

New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders' Society (Inc.)

NEWSLETTER
October 2022



New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders' Society (Inc.)

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Mid/Lower South Island	Beth Prescott-Ballagh	South Canterbury/ North Otago	027 512 4967 or 03 689 1340
Canterbury / Upper South Island	Kirsty Whiting	Canterbury	zeberdee_equine@outlook.co.nz

- New registrations, transfers and stud book queries can be sent directly to the Registrar
- Newsletter articles, photos, items of interest, classifieds, queries or corrections can be sent to the Newsletter Editor
- Show results can be sent directly to the Show Results Collector
- Financials can be sent directly to the Treasurer
- Website and Facebook items can be sent directly to the appointed Co Ordinator

Please note: while every care is taken during the compilation of the NZSPSB newsletter, the New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders Society Inc. does not accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions.

From the President

President's Report October 2022

Here in Canterbury, as with much of New Zealand, we have had the craziest spring so far.

Twenty-three degrees in one week and snow and hail the next. No wonder my ponies just don't want to let go of their winter coats.

Some breeders already have some foals on the ground. It is an exciting and anxious time. All the very best for those of you expecting foals this year.

Further down south there have already been a couple of spring shows and Ellesmere, Selwyn Spring Show, takes place this weekend.

Well done for all of you who were out competing or stewarding and supporting the Shetland Pony classes.

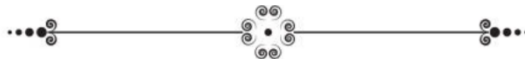
Our South Island NZ Shetland Pony Breeders 25th Anniversary show plans are well underway. You should be able to enter through <https://showday.online/show/shetland>. Any issues with entering please don't hesitate to contact the Show Secretary, Lorraine Martini and she can help you. I am the contact if you want to stay on the grounds overnight or hire a box or yard.

This year, in response to the request at our AGM, we are trialling having ridden and lead-rein classes in the afternoon. These will begin after the harness and in-hand sections are completed and after prize giving and the raffle.

We used to do this years ago and it included games which made for a fun day. Riders don't have to be financial members. The only requirement is that the ponies are registered Shetlands. Please spread the word and encourage entries. There are riding classes, ridden show classes and fancy dress.

We have had some wonderful offers of sponsorship, with special prizes, garlands, trophies and cups to mark this anniversary 25th Show on 28th January 2023. It is going to be a wonderful day.

Bernadette Woffenden, Lael Shetland Pony Stud
NZSPBS President



From the Newsletter Editor

Well, shows are starting to happen around the country and finally after all that rain in winter we are starting to see clean ponies! This October newsletter has some reports on early shows in the South and a lovely piece about the clever and versatile Cosmo finding his forever home.

If anyone has any articles or items of interest and/or photos of your beautiful ponies, that you are happy to share, please send them to me at christinawil@gmail.com for our next newsletter.

The next newsletter publication is planned for mid-December 2022 so items for the next newsletter need to be sent through to me by the 1st December 2022 or even earlier if possible.

Christina Lewis – Newsletter Editor

'Put that gear back in the attic. I will not have you showing off to the visitors'.
Pen and ink cartoon
from 'Some Damn Fool's Signed the Rubens Again'



PLEASE DIRECT ALL WEBSITE QUERIES OR SUBMISSIONS TO:

Email: duncree@xtra.co.nz • Tel: 03 317 8018

(emailed photographs to be high resolution & saved as a jpeg attachment)
(posted photographs to be high quality & include self-addressed envelope for return)

From the Registrar

New Registrations

Registration Number	Sex	Pony
1192NZ FR	Colt	Lael Reverence
1193NZ	Mare	Lael Sonata
1194NZ	Gelding	Double H Whittaker
1195NZ FR	Colt	Tullamore Ceimnithe Go Liath
1196NZ	Mare	Tullamore Genie
1197NZ	Gelding	Tullamore Ronan
1198NZ	Gelding	Tullamore Noah's Legend

