



# Newsletter

No 87

Fforest Uchaf Farm. Maindy Road,  
(Maendy) Penycodcae,  
Pontypridd.

R.C.T, Wales. UK. CF37 1PS

Tel; 01443 480327

info@pitponies.co.uk

www.pitponies.co.uk

**The Centre is closed to visitors until Spring 2021. We are only open for workers, volunteers and deliveries.**

NB All visitors it is always advisable to telephone 01443 480327 or 07798584735 before you visit.

**PROVIDING TENDER LOVING CARE TO NEEDY HORSES & PONIES**

## Oh for a bigger Farm!



Some of the Horses/Ponies rescued. Apparently the caravans are appearing back! No sign of horses yet

Jo wrote; I read with horror and distaste regarding the 13 abandoned horses you rescued recently. I am like you left wondering how anyone can treat any animal with such disregard. Thank goodness for people like yourselves! I find it very upsetting to see and hear of such cases like this. I enclose a donation towards your costs it seems very little when you get cases like this Oh

to win the lottery! Keep up the good work and take care in these difficult times. Jo!



Our little fatties out on grass already grazed by the not so fatties. They all put on weight by just looking at food. Some of us know that feeling!



The Mare and her new born foal after a few weeks of proper care and feed.

P.S. We will keep a special eye on the place where the abuse happened, it's added to our list.

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Angel itching her chest.

This time of year when the ponies are changing their coats they itch all over, they use any place and whatever they fancy to scratch on. Trees Fences posts and anything that won't easily move. We have put some old broom heads in the yard and an old Council road sweeper brush on the gate for them to use it just depends which bit is itchy at the time. They use them quite a bit. Often the fences get rattled and any bits of Farming machinery get used also. In the spring the birds come to collect the hair for their nests. They are all getting their thick winter coats. We still have plenty of grass but it's not a sweet as it was and they are not so keen on it. They will all be coming in to the stables at night for the winter.



The Fishers wrote; telling me of "Knocky up boards" apparently they were chalk boards that the miners used to put out at night with the time they wanted other colliers knocking to wake them up on. Early risers would go around waking up their colleagues. Apparently some have gone to be preserved in the Colliery museum at Wakefield.



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## Letters from friends

David wrote; always happy to support your Charity. I'm originally from the West of Ireland where there was no mining. An old Irishman from a different part of Ireland told me about Pit Ponies and what they had to do. He was so proud of his pony and knowing the man he would have treated it well. "Aringa" was the name of the mine in Ireland. He would have worked there in the 50's. Sorry for boring you David. *Not at all David I know little about mining in Ireland so was interested to learn. Google tells me the coal was at Roscommon, Castlecoomer & Tynagh and Silver at Mogul. The area has been cleaned of all old workings by the Super Dump open cast now.*

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pitpony/> is the link for computers smart phones etc. to do some shopping and raise funds for the ponies. We now have 47 supporters. Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March your support raised £40.46 and between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> June your support raised £33.88. Thank you all who have signed up.

I saw a man stealing a neighbour's gate. I did nothing as I feared he might come back and take a fence!

Myra wrote; Hello Roy & Angela, Glad you received the stamps and bits of jewellery. No doubt you don't have much opportunity to sell much at these times. Hope you are coping with all the animals who need feeding and caring for. Enclosed small donation. Would like it to be more – when I sell all my diamonds! All the best Myra. PS don't forget to claim the Gift Aid. Stuart is a taxpayer!

Roy, Angela and the Ponies would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and staying with us all these years. Just going out into the high pastures here to see all the ponies is reward enough for us. We only wish we could show you all we see. The ponies have settled so well with us, but we sadly some-times see flashes to remind us of their former fear of people. When we are called to see ponies in a bad situation we know the organisation you and us have built can respond correctly for the ponies. Thank you!



