

# **CAMBRIDGE AND WEST SUFFOLK** **DRIVING CLUB**

## **NEWSLETTER**

Autumn 2011

### **Leaders and Wheelers**

This really belongs at the end of Terence's Elveden drive report but I have inserted it here to bring your attention to it as being of vital importance to everyone.

#### **Why mention road crossings so often?**

On the C&WSDC drive, on Saturday, our track crossed the Brandon Road, further on from the entry to the Farm Shop. Our line of three had been joined by two other turnouts for the road crossing. Two grooms, in high visibility tabards were put down. They took up position on either side of the line, waved down distant traffic and the cars were halted in both directions. The first turnout was called forward. In spite of our precautions, a motorist set off between the first and second turnouts, at speed. We were lucky to avoid collision.

It was a warning to us all and this memo is to underline that one cannot be too careful.

20110818 / tw

#### **Ramsey Mereside Drive and Hog Roast.**

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

The Ramsey Mereside drive took place, on rather a windy day, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The location was the Dairy Farm, where it was pointed out, there was in fact no cows and that the dairy probably closed during the First World War.

The following members attended: -

F. Claydon

B. Halls

Mr and Mrs Collinge

Liz and Terrance Wheeler

Andrew and Louise Green

Sandra and Mouse

Judith and Richard

Jeff and Gwen Leonard

Linda and Lesley

Jill and Dennis Wood

Hilary and Shaun

Maureen and Angela

Shirley

Hosted by Richard and Linda Carter, with able assistance from Jack Rossin.

The drive was set over 9.6 miles of fen droves, in a figure of eight, with an opt- out for a shorter drive of 6.4 miles.

After the briefing the drive began promptly at 11.00, with the turnouts heading off at 5 minute intervals. Given the flat location it was possible to see the Dairy Farm and each other, from most points on the drive. Unfortunately it was not possible to avoid the wind, which blew constantly throughout the day, as there is very little in the landscape to slow it down, or hide behind.

Whichever route was chosen by the various members, all made it back safely to the Dairy Farm, where a hog roast had been laid on courtesy of Matt Elliot. Various family, friends and locals joined us, to come and see the “biggest thing to take place at the Dairy Farm since the abdication”, as one local put it. Indeed Jack’s relatives had come all the way from the USA. It also gave an insight to those who wondered, what it was we did, on these driving days.

A number of land owners over whose land we passed, reported it had been a fine spectacle and they had enjoyed seeing all the turnouts.

In conclusion the drive seems to have been quite successful and Richard and Linda feel that they could probably host a drive every other year at the same location. RC

### East Walton - June 2011

We have lost count of the number of years that the Club has been having its annual holiday at East Walton; eight years maybe? Maybe more? Each one has been different, but fun and each has thrown up its individual challenges... Rain features highly on the list with folk getting soaked to the skin just yards from home; tents being flooded and food being barbequed in a raging storm! We've had big, mama sows and baby piglets race along side us as we trotted along the tracks; gas engineers and huge pipes that had to be negotiated each day and blisteringly hot, sunburn days (rare).

This year, however, we had "Billy witches" in the evening dusk. "Billy who?" Billy witches, aka Maybugs, aka Cockchafer, aka *melolontha melolontha* are large beetles that have an extended life cycle and emerge once every four years to seek a mate. They love congregating in large clouds and flying into anything that gets in their path. This includes the horses and ponies who have had no experience of blind flying, buzzing bugs that just love bumping in to things. The horses and ponies were not amused so, as the sun set, bipeds were spotted calming *quadrupeds* whilst swatting blooming beetles.

Such fun!

East Walton week provides the opportunity for Members to improve their driving skills by going out and "doing the miles"; by testing their obstacle driving; by racing around cones courses (and shaving off seconds!); and, as was the case this year, by having a go at Tandem Driving.