Transfers –

Reg. Number	Pony	Vendor	Transferred To
655NZ	Rockisle Tomohawk	K Whiting	L Fallen Wreakes
1167NZ	Double H Blue Cameo	S & H Harden	E Kirby, Oxford
1137NZ	Double H Blue Lavender	S & H Harden	E Kirby, Oxford
702NZ	Narrandera Zara	O Swansbury	B & R Woffenden, Leeston
1194NZ	Double H Whittaker	S & H Harden	L Duff, Rangiora
990NZ	Cotswold McKayla	L Martini	D & J Humphries, Motukarara
802NZ	Double H Quintessa	L Patterson	C Wallace, Masterton
897NZ	Beechgrove Royal Georgie Girl	A Ballantyne	A Tarver, Ashburton

Paying by Cash – please, if at all possible, do not send cash through the mail. It is not a secure way of making payments.

Stud Books Online

The long-awaited Volume 4 of the NZSPBS Stud Book is up on the website along with downloadable copies of Volumes 1, 2 & 3. Please note that Volume 1 is not the same as the printed version and the data that is in the copy on the website was taken from the records as at July 2022. We hope to have Volume 5 available early 2023.

Rather than print paper copies, we've made decision to make the stud book available to everyone.

If you would like a copy printed, please get in touch with Catherine Crosado, our Registrar.



***“When you are on a great horse,
You have the best seat you will ever have”.
- Sir Winston Churchill***

End Of Year Awards.

The show season is now in full swing, so please get the full results of the shows in your area to Lorraine Martini lorraine.martini@xtra.co.nz

Just a reminder - *we need the complete set of results not just yours.*

Many thanks.

Area Representative Reports:

WAIKATO/UPPER NORTH ISLAND AREA REPORT

Kathy Drake

Not a lot to report, except that having gone through Covid lockdowns and the end of the 'Traffic Light' system, you would think that events will now be going ahead without restriction. However, we are still seeing repercussions, with the Auckland Highland Games having pulled the plug for the third year running— not because of Covid number restrictions, but because there is now no longer any money in the pot or forth coming from the usual sources, to run the event. And we can only cross our fingers now that the local A&P Shows won't be in the same position. Our wee Shetlands always loved their annual meet and greet at the Auckland Highland Games and we always managed to turn out at least four ponies and handlers and at one event a group of 10 Shetlands who were representative of several different North and South Island studs. The tartan rugs will have to stay in their storage box for another year.

Have fun with your wee ponies everyone, whatever you choose to participate in with them. Good to see the Giddy Up Girls in the South Island once again harnessing and booting up their wee charges for another year of fun. It's lovely to see reports on social media about how versatile our wee ponies are, and I have included a wee piece (further down) from a local Shetland enthusiast about their amazing wee Cosmo and his 7year old owner, for you all to enjoy. Great seeing another Shetland starting off a wee boy on his riding life.

Take Care and try not to get too much fluff on your clothing as you de-fluff those ponies.

Kathy Drake

LOWER NORTH ISLAND AREA REPORT

Ann Abernethy

It is amazing what a few days or part days of sunshine can do not only to waterlogged paddocks but also to pony owners' spirits. As we go into Spring many of you will be looking forward to a new crop of foals and with that comes the choice of names. So, I have been thinking about some of the names I chose and why. I thought I would share the story of one name with you and that is Barnsley Mr. McArthur a smart little coloured gelding, now rising 6 years: Dam – Cotswold Mystical Eve and Sire Pentland Little Master.

So why the name Mr McArthur? A knock on the door one day from an acquaintance of thirty years resulted in a series of questions as to my heritage—the outcome being we have a great grandmother in common 30 years in the same community and we never knew we were related! It was quite a thrill as was the arrival of a new foal on the same day and so the name simply had to be Mr McArthur -- both new additions to the family. Tom (the human Mr McArthur) was delighted with his namesake. Sadly, Tom became seriously ill and was hospitalised for a year but continued to ask about "his" pony. I like to think that this interest helped with his recovery. The equine Mr Mc Arthur is now a nice child's pony and I hope Tom remains well enough to bring his grandchildren around for a ride.

