shall assume that you do not wish to receive newsletters in the future.** As most of you know, we have been fortunate in having someone to fund our newsletter. As the Trust supporter base is growing, the cost is escalating, and the funding is not going to cover costs. We are very keen that all proceeds from donations go directly on pony welfare. For this reason, we need to streamline where possible. Now is a great time to do it. We have a new volunteer, Janette Clark, who is sorting out our database and getting the website up and running. If we can give Janette all of the information she needs, it is going to help us to run more efficiently and, most importantly, more cost effectively. The form is very self-explanatory. Amongst the questions, it asks if those of you with email address have any objections to receiving your news this way. We can do this with very little expense, and we have already experimented with the format to ensure that it will download quickly. This also means that you will be able to forward it on to anyone else who may be interested, and print it off if you wish to. We are also asking for a donation towards the cost of their newsletter, which we feel is reasonable. If everyone donated a minimum of £12, this would cover the year's news. Naturally, if they would like to contribute more, the ponies will be very grateful! We are aware that some of you have already contributed recently in the form of donations, or by adopting/sponsoring a pony, but **by filling in the form you will help us to make better use of funds.** Now to the interesting bits.....



A very early foal on Winsford Hill.

Spring is well on it's way, and after a very successful Autumn & Winter, we are pleased to report all of the youngsters are now either in their new permanent homes, or with their long-term fosterers. Once again, thank you to everyone who has given their support – fosterers and sponsors as well as financial and “in-kind” donators. Twenty nine foals found their way to the centre, a record number this time, and we are thrilled to have been able to play a part in finding them a new life, which, for some, may not have been an option. However, it does cost quite a lot to get them thus far. Transport alone is a major consideration. Despite the fact that it is Spring, we already have to start planning for this Autumn and beyond, so, if you can help with fundraising, please get together and make an effort for a very worthwhile cause. Small amounts soon add up if everyone does their bit.

The sponsorship idea came from one of our hardworking volunteers, Judith Weatherburn. It's a great way to feel a part of what is happening in the Autumn, and to be doing something positive, even if you don't have the facilities or experience to physically own a foal. She has written a little of how you may be able to get involved yourselves in this worthwhile project.

Wanted – a few hours of your time!

*Could **you** fund raise £75+ this summer to sponsor a colt this autumn?*

Last year we had a stall at a craft fair, at the country park where I work, to raise funds for MMT. We sold homemade cards, pony fridge magnets and other donated items and raised just under £100. The money was used to buy a ‘silver’ foal sponsorship. We named our foal ‘Owain’ after the knight in the legend

of the lake at the park. As sponsors we received a colour photograph and quarterly updates about our foal's progress; it is great to be able to give feedback to people who have supported your fund raising efforts.

So why not get together with your livery yard, work colleagues, or friends, to sponsor one of this year's colts'? There must be 100's of ways to raise a minimum of £75 (a bronze sponsorship) this summer. Wouldn't it be brilliant if each of the 30 foals, bought this autumn had their own sponsor(s) lined up? We are hoping to have another go this June - we've already chosen the next name Val – ‘Starlight’ after Owain's horse!

Go on, have a go, in exchange for a bit of organisation and a few hours of your time you will really be making a difference to an Exmoor colt. In 12 months time, when you get your update about your foal's progress, you'll know it *was* time well spent. If many people do just a little MMT can achieve great things.

Judith Weatherburn

Also Wanted – unwanted, saleable, postage friendly items.

Judith is a regular ebay user, and has already sold badges and adoptions on the site for us. She has now decided to expand on the idea. If anyone has items which they would like to donate to the Moorland Mousie Trust, she is happy to take on the job. Obviously these items need to be post friendly. Please contact her on: Exmoors4Judith@aol.com And now, for news of two of our enterprising young supporters.....

Izzy & Lauren put on their aprons.

