

Friends of the National Horseracing Museum



Frankel Turning for Home at Ascot, 2013. Bronze by Philip Blacker

AUTUMN 2014 NEWSLETTER

Museum Update

Chris Garibaldi, Museum Director

Although still surrounded by scaffolding, the buildings will soon be returned to their former glory and the first phase of building work finished by February 2015. It will then take a further 12 months to pack and move the collections (which amount to nearly 8,000 objects in total), fit out the specialist displays and once again stall horses in the Rothschild Yard. We expect the new venue to be open to the public in early 2016 and plans are developing for how we might best celebrate this historic moment in the life of the Museum... more details will follow in due course.

To watch the drone flyover of the new site go to: <http://www.nhrm.co.uk> and follow the link to New Site News.



Frankel Bronze to be auctioned at ROA Dinner

Frankel, by Galileo out of Kind, owned by Prince Khalid Abdullah, trained by the late Sir Henry Cecil and ridden by Tom Queally.

This wonderful Bronze (22" wide by 15" high), illustrated on the front cover, has been generously given by the sculptor, Philip Blacker, to the National Horseracing Museum to be auctioned for Museum funds at the Racehorse Owners' Association Annual Awards Dinner on 4th December 2014. It is Number 1 of a limited edition of 6.

During the month of November the Bronze will be on show at the Osborne Studio Gallery in Motcomb Street, London SW1.

If you are interested in making a bid for the Bronze, please contact Julia Harman at the National Horseracing Museum on 01638 667333 (ext 12) or julia@nhrm.co.uk

The Art of Learning: Fairstead House class visit

Gabrielle Bell, Education Officer

The museum's Education Officer describes how local children are learning from the current Sporting Art of the Dukes of Grafton exhibition.

I am standing in front of fifteen year one pupils as we scrutinise the Marriage Portrait of Charles I to Henrietta Maria, looking for hidden meanings and messages. At this stage they do not know the relevance of the symbolism within the painting or the identities of the subjects. I offer a keen volunteer a bag containing replicas of objects which can be seen in the image. A plastic sword is drawn from within and held proudly aloft as we all search for a sword somewhere on the canvas. “I



think the sword is there to make us think that this man could save the world,” suggests an enthusiastic young art detective! Brilliant... although the irony is not lost on the accompanying adults!

The school curriculum is evolving. These five and six year olds are lucky enough to have a teacher who recognises the learning potential found outside the classroom, and the current Dukes of Grafton Exhibition lends itself well to local and National history, history of art and to personal, social and cultural themes. Such experiences enrich language and cognitive development, engaging young thinkers as they question and reason. We are showing them how to look, not just to see.

By the end of the session, the code of the painting has been cracked; the children have been praised for their fantastic detective skills and are sent into the galleries, armed with torches, to search for hidden details within the other paintings. There is the buzz of excitement in the air as the galleries are filled with new “experts.”

We have communicated part of our rich heritage to a future generation and we hope that one day they will do the same.

Committee News



Chairman Steps Down

We should very much like to thank Lise Lambton for her time as Chairman of the Friends of the National Horseracing Museum.

Her energy, enthusiasm and inclusiveness have invigorated the role and the Committee has gone from strength to strength. The long term ambition to create a Friends organisation reflective of a National Museum is beginning to be realised.

Although stepping down, we so hope Lise will remain an active member of the Friends.

It is with great sadness that we report the unexpected death of Maureen Hills. Born and bred in Newmarket, Maureen was the daughter of Paddy Newson, one of the finest horsemen of his generation.

Maureen's passion in life was the preservation of this town as the historic headquarters of racing in this country and she was an inspirational Friend of the Racing Museum, serving and supporting the Committee for many years.

She was tireless in her dedication in upholding the heritage and all the great traditions of her town and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

The Friends of the National Horseracing Museum were one of the beneficiaries of donations in memory of Maureen and the Committee would like to thank all concerned for their generosity.



Friends Events 2014

Private View: Sporting Art of the Dukes of Grafton, Tuesday 1st April

Many Friends came along to the Museum to enjoy a glass of wine and the paintings currently on loan from the Duke of Grafton. Once again David Oldrey and Tim Cox offered their fascinating insights to the history and significance of the works of art.

