

The Plaister Charity News

The Plaister Charity for Crabbet Arabians



Issue No. 2 • September 2025

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News on our horses • Photoshoot • Horses for sale and loan • Subscribe

Stallions at Stud

We are pleased to offer these wonderful stallions for the 2026 breeding season

In 2026 we are offering the *100% Crabbet Breeding Initiative*, which offers a free covering to approved 100% Crabbet mares

SEREN AURIGA GOLD
(Aurilla Gold x Seren Hanita)
High percentage Crabbet
100% Old English

IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN
(Imperial Shadow x Luretta)
100% Old English



IMPERIAL SILVER PHOENIX
(Imperial Silver Star x Sefinah)
High percentage Crabbet
100% Old English
Supreme Crabbet Champion

Sweet

The Plaister Charity

For Crabbet Arabians



DHAY

(Spearmint x Daleela)

High percentage Crabbet

In hand Champion

With thanks to Nick Brown for
generously gifting Dhay to us after the
sad passing of Melanie



BINLEY SABAH

(Dandini x Sa'ira)

100% Crabbet



SEREN ALTAIR

(Winged Saint x Seren Hanita)

100% Crabbet



www.plaister-charity.com

Please enquire for full details:
plaistercharity@gmail.com

Welcome

to Issue 2 of The Plaister Charity Newsletter

Looking Ahead - new foals, traumatic times, new arrivals and a new home for the Charity!

There's certainly been no let-up at The Plaister Charity. It's fair to say that the past six months or so have brought both challenges and achievements as our team has worked tirelessly to get everything up and running, pretty much from the ground up.

Starting a charity is no small task, but that is essentially what we have done - developing policies, procedures, documentation and laying the foundations of a functioning organisation. While we had not anticipated quite so much groundwork, it has proved to be a valuable opportunity.

The board of trustees has come together as a like-minded group, united by a shared purpose, with the horses at the very heart of everything we do. The team on-site has performed brilliantly throughout the transition, with the full support and active involvement of the board. This shared vision and spirit of collaboration have allowed for swift and decisive action, which has been essential as we have carried out thorough reviews and made several important decisions.

This has been crucial as we've come to grips with a number of 'realities', conducted significant reviews and made some major decisions. We're proud of how far we've come in such a short space of time, and we've been heartened by kind messages of support – particularly for our long-standing Stud Manager, Peter Robinson, whose steady leadership on site has been especially valued during this period of change.

Looking to the future, we are pleased to share news of our three lovely new foals born in May, a colt and two fillies. It's not been an easy time though with our last born foal, little Ella - Imperial Gaybriella, (Imperial Sovereign x Gayzella) having been rejected and then ending up in hospital for 32 days! But she's a fighter and is now doing very well with her special foster mum. Her story and that of our other two special babies are included later in this issue.

We've brought in two more 100% Crabbet mares and a 100% stallion from Seren Arabians for our pure Crabbet preservation breeding programme and Caroline Sussex has very generously loaned us her beautiful 100% stallion Binley Sabah.

Following the recent announcement of the importation of four quality, pure Crabbet horses from



Imperial Golden Dhaybreak (Dhay x Golden Aura QA), foaled 1st May 2025, also seen on front cover

Australia, we are pleased and excited to advise that the stunning bay 100% Crabbet mare, Arfaja Bisharah (Mill Park Blaid x Pevensey Baybe) arrived at the stud in August on a long-term loan, courtesy of John Illingworth, to whom we are extremely grateful. This importation is hugely important and shows the commitment of our breeders to help maintain and increase the Crabbet gene pool in this country.

We were delighted to welcome renowned AHS judge and photographer Crispin Mould back to the stud in June for a photoshoot. As many of you will know, Crispin assisted with assessments of our breeding horses earlier in the year, and he returned to photograph them. We have featured some of his beautiful images in this issue, with more coming to our website. Congratulations also to Crispin on being elected AHS president for 2026.

We also supported The National Crabbet Arabian Show at Addington Equestrian Centre, which was held on the 19th July alongside the AHS National Championships. The Plaister Charity was the main sponsor of the show, presented by Crabbet Heritage, and we certainly got our name out there, with banners and co-branding for all to see. There will be a full write up in the next issue of the Crabbet Heritage Magazine.

Finally, some of you will have seen that Diana Lodge is up for sale. Sadly, the property has suffered from long-term neglect, and the cost of restoring it to a workable standard for our needs proved too prohibitive to justify remaining in the Imperial Stud's long term home in the village of Purton near Swindon. Following an assessment of the property, its location and the future needs of the charity, the board took the decision quite early on, to look at options for a new location for the Charity. This

move will mark a fresh and positive new chapter for the charity and the horses and will secure its future for generations to come.

