



## Royal visit for Shire Horse Society's 140th year

The Shire Horse Society hosted a Royal visit on the first day of its three-day National Shire Horse Show at Staffordshire Showground in March. Pictured by **Carol Stevens** are (1) Sophie, Countess of Wessex meets one of John Goodwin's Shires. (2) Multiple female champion, Alistair and Matthew Gregory King's Cotebrook Loch Anna is the subject on the new Moorcroft vase, and the Countess received a print of the work of designer Kerry Goodwin –

here she is after the presentation with the King family and Loch Anna (see also page 24). (3) Plenty to chat about as the Countess met horse owners from all corners of the country (and beyond): this is Mr M Harris with Tarn Bay Rembrandt. (4) Inspecting the line-up of horses in the show ring, accompanied by Shire Horse Society secretary, Victoria Clayton: the horse in the foreground is Claire Bodsworth's Sedgemoor Bosleys Pride.



## Dedicated to Shires

Receiving their Sir Peter Crossman Long Service Awards at this year's Shire Horse Show were, left to right, Rex Whiteoak (30-year medal); Andrew Ward (medal and 40-year bar); Neville Tofts (30-year medal); the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford; Elspeth Ross (40-year bar); Gordon Rich (40-year bar), and Geoff Robinson (medal and 50-year bar). Rex Whiteoak has been associated with Shires for over 30 years and has assisted Tony Flower at the National Shire Horse Centre, Sam Smiths Brewery in Tadcaster and Walt and Paul Bedford, and has been closely associated with showing decorated harness horses in recent years. Andrew Ward has been associated with the Decoy Stud for his whole life, assisting with daily care, preparation for shows, and helping his late father, Graham, in breeding quality foals. Neville Tofts grew up with heavy horses on the farm where his father was head horse keeper and has owned and bred numerous Shires as well as being a member of several

heavy horse associations. Elspeth Ross worked in the family business, Brookfield Shires, for 30 years and has been self-employed since 2006 running Waldburg Shires, offering services for weddings, funerals, corporate events and promotions. She has been involved with the Lord Mayor's Show for several years and is the postilion rider for the Lord Mayor's Coach. Gordon Rich has supported Metheringham Upton Shires for 40 years, preparing horses, maintaining show equipment and

assisting with foaling. He is a committee member of Lincolnshire Shire Horse Association. Geoff Robinson of the Metheringham Upton Stud has farmed since the age of 16, buying his first Shire in 1967, breeding with great success and achieving numerous awards including Shire Horse of the Year in 2001. He is a front runner in the use of AI in Shires and produced the first live Shire foal by embryo transfer in the UK. His story was told in the Spring issue of *Heavy Horse World*.





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# 2018 National Shire Horse Show

(1) Champion stallion and winner of the King George V Cup was William Bedford's Landcliffe Charlie, shown by his brother Walt Bedford, and prepared at home by his son, Harry, 21. (2) Female champion and winner of the senior mare, four-year-old and over class, was L M Fountain's Woodhouse Calendar Girl, last year's Shire Horse of the Year. (3) Champion gelding was the first-placed senior gelding, four-years-old and over, Robinsons' Brewery's Acle Thomas, produced by Paul and Matthew Bedford. (4) Winner of the single agricultural turnout class was Michael Huddart with Hartcliff Kaiser Chief to a tip cart, here receiving the trophy from John Peacock.

## Expert guidance for new match winner

Karl Brown from Beamish, Co Durham, took first place at this year's Selby Ploughing Match, under the guidance of champion ploughman Jim Elliott. Held at Brayton, Yorkshire on Easter Sunday, the match was organised by Brendan Glavin in aid of Martin House Children's Hospice, The Oncology Department, York District Hospital and the MS Society. Ken Chappell and Mike Bingham judged 11 forward on the day, three singles and eight pairs. Breeds represented were Shires, Clydesdales, Belgian Draught, Norwegian Fjords and Mules. Second and best working pair of horses went to Colin Taylor, with Peter Hayler in third place with the best turned out pair of horses. Pictured are: (1) Karl Brown; (2), Colin Taylor; (3) Peter Hayler; (4) Steve Glavin with his pair of Percherons, and (5) Heath Darley with his new pairing of Clydesdales. Photographs: *Kevin Wright*



**Something interesting coming their way!**



Richard Pailthorpe

Working horses at the Weald & Downland Living Museum, West Sussex are all eyes and ears watching something captivating in the distance – the arrival of food perhaps! The pairs of Shires and Percherons are in their open yard used in the winter, with the late medieval Bayleaf Farmhouse behind them. The museum uses the horses for a wide variety of tasks, including carting, hay-making, ploughing and harvesting around the 45-acre site in the South Downs National Park. Visitors can discover 900 years of history reflected in the restored homes, farms and workplaces of ordinary people from the weald and downland areas of south east England.



Jane Muntz-Torres popped next door to talk to her neighbour . . .

## Out of Edingale – Bickers Court Shires



**T**he Badger family are my farming neighbours in Warwickshire and run around 350 ewes producing fat lambs for market. Denise Badger is one of those farmers who will never send livestock to market without her going along as well! Her social life is market-led, chatting to everyone, catching up on farming news/gossip, talking to the buyers *and* the auctioneer and aiming to get the best price of the week for her stock.

But Denise hasn't always been a sheep farmer as her father was Tom Wilcox, the stud groom for Joss Holland – The Master of Edingale.

Tom worked on the farm (near Tamworth) all his life and even received his long service medal from the Royal Agricultural Society for 44 years' work. He died young at 61 years of age but Denise was brought up at Edingale and to this day has treasured memories of the magnificent Shire horses reared on the farm.