Tim Cox Library Tour, Wednesday 23rd April

After providing welcome refreshments on arrival Tim Cox explained the happy circumstance which led to his library which now houses some 16,000 volumes in a purpose-built extension of his house. He passed round a few of the gems of the collection and guests were then able to browse the shelves for themselves, before enjoying a wonderful lunch provided by Mrs Cox.

Cottesbrooke Hall Visit and Private Tour, Tuesday 13th May

This sell-out event was a huge success with a private tour given by Mr MacDonald-Buchanan who provided many extra details about the history of the paintings. After lunch the Friends enjoyed the glory of the garden.

Ladies Lunch, Friday 13th June

A great get-together was had in the Mews with ladies hearing an update on the refurbishment of the Palace House Stables from Museum Director Christopher Garibaldi, before enjoying lunch provided by members of the Committee.

Dalham Hall Stud Private Tour, Tuesday 24th June

Friends viewed the Darley stallions in the Stallion Yard, where the stallions on show included leading stallion Dubawi, alongside Derby winner New Approach and Champion Australian stallion Exceed and Excel. Others on show included the magnificent Poet's Voice, and shuttlers Sepoy and Helmet. The Friends were then able to follow the process that occurs when a mare arrives for covering at the Dalham covering shed, before retiring for tea and cakes served in the hospitality suite.



Parking Space?

Does anyone have a small corner of a barn where the horse ambulance can be stored until the museum transfers to the new site?

If you can help please contact Graham Snelling at the museum. Tel: 667333 or graham.snelling@nhrm.co.uk

Newmarket on the Move

Cllr Rachel Hood, Town Mayor, Newmarket

For nearly four centuries Newmarket has been associated with the thoroughbred horseracing and breeding industry. The very name 'Newmarket' is synonymous with Horseracing the world over and our two racecourses and beautiful acreage of gallops in the town and breeding land surrounding Newmarket make those of us who live here very proud indeed.

However, not all has been well in Newmarket for a number of years, despite the fact that the Horseracing and Breeding Industry remains the largest employer and economic contributor to the town, and indeed, the district. Over a number of years Newmarket's appearance became rather sad and unloved. The Carlton Hotel, a marbled Palace in the High Street, was demolished and replaced by a modern, featureless building. The town fell prey to ugly, unsightly even, buildings foisted on residents by developers with no feel for our heritage. Queensbury Lodge was swathed in scaffolding for over 25 years. There appeared a lap dancing club on the High Street and other buildings covered in banners advertising their businesses, with no regard to the sensitivities of the Conservation Area.

But the brilliant news is that all that is now beginning to change – and for better – and this is happening largely for two reasons. Whereas the 3 tiers of local government: The Town, District and County Councils had, it seemed, worked in isolation, following the town and district council elections in 2011 there was a subsequent reorganization of the District Council under a shared services agenda with St Edmundsbury Borough Council, and a new vibrant leadership emerged.

The Prince's Foundation was brought in to consult with townsfolk (as a collaborative effort by all 3 tiers of local government). Following a successful Prince's Foundation Report, the Newmarket Vision Project was inaugurated in 2013.

Newmarket College, having been placed in special measures in 2013, has now become Newmarket Academy and is on the way to becoming a successful school after years of underachievement.

A Transport Group, Community Planning Group and Retailers Groups have been formed and a Newmarket Vision Conference was held in September, 2014.

The District Council have started enforcing appropriate signage policies in the Conservation Area, which is already proving promising. The Bedford Lodge Hotel purchased an historic building in the Bury Road and turned it into a luxury Spa, whilst also being awarded a coveted Red Star for the entire Hotel. The controversial Hatchfield Farm urban extension proposal was rejected and a subsequent application has been called-in by the Secretary of State. Two enormous supermarket applications were rejected in favour of two other supermarket proposals which residents supported.

A unique project championed by the Newmarket Journal and a former Town Councillor to honour one of Newmarket's unsung heroes, Bill Tutte – a mathematical genius who cracked the Lorenz code and thus shortened World War II by two years – was inaugurated in early September.

The largely rebuilt Racing Centre, a community centre for all residents, was opened in the former New Astley Club premises, also, in September.