Over the May Bank holiday weekend, we were contacted by Cardiff Police. They had arrested some youths who were drunk in charge of horses (the Law says) and behaving very badly. All the

usual places were closed with the Virus and the holiday. We were able to take them in

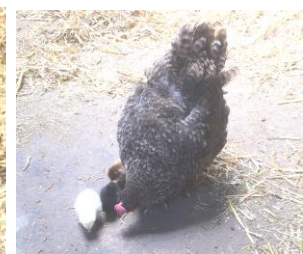
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as long as the police gave us the assurance no-one would know where they had gone! They are pictured here just arrived. The smaller black one was petrified. They are so harsh on them. Covered in sweat, de-hydrated where they had been charged around Cardiff by drunken youths. Once they had settled in we were able to bathe them both. They seemed visibly shocked by being out on some good grass and not being harassed. It is so quiet here! The smaller Black was quite thin and showed her ribs the Grey was filthy dirty with dried on sweat and a very long tangled mane. It was lovely to have them and give them some peace but so hard to send them back. The Police released the youths without charge apparently because of their age. The father of the youths had to pay a £350 bill for the collection, keep and return delivery of them. We hoped he wouldn't pay and they could stay, but he did. We arranged for the Cardiff horse warden to take them back and she promised to issue the owner with an improvement notice and keep an eye on them. PS. The Police kept their promise so we can help again if they need us. Perhaps it was all worth-while and a message to them to be better behaved next time. However it has happened before!

The Posters! We offer/ask supporters to have some posters to put up in waiting rooms wherever they go Vets, Dentist, Hospital, pet shops, etc. etc. One lady wrote recently saying "I can't take posters as I don't live near you"! Rest assured our posters work every-where! For instance, one supporter living over the Atlantic pond in Canada puts her mums shopping orders in UK shops using the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pitpony/> and the ponies get the commission. We think it's amazing, so easy and cost nothing to do. Amazon smile works the same way. Just go to [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and find our charity No 1002933 and sign up. Then every time you shop on Amazon commission goes to the ponies account.

We also still need used postage stamps. Stamps from anywhere in the world are fine. Just trimmed from the backing leaving a 1/2 inch or 1 cm paper all around. Everyone gets some and often just bin them. We need to ask so please help! Please ask everyone you meet! Some years ago two ladies from Toton Nottinghamshire started supporting us. They were both keen gardeners and started selling their surplus bedding and sending the proceeds for the ponies. Sadly, news came recently that Betty had passed away, her friend and now Executor Christine had sold her bungalow and shared the proceeds with the ponies. Brilliant.

**Do you, or anyone you know shop on Amazon?** If you or they do, go to [www.amazon.smile.co.uk](http://www.amazon.smile.co.uk) and fill in our Charity number "1002933" and "press" select, then a commission on all your purchases will come to the ponies. It costs you nothing, you still get the bargains and the ponies prosper. If you add the Amazon assistant to your tool bar for the future it's then just one click to get going.



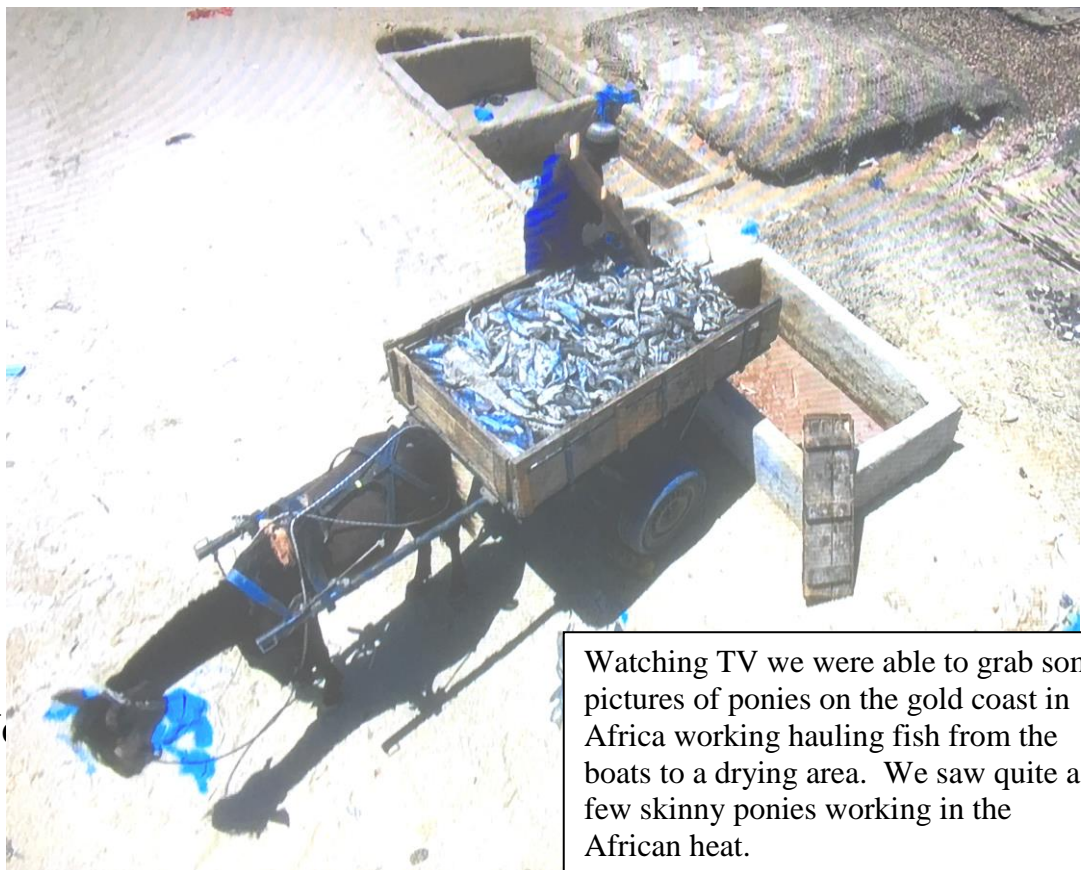
It's been a good year for chicks. They do a good job around the yard picking up food the ponies drop and love eating insects.

