

SET THE PACE

A woman wearing a dark riding helmet and a dark jacket is riding a brown horse through shallow ocean waves. The horse is galloping, and there is a large splash of white water around its legs. The background is a blue ocean under a clear sky.

Issue 79

August 2018 - Holidays with Horses

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Front Cover:

Pippa Phillips making a splash with Kaeti

Photo: Sarah Paterson

Back Cover: *Ann Savage & Karen Earth – The End*

Photo: Karen Earth

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A Word from the Editor

Thank you for the kind remarks after the last issue and so many articles and ideas that keep on pouring in. If you keep sending me so many articles and ideas after the next issue I will move to a monthly publication schedule as producing such a huge magazine is a marathon, very enjoyable as its like gossiping with you all but too time consuming in one go. That is not a complaint!



Kittens “helping” me type the magazine

It’s been an amazing summer, such a long period of record hot weather which resulted in helpful articles and ideas on how to manage riding and keeping the horses healthy in the unaccustomed heat. We have been feeding haylage for several weeks in Dorset and now we are having to manage the slow reappearance of grass, avoiding sand colic by laying down some hard standing for feeding and moving the horses around as often as we can before they crop the grass too short. It’s been fantastic sharing the adventures and achievements of our Icelandic horses through this holiday period and I hope that you find this issue of Set the Pace interesting, informative and fun. A reminder that all blue links are clickable and that they should work fine on tablets and computers but a few are troublesome on the phone if you want to be interactive (the map for example). Where I know there are difficulties, I have identified them in the information around the link. Please let me know if you have any unexpected issues. In compiling this edition several injuries to horses and people came to light. We send get well wishes to those who have come a cropper, Monika, Elaine and Delia and Ro are the ones that have come to my attention. We wish all of you a speedy and full recovery.

Autumn Deadline – 25th October Mo Hall

Warm Welcomes

Our facebook chat group continues to grow apace with new people joining all the time.

Some are old friends from different areas who have found their way to the chat group. Some just like to read what we are up to, some are looking for horses and some have just found their new bff.

We welcome anyone who has an interest in Icelandic horses in the UK. (You don't have to live in the UK, just be interested in what we get up to over here!)

Some have already introduced themselves (the ones with blue links, do click on them and find out more about our new chat group members). If you are interested in who is joining the group, anyone can look at the members link on the facebook page on the top left hand side.

We invite everyone to add themselves to our [map](#) following the instructions on the next page or just use it to find out who is around you with an interest in Icelandic horses. If you get stuck or want me to do it for you message me with your postcode.

Since the last issue (my first), we welcome in order of joining, most recent first:

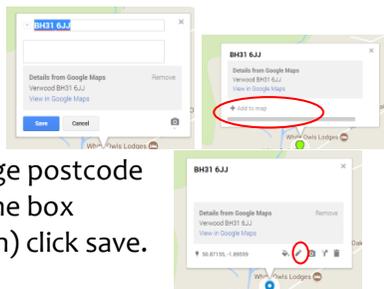
Katie Smith, Larissa Bohringer, Urszula Burton, Jane Crawford, Danielle Alexandra, Mialee Blair, Clár Caitlin Jackson, Lorraine Rowntree, Nicky Longden, Lesley Davies, Thea van der Winkel, Karen Whiteside, Gordon Henderson, Mette Koefoed, Louise Fresson, Meg Higham, Imogen Tallulah, [Ellie Kerridge](#), Nina Wietek, Jenny Everett, Vix White, [Flo Knoyle](#) (amazing photographs, really worth going to have a look at her website and seeing the post she kindly allowed me to reproduce in this magazine), Donna Doyle, Vanessa Till, Zoe Frances, Sigurður E. Levy, Louise Gould, Sarah Davison, Karen Sinclair, Keeley Towns, Kenny Sinclair, Jane Ogilvie, Isobel Wilson, Manda Corcoran, [Liz Sinclair](#), Andrea Liggins, Monika Huber, Alice Holvey, Natasha Leigh, [Susie Hamill](#), [Elen George](#), Susana Ricadonna, Catriona Riach, Lisa-Andrea Fischer, [Ellie Mc Millan](#), Dalsholt Siggí Og Sjöfn, Valerie Knott, [Pippa Phillips](#) (our cover girl this edition), Kathryn Chambers, [Richard Gledhill](#), Anneke Boonacker, [Cath Payne](#), [Charlotte Anderson](#), Chantal Fournier (Deputy President 2016 of the French Icelandic Horse Society), Manda Scott, Kelly Thomas.

New friend

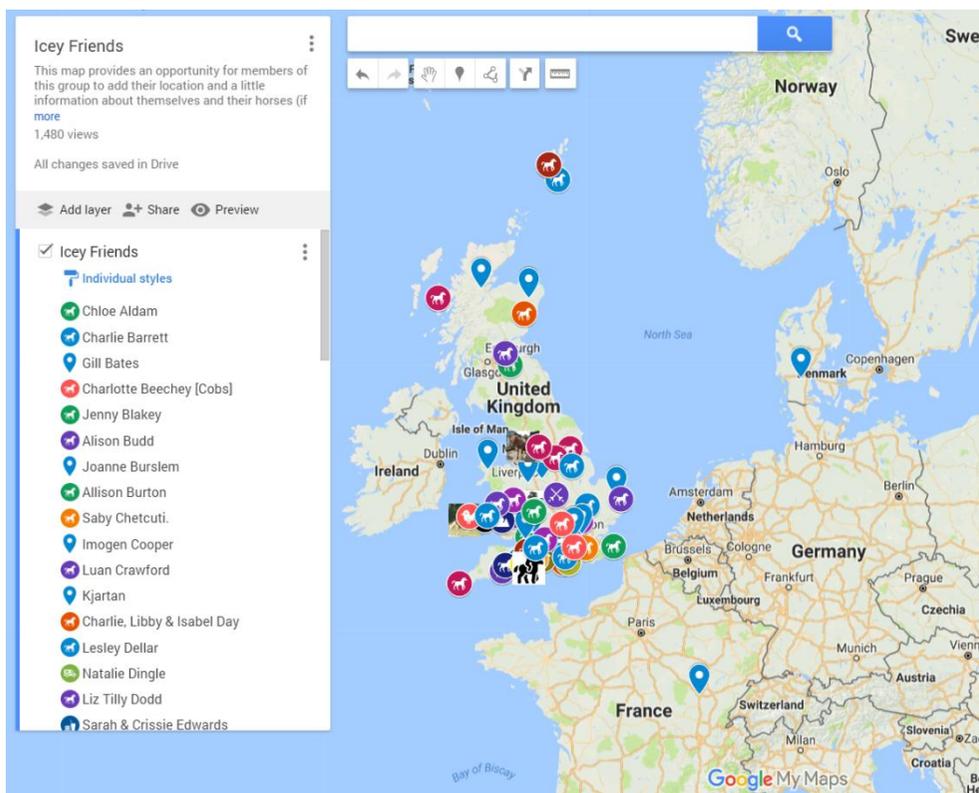


To **add yourself to the map:** (PC, Mac & ipad only, you can view and edit on a phone but not add yourself.)

- Click [here](#)
- Enter your postcode in the search bar
- Click add to map
- Click on the edit icon (pencil icon) change postcode to your name, add details you want in the box below (add photos with the camera icon) click save.



You don't need to do any more than that but if you want to change your icon from a teardrop to a horse or something more interesting you can do that by clicking the paint pot.



If you get stuck, just drop me a [PM](#) and I will help you out.

To open the map to add yourself or to explore click [here](#).

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ACHIEVEMENTS

We like to celebrate all the achievements people on the chat group share with us. Some are nationally and internationally significant; others only mean anything to the people involved. Regardless of their wider significance, it's great to share them and celebrate them within our Icelandic horse Community, most of them are related to our horse activities but a few are significant in other ways.

Brave Pants Cup

Helena has kindly allowed us to use her Brave Pants cartoon to make a Set the Pace Brave Pants Cup. Actually, it's a personalised mug, more practical, but cup sounds more trophy like.



We will award one for each issue to the person the editorial team thinks has stepped out of their comfort zone in the bravest way. (Editorial team are Mic, Lu & Mo)

You have to be in it to win it which means talking about your challenges on the chat group or your personal or group pages (the ones we belong to or are friends with).

We will be searching for “Brave Pants” in your posts as well as just taking an interest as we usually do.

For this edition the Brave Pants award goes to Lauren Doughton who borrowed a friend's van and entered her local country show completely on her own! Truly worthy of a Brave Pants award, well done Lauren.

We noticed Thalia Colyer, Ruth Colwill, and Sabrina Chetcuti all donning their brave pants at our beginners camp, as no doubt many others did too over the last couple of months. Well done to you all for braving your fears.

As you can see Esja was very chilled about the whole thing.



You can read Lauren's post [here](#) if you missed it first time around.

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Endurance Riding

I had expected Delia Marriott to be featuring in the endurance riding reporting in this issue but sadly her horse has had surgery on a tendon injury and is now going through a 6 month rehabilitation period now.

We wish her well and the horse a speedy recovery. She did tell me that Catriona Willoughby had achieved her SERC ([Scottish Endurance Riding Club](#)) Gold Pleasure Award which means that Catriona completed pleasure rides in 8 different branches + 1 Club Event or Championships pleasure class this year



I contacted Catriona and she will be writing an article for us for the next edition. In her [Facebook post](#) celebrating her achievement she said “Yesterday (22nd July) Lyfting and I finished our little tour of Scotland in pursuit of the SERC gold pleasure award: we completed our last required ride on the shores of Loch Ness. Thank you so much to all of my friends, ride buddies and travelling companions who helped us out along the way, we couldn't have done it without you. Especially [Kim Willoughby](#) and [Delia Marriott](#), both of whom drove Lyfting hundreds of miles around Scotland to some pretty remote rides!”

Gundula Sharman and six other riders also completed a long distance charity ride by the River Dee in Aberdeenshire to raise awareness for World Horse Welfare. The group took on 35km and finished at the Belwade Farm centre in Aboyne. Well done all!



Foreign Breeds Showing

Since the last edition of Set the Pace [Kathryn Wogan](#) with Reykur of Birdsmoorgate went on to the next stage of her Foreign Breeds showing for the Hope Best of the Best Supreme National Champion Pony Rider.



