



# The Moorland Mousie Trust

*"To promote and conserve the Exmoor pony"*

**Patron: H.R.H. The Duchess Of Cornwall**

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## NEWS FROM THE MOORLAND MOUSIE TRUST, EXMOOR PONY CENTRE FOR EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY MEMBERS 2010

The Moorland Mousie Trust completed another successful year, in conjunction with The Exmoor Pony Centre. Visitor numbers exceeded expectations again, and without continuing to repeat myself every year, it's just so amazing to see people of all ages enjoying meeting our lovely ponies.

We are particularly thrilled at the success of the Adopt-A-Pony Giftbox, marketed by Gift Republic. It has raised awareness of The Moorland Mousie Trust, and The Exmoor Pony Centre all over the world. Many of you have now seen the giftbox, and quite a few of you have bought it. Thank you for your support. If it is purchased direct from us, we do gain more financially, and we are happy to do a free postal service. We also aim to give a good service with this product, so if you have any feedback, please let us know. The big plus for us is that it gives us a marketing opportunity that we could otherwise not afford. It also delivers a tremendous knock-on effect, as adopters wish to visit Exmoor and their chosen pony: more often than not, they will renew their adoption after the first year, and all of the proceeds from this come directly to us.



### A Royal Visitor



Our Royal Patron, The Duchess Of Cornwall finally made it to us in June. We all had a lovely afternoon, and it was fascinating to hear that she had her own Exmoor pony as a child. Needless to say, there was the obligatory unplanned moment with Barney, our delinquent three year old who was chosen for the demonstration. Contrary to the newspaper reports at the time, Her Royal Highness was some 10 metres away when he decided to relieve himself. The suggestion that she stepped swiftly out of the line of fire was a little exaggerated to say the least. He has subsequently been served with an ASBO! The photograph shows HRH meeting Abbi, alongside Linzi (left), and Martina Edwards who spent her Summer work placement with us as part of her degree course at Cirencester.

## Autumn Foal Intake

The intake numbers for Autumn 2009 dropped to a comfortable 29, which is about the norm, as opposed to the final count of 50 from the previous year. We are increasingly finding ourselves being approached for help with older ponies. As most of you are aware, I have always made the point that The Moorland Mousie Trust was not set up as a sanctuary, or a rescue facility; but it is inevitable that we will be asked to help from time to time; and we are very happy to do so if it is possible, or indeed appropriate. In the current economic climate, this is happening more and more, and we are very fortunate to have a network of helpers all over the country, who are there when needed. Many of you will have heard/read about the pony at Ashford market last year. Lisa Clarke was able to help with this, and he is now happily living within the Sussex grazing herd, and will be looked after by the scheme, overseen by The Trust should there be problems in the future. Juliet Rogers, my Chairman is still extremely active in the North as many of you will know. She has well over 100 ponies grazing on various sites, and this area of the Country is vital to our work because of the land made available to us. There is a lot of interaction between North and South, with some of our moorland bred ponies spending their growing time with Juliet, before making the journey back to Exmoor as ridden ponies. Cadbury is a classic example of just what we aim to achieve. He came to The Trust as a weaned foal, ate his way through Northumberland for 3 years, where he was lightly backed before travelling to the Horse of the Year Show with Juliet in 2009. He spent the week at the NEC, doing his bit to promote The Moorland Mousie Trust (and Exmoor ponies in general!) in the interactive area. He then continued his journey South to Exmoor, and is currently being ridden on by Linzi, and we hope that he will spend some of his life at the Centre, as he really is what The Moorland Mousie Trust is all about. The work in the North is increasing all of the time, which is no bad thing, as Exmoor ponies and their supporters are spread all over the country. I suppose that what I'm trying to say is, wherever you are in the Country, and whatever your specific pony interest is, if you want to get involved, get in touch!