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Star II has always been a bit of a wimp. Here she is having treatment from the Vet for an abscess in her foot. The Vet is trying to poultice the foot. It is taking Roy and Yion to hold her steady

She now has a problem with her back foot (the white one) she is so difficult to help. However, once she has decided to be helped and has her foot cleaned and dressed she is quite obviously grateful. We are washing her foot in nice warm water with a medicated soap from the Vets and applying some medicated cream. At least with the weather turned cooler we don't have too many flies to aggravate things. We eventually worked out her problem. Its men she is frightened of. Says a lot about her previous owners.



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Watching TV we were able to grab some pictures of ponies on the gold coast in Africa working hauling fish from the boats to a drying area. We saw quite a few skinny ponies working in the African heat.



Angel, Star (in the fly rug) and Bella have been using a separate field with this big shelter in front of the house this summer as it is easier to keep an eye on these three old ladies pictured here Bella is hiding.

In

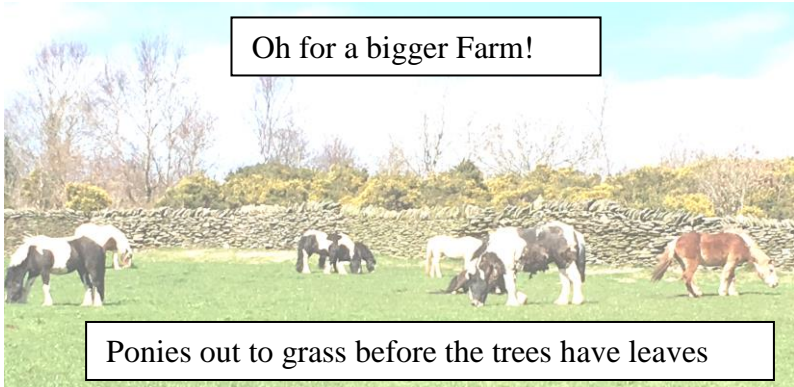
March before the trees got their leaves the weather was so good the Ponies went out to graze. The spring unfolded to be beautiful and better than most of summer. The Ponies now can feel a chill in the air and are getting their winter coats. Like-wise we are preparing for winter. Our Hay (as always) our merchant tells us of the poor hay and awful straw situation. Looks like being an expensive winter to feed and bed everyone. One would imagine with Hay/Straw the prices would stay the same as last year and Farmers



Barley Straw on the field 2020



Hay on the field 2020



Oh for a bigger Farm!

Ponies out to grass before the trees have leaves

would be grateful to just receive a reasonable price. After all aren't we all in the same climate boat?

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*Donations have recently been received in memory of;*

*Mrs Kathleen M Barber, Corrine Couldridge,*

*Beryl Reeve, Betty Jackson*

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*Donations from "Give a car" their old car from Wendy Darlison.*

<https://giveacar.co.uk/charities/the-pit-pony-sanctuary/>

All donated items to the Charity suitable are put on E-bay by Matthew. He takes good, careful time to describe, photograph and list the items and when we sell them he packs them and posts them all over the world for the ponies. As a Charity we list for free and the monies raised are donated to the Charity. We seem to sell almost anything sometimes it takes quite a while to find a buyer. We also sell the Key ring coin/token holders. They are made from stainless steel and very strong like the Pit Ponies. We drove the JCB over one repeatedly and it survived un-marked. At £4.99 including Post and Packing they sell steadily. Here is a link for computer/smartphone users.