Kathryn sent enormous thanks to the patience of Wayne Hanlon and Angie Pidsley for sticking it out when massive classes led to a 3 hour wait! All 3 Judges loved Reykur but had never seen an Icelandic in UK foreign breed competitions before. Well done Kathryn. We haven't found any good photos of Kathryn yet, but the Sash is pretty impressive!

Angie sent in her own experience of the day:

I was delighted to groom for Kathryn and Reykur at the Hope Supreme Show on Sunday 19th August 2018. They qualified for the Hope Supreme Championship show at The United American Saddlebred Association Festival Show in May 2018, which was their very first attempt at showing, and wow what a result to qualify for such a prestigious show last Sunday.

We had a very relaxed start to the day as we didn't need to set off until 11am; we got a bit lost on the motorway thanks to the trusty Sat Nav, and so were a bit

flustered when we arrived. I nipped off to book Kathryn in and get her number whilst Reykur was unloaded and tacked up. Alas we'd not have been bothered about rushing as the class they had qualified for "Hope Best of the Best Supreme National Championship" wasn't going to be before 4.30pm, so Reykur warmed up and cooled down a number of times. Both horse and rider were very tired, hot and fed up by the time we eventually were asked to enter the ring at gone 7.30pm in the evening. They still did a fabulous performance, overtaking all the other big horses in the canter round! Reykur loved it! How they both had the energy I do not know. The class was very big, with ALL different kinds of ponies from lead rein, thoroughbreds, cobs, heavy hunters, coloured horses - and then there was Reykur - the only Icelandic, flying the flag for the Icelandic breed!

After they had all walked, trotted and cantered round all together, which could have been "very exciting" for a horse who's not used to that sort of thing, they all lined up and Reykur did his normal "park" standing motionless in line almost asleep (I think Kathryn had a little snooze whilst sitting there too). Then it was time for the individual shows for EVERYONE which took another hour. The judges spent ages inspecting and looking at Reykur, like they'd never seen an Icelandic before!

All lined up again, and Reykur back in his "park" mode, Kathryn looking to the doors to see if there's a quick escape as she's wanting to depart at this point. But there was no escape; they had to wait patiently whilst they decided the winners. There were a few sections where prizes were given, and we were delighted to hear Kathryn and Reykur's number called out to win the National Champion Pony Rider Association of GB award. WOW weren't we so happy we stayed because it was such a long long and hot day; we could have easily given up and gone home! Not only did they stop as giving a huge rosette, Kathryn was then awarded with a beautiful and large glass bowl (which they seemed to think she could carry round whilst riding, luckily Kathryn declined). Then they brought out this really swanky fringed sash for Reykur to wear! He looked absolutely spectacular and behaved impeccably the whole day.

They both drew a huge amount of attention from a lot of on-lookers and the judges that day, being the only Icelandic at the show. So we spread the word and spoke to lots of people promoting the breed and showing people the wonderful world of Icelandics that is sort of a bit "unknown" in the showing world. People with Icelandics please get out there and promote your Icelandics as much as you can.

Congratulations and so very well deserved Kathryn and Reykur. I was honoured to have been able to share the enjoyment on the day.

Martine Bye also had a go at showing and entered Equifest with both in hand and ridden classes.

Martine wrote “Harriet and I did an in hand class, both placed 5th and 4th respectively. My next in hand class was a first. I won money! I was shocked; a whole £30. We went into the final and received a lovely finalist rosette. After Lunch I did the ridden classes, I received a third and 2 firsts, I won the champagne class lol. My 2 firsts gave me the same prize money again on each class and a bottle of bubbly, this meant I now had to wait for the Foreign breeds ridden championship in the indoor main arena. We knew we wouldn’t take the championship but wow a very emotional time.”



Stressage - [Luan Crawford](#) & [Fi Pugh](#)

Since the last edition of STP I’ve been out playing a lot, alongside competing locally most weekends and doing [British Dressage Team Quest](#) with Merkur improving our scores all the time.

In July E-riders online dressage announced they were having a summer team competition, to enter I just needed to persuade 3 people to join me, so I decided an all Icelandic team would be great and I named it ‘dressage on ice’ even before I found my victims.

I thought I would ask a few fellow ‘more serious Old ToltOnline competitors’ to join me, I wanted to be in with our best chance of doing well, so I snuck up on Fiona Tyson and Kate Goldney, and before they had a chance to decline they accepted the challenge along with Georgie Preece and we had a full team.



Next was to decide who would do which tests, we had to have an entry in intro, prelim and novice, and the floater rider could enter any of the 3 tests, so Georgie Bjort, Fiona and Gola did the Intro, I did the prelim with Merkur and Kate and Funi tackled the novice.

We all spent July practicing and filming our tests, sharing comments via our Facebook messenger, and generally supporting each other, our entries were in on time, now to wait for the results.... 47 teams worldwide entered.

The top 3 percentages added together gave the overall score.

On results day all 4 of us had an agonising wait for results, each class was announced throughout the day as the results came in from the judges; Kate's results were last, I think she probably chewed her nails off in anticipation But at 7.30 pm the results were announced and (*drum roll please – M*)

Team Dressage on Ice came 6th - 6th out of 47! We were and still are over the moon, it was a huge achievement

Results were: Fiona 73.04%
Georgie 65%
Lu 71.15%
Kate 62.14% **Overall 209.19**



It was great fun. If anyone fancies a go check out [E-riders Haygrazer online](#), you can compete from home, no pressure, not expensive, fun classes, plenty of prizes and rosettes AND a bonus for 5 gaited Icelandic's, your horse is allowed to wear boots in your test a huge advantage for trot.

Next month Merkur and I are off on a real 'dressage clinic/camp' with a local dressage professional rider, I'll report back next STP! If you want to follow what Lu is up to in the meanwhile, she shares her dressage adventures on [Halfkey Icelandics](#).

Fi Pugh has also been joining Lu in some of her dressage adventures on an individual basis. Fi has a somewhat different approach to dressage than Lu. Her posts are a real giggle and worth a read;

[1st attempt – Radius does dressage, well sort of](#)

[2nd attempt – Better than doing the ironing – just \(ironing – what is that?\)](#)

A Trying Time

Charlie Day

I took Glowie to summer camp. I was very nervous - Glowie had been lame and had 9 weeks of box rest - I had been hacking her in walk trot and tölt for a few days but we had not done anything else since.

This was a big test - we initially went on a hack and survived alpacas - I went with Libby and Isabel who were an amazing support to me. We hacked every day and it just got better and better - stopping for ice cream at Moors Valley was a real highlight.

We had a lesson with Mic on the track and I tried Glowie in loose rein tölt which was fun and I just had to trust her.

The obstacles were amazing - thanks Mary - even if I reverted to type and forgot to click and reward her!

So 5 days of pony time was amazing, new friends and old friends and I will hold this in my heart for a long time - thank you all so much.

Hacking in company, a personal challenge -

Ruth Colwill

I bought my first Icelandic 10 years ago. It wasn't planned but I met Sölvi and fell in love! He can be cheeky, opinionated and stubborn but he makes me laugh, he is extremely loyal, sensible and as bombproof as they come. We love him for who he is and wouldn't change a thing about him - he is part of our family. He has looked after me many times on our rides and he has gotten me out of several scrapes. Despite all this, I still had a massive fear of riding in groups larger than one and I avoided it. This didn't usually bother me as I loved my hacks with Sölvi, just him and me out



on our own. We could do our own thing, sneak into the BBQ field in the local country park for a gallop when no one was around, we could do anything on our own and yet put another horse with me and on went the brakes. Anything faster than a walk and I would be hanging round his neck, leaning forward and holding onto him, not letting him go forward.

I used to watch the groups of people hacking out from the Oakfield shows and wish I could join them but off I would go on my own to explore the hacking round about. Most of the time I relied on Sölvi to help me find the way back again, but this was fine as it was just the two of us!

Riding on the track was also an issue for me as I was not the only one on there and had to deal with people overtaking me, fearing that I would not have any brakes. Sölvi would put up with the handbrake with me leaning up his neck.

One Icey is never enough so, last year we increased our mini herd and Álfur joined us in September. Álfur had just started his training and was very green. His training started and by November I was riding him, something I didn't think would be happening until at least the New Year. As my confidence and his increased and we got to know each other, I started taking him out on short hacks with Sölvi. The hacks increased in length and I would find myself and Álfur leading the rides, even suggesting some trots and trots during the hacks as well.

Álfur went to his first Oakfield Show in May 2018, and although I did not ride him in the classes, I took him out on a very short hack with Sölvi, staying in walk and behind Sölvi all the time.

The time had come for me to face this fear of riding in big groups, maybe this decision was 10 years too late but I had finally made it! Mum and I attended a Clicker Training Course in July.

During the clicker course, Nick, Faye, Mum and I went on a short hack. I WAS RIDING ÁLFUR and was with THREE other horses. This was Álfur's first proper hack away from home and as we left Oakfield, I was adamant I only wanted to stay in walk!

This was a hack of firsts for me – Álfur led about half the hack, trotted away from the group on his own and I even found a few steps of trot – all without me over thinking any of it!



Nick suggested that it would be good to follow this progress up so we took the boys down and had our first pub ride from Oakfield as Faye and David who was a very new rider were going to be there one weekend and we could join the three of them.

It was all arranged. Brave pants on (and air jacket attached) - I of course made sure several times before the ride started that it was going to be just walk, even using Mum as an excuse to make sure we stayed in walk. Álfur didn't put a hoof wrong. He met fast moving traffic for the first time and had to trot across a road but nothing fazed him at all. We had an amazing ride, stopped for lunch then rode back. It was only when I arrived back that I realised there had been no nerves at all. I had just ridden in a group of five, not kept behind Sölvi and faced many new things, all on a young horse that had not seen most of this before and certainly not been to the pub before!

The next challenge was Summer Camp at Oakfield. Here I got to ride on the oval track, go out for hacks, do some obstacles and compete in Álfur's and my first show as a team. In the tölt class we were not on our own on the track, on the hacks there were 6 horses all together and the obstacles were all brand new to Álfur. I was so proud of him, he did everything he was asked and thoroughly enjoyed himself, and I even got my first pace on the oval track! On the Sunday evening we all went out on a hack. I rode Sölvi and Mary rode Álfur. We had a lovely hack and it was lovely to ride Sölvi again. We all chatted as we rode and this time we trotted / tolting as well. It was only when we were nearly back and I was chatting to Charlie that I realised that there were TEN horses on this ride. We had survived!