Exciting times indeed! We hope you enjoy this issue with these and other stories behind the scenes with our other lovely welfare horses. We hope you enjoy this issue. Please feel free to provide any constructive feedback which is always welcome.



Arfaja Bisharah (Mill Park Blaid x Pevensey Baybe)



Diana Lodge

We've updated our Charitable objects

We received formal approval from the Charity Commission, on 15th April, for the revised wording of our charitable objects. This revision simplifies and clarifies our aims while more accurately reflecting our proactive breeding programme, support for breeders, and our commitment to education around the heritage of the Crabbet Stud.

These are our updated Charitable Objectives:

- 3.1 **For the benefit of the public** to relieve the suffering of Crabbet Arabian horses in need of care and attention by providing or assisting with their treatment, ongoing care, and rehoming.
- 3.2 **To advance the education of the public** in the care, treatment, heritage, and breeding of thoroughbred Crabbet Arabian horses, and to promote the importance and value of Crabbet Arabians and their history to the widest possible audience.
- 3.3 To encourage, promote, and support the responsible breeding of quality Crabbet Arabian horses to ensure the preservation of the breed and its history, by maintaining and breeding quality stock, supporting others in conservation and breeding, and promoting the significance and heritage of Crabbet bloodlines widely **for the public benefit**.

Trustees update

We've now had over six months working together as the board of trustees. It's been an interesting and very busy time for us trying to get to grips with the charity and how things operate, which has been far more challenging than it should! We have implemented many changes focused on empowering and supporting the Stud and the team on site and developing new systems and processes along the way. Whilst there is still much to do, we have settled into a very productive way of working as a board and wider management team with the Stud Manager and staff on site.

The board has a video meeting every week, which allows us to address matters as they arise. Decisions are made through sensible discussion, reaching speedy conclusions and consensus which enables us to get on with what's important in an efficient manner. The Stud Manager's opinions are regularly sought and incorporated on all matters concerning the horses and the trustees are always on hand when needed.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes and exciting things are already underway as you will read later in this update, with much more to come.

This is a really exciting time for the charity as we seek to build a really solid platform for the future.

Mark, John and Tanya

The Plaister Charity Board of Trustees

The Plaister Charity is Moving to a New Home!

After many years at Diana Lodge, Purton (near Swindon), The Plaister Charity is preparing to begin a new chapter: we are moving to a new home.

We recognise the significant history of Diana Lodge and its role in the breeding programme of our benefactor, Geoffrey Plaister, and we value the connection many people feel to this place. We also understand that change is not always easy, which is why we feel it is important to explain openly the reasons behind this decision and the careful thinking that has led us here.

Why are we moving?

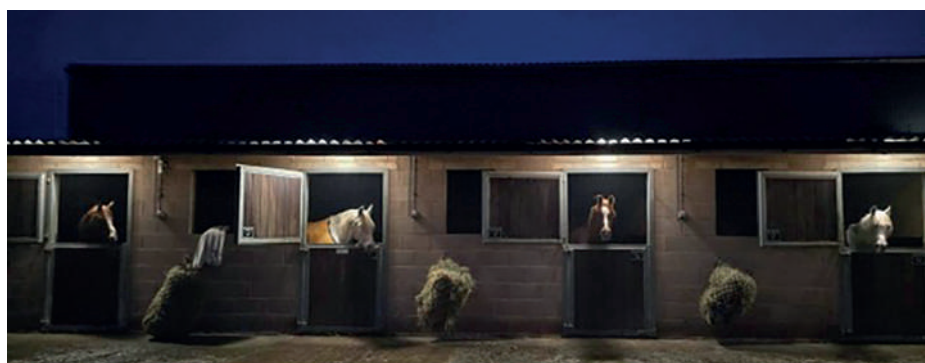
The facilities at Diana Lodge were already in poor condition when the charity was first established, and without a sustained programme of maintenance over the past seven years they have continued to deteriorate. To bring the property up to the standard we require today would have demanded a major investment, with estimates in excess of seven figures, and this was simply not a viable use of the charity's resources.

For some time the site has not been suitable for welcoming visitors or for showcasing our horses. The lack of essential maintenance in the main house meant that Peter and Anna were living in conditions well below what anyone should reasonably accept. At one point they were without hot water for more than two years. When the trustees carried out an electrical inspection, the installation was found to be unsafe and the accommodation had to be completely rewired.

Even with full restoration, Diana Lodge was never ideally located for regular public access, nor was that ever its original purpose. After careful consideration, the trustees concluded that relocating both the Charity and the Imperial Stud offers the best way to safeguard the Charity's future, ensure its continued growth, and improve opportunities for public engagement.

