

# SWHP

## *The Horse Hospital*

Newsletter of the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies

◆ Winter 2011

## Cute and Costly – Isla and Whisper

We were so relieved and delighted when Isla gave birth to a beautiful, healthy filly foal called Whisper at Coxstone this September. Isla is one of eight who had been signed over to us by the council, they were all illegally grazing on council land and no one had come forward to claim ownership. Isla was lame in one hind leg and was confirmed as being in foal by our vet when she arrived with us in April of this year.

All of the eight horses taken in are quality animals and all were in need of veterinary attention, several of which had bad sarcoids which needed special treatment. It will unfortunately be a long time before they can be re-homed and to add to our costs all of these horses and ponies came without passports and were not micro-chipped.

Over the years we have had a number of mares come into our charity being in foal and it is always a great occasion when the mare foals easily and the foal is healthy. We know that these foals will have the best start in life and they will always be in the ownership of the charity and so never fall on bad times or be mistreated. They are the lucky ones.

Whisper will now need to be cared for and nurtured up until the day she can be re-homed hopefully as a ridden horse at around five years of age depending on her maturity and character. We may be lucky along the way and find a fantastic temporary home to take her on and handle her before she returns to Coxstone to be backed. The difference between a



*The Bishop of Monmouth pictured here with Isla and Whisper, on a recent visit. (Picture courtesy of Desmond Pugh)*

foal and a mature horse or pony entering our system is that we know we will have the responsibility of looking after them for a much longer period of time than an older equine that we can hopefully rehabilitate within six to twelve months.

Don't get us wrong, Whisper is worth every penny, but she will take up much needed resources both in space and finances at the SWHP. We have always said that people who breed need to make sure there is a market for the horse or pony they are producing and that they have the finances and knowledge to do so.

### A message from Jenny

We have so many good stories to tell that it is impossible to put them all in the newsletter. But if anyone has been involved with any of our rescue cases, please e-mail or write to us to find out about their progress, and we will be delighted to give you an update.

We are so grateful to all the people who take on our youngsters whilst they are maturing; freeing up vital space and resources here at Coxstone, before they are returned to be backed as riding horses and ponies.

There have been a large number of people, to whom we are extremely grateful who have held sponsored rides, walks, sky-dives, coffee mornings, and car boot sales all raising a wonderful sum of money.

# Phoebe

Back in June 2002 we rescued a foal of just three weeks old from Gelligaer Common. She had been hit by a car and had a very serious wound on her leg and was in need of our help. Luckily we had another foal being reared by hand at the same time called Jubilee, so at least she had a friend.

It took two months of changing her dressings each day, but she was an excellent patient and we are sure she knew that we were helping her.

Back in 2004, we were honoured to be visited by the HRH Princess Anne and Phoebe was one of the horses that was introduced to her and can be seen pictured on the plate presented to HRH Princess Anne.

Phoebe was backed at Coxstone and has been out in three wonderful homes where she continued to grow from strength to strength. She is now finding her full potential, which included a write up in the Horse and Hound recently.

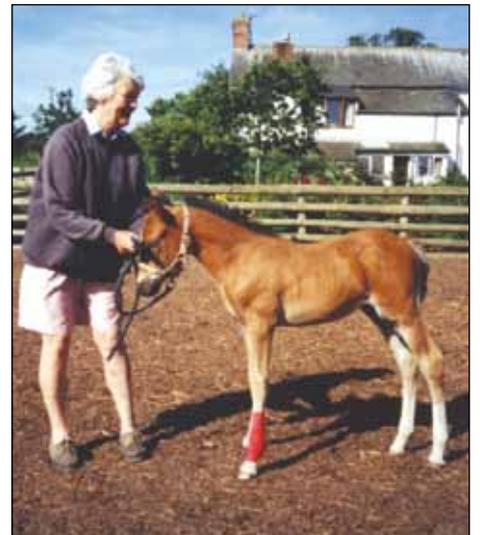
Phoebe's story is wonderful and just goes to show how successful a hand reared foal can be – she has



to be one of our best Success Stories to date.

Her mother is still up on the mountain and has had several more foals over the years, one of which was called Sage who we also helped. Sage is now with Bransby home of rest for horses at Leominster.