In fact, one of her most vivid memories is when they took *four* stallions to the Shire Horse Society Spring Show at Peterborough – each one in a separate lorry – and the convoy left Edingale one *very* cold Tuesday afternoon. It must have been an incredible sight. In the lorries were Edingale Mascot, Edingale Supreme, Edingale Emperor (and one other but she can't remember which!)

Brian Robinson wrote in *Heavy Horse World* Summer 1998 issue that Edingale Mascot was described by Joss himself as “the best stallion I ever had and the best in the country”. In 1984 when Joss retired at the age of 94, this nine-year-old stallion was sold before the sale for 8,000gns and exported to the USA. Unfortunately, he died four years later from a twisted gut but was buried upright and facing east towards his home at Edingale.

One or two other interesting facts from the Edingale dispersal sale in 1984 are as follows: Beomands Mascot sold for 5,200gns; Edingale Marina sold for 2,300gns, and Edingale Iris fetched 2,600gns. Even HM The Queen's Royal Equerry (Sir John Miller) representing The Queen was present, and he purchased Edingale Lady in White, the dam of Edingale Mascot for 2,500gns.

At the age of 15, Denise became a life member of the Shire Horse Society. She says it has represented incredible value for money despite it being expensive all those years ago! Denise did actually breed Shires at the age of 17 and bought a mare, Heaton Jacqueline, but says she kept getting colt foals! One was exported to the USA and the second was sold at

## A “proper Shire horse”

**I would like to show my appreciation to the many breeders who came to our stable at this year’s Shire Horse Show to see our grey stallion, Melindwr Glas y Dorlan, and the brilliant comments they made.**

The main theme was: “This is a proper Shire horse in perfect proportion”. It really made our day, as besides British breeders’ comments, there were similar views from several breeders from abroad.

Unfortunately the views were not shared by the two stallion judges.

It made the journey there and back from Wales in terrible conditions worthwhile, together with the fact that our stallion was awarded a Stallion Premium, and also received many bookings for stud duties at Geoff Robinson’s Metheringham Upton Stud.

KERRY TANNER

Catwg Shires

Neath, West Glamorgan

Right, Melindwr Glas y Dorlan, Kerry Tanner’s stallion, by Moorfield Ted out of Clarach Modern Bell.

## Fly grazing Shires

**I was astonished to read in Heavy Horse World Spring issue about the rescue of fly grazing Shires and the Shire Horse Society’s expression of disappointment and sadness that Shire horses had been taken in by horse charities.**

You don’t just move and dump 19 Shires without someone knowing what’s going on: you can hardly do it in an Ifor Williams 510. People who love horses, especially heavies, can recognise individuals. These mares will have been put to stud: where and to whom? Were the mares and their offspring registered with the society? Had a horse owner/breeder/dealer suddenly got rid of all his Shires?

These questions should have been resolved with a bit of detective work, and DNA testing would certainly be helpful.

It is not clear why, if the Shire Horse Society was so concerned, that it didn’t become involved, as it is dedicated to the protection, promotion and improvement of the Shire horse according to its website. I feel it’s not too late to pursue a prosecution against the original owner.

Thankfully there was a positive outcome, but it has fallen to other horse charities to resolve. The Control of Horse Act 2015 (England) is a step in the right direction, but tougher legislation needs to be enacted to deter, prevent and prosecute anyone involved in animal abuse.

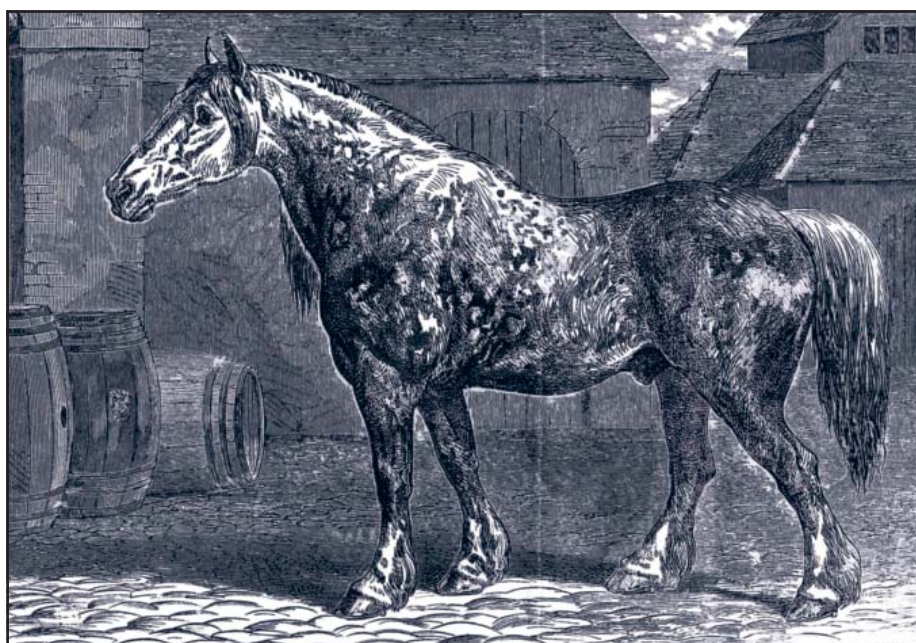
JOHN FISHER

Ashburton

Newton Abbot



Kerry Tanner



## Which breed?

**Heavy Horse World subscriber Richard Beard enjoyed this image of an ‘English Dray Horse’ in Cassells Natural History, published in 1888, which he saw recently on a trip to the Isle of Man. “I’m certain this is a Percheron,” he says. What do readers think?**