Condition of the current facilities

Some positive investment has been made, including fencing for the paddocks, the provision of field shelters, the rebuilding of five new stallion boxes plus new lighting and electrical wiring, and the installation of six second-hand internal stables in the former car showroom, complete with rubber matting sourced by Peter. Nevertheless, the majority of the remaining stables are now unsafe and in poor



repair, presenting an image that does not reflect the standards or reputation of the Charity when welcoming visitors. This situation made it clear that continuing at Diana Lodge would limit both the care of our horses and the wider ambitions of the Charity.

Furthermore, the main house has deteriorated significantly over the last seven years. However, even with a full restoration, which as already noted would have required a very substantial investment at today's prices, Diana Lodge was never ideally located for regular public access, nor was that ever its original purpose.

After careful consideration, the trustees concluded that relocating both the Charity and the Imperial Stud offered the best way to safeguard the Charity's future, to ensure its continued growth, and to improve opportunities for public engagement. We are keen to welcome visitors in a way that reflects the heritage and standards of the Charity without having to restrict photography or limit access around the house.



The majority of the original stables are falling down and don't present a very professional image of the charity



Rotten windows in the main house

Decision in keeping with Geoffrey's Legacy

It was the previous trustees who first raised the idea of relocating the Charity. When the subject came up again more recently it gave us cause to reflect upon the idea seriously. We spoke in confidence with several friends who knew Geoffrey well, as we wanted to understand how they might feel about a move away from Diana Lodge. Without exception, they regarded it as a positive step forward.

Geoffrey was never sentimental about buildings, particularly after the loss of his beloved wife, Barbara. For him, it was always about the horses, and our decision to move is entirely in keeping with that legacy. Geoffrey was also a shrewd businessman, and we are confident that he would have supported our decision, reached only after carefully evaluating every other option.

The Diana Lodge site will undoubtedly suit others very well, and we have already received interest in the property within only a few days of it being put on the market. Whether this results in a quick sale remains to be seen, but we hope Diana Lodge will find new owners soon.

Looking ahead

We cannot share full details of the proposed new site just yet, as nothing will be final until the legal process is complete and the property is formally secured. What we can say is that it represents a very exciting and significant step forward for the Charity, for our horses, and, we believe, for the future of the Crabbet Arabian and Old English horse in this country.

We have identified a new home for the Charity which offers facilities far superior to those we currently occupy. This will enable us to promote the Crabbet Arabian horse to a wider audience, establish a Heritage Centre, and expand our educational and public engagement work.

The horses we breed will continue to carry the Imperial prefix, and we remain as committed as ever to preserving Geoffrey's lines and pure Crabbet blood, while also ensuring we breed quality horses for the future. Indeed, of the 100% Crabbet horses we have been able to bring into the Charity in recent months, 75% carry Geoffrey's breeding as you will see later in this newsletter. We will be highlighting all of Geoffrey's lines on the Plaister Charity website, where his legacy will continue to be celebrated.

Transparency and communication

We recognise that there will always be differing opinions about the Charity's work, which is understandable. In fact, we originally dismissed the idea of a move ourselves, and looked instead at restoring the original stables to their former design. However, it soon became clear that this simply was not financially viable.

Those who truly care about the Crabbet Arabian will recognise that our focus remains firmly on the horses and their future. Anyone with genuine questions or concerns is always very welcome to contact us directly or to visit the horses. Our priority has always been transparency, which is why we continue to share updates here and on Facebook.

Finally, we apologise that this newsletter did not reach you before the agent's details for Diana Lodge were published online. We look forward to sharing more news with you about our new home very soon.

The Charity gets its first horse trailer!

It's a bit of a startling realisation, but until now, The Plaister Charity had operated for seven years *without its own horse transport*. In cases of emergency, the only available option was to borrow a trailer from Peter's wife, Anna – not exactly ideal, especially when dealing with the unexpected.

At their regular weekly meeting on 28th April 2025, the trustees unanimously agreed that this situation was no longer tenable. With a limited but essential budget allocated, the search for a suitable trailer began. As luck would have it, one was found that very evening! A deal was struck, approval given, and just two days later, the trailer arrived at Diana Lodge.

We're now the proud owners of a very smart 7-year-old Ifor Williams trailer, and in our Charity colours

too, well close enough!

This is a huge step forward, enabling us to transport horses safely and independently, without relying entirely on commercial transporters – or Anna’s trailer.

We’ve added signwriting to the trailer to promote the charity, and will be offering the opportunity for sponsors to support this important new asset for the charity. The two top side panels have been reserved specifically for sponsor names, so if you’d like to contribute towards the cost of the trailer

and have your support recognised, whether as a business, stud, or individual, please do get in touch. This purchase ensures that we can respond quickly and efficiently when our horses need us most.



Geoff's Range Rover in better times

We financed it by selling Geoffrey’s old Range Rover that had been off the road and deteriorating for around two years and it would have cost around £3k to make it roadworthy.