An email enquiry from Wiltshire set the wheels in motion for a marathon cake baking session for enterprising supporters Izzy Todd and Lauren Crookall-Fallon. The friends became interested when they saw our Christmas card. They wrote to their headteacher and asked for permission to hold a cake stall during their break one day. They baked 200 cakes and raised a total of £56, also managing a feature, and a lovely photograph in the Bath Chronicle, which I'm afraid just wouldn't reprint for us – sorry. Well done girls! – thanks from all of us, especially from some grateful ponies.

BBC Countryfile.

Several of you obviously saw our feature on Countryfile in February, judging from the response. We tried to let as many as possible know about it via email. Congratulations to Penny and Michael Taylor-Young on their appearance with their two young charges, who behaved impeccably.

The feature was part of a programme celebrating 50 years of The Exmoor National Park, with whom we are very pleased to be working with closely nowadays. Not only do we have their support, but in good old Moorland Mousie style, we have cleverly managed to hook several of their employees into the net – we're very good at that, as several of you will testify (read Phil Chamberlain's account in a minute!!).

The response from the Countryfile piece was particularly interesting, with phone calls and emails from people wanting to know more about the breed, or about acquiring an Exmoor pony. Penny and Michael Taylor-Young have been Trust supporters since its inception, and we are indebted to them for their support and their handling skills with the colts, especially as they have such busy lives with their B & B on the edge of Exmoor. Also, we must make special mention of "Dylan" who starred in the introduction, with presenter Adrian astride on Winsford Hill. Thank goodness he was on his best behaviour – unfortunately when he was being tacked up, we discovered that the wrong girth had been packed. Adrian was given strict instructions to sit up straight, or disappear around Dylan's belly!!



Penny and Michael's young charges kick their heels after a busy morning's filming.

Moorlandmousetrust.org.uk -AT LONG LAST, A WEBSITE.

Enter Janette Clark, and her wonderfully enthusiastic family. Janette found us whilst looking for Christmas gifts for her pony mad

daughter. Our adopt an Exmoor pony fitted the bill, and "Vino", a yearling who is spending his growing years grazing out at Long Horsley now has a devoted fan club who have already made the long, round trip from Scotland to meet him. Janette rather foolishly commented that she was surprised that we had no website. Like all good folk who make a suggestion/comment, she was immediately put to work, and whilst it's taking time to get everything together, at least we are now on the way. You will find us at **moorlandmousetrust.org.uk** Please feel free to pass on your suggestions – we want to encourage everyone to get involved. We are a people (as well as pony) friendly organisation, and as those of you who do contact regularly will know, we do our best to keep in touch and involve as many people as possible, which brings me nicely to the next article – for those of you who are thinking of getting in touch and offering your services – beware, you may well be taken up on it. Look what happened to Phil.....

MEET Janet & Phil Chamberlain.

Jan & Phil were already Exmoor pony converts. They live in Yorkshire, and are now working tirelessly with the ponies. Phil sat down and wrote the following piece. Warning – if your partner is not an Exmoor enthusiast, tell them to turn away now!

Exmoor Ponies – The husbands Diary !!

When a man utters those two immortal words, "I do", he at least has a rough idea of what lies ahead. When he later says "of course you can have an Exmoor Pony my love" the future is often less clear.

People will say that on 21st April 1998, I should have known what would happen when Janet said we should travel in a horsebox to look at an Exmoor Pony, just in case we liked it. They will say it was my own fault that Joe was paid for and loaded faster than Becky into a wallet at a social event, but how was I to know? Mum and Dad had lectured me on all sorts of trials and tribulations I was likely to encounter on the arduous journey through life, the dangers of the wrong sort of ladies I'd be tempted by in foreign ports during my seagoing days, but I can honestly say I must not have been paying attention on the day they may have mentioned the E-word!

So, Joe turned up at our livery yard, came down the ramp, and totally turned my opinion of equines upside down. I should point out that, up to Joes' arrival, my experience as a livery yard owner had been limited to mollycoddled horses and ponies, owned by some of the most difficult, selfish people I have ever met. So what is so different about Exmoors?

