

## Verderers' Court Dates 2014

All meetings are held on a Wednesday at 10.00am in the Verderers' Hall, The Queen's House, Lyndhurst

19th March	16th April	21st May	18th June
16th July	17th September	15th October	19th November

(no meeting in August and no public meeting in December)

## Beaulieu Road Pony Sales 2014

All sales are on a Thursday (except October) and start at 10.30am

8th May	August—no sale	18th September
22nd October (Wed)	27th November	December—no sale

## DRIFT LIST 2014

AN	12th	August	10.00am	Tuesday	Withybeds
PR	15th	"	10.00am	Friday	Bratley
JG	17th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Durhill (meet at Burbush)
AN/PR	20th	"	10.00am	Wednesday	Broomy
RM	24th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Beaulieu Aerodrome (meet at Norleywood pound)
AN	29th	"	10.00am	Friday	Fritham
ML	31st	"	9.00am	Sunday	Ipley (meet at Ipley pound)
RM	2nd	September	9.00am	Tuesday	Latchmoor, Brockenhurst
ML	5th	"	10.00am	Friday	Beaulieu Road/Iron Arch
RM/ML	7th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Woodfidley
PR	7th	"	10.00am	Sunday	Burley Rocks
AN	10th	"	10.00am	Wednesday	Woodgreen/Godshill
AN	12th	"	10.00am	Friday	Slufsters (meet at Broomy)
ML	14th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Culverley
PR	14th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Burley Lawn
RM	16th	"	9.00am	Tuesday	Wilverley/Longslade
ML	20th	"	9.00am	Saturday	Hilltop (meet at Crab Hat)
PR	21st	"	10.00am	Sunday	Backley (meet in Inclosure)
AN	23rd	"	9.00am	Tuesday	Penn Common
RM	26th	"	10.00am	Friday	Weirs (Brockenhurst) (meet at Latchmoor)
RM	28th	"	9.00am	Sunday	East Boldre
PR	30th	"	10.00am	Tuesday	Appleslade
JG	3rd	October	10.00am	Friday	Wootton (meet at Wootton Bridge)
RM	5th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Ober
AN	8th	"	10.00am	Wednesday	Hale/Turf Hill
ML	10th	"	10.00am	Friday	Ashurst
RM/ML	12th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Balmer Lawn
AN/ML	14th	"	10.00am	Tuesday	Lyndhurst Racecourse
AN	17th	"	10.00am	Friday	Stoney Cross
RM	19th	"	9.00am	Sunday	Furzey Lodge
ML	21st	"	10.00am	Tuesday	Pondhead
AN	24th	"	10.00am	Friday	Amberwood
PR	28th	"	10.00am	Tuesday	Hightown/Picket Post
JG	9th	November	9.00am	Sunday	Holmsley (meet at Holmsley Lodge)

# VERDERERS OF THE NEW FOREST

Spring 2014



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### Bloodline Scheme

The Verderers have decided to run the Bloodline Scheme again, particularly in view of the fact that the New Forest Pony has now been added to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's 2014 Watchlist as a Category 5 Minority Breed. The Pony Society has put out a newsletter which makes interesting, if depressing reading. What it means in a nutshell is that the breed has fallen below the 3,000 threshold for registered adult breeding females for the first time. So the New Forest Pony is now officially a rare breed. This is why the VGS is providing more support for registered pure bred New Forest ponies.

### Animal Welfare

The Verderers held a successful Welfare Tour in December. It was attended by representatives from a number of Welfare organisations, who were extremely complimentary in their comments on the condition of the Forest stock. Animal charity representatives are always on the look out for managed donkey's feet. Owners are reminded of their responsibility for managing their donkeys feet. Long and particularly twisted feet on donkeys are a welfare issue and a breach of the VGS Terms and Conditions for animal welfare (S.1.6).

### Appointment of Leanne Sargeant

Leanne Sargeant has been appointed as the VGS Administrator, taking over from Colin Draper who retires at the end of March.



### Email addresses

Communication by email is a lot easier, quicker and cheaper! If you are able to let us have your email address it would be really appreciated. Please email [suewestwood@verderers.org.uk](mailto:suewestwood@verderers.org.uk).

### New Forest Land Advice Service

A reminder to all commoners that the Land Advice Service offers a free and completely confidential service providing advice on 'Cross Compliance' and completion of SPS applications. Commoners are urged to apply for a free advisory visit. Contact numbers for the NFLAS:  
Rhys Morgan 01590 646688  
Georgie Watson 01590 646698

### Single Payment Scheme Assistance

Due to Colin Draper's retirement at the end of March, we have asked Rhys Morgan and Georgie Watson to be available to provide free advice and assistance to commoners completing their SPS applications, including internet support to complete claims online.

### RDPE Grant

The Rural Development Programme for England is offering a new 'Farming and Forestry Improvement' grant scheme. Full details are available at <http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/farm-and-forestry-improvement-scheme>, or contact the Land Advice Service for more information.

### Bovine TB

DEFRA wishes to introduce new rules covering pre-movement testing of cattle turned out on areas of common land. We are currently working closely with DEFRA and the Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency to find a workable solution for the forest.

### Bracken Cutting

Commoners are reminded that licences to cut bracken are available free of charge from the Forestry Commission. Call Dave Morris on 02380 286825

# BYELAW REMINDER

## Brand Declaration Forms

We must have a signed Brand Declaration form from you (held in the office) before your stock is turned out. This applies as much to established commoners as to new ones. If you haven't returned your form, please do. Brand Declaration forms must also have up-to-date information on them, so if your circumstances or information have changed since you completed and signed your brand declaration, please contact the office and we will provide you with a new form.