We were able to get just enough to buy the trailer.

All in all a good deal we think!

A tale of two Lady Wentworth plaques

One of the missions of the Charity and Crabbet Heritage is the preservation of artefacts for the benefit of future generations. At some point in the near future we hope to open a Heritage Centre where such treasures can be displayed, as mentioned in the last newsletter.

During a visit to Geoffrey shortly before his passing, he showed us a fascinating plaque by Lady Wentworth.

When Cecil Covey was selling up the stud, he told Geoffrey that three such plaques had been mounted around the Coronation Stables. Geoffrey asked if he might have them. Although Cecil initially agreed, he later decided to retain two plaques to pass on to others.

The plaque is an intriguing object, approximately 175mm in diameter and weighing 1122 grams. The Charity is now carefully looking after it and will put it on display in the future. This is the one on the left. Interestingly, Mark Tindall has an identical plaque in his collection, this one cast in bronze and very kindly gifted to him by the late Joanna Garafalo of Sunset Arabians in the USA.

On the left-hand side of each plaque, you can see Lady Wentworth's distinctive mark: a "W" topped with small four dots.



We are always on the look out for treasures to preserve for the future, so please consider us if you need a home for photographs books or other interesting items such as the plaques above. We do also sell books to raise funds for the charity so all donations of good quality books are appreciated.

If all goes well with our relocation plans we will be opening a Heritage Centre where visitors can see these treasures first hand, alongside the horses whose lineage traces back to Crabbet Park and some of the other great studs of the past.

Our horses

A New Dawn at the Stud – Welcoming Foals of 2025

Whilst the trustees focus on strategic decision making and the essential behind the scenes administration required to run the Charity, it's our dedicated on-site team who make everything happen, with a little help from mother nature of course!

Imperial Golden Dhaybreak, 1 May 2025

We were delighted with the arrival of our first foal of 2025: a striking chestnut colt, born at sunrise on 1st May 2025. He is by the handsome Courthouse stallion Dhay (Spearmint x Daleela), out of the lovely Golden Aura QA (Aurilla Gold x CAS Shollanda). His birth, just as dawn broke across the paddock, felt especially fitting, and so he was given the stable name Dhaybreak.

Here is Peter's account of the morning's events:

"Having checked Golden Aura late last night, she wasn't showing any clear signs of imminent foaling, so I left her out in the paddock with the other two broodmares. I did, however, decide to set up a field camera at around 9pm, just in case.



'Dhaybreak' with his mum Golden Aura QA, just after he was born



Golden Aura keeping a watchful eye

I checked the footage at first light – around 5am – and, as the light improved, I spotted a shape lying down in the field. As this was unusual, I quickly got dressed and headed out down the field.

As I approached, it became clear she was indeed foaling, with the foal's head already out. I kept my distance to allow her space, and she managed everything beautifully. I only needed to step in briefly to remove the placenta from the foal. By this time, the other broodmares had taken a keen interest in the newcomer, which Golden Aura did not appreciate. I gave Helen a quick call, (this was at 5.15am) and she arrived within 30 minutes to help separate the mares. Golden Aura is an experienced broodmare and once the foal gained his balance, he soon found the milk bar and everything is going well."

Dhaybreak was not only our first foal of the year, but also the

first chestnut colt from the stud's horses, a special milestone. His sire, Dhay, was generously gifted to the Plaister Charity following the passing of the late Melanie Brown, and we are proud to continue his legacy.

As Dhaybreak was such a popular name with the team and followers on social media, we have confirmed that his official registered name will be Imperial Golden Dhaybreak, continuing the 'G' prefix from his dam, Golden Aura QA, and incorporating his sire's name. With such a golden day to welcome him, it felt like the perfect choice! Dhaybreak is roughly 91% Crabbet breeding, but importantly, carries precious lines to the famous Courthouse stud of HVM Clark.

Photos by Isla and Lauren Lynch and Peter Robinson.

Imperial Gypsy Moon, born 12 May 2025

Words by Peter

Finally, a filly for the new Plaister Charity. After a run of predominantly colts we have finally had a lovely chestnut filly, the result of a breeding between Imperial Sovereign and Gypsy Silver.

Gypsy Silver was purchased by the Charity from Fiona Leng and has in the past produced a compact colt who has since been sold as a gelding. The sire, Imperial Sovereign, as many of you have visited the stud are aware, is a very lovely liver chestnut stallion with great movement and has a real presence about him. Several years ago, Geoff instructed me to try him with Imperial Starset, but nothing ever came from that breeding. Since then he had been overlooked in the breeding program. However, in 2024 it was decided to use him both with Gypsy Silver and her sister Gayzella. Both breedings proved to be successful.