All ponies are well and full of "high jinks" through lack of work. Still, warmer weather is coming. Best wishes for the foaling season.
Ann

MID/LOWER SOUTH ISLAND AREA REPORT

Beth Prescott-Ballagh

Well Spring has arrived and already there have been three shows:

Palmerston/Waihemo Saturday 24th September 2022

Congratulations to April Buckingham taking out Supreme with Shelyron Cloudberry and Lael Moonlight Magic Champion young stock

Temuka /Geraldine Show

Supreme was taken out by Katie Dr Lor with Birchlands High Jinx.

Southern Equestrian Show at Waimate

Supreme went to Katie Dr Lor with Birchlands High Jinx
Champion Adult went to Katie Dr Lor with Birchlands High Jinx

Reserve Adult went to Shona Cusack with Burravoe Ambrosia

Champion Youngstock went to H W & M B Prescott-Ballagh with Abberley Fire Dance.

Reserve Youngstock went to Andrea Price with Beechgrove Birdie



Katie Dr Lor with Birchlands High Jinx



It was a beautiful spring day, and it was good to see long time breeder Muriel Cromie's ponies doing so well and were well represented at the show. One of hers taking out Supreme at both Winchester and Waimate shows. No reports of foals down here yet.

(left) Katie Dr Lor with Birchlands High Jinx

Regards Beth and Harry Prescott-Ballagh

***"I am still under the impression
that there is nothing alive quite
so beautiful as a horse"
- John Galsworthy***



**Our Little Cosmo –
forwarded by Kathy Drake**



Whitinui Cosmo

11/10/2009

Gelding

Under 10.2hh

Rego - 917NZ

Here at Misty Ridge Farm, we only have large horses, so when my little 3-year-old son was wanting to ride we went on the hunt for something we could use as a lead rein pony. When I was little, I had a wee Shetland pony who was just a wee super star, so when I found little Cosmo on Trade Me (who was an exact look alike to my wee boy that I learnt on) I didn't need too much convincing that he would be the perfect match for our Flynn :)



We bought Cosmo from a lady in Taupo and when we collected him, we put him in the back of the van as we thought that taking the big four horse bay truck was a bit of overkill and we had been told that he pretty much hopped in anything. So off we went with the van set up with matting and when we turned up to pick him up, he just walked straight in :). Needless to say, we got many waves and smiles as we drove home, as anyone looking in could see wee Cosmo happily looking around and busy eating his hay.

Well Cosmo and Flynn have become inseparable, and Flynn has gone from not being able to ride to being able to ride off lead in the arena. Cosmo is just so lovable, cheeky and just always wanting to please, he fits right in on the farm and he loves going out for trips on lead out and about. Flynn is almost 7 years now and is fast outgrowing Cosmo, so we have been working on getting Cosmo into cart, which is going very well. We don't want Cosmo to just become a paddock ornament when Flynn outgrows him as he has so much more to offer. Flynn and the older boys would be devastated if we sold Cosmo, so he's here to stay :)



SHETLAND HISTORY & VISCOUNT SEAHAM

For the Shetland breed, the 19th century is of immense importance.

In the Shetlands the Mines Act, which passed in 1842, prohibited women along with children under ten from working in the coal mines. This led to the export of ponies (always males, as mares were never used) to the coal mines in the Northeast of England. It could not have come at a better time for the Island's crofters, who, chronically poor, were in an even worse state due to the potato famine. Prices for ponies increased, and animals that had fetched £1.10 shillings in 1841 shot up to £4 almost immediately (although this often-included delivery to the colliery). The price soon reached £5.10s for a 2-year-old colt, and £8.10s for a mature pony, before rising to £12 in 1861.

Into this situation in 1873 came a man, who with his son, was to have the greatest long-term influence on the Shetland breed. He was the eldest son of Charles Vane 3rd Marquess of Londonderry; he had been educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford. He became known by the courtesy title of Viscount Seaham in 1823 when his father was created Earl Vane and Viscount Seaham.