On the Monday four of us went out and again I really enjoyed the experience. By the time we returned, I can honestly say that I had conquered my fear of riding in larger groups. I still need a little bit of work with cantering in larger groups but I had ridden in a group of ten AND ridden my baby horse to the pub and back.

I love riding out with Icey owners. They are wonderful. We have stuck to the slowest persons speed and they are all willing to help each other to ensure that everyone enjoys their Icelandic Horse. A HUGE thank you to Nick for his encouragement and belief in my ability which has certainly boosted my confidence. I can't wait for the September show now 😊

Team GB – Summer Competitions

[Youth Cup –Sweden](#) Robyn Philpott went to the youth cup as a team leader and Crissie Edwards was the TeamGB youth representative. They both did really well and had a great time. They both sent back daily reports which are on the link above and they have both given us a reflection of their time in the Young Riders article.

[MEM - Austria](#) Sandy Carson and Charlotte Cook represented Great Britain in the Middle European Championships and did well, congratulations to them both. The IHSGB put together a lovely video of their achievements on the link.

[Oirschot – Holland](#) Mike & Jemimah Adams represented Team GB in the Dutch National championships and did well, congratulations to them both as well, Mike is featured on the IHSGB video in his Speed Pace final.

Young Riders – Summer Update

Since the last edition Crissie & Robyn have been to the FEIF youth cup in Sweden.

Isabel, Libby, Scarlett & Lily joined us for our beginners camp at Oakfield we have a few words from these young people about their summer adventures.

Georgie Preece joined Luan Crawford in live and online dressage (see Stressage)

Rachel Mackinnon has been having a quiet summer at home helping out with the horses, and madly busy at work. She has been having dressage lessons and done a couple of dressage competitions too. Rachel said when I caught up with her for the Set the Pace roundup; “I’m getting roughly 65% at intro and prelim level so I’m pretty happy! Even managing to beat some non gaited horses which is the best feeling 😊. “

Things are beginning to pick up now after the BC’s earlier in the year and she has just sent in her first video for ToltOnline and is looking forward to hearing

back. She and I failed to catch up to record a podcast as part of my summer activities! Once the darker evenings come, I will be editing the ones I did record and adding them to the blog then I will be catching up with Rachel, sorry Rachel!

Pippa Phillips has been having fun at the seaside (see cover) and is carrying on with her own training for more horsey adventures later on in the year. Currently she practices tackless twice a week and can change from tölt to trot with no tack as well. Over the whole summer she has only used a saddle with Kaeti once and that was to see how the fit was. She does bareback for everything, including hacks.

Malte Cook, although living in Denmark is still associated with us through Charlotte and she has been sharing some of his achievements with us on her facebook page. The latest was [Malte riding Logi fra Bakkeholm for the first time.](#)

We have a couple of new young riders joining us in the next few weeks.

Rider Profile: Svenja Rumpf - Age: 20

About me: I was born in London, but grew up in Germany and the US, and now back in London to study Neuroscience at King's College London.



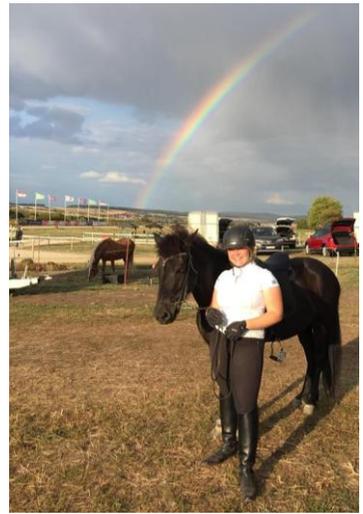
I've been riding since I was 4 years old, and Icelandics from the age of 8. When I was 9 I got my first Icelandic, and I've been competing ever since then, mainly in Germany.

Naturally I miss the Icelandic horse scene, and I have decided to move both my current competition horses to the UK after this season, as I plan on staying here after I finish at university. I'm excited to join the community in the UK and meet new people who love Iceys as much as I do!

Horses: Björk fra Hofi I, 14 year old five-gaited mare, and Ósk vom Birkenhof, 7 year old "currently" four-gaited mare. Both currently based in Düsseldorf, Germany, where I train with Laura Steffens.

Achievements: Multiple placings at state championships in Germany and regular competitor at the national championships in Germany

. Goals: Compete internationally, get more routine / confidence in the pace track events.



We have been chatting online and Svenja enjoys hacking out with all her horses but is undecided whether to bring her trailer to the UK. She is renting an apartment in SE11 so if you have space in your trailer you would be willing to share with her please [do get in touch with her via facebook](#)



[Amy O'Connor](#), the best British Junior Horseback archer is joining Peter Rudin-Burgess on Fonix riding T8 and novice 4 gait for the Oakfield Autumn Show. Amy is a very mature 17 year old and she will help with the archery workshop as well. I wonder if she will fall in love with Icelandic horses as so many do.

Lily Payne's cousin **Millie** is having Ann Savage's Dimma on loan after the summer and we are looking forward to welcoming her to our young riders too. (In case you don't know who Lily Payne is, watch [this](#))

We are still hoping to organise a youth event for those that can get to the South of England with Robyn Philpott & Crissie Edwards and Shona Stewart is going to organise a more Northerly/Scottish one if people are interested. We will let you know details when we know more.

If you are under 27 (or a parent or sponsor) and are interested in telling us about your adventures with your Icelandic horse, whatever it is and wherever you are, please do [get in touch](#).

Cristina Edwards

Crissie spent the first two weeks of the summer in Sweden. Firstly with Ase Ericson and then at Axevalla where the FEIF youth cup was held in the world famous trotting arena. It was an amazing experience for Crissie who chose Ljosi from the horses Ase offered her.

As Crissie said in her blog.... He's very sweet, laid back with nice gaits. There was some discussion between the support group about whether he was the best choice for Crissie but in the end she chose him and said I'm going to go for Ljosi because the trot is easier to find but still has great tölt and once you get the go in him he's good!!



A very mature approach and a good outcome. Despite not expecting rosettes on a borrowed horse that she had only ridden a handful of times Crissie came 6th in the flag race and came home with a rosette to treasure.

She said "FEIF Youth Cup in Sweden was a blast! Thank you so so much to everyone who sponsored and donated to help us get there!

I really am grateful! It's such a great opportunity to learn loads of new things meet lovely new friends and see more of the world! I'm grateful for the friends I've made who I speak to most days and the American friends I've made have very kindly invited me to the American Youth Cup next year to be held in Vermont so hopefully we can get there! Thank you to everyone who helped and wished us luck! I will remember this forever." Robyn & Crissie's blog is [here](#).





Robyn Philpott

Robyn went to the FEIF youth cup as a team leader as she is now too old to be a youth representative (how did that happen Robyn?). It was a really stretching experience for her. As well as sharing a room with a sleep talking, snoring roommate, the heat was in the 30's day and night and Robyn walked about 20,000 steps each day supporting her team and seeing they had everything they needed, she said she had never drunk so much water in her life.

Robyn's team did very well. On finals day she wrote "I've been an emotional wreck. My girls got a 3rd in T6, 1st and 5th in T3 and then 2nd in the V5 🤯 They've been an incredible team 😊"

Robyn's reflection on her time as a team leader:

"Firstly I'd like to thank everyone who sponsored and wished Crissie and I luck on our adventure. Now that I've had a few weeks to settle in back home and reflect, I'd definitely like to go to future Youth Cup/s to be a team leader again, if the opportunity arose. It was an incredible week, catching up with people who I met at YC's in the past and making new friends who I will hopefully stay in contact with and see again."

You did us proud girls.



Isabel Day – The search for tölt

When I went to the camp I was looking to find Orvar's tölt. Before then we had only been able to get a fast walk. I asked Mic to help me find his tölt and she was more than willing to help. At first she asked me to show her what I thought was tölt was (which was actually fast walk). Mic then got on Orvar and gave him all the aids to tölt which he understood straight away and tolted.



Mic told me he was just being lazy which was understandable as he is 25. She showed me the aids I needed and I did it and he did exactly what he was told. He was a brilliant little horse. Because of this me and Orvar somehow managed to win beginners 4 gait at our first competition and I was chuffed at this result. However me and Orvar still have a long way to go but it was a great start to our journey and I can't wait for our future together.

Libby Day – A three horse camp

Libby was one of the people who borrowed our horses for the beginners camp. It could have been a disadvantage but Libby certainly made the best of the experience. She writes;

When I first got to camp I was unsure of what my experience was going to be like or who I was going to ride. The first horse I rode was Brynja she's such a sweet mare. We went on a hack late in the evening on a hack me and Isabel knew very well. We had fun.

The next pony I rode was Svalur he's such a good lad but very different to Brynja. He's very slow and relaxed but really knows how to teach you to become a good rider and challenge you in the right way. I rode Svalur for the rest of the week end. We did a lot of things like obstacle course and oval track. This helped me and him grow a bond as we spent a lot of time together



The last pony I rode was Aspar. Thanks to Thalia I got to ride him twice. He was really well behaved. When we went on our hack I was a little be anxious as I had only ridden once before on the oval track and I wasn't sure how'd he behave on a hack but he protected me and looked after me the whole way there and back. I'm so lucky to have a chance to ride 3 very different horses and had the best experience at camp.

Scarlett age 14 wrote

I think Summer Camp has given me chances to try new things that I haven't tried before, the obstacle course and practice on the track. Also the staff were very friendly and helpful and the instructors taught me things I didn't know before.



Lily age 14 wrote

I think the Oakfield Summer Camp was a good chance to try new things and make new friends. I also liked how polite the staff were and how everyone got along. The instructors told me a lot of new things and were helpful.



We loved having you, we are glad you enjoyed it.

