

# HAMPSHIRE HORSE

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NOVEMBER 2006 (Issue 25)

## What's On:

### Heather Lewis Clinics, Crofton Manor Equestrian Centre, Titchfield Road, Stubbington

**Wed 1 Nov: Equine Aerobics.** Exercises for rider fitness and condition. From 5.30pm, £15

**Sat 4 Nov: Indoor Cross Country.** From 2.00pm, £15    **Sat 11 Nov: Flatwork with Ground Poles.** From 2.00pm, £15

**Sat 18 Nov: Dressage.** Lateral work. From 2.00pm, £15    **Wed 22 Nov: Loose Jumping.** From 5.00pm, £10

All clinic details available on web-site [www.hlewistraining.co.uk](http://www.hlewistraining.co.uk)

Contact [heather@hlewistraining.co.uk](mailto:heather@hlewistraining.co.uk) or call 07968 257558

**Sat 4/Sun 5 Nov: The Science Behind Equine Welfare and Behaviour**, Wokingham Town Hall, 10.00am – 4.00pm. Learn how science can help you to make educated decisions when designing the management system for your horse. The course will cover common welfare and behavioural issues and explain the science behind these to aid understanding for better treatment and prevention. For further details please visit [www.thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk](http://www.thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk), or email [veronica@thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk](mailto:veronica@thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk), telephone 07990 575659

**Sat 11 Nov: Solent Polocrosse Club** - Learn how to play at the Solent Polocross Club training sessions. Every other Saturday evening, at The Naval Riding Centre, Southwick from 5.30pm. For more info please contact Sally Winyard, 07850 001454, or Caroline Kelly, 07970 744260, email [info@solentpolocrosseclub.com](mailto:info@solentpolocrosseclub.com). Web-site: [www.solentpolocrosseclub.com](http://www.solentpolocrosseclub.com)

**Sun 12 Nov: Unaffiliated Dressage**, Woodington Training Centre, Woodington Road, East Wellow SO51 6DQ. SAE to same address. Tel: 01794 324172 (Also **Sun 26 Nov: Dressage Riding Test**)

**Sun 12 Nov: Walk/Trot Dressage.** SAE to Events Sec, Cedar Stables, Medstead, Alton GU34 5LU, tel: 01420 564169

### Understanding Equus - [www.understandingequus.co.uk](http://www.understandingequus.co.uk)

Debbie Reilly, Equine Trainer & Behaviour Specialist, Oak Tree House, Hightown Hill, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3HE.

Tel/fax: 01425 473151, mobile: 07715 732278. Email: [info@understandingequus.co.uk](mailto:info@understandingequus.co.uk)

**Tailor-made Workshops** (by individual arrangement): Debbie will come and work with a number of individuals and their horses on their own premises. Ideal for ground-work issues or problem 'loaders'.

**Wed 15 Nov/Thu 16 Nov: Evening Hunter Trial Clear Round**, Merrist Wood Campus, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, 5.30pm. Tel Event Secretary 01483 884147, email [lyoung@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:lyoung@guildford.ac.uk) **Note: 16 Nov has been cancelled!**

**Fri 17 Nov: Richard Maxwell Demonstration**, Crofton Manor Equestrian Centre, Titchfield Road, Stubbington  
For the first time in 4 years, Richard Maxwell is doing a series of demonstrations to coincide with the release of his new book – "Maximise your Horsemanship" - find the excellence in you and your horse. Tickets £20/person in advance, £25 on the door. Tel 01440 702327 or see "demos" on [www.richard-maxwell.com](http://www.richard-maxwell.com) to buy on-line.

**Sun 19 Nov: Unaffiliated Show Jumping** (second of winter series), Naval Riding Centre, Southwick nr Fareham. Start 10.30am. Six classes on outside sand arena. Clear round jumping all day, indoor school. Ample parking, refreshments available. Tel: 023 9237 9974

**Sun 19 Nov: Goodwood Branch of The Pony Club Open Show**, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington PO14 3EW. Showjumping classes open to all. Download schedule at [www.pcuk.org/output/branches/132/index.html](http://www.pcuk.org/output/branches/132/index.html)

### Medstead Grange Farm, Bentworth, Alton GU34 5NL, Tel 01420 564440

**Unaffiliated Show Jumping** – Sun 19 Nov, Sun 17 Dec, Sun 14 Jan 2007, Sun 11 Feb, Sat 17 Mar

**Unaffiliated Dressage** – Sun 12 Nov, Sun 3 Dec, Sun 7 Jan, Sun 4 Feb, Sun 4 Mar (Championship Day)

**Schooling/Clear Round Show Jumping** – Wed 1, 15 and 29 Nov. Please ring to book

[www.medsteadgrange.co.uk](http://www.medsteadgrange.co.uk)

