



*Ponies on Rhum showing some of the typical colours
(Left to right: Jessie, Duke, Mary V)*



Ponies with deer saddles



RBST DEVON

Autumn 2010



RHUM PONIES

*Alison Brookes with mare and filly foal
on Lismore, July 2008*

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The RBST was founded in 1973 and is a registered charity formed to prevent further extinction of British breeds of farm livestock. At least 20 different breeds had been lost between 1900 and 1973, but since the Trust was formed, no other breed has become extinct. RBST has recently widened its remit to include other native and traditional British breeds which are few in number.

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RBST Devon exists to further the work of the Trust.

Membership: £6.00 per household per year, payable in January.

RBST DEVON web site: www.devon.rbst.org.uk

Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Growers

I keep several breeds of rare and traditional Poultry,
Waterfowl and Turkeys

I usually have contacts for any breeds I do not have here
at Bearscombe and am happy to give any help I can with
traditional Poultry.

I also undertake custom hatching

Peter Hayford

Bearscombe Farm, Diptford, Totnes TQ9 7JY
01548 821212

Breeding stock for Sale

*Richard and I started with 10 Manx ewes and now
have 200 pedigree Manx Loaghtan and Hebridean
sheep.*

*We supply pedigree starter flocks in the South West,
or you can have non-pedigree ones if you want pets
or to eat them at the end of a season.*

*We also sell rugs, sheepskins, fleeces and wool and can
arrange for you to get some of our lamb/hogget meat.*

*We also supply beef and pedigree Angus and Devon
Ruby Reds.*

Ring Barbara at Fowlescombe on 01548 821000

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 8th December



at the Three Little Pigs, Crediton at 7.30 for 8.00

The menu will be as before — self service starter followed by Carvery and choice of puddings.

The cost will be £17.50.

We have had delicious Christmas meals at the Little Pigs in the past and the committee was unanimous in asking Sam to book us there again this year, so do come and join us for a really good evening.

**Please contact Sam Tallowin to book your place:
01647 252483, or samtallowin@talktalk.net**

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AGM: Wednesday 26th January 2011

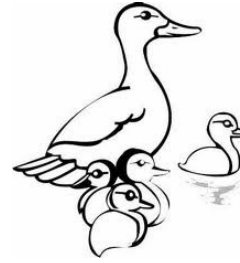
This will be held at the Cowick Barton Inn,
Cowick Barton Lane, Exeter EX2 9HF

Our speaker this year will be Richard Broad who was appointed this year as the RBST Field Officer for the South Region. Richard is looking forward to meeting more members and to hear their views on the Trust and its activities.

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Skittles: we hope to arrange an evening of food, beer (or whatever beverage you prefer) and skittles at the Jolly Sailor Pub, East Ogwell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6AW in February or March next year.

Details will be on the web site and announced at the AGM



Chairman's Chat

September 2010

Here we are at the end of another season and at last we have had a rather better one weatherwise. The shows have gone very well again, with good displays and ample support. As always, there were minor problems with some events, not least the fact that Totnes moved to a Sunday. This in itself was good for the show, as the traffic problems on the Torbay road were eliminated and we got a great crowd of local people who would not have been able to come on a Thursday. However, as Mid Devon is on the fourth Saturday in July and Totnes on the last Sunday, this year they came together, which made it difficult to do a display at both. Fortunately, Mark and Liffy sorted the display material and merchandise out and we attended both shows with separate teams and success at both venues.

Honiton was again very good, with plenty of support. We did miss Sam, who had a knee operation just before the show and was unable to come — for the first time in many years. We all wish him a speedy return to full activity.

The tent at Kingsbridge was, again, very popular with the public and Mark and Liffy had organised an excellent display of Devon Native sheep breeds, and I brought a few birds, and altogether the day went very well.

I do feel that the displays are very important to RBST to keep us in the public eye and let folk know what we are about.

.....PTO

SUMMER SHOWS

I would just like to thank Liffy for the super way she has staged the shows over many years and got them looking so attractive and professional. She will be a hard act to follow as, once again, she has decided to concentrate on the secretarial side and the newsletter — and I am sure she means it this time!

Last week we had a stand at Beef South West at Exeter market, which was a great day out for Beef Farmers, with show classes, displays and information. Twenty five breeds of cattle forward, including Irish Moiled, British Whites and Riggitt Galloways. The display was organised by our Field Officer Richard Broad and Head Office, with a little help from Devon group, and several members attended on the day to make it all go smoothly.

You may have heard that I have been made an Ambassador of the Trust, together with Sally Ann Outram, as I have been about for a long time and have done a bit on the poultry side of the Trust's work. I do feel very flattered by this honour, which I regard as recognition of the efforts put in by the Devon Support Group as a whole, because we make a good team and back each other up very well.

I look forward to seeing lots of you at the Christmas Dinner and/or at the AGM, where I am sure Richard Broad will have interesting observations on his first year as our Field Officer.

Peter Hayford

From **John Mills** who organised Mid Devon Show:

Mid Devon Show was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and, with the weather being kind to us, there was a great turn-out of members for which I thank you enormously for your help.

A special thank you to the owners who kindly lent livestock, creating interest for the public; to Nikki Morgan and Sam Tallowin who helped to set up and gave their entire day assisting.

Thank you also to Peter Bavin for assisting with the setting up of the pens on the Friday.

We are looking forward to next year's show.

If you feel you are able to help in any way, please get in touch.

John Mills

NEWS FROM RBST

We are very proud that Peter has been chosen as one of two Trust Ambassadors. His expertise with everything avian will be appreciated by everyone. His work will be cut out to try to help sort out anomalies in the Rare Poultry world but if anyone can it will be Peter!