Miles of tracks, quiet lanes and fields full of spectacular poppies makes East Walton a favourite venue. Then, of course there's the convivial company, the delicious food, copious amounts of wine, the Tea Room at Castle Acre, The Stag Inn, the walled garden at West Acre.....

Jolly Holiday makers:

Jeff and Gwen

Ray and Linda

Eunice and Wally  
Maureen and Angela  
Liz and Terence  
Marylyn and Maureen  
Ian and Sandy  
Sarah-Jayne and Graham  
Viv and Ted & Cheryl  
Mouse  
Dawn  
Canny

Day visitors: Sue and Sarah, Shirley

SC



Millie: "Poppy, do our bums look big in this?"

Poppy: "Who did you say was driving?"

Whip: "Don't know where we're going but we're going to have a real good time."

Backstepper: "If it gets dark and we're not back save us some supper / send a search party "

Groom: "Never say die!"

## Le Trec Weekend - 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Jonathon and Liz kindly hosted this year's Le Trec weekend once again in the midst of moving house on their farm near Hawkedon.

On the Saturday we were all welcomed to Windolphins for a lovely drive to the Pub at Rede stopping off for drinks at Gifford's Hall where we were made most welcome. Half way round we gathered on the green outside the Plough. The drive was virtually all off road and great fun.

Returning to Windolphins that evening we sat down to a BBQ in Liz's conservatory as the weather became less welcoming. Geoff and Jonathon did an excellent job of cooking (outside!)



On the Sunday morning competitors for Le Trec arrived for the presentation section with Brent Reeder, after having their spares kit previously checked by Gwen... Everyone had worked hard to prepare for the day and looked great in their yellows and all scored extremely well before setting off on the 9 kilometre Drive. This year we drove around the farm in the reverse direction to previous years and the course was a little longer. The timing window was tight but achievable. A couple of turnouts went astray and scored time faults. As well as the drive they were asked to

gather the first letter of a series of pictures en-route and work out what these might refer. This caused a lot of discussion! The letters were CWSDC - looks obvious on paper doesn't it!

Following the, drive everyone proceeded to the 1 Kilometre walk watched over by Sandy with her watch and binoculars. Again, a tight time, with some slopes to cope with. Then lunch.

In the afternoon the “ *Encounters*” were opened and as in previous years there were some simulated road markings - a walkover of various items – a timed hazard (everyone did this within the time) and a halt test– but the different one this year was a real test of the spares kit when competitors were asked to imagine they had a broken trace and replace/mend it.

After finishing we all gathered for a lovely tea with cakes in the garden overlooking the lovely view at the back of the farmhouse.



### **Results:-**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>1st</b> | <b>Marianne Pauline and Richard</b>     |
| <b>2nd</b> | <b>Ian and Joan (his sister in Law)</b> |
| <b>3rd</b> | <b>Fiona and Mike</b>                   |
| <b>4th</b> | <b>Louise and Liz</b>                   |

5th            Wally and Eunice

6th            Hilary and Shaun

Many thanks again to everyone for all their help, and especially to Liz and Jonathon for welcoming us for a most enjoyable weekend.

RG

### **Week-end on the Elveden Estate,**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011.

Members of the Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk Driving Club enjoyed a week-end on parts of the Elveden Estate with BDS on Saturday and The Tandem Club of Great Britain on Sunday, 2nd and 3rd July 2011.

All the turnouts whether they were members of the C&WSDC or the Tandem Club of Great Britain thanked Shirley for devising, checking and finally setting the courses for both days.

Everyone I spoke to enjoyed their drives. There were six miles and twelve miles courses, flagged and marked on maps. A separate course and parking had been planned for members of the BDS driving on Saturday.

The sun shone, the tracks were splendid; both the six miles and the twelve miles courses took us through woodland, farm land and breckland. Some members saw deer, a stone curlew, some even saw a donkey or two; we all saw plenty of onions. The sky, the trees and all the views were memorable.