Viscount Seaham entered the 1st Life Guards, purchasing a lieutenancy in February 1845 and retiring in May 1848. He was returned to Parliament for North Durham in 1847, a seat he held until 1854. That year he succeeded his father as Earl Vane and entered the House of Lords. In 1867 he was sent on a special mission as Envoy Extraordinary to Russia to Emperor Alexander II, to invest the Emperor with the "Order of the Garter".

When his half-brother, Fredrick Steward, 4th Marquess, died childless in a mental hospital in 1872, Earl Vane inherited the title and the family estates. He was an English aristocrat, businessman, diplomat and Conservative Politician, but to those of us that read all the Shetland books, we just know him as Lord Londonderry.



Mount Stewart, County Down, Northern Ireland, was the Irish seat of the Steward family (Marquess of Londonderry) now a National Trust Property.

Lord Londonderry managed his own and his father-in-law's estates, which included some of the slate quarries around Corris, Gwynedd, Wales, and a number of his family's coal mines around Seaham, County Durham in North-East England. He had been using Shetlands as Pit Ponies from about 1850, and had a Stud in Durham, managed by Mr. Robert Brydon, to which he imported ponies from the Shetland Island. Over the years he had become increasingly concerned about the declining standard and suitability of the ponies arriving from Shetland and decided to do something about it. He leased Bressay Island and the small, connected island of Noss, just off Lerwick, and established a stud, managed by Mr. J.J.R. Meiklejohn.

The aim of the stud was specifically to breed ponies for the pits – ponies which were strong, though smaller, draught animals, with a low head carriage and 'with as much weight as possible and as near the ground as can be got'. To this end, Messers Brydon and Meiklejohn toured the islands extensively, and bought the very best mares they could, and about two hundred colts and stallions. Not surprisingly, Brydon described the ponies as 'an uneven lot', but six stallions were carefully selected to be used as the foundation of the stud in the spring of 1874.

Two of those stallions, Jack 16, and Prince of Thule 36, were to have an enormous and lasting influence on the breed. Robert Brydon, writing in *Horses of the British Empire*, notes that the first foals of these mating's showed a considerable improvement on the average foals in the islands. By careful selection, a considerable amount of deliberate in-breeding and sheer skill, they managed to achieve the desired pit pony.

What became to be known as the 'Londonderry type' was a pony with improved bone and substance, good joints and limbs, and, in the main, lacking the more obvious faults in conformation, such as poor hind legs, short, drooping quarters, and lack of good second thighs so prevalent in the island ponies at the time. On the other hand, Dr and Mrs. Douglas criticized a tendency towards straightness of the shoulder and lack of withers – features that would not be unexpected in a pony bred for draught purposes. Beyond dispute is that the Londonderry Stud produced a string of stallions and mares that exerted a far-reaching influence on the breed, an influence lasting to the present day.

The importance of the Londonderry Stud in the development of the modern breed can scarcely be underestimated. Dr and Mrs. Douglas, writing in 1913 were in no doubt about that. 'The Shetland pony, as now produced on the British mainland,' they wrote, 'is chiefly derived from the stud established by the Marquis of Londonderry... it was in the stud that the standard was set by which show yard judging has proceeded during the last twenty years; and it was here also that the type of the modern pony was created by selection and close inbreeding.' Commenting on the skill and enthusiasm of Messers Meiklejohn and Brydon in eliminating the defects of the island ponies, they continue, 'the consequence was a degree of breed improvement which is perhaps without parallel as the result of less than thirty years of breeding and management.'

Not only was this improvement due to a single stud, it is traceable, in the main, to a single stallion – JACK.



Jack, foaled in 1871, was registered as No 16 in Volume 1 of the Shetland Pony Stud Book (Society). Neither his breeder or his breeding is known, although it is fairly safe to assume that he had been a crofter's pony before he was purchased by the stud. He was black, stood 40 inches (10.0hh), and was described as being close coupled, with remarkable bone and substance, finely proportioned, and with a bold and upright carriage. The Douglas's and Maurice Cox agree that his prepotency suggests he was closely in-bred – a common occurrence in the Shetlands at that time – whether by design or accident is unknown.