**Wed 22 Nov: Evening Clear Round**, Merrist Wood Campus, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, 5.30pm. 4 classes (2'3"–3'). £5/round, entries on the night only. Tel Event Secretary 01483 884147, email [lyoung@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:lyoung@guildford.ac.uk)

**Sun 26 Nov: Dressage to Music Freestyle.** SAE to Events Secretary, Cedar Stables, Medstead, Alton GU34 5LU, Tel 01420 564169

### The Mayhill Stud 2006/07 Unaffiliated Dressage Series

**Sunday 26 Nov, 17 Dec, 28 Jan 07, 25 Feb, 25 Mar.** Commencing 9.00am, entry fee £9

Further info and entries: The Mayhill Stud, Swanmore Road, Droxford SO32 3PT. Tel: 01489 877511

**Wed 29 Nov: 'Tim on Tour' – Tim Stockdale Lecture Demo.** Merrist Wood Campus, Worplesdon, Guildford. Contact A. Haines, Unit 2, Devizes Trade Centre, Hopton Park Ind Estate, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2EH, tel: 08456 442236

**Sun 3 Dec: Open Indoor Show Jumping**, Crofton Manor Equestrian Centre, Titchfield Road, Stubbington. Further info available at Meon Riding Club web-site [www.meonrc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.meonrc.fsnet.co.uk). Contact Mr R King, Wheelers Farm Froxfield, Petersfield GU32 1DR. Tel: 01730 264178

Hampshire Horse

Email: [hampshirehorse@hotmail.com](mailto:hampshirehorse@hotmail.com)

31 Bulls Copse Lane, Horndean, Hampshire PO8 9QX

Tel: 07759 571864

**Sun 10 Dec: Christmas In-hand Showing**, including Foal, Youngstock, M&M etc. Crofton Manor Equestrian Centre, Titchfield Road, Stubbington. SAE to H. Linfield, 1 Pottery Lane, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8RP

**Sun 10 Dec: Christmas Show** (indoors), Naval Riding Centre, Southwick nr Fareham. Further details to follow.  
Tel: 023 9237 9974

**Wed 13 Dec: Evening Clear Round**, Merrist Wood Campus, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, 5.30pm. 4 classes (2'3"–3'). £5/round, entries on the night only. Tel Event Secretary 01483 884147, email lyoung@guildford.ac.uk. (Also 31 Jan, 21 Feb, 7 Mar and 9 May)

**Sat 10/Sun 11 Feb 2007: The Science Behind Equine Welfare and Behaviour**, Wokingham Town Hall, 10.00am – 4.00pm. Learn how science can help you to make educated decisions when designing the management system for your horse. The course will cover common welfare and behavioural issues and explain the science behind these to aid understanding for better treatment and prevention. For further details please visit [www.thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk](http://www.thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk), or email [veronica@thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk](mailto:veronica@thesmilingthoroughbred.co.uk), telephone 07990 575659

**Sun 11 March: Indoor Hunter Trial Schooling Session**, Merrist Wood Campus, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, 9.30am. £8/round. Entries on the day only. Tel Event Secretary 01483 884147, email [lyoung@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:lyoung@guildford.ac.uk)

**Tue 17 July: Own a Pony Day**, 10.00am – 3.00pm. Course at Merrist Wood Campus, Guildford College. Suitable for children 8 years and over who want to learn about owning a pony. Day includes riding lesson, daily care of a horse, stable management, competitions. Prize giving at end of day (parents welcome to watch). Tel: 01483 884000

**Sun 2 Sept: Charity Ride** supported by Hampshire HorseWatch, Farleigh Wallop, nr Basingstoke. Optional intro to "Trec" eventing on completion of ride. For further details please see [www.nfed.co.uk/horsewatch](http://www.nfed.co.uk/horsewatch) or contact [equine@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:equine@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)



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e:mail [petercox@portsmouth52.freemove.co.uk](mailto:petercox@portsmouth52.freemove.co.uk)

## **October - and Ragwort is Killing our Horses** by Derek Smith Ragwort-UK Ltd.

**OVER 500 HORSES DIED LAST YEAR FROM RAGWORT POISONING, MORE WILL DIE THIS YEAR AND MANY MORE WILL HAVE THEIR LIVERS DESTROYED TO SOME DEGREE TAKING THEM INEXORABLY CLOSER TO THAT FATAL STATISTIC.** (Dr Derek Knottenbelt, Phillip Leverhulme Veterinary Hospital)

If you think, as many do, that the Ragwort season is virtually over, and the ragwort problem has gone for another year - YOU WOULD BE BADLY MISTAKEN. Autumn poses probably the greatest risk to stock from ragwort poisoning, and that is leaving to one side the increasing problem of ragwort contaminated hay.

