

BHS West Midlands Regional Welfare Report



The British Horse Society

Registered Charity No. 210504

1 June 2009

County Level Activity

Again, there has been few reported welfare issues reported in the West Midlands since the last report. Cases dealt with have not been serious.

Staffordshire have another volunteer considering becoming a welfare representative.

Events

Ali Cann from Herefordshire operated a BHS/crime prevention stand at 'Field and Country' in Telford on Saturday, 9 May 2009. I was pleased to be able to go along and offer Ali some support for a few hours. There were some good stands including saddle marking and trailer theft prevention devices to name just two. It has to be said that overall the event was fairly quiet, although very well received by those who did attend.

Defra are currently 'consulting' concerning the introduction of a tax on keeping horses. Owners will be required to pay around £10 per year for each horse to help fund a new independent body for animal health.

The remaining 'road show' dates are due to be held in the following locations. Individuals have to register to attend by ringing DEFRA on 020 7238 4953

- 3 June, Rendevous Hotel, Skipton, 2-4.30pm
- 4 June, Shepherds Inn, Carlisle, 2-4.30pm
- 5 June, Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 11am-1.30pm
- 8 June, The Four Alls Country Inn, Market Drayton, 2-4.30pm
- 9 June, Stourport Manor Hotel, Stourport-on-Severn, 2-4.30pm

More information is available on the Horse and Hound website:

<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/397/282454.html>

Horsewatch

Information on crime prevention and other issues affecting horse owners continue to be circulated.

There is presently an element of doubt in relation to West Mercia Police hosting the annual meeting of the National Horse Watch Alliance at Police Headquarters at Hindlip Hall, Worcester. Although a date of 26 September has been set, we have been advised that there may be maintenance work at the venue that weekend which would entail the electricity supply being cut off. A new venue may have to be found but we await further news from West Mercia.

Police

BHS HQ have been contacted by an RSPCA inspector who would like to hold discussions with police about the problem of loose horses on the roads in the 'Black Country' area of the West Midlands. I have agreed to take part in these discussions if they are arranged, and await further contact on this issue.

Lisa Randle
West Midlands Regional Welfare Officer