

THE MAGIC OF WELSH PONIES

After the death of Starlight, our one aim was to heal the loss and grief of our daughter, who was eleven years old and devastated. We needed quickly to find another pony

Through the grapevine we heard that Pauline Kerr had such a pony about to go on the market, so off I went to see Hydown Pip – and thinking a three year old pony would be unsuitable. I didn't take my daughter, Bean, with me. Mistake! There he was, already with a winter coat, just like a teddy bear. The perfect pony.



Hydown Pip as a foal

Love at first sight is an understatement. After two days he had been taught to say “please” by pawing the ground for a carrot! After a week I found Bean trying to teach him piaffe! (We'd just been to see the Lipizzaners)

I explained a little about high school work, and the years

it takes for the horses to learn their work, so Pip and Bean started their training together, both young and green.

Well a couple of years down the line we have a child who rides well and a beautifully schooled pony, who has shamed many an adult in open showing classes by his manners and versatility, half pirouette to canter, etc., etc.

Although Pip is now rather outgrown he competed in March at the Pony Club rally, and came second in the dressage, beating all the TB horses (first place was won by a Welsh partbred ridden by Bean) so it goes to show what these little ponies can do.



Lyn King 1993
Afcalt Stud

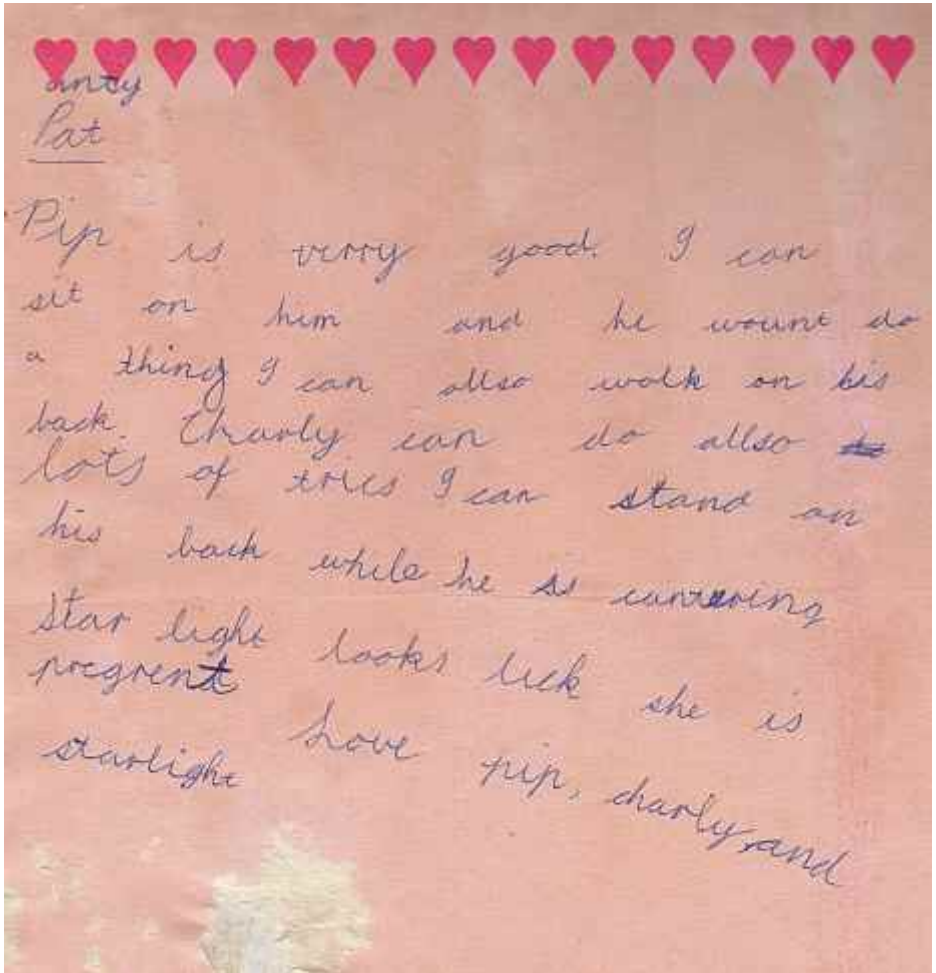
Due to our success with Pip, I bought Hydown Powys, unseen, who was my joy to drive; he's since been sold to Pamela White who is successfully driving him in a pair. (A little bird tells me that Pam has acquired Hydown Bard to match him!)