Land throughout the UK now has an extensive reserve of ragwort seed. Perhaps surprisingly, in many areas densities of many thousands of seeds per square metre are commonplace. Ragwort however is a plant of stealth and this large reserve is its guarantee for future survival. The seeds are very long lived (7 to 20 years often reported) and to make sure that they do not all germinate next year they have a selective germination mechanism. Seeds can only germinate if they have been in the ground for a certain amount of time and then only if they are exposed to sunlight. This ensures that most of the seed is locked away in safe deposit as ragwort's insurance against extinction.

Most people know that a dense stand of grass is the best defense against ragwort. Certainly, the opposite is true, poor patchy cover is an open invitation to dense ragwort colonisation, but a dense stand of grass is not a guarantee against ragwort. Seeds are in the soil waiting for sunlight to trigger their germination, and there are many mechanisms that will get the sunlight to them, or them to the sunlight. Hoof damage, urine scorching and rabbit scratches are commonplace and all allow the sunlight to trigger ragwort germination. But in addition, moles, ants and earthworms all move large quantities of soil up into the grass on a daily basis. If the soil contains ragwort seed, germination will be triggered by the sunlight. Look at the moist parts of your grazing among the lush grasses, reaching up through it you will see long slender 'salad leaves' of seedling ragwort.

### **Horses do not eat green ragwort, so how can seedling plants ever cause a problem?**

These seedling plants have been identified by Ragwort-UK Limited as possibly the greatest risk to stock health, particularly at this time of the year as grass growth rate slows down and stock begin to eat the grazing much closer. Most horses do not eat green ragwort, so how can seedling plants ever cause a problem? The answer to this question and a valuable insight into the control of ragwort in feeding pastures has come from trials on pasture management carried out by Ragwort-UK Limited. Continuous low level poisoning has been identified through two routes, both are caused by seedling ragwort plants in good dense grass. Once ragwort germinates it throws up a small single leaf, carried on a long rib to reach

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the sunlight. It is easy for this single leaf to be bitten off with a mouthful of grass, clover etc and be eaten without its taste being noticed. The ragwort crown will soon send up another leaf and so the problem continues. Staff at Ragwort-UK, have witnessed horses grazing single seedling leaves in this way, and the stock involved was diagnosed by blood tests to have liver damage typical for ragwort poisoning.

**The second route is probably even more dangerous, because greater quantities of ragwort can be eaten.** As the ragwort seedling establishes its crown and extensive root system, it throws up three or four long leaves into the grass above it. These leaves are slender but have leaf lobes all the way down the rib to the crown. There is not yet an identifiable 'ragwort rosette' for the stock to stay clear of, only isolated leaves growing through the grass. The leaf is bitten off with a mouthful of grass, but by now there is enough ragwort for the animal to taste it, so the leaf is rejected and dropped to the ground. **Dead ragwort is poisonous even though it has lost its bitter taste.** One or two days later, the leaf is dead and has lost its bitter taste. Everyone knows that dead ragwort is poisonous even though it has lost its bitter taste, but your stock do not and the dead leaf is eagerly eaten to play its small but cumulative part in the destruction of your horse's liver. Again, staff at Ragwort-UK Limited involved in field trials have witnessed single leaves being bitten off and spat out in this way and have recorded many seedling plants with evidence that several leaves had been removed. These dangers are magnified as grass growth slows in October and stock graze closer or start grazing long or rough patches.

Seedling ragwort will have germinated throughout the summer, and the seedling leaves will be extremely hard to spot until the classical ground hugging 'rosette stage' is formed. Although once a rosette has formed, accidental grazing is much less likely to occur, dead leaves will still be created by trampling. Once the bitterness has gone from the dead leaves they will also be eaten. Flowering ragwort is a highly visible alert for 2 - 3 months of the year, but staff at Ragwort-UK are convinced that the greatest damage is caused by the seedling plants present throughout the 12 months of the year. Ragwort poisoning is often called the 'iceberg disease' because the damage is being done bit by bit with virtually no outward signs. Each little ragwort leaf destroys a few more liver cells until in many cases when symptoms become apparent, it is just too late and the horse must be destroyed to save it from a piteous death.