Personal Bests



Iris Ashman:

[Swam the English Channel](#)

8th July 2018



Alison Beck:

[Competed in and won her first Triathlon`](#)

20th July 2018

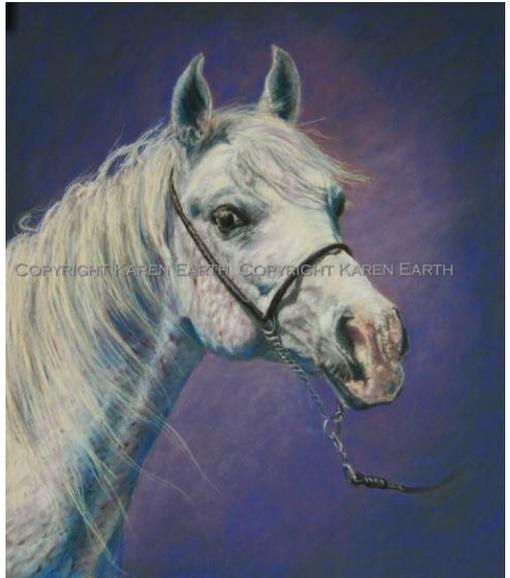
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Gray art – [Karen Earth](#)

The second in our series of artists of the Icelandic Horse. Karen & Ann Savage have been friends for over 20 years and worked together but it was only in 2014 that they had time to meet up outside of the work environment. Their time off is often spent together with their own “Gray Brigade” – the horses I mean of course. 😊



For some reason I have a magnetic attraction to gray horses, for me it started with Dai the dapple-gray cob. He was my favourite mount at a local riding establishment where, in my mid twenties I first learned to ride. I had chosen this yard because of its reputation for hacking on fields and tracks and, after a few lessons in the indoor school; I was allowed to go out on the group hacks led by the yard owner. I soon found out that these hacks were really just about trying to stay on Dai whilst attempting not to lose sight of the owner who was actually just exercising his point-to-point horse. I learned not to open my mouth whilst cantering behind another horse and how to duck low branches at full gallop and it was the best feeling in the world. I also learned that Dai was programmed to detour into every pub car park en route because he loved beer slops and could drink a rugby player under the table. He was definitely less sure-footed on the way home than on the way out.



Next there was Spook. I was looking for a nice sensible sort as a first horse but ended up with Spook who was an adorable grey Arab. I soon found out that he enjoyed a tin of cola. We had just finished in the ring at a show when he stole a tin from the lady standing next to him by wrapping his teeth around the top of the can, throwing his head in the air and necking the lot.

Then came Sid, the grey Spanish colt. I first showed him as a two-year-old when I took him to the BAOSH championships. He must have enjoyed himself immensely because he didn't want to go home. It was hard not to laugh, seeing him calmly sitting there on the trailer ramp, refusing to go in. Everyone was really friendly and lots of people came to help. As I tried to pull and coax Sid onto his feet I glanced into the front of the trailer and got a bit of a shock. The man standing there shaking the bucket of feed and yelling "Come on Sid" was Noel Edmunds. To everyone's relief Sid did eventually get off his backside and into the trainer and as Sid screamed his farewells, we majestically departed to a celebrity wave off.

It was my friend Anne who introduced me to my first Icelandic horse. His name was Audur and he was standing in a sunny paddock wearing an impressive dapple-grey suit as the wind gently tousled his substantial mane. Beneath a fluffy mound of salt and pepper forelock peeked a friendly white face with large dark eyes wearing cheeky expression. It sounds a bit like a fairy tale but that day he stole a little piece of my heart. Since then I have spent time at events taking photos and getting a feel for Icelandic proportions, gaits and competition requirements as well as some time in the saddle. From an



equine artist point of view Icelandic horses are fabulous subjects to paint. As a breed the flowing locks and kind eyes make them rather photogenic and when in motion their exuberance and high knee action help capture movement and drama. Their proportions and gaits make them instantly recognisable, even in silhouette, so in many ways they are beautiful subjects to capture.

More of Karen's beautiful work at: http://farm6_v1.clik.com/kareneath/

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HOLIDAY ADVENTURES

A Holiday of Firsts



Martine Bye

How did it all begin? During springtime this year, I had a number of conversations with Lesley Dellar, we agreed to get together more over the summer. The weather and work

commitments delayed our plans, but determination was to prevail.

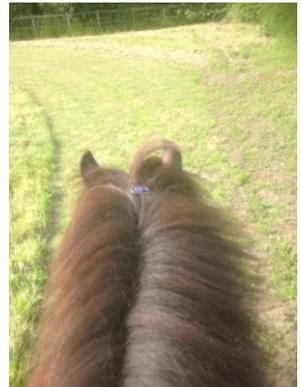


We (Harriet and I) decided to have a few friends to stay to see if this was going to be a future option.

Our basic facilities of a Grass track and a sand manège may not be adequate for future holidays. We have a summer house that would suffice for a club house. I just needed an extension lead for the kettle as we have not connected the power to it yet. The outside toilet is attached to the house, a little way from the paddock but it's a 'proper' flushing toilet.

We have enough parking and space for horses with water available, so the basic needs were covered.

Thalia Colyer had said at The Oakfield Spring Show that she needed to venture further with her horse. This was a perfect opportunity to invite Thalia up to the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk border.



We developed a plan, as Equifest was happening in Peterborough (a five day horse show); this seemed to be a perfect time to work around. Thursday was to be shopping at Equifest, watching some of the horse show and to locate the ring allocated to Sunday's classes for those of us preparing to participate. Friday and Saturday was allocated to a very relaxed approach of filming each other or supporting each other with 'Tolt online' etc. Sunday was the 'showing day'.

This was a 'first' for us having people for a horsey sleepover. We all experienced a number of 'firsts'.

- It was an epic first for Thalia with her maiden long distance voyage. Another first, was attending and watching showing classes a whole new experience.



- For Lesley and Sid, this was Sid's first at seeing/smelling pigs. He found them worthy of being scary enough to tremble.



- Ann's firsts were with my 'all women mare' Lois (Ann's words not mine) and the young Maistjarna.
- Harriet's firsts were equally as equestrian based but her experience of being place fifth in a class is not an experience she has been used to having. As Maistjarna grows in confidence things will improve.



- A first for all of us was Dinner together at The Crown Lodge Hotel. A great evening enjoyed by all and hopefully to be repeated.

Next Time? The things I would do differently another time include; removing all the ragwort before everyone arrived and have a perfectly weeded school.

I think setting out an optional 'Trec' type course in advance would be helpful.

Make sure we have power to the summer house. This was only a few friends playing horses so not particularly structured but could easily be adapted to accommodate others with higher expectations.

I think being better prepared for the wet weather is essential and if all else fails provide Pimms.

It is a shame that the weather changed, Thursday was torrential rain, our shopping trip involved purchasing raincoats as the forecast was slightly lacking with information. The stands at the show were trying to keep their stock dry and everyone was trying to stay out of the rain.

As Ann and Lesley do not live far from me, they decided to stay over Friday night. The weather continued to give us precipitation. We felt our only option on Friday was to sit in the summer house and drink coffee. We discussed our IHSGB membership, what do we gain as a member and what we would perhaps like to see develop. This gave us an opportunity to talk and share our experiences and 'hang ups'. The rain continued through lunch into the afternoon-Pimms o'clock. By late afternoon the rain receded, giving us just enough time for a quick ride as we had a table booked for dinner in our local hotel. Dave kindly drove over to join us for dinner. A lovely evening was had by all.



After planning and arranging this little experimental gathering I remembered I had a wedding on the Saturday-oops. The morning was time to play before I disappeared and left everyone in Harriet's capable hands. Ann and Lesley departed during the afternoon.

Sunday morning was our Equifest showing day. Maistjarna and Lois were both competing in an in-hand class together. Lois and I were in a few ridden classes.

Lois and I managed; three firsts, a third, fourth place and a bottle of bubbly for winning the Champagne class. Maistjarna was given fifth place, I think this is because she did not trot in-hand but showed tölt.



After an exhausting day at Equifest, Sunday evening's task required the bare minimum to be done. Monday morning after a good night's rest we said good bye to Thalia for her epic return journey home.

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Half a holiday with my horse Jackie Alexander

I seem to recall that my first ‘horsey holiday’ was when I was about ten and went away with the local riding school to ‘camp’ in a village hall. (Latterly I decided that this was ‘pony club camp’ for poor kids without their own ponies!) Unfortunately my parents were summoned on the last day of the adventure as I had been thrown off into a hedge, having been riding bareback down a main road with no hat on and carrying a bucket of feed! I think the riding school might have had some health and safety questions to answer these days, but as I tended to ride bareback for years (I don’t think we could afford a saddle when I eventually acquired my first pony) it obviously didn’t put me off!

Nowadays there seem to be ‘camps’ for virtually every equestrian discipline and you don’t have to be a child to attend one. You are also unlikely to sleep in a tent although I realise that lots of stalwart Icey owners seem to prefer this.

Recently I was invited to attend a horse agility camp. Unfortunately, when I came off Edie in February 2018, as well as breaking my nose and damaging my pride, I managed to tear the rotator cuff in my right shoulder (I’m right handed) so Snulla has had to get used to my working her from the left.

I really wanted to take Snulla to the camp, especially as we only live an hour from the venue so I knew we could bring her home, so that she wouldn’t have to overnight in a stable. One of the ‘camp’ days was ‘wild agility’ – using cross country obstacles – I decided that probably wasn’t wise when I could only use one arm, plus which I find it difficult to scramble up banks etc these days!



Snulla and Jackie deciding that “Wild agility” using cross country obstacles was not for them.

We ended up doing one day, not the ‘wild’ one... It seemed to be very popular, with nearly 20 horses and riders. I did talk to a few of them but they were already an established group, so it wasn’t so easy to mix in.

Snulla was the smallest horse there and in the riding obstacle course (a bit like a Trec obstacle event) I was the only person long-reining, apart from one other woman who seemed to lunge her young horse over and round a few obstacles.

Snulla quickly adapted to standing in a stable when not working and to being with lots of horses who were much bigger than she is; I found it a bit more difficult. It was extremely hot in July outdoors and I was considerably older than most of the others.

The morning was spent in two different arenas (both new to us) featuring different obstacles, some easy for Snulla as she'd met similar ones before e.g. walking through a curtain, winding in and out of cones, which were very close together and taking no notice as an umbrella is put up and down.



More difficult for us were obstacles like trotting over a jump (Snulla is a natural 5 gaited tölter and I don't run very fast) pushing a ball or toy with your head (the horse's, not the handler's) and standing while the rider mounts and dismounts (fortunately Snulla stands very still so long as I only lean over her and don't actually get on board.)