- The owners. They seem to actually understand their animals can sometimes be a pain in the neck, and take their antics with a pinch of salt and a wry smile, without blaming the yard owner for every small incident.
- They actually live outside!! After a long period being led to believe that equines are an indoor animal, and must not be turned out whatever the circumstances, it was great to find a breed that could live out all year, eat grass and SURVIVE.
- Given a few years training, and a lot of ribbing, it IS possible to tell which one is which in a field, although I still wouldn't be sure of correctly identifying ours if they got free at the Northern Show!!



Jo with young friend Sophie

So Joe slowly but surely worked his way into my affections, reducing an experienced instructor almost to tears when she made the mistake of taking him on in a battle of wills (no contest), and reducing me to a squirming jelly of embarrassment when he barged his way out of the ring at our first Northern Show. You can imagine my feelings when the steward suggested we didn't take him back in, but I felt better after speaking to all the experienced owners who shrugged off the incident with "that's Exmoors for you" type comments. He became a firm favourite with all the kids on the yard, and had them queuing

up to enter him in classes on show days and fun days at the yard, even doing an endurance ride when we hosted one. WHAT A MAGNIFICENT ALL ROUNDER THE EXMOOR IS. But you'd never get many people outside of the breed to admit that would you?

We now arrive at October 1998, and, unknown to me, Joe is getting lonely. Janet patiently explained to me that, as a man, I was unable to spot the unmistakable signs that he was pining away, and only the purchase of an Exmoor companion would save his physical and mental anguish. And I fell for it!! Step forward Kiora (A/126). And how different can these ponies be? Where as Joe is the Ford Transit Van of the Exmoor world (well designed, versatile, reliable, low maintenance and can be driven by anyone), Kiora turned out to be the E-Type Jaguar (fast, stylish and a little difficult to control at times). Janet even re-learnt the ancient art of falling off of a pony again, something which Joes' "dinner table" back made virtually impossible. But what a pair of ponies, with Joe excelling with the kids in various classes, and Kiora now let loose for dressage, jumping and the more serious showing classes, I very seldom had to do anything at shows (other than transport, groom, clean tack, groom, tack up the ponies, groom, look after them between classes, groom, untack, groom, be shouted at, groom, display a high degree of psychic power regarding where they should be at a particular time, and put everything (including the ponies) away on return to the yard, clean out the horsebox and still smile as the kids showed off the rosettes and told everyone how useless Phil was as a groom!! Oh, the joys of showing.

April 2002. To cut a long story short, Jan and I were great at looking after horses and ponies, but lousy business people. With debts piling up, it was time to say goodbye to the yard, and go back into the real world to make a living. But, what to do with Joe & Kiora? With heavy hearts we sent them off on loan, Joe to the Royal Dick at Edinburgh, and Kiora to the Linnel Stud in Hexham.

Now Phil gets used to life without ponies, and I'd be a liar if I didn't admit it suited me down to the ground, at least for the first year or so.

June 2003. We've driven past a sign saying "land to lease" at least twenty times in the last

couple of weeks, and each time Janet has looked longingly and dropped casual hints. Secure in the knowledge that we won't be able to afford it, I offer to ring the number when we get home. Disaster, the stupid owner has absolutely no idea how expensive land in Cullingworth should be, and we can afford 12 acres of good grazing just half a mile away from our old yard!! PRAISE THE LORD!! Welcome back Joe & Kiora.

What happened next can only be put down to the inherent insanity of the Exmoor owners' husband, and a large number of strong gin & tonics. Whilst helping out at the Hexham Native Horse show, Janet had offered to foster a youngster for the Moorland Mousie Trust, and during the post show drinkies, I heard myself say "bring as many as you want, we've got plenty of land". Yes, for the first time in my life, I'd dropped myself in it, and there was no possibility of passing the blame to anyone else. So, in the fullness of time, and before I could think of any logical reason why I could give backward, a box arrived from the deep south with no fewer than four of the little darlings aboard.

So who are these new chaps, and where do they come from? And who are the Moorland Mousie Trust? To answer the last question first, the Moorland Mousie Trust is a shadowy organisation, who under cover of darkness, sneak on to the premises of unsuspecting horse lovers' partners, and leave a selection of Exmoor ponies, to be found by the bemused victims early the next morning!!