**Prevention is the only solution.** Ragwort seeds are already in the soil. Their numbers are increasing year on year and even when further seed production is eventually stopped, the seed store now present will remain viable for many years. Earthworms, ants and hoof damage will continue to trigger germination virtually all year round. You cannot remove the seed and you cannot prevent it from germinating. Your only defense is to inspect your pastures regularly and remove the seedlings the moment they show. One trial paddock controlled by Ragwort-UK yielded over 200 seedlings per acre every week for over 2 years with only a slight reduction through the winter months. *(www.animalsonline.org.uk/articles)*

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## Looking for an Instructor? Meet Heather Lewis BHS AI, BHS Int SM, Cert. Ed.



I am a freelance instructor teaching all levels from novice horse / rider up to Elementary level Dressage or Newcomers show jumping. I really enjoy helping those horses or riders at the very beginning of their education to achieve a proficient standard, enabling a better equine relationship and competitive results. In my experience, even happy hackers will gain much from training! I have qualifications in both the equine industry and in Information Technology and my speciality is to combine both worlds to produce training plans and video lessons.

**Example:** One of my clients, Andrea, has a 17 year old mare called Justine who has spent much of her life being a brood mare. She didn't really start being ridden properly until the age of 15 and as a result had no schooling and balance. We had to start at the beginning with Justine and Andrea has worked very hard with the aid of a training plan. From not being able to canter even a few strides properly only 8

months ago, Justine is now sufficiently schooled to work correctly on the flat and has started jumping. Andrea competes regularly in Prelim dressage and her target is to move onto Novice level next year. This shows what is achievable to everyone willing to put the hard work in!

I am based at Crofton Manor Equestrian Centre, but travel to various parts of Hampshire. Why not try an introductory lesson: 1 hour assessment .....£20 Private lessons 45 minutes .....£15  
Training plans / video lessons .....£30 1 hour .....£20

Regular clinics held indoors at Crofton Manor. Please see my website for more information [www.hlewistraining.co.uk](http://www.hlewistraining.co.uk)

### Hampshire Horse

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Animals Online is a combination of the popular Tackroom Gossip and the Dog Rescue Online websites. The aim of Animals Online is to bring together animal lovers from around the UK and the world and to provide animal rescue centres with a place where they can advertise their animals that need re-homing and to raise awareness regarding fund raising events. We provide a valuable service in having a dedicated forum area for reporting lost, stolen or found dogs and are on the main Horsewatch mailing list to receive information alerts about stolen horses and equipment.

We have a link to the new C.F.H. Watch Forum (incorporating Countryside Watch and Farm Watch as well as Horse Watch). This forum incorporates stolen horse information, news and alerts of stolen equipment and contact details for the various regions around the UK. If you have any information you would like to add to the Forum please feel free to visit.



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<b>JODHPURS For sale</b>	<b>Jodhpurs by Ride &amp; Groom</b> , size 10 ladies regular leg, Navy nylon, v.g.c £7.00 <b>Jodhpurs</b> very good quality, by Caldene, soft thick cord, 30"waist, stretch, with pocket & zip, mid tan, sticky waist, very warm and soft, ideal for cold winter days vgc £25.00 Tel: 02392 263207 (Purbrook)
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<b>SADDLE/BRIDLE For sale</b>	Brown leather 17" GP Fieldhouse <b>Saddle</b> . Good condition. Marked as narrow, but did fit a 16hh Cleveland Bay/TB. Bargain at £295. Brown leather <b>bridle</b> , full size, £40, reins optional (additional £10). Please call 07880 553794 (Horndean)
<b>RUGS For sale All 5'9"</b>	<b>Lightweight New Zealand</b> – Shires blue with green trim £20 <b>Middleweight New Zealand</b> – Weatherbeeta purple £30 <b>Heavyweight New Zealand</b> – Weatherbeeta grey/black Typhoon. Stainless steel buckles etc. High neck. Teflon coated. Only used for one season £60. <b>Waffle weave cooler</b> – blue with green trim £15 All Rugs have been professionally cleaned and are in good condition. 07711 594745 (Denmead)
<b>SADDLE For sale</b>	17.5" brown <b>leather saddle</b> . Wide fit. Sound, but has scratches across seat. Not pretty, but functional. £20 to good home? 023 9259 6491 (Horndean)
<b>DRESSAGE SADDLE for sale</b>	<b>Appaloosa Hippos Dressage Saddle</b> . Black, made in Italy, exceptional quality. Measures 17" but marked as 16". Extremely comfortable. Used on pure bred Arab. 07711 594745 (Denmead)

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## HAMPSHIRE HORSE

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November 2006

Hampshire Horse

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