The morning was spent practising with the help of the trainer and a 'visiting' judge. We had a very pleasant lunch and Snulla enjoyed a haynet in her stable. In the afternoon we had two different competitions; an 'open' class and as Snulla already has several horse agility points, we had to compete over the same obstacles as everyone else but at a higher level. The second competition was 'pick' n' mix'. We'd not tried one of these before. There are 10 obstacles but at each one there is a choice of 3 ways to tackle it. You tell the judge which way you've chosen. I decided to go for some 'safe' ones, which I thought Snulla would be able to do and a couple of 'risky' ones which she'd not done before. One of these was to carry a large 'gym ball' on her back for several steps and another (which is actually a Western riding competition feature I think) was to 'side pass' or leg yield along a pole on the ground. I was very pleased with Snulla's approach to the obstacles in this class (I avoided 'jumping' or 'getting on from the wrong side!') and so we did well in this.

We had to rush off before the results were announced as our lift was driving through the rush hour traffic, so I missed the results and the handing out of rosettes plus the evening quiz, which I gather was a lot of fun. I later heard that Snulla had done well in the competitions, even managing to win the 'pick n' mix'. I was particularly pleased with how calm she was in a strange environment (I certainly wasn't that calm!) and pleased, too, that we'd at least managed half a 'holiday with my horse.'

Jackie Alexander

More Holiday Firsts....

Sabrina Chetcuti

Horse; solo box drive; camp; obstacle course; track training; competition and of course, horse fancy dress. Not sure if the Guinness book of records has a category of first time experiences in a weekend, but I was beginning to feel that I should apply.

To say that I arrived at Mo and Nick's summer camp a little high on nervous excitement and anticipation, was an understatement. Thankfully, Eldur was more relaxed than me. The nerves did not last long, purely because the warm welcome and support I received from the strangers I came to spend the weekend with, was outstanding. Especially since the first thing I did after making camp was to go for a relaxing cooling swim..... which I was totally unprepared for as Mo had to find me a costume to wear.



The weekend was amazing, every form of expertise was on offer including some pretty nifty scheduling of the events and marshalling by the volunteer shepherds (or was it sheep dogs?) who kept us on our tasks. Eldur and I had a steep learning curve to keep up but we loved every minute of it. It was delightful to see how excited he was every time we made our way across from his paddock.

The biggest take away from the event was the training from the track. I don't think he had spent much time on one (if ever) and it certainly was the first time for me. It was great idea to go through the mechanics of the different classes, competition and etiquette before venturing on the track itself. The training and instruction provided by Mic and Nick was a great confidence boost and preparation for the competition itself. I had arrived hoping that I would discover the key to unlocking Eldur's hidden ability to Tölt. He seemed to have had it well hidden for 5 years preferring trot – I couldn't find much sign of it in the year that he was with me and his last owner never found it. Much to everyone's surprise it appeared in the track competition. It needed someone to overtake us in tölt for Eldur to remember that he could do it – that job was thankfully fulfilled by Libby Day and Svalur. I was amazed that we completed a full round with more tölt than trot and scored 3 points more than I was expecting. This might not seem much to many people but to me it was a fantastic result. It was certainly a first holiday to remember.

Sabrina Chetcuti and Eldur



Holidays with Horsey People

Mo Hall

My turn. Not much of a horsey holiday you may think. You could have been right but it was a blast. This year has run away with us in the most unexpected and ultimately most delightful way. The highs have been... well high, having my daughters both move to the village, Mary coming to be our trainer, Nick retiring and lots more courses, riding weekends and events. Oh and wool. In every variety. There are lots more small triumphs and podcasts and Set the Pace are new but looking very exciting, along with other developments in the pipeline. It's been MAD. The preparation for the camp was mad and we really had very little idea what we were doing. Fi gave us an outline and thankfully Mic, Nick, Mary, Jan and our Shepherds, Angie, Paul & Alison were all professionals and knew their jobs, so, once it was all organised, it truly was a holiday for me. Just as well as I had damaged my Achilles a couple of weeks before and being on my feet was very painful.

I had a lovely few days sitting around watching everyone else and chatting to those who were not involved in anything. The afternoons were delightfully relaxed as we changed the programme around to morning and evening sessions because of the heat. Some catnapped, some swam, and some of us just sat around and chatted. Everyone loved the kittens. We achieved our objectives I think and the articles our campers have sent in have demonstrated just how well it all worked, thankfully. Being a beginners camp, none except the under 18s can ever come again except as helpers. I have no idea if there will ever be a need for another one due to the large number of new Icelandic horse owners and riders arriving at once, but I loved it and look – no horse pictures.



The teenagers!



Fancy Dress Winners – Thirst Aid



Bridget! Not that sort of catnap

Holidays in Pembrokeshire (2003 - 2018)

Mic Rushen & Celia Carlyon-Smith

Over the years we've had lots of Icelandic horse friends visit us for a little seaside or mountain break here in Solva, either with or without their horses., Here's a selection from over the years. Places are the Presceli Hills; St Davids Airfield; Solva, Newgale, Druidstone and Whitesands beaches; St Davids Head; St Davids Cathedral; and of course Tresais Farm. People include Maria and I; Fiona & Graeme Tyson; Ann & Les Cunliffe; Jane & Richard Stone; Celia Carlyon-Smith; Tom Giles; Margaret Fearne; Linnie Frith; Margit Kuhlmann; Helena Levitt; Shannon Ward; Jan Payne; Crissie Edwards; Sarah Jenkins; Peter Richards; Daisy Richards; Claire & John Simpson; and Svenja. Great memories of some lovely rides, and fantastic people and horses, some of whom are very sadly no longer with us.













Nordic Championships - Sweden Harriet Vincent

A number of our chat group chose to have their holiday with horses at the Nordic Championships this year. Jackie Alexander, Rona Frame & Harriet Vincent were among those who went to spectate and Fi Pugh was assisting the judges. Harriet's response "Nordic champs 2018 in Sweden. Fabulous horses, riders and atmosphere." Harriet's lovely photographs are [here](#) and a great video [here](#). Certainly one to consider next year.

Setting my own pace

Shona Stewart

I am writing this while eating a re-heated meal , another missed family meal and a sigh from the long suffering chef like man, juggling work, home, horses and all the other commitments you gather, in the midst of all the clutter.

Instead of enjoying my Icelandic time there is always this nagging feeling I should be doing more; I am not quite good enough; I should arrange more clinics, attend more social rides, tölt better, tölt higher, tölt faster...

Until the wheel came off - I missed the BCs this summer, something I had planned long for with a regime of training, a new pair of riding trousers bought and a room booked with fellow riders and friends.

My jeep failed its MOT and my trailer had a puncture all in the days before I was due to leave, someone was telling me something.

I was resigned to it and declined the kind offers of a lift and decided that perhaps it was time to come off the carousel, admittedly of my own making.

How many of us feel at some point that unless we are competing, our horse tolt like the stars we see in A class and we are sporting the newest saddle technology that somehow you have been left behind?

Of course I realise that a great many Icelandics are out there doing amazing things in Endurance, TREC, Dressage and Cross Country (Pippa) as well as Oval Track competition and I have loved following everyone's progress thanks to Facebook.

What this summer has taught me, disappointing though it was, in taking my foot off the pedal I enjoyed time being around the horses for the sake of just spending time with them.

I had lost what it was to have them as a companion, another being sharing my space and asking for nothing. Spending the sunsets soaking up the last of the day, taking in the scenery and the smells of an approaching autumn.

This over the past few weeks has become a ritual, a release from the pressures of work and self inflicted targets and goals and I am glad I have gotten to know my horses again and we are partners and having fun. It's a medicine and it's good to be reminded of it from time to time.

Shona



Iceland July 2018

Two and a half years ago I ventured into the world of owning my own Icelandic horse, Siður fra Kopavogi!

I was introduced to Icelandic horses by my now friend, Nev Baker. She needed someone to ride a new addition to her herd, Glæðir frá Flugamyri, who was owned by Alison Webb. It opened up a new world to me! I was never a confident rider but G helped me considerably. So much so that I decided I needed my own to add to my existing herd of 2 cobs, one that was retired and the other that was only 2 years old! I had nothing of my own to ride!



Lesley Dellar

I did a completely crazy thing (encouraged by Nev) and decided to take a trip to Iceland with Nev to look at a horse that I had seen advertised on Facebook! He looked such a quiet, calm horse, just what I needed. This was the beginning of a lovely friendship with horse breeder and trainer, Hilmar Sigurdsson, and his family.

To cut a long story short, I met and rode Siður, and within a week he had been imported to me in the UK.

Since then I have kept in touch with Hilmar, sending photos of how Siður and I were getting on etc etc. We met up in Holland last year at the World Championships where his son, Mani, was competing. It was at this time that Hilmar said that I must visit him and his family in Iceland, ride his horses, ride to the mountains and stay in a cabin. You know what it's like....people invite you, but you don't believe they mean it, they're just being polite.....

In July this year, I boarded a plane from Stansted to Keflavik, on my own. Yes, another crazy thing!! I was going to visit them for a week!!

I was a bit nervous as Hilmar is so laid back, he said he would meet me at the airport, but would he be there? Would he forget? No, of course not! He was there waiting for me, and so began the most exciting experience of my life!

I was welcomed into their home and treated like one of the family. Two of his sons, Mani & Huni, were away competing at Landsmot, but we were able to watch them on TV to see how they were getting on. He also had some youngsters staying with him for a few months, a girl from Denmark and one from Germany, helping train his horses, as well as a guy from Denmark who was helping round the stables with general work. They all spoke perfect English and were very welcoming.



The first day was spent going to the stables and seeing how Hilmar worked with his horses. To start with the training, the youngsters are stabled at night and let out to graze during the day. This is so they get used to being handled as, up to this point, they have been roaming the land in large herds, so this is the first real point of handling. It's really exciting to see the horses just herded out of the stables & guided to the pasture, no head collars, just all together, following each other to where they are to graze. I suppose with the number of horses he has, this is the most practical way of getting them by A to B!!

Later on that day, we went back to the stables and reversed the process. The horses were guided back to the stables. This was when Hilmar and the girls tacked up a few horses and told me were going to go for a ride! I was given a lovely 8 year old, black and white horse called Bastian to ride. I immediately felt



comfortable on him. The only problem was that I can't mount from the ground so, much to the amusement of Hilmar, I climbed on him from the fence!

So, off we went! Hilmar had two other horses attached to him so he could train and exercise them at the same time. It was lovely to see his horsemanship! The other thing that was a surprise to me was that it wasn't just a slow hack to the mountain and back, we tolted and cantered the whole way there and back! Those horses are fit! It has made me realise that I need to exercise Siður more!! This is what he was used to before he came to the UK! It brought back memories as this was the route that we took when I tried out Sid, but it was February then with snow on the ground! It was wonderful to be riding through the Icelandic countryside!