## Everyone Is Welcome

If you are visiting Exmoor this year, do come and see us. As anyone who knows us will tell you, we are all talkers here at HQ. We also have very good memories, and rarely forget a name or face, so if you do offer any help, beware - we'll always seek you out! There's no standing on ceremony. Just turn up, let us know you're here, and there's a good chance that one of us will ask you to put the kettle on, or talk to visitors about the ponies – everyone gets roped in for a job. Shirley Rockingham “popped in for ten minutes” in August, and found herself and Peter held hostage, packing Christmas Cards. They were finally released at home time! We have also been known to stick a riding hat on unsuspecting “supporters”, and send them out as rear gunners on a ride on Winsford Hill! For those of you further away, don't forget that we have lots of ponies in the North, and we shall be in the Midlands at The Horse of the Year Show again this year. We always need help manning the stand, so if you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours (or longer), please get in touch.



## Education and Research

As well as having a good working relationship with our local veterinary practices in Dulverton and Hexham, we are also grateful to the Royal Dick Veterinary College and Bristol Veterinary College for their input, particularly at gelding time. I know that both colleges are also very grateful for the experience that this gives the students. On a scientific note, this year we have been asked for help with several projects. This usually involves supplying a significant number of DNA samples. Having so many ponies in close proximity, in two areas of the Country makes this quite an easy job for us. In the last 12 months, we have helped with 4 veterinary research programmes. At the other end of the scale, we are now finding ourselves to be a popular choice for work placements for all ages and interests.



## Who Said It Wouldn't Last!

2010 is a very special year for The Trust, as we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a registered charity. It was 1998 when Sue Wingate and I began to develop the idea. At the time, many said that it wouldn't happen or that it would be short lived, but we're both still here to tell the tale. Another significant date was a day in August 2000 when I picked up the phone and heard a chirpy voice on the other end say, "Oh good, glad you're in, now I can talk about Exmoor ponies" – enter Juliet Rogers! As many of you know, it hasn't been, and still isn't an easy ride; and there are times when our sanity could be restored by just giving in when the going gets tough. Whatever happens, we shall always do our utmost to do the right thing by the ponies.

There are always problems and barriers to overcome, and we often find ourselves in the middle of a battlefield over something, but whatever happens, the ponies and the reputation of The Trust are paramount. After 10 years, I think that we can safely say that it **has** happened, and we're going to be around for a long time yet. It is my hope that The Moorland Mousie Trust will be here, along with The Exmoor Pony Centre for a heck of a lot longer than any of us. There is a new generation coming forward, and we are especially thrilled to be welcoming the next generation of the moorland herd owners here, and we must nurture them and ensure that they are here to take over the reins when it is time for us to let go!



## What's Happening

### The Moorland Mousie Trust & The Exmoor Pony Centre 2010 Diary of Events

This is just some of the activities planned for this year. Feel free to come along to any of our events. Don't forget to make yourselves known to us. We look forward to seeing fellow enthusiasts. If you are visiting Exmoor, do get in touch as there are often other activities that don't get put onto the diary because of the short notice. We are currently attempting to overhaul the website, so do look out for more information there:

DATE	EVENT	TIMING
Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Saturday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Moorland Mousie Trust Birthday Exhibition Dulverton Guildhall	10.00 am to 4.30 pm daily
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Exmoor Golden Horseshoe Pleasure Ride	9am onwards
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Exmoor Pony Talk and Demonstration	3.00pm
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Family Service	11.00 am
Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Exmoor Pony Talk and Demonstration	3.00pm
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> July	EPC 4 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash	11am – 3pm
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Cream Teas & Activities	2 – 4pm
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Cream Teas & Activities	2 – 4pm
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Cream Teas & Activities	2 – 4pm
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Cream Teas & Activities	2- 4pm
Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Exmoor Pony Talk and Demonstration	3.00pm
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Moorland Mousie Trust Exhibition Dulverton Guildhall	10.00 am to 4.30 pm daily
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Horse of the Year Show Interactive Display Area	Daily
November	Foal Month	

**Please, please** come and visit us if you come to Exmoor. We love to see everyone.  
The Moorland Mousie Trust, Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton.

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