The statistics extracted by the Douglas's from the first nine volumes of the Stud Book are remarkable. Nineteen stallions, including Jack, were used. Of these, three were his sons, (Laird of Noss 20, Lord of the Isles 26, and Odin 32); eight were his grandsons (Thor 83, Sigurd 137, Emeer 131, Runolf 62, Najal 75, Lava 121, and Otkell). (Numbers appearing after ponies' names are their registration numbers in the Stud Book). His great grandson on the dam's side, Oman 33 was also used. These sires were used more than any others, and of the 490 foals entered, 248 were by Jack and his three sons, 160 by his eight grandsons, and 36 by Oman 33, his great grandson. A mere 46 were by unrelated stallions. The record of dams used is no less impressive. Of 125 in the Stud Book, 76 were by Jack and his three sons, and 10 by his grandsons.

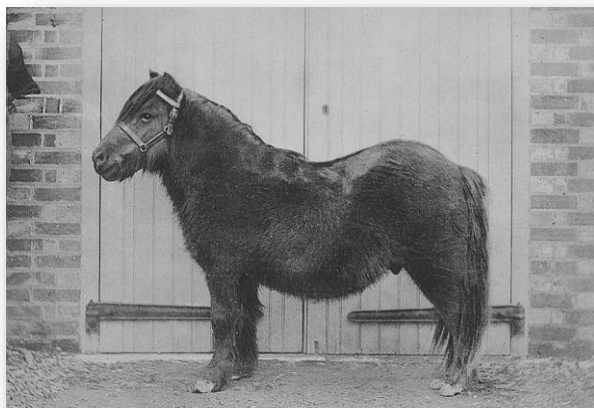
These days, in-breeding on such a scale would be greeted with undiluted horror! For decades after the dispersal of the Londonderry Stud, many ponies were described as of 'Londonderry type,' or 'Londonderry blood' – and the majority of the historically great Shetland Studs were indeed founded largely on Londonderry ponies or their immediate descendants.

That the Londonderry ponies to a considerable extent, standardized the breed is generally accepted. It might even be said that it saved the breed. Had the increasing demand for pit ponies and the consequent sale of the best from the islands without thought for the future continued unchecked, who can say what might have been the outcome? It is at least arguable that the breed would have continued to degenerate into a collection of light-boned, weedy animals lacking in substance, strength and hardiness. Having lost the very qualities that so endeared them to visitors to the islands, could they ever have attained the worldwide popularity they now enjoy?

To say that any modern Shetlands are of the Londonderry type or blood is something of an exaggeration; the blood has been heavily diluted over the intervening years. Also, as Maurice Cox remarked, 'do we want the modern Shetland Pony ... to be like the pony which was striven for by the managers of the Londonderry stud? This would be a pony low to the ground, with low head carriage and straight shoulders, not a pony to carry a child, or even a pack, or to trot smartly in a light gig'.

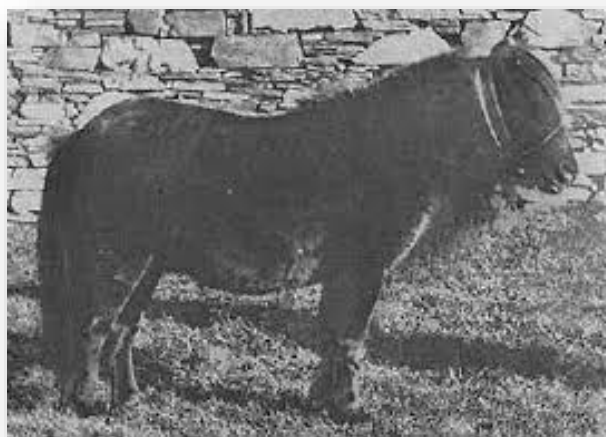
While that criticism is undoubtedly deserved in some instances, photographs of some of the most influential Londonderry ponies suggest that, while that may be what they aimed for, they did not completely achieve it – which with hindsight, is doubtless a good thing! They used, and produced, many much better ponies, so far as can be judged by photographs of individual animals, and of groups of ponies on Noss and Bressay. Because of the Londonderry ponies importance to the subsequent development of the breed, it is perhaps useful to look at two of the stallions more closely.