When we got back to the stables, Hilmar started doing some training with a few of the youngsters. I don't think they had been handled much so he did a bit of lunging and then a bit of de sensitisation, by rubbing them all over and getting them used to human contact.

It was a wonderful first day!

When I got up the next morning, Hilmar told me to pack some clothes as we were going to ride to the mountains later that day and stay overnight in a cabin. This is something that he had previously promised me we would do and, as you can imagine, I was so excited! I spent the morning with Pora, his wife, making sandwiches ready for our trip.

After lunch we went back to the stables & got the horses ready. I was riding the same horse, Bastian. There were quite a few of us going, Me, Hilmar, his son, Helgi, his daughter, Sjöfn, Sarah, Leanna & Alexander. Pora was going to drive to a halfway point with the picnic and meet us there.

We started off the journey by doing the tradition of having a beer before we set off!! I have no idea how many horses we took with us! All of the others were doing ride and lead with at least 2 additional horses. Fortunately they didn't attach any horses to me!! Also, it was very sweet of them as they found some small steps for me to mount Bastian with!



We eventually set off. What an amazing experience! Again, we tolled and cantered the whole way, through mountains, by rivers, through rivers! We had a couple of stops to rest the horses and us, and eventually met up with Pora for the picnic. The horses were corralled while we ate. Then the final part of the journey, the young horses were herded along, we had to keep up the speed so we didn't lose them! There was a point where Sjöfn told me to keep going fast as if we slowed down we could lose the horses, & we would lose them forever!! Such a responsibility as I was at the front at this point leading the herd!!!

I was absolutely buzzing when we reached the cabin. We must have ridden for about 5 or 6 hours. I can't really remember but I loved every second of it! I've never ridden for such a long period of time at such a speed! Makes my Pleasure Rides a walk in the park!! Hilmar was a bit worried that it was too much for me & offered to let me stop half way and go in the car! No way!!! I was not going to miss this for anything!



After a night in the cabin, we got up early and made our way back. It was the same route and I just loved riding through the river! Fortunately I didn't fall off as I think it would have been a bit chilly!!! The horses were all loose again on the way back, so again it was fast! I spent time at the front leading and also at the back, rounding up any stray horses. That night, I went to bed tired but very, very happy!



The following day, we didn't ride as there was supposed to be a storm, but went to another horse farm where Hilmar has a few horses. We were going to collect 3 youngsters to bring back and start their training. The farmer there rides every day & he is 70! He rode off on his horse and herded all the horses back to the stables so they could isolate Hilmar's horses and load them onto his trailer. They are offspring of Prestur who is now owned by Ann Savage. Such beautiful horses!



My final day came too quickly! Hilmar and Pora decided to spend the day showing me the local area. They took me to a goat farm where the owner is breeding a rare Icelandic goat that was close to extinction. Again, I was welcomed into their home and given coffee, before having cuddles with the goats!

After this we went to see beautiful waterfalls and hot springs, so typical of Iceland. It's amazing that homes are heated by geothermal water. The homes are so warm!

Hilmar is very interested in the Icelandics in the UK, especially as he now has 2 of his horses over here, Siður & Prestur. As a gift I took him a copy of the book that Mo created, Memories, so he could see how loved they are! I'm hoping that he will visit very soon!

This really gave me an insight into the world of the Icelandic horse and how they are trained and exercised! I was living the dream and am so lucky to have been able to experience this!

I hope that I get invited back again!

Home for the horses, Holidays for us

Lucy Sparks

Lucy has been a member of the chat group for about 18 months, she is 30 and has been riding on and off since she was about 8. She bought her first horse four years ago and now has a Welsh part-bred gelding called Pinto (her first), and Mikey, a Traditional cob. Both are 8 years old.

Until now riding has been a pleasure/leisure activity but she is hoping to try some Le Trec with Mikey in the near future. She says she has always been drawn to native and draught breeds in particular and lives in the middle of nowhere on the Lancashire moors which means she able to keep her ponies at home (together with her husband, dog and cat). She would love to own an Icelandic Horse in the future.

This trip was for my 30th birthday, when my husband asked where I would like to go for my 30th the decision was instant. I had visited Iceland 4 times already, the first time when I was 18 with my family, and then 3 times since with my husband.

There is something about the country, the landscape, and the people that really resonates with me. I love the changeable weather, the dramatic scenery and the Icelandic culture. For this trip we hired a car (even in



Summer I would recommend a 4x4 vehicle, or at least something with an optional 4x4 capability) and took Route 1 (mostly), circumnavigating the island over 7 days, a trip that totted up an impressive 2,322 kilometres. As a keen rider too (and a lover of hardy native breeds) I always make a point of squeezing in some rides whilst I am there. This trip was no different, and I enjoyed 3 very different rides.

Ride 1 – Tölting Heaven

Our first stop was at [Langhus Farm](#) in [Skagafjörður](#)

Owned by a lady called Lukka and her family, in one of the northern tips of Iceland.



I had a brief re-orientation lesson with Lukka and Oscir (pictured) as it has been around 18 months since my last Icelandic ride.



Oscir was coming back into work after having winter and spring off work, so was rather rotund, but a willing character.

After finding the relevant buttons I was joined by one of the summer staff, a friendly Finnish rider a little younger than me, and we departed for a trail ride up the valley. Oscir clearly much preferred being out on the trails than riding around the corral. I am always impressed by these hardy horses (and they are

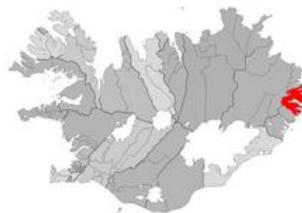
‘horses’ and not ‘ponies’. I think one of the quickest ways to offend an Icelander is to refer them as ‘ponies’!). The tallest Icelandic Horse I have seen so far was about 14.1hh, and they can be quite slight in build too - nevertheless they are strong as an Ox, surefooted and brave.

We took a stony track out of the farm and headed up into the base of the surrounding mountains. The ride itself was good, Oscir had a smooth tölt but holding him in this took some working out, and he slipped into trot a few times. If you have never ridden an Icelandic Horse and experienced the tölt then I urge anyone who has the opportunity to try it, to do so. The tölt can vary in speeds, some horses are better than others at it, and though a natural gait of this breed it requires hours of training and perfecting. Icelandic Horses can be graded by their gaits, and can have up to 5 - the other special gait being Flying Pace. The tölt is the most comfortable I have ever been in the saddle, when it is good it is smooth and makes you feel like you and the horse are floating over the terrain. Even more impressive is that this feeling can be achieved when travelling over the challenging natural terrain of Iceland, where other breeds would stumble and fumble, the Icelandic Horses glide over without a second thought.

At the top of the track we turned around and my Finnish guide asked if I fancied a gallop back up the hill we had just ridden down - absolutely! We flew back home, switching between tölt and gallop.

Ride 2 Red head – hot head?

My next equestrian fix was the highlight of our trip for me. We arrived at [Skorrahestar](#) in a place called [Fjarðabyggð](#) in the north east of the island in the afternoon.



A family-run guest house, Dodi and his family own over 40 horses, and offer bed & breakfast, riding and hiking. I was booked onto a trail ride with one other guest, and my husband was going on a hike with Dodi. Confident in my ability and wanting a bit of a faster ride today I asked for a horse with some turbo, but something that would still come back to me when asked. Mejsja was selected for me, a stunning chestnut mare. I must have had a worried look on my face because our host asked if I didn't like her, I did I said, but a chestnut mare is usually a force to be reckoned with, was she definitely safe? Our host laughed, and reassured me yes she was. Chestnut mares clearly didn't have the same stereotype as I was used to, so I explained this and learnt that the Icelandic equivalent would be a Silver dapple.

We tacked up, hopped on and off we went. Mejsja who had previously been snoozing as we tacked up sparked into life, and whether I was ready or not off we went. She knew her job, and after crossing the road we joined one of the many riding tracks and rode into the valley. Offering a fast tölt immediately, we were soon ahead of our guide and fellow rider, I tested Mejsja's brakes - she steadied up - excellent, we set off again. We rode up the valley, through a fairly deep river, and made our way up to the top of the waterfall. At the top we dismounted and gave the horses a rest.



We soon set off again, still heading away from home further up into the valley. Our guide took the lead and I tucked in behind, weaving through the undergrowth on barely-there trails, yet the horses never faulted or missed a step. We came to the base of a field, which had a gentle incline of a few hundred meters. Did we want to have a gallop? I looked at my fellow guest rider, an American lady a little younger than me, she nodded. Our guide told me that Mejya must go in front, she is very fast. Before I knew it we set off, there was no point trying to hold her so I just went with it. We flew up the field - she was by far the fastest horse I have ever ridden. At the top I steadied her and we came to a halt, turning round to see where the others were - a good one hundred meters behind! Wow. I fell in love with Mejya a little bit then, what a horse.

We made our way back through the river at a crossing further up, then headed towards what looked like a vertical bank about 15 meters high at the top, surely not I thought, how on earth are we getting up that? But up we went, another wow. Upon reaching the top I quickly released why we came up here.



A sea of purple and white lupins. This is my favourite photo from this holiday, and it was so breathtaking, I honestly felt like I had gone to heaven.

We made our way back to the main track; I felt like we had ridden miles by this point and we still had a 45 minute fast tölt back home. I thought Mejya would have been quite tired by this point and would offer a steady tölt back home, but no she still had plenty in the tank. I asked if I could let her go and her own pace, and off we went again, galloping up the track towards home. I steadied her a few times and waited for the others, eventually tucking her in behind our guide and we enjoyed a quick tölt back to the farm.

Over coffee later I asked our hosts more about Mejya, and told them how much I had enjoyed her, gently enquiring would they ever sell her? They laughed, unsurprisingly they had been asked before by an American lady who also fell in love with her. I told them I thought she was priceless (but if they ever did want to sell her, to let me know).

I am planning on going back to Skorrahestar in the future to join them on a working ride, where they ride into the mountains to bring the sheep down for the winter.

Ride 3 –Midnight – daylight!

My final ride of this trip was a midnight ride - in the height of summer Iceland enjoys nearly 24 hours of daylight.



We were staying in the east of the Island, about 200kms inland in an area called [Fljótsdalshreppur](#). Our guide was the owner of the place we were staying ([The Wilderness Lodge](#)), and I was joined by a Swedish lady who owned a couple of Icelandic Horses herself.