#### Saturday

Road crossing stewards. Linda Swain and her BDS team ensured safe passage across the Brandon Road.

#### Drive attendees:

Richard and Linda Carter with Chester

Ian and Sandy Collinge with Dan

Linda and Ray Godwin with Millie and Poppy, Brent was with them too.

Louise and Andrew Green with Robby and Conker

Maureen Howard and Carol with Buddy

Shirley Reeder with Chloe

Judith and Richard Webster with Sonny

Liz and Terence Wheeler with Sylvie

Maureen Willcox and Jackie with Cassie

Jill Wood

Scrivy joined us for a picnic lunch

### Sunday

The Tandem Club of Great Britain has a code of conduct that is upheld firmly but, as one would expect, in a ladylike and gentlemanly fashion. Appropriate vehicles and attire, fit and well presented horses, ponies or donkeys, and competent whips were the orders for the day. The traditional coachman driving style is mandatory, using four reins. Deviation from the rules such as using two joined reins, as in FEI competitions, is not accepted. There was a formal briefing for whips at about 10.00.

Four turnouts from C&WSDC presented themselves. Maureen had her tandem bars already, from previous Meets. Her turnout with Sylvie as leader and Carrie in the wheel were first away at 10.40, swiftly followed by Linda with Millie leading Poppy. Brent followed. The courses were similar to those of the previous day but not identical. One observer, Minta Winn, was spotted along the way. It was good to see the friendly faces of Eunice and Wally. Their job, as stewards that day, was to operate the electric gate. We returned to see Shirley still busy with behind the scenes arrangements. She was the last to be called forward at 1.30, all was set fair. Sam was her groom. After a precise and fault free presentation driving Frisco and Lucy, Shirley and Sam went on to enjoy an excellent drive.

At about tea time everyone gathered in the courtyard of the Farm Shop, a splendid site for the next phase. After the formalities, including a brief history of the Tandem Club, and warm thanks to Shirley for planning and flagging the route, rosettes were presented to nearly all the whips who drove that day. New members of the Club were announced by Minta Winn

(Chairman) and formally admitted by Sallie Walrond (Patron) and allowed to touch the silver bars they would receive (when they paid for them, at the end of the proceedings). Brent, Linda, and Shirley were duly admitted. Brent bent the knee before Sallie, it was a light note in an otherwise serious ceremony.

C&WSDC congratulates all four whips and their dedicated support teams for their enthusiastic training before and successful driving, on the day.

Some of us know how much work went in to this happy outcome. 10,000 hours is now a cliché for the practice put in by experts in all sorts of achievements; it may not be 10,000 hours but it takes a significant amount of time to train the animals, educate the rein hands and programme the brain for safe tandem driving. It appears to be deceptively easy.

Road crossing stewards, six or more of them, who were volunteers from the Tandem Club of Great Britain made sure that it was safe for the tandems to cross the Brandon Road without incident. Gary Docking crossed the A11 from the Hall side to the Farm Shop side unassisted. What self-confidence, skill, courage ...

A number of members of our club were there to give support too.

Our thanks from all the participants to those who volunteered to make the day safe. TW

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### **Wickhambrook Drive Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

We met at Shardelows Farm by kind permission of Mr David Midwood. The weather was about as good as it could be for a drive. The sun shone and there was a nice cool breeze. A right turn through the gate onto the lane takes us to Attleton Green, then up Mole Hill to the first crossing of the Newmarket to Clare road, past the village hall to Meeting Green. Then a steep climb to open views and past Badmondfield Hall on our left, another climb to Genesis Green and a left turn through the Swinburn family Genesis Green Stud and on to Badmondfield End. We go right down Lords Lane on to the Ousden Fox (some say it is rather nice).