Everyone at the stud had been waiting patiently for the birth of Sovereign's first baby, especially Helen who handles him on a day to day basis and he is like butter in her hands. I think the feeling is mutual as he certainly adores Helen.

I had estimated that the 12th May was the date the foal was due to arrive. In the week prior, Gypsy Silver was slowly bagging up and on the afternoon of the 11th had started to show drops of milk, by the afternoon of the 12th she was showing more indications that the foal was not far off. At 8 o'clock that evening a quick message to Helen to tell her events were unfolding. It wasn't long before Helen arrived and the three of us, Helen, Anna and myself huddled around the screen of the camera checking the state of play.



Imperial Gypsy Moon and her dam Gypsy Silver

By 8.30 Gypsy Silver's waters had broken and little feet started to appear, followed by a nose and after a few minutes a little chestnut foal was born. Gayzella was still in the barn, and she took a great interest in what was going on. Maybe she thought that was hers or 'I have this to come'. It was a very sweet moment for them and us to share.

Once fully out, Anna helped her remove the bag from around the foal and with a rather indignant lift of the leg I could determine that we had a filly foal.

It wasn't much longer then that Gypsy cleansed the afterbirth, the only hitch being was as she was so quick in cleansing that the umbilical cord didn't part as is nature's want. Having waited 15 minutes or more, it was a case of clamping and cutting and a good spray of iodine. All in all a smooth foaling.

We then retreated and left mum and baby to bond and only went back an hour later to ensure the foal had found the milk bar. At this point we took Gayzella out of the barn and put her in the other half still visible to Gypsy. Having shown the foal where the milk bar was, she soon got the hang of what to do and has been feeding and sleeping happily ever since.

Yesterday evening we had an amazing moon and following our trend of names this year the staff choose the name, suggested by Helen initially, Imperial Gypsy Moon, which has been taken up by the trustees. She is indeed a fine chestnut filly who is a welcome addition to the Charity and a future breeding prospect to the Crabbet bloodlines. She is roughly 96% Crabbet.

Imperial Gaybriella

On Wednesday, 14th May, Gazella (Imperial Silver Star x Galatea), sister to Gypsy Silver, gave birth to a beautiful filly at around 5am. This lovely foal is only the second to be sired at the stud by Imperial Sovereign and she already shows a remarkable spirit. Her stable name is Ella.

At first, all seemed well, and as always, Peter and Helen were quickly on hand. However, as a maiden mare, Gazella appeared unsure of her new role. Despite patient encouragement, she began to lose interest in her foal. For the filly's safety, she was eventually separated but kept close to her dam. Peter provided Ella with vital colostrum and began a rigorous two-hourly feeding routine.

Unfortunately, Gazella continued to show no maternal interest, and on veterinary advice, we began



Now four months old, Imperial Gypsy Moon bears a striking resemblance to her sire Imperial Sovereign, and has turned a lovely liver chestnut colour

exploring fostering options. Ella's IGG results were very good, and we were hopeful about bringing another mare into milk to foster her.

Later that day, however, things took a worrying turn for the worse. The filly became weak, and her temperature rose to 41°C. She was rushed to the specialist foal unit at the B&W Equine Hospital, where scans and tests revealed she was battling respiratory pneumonia.

Thanks to the swift action of our team and the exceptional care from our local vets, and the hospital, she responded well to treatment, which included oxygen and a plasma transfusion. However, after six days she took a turn for the worse and it was found that she was battling a very serious infection. She proved to be a real fighter though and she quickly became a firm favourite at the hospital, who got to know her well as she remained in hospital for 32 days, a very worrying time for us all.



Arfaja Bisharah (Mill Park Blaidd x Pevensey Baybe)



Ella in her isolation stable where she stayed for 32 days!

that we bring her home. We did that and the stud's vets, Wessex Equine, took over the treatment and care of her at the stud. Despite a few setbacks they researched the problem, sought advice from others

Meanwhile, what to do when she returned to the stud?

Sefinah, a 23 year old, 100% Crabbet mare at the stud, was herself a survivor as a few years ago she had a septic hock and went off to the hospital for treatment. After a few days the vets there suggested putting her to sleep as they could see no improvement. Not happy with this the owner Hazel Crowle, (Sefinah was on a breeding loan at the time), asked



Ella leaving hospital



Ella with her new mum Sefinah, meeting her half sister Imperial Gypsy Moon

and came up with a solution. Sefinah had a catheter put into the joint and had a bag full of antibiotics strapped to her leg. It constantly supplied antibiotics over a period of seven days. Much to everyone's surprise this treatment worked and really saved the life of Sefinah. She was subsequently gifted to the stud and foaled Imperial Silver Phoenix in 2019, the last son of Imperial Silver Star, and in 2022 she foaled Imperial Silver Zafinah also by Imperial Silver Star. However, she had struggled a little with her injured hock when carrying her last foal and despite her being an extremely precious 100%

Crabbet mare, we took the decision to retire her from our breeding programme back in April when we assessed all the horses at the stud, as we felt it wouldn't be right to foal her again.