Sally Renshaw has very recently resigned from the RBST. She was in charge of Marketing and worked extremely hard for the Trust during her time with us. She is going to Africa as a VSO and we do wish her well for the future.

There is a Group Support meeting at Stoneleigh on October 16th. Mark and I (Liffy) will be going, as will Peter. We will report on this at a later date. I know that Merchandise is going to be a major topic—whether to continue with it, etc. I am definitely giving up the job for Devon — so we do need a volunteer.....PLEASE!

RECIPE

Sausage and Red Cabbage Casserole

Ingredients:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 large onion, finely chopped | 2 tbsp red wine vinegar |
| Half Red Cabbage thinly sliced | 4 fl.oz. red wine |
| 1 tbsp Juniper berries | 1lb pork sausages |
| 2 tbsp Redcurrant jelly | 1 tbsp cooking oil |
| 2 tbsp soft dark brown sugar | |

Method:

Heat the oil in a flame-brown the sausages all sausages. In the same until lightly browned, and add the cabbage Crush the berries and Blend all the rest of the into the dish.

Cover and cook in a low oven — (150C, 300F, Gas 2) for about one and a half hours . Place in a serving dish with a slotted spoon, reduce the sauce to a syrup and pour over the sausages and cabbage.



proof casserole and over. Set aside the dish, sauté the onions remove from the heat and then the sausages. sprinkle into the dish. ingredients and pour

Sam Tallowin

THE PONIES OF RHUM

By Wendy Guillebaud

No one knows for how long there have been ponies on the Isle of Rhum. Some say they were brought by the Vikings, and certainly the Fjord ponies of Norway and the Icelandic ponies are believed to be descended from the same herds of wild horses as the Highland ponies.

However, the Rhum (or Rum) ponies of today are very different from either of the above breeds. Although registered in the Highland pony stud book, they are, on the whole, smaller and lighter than the mainland Highlands, and somewhat more active and, whereas a large number of the mainland ponies are grey, the Rhum ponies are invariably different shades of dun and tend to show more Eastern influence. (On our last visit there we found only one grey, a young gelding, on the island).

In 1778 Dr. Samuel Johnson travelled in the Western Isles and said of the Rhum ponies “they are very small but of a breed eminent in beauty” - a description no one could argue with today. The crofters eked out an existence fishing and farming and it was said that their ponies were the best cared for on the croft, living close to the humans — “Back door” ponies in fact. Could this account for the excellent temperament of the ponies?

In 1840 the Marquess of Salisbury bought Rhum and found ponies running on the island. Sir Walter Gilbey refers to them as Black Galloways. Lord Arthur Cecil, son of the Marquess, heard his father describing them as being like the Spanish horses and considered that they might be descended from the horses from the Spanish Armada that was wrecked on the coast. (A similar claim is made for both the Connemara and Welsh ponies!)

In 1886 the Bullough family took possession of Rhum and set about establishing a stud of ponies on the island, largely for deer carrying. Sir George Bullough was a fabulously wealthy man whose properties and interests were many and various, and his wealth enabled him to have the best of everything — including the ponies. He had deer brought from Exmoor, which were transported in crates with their antlers cropped. He built Kinloch Castle and included a heated pool for alligators and turtles.

A less successful experiment was the import of a white Arab stallion, who unfortunately soon succumbed to the harsh conditions. However, a mare named Onyx is recorded in the stud book, foaled in 1889, by Hadeed, and one is left wondering if Hadeed was the white stallion. However, the registrations at this time are far from complete and as the ponies today show quite a lot of Eastern influence, one suspects he may have sired other foals.

Sir George retained strong links with Lord Arthur and at various times sent his mares to be served by Lord Arthur's stallions. Lord Arthur appears to have done a good deal of "shopping" for both George Bullough and John Munro Mackenzie who was breeding an excellent type of pony on Mull.

Sir George purchased the best possible stallions, the most notable being Claymore. Foaled in 1907, he is described as "dun" and from a (black and white) photo in John Macdonald's book "Highland Ponies", he looks as though he might have been what is now called a "silver fox dun".

Although in the past there were undoubtedly introductions of outside blood, there have been no introductions of outside blood in the female line for over a century, so I feel we can fairly describe the Rhum ponies as being the purest type of Highland pony in existence today.

The stallions who were introduced were selected with the greatest care and included Mackionneach, who was of Mull breeding, and at least two of his sons from Rhum mares. In recent years there has been some difficulty in finding stallions of suitable bloodlines as about fifteen years ago the Rhum type of pony was down to double figures.

When we first visited Rhum the breeding programme was in some disarray, due to the concentration of research on the red deer population; the ponies were only there to carry the deer. We have subsequently made five more visits, and, with a change of manager and the appointment of a "Pony Manager" things are looking up. The Pony Manager, Lesley Watt, is working in conjunction with Alison Brookes a knowledgeable breeder on the island of Lismore. Four excellent colts have been born in the past four years and one now has his stallion licence. In addition, several fillies have also been born, and there is a policy of halter breaking the foals at an early age. Previously the youngsters were allowed to run out until they were mature, then broken when they were required for deer carrying, and the unfortunate farrier was expected to put shoes on ponies who had never had their feet picked up!

As a great fan of the Rhum ponies I am now more optimistic about their future, whereas a few years ago I feared that they could become extinct, particularly as a noted breeder, Mrs P. Alexander, retired. She had been breeding Rhum type ponies with the Claymore prefix since the late 1960s. Fortunately, Alison Brookes took on a number of her animals, and in the latest stud book she had two colts and two fillies registered.

Finally, I would like to quote from John Macdonald's book — sentiments which are as true today as they were in 1937....."Long may this stud remain pure, and long may it flourish, for no other stud of the breed has such an ancient record".