ODIN 33



Odin was said by the Douglas's, to be a horse of immense power and robustness, and great masculinity. His bone and substance were his outstanding features, and he was a vigorous and active mover, with strong hock action, but not quite straight. The Douglas's described his head as heavy and out of proportion, although, as the photo shows, it is far better than some of the 'coffin-heads' of recent years! He was black and stood 38 inches (9.2hh). Odin was used extensively, siring 119 foals, of which the males were infinitely better than the females. His dam was Nugget 200, by Tom Thumb 44. Tom Thumb reversed the trend for ponies being sent from the Shetlands to mainland Britain, as he was brought back from the pits to produce smaller ponies. He stood just 34 inches (8.2hh).

PRINCE OF THULE 36



One of the few Londonderry stallions said to be unconnected with the great Jack. Although his breeding was unknown, his distinctive appearance certainly indicates that any relationship to Jack was unlikely. To him the Douglas's ascribed the introduction into Londonderry lines of the 'Oriental' type, whereas Jack was definitely 'Scandinavian'. Prince of Thule must have been a striking pony,

being 'seal brown with a very bright tan muzzle and flanks,' and he also had prominent wide-set reddish hazel eyes. His mane hung to his knees, and his forelock below his nose. He stood only 36 inches (9.0hh), and was said to be of exquisite quality, with a small thoroughbred head, and an exceedingly fine muzzle. He was short-backed, with strong, if somewhat drooped quarters, but with a well carried tail. In common with many island ponies of the time, he was said to be cow-hocked, but he had big, wide feet, strong bone and large joints. He also had a good length of rein, high withers, but not the best of shoulders and moved rather close.

The Londonderry ponies were a familiar sight in the show rings in Shetland, where they were exhibited with great success, especially at Lerwick. They were also exhibited with outstanding results at the Royal Highland Show, where they won no fewer than 45 firsts and 30 seconds in the year 1884-98. There is no doubt they did much to increase the popularity of the breed.

It came as a very great shock to the Shetland world when, in 1899, it was announced that the Londonderry Stud was to be dispersed, the reason apparently being that the Londonderry estate had failed to negotiate a new lease for Noss and Bressay.

Rather than sell the ponies in Shetland, with its limited market, and relative difficulty of access, they were shipped down to Seaham in Durham. A grand dispersal sale was held on 17th September 1899, at Dawdon Dene Farm, The Londonderry Stud. And 'grand' it most certainly was, in the manner of the day. Buyers arrived by train from all over Britain. After inspecting the 15 stallions, 70 mares, 30 fillies and 43 foals, the buyers lunched in a large marquee, where toasts were drunk to the Queen and the Marquis of Londonderry. His Lordship was unable to be present, but Lady Londonderry attended together with the Countess of Hopetoun and her sisters-in-law, the Ladies Estella and Dorothea Hope (of whom I have already done an article on and who bought the Londonderry pony Prince of Thule 36 for the bargain price of 30 guineas).

Within three quarters of an hour of the sale commencing, stock to the value of £1,000 had been sold, and at the end of the day, 151 ponies were sold, with the top price of 125 guineas paid for the 3-year-old filly, Fancy Fair, out of Freya. Many well-bred ponies went for bargain prices of less than 10 guineas. However, the average was about 20 guineas, and the total raised was just over 3,000 guineas, a considerable sum in those days. I looked that up on google and 3,000 guineas in 1899 is worth £410,752.69 in today's money and \$837,602.49 in New Zealand dollars today.

The founding of the Londonderry Stud was the first of two momentous events for the Shetland breed in the last quarter of the 19th century. The second was the establishment, in 1890, of the Shetland Pony Stud Book society – the first such society for any of the Mountain and Moorland breeds.