A right turn at the road works takes us to Queens Cottage (this old house was once a pub). We turn left to Baxters Green and the impressive old Easterwood Farm. At the next junction the route is to the right past the water tower and on into Ashfield Green. Then a very steep downhill to a left turn into the Duddery. At the second right we turn to a ford then up the hill to Malting End and the second Newmarket to Clare road crossing. Then a left turn followed by a right into Crows Lane and into open country again. Past Golden

Farm Stud and onto Farley Green, at the T junction we made a right turn, then up the hill past Golden Farm to Fairstead farm and on to Motts End. A sharp left and downhill to the T junction on to the Cowlinge road, then it's a right turn and a nice flat run along the valley road to the bottom of New England Lane, turn right up the hill past the new Bloomfields Stud then into Shardelows again.

At a picnic lunch we were joined by Geof and Gwen and our daughter Katie and her family. Rosemary had made some super cakes which soon disappeared. We hope everyone enjoyed their day.

Those present:

Eunice, Wally and guest; Maureen; Sandy, Ian and Mouse; Linda and Ray; Liz and Terence; Helen and guest; Robert Clifton-Brown and guest; Frank and Jan(who now have Miranda); Maureen Howard and Marilyn. JL

**Garden Party at Fornham End**

6<sup>th</sup> August

The annual garden party was blessed with fine weather and went with rather more than the proverbial swing. This year we had real swing. Joshua Reeder very kindly accepted a booking to come and play his saxophone for us. And what a fabulous performance he put on for us. Thank you, Joshua.

There was splashing and shouting, swimming and eating, laughing and listening, tea-making and ice-cream dolloping. And talking, lots of talking. Catching up on gossip, telling of jokes, swapping of recipes, did you hear what happened when..., can I feed the hens?, would you like more strawberries?- no I can't-but they've got to be eaten-oh go on then. And cake – so much cake. We can make cake for England. Children, parents, grandparents, all jumbled up together. It was a real delight. Ray and I loved it and we hope you all did too. Please come back soon. LG

**Coney Weston Weekend**

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011

We set off on Saturday for a drive to Euston and Knettishall Heath. Some took the short route back after indulging in ice cream at Knettishall Country Park. All arrived back for a late lunch when Mouse joined us and later judged the Cone Driving Competition. She then rushed home to look after her wedding party PGs.

After 13 rounds,(most ponies competing twice with different whips), Graham and Magic were announced the winners with Ian and Dan second, and Jeff and Comet third.

We barbequed Saturday evening, many thanks to our chef Jeff –he did a great job, and we even had enough sausages and chicken legs left over to feed everyone at lunchtime on Sunday. On Saturday Shirley handed the reins to her grandson Sam. On Sunday Sam was invited to drive Linda's pair. A lot of driving experience for Sam - well done!

On Sunday morning Shirley picked up Sue and brought her to spend the day with us. The drive on Sunday was to Thelnetham via Bowbeck and Market Weston.

After lunch we had a Treasure Hunt – Pick Your Own Route across the old airfield looking for clues to television programmes. The pair of Shetlands had done enough work by then so Louise and Andrew set off on foot! There were 17 clues and the winners found 14. Well done Louise and Andrew. 2nd were Eunice and Wally with 12, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam and Linda with 11.

After tea Shirley presented the winners with the Crinkley Bottom trophy and rosettes to all competitors,

#### Attendance:

Linda and Ray, Jeff and Gwen, Shirley and Sam, Liz and Terence, Eunice and Wally, Louise and Andrew, Graham and Sarah-Jayne, Judith and Richard, Ian and Sandy, Colin and Maureen.

#### Cones results:

1<sup>st</sup> Graham and Magic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian and Dan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeff and Comet, 4<sup>th</sup> Liz and Sylvie, 5<sup>th</sup> Terence and Sylvie.

#### Treasure Hunt results:

1<sup>st</sup> Louise and Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eunice and Wally, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam and Linda, 4<sup>th</sup> Liz and Terence, 5<sup>th</sup> Ian and Sarah-Jayne, 6<sup>th</sup> Jeff and Gwen. MW

## **Concours Amical**

(a meeting of friends) in Suffolk

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

This is not a drive report but a description of a day in Suffolk. The views were stunning, the trees were magnificent, some in autumn colours and the narrow roads were very quiet, if one overlooks

meeting a hunt in training.

