



Fell Pony Society Midlands West Support Group

Group Leader/Secretary:

Mrs Diane Key, Ivy Cottage, Seighford, Stafford, ST18 9PQ

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NEWS SHEET SPRING 2018

Saturday 7th April – 12.30pm Group Performance Awards Presentation Lunch at The Hollybush Inn, Seighford, Stafford. Mr Ken Anderson BVSc MRCVS (2016 Horse & Hound TopSpec Vet of The Year) will be presenting the awards. Mr Ken Saxon sponsor of the new Committee Award for most outstanding member will present this.

Sunday 15th April – Spring Festival of Fells Show at Radfords EC, Llanymynech, Oswestry, SY22 6LG Fell Pony Judge Mr P Metcalfe. Contact Debbie Roberts Jones 01691 652843. Schedule is now on the Group web site. Prize money for the Supreme Champion will be £50 Reserve Champion £25 thanks to a very kind sponsor.

Please note that thanks to a very generous donor we will be giving a prize of £50 to the Supreme Champion and £25 to the Reserve.

May (Date and time TBA) Emergency Response First Aid Course. The venue for this event is to be confirmed. We are hoping to hold this event in conjunction with the Midlands East FPSS Group, however if there is more demand than places allow, two courses may be ran in central locations for each of the Groups. MW Group contact Diane Key 01785 282922/ ME Group Contact Kate Merry 01788 823215.

Sunday 24th June - Derbyshire Fell and Dales Show at Barleyfields EC, Etwall, Derbyshire, DE65 6HT Fell Pony Judge Mr M Goddard. Contact Diane Key 01785 282922. Schedule is in progress.

Sunday 22nd July – “Paws For Mary” (Fun Dog Show and garden party/fete) to be held at Seighford, Stafford, ST18 9PQ to remember the late Mary Longsdon MBE. Contact is Diane Key 2922. As part of the planned July FPS celebrations to remember and celebrate the life of Mary, the Midlands West Group will be holding a fun dog show and garden party /fete. Dogs were very important to Mary and she was never without one and as often is the case in most Fell Pony homes, so what better to have them join us in all of the fun! We are also aware that not all of our members own Fell Ponies but quite a lot of them have do have dogs so our celebration will try to be all inclusive and in accordance with Mary’s wishes for the Area Groups to be “Flexi, Friendly and Fun”. We feel this event will incorporate all of this and we do hope you will not only support this event, and indeed other Areas Group’s events, but will also remember the remarkable and inspirational Mary.

I am looking for volunteers to help on the day with areas such a tombola, stalls, light refreshments etc Any help greatly appreciated or if you cannot attend any gifts we can utilise for the tombola or prizes would also be greatly appreciated.

Sunday 26th August – 1.00 – 4pm Stud Visit by kind invitation of Mr K Turner to visit the Greenrivers Fell Pony herd based at Cannock, Staffs. Free event for paid up MW members. To book a place please download a booking form from the group website or we can email you this or post out.

Group Membership

Membership of the Group will remain at £5.00 and Group Treasurer Barry Stamp is making enquiries as to setting up an online payment system for subscriptions. This follows several enquiries we have received from members about paying subscriptions on line. Details for joining the Group and membership forms are available from our Group website.

The Midlands West Group will also be making honorary members of individuals who have given the Midlands West Group longstanding service and support. Our first recipient will be Mrs Elizabeth Marshall, who was on the original committee alongside her late husband Mr Hugh Marshall.

Promotions & Publicity

In an ever continuing bid to increase Group membership, a fact sheet about the Midlands West Group is to be produced which can then be supplied to anyone in the Midlands West Area wanting to know more about the Group, what we do and how to join. We hope to include brief contact details and information about the FPS. This fact sheet will also be made available on our Group web site and made available for our Area Reps to give out. The Midlands West are also to purchase some pull up publicity banners to use at various events.

Newsletter

After some discussion it has been agreed that the Newsletter in its traditional form will be shelved due to high printing and postage costs. It was also felt that one issue a year was not effective in publicising events and keeping members up to date. Instead a regular news sheet will be produced which can be sent to members who require paper communication and also forwarded to our on line members. The news sheets will be also available on our Group website and archived there following their expiry.

Group Awards

Following another bumper entries for the 2017 Group Awards arrangements are in place for our second stand alone awards luncheon. Traditionally Group Awards were given out at our annual luncheon in the autumn but following our inaugural presentation of awards last year, we are hoping to grow this event and add even more classes for members to enter. New for 2017 were a competition driving class and TREC class. 2018 will see the addition of veteran, dressage and a junior member's classes. Please note that we are currently overhauling all of the entry forms which will be available from the Group website but if you are out and about doing things with your ponies, please jot down the details and once you have obtained your forms these activities can be backdated. A list of entry rule sand results are also available on the website.

Full details, schedules and entry forms can be found on our Group website or telephone the event contact as above or find us on Face book - ***Fell Pony Society - Midlands West Support Group.***

Contact numbers:

Committee

Diane Key	Group Leader/Secretary	01785 282922
Barry Stamp	Treasurer/Membership	01785 282922
Alyson Hurcomb	Performance Awards	07837849981
Jayne Walster	Junior Members	01889 505372
Debbie Roberts Jones	Committee (Oswestry Show)	01691 652843
Joan & Keith Dorman	Committee	01484 665224

Area Representatives

Karen Bennett	Cheshire/Manchester	0161 4271769
Janet Blair	Derbyshire	01629 640322
Heidi Saxon-Bland	Shropshire	01952 670854
Diane Key	Staffordshire	01785 282922
Janey Ashton	Wales	07427104082
Kate Merry	Warwickshire (& Midlands East Group)	01788 823215
Sandra Newcombe	West Midlands	07947708081
Teresa Tolley	Worcestershire/Hereford	01686 668944

Group Web Site - www..westmids-fellponies.org.uk