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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## JULY NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter will be a bit different, self indulgent in fact, for which I apologise in advance. Today is 30 years since Nick Jonsson and I took over TVH and I feel like reminiscing.

There have been lots of changes to our veterinary practice. We started with a 1.5 vet practice that was mainly small animal but had a history of more than 30 years of mixed practice behind it. Ian McWatters had owned it and was still working there ( the 0.5 vet ), and he'd sold it to Colin Tedman, who sold it to us. We needed to expand and reinvigorate the practice.

The existing staff were great, and Linley brought new standards and motivation. We bought a van which Nick sold dairy chemi-

cals, semen and nitrogen out of. We started run days, newsletters and had a radio show on Saturdays. We expanded our services into ET in '96 and horse reproduction. We were service oriented, trying to meet our clients' needs, and we thought we could do anything and everything !

Expansion happened quickly, then Nick decided it was time for him to return to academia. ( He did his PhD and is now Professor of Farm Animal Medicine and Production at Glasgow University, which I am very proud of ! We emailed each other and he said it seemed longer than 30 years ago !! ) I bought Nick out in '96, then a few years later Don, then Rob bought in.

We had a 286 computer that Ian had written a programme for, called Mother, that seemed so advanced then. It was for accounts only, and all histories were hand written on cards in a big fat filing cabinet.

We purchased a new phone system and more landlines, and then our first mobile phone in about '94. It was one of those brick phones in a carry bag. For after hours calls we had a pager. Since then we have had many computer and phone upgrades ! Not to mention continual investment in new equipment.

Computerisation has been the biggest change. For example, when we had to take horse X-rays we would take our 15 kg machine and a dozen preloaded film plates with us. We'd take the X-rays and go back to the clinic. Developing was done in tanks in a dark room initially, then we got an automatic processor, still in a dark room. If the X-rays weren't any good you'd have to go back and repeat the procedure. Lots of

swearing. Now we have a single plate that wirelessly communicates with a laptop processor to produce incredible images. These images you can change contrast etc on to improve them, then they can be emailed. They are automatically stored, in a cloud or hard drive, not a yellow manilla envelope.

Now everything we do is on computer, all our histories, accounts and practice management. Even semen testing is done on a computer, not a microscope.

Phones now have computing power as well as communication. Many texts and procedures are on your phone. They are an amazing tool.

Realising we were outgrowing the clinic Don and I bought the corner block where the hospital is now, and then built the new one in 2007. Builders and local ex dairy farmers Tony Beeton, Roy Halliday and Chris Harry built it, and mostly it was future proofed. We could have done with another consult room and surgery, but the design was good and build quality excellent.

The way we work has changed a little, with ultrasound now widely used in small and large animals. Otherwise calvings, cuts, colics and surgeries can't be done by computer, yet.

Drugs have changed a lot, particularly new sedatives and anaesthetics, but also antibiotics.

The mix of work changed after dairy deregulation saw the demise of many dairies. I do miss that stronger time for dairies, and we had great support particularly from the Lansdowne and Hannam Vale dairy farmers. The volume of horse work has increased over time, as has beef

cattle and hobby farms.

The thing that stands out over 30 years here is the close friendships I've made with clients, colleagues and staff. Tori has been at TVH for 28 years ! Sometimes we share the worst calvings that nobody enjoys, very stressful situations, or funny mishaps. Animals can make a fool of all of us quickly. Many farmers have helped me personally and sympathised with my own efforts at farming, which still makes a handy loss.

Expectations of clients and vets have changed, and in the future we will continue to try to meet and exceed them. Sometimes it's not easy !

Hope you enjoyed this newsletter, I did !

As for the mandarin competition, James Laurie from Moppy has set the bar high with a sweet cold one. It will be hard to beat.

Don't forget, open days and bull sales at Curracabark and Knowla this month. Could be the year to buy the best in coastal bred bulls.

## **RUN DATES FOR JULY**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 6TH</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 11TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 13TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 18TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 20TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 25TH</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 27TH</b>