It was on our programme, the last but one drive of the season, on Sunday the 25th of September. Eunice had devised an excellent plan for Area 24 of the BDS, to replace the Attelage de Tradition this year with a Concours Amical. Members were invited to bring their traditional vehicles and to meet at Easton Farm Park at 11 o'clock. The invitation was also extended to drivers using modern vehicles. All were asked to drive in traditional or formal or country attire.

The route was through beautiful Suffolk countryside. It amazes me how different the landscape is from Norfolk. We were given an excellent map and at intersections, where the visibility was thought to be less than perfect, there were marshals (nearly all members of Eunice and Wally's family) to ensure safe crossings. Everyone enjoyed the morning drive (nine miles) to the Framston Doberman.

An excellent lunch and drinks were brought to each turn-out, the horses and ponies were in harness, whips on the box seats, grooms down. We were not in line but distributed in twos and threes in a large field adjacent to the Doberman. The spectators (judges) moved between the turn-outs, chatted to the whips and grooms, addressed the horses and ponies, noted our numbers and marked their cards. There were lots of them. They were regulars and irregulars at the Doberman. Some clearly knew about horses and carriages, some were there for lunch or a drink. Some lived in the village and some came to see the spectacle.

I have not mentioned what there was to see but this seems to be the right place. There was a Spider Phaeton, a splendid Brougham, two dog carts, one belonged to Wally, it dated from c.1890, the other was a modern version, a 4-wheel Ralli car, a spindle back gig, a Landau style carriage and two that I recognized a Bennington wagonette and a Bennington 4-wheel Mini. Eunice

has sent the full details to In Harness. There may well be images too.

There were three pairs, two Friesians, two Shetland ponies and a pair of Dalmatian carriage dogs.

When all the votes had been counted, Ed Daniell driving Bauker and Abe a pair of Friesians to Linda Dainton's Spider Phaeton had the most votes overall and won the Best Modern Carriage. The Area 24 Attelage de Tradition Trophy was presented to Peter Thory for the beautifully restored single Brougham put to his chestnut Welsh cob, Nice Bloke, also winning the Best Traditional Carriage. Everyone received lovely Rosettes in The Doberman's colours.

When the formalities were over, we set off for the afternoon drive (six miles). Along the way we met The East Anglian Blood Hounds, they were having a pre-season Training Day. We saw them having a Watering Halt between Hunts. There were about forty riders. Then it was back to Easton for tea and cakes.

In the programme Eunice called the event a "Fun Day" and it certainly was.

C&WSDC members were:

Wally and Jennifer, his grand-daughter driving Winston to a 4-wheel dog-cart

Robert and Amanda, driving Cream Boy to a 4-wheel dog-cart

Liz and Terence driving Sylvie to a Bennington 4-wheel Mini

20111001 / tw

## Thetford Drive

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

After heavy overnight rain we were delighted when the clouds dispersed to give us a very pleasant dry drive in the forest. The changing autumn leaves were colourful and the green grassy tracks inviting. After our drive we returned to the boxes and were pleased to see Angela, Bunty, and Sue who had come to join us for our picnic lunch.

On the drive we were joined by Jo Rush, a new member, and her family. They produced a lovely chocolate birthday cake to celebrate the twins' birthday.

### Attendees:

Judith and Richard Webster, Claire Bourne, Shirley Reeder, Terence and Liz Wheeler, Hilary Fielding and Shaun Mayes, Linda and Ray Godwin, Jo Rush and family, Maureen Willcox and Dawn Kent. MW

### Old Quotes/Unquotes

When asked how her pair of miniature Shetland ponies managed the soft, sandy Elveden tracks, Louise replied "Oh, fine. Two were pulling and one was pushing" Is this a new role for the groom?