However, she was the perfect candidate to look after another baby and so we brought into milk and took to the hospital in the hope of some magic to happen. Sure enough she was happy to take on the role of mum. However, Ella had not seen another horse in a month and had been fed from a bowl. It took a while for her to get used to her new mum and the staff wanted to ensure she still had a good suck reflex. Sefinah stayed with Ella for a couple of days at the hospital so they could get used to each other and to ensure that Ella would learn to feed from her new mum.

Roll on a couple of months and Imperial Gaybriella as she has now been registered, is thriving now she is out amongst her siblings. She has defied all odds and it's so lovely to see her with her new doting mum.



Ella is doing really well, pictured here in July

Stallions incoming!

Whilst we do have a number of stallions and colts at the stud, we are lacking in 100% Crabbet stallions. Given that we are working with Crabbet Heritage to promote breeding of quality, pure (100%) Crabbet horses before they all disappear, we are always on the look out for quality horses that we can bring to the stud.

Binley Sabah 2019 (Dandini x Sa'ira)

We approached our good friend, Caroline Sussex, to ask about the availability of her lovely stallion Binley Sabah. 'Jazz' as he is known in the stableyard, is a six year old by Dandini (Marbon Masadi x Palma Benay) out of the lovely Binley bred mare Sa'ira (Indian Idyll x Salilah).

He has already proven himself at stud, having sired two splendid colts, Binley Salib who is with Mia Rodley in West Sussex out of Binley Golden Reverie, and Binley Silvern Salam out of Binley Silvern Sapphire, who is at Moonlight Arabians in Cornwall.



Jazz as a youngster

We are very pleased to report that Caroline agreed for us to loan Jazz and he arrived at the stud on 7th May 2025, arriving in our new trailer!

Jazz will be standing at stud next season and will part of our 'free covering' pool of stallions, available to approved 100% Crabbet mares.



Jazz's two sons



Jazz is currently learning his numbers!



Jazz is an athletic stallion and combines lovely Binley breeding in his dam line back through Indian Idyll and Silver Flame combined with sire lines via Dandini through to Marbon Masadi (where he inherits his sabino gene) with the important Australian outcross through Palma Benay, his grandmother

Seren Altair 2013 (Winged Saint x Seren Hanita)

Altair is a grandson of Hanson, Geoffrey Plaisters breeding. His sire, Winged Saint has performance offspring including in FEI Endurance. He is a horse with substance, has a lovely nature, fabulous limbs, nice short canon bones and the most astonishing movement! He carries Imperial lines through his grandfather Hanson (Hanif x Sherella) on his dam's side. Altair is a very chilled horse, a lovely stallion to handle.

Altair be standing at stud next season and will part of our 'free covering' pool of stallions, available to approved 100% Crabbet mares.



Seren Altair loves to float around the paddock!

Two 100% mares for the stud

We were recently delighted to welcome two 100% Crabbet mares to The Plaister Charity's breeding programme at The Imperial Stud, recently arrived from Seren Arabians.

Seren Sanita (2012) Winged Saint x Seren Hanita

This chestnut mare has previously produced two foals by Dandini. She is out of Seren Hanita, making her full sister to Seren Altair and half sister to Seren Antares Argentum, the promising two-year-old colt currently resident at the stud, and Imperial Silver Hamame. Sanita's dam line includes Geoffrey's great Hanif through Geoffrey's stallion Hanson. Sanita's dam line goes back to Dajania.



Seren Sanita (left) and her partner in crime Seren Dalilah

Seren Dalilah 2018 (Dandini x Silima)

Also chestnut, Dalilah is a maiden mare with an impressive pedigree. Her dam line also includes Hanif through Malihah, while her sire line includes Prince Sadik via Marbon Masadi. Through her sire Dandini, she also brings in the valuable Australian outcross from Palma Benay.

These two mares represent a significant addition to our 100% Crabbet and Old English breeding pool, bringing with them important Crabbet bloodlines and a proven endurance heritage. Bred by Dom and Jan Atkinson of Seren Arabians, they carry many of Geoffrey's Imperial Stud lines. We look forward to incorporating them into our breeding plans next year and are grateful to Jan for this opportunity to add to the 100% gene pool.

All about Fonze – a very special boy

Words by Peter

Fonzy 2010 (Raisafonz by Shuwaiman out of DPS Redrock River Born)

In May 2024, I was contacted by the Blue Cross about Fonzy. His owner was ill and no longer able to care for him, so he was signed over to the Blue Cross.

