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On the Hoof BY CHARLOTTE BAKER

LOCAL rider and dressage judge **Charlotte Baker** takes a monthly look at the New Forest equestrian scene

NF pony by champion sire wins trophy

NEW Forest Hunts Pony Club awarded their 2017 Buttslawn Beaufort trophy for the best New Forest Pony to 11-year-old gelding Cuckoo Merlin.

Forest-bred and sired by breed show champion Brookshill Brumby, Merlin was purchased by owner Rebecca Tooley from breeder Sarah Rancecroft as a foal. He has been in the family ever since, but recently came to Rebecca's 10-year-old daughter Peggy, who has formed a strong partnership with the bay gelding. The pair have represented the pony club in dressage, showjumping, eventing, endurance and Tetrathlon this year.

Rebecca said: "Merlin, like most New Forest ponies, is a true all-rounder. Peggy has now backed and is bringing on another Brookshill Brumby gelding, Cadland Stag, who shows all the signs of following in the marvellous Merlin's hoofsteps!"



Cuckoo Merlin in action with Peggy

Equine vets take regional accolade

A NEW Forest equine veterinary practice has taken a regional industry award for the second year in a row.

Minstead-based Celtic Equine Vets has been named "Horse Healthcare Centre of the Year" in Hampshire at the annual GHP Animal Health Awards.

Director Alan Hough said: "We are delighted - this is the second year in a row we have won this award."

"GHP is an information sharing

platform and community working across human, animal and environmental health, and its awards acknowledge those who have gone beyond their duty of care to improve the welfare, care and health of animals.

"This award is hugely appreciated by all the staff as it recognises the practice for putting the welfare of our clients' equines first, one of our core practice values."

Vet practice stalwart retires after nearly three decades

AFTER 29 years managing Seadown Veterinary Group's large animal reception, Jan Kane has stepped down to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

Popular with the Hythe-based practice's equine and farm clients, Jan was expert at putting at ease worried owners with her calming advice and experience.

As well as taking clients' calls, Jan was responsible for coordinating the large animal vets on the road, always looking after the new young vets and ensuring they all managed to fit in a lunch break, no matter how busy it was.

At Seadown's Christmas party, Jan was presented with a print of a New Forest scene by well-known local artist Marianne Broadhead, in recognition of her contribution to the business over so many years.

Director Peter Tunney said: "Jan will be sadly missed but we wish her all the very best. She now has more time to spend with her grandchildren, and attend rock festivals as she is an ardent rock and blues fan!"

Jan said: "When I joined Seadown, I never imagined I would be there for almost 30 years. I



Jan Kane finishing her last shift at Seadown

found my job to be really rewarding with no two days being the same.

"During my time there I worked with some fantastically dedicated people. Although I am looking forward to my retirement, I will miss Seadown and its lovely clients and staff."

Nadia Dovey will take over Jan's role and is already settling in to the demands of the job.

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If you have any equine news or events, or would like to be profiled in this column, email charlotte.baker@adt.press

EVENTS DIARY

Sunday January 7th: Dressage competition, Intro-Elm - Woodington Training Centre, East Wellow; email heather.ashley@woodingtontrainingcentre.co.uk

Wednesday January 17th: Dressage competition, Prelim - Burley Village, Bashley; email enquiry@burleyvilla.co.uk

Sunday February 4th: Dressage competition, Intro-Elm - Woodington Training Centre, East Wellow; email heather.ashley@woodingtontrainingcentre.co.uk



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Clients at Ford Farm Stables returning from a Forest hack

PROFILE

This month, we speak to James Young and Trudy Nienham from Ford Farm Stables, a riding school, hacking centre and livery yard in Brockenhurst.

Tell us about the background of your business
We are a riding school and livery yard established by Trudy in 1980. We are based in the heart of

the New Forest at Brockenhurst, immediately adjoining the open Forest.

This enables us to offer unrivalled hacking and we have both an indoor and outdoor arena for lessons.

What do you offer?
We offer private and group lessons starting from £30, hacking for experienced riders through the New Forest starting from £36.

We also offer riding for special needs clients and have events throughout the year, including equine car boot sales and competitions.

Do you have any upcoming plans or developments? What are the challenges for your business at the moment?
We are currently experiencing a high level of demand for lessons and are advertising for fur-

ther instructors to provide more teaching hours.

At this moment in time we have no plans for further physical expansion. Our aim is to remain small enough to continue to offer a highly personal service, which is well-received by all our clients

Contact details
Website: www.fordfarmstables.co.uk
Phone number: 01590 623043

Supermarket cashes up £2,666 for advice service

A SUPERMARKET fundraising scheme has given Citizen's Advice New Forest a £2,666 boost

Staff and members of the Lynton Co-op invited trustees from the charity, Eric Read and Janine Morris (pictured left), to a celebration day and presented them with a cheque raised through its local community fund.

CANF is reliant on local government grants and public donations. It has been offering free and confidential advice and support to local residents for over 70 years, and has five outlets across the Forest open to the public. It also provides advice via phone, email and webchat.

In the last year, volunteers helped nearly 9,000 clients with over 15,000 problems including welfare benefits, debt, housing, health, and employment issues.

Charity CEO Malcolm Walker said: "I would like to say a very big thank you to Co-op members. This is yet another example of how local business works for the wider community, and responds to requests for help."

"People come to us from all walks of life with all manner of issues, and we try to ensure we help everyone. This money will help provide the resources needed by our volunteers to support the community through what are very challenging times. With cutbacks in public service budgets, we are seeing more and more people looking to local charities for help."

"This sort of support is crucial to help us meet that demand." To contact CANF visit the website at www.newforestcab.org.uk