There had been a previous attempt, in 1868 at forming an association for the improvement of the breed of horses and ponies in Shetland. Records for the association are incomplete, but it was finally wound up in 1878, apparently due to lack of support. No such fate was to befall the society formed in 1890, of which the first President was the 6th Marquis of Londonderry, who had succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 1884.

The first Stud Book was published in 1891 and contained a list of 111 members (mostly crofters), and entries of 48 stallions foaled before January 1st, 1886, and 408 mares that had produced foals before September 1st, 1890. All the ponies were inspected by the committee for correctness of type and conformation. The Stud Book has been published annually since 1891, except for a few years during the World Wars and the Depression.

***"A stubborn horse walks behind you,
An impatient horse walks in front of you,
But a noble companion walks beside you".
- Author Unknown***

***"When the Almighty put hooves on the wind
And a bridle on the lightening, He called it a horse".
- Author Unknown***





George Henry Robert Charles William Vane Tempest

5th Marquess of Londonderry

Earl Vane

Viscount Seaham

Born: 26 April 1821 Vienna, Austria

Died: 6 November 1884 – 64 years

Buried: Plas Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire, Wales

1874 Awarded Knight of the Order of St Patrick

1880-84 Lord Lieutenant County Durham

1864-1876 Appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Command of 2nd (Seaham) Durham Artillery Volunteer Corps

Estates – Mount Stewart, County Down, Northern Ireland.

(now owned by the National Trust)

Wynyard Park Estate, County Durham

(Sold to Sir John Hall in 1987)

Seaham Hall, County Durham

(is now a very swanky spa)

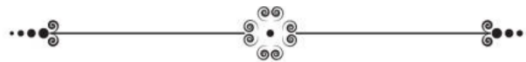
Londonderry House, Park Lane, London

(was sold in 1962 for £500,000 with most of the silver being bought by the Brighton Council for the Royal Pavilion)

Plas Machynlleth, mid Wales.

(now used as a community and meetings venue by the Powys County Council)

Written by Lorraine Martini with information gathered from 'Shetland Ponies' by Valerie Russell published by Whittet Books Ltd, 'A century of Shetland 1890-1990' published by the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society, with photos from google and Wikipedia and UK History Sites.



**The Littlest Horse Thieves.
By Catherine Crosado**

My mum Irene (now 90 years old) really enjoys reading our newsletter. The recent article about pit ponies reminded Mum of her cousin Peter Geddes, in the United Kingdom. He's sort of famous in her family as he's an actor. He studied at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts) and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He appeared in number of movies, including Star Wars in small roles, often in disguise according to Mum.

Mum says his real claim to fame was a part in the "Littlest Horse Thieves". He had a costume change and some dialogue, so this was the big time!. The movie was made by Disney and was about a Yorkshire coal-mine who decides to mechanize to increase profits. The mine's pit ponies are scheduled to be destroyed, so three children plan to steal them to keep them safe. But when they're caught, it's up to the mine owners and the miners themselves to decide what's right.

The movie was released in 1976 and I can still remember Mum taking my brother and me to a local theatre to see the movie. It was big deal as there was a relative on the big screen!

It got a little bit embarrassing as Mum would loudly whisper, "There he is, that's Peter!" every time he appeared on screen.

Ah the memories.



Celebrating our Shetland Senior Citizens:



Grandpa Barney (Narrandera Mite Not 185NZ) aged 28 years with Duncree Troubadour aged 11 months. They are great play mates.



Duncree Harrington 1025NZ with his grandsire Narrandera Snippy (IID) 420NZ. Snippy was born 23 November 2000.