I was handed a black mare called Spenna, she was on the smaller end of the scale in terms of height and had a lovely kind eye. We rode up the valley, encased between two towering ridges of rock.

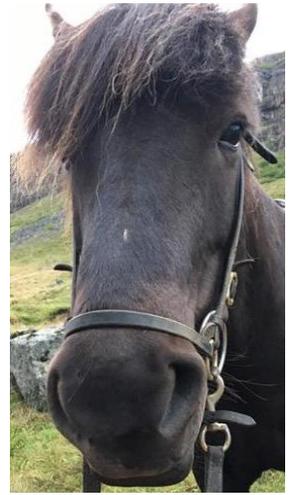
The valley was littered with waterfalls at various points, and our guide stopped every now and then to tell us tales of the people who used to live in this remote place.

Spenna was 4 gaited, she toltoed at a nice steady pace, though it was not as smooth as some others I had experienced.

At times, when I found the right buttons I got her into a really smooth rhythm, before promptly losing it again.

She was perfectly capable, but was making me work for it, and I enjoyed the ride which lasted a couple of hours, trying to find the right combination to get that smooth tölt back. Riding at midnight was brilliant, I just couldn't believe how light it was, and though it did darken a little it never went dark.

The horses were lovely and I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere. **Lucy Sparks**



The Houlls Horses & Hounds Simmer Dim Ride

The importance of light to the Shetland Isles

[MALACHY TALLACK](#)

Midsummer in Shetland is a time of light. Although the Arctic Circle, at 66° north, marks the southernmost reaches of 24 hour sunshine, at 60° in the Shetlands they still enjoy light throughout the day.

At midsummer the sun sets around 10.30 in the evening, and rises again about 3.30am. The five hours in between are a time of prolonged dusk, known in Shetland as the simmer dim. If the sky is clear then it remains light enough to read outside for the entire night.

For those not used to this lingering twilight, it can be a little disconcerting. Waking patterns are affected by changes in the length of the day, and some people find it difficult to sleep without the comfort of darkness.

Traditionally, the summer solstice has always been a time of celebration. For the Norse pagans it marked the height of the sun's power, and was associated with Baldur, the God of light. In more recent times, large bonfires would be lit on hills around Orkney and Shetland to mark the event. For people living in these northern islands, where winter is dominated by darkness, the power of light is of crucial importance.

The period around midsummer has been significant for other reasons, too. Traditionally 24 June, known as Johnsmas, marked the beginning of the herring fishing season. From the mid-15th century, Dutch fishing vessels began to travel north to Shetland to catch herring. Legally they could not begin fishing until the 24th, and so they waited, making use of the shelter available in the bay between the island of Bressay and the mainland. During the 17th century, trading between Shetlanders and the gathered Dutch boats increased and became more formalised. A temporary settlement around the bay gradually became a permanent one, and eventually it grew to become a town: Lerwick, now Shetland's capital. The fishing industry remained, until the arrival of oil, the heart of Shetland's economy.

On Burra where Houlls Horse & Hounds is based, they organise a wonderful midnight ride over the summer period and this year Michael Cragie made [this](#) beautiful video of the ride.

ADVICE & INFORMATION

Knowledge base

If you would like to make personal recommendations about services offered relating to the Icelandic horse, please [contact me](#).

Artists (of the Icelandic Horse)

[Sarah Brunt](#)

[Karen Earth](#)

[Irene Fordyce](#)

[Emily Hancock](#)

[Elisabeth Haug](#)

[Helena Leigh Levett](#)

[Mic Rushen](#)

Event Organisers

[Devon & Cornwall Icelandics](#) (Harriet Vincent)

[Dragon Riders](#) (Mic Rushen – Wales)

[Houlls Horses & Hounds](#) , (Dorothy Sales - Shetland Isles)

[Halfkey Icelandic Horses](#) (Lu Crawford – online so covers whole country)

[Ice Dragons Equestrian](#) (Peter and Kath Heathcote)

[Icelandic Horses in Scotland \(Lothians\)-IHSGB Affiliated](#) (Delia Marriott)

[Oakfield Farm – Verwood Dorset](#) (Nick Foot- Mo Hall, Verwood, Dorset)

[Old Hills Icelandics](#) (Ian & Fi Pugh- Malvern,Worcester)

[Ride Yorkshire](#)

[South Central Icelandic Horse](#) (Barry Laker, covers Hampshire, IOW, West Sussex, Surrey, EastDorset, Wiltshire & Berkshire.)

[Tölting Angles](#) (Dave & Ann Savage – Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire)

[Tweed Icelandic Riding Club](#)(Kirsty Carson - South Scotland / North England)

[Viking Raiders of the East](#) (Karen Smith – Lincolnshire & Yorkshire)

[Viking Horses of Yorkshire – IHSGB Affiliated](#) (Bethany AF)

Trainers

We are looking for [your recommendations](#) for trainers that work for you.

NAME	AREA	TYPE	RECOMMENDED BY
Mary Concannon	UK	Clicker Training (+R)	Nick Foot
Eva Eventuallyly			Shona Stewart
Bjorn Roar Larsen	Shetland Level 3		Shona Stewart
Anni Olsen			Shona Stewart

Articles Index

Above is the link to the Facebook post where articles have been linked previously. Below are listed a compilation of the links shared by chat group members since the last edition of Set the Pace and will be compiled into the index when it gets to its new home.

Information & Research

[How much grass do Horses need](#)

from: Nelipot Cottage – Keeping sport horses holistically healthy

[Ask a Geneticist: Why do Icelandic horses have blue gaits?](#)

from: The Reykjavik Grapevine

[Natural England Walks & Rides database](#)

Details and maps for more than 1800 walks, rides and areas of open access provided under the Countryside Stewardship, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Environmental Stewardship Schemes

[Travelling horses in the heat](#) from: Horse & Hound

Connection Training horses with kindness and thoughtfulness

[Worming Options](#) after the removal of a praziquantel-only worming product in October 2018 – Westgate Labs

[Worming Options printable infographic](#) – Westgate Labs

[The importance of correct biting](#) on the horses tongue & the impact on shoulder movement – Anatomy in Motion

[From the horses eye view](#) – Haras de la Sence

[Compulsory microchipping of horses from October 2020](#) UK Gov Press release.

[App Fengur](#) World Fengur phone app that allows access to information from World Fengur database

[Horse Flies](#)

Interest and Amusement

[A perfectly preserved 30,000 year old foal](#) from: The Siberian Times
[Bitless and Barefoot at Equifest for the first time](#)
[The Royal Dick vet college out-standing fracture repair](#)
[Contemporary art of riding](#) Katerine Burr – beautiful groundwork
[10 for tölt](#) Kveikur frá Stangarlæk 1

Opportunities to Join in

23- 25 September 2018 Cancer [Relief's Ride for Research](#)
[The Horse Trust](#) – request for participation in a study to develop a saliva test for encysted redworm
[FEIF Virtual Ride to Berlin](#)
[Your Horse 1000 mile hack](#)

Chat Group Responses to Information Requests

[Towing Vehicle insurance – June 2018](#)
[Sweet Itch rug recommendations – July 2018](#)

Icelandic Horse Blogs/Facebook pages

[Little Viking Horse](#) (Catherine Holland)
[My Shetland](#) (Frances Taylor)
[Me and Aspar the Icelandic Horse](#) (Thalia Colyer)
[Efi's Trec Adventures](#) (Rebekah Spowage)
[The Adventures of Tinna and Jörð](#) (Karen Smith)

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THIS PAGE IS UPDATED BETWEEN ISSUES OF SET THE PACE

For people who are not familiar with e-publications, it can be odd to see a large amount of white space in a magazine. If you order a printed copy, this space and the contents page are removed/adjusted. M.

Showing and the Icelandic Horse

Following a discussion about showing on the chat group, Harriet Bye who has been showing in traditional English competitions for 10 years offered to share her experiences. This is her advice for those who want to have a go.

I read what Fi Pugh wrote in the discussion on the chat group and she's very correct; any breed should be kept to the standard the breed society has set out.



I think there is sometimes a lack of understanding about the purpose of traditional showing. I personally see it as a 'training' exercise for horses as they experience things that they wouldn't otherwise see. This usually makes for a more 'bomb proof' horse.

I have been told I have an 'eye' for a 'good' horse. I like to challenge myself to pick out a winner in the show ring in the first few minutes.

I'd never really taken part in much showing (more show jumping, picture is me from 2008) until I had my maxi cob. On one of the very first shows out we qualified for the Royal London

Show. I found that very scary as it is an international show. From that point on pretty much every weekend was spent at one show or another.

It seems that with showing is the more you're seen the more likely you are to be placed. I don't like it but it seems to be true in my experience.

I've had some wonderful experiences in the show ring including being placed second to an eventual Horse of the Year Show champion. It can be a very cruel and bitchy environment though.

In terms of educating judges about Icelandic horses, this is a very difficult area. In my experience, some judges would welcome learning about a new breed others not so much. If you think Icelandic horses are unknown in the show you would like to enter, the best time to offer information about the breed is probably pre entry to a class. If you send information in with the entry form

this could be ignored and it would be frowned upon to approach a judge before your class, however the steward is fair game even if it's an 'off the cuff' comment such as 'I'm ever so nervous this is the first time I've taken my Icelandic horse out' unfortunately the only real chance you have to speak to a judge is at the end of your class by that time the opinion is formed.

The majority of your marks are likely to be on overall appearance and grooming is key. It's not a quick flick over, for Icelandic's this isn't about trimming beard hairs or clipping; they can be shown naturally however making the most of what you have especially the larger shoulder, mane, tail and 'dark points' is what could get you noticed in the showing arena.

I use a combination of washing up liquid, hair spray, old jeans and micro fibre cloths to make the most of the horse's coat.

Icelandic manes and tails are a whole other level unfortunately the 'wild' look is frowned upon. An easy fix without 'training' the mane to one side (this can take forever) is to damp the mane and tail down and use hair wax or gel very lightly 'Arab Plait' loosely, same with tail but just a 'normal' plait to the end roll and secure with tail bandage. If you do these just before getting on the lorry and once unloaded taken straight out they create a 'tidy' wave. It's very much enhancing what you already have.