Fonzy was 15 years old and it was decided that he could come to us as a non-ridden companion as he had a medical condition that partially restricted his breathing, which more pronounced when stressed. It was confirmed that we would be able to offer him a home for life and a gelding would fit well into the herd environment.

Fonzy duly arrived and he did indeed settle in very well into the herd and soon made friends, notably Imperial Zanitah (Imperial Zar x Mur Es Sams). All the herd took to him straight away and it was a pleasant



Fonzy is an integral part of the herd

sight to behold. We were warned that he would wheeze if stressed but that wasn't the case.

Having had some communication from someone that knew him, we were told that he had looked after his brother for a long time. As our colt foals Imperial Blue Flame (Imperial Silver Phoenix x Palma Benay) and Imperial Fire Dancer (Imperial Silver Phoenix x Silver Zajeerah) were due to be weaned, it was decided to put them with Imperial Zanitah and Fonzy, as their adopted grandchildren. It was a match made in heaven and the two weanlings very quickly accepted both of them as

their guardians - even more so Fonzy. It was rare to see them out of his sight and when they did go wandering a quick call from Fonzy would bring them running.

Today the group are still all together and they have now been joined by our elderly Imperial Rani (Nefeuret x Masarah) who's now 31 years old. It's a lovely group and they can often be seen all in the same shelter getting out of the sun and flies.



Fonzy on babysitting duties!



Just another rewarding aspect of life here at the Plaister Charity



We are in the process of having Fonzy signed over to the Charity on a permanent basis, which we are so pleased about. He really is a lovely boy – another bad hair day pic which captures a special moment!

Talia and Alliya

Words by Peter and Talia

The Plaister Charity not only cares for Crabbet Arabians and their bloodlines, but due to their fantastic temperament are able to encourage those who have lost their confidence in riding, perhaps due to an accident.

I was contacted by one such person last year and invited her along to meet the horses and to help with their grooming. Talia has a very demanding job, being on the front line with our police force. Horses are so good for a person's wellbeing, not only for those in a stressful job but generally as a calming influence on what is a busy and stressful life that we lead today.

Talia describes the experience of her accident and how the horses here at the Plaister Charity are helping her

"Last year, I was involved in a horse riding accident when my horse spooked due to a tractor in a nearby field while I was out on a hack. I was taken to the hospital with a potential spinal fracture, as well as some superficial lacerations to my face.

It was a frightening experience that significantly impacted my confidence as a rider. Shortly after this, my horse had to be sadly and unexpectedly put down due to a medical condition. As a result, I didn't ride for a long time, and the thought of getting back in the saddle was daunting. I was about as confident

on a horse as a cat in a dog park.

Fast forward to my recent move to the Swindon area, where fate (and a bit of Facebook searching) led me to The Plaister Charity and Peter Robinson, the Stud Manager.

Peter kindly offered me the opportunity to visit around my full time job. This was my opportunity to dip my toes back into the world of horses without the pressure of jumping back in full throttle. I started off grooming, spending time with the horses, and before I knew it, I was falling in love all



Alliya, 1999 (Mareschal x Katalia) with Talia



Alliya when she arrived at Diana Lodge having been gifted to Geoffrey in 2016

over again with horses. I'll never forget my first visit to Diana Lodge – I was truly amazed by the stunning variety of Arabian horses and the care they received.

After several visits, Peter encouraged me to get back in the saddle and go on a hack. I was apprehensive, still carrying some fear from my previous accident.

Peter being the patient professional that he is, made sure I was paired with a horse that would take care of me. A sweet, and steady mare called Alliyah. During the hack Peter walked alongside me for reassurance - and possibly to ensure I didn't accidentally end up on a tractor's side of the field!

After the hack, I felt a significant boost in my confidence riding. I am excited, motivated, and looking forward to continue building my riding skills up again. Especially, knowing I have Peter's support and encouragement, along with the wonderful Arabian horses at the Plaister Charity and Diana Lodge."

Alliya 1999 (Mareschal x Katalia) is approximately 93% Crabbet and 100% Old English. She was gifted to Geoffrey Plaister in 2016 by Sue Oliver. Alliya had been largely retired and it's only in the last couple of years that she has been lightly ridden, with no sign of lameness. At 26 years young, she is a very steady confident horse and more recently has been supervising our two yearling colts!



Alliya with Talia on board

Photoshoot

In June we were pleased to have a return visit by Crispin Mould, this time for a photoshoot. We hadn't had the time to prepare all the horses to 'show condition' so this was an informal shoot, to capture some good quality images of our horses. They will be added to the website when we get a spare moment but in the meantime, we include some of them here. Our thanks to Crispin for his time and expertise which is much appreciated. As you will see, the horses are all fit and well!



