

# The NATURAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Where Dartmoor meets the Wild West

## NEWSLETTER Christmas 2010

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We are set in an idyllic location near Buckfastleigh in South Devon—where Dartmoor meets the Wild West!



Ruth

Our philosophy is one of Natural & Spiritual Horsemanship, based on Native-American principles of treating the horse as one would a younger brother or sister: mutual respect and enhanced communication with your horse.



Bring your horse, staying beside it—with B&B in simple, rustic accommodation or camp in a lovely setting, or stay at local guesthouses.



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Come with or without a horse and join in...

- training days
- clinics
- trail rides
- fun days
- lessons in Natural Equestrianism
- healing and horses
- fun events
- campfires and BBQs
- Yoga and Massage
- tailor-made programmes

## MERRY XMAS and wishing you all and your horses a Happy 2011

### 2010—our first season

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Natural Equestrian newsletter in which we sum up our first year's activities.



trimming class

2010 was an exciting and interesting first year for the Centre in which we tried to find our feet, devising various events and workshops. Some of you also had a chance to meet us when we were the focus of much attention at this year's Quest

We ran several successful clinics and workshops at the Centre on Communication with Horses, including a lovely Healing and Horses Day that the Horses just lapped up.

(We couldn't get rid of them afterwards as they all, without exception, had a lot of fun with us humans.)

### Barefoot Training



We also ran Barefoot Education Days that were extremely thought provoking and hosted a 3-day *Institute of Applied Equine Podiatry* practical workshop—taught by Siobhan Dillon, a UK, K.C La Pierre licensed instructor.

Lots of sweating, a bit of blood (the guy who wore no gloves: "ouch!") but fortunately no tears spilled—to give us an extremely instructive and amazing three days of knowledge of how to have sound Barefoot Horses through Sound Reasoning.

### Conscious Horsemanship

The Centre continues to operate on the principles of Conscious Horsemanship, that is horsemanship, free from force and coercion, based on equal and willing communication.

This is not to be confused with Natural Horsemanship as—although we share some common grounds—we are interested only in



horsemanship that recognises horses as an angelic gift to the universe, as precious and noble creatures that exist for their own sakes and not to serve human beings as robots or slaves.

We continue to explore concepts of the horse's usefulness and do not subscribe to the general thinking that if an animal has no use it is not worthy. This means that the Centre is currently home to 3 "useless" but extremely loveable creatures, Opal, Tom and Maverick—our "rescues", as well as 3 very "useful" horses that earn their keep with giving lessons and rides to our clients and guests.

### Economics

Economics dictates with animals and it shouldn't. Luckily for us, and with thanks to Tom's owner who continues to support him even though he is no "use" to her family, things are not so desperate that these delightful beings have to end up as dog food or feed for zoo animals—unlike the 700 unfortunate Dartmoor ponies that did this year.

We completely applaud the work of the animal rescue societies who labour on tirelessly against a sea of suffering. But it isn't just about hay or grazing; we'd really welcome volunteers to work with our rescue horses to walk them out or groom them or even just come and give them some TLC.

- Please call or email if you like to dedicate some time to this.