Shetland Ambassador Series

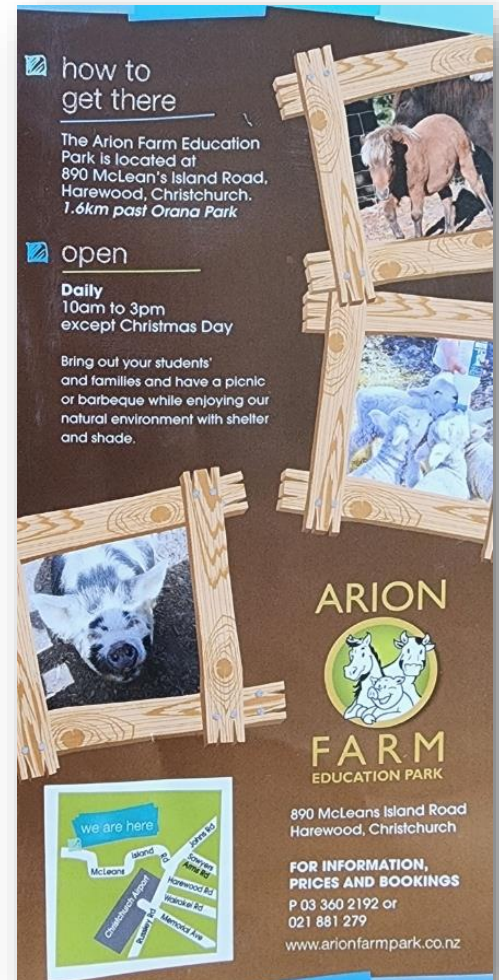
Over the next few newsletters we are taking a look at Shetland Ponies who are Ambassadors for our breed. If you know of any in your area, please let us know.

Tonto of Arion Farm Park



Arion Farm Education Park is part of the National Trade Academy (NTA), a land based training provider located at 890 McLean's Island Road, Harewood, Christchurch. The park is 1.6km past Orana Park – just 10 minutes from Christchurch.

Farm Park Manager Pedro and his team look after the Park and farm animals. "We like to make sure there is a variety of attractions and entertainment for our visitors", says Pedro. "It's important to keep things fresh for the public".



"Wherever man has left his footprints in the long ascent from Barbarism to civilization, we find the hoofprint of a horse beside it".
- John Trotwood Moore

***"A stubborn horse walks behind you,
An impatient horse walks in front of you,
But a noble companion walks beside you".***
- Author Unknown



The Park provides pony rides and one of their star attractions is Tonto the Shetland pony. Tonto whose registered name is Birchlands Jack Spratt 639NZ (Sire: Rockisle Sundancer 463NZ Dam: Birchlands Twinkle Toes 178NZ).



Tonto with sidekick Murphy...and some other famous characters

Tonto is head of the Farm Park herd of miniature horses and donkeys along with his faithful sidekick Murphy the miniature horse, who definitely has some Shetland in his lineage.

The Farm Park has a variety of animals including deer, cattle, goats, pigs, rabbits and many species of birds. Some like Barbara the goose get to wander the Park.

The Park is well worth a visit with easy parking, a café and picnic facilities and of course Tonto the Shetland pony.

***“Date someone who spoils you, loves you, respects you
... and never questions how much you spend on your horses”.
- Author Unknown***

Shetland Wordfinder – see if you can find the words from our newsletter in the wordfinder

Z O F R S F J D N P D Y R Y F
G C Z L L G L R C E F U H A B
I T A Y A O X H P A H I X E B
O O N M W E Y K Q T Z J E O I
F N F S H E L Y R O N C W V R
J A T O I Q N A I U H H C A C
R O Q M G H C P E G I K A R H
C B G I H M J H R T C U R R L
B W A N L C X O I C W D T U A
C S N O A O V N C G D M G B N
U I R R N E U O M S O C O L D
V T N E D I T A U P O S Q T S
T R E G D I R Y T S I M A X M
D N A L K C U A E T A M I A W
Q C P E N T L A N D T I O M J

Auckland
Burravoe
Cotswold
Geronimo
McArthur
Shelyron
Waimate

Beechgrove
cart
Flynn
Highland
MistyRidge
Taupo
Whitinui

Birchlands
Cosmo
Foals
Lael
Pentland
Tom

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

***“You can see what man made from the seat of an automobile,
but the best way to see what God made is from the back of a horse”
- Charles M. Russell***

***“They say Princes learn no art truly, but the art of horsemanship.
The reason is, the brave beast is no flatterer.
He will throw a Prince as soon as his groom”.***
-Ben Johnson, US Rodeo Champion and occasional John Wayne stand-in