The driving bug has hit us too so we have bought a possible partner for Pip, another "child" in an already large "family". So if you come to visit us you will see Hydown Pip and Folksong, both tributes to a super stud.

Thank you Pat and Derek from all of us who are "Hooked on Hydown"!
(See also J2008 p152/3)

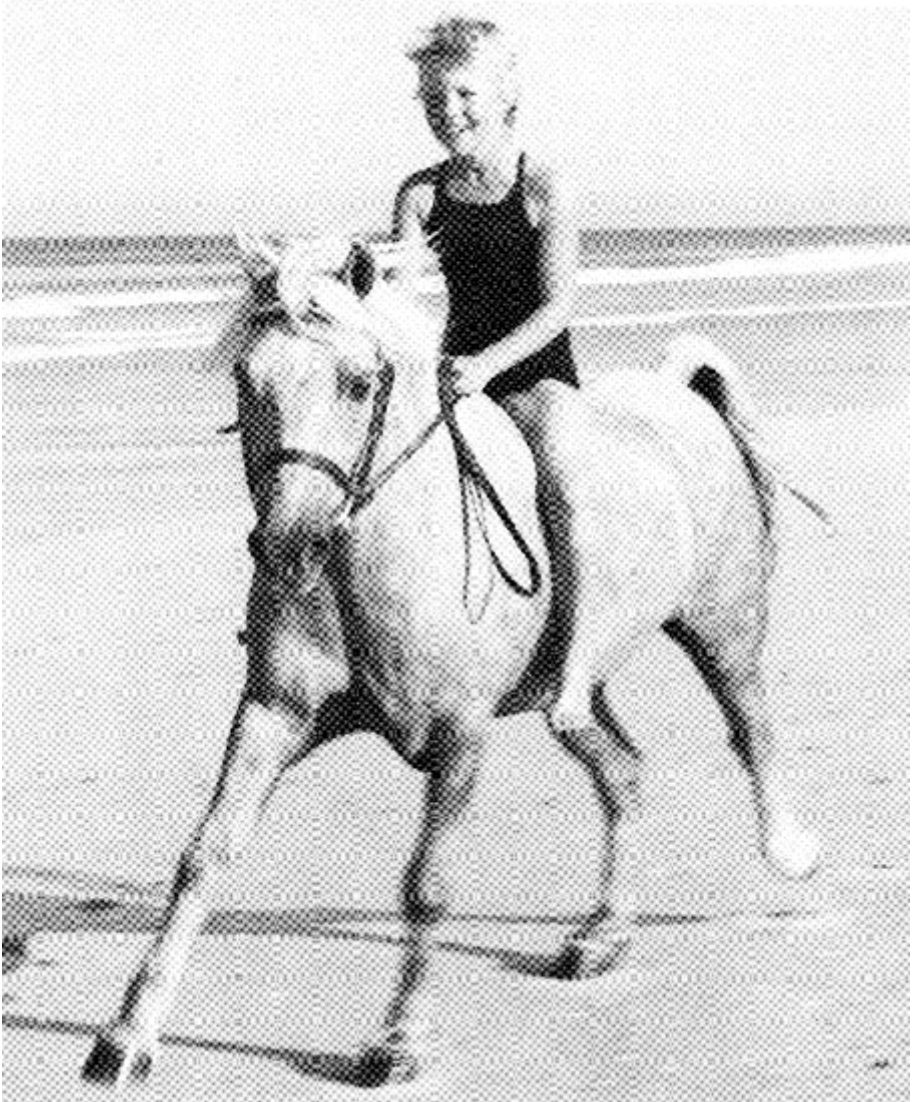


Hydown Folksong



One of many letters received by Pat and Derek Moore of the Hydown Stud from the numerous children who learned so much about Welsh ponies and also how to enjoy them. It is undeniable that many children started riding on Welsh ponies forming the foundation in equine competence and later in life went on to compete at the highest level on Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods.

It is such a pity that the Welsh Section C's and D's had not been established as an alternative for the older child on the Welsh Pony of Cob Type and the Welsh Cob for the adult. The Welsh Cob was undisputed in the life of the professional man and the delivery scene in London and other cities in the 18th and 19th century and driving comes naturally to them.



Welsh ponies were meant to be part of the life of a child as seen here with Hydown Champagne Charlie obviously enjoying riding on the beach, bareback. No other activity suitable for a child can beat this! And the experience will stay with the child for life.

If only more children could enjoy this wonderful outdoor experience – surely the current anti-social behaviour would be eliminated.