Of course, I'm jesting. In fact the Trust was set up **"TO PROMOTE AND CONSERVE THE EXMOOR PONY"**, and as part of this aim they run a well organised and immensely successful adoption and fostering scheme, which is how we ended up looking after four of them. Plan A is to keep them in Cullingworth, until such times as good, permanent homes can be found, and in the meantime get them used to being handled as much as possible. Simple you might say, but unfortunately both Janet and I had become somewhat spoiled with all the facilities at our own yard (indoor arena, stables and even a roof to keep the Yorkshire weather away from our delicate heads), and so began a short, sharp reminder of the joys of trying to do things in the middle of a hurricane, with twelve acres of trees and long grass for them to hide away in!! Even I was reduced to a few

blasphemous words over the next couple of months. Still, nature will always find a way, as they say, and in my case, nature's way was to work long shifts and leave the hard work to Janet and a young lady by the name of Katie (I think Janet actually met her on the Internet whilst trying to organise a new husband from the Philippines or something, she's a bit reluctant to discuss the details). Anyway, the results so far have been astounding, and the enthusiasm is still full on, so here's looking forward to another Summer of ups and downs with the Moorland Mousie Trust and it's gang.....



(We hope to get Phil to write a sequel to this at some time in the future.)

AN EXMOOR PONY WINS AT OLYMPIA FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Congratulations to Margaret Burnett, Katy Marriott-Payne and **Stowbrook Jenny Wren**, for their historic victory at Olympia in December. Jenny Wren became the first ever Exmoor to win the NPS Baileys Horse Feeds Mountain & Moorland Supreme Ridden Championship. Jenny Wren and Katy looked a picture and more than deserved to win. At long last, recognition for a much maligned breed! Unfortunately we don't have a picture to show you – maybe in the next issue.

NEED A PRESENT FOR SOMEONE?

Our **adopt an Exmoor pony** scheme is proving very successful. If you would like to support us financially, this is an excellent way to do it. We have several different packages, ranging from £10-£20 for a year's adoption. We can send them out at a time to suit you, for instance, in time for someone's birthday. Each adoption comes with a colour photograph of your chosen pony, a Moorland Mousie Trust pin badge, and a quarterly update. Again we have a good cross section

of ponies from youngsters to ridden ponies, saints to sinners (no need to ask what Tunny is, just look at the expression!), and there are some at either end of the country – on Exmoor, or up North, in Yorkshire and Northumberland. If you would like more details, please email, phone or write to the office address and a leaflet will be sent out the same day, or it can be arranged over the phone/internet. We also hope to have the ponies on the website very soon.

Please support this scheme – it's such a wonderful way to become involved with a rare breed animal. Where else could you find such good value for a piece of English heritage.



Tunny – one of our adoption ponies. A real rogue, if ever there was!

ARE YOU VISITING EXMOOR THIS YEAR?

As usual, we have plenty of contacts for you if you are in need of accommodation. Just get in touch and we shall point you in the right direction. We have already had several enquiries, and most are easily accommodated. Only last week, we had a request for self-catering accommodation for 3 adults and a dog, with grazing for 2 Exmoors and parking for their lorry – all sorted with one phone call! We are also pleased to have become involved with www.equinetourism.co.uk at its inception. This website has a growing list of subscribers, and has easily accessible information on all things equine related in the Exmoor area. What's more, they have specifically asked the Trust to link up with them as their chosen charity, so do look them up. We are hoping to join forces on a couple of projects this year.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Sasha's departure this Winter gave us a chance to reassess the situation at the centre. With more work due to take place early Summer, and a formal opening in time for the new foal intake in the Autumn, we decided

that we would scale down our workload until mid to late Summer this year. At this point we shall be advertising at least one vacancy. This position will be for someone with suitable BHS qualifications to manage a small trekking/hireling operation, as well as having the necessary skills to manage the handling of young ponies. If you think that you might be interested, please contact us with your CV and relevant references.

WORK AT THE CENTRE CONTINUES –COME AND SEE US SOON.

