

Seadown Vets celebrate 95 years

Seadown are actively involved in the New Forest pony sales

Pic by Richard Dunwoody

Seadown Vets are celebrating 95 years of caring for the animals of the New Forest.

Seadown is a very special place just like the beautiful New Forest that it serves. Bob Bentley, BVSC MRCVS, partner and vet who has been at Seadown for 34 years explains why: "We are a close veterinary practice that operates like a family with local advanced practitioners, specialists and staff who are passionate about Seadown and our patients. Everyone here, works really hard to marry traditional values of compassion and care with modern veterinary medicine

and customer service, treating every patient as if it were their own. We love what we do and consider ourselves so lucky to live in this area and work with a great team, wonderful clients and a huge breadth of special patients, from family dogs and cats, to exotics and all sorts of wildlife, and from farm livestock and forest donkeys and ponies to competition and pleasure horses. It certainly keeps us out of mischief."

Not surprisingly Seadown is the veterinary practice of choice for Marchwood, the military dogs and the dockyard security

dogs, but also the Pony Breeders and The Commoners. In every respect Seadown is deeply embedded in the forest ways and activities including the famous New Forest Show, the New Forest pony sales, the welfare tours, Christmas point to point, breeder council meetings and AGM's.

Seadown also has a thriving eye referral service. This means that if your own family vet is presented with a particularly challenging eye case, or one which requires specialist equipment or attention, they may suggest you visit Seadown.

Mum steals the ride!

When Elle Bartlett heard that Geoff Billington was running a show jumping clinic at Crockstead Equestrian Centre she couldn't wait to take part with her six-year-old mare, Darcy. Unfortunately, the week before the clinic Elle caught the post Christmas flu bug and was in no state to ride, let alone jump.

Determined that Darcy would still go to her party, Elle's mother, Natasha, brushed off a few cobwebs, or as Elle says, "put her brave pants on," and went to the clinic in Elle's place. Whilst Natasha hacks Darcy during the week, it has been 18 years since she last show jumped!

Elle said: "Mum jumped Darcy amazingly. Since the lesson Mum has said she wants to do more on her now. I'm so proud of Mum and Darcy!"

Elle bought and backed Darcy as a three-year-old and jumps her at Discovery level. Natasha helps care for Darcy in the week, while Elle is working, and hacks her around the village.



Natasha and Darcy pictured with Geoff Billington



Steph Eaton and Baby competing in their first jumping competition

Great start to the season

Steph Eaton started the new year by taking her five-year-old, traditional gypsy cob, Baby show jumping on Thorney Island. Jumping in the 1'6" class, it was the first time in the show jumping arena for both Steph and Baby, who finished a very creditable second.

Steph said: "She was amazing. Plus, I think our matchy matchy was pretty good too!"