After a day's driving at Windolphs and whilst relaxing with a glass of wine, Jeff was heard "waxing lyrical" about the beautiful sky and the sun set. He was gently informed that the 'setting sun' was actually the farm yard light.

Cheers!

Whilst out on a drive in unfamiliar surroundings, it was becoming apparent that Jayne had little idea of where she was. She was convinced that she was following the correct and most direct route on the map - a black line with 'V' symbols. It was pointed out later that the 'track' was a line of electricity pylons.

Toward the end of a particularly long and challenging drive in Northumberland, the weather started closing in. The intrepid group was asked whether it was bad enough to break out the emergency sloe gin, at which point, Maureen was heard to say "And just how bad does it have to get?" Not a drop was left.

The poem for this season is one you have all heard of but may not have read recently:

### Charge of the Light Brigade

I.

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
'Forward, the Light Brigade!  
Charge for the guns!' he said:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

II.

'Forward, the Light Brigade!  
Was there a man dismay'd?  
Not tho' the soldier knew  
Some one had blunder'd:  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

III

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of Hell  
Rode the six hundred

IV

Flash'd all their sabres bare,  
Flash'd as they turn'd in air  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while

All the world wonder'd:  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right thro' the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke  
Shatter'd and sunder'd.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

V

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell,  
They that had fought so well  
Came thro' the jaws of Death,  
Back from the mouth of Hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred.