*Top: Phoebe with her current keeper;  
Right middle: Jenny with Phoebe;  
Bottom left: HRH Princess Anne with Phoebe*



# Does microchipping work?

The answer? Not in its present form and not unless the Microchipping laws are enforced. The legislation is there – the enforcement is not! This law is being deliberately flouted by the worse owners especially those who own and breed multiple numbers of equines.

From Feb.2005 every Equine in the UK has had to have a passport, from July 2009 any foal born required a Microchip in addition to a passport. However 99 percent of the horses we take in have not been microchipped. This year two of the ponies we have rescued were microchipped! One even appeared on the National Equine Database. On contacting the passport issuing body they informed us that the last known owner had sold the pony at the sales and did not know the current owner, so even though this pony was microchipped the owner was unknown! The other pony Opal; who was in the most shocking condition when found and sadly had to be put to sleep, had a microchip but



*Nick Ramsay AM, Sebastian, Jenny, William Powell AM Chairman of The Petitions Committee and a host of Media who were present!*

in this instance was not registered on the NED Database and we believe that this type of microchip was purchased over the Internet.

Unless microchip numbers are registered with a central database and records and passports kept up to date we will never be able to identify the owners of these poor animals. In many cases we know the owners but are unable to prove ownership.

In our last newsletter with the help of Monmouth AM Nick Ramsay, we launched a Petition calling on the Welsh

Government to enforce the microchipping laws. On 12th Oct Jenny and Sian with the assistance of Sebastian or miniature Shetland mascot delivered the petition to The Senedd at Cardiff Bay. It was received by the Chairman of The Petitions Committee along with a number of A.M.s including Nick Ramsay. The petition will shortly be discussed by the Petitions Committee and you will be able to follow its progress on the Welsh Assembly Website or on [www.swhp.co.uk](http://www.swhp.co.uk) following the link to Petition.

We would like to thank everyone who signed our petition totaling nearly 2,200 signatures. We have made progress and reached this far in calling for the enforcement of the Microchipping law and in seeing, on a nearly daily basis, the pathetic and heartbreaking cases that arrive here at SWHP it is giving us the impetus to see this through. For our supporters in Wales, if you wish to add your thoughts please write to your local AM.

## Long in the tooth

Horses have two sets of teeth like humans, but unlike us their 2nd set of teeth continues to grow during their lives until they wear out due to old age. About three years ago, Lynne, the keeper of one of our horses called Pie, contacted us as Pie had a hole in one of her teeth that was serious enough that she might have to have the tooth removed. Jenny was quite happy for the equine dentist to try a relatively experimental procedure of putting a filling in. The filling held and three years down the line it has grown out and the tooth is 100% fine. This is fabulous news for Pie as she didn't have the trauma of having her tooth removed and all the resulting problems of the remaining opposing tooth. (If a tooth is removed the opposing tooth continues to grow as it doesn't have a surface to chew against, and it would need to be filed down regularly by an equine dentist or vet).

It is so important to have your horses and ponies teeth checked annually by an equine dentist or vet. If your horse drop's its feed, salivates whilst eating or generally finds it difficult to eat, do get it



*Top: Pie with Lynn 2011; Left: Pie 1999*

checked. Sharp edges cause them such discomfort and if they don't eat properly then they will also loose condition.

Lynne has done wonders with Pie and broke her in Parelli style. They have come a very long way from the horse that was rescued with her foal, Pippin back in 1999.

# Rubic

As a result of a distressed call from one of our supporters, we took a vet to see a stallion who had been in a fight with another stallion, and who had broken his jaw and wasn't able to eat.

We realised that it was going to be a very difficult task, to separate him from his herd of mares, all of which were unhandled and were in a very large field. The afternoon of the rescue turned out to be one of the wettest days of the years and after 8.5 hours, 6 staff, one vet and his tranquiliser gun we finally managed to get Rubic safely in the trailer and back to Coxstone. It is very unusual for us to resort to tranquilising a horse and it can be a very hazardous procedure, but in these circumstances it was the only way to catch Rubic safely to ensure he would have a future. We would like to thank the police for their help which included a police escort onto the M4.

Rod from Abbey Vets operated to fix his jaw and they have done a wonderful job, he is back at Coxstone and is making very good progress.