## Change of name, address etc.

Please may we remind you to notify us if you change your name, address or telephone number(s), especially mobiles which are essential in an emergency.

Changes of circumstances also apply to your Forest rights! If you have moved or are using different back up grazing and you wish to continue to turn out animals, you must make sure that your new land or holding benefits from the right of pasture.

Anyone with illegally depastured animals is not only in breach of the Verderers's Byelaws, but may be liable for any loss or damage to a third party resulting from an incident involving those animals. A road accident is a clear example. If your animal is illegally depastured you may be liable for the cost of repair/replacement of a damaged vehicle, plus compensation in the case of injury to the occupants.

## The Verderers' Pony Identity List

Please tell us immediately if any equine on the Verderers' list is sold or dies, as we are legally obliged to maintain an accurate list.

## Pigs

Thank you to everyone who turned out pigs in the Autumn; with such a heavy acorn crop, the pigs were essential to help. However, we got to the end of the pannage season and there were a number of pigs still out on the Forest. Commoners are again reminded that it is no good waiting until the end of the pannage season to look for your pigs. If pigs are out beyond the end of the pannage season they are depastured illegally and payments may be withheld from VGS members.

The only exception is for Privilege Sows which may remain on the Forest beyond the end of pannage, but please remember to apply for the privilege for your sow(s) BEFORE the end of the pannage season.



## Illegal movement of someone else's stock

Moving someone else's animals without their agreement is a serious breach of the Verderers' Byelaws and any commoner caught doing so will be banned from the VGS permanently and, depending upon the impact of their actions, could find themselves facing a Magistrate.

Apart from being against the byelaws, it is very inconsiderate as the owner of the animals moved may have to spend hours, and not insignificant sums of money on fuel, driving around looking for their stock. The recent confirmed case of bTB in a cow at Long-down just goes to prove how irresponsible it is to move stock unnecessarily. Although bTB isn't easily spread amongst cattle on the Forest, supposing it had been Foot and Mouth or some other easily transmittable disease? The person responsible could have spread a serious disease to another part of the Forest.

## CDA Training Questionnaire

Please see the enclosed questionnaire about possible training and mentoring. Please complete and return in the pre-paid envelope or email direct to [jo.ivey@btinternet.com](mailto:jo.ivey@btinternet.com)



## Managing Stock on the Forest

Commoners are reminded that it is not part of the Agisters' job to catch their ponies for them. The Agisters will always assist commoners but it is the owner's responsibility to manage their animals and they should not rely on the Agisters for this. Payments will be deducted from VGS members for poor ponies brought in by the Agisters, although this penalty may be waived where members assist the Agisters to catch their animals.



## VGS Update

### Drift fencing

Funding of £15,000 has been approved for replacement drift fencing this year at Crab Hat, Sluffers, Withybeds, and Appleslade, and for repairs to existing fencing at Kings Garn.

### CPH Numbers

Following a recent case of bovine TB (bTB) on the forest, and in light of discussions with Defra around control of bTB, an amendment to the VGS Terms and Conditions have been introduced. This requires members to allow the Verderers to be informed by the Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) or other government bodies, if they have information on animal diseases, including bTB, pertaining to an animal belonging to them. On your VGS application form you must confirm acceptance of this requirement. Additionally, because the AHVLA manages disease using CPH numbers, all members must now provide their CPH number on the application form. Application forms for 2014/15, together with a copy of the revised Terms and Conditions will be sent out shortly.

### Geldings

Changes to the VGS for geldings comes into effect this year. We will no longer pay for geldings as part of the scheme.

### Ownership of Animals

A reminder that it is a condition that members must personally own all the animals they enter in the VGS; you may be asked to prove this. The owner's name must be included in pony passports, and owners of cattle and pigs must be able to provide proof of ownership, which is particularly important where family members share ownership of a herd of cattle.

### Breaches of VGS terms and conditions

Regrettably, a relatively small number of members had some or all of their VGS payment withheld this year for breaches of the VGS Terms and Conditions. These included: late payment of Marking Fees; a 2 year old colt out on the Forest after 31 January; pigs out after the end of the pannage season; poor ponies removed by the Agisters; and donkeys with long and twisted hooves.

## Small Grants Scheme

Members are again invited to apply for grants to improve their back up land/animal handling facilities. In 2013/14 a total of 12 commoners received grants ranging from contributions towards the cost of new barns/sheds to fencing back up land. Members are invited to bid at any time and a small grant fund has been set aside for this purpose. Information and application forms are available on our website.

## VGS Payments 2013/14

Payments for the Scheme year 2013/14 were paid directly into individual bank accounts on 5 March and members will receive confirmation of this with a breakdown showing the calculation on which their payment was based. The rate paid per Livestock Unit was slightly lower than last year at £95 on the Forest and £48 on the Commons. That is because members turned out more animals and consequently the number of Livestock Units sharing the grazing budget rose.

Application forms for 2014/15 will be sent out in April.



## Pound Re-build programme

The VGS has funded a legacy programme using hardwood to rebuild up to 4 pounds a year; in 2013 pounds were rebuilt at Bratley, Bentleys, Amberwood, and Hurst Hill. This year the programme includes Puckpits, Backley, Markway, and Crab Hat; it is intended that a further 20 pounds will be rebuilt in this way over the lifetime of the Scheme, up to 2020.

Please can we remind everyone to leave pounds as you find them. If gates are open when you arrive, please leave them open when you leave, unless of course you have shut an animal in and are coming back for it! We would also be grateful if you would report any damage that you notice.