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/SOLID-STEEL-SHOPPERS-TROLLEY-TOKEN-COIN-HOLDER-FOR-TOKEN-1EURO-OR-1/223554855392?hash=item340ce861e0:g:OgkAAOSwQglanCMD>

We have quite a few of these and would appreciate your help in selling them for the ponies. They are very useful and make good gifts, stocking fillers gifts for friends etc. Singly they are £4.99 including postage.

However we currently do a special **3 for £10**

**2020's DECADE OFFER - SOLID STEEL TROLLEY TOKEN HOLDER €/£ FREE POST**

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/3-for-10-2020s-DECADE-OFFER-SOLID-STEEL-TROLLEY-TOKEN-HOLDER-FREE-POST/223226322004?hash=item33f9535c54:g:qRAAAOSw4YxanCMO>

Do you, like me stand in the Bank and look at all the beautiful marble, tall columns, chrome, glass and expensive hardwood and all the other trappings of wealth! Que as one teller works flanked by idle slots. I get the feeling customers are a nuisance to them and get in the way of chatting and coffee drinking. We have found they do some work in their ivory towers. Due to the Covid we stopped taking our cheques into the branch as we didn't feel safe queuing there. Instead we sent them to the Banks sorting office in the Strand in London. Some-one their decided to put us under their microscope. Suddenly they sent all cheques made out to The Pit Pony Sanctuary back! This was early May. Apparently as our proper Charity name is Fforest Uchaf Horse & Pony Rehabilitation Centre Charitable Trust we were no longer able to pay cheques to The Pit Pony Sanctuary into our account! We are having to add T/A (trading as The Pit Pony Sanctuary) to our account name. Did all the forms

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as requested only to be told our 2020 signatures not very like our 1991 signatures and we need to have a Trustee meeting and agree the T/A bit, then submit new Mandate forms for all the Trustees. Ok we did all this in a week. Phew. Three weeks later nothing has happened. Phoned to enquire listened to piped music 1 hour 7 minutes to be told the new Mandate forms didn't arrive or have been lost. We re-did the forms and sent them Recorded delivery this time. No word from them still. I am afraid I don't expect much from them. I have always found most of the Bankers I meet think they are superior, are arrogant and only interested in themselves and their career. The Charity Commission have us listed as also known as The Pit Pony Sanctuary but apparently that's not good enough for Banks.

## A little Taste of Wales.

### Traditional Welsh White Savoury Cheesecake Flan.

**For the pastry;** 125g/4oz wholemeal flour. Pinch of salt. 30g/1oz butter. 30g/1oz white vegetable fat

**For the filling;** 125g/4oz Caerphilly cheese (crumbled) 125g/4oz soft Welsh goat's cheese. 142ml carton soured cream. Pinch of dry mustard powder. Salt & freshly ground black pepper. 2 level tablespoons plain flour. 3 medium eggs. Salad leaves to serve. 18cm/7inch sandwich or flan tin.

### Method.

**Make the pastry;** Tip the flour into a bowl and add the salt, add the butter, add the white vegetable fat, and rub in until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add about two tablespoons water and bind together into a firm pastry dough. Roll out on a lightly floured surface and use it to line the pan. Prick the base and chill for 15 minutes. Set the oven to heat gas mark 7 or 220C. Heat a baking sheet in the oven for 5 minutes then bake the pastry case blind for 12-15 minutes until cooked. Remove from the oven and put aside, reduce the temperature of the oven to moderate, Gas mark 4 or 180C.

**To make the filling;** Beat together the Caerphilly cheese, goats cheese, soured cream, mustard powder, seasoning and flour, then lightly beat in the eggs. Pour the mixture into the flan case, return the tin to the baking sheet in the centre of the centre of the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes or until the filling has just set in the centre. Remove from the oven and leave to cool for at least 10-15 minutes, then transfer the flan to a wire rack to cool completely.

**To serve;** Serve the flan warm or cold garnished with some salad leaves. (NB not suitable for freezing) Serves 6. Total approx. 386 calories + 28grms Fat. Bon appetite!

*Mwynhewch y pryd! (Enjoy your meal)*

### Please save and send us your inkjet printer

**cartridges.** Please wrap them in cling film first. Recently the money we get for your old used ones has gone up! Yippee!

Left Inkjet cartridges, Below Megan, Poppy and Arnie finally Geraldine snoozing in the sun with Rosie & Bonnie behind.



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