An owner did contact us, asking when we were going to return him to them, so we asked if we could have their address so that we could send them the invoice for all his treatment. Needless to say we haven't heard anything since.

*Top: Rubic just after his operation;  
Left: Rubic's injured jaw*

# Opal



*Opal when she arrived at Coxstone*

As a result of concern from the Newport Council we took in a very malnourished Section A mare that was clearly in need of extra care. Tests were taken and it was found that she had very low blood and protein levels and a large worm burden. In spite of our careful treatment she unfortunately came into our care too late to be able to save her, but at least we were able to give her a good end to her life. Sadly we also found out that she was 5 months in foal.

We were amazed to find that she was micro-chipped and were hopeful that we might be able to trace an owner, however she wasn't registered with any database and so we believe the micro-chip was purchased from the internet and that she was chipped illegally, meaning that the animals can't be traced, but can be identified by their lawless owners.

# Sian Lloyd

Many of you will know Sian, who for many years has been the chairperson of our Fundraising Committee and who could be seen come rain or shine (mostly rain) holding the fort at the SWHP stand at all the local shows. At the beginning of this year Sian resigned as she had new interests to pursue and after so many years of dedicating nearly all her spare time to the SWHP it was definitely time for a well earned change. We are



*Sian Lloyd (Picture courtesy of Desmond Pugh)*

pleased to say Sian is still very much involved with the SWHP as a Trustee and has also been quietly raising money for us throughout the year with Coffee Mornings and The Annual Duck Race bringing in £1,297 this year, with most of the winner's kindly donating back their prize money. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sian so much for all her previous years of dedication to the SWHP and for all her support going forward.

## Thank You

We would like to thank the following companies who donate to us: NAF, Fine Fettle Feeds, Ross Feeds and The Old Forge Tack Shop.

## Horse Walker Appeal

For many years we have discussed the benefits of having a horsewalker at the SWHP. They are beneficial for horses and ponies in light work and also those who have not yet been backed. They are also excellent for when the weather is bad and you cannot take the horses out for exercise. We also have horses that come into us who are overweight and the horse walker would allow us to exercise them with minimal impact to their joints to start their slimming process. We have approached a couple of companies to see if they would be prepared to help us and we have found out that realistically we would need £10,000 to purchase one and to prepare the ground for the walker. Please get in contact if you would like to help us with our appeal or if you know of anyone who could help us.

## Naomi, Abbey & Dane



*From left to right, Naomi, Abbey and Dane with horses Bear and Pumpkin*

We would like to officially welcome Naomi, Abbey and Dane to the SWHP team. Naomi works part time and helps with the backing and riding of the youngsters. Abbey and Dane came to us initially through work experience and now they are with us full time and are an integral part of the team. They are both great workers and are enjoying learning all the aspects of day to day equine welfare.

## Fundraising

The Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies is delighted to have been chosen by Animal Friends Insurance [www.animalfriends.org](http://www.animalfriends.org) as one of four charities nominated to receive a donation in December which could be

anywhere between £1,500 and £5,000. Voting starts on the 6th December and you will be able to vote for us through our facebook page and it would be great if you could then share it with your friends.



## IN NEED OF A HOME

The pictures around the edge are of all the horses and ponies we currently have at the SWHP who are looking for temporary or companion homes. If you have the knowledge, space and finances to take one on then please get in contact with us for a more detailed discussion.



*Pictures (clockwise from top left) – INCA, LADY B, STARKY & HUTCH, OLIVER, FLORA, MIRACLE, PUMPKIN, ELLA, ELVIS, SULLY, HERO.*



## This year's Christmas cards



### Pack of 10 cards:

Two Designs, £3.50 per pack plus £1.00 postage. You can pick up our cards post free from Ross Feeds on the Wonastow Estate, Monmouth or from Coxstone. Also available at our Christmas Open Day on Sunday 4th December.

## Dates for your diary

### SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN DAY AT THE SWHP HORSE HOSPITAL.

11am—3pm

### SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2012

Fun ride at Garnons, Herefordshire.

### SUNDAY 20TH MAY 2012

Second Lurcher and Terrier Fun Racing Day at the SWHP Horse Hospital.

11am—4pm

**For more details see our website – [www.swhp.co.uk](http://www.swhp.co.uk)**

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