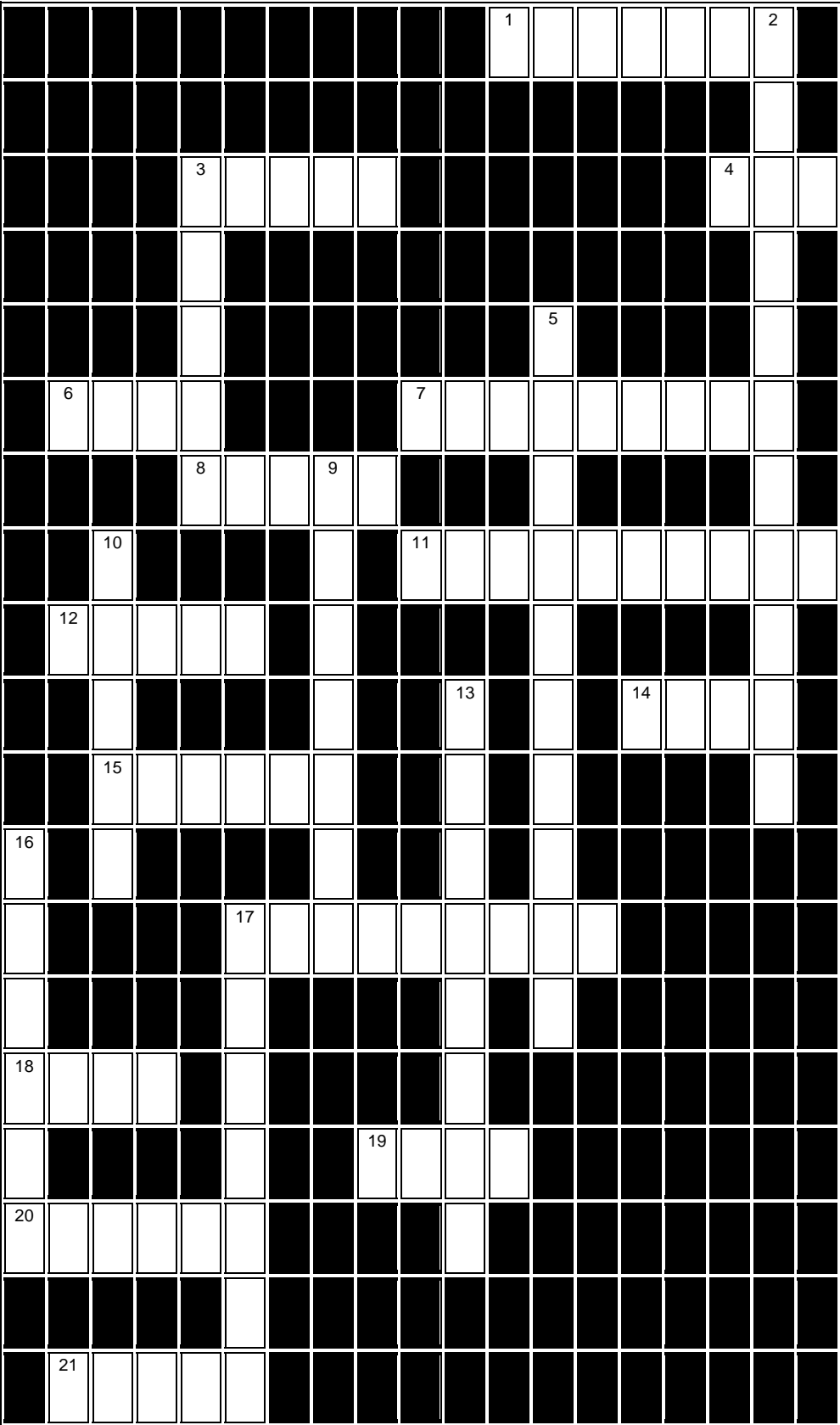
VI

When can their glory fade?  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wonder'd.  
Honour the charge they made!  
Honour the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred!

Alfred Lord Tennyson

**Know Your Horses Crossword**

The crossword has been constructed for us very kindly by Rachel Reeder



## Crossword clues

### ACROSS

1. Leather or plastic, your pony will look smart if it is clean (7)
3. Only a little bit left (5)
- 4A small amount to put in the mouth (3)
6. Snow, hail, all manner of wet weather, almost! (4)
7. Billy witches at East Walton, but these Beatles came from  
somewhere entirely different (9)
8. Middle age spread settles around here (5)
11. Going up the aisle is not this exactly! (6-4)
12. The chairperson is small and furry (5)
14. Plaited or hogged it can be a principal attraction (4)
15. If you don't want to pull be upfront about it (6)
17. East European fixing device (9)
18. A dashing pair (4)
19. Sparkling German wine (4)
20. Hang it up for meals on wheels (6)
21. Cooking or driving, put this to keep your togs clean (5)

### DOWN

1. Close harmony singers have branched out (11)
2. Thung by thingers thometimes, but there again thome think they  
are knickers (5)

4. Use this to secure your pony (10)
9. Transport to the end so try not to lose your head 7)
10. Always a prickly choice for decorations at Christmas (5)
13. Not exactly yummy but good on a hot day (8)
16. Jerky movement should maintain control (6)
17. Fancy yourself as a charioteer? Keep out of the sun and use four wheels (7)

Answers on next page.

## Crossword answers

### **Across**

1. harness
3. trace
4. bit
6. rein
7. liverpool
8. girth
11. bridlepath
12. mouse
14. mane
15. leader
17. polestrap
18. tits
19. hock
20. haynet
21. apron

### **Down**

2. swingletree
3. thong
5. headcollar
9. tumbrel
10. holly
13. saltlick
16. twitch
17. phaeton

LG with lots of help from the Worlington coven

### More Quotes

Early one morning at the start of the Coast to Coast drive, a couple of loose horses were seen cantering across the yard. Mouse, resourceful and practical as ever shouted "Bucket!"; and Ian, as deaf as ever replied "That's exactly what I thought". What did he think he heard?

As Dan waited patiently for his annual flu' jab, the vet was heard to ask "How are we with needles?". "I'm fine; he's rubbish!" was the short reply.

### And finally;

Thank you everyone for all your contributions to this newsletter. Don't forget to come to the AGM, where there will be a **sale table**. Please bring along any bits and bobs you want to get rid of.