Whilst we have temporarily scaled down operations on Exmoor for a few months, in order to concentrate on creating a better environment for the ponies, we are still welcoming visitors whenever possible, preferably by appointment. We still have the older, ridden ponies at Ashwick, but the youngsters have been temporarily fostered out so that they don't loose out on valuable handling time. So, if you had planned to pay us a visit, please ring the office and we'll do our best to accommodate you. We shall still look forward to seeing everyone again in August for Exford (Aug 11th) and Dunster (Aug 20th) Shows. Everyone enjoyed mucking in and playing a part in the shows last year, and we hope to do the same again this year. So, don't forget to pack your wellies, buckets and pony shampoo. We may not win an awful lot, but the atmosphere on the yard last year could have been bottled and sold. It's what it should all be about – having fun with ponies.



FINALLY, PLEASE HELP US BY FILLING IN THE NEXT PAGE AND RETURNING IT TO US NOW.

THE MOORLAND MOUSIE TRUST QUESTIONNAIRE

Can you please confirm/update your contact details and post them to MMT? To save on costs no reminders will be sent, **failure to send in your details will lead to removal from the mailing list and no further newsletters will be sent to you.**

Please do it now, don't forget!

A) *I wish to remain on the MMT mailing list and continue to receive newsletters.*

OR (please delete as appropriate)

B) I no longer wish to remain on the MMT mailing list and understand I will no longer receive newsletters.

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail address:

Are you happy to receive your newsletter by E-mail, in PDF format, to save printing costs?

YES NO (delete as appropriate)

If you answer **NO** to above would you be prepared to pay an annual £12 subscription fee for paper copies posted to you? **YES NO**

Your Address:

.....
.....

Please also help us by answering the following 10 questions (for our use only)

Please add additional comments or information on a separate sheet.

1. I am an Exmoor Pony owner **(YES/NO)** please supply details.
2. I would be interested in owning an Exmoor pony in the future.
(YES/NO) Supply details of age, sex, abilities etc. required.
3. I would like to be considered as a fosterer in future **(YES/NO)**
4. I would like to hold a fund raising event in my area **(YES/NO)**
Do you have any ideas MMT could use for fund raising? **(YES/NO)** what are they?
5. Would you be interested in merchandise e.g. sweat shirts, T-shirts **(YES/NO)**
6. I would like to offer some time as a volunteer (don't need to live on Exmoor) **(YES/NO)**
My skills/interests are.....
(E.g. clerical, computing, ponies, building and maintenance etc.)
7. I may be interested in acting as a regional contact for MMT in my home county. **(YES/NO)**
8. I would consider making a small, regular donation to MMT (see P. 8) **(YES/NO)**
- 9. I have visited the new temporary website? (YES/NO) your comments?**
- 10. I have bought an Exmoor Pony Adoption or Sponsorship in the last year?**
(YES/NO)

Gift Aid Declaration

Details of donor:

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

.....
..... Post code:.....

I want the charity to treat all donations I make as Gift Aid Donations* from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise.

*You must pay income tax/capital gains tax.

Signature Date/...../.....

THE MOORLAND MOUSIE TRUST

Registered charity number 1080504

STANDING ORDER AUTHORITY

CUSTOMER DETAILS

Account in the name(s) of:

Name of Bank:

Branch and address of bank:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

Daytime telephone number:

(in case of query)

PAYMENT DETAILS

Amount of First Payment

Amount in words

Date of First Payment:

To be paid (annually/monthly)

on

Payments to continue until:

date

or until further notice

PAYABLE TO:

The Moorland Mousie Trust

Barclays Bank plc

Hanley Branch

PO Box 202

Stoke on Trent

ST1 2PJ

Account Number:

0	0	4	8	0	4	5	2
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Sort Code:

20	36	43
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INSTRUCTION DETAILS

I/we authorize this new Standing Order Mandate

Customer Signature

Date

Please complete and return to The Moorland Mousie Trust, The Old Barn, Moor Hall, Barhill, Madeley, Cheshire. CW3 9NG