Imperial Silver Hamame, 2022 (Imperial Silver Star x Seren Hanita)



Dhay 2008 (Spearmint x Daleela)

Imperial Silver Samaira, 2022 (Imperial Silver Star x Golden Aura QA)





Silver Zajeerah, Silver Surprise, Imperial Silver Hamame, Moza and Gayzella

Seren Auriga Gold (Auriga Gold x Seren Hanita)

In a way Auriga is our unsung hero of the stud. He has the sweetest of natures and all he wants to do is please. He will do absolutely anything that is asked of him.

After the assessments were carried out earlier in the year it was felt that he needed building up in the front and a suggestion was to put him in a harness. The challenge was on, fortunately Helen used to drive one of her horses and had a sound knowledge of how to introduce a horse to the harness. We were given a harness but neither of us liked it, so I went and bought him a new one. He has had a couple of months off from his training as he stepped up to the role as teaser for the breeding season. A role that he excelled at and surprised us as he knew when he was required to tease and when we were just walking mares past him.

He is truly a horse that cannot and has not put a hoof wrong. Now we must look out for a suitable carriage so he can take Cinderella to the ball.....now there's a thought.



Horses available to approved homes

In accordance with our charitable objects, we will try and find homes for what horse we can, although they will always remain the property of the charity. We are also making youngstock available for sale. All horses will be available to approved homes only.

We currently have the following horses available. All enquiries should be made by email to plaistercharity@gmail.com in the first instance.

To re-home

PS Silvern Silk 2005 (PHA Silvern Risalm x Imperial Silk)

“Cassie,” as she is known at the stud, was purchased by the charity in 2018 to contribute to the breeding pool. Despite significant veterinary efforts and costs, it became clear that she is sadly unable to conceive.

Cassie was ridden between previous foalings when with her breeder, Constance Newbold, and we feel she is wasted simply living in the pasture at Purton. She is a very sweet-natured, beautiful mare who makes friends easily with other horses, and she would thrive in a home where she could be lightly hacked and given a job to do.

Although we will be sad to see her go, space at the stud is limited, and Cassie deserves the opportunity to enjoy a more active and fulfilling role in the right home.



THE FOLLOWING HORSES ARE OFFERED FOR SALE:

Imperial Starlight Reflection 2023 (Star Light Shadow x Sefinah)

This super little compact mare will make an ideal child's pony. She is the friendliest little mare you could ever meet, has excellent bloodlines and is very pretty.



Above: Imperial Starlight Reflection as a foal with her dam and left, earlier this year

Imperial Blue Flame 2024 (Imperial Silver Phoenix x Palma Benay)

Born on 13 June 2024, this super colt carries precious bloodlines. He combines Geoffrey's breeding through first time sire and Supreme Crabbet Champion, Imperial Silver Phoenix (Imperial Silver Star x Sefinah), out of the Australian Bred, Palma Benay. He is a super colt who should make at least 15hh. He has excellent conformation and a very nice temperament.



He represents an excellent opportunity for an owner to have a super performance horse of the future, given the chance!



Subscribe to our Newsletter!



Our digital newsletter will be available free of charge online, at www.plaister-charity.com simply by providing your email address.

We are aware that many don't have access to computers or just prefer printed media, so we are making the newsletter available in print. There will be a nominal charge of £20 a year for four issues just to cover the costs of print and postage. If you know anyone who would like to subscribe to the printed **Plaister Charity News**, please print this page and pass on to them.

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Please make your payment to The Plaister Charity for the sum of £20 to cover four issues.

Bank details: Sort code: 08-92-99 Account No: 65863376

Please add your name as a reference. Donations are always welcome!

Crabbet Heritage

We are an international group of enthusiasts promoting Crabbet and Crabbet Related Arabians and their owners around the world

OUR CURRENT PROJECTS:

- **Carrying out a census of Crabbet Arabians worldwide**
to ascertain how many horses exist today and build an accurate Crabbet database
- **Building directories of Breeders and Stallions at stud**
so people know where they are and how to find them
- **Developing a Cooperative Breeding Initiative**
to increase numbers of pure Crabbets worldwide
- **Launching an International Virtual Show and Photo competition**
that provides worldwide competition and fun!
- **Establishing a points based Performance Initiative**
that provides for competition across all disciplines
- **Producing a regular online magazine - free of charge for all**
packed full of news and stories both past and present, from around the world
- **Creating an online museum, archives and more on our website**
we are busy photographing and scanning artefacts, documents and articles for all to see

We can make this work if the community comes together

Please support our initiatives to promote breeders and owners, to celebrate new foals and new owners. We need feedback and help but most of all participation!

Let's combine all our efforts before these horses disappear forever!

info@crabbet-heritage.com
www.crabbet-heritage.com

