

Equestrian Times

herefordtimes.com/equestrian



James Maggs. 083407-2

My supreme little pony

Meet Charlotte and Ettie, whose recent special championship title win is a dream come true
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Also in this supplement

- A life on the hoof
- Pony Club smiles

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LEFT: Hannah Morgan on Howdy, Meg Greenow rides Sam, Kate Ebrey and Paddy and Zoe Davies with Niamh.

BELOW: Sam Norman learns how to turn out his horse.

We're all going on a summer pony club



Sam Norman learns how to turn out his horse.

PONY camp has been keeping many young riders busy during the holidays.

Golden Valley Hunt Pony Club's five-day camp was held at Upper Wall End Farm, Monkland earlier this month and saw 24 young people taking part in a variety of activities, flat work, showjumping, stable management and horse and pony care. Senior members also took part in the Area Showjumping competition in Welshpool, where the novice team was placed sixth. Kate Mills, in the Individual Intermediate Competition came fourth and qualified for National Pony Club Championships in Derbyshire.

▲ Tack cleaning in the dry!

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A life on the hoof

FARRIER Arlo Stephens has been looking after horses' feet for 12 years and in that time he has learned quite a thing or two about his four-legged clients and the kind of world in which they live.

Working with horses means knowing more than how to trim and shoe, it's looking after the overall health of their feet, which often involves corrective work and remedial treatment.

However, studying the trade is one thing, it's quite another putting it into practice.

Before dealing with any horse, farriers need to understand the equine social world of which they're a part, have respect for their clients and be fairly well in control – you can't push half a ton of horse around very easily and when they push you it hurts.

Arlo, aged 37, is based just over the Herefordshire border but visits yards not only across this county but in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire and regularly finds himself looking up at the lofty heights of a shire or handling a diminutive shetland.

Most horses are well mannered and don't mind being shod but there's a fair num-

BY ANNE GLOVER

ber of stropky ones that like to make a fuss, including those who have a real phobia about farriers.

Another consideration is that all horses have a flight instinct, which means that when a foot is held they have to be able to trust someone who is, in effect, blocking their way of escape in the event of any danger.

The farrier's job takes physical strength, stamina, a good grasp of the craft, a genuine and thorough knowledge of horses and, according to Arlo, a natural affinity with the animal. "I really enjoy being a farrier and I think it's because I just love being with horses," he suggests.

"I find them fascinating and I don't think you ever stop learning about them and their instinctive behaviour."

Most caring horse owners value the advice of a good farrier because they know he – or she – will only have the interest of their animal at heart.

Arlo says that owners will often bring a foot problem to the farrier first before calling out the vet.

"Quite often if a horse is performing badly it's because there is a problem with the foot but most farriers will check the way a horse moves too to see that there's no injury elsewhere," he explains.

"Farriers naturally check the horse's leg, foot and hoof."

His work involves cutting away any excess hoof growth and ensuring that the horse is balanced.

Arlo will often make his own shoes on site to perfectly fit the animal's foot.

While training for his job, Arlo was apprenticed to world champion, Andy Martin, who, he says, taught him about being a farrier and much more.

"I was really fortunate to be taught by someone whose whole life was horses and who wanted everyone to be as good as he is," he says.

"Also, I think because my grandmother kept horses and I was brought up with them and had them around me all my life, I learned to deal with

them intuitively so I just know when things aren't right."

Learning to be a farrier is something that doesn't end with the apprenticeship.

It means being alert to the attitudes and behaviour of an animal who may be feeling pain or discomfort but can't tell you.

To contact Arlo, telephone: 07796406521.

► The large hoof of a shire is all in a day's work for Arlo Stephens. Picture: Andy Davies, YesPhotography



▲ Farrier Arlo Stephens – "I find horses fascinating," he says. Photo Ray Lloyd. 083326-1



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Equestrian Times

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Busy year continues

MONNINGTON Morgans, the largest Morgan and Saddlebred farm in Europe is having another busy year.

Head trainer Lionel Ferreira has just flown to USA with Mighty Spirit, a four-year-old Saddlebred gelding who was South African Harness Champion last year, and Illegal Motion, a four-year-old Morgan gelding.

Mighty Spirit is heading for the second largest Saddlebred show in USA, in Kansas City, to enter the open Fine Harness Class, and find a buyer.

Illegal Motion will show at the Morgan Grand National, and World Championships in Oklahoma and is expected to find a US buyer.

Angela Conner Bulmer plans to show her mare, Versace, in Oklahoma and repeat last year's World Championship success.

In Great Britain, Monnington continues with British Driving Society and Morgan Breed shows. A pair of driving horses won the Overall Championship at the recent Hereford and District Driving Show, with a single turnout, driven by John Bulmer, as Reserve Champion.

0834-07-6



083407-09

A dream come true

FOR little Charlotte McDowall of High Leadon, Newent, clinching the supreme championship at the British Pony Horse Club Show Wales was, quite literally, a dream come true – she had to be woken up to join the class.

BY ANNE GLOVER

PHOTOS: JAMES MAGGS

Charlotte, aged six, who was with her parents Nick and Sue McDowall at the British Show Pony Show (BSPS) Championship Show Wales, in Built Wells earlier this month, won the top class on her pony, seven-year-old Welsh part bred Treowen Black Orchard (Ettie).

The 11.2 pony was up against nearly 600 ponies and horses with entries from breeders and professionals.

According to BSPS Wales chairman, Janet Rollands, Ettie was also one of the first home-produced ponies to win the class for a long time.

As mum Sue prepares Charlotte for the much anticipated show, due to take place in October, the win is a great reward for all the effort the pair has put in since buying Ettie three years ago.

It has been hard work but I was just amazed that we got as far as we did," said Sue.

"It was enough just to win our class and it's great for ordinary people who are



►Charlotte gives Ettie a grooming session. 083407-5

doing this as a hobby and who are up against top breeders. "It's all your dreams coming together on one day,"

►Winning team: Charlotte and Sue McDowall with Ettie. 083407-3



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