**Secretary’s Blog – Week 6 of Lock Down**

Hello everyone,

It is hard to think that we are already in the 6th week of lock down and I know from the comments I am getting from a number of you that these are lonely days for some. Thank you once more to those of who have been in touch with words of encouragement – these are gratefully received.

Today as I look out into our garden which has become a bit of a place of contentment these last few weeks, especially in the sun, we are still enjoying the lovely blossom on the apple, plum and cherry trees – but the daffodils are now receding for another year. The ground is very dry although we had a bit of rain yesterday and the skies are none too promising this morning.

As many of you know I have been sharing these blogs over the last few weeks and last night I set up a dedicated page for them on the Clydesdale Horse Society website. Our website is [www.clydesdalehorsesociety.com](http://www.clydesdalehorsesociety.com) and the blogs are found near the top of the drop down menu in the section entitled ‘Secretary Blog During Coronavirus 2020’.

This week I’d like to share with you a few different things which have crossed the desk.

1. Yesterday, RBST sent me notice of ‘The Greatest Online Agricultural Show’ – an online show they are hosting this Saturday. Much more information can be found at the show’s dedicated website - <https://www.onlineagshow.co.uk>. Time is very tight if you want to register – as I say news of this came to me only yesterday and I did email out to everyone on our membership list who are on email yesterday afternoon.
2. Last week I heard from Craig Twaddle. A year ago at ‘The Highland’, Craig came on to our stand to show me a wonderful medal which his grandfather had won in 1962 with his gelding, Jimmy, at the Royal Highland Show when he won the Fife and Kinross Gold Cup. Grandfather’s farm was in the Clyde Valley.

Last week Craig was telling me about a song which had been recorded by his Cousin, Billy, all about a Clydesdale Horse. Billy writes songs and is part of a folk band called Haggerdash. He has also had an appearance on Countryfile a couple of years ago when they did a programme about the Clyde Valley and its fruit growers.

Here is the link to the song which Craig thought we would all enjoy. It worked for me – I hope it works for you!

<https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3493176834042769&id=100000514593877&preview_rid=3494360003924452>

1. Only yesterday I had a letter from David Wise of Dodd & Wise of Sillywrea Farm in Hexham. David wrote ‘I enclose travelling stallion information which may be of interest to the Society. The original was found in the wall of a local farmhouse (Low Moralee) during some renovations and the present owners wants to keep it. She allowed me to take some photocopies.’

The type print of the copy that David sent to me understandably would make difficult reading but thanks to Hazel for typing out yesterday, a copy of the Stallion Information for Sir Rodger, property of Mr R Fawkes, Freelands Cumberland – and dating back to 1876, is now reproduced on a word document – which is on the secretary page of the website if you are interested in a nostalgic read through.

Quite an amazing find!

1. This last week I have been working on a variety of things including a Newsletter for the Young Folks of the Society. I decided that the time was right to get in touch with all our young folks. As between the 26 Junior members of the society and an additional 26 names who have been Young Handler winners in the last 3 years and who are not members (you don’t have to be a member of CHS to compete in Young Handler classes, which we want to keep as open as possible), we have over 50 names on our list.

Each of them will be receiving a newsletter this week and once it is issued to them, I’ll share with you. It’s full of information, a list of all 2019 Young Handler winners from local shows, and the last page has 3 activities in the form of competitions with prizes to keep them active over the next couple of months!! Once I publish this please share this with any young folks in Clydesdale families and if you would like their names added to our contact list, just let me know and I’ll be happy to do this. The competitions are open to all young people of the Clydesdale world.

Thanks to the earlier generosity of the late James Bennett we have a fund of money which is dedicated to youth activity and for this we are extremely fortunate.

It is now my intention to do a newsletter for Young Folks twice a year – hopefully issuing it to them electronically if I get enough email addresses!

1. I close this week’s blog with a photo. I mentioned at the beginning that the daffodils were receding in our garden and this photo shared to me last week by Val Smith of her mare, Bandirran Charlotte, might help keep the daffodil images in our minds – as well as a lovely photo of an inquisitive horse!

As always, I hope this weeks ‘dithering from the dining room’ finds you all well – and may you stay fit and well in these challenging times. Keep your collective chins up and I’ll be back in touch again next week at about the same time.

Cheerio fur noo!

Ian