Traditional English showing can be split down into sections:

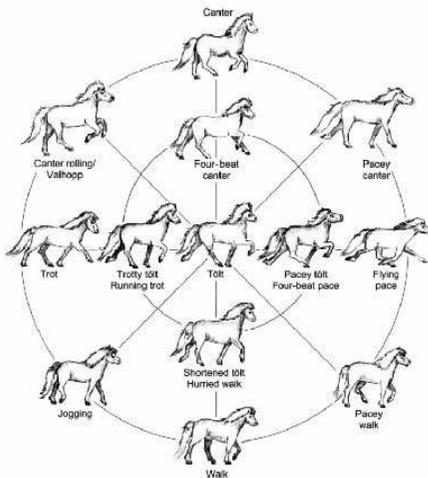
- **Group riding** - Walk, Trot, Canter with a single change of rein; larger shows ask for extended canter
- **1st Line Up** - this usually gives you a good clue where the judge thinks they will place you
- **Individual Show** - (sometimes these are alongside a 'strip down' and trot up in hand this is where I think Icelandics could have the advantage, warning the judge first that you have a gaited breed) An individual show is basically a figure of eight replacing a change of rein from extended trot to tölt. The final extended canter replaced with pace providing space allows or a faster tölt. All changes of gait need to be sharp.
- **Final walk** - still being judged, many people forget that!
- **The final line up**

In my opinion, and realistically, you have to face the fact that the result may still boil down to a judge not wanting to learn because they think they know best. Even with more 'common' breeds I was once told that an old Morgan was standing weird. I laughed loudly and said "don't you know it's a Morgan and that's what he should do?" The particular judge seemed to take pleasure in trying to belittle people. You only have five or six minutes to educate a judge if you think they are wrong. You need to be confident, knowledgeable and concise. Sometimes it is easier to explain the special characteristics of your breed with the horse present. I hope my experience is helpful. Don't be afraid to have a go but also, don't be surprised if the judging favours the usual and the most seen. It's not personal; it's quite possible the judge may never have seen an Icelandic horse before although we hope that is changing. See it as an opportunity to introduce the breed and the next person who tries it may do better than you.

Harriet Bye

Training Tölt in the Trotty Icelandic

Most Icelandic horses have a favourite gait when you ask them to go faster than walk, a gait they find easy and relaxing. A few will choose a nice 4-beat tölt (oh lucky people who own natural tölters...), but most will tend towards either trot or pace (often pure trot, occasionally pure slow pace, known as piggy pace, and often a pacey tölt).



For people not used to riding gaited horses, it's often easier to bring a pacey horse into a clean tölt than it is to persuade a trotting horse that he does actually possess an extra gait!

Imagine - you've just purchased your brand new gaited (expensive!) Icelandic horse and all you can find is trot. :(It's rather disappointing, isn't it? But don't be disheartened, with some work and patience it's nearly always possible to find that elusive tölt.

There are a few exceptions - a small percentage of Icelandics don't possess the tölt gene - but they are really rare. Even if you unlucky enough to have one of those few, in the past it's been shown that even horses from non-gaited

breeds (Arabs, TBs and polo ponies to name a few) have successfully been taught to tölt, or an equivalent gait.

There are many other reasons an Icelandic horse may only trot, these days it's rarely genetic. Horses with a long, stiff back, or a very low set neck, or a very high croup will find it hard to tölt, and often horses that are a bit lazy and not so forward going will struggle too. Horses that have been ridden constantly in trot (or driven) will often find tölt hard to pick up again, as will those that have spent too much time being ridden long, low and on the forehand.



Where to start? First be absolutely certain you are fully aware of the feel of your horse's trot. When a trotty horse starts to tölt, the tölt itself will be trotty, and you need to be able to feel the difference so you can reward your horse for trying.

Lateral work of all sorts will help the horse soften and become more athletic, so practise bending, turns around the forehand and haunches, lots of transitions between all the gaits, shoulder in and so on. Anything to get the horse off the forehand and listening well to his rider.

The main thing you need to do it to help the horse to free it's front end and use the hindquarters properly. Make sure your saddle is not too far forward, in fact have it a tiny bit further back than you normally would (but not so far back that you will cause pressure or soreness on the loins). Make sure you don't have heavier boots or shoes on the front feet, as more weight on the front will change the break-over timing of the footfalls to move towards a diagonal (i.e. trot) pattern rather than a lateral (i.e. tölt) pattern.

Ride the horse in a short, very active walk, using the hindquarters and with as much impulsion as you can find - but not fast. Slow but active is the key. Plenty of transitions from halt to walk - and if the horse it as the right stage of training, halt, then a few steps backwards, then forwards again in that active walk. Riding on a slight downhill track can help too (not a steep hill - not a soft or deep surface either as that will make it much harder for the horse).

Sit very slightly back (but do NOT lean back) and tilt your pelvis slightly. Suck your tummy in, and at the same time press your seat bones into the saddle, very slightly rounding your back. It's hard to describe as it's quite a subtle

movement (sometimes described as "leaning back in the saddle" - which is NOT what you want!).

Be careful not to allow your horse to become heavy and lean on the bit. Plenty of half halts, and you will need to use your legs and back (and voice) a lot. Keep your horse light, and dancing.

Work your horse in tölt (or in a walk moving towards tölt) every time you ride, but only for a very short distance each time. If you get even one or two steps of trotty tölt, be happy! Tell your horse how great he is. Gradually the distance in tölt will build from a few steps to a few meters, and in time you will find the tölt gets easier and easier.

All of this is best done out on a ride, I find, but generally not with other horses along as your horse needs to concentrate, and the other horses will generally be going too fast or too slow so your horse will just trot rather than working on the more difficult tölt.

Trotty Icelandics can often be a bit lazy and not want to work that much, but it's much easier to find the tölt if you can teach them to enjoy going faster. Although they may happily zoom around in trot and canter, tölt is hard work in comparison. That also means it's much harder if, for instance, your trotty horse is young, unfit, or not used to carrying a heavier rider.

Try training tölt on the way home, or, if you are out with other horses, let them go in front so your horse is going forward much more actively. Some trotty horses will actually take tölt voluntarily out of canter!

It will take time, but you will get there in the end, and very often an Icelandic which starts off very trotty, even one that shows no tölt at all even in the field, will be the horse which ends up with a great, clear, four-beat tölt with high action.

My first Icelandic Árvakur (Sox) didn't really tölt at all until he was around 11 years old (he was in a trekking centre for a long time before I had him). He won the 4.1 (Sport A Four Gait) at the British Championships a couple of years later. When he was in his late teens he suddenly decided he was actually five gaited, and developed a respectable flying pace too!



Sox ridden by a very young Guðmar Pétursson at the Three Counties Show
Malvern,

and again with me in the 4.1 lap of honour, BCs 1991





Finally, something to aspire to - a beautiful relaxed tölt from a lovely supple horse. Fi on Maron.

Happy Tölting!

by Mic Rushen

WHAT'S ON

Please [let me know](#) of any events you are organising or attending.

31 [Halfkey August Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

September 2018

- 1-2 Foreign Breeds [Dorset County Show](#) Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
2 Social & Charity Ride, Burghley, Lincs Contact: [Karen Smith](#)
7 Oakfield Oval Track Familiarisation from 1pm Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
7 Oakfield Judges Q & A plus shared takeaway (6pm) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
8-9 Oakfield September Show Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
9 West Tarf , Peebleshire Oval Track Have-a-go Contact: [Delia Marriot](#)
16 [Foreign Breeds Society Championship Show](#) Rugby Contact: [Lynn Jarvis](#)
22 Oakfield Riding Weekend – Martin Down(Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
28-30 [Ice Dragons](#) Have-a-go show Wales Contact: [Peter Heathcote](#)
29-30 Fi Pugh clinic, Wedge Hill Cottage, Dorset Contact: [Ann Cunliffe](#)
29 [Horses Inside Out – Day Seminar – Gillian Higgins – NN3 7QL](#)
30 [Halfkey Sept Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

October 2018

- 13-15 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
18-20 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
20-21 TIRC Course with Bjorn Roar Larson, Northam(full)Contact: [KirstyCarson](#)
21 Caron Valley Icelandic Endurance ride [SERC ride](#) Contact: [Delia Marriot](#)
21 Winter Tolt Series – Connegar Farm, Dorset Contact: [Jem Adams](#)
26-28 Oakfield Riding Weekend – Circular Route (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
30 [Halfkey October Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

November 2018

- 3-4 Oakfield Oval Track Beginner/Improver/confidence Contact: [Mic Rushen](#)
15 IHSGB Long Distance Award Ends MEMBERS ONLY Contact: [Jem Adams](#)
16-18 Oakfield Riding Weekend – Circular Route (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
17 IHSGB AGM Venue to be decided MEMBERS ONLY Contact: [Jem Adams](#)
25 Winter Tolt Series – Connegar Farm, Dorset Contact: [Jem Adams](#)
31 [Halfkey Nov Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)

December 2018

- 8-9 IHSGB course Helmut Bramesfeld MEMBERS ONLY Contact: [Ellen Brimble](#)
31 [Halfkey Dec Challenge deadline - see Halfkey Icelandics for details](#)
31-1/1 Oakfield New Year's Day picnic ride & NYE social Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

2019

January 2019

- 13 Winter Tolt Series – Connegar Farm, Dorset Contact: [Jem Adams](#)
25/27 Oakfield Riding Weekend & Burns Supper (Full) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

April 2019

- 13-14 Oakfield Oval Track Beginner/Improver/confidence Contact: [Mic Rushen](#)
20-22 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

May 2019

- 3 Oakfield Oval Track Familiarisation from 1pm Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
3 Oakfield Judges Q & A plus shared takeaway (6pm) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
4-5 Oakfield Spring Show Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
18-19 Have-a-go show Devon with Mic Rushen Contact: [Debbie Ede](#)

June 2019

- 8-10 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

July 2019

- 27/28 Icelandic Horse camp [Ingleby Hall Livery](#) Contact: [Rebekah Spowage](#)

August 2019

- 24/26 Adult pony club camp [Ingleby Hall Livery](#) Contact: [Rebekah Spowage](#)

September 2019

- 13 Oakfield Oval Track Familiarisation from 1pm Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
13 Oakfield Judges Q & A plus shared takeaway (6pm) Contact: [Nick Foot](#)
14-15 Oakfield September Show Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

October 2019

- 5-7 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

November 2019

- 2-4 [Oakfield Clicker Clinic](#), Mary Concannon Contact: [Nick Foot](#)

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"Dressage is the art of teaching the horse to carry you. Riding is the art of learning to be a good load to carry." ~ Richard Weiss





The Club