Many other initiatives are in the pipeline to contribute to rectifying the appearance of our formerly lovely market town.

And, perhaps most iconically of all, the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art has been supported too by all three tiers of the local government and by millions of pounds donated by them and even more millions by the Horseracing and Breeding Industry. Under the inspirational leadership of its Director, Chris Garibaldi and his staff, Trustees and Council associates, the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art is well on the way to its opening, scheduled for spring 2016 – just 18 months away. It is anticipated that anywhere from 50,000 – 100,000 visitors a year will come to the National Heritage Centre. Indeed, the newly revitalized 'Discover Newmarket' (formerly the Newmarket Experience) will be re-launched in November and will coordinate tourism to Newmarket's famous attractions – the breeding and training facilities, the National Stud, the Jockey Club Rooms, the Racecourses, and our hotels and retail offer and, of course, the National Heritage Centre.

Newmarket is on the move again – and this time we are all pulling together to revitalize our unique town and our proud, internationally renowned heritage.

NEWMARKET EQUINE HOSPITAL



NEH
NEWMARKET EQUINE HOSPITAL

Newmarket Equine Hospital (NEH) is a centre of equine veterinary excellence situated on the outskirts of Newmarket with over 30 veterinary surgeons providing veterinary care to racehorse trainers, stud farms, and sport and leisure horses in the surrounding area. The hospital offers state-of-the-art surgical, diagnostic and imaging facilities with a team of world renowned veterinary experts. We strive to offer the best possible veterinary care for all horses.

Contact: Ambulatory office: 01638 782000 — Referrals office: 01638 782020 — Website: www.newmarketequinehospital.com

Joe Mercer

Interviewed by Graham Snelling, Curator

Joe Mercer (nicknamed 'Smokin' Joe') was born in Bradford, Yorkshire in the UK. He started his career as a jockey in 1947 and rode a total of 2,810 winners in Britain, a number only exceeded by Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggot and Douglas Smith at the time of Joseph's retirement as a jockey, in 1985. Subsequently, this amount of wins has been beaten by Pat Eddery and Willie Carson.

What inspired you to go into racing?

My father was keen for all of his sons to go into racing and I was also the right height. I followed my brother "Manny" who taught me a lot. My apprenticeship began in 1947 with Major F B Sneyd at Sparsholt near Wantage.

Was there anyone that influenced you in racing?

I was encouraged by the success of my brother who was always happy to give me advice. Gordon Richards was also very good to me and would put a good word in the right direction to get me some of my first rides and I have him to thank for my introduction to Jack Colling.

What was your most memorable race?

That's not an easy question. I have had so many. You always remember your first win. Mine was as an apprentice in the 1950s, on a horse called 'Elforet' in a handicap race at Bath Racecourse in September 1950. I was British flat racing Champion Apprentice in 1952 when I had 26 winners and was awarded it again in 1953 having 61 winners.

Did you have a favourite racecourse?

I had three: Newbury because it was on the doorstep, Bath as it was my first win and Newmarket as I had my most wins on this course. All three racecourses were good for me.

You are 80 this year – what's your secret?

A good life and you will keep healthy!

What do you think of Sunday racing?

I think is a good thing. It's a chance for a family day out. You can make a real day of it and enjoy yourself. In my day of course Sunday racing was not available in this country but a lot of us would go to Scandinavia, Italy and Germany.

What would your advice be to anyone entering racing as a career?

Keep your head down. Listen and learn however tough it is. You will gain the experience for the future and thrive on it.

If you could pick out the best trainer in your time who would it be?

That's easy, it would be three: Jack Colling, Dick Hern and Henry Cecil. The three wise men. Jack Colling was very good to me and I learnt a lot with him. My time with Dick Hern was my most successful period. Henry Cecil was a true gentleman and always had time to talk.

Why do you think Brigadier Gerard was beaten by Roberto?

The horse was sick, when we got back to the stables and the horse put his head down, the mucus poured out of him. He was sick, yet he was still able to run second to the Derby winner.

We have your sauna in our collection. How often did you use the sauna?

The sauna was a great way to keep my weight down. I had different types over the years. I would even play backgammon while drinking champagne in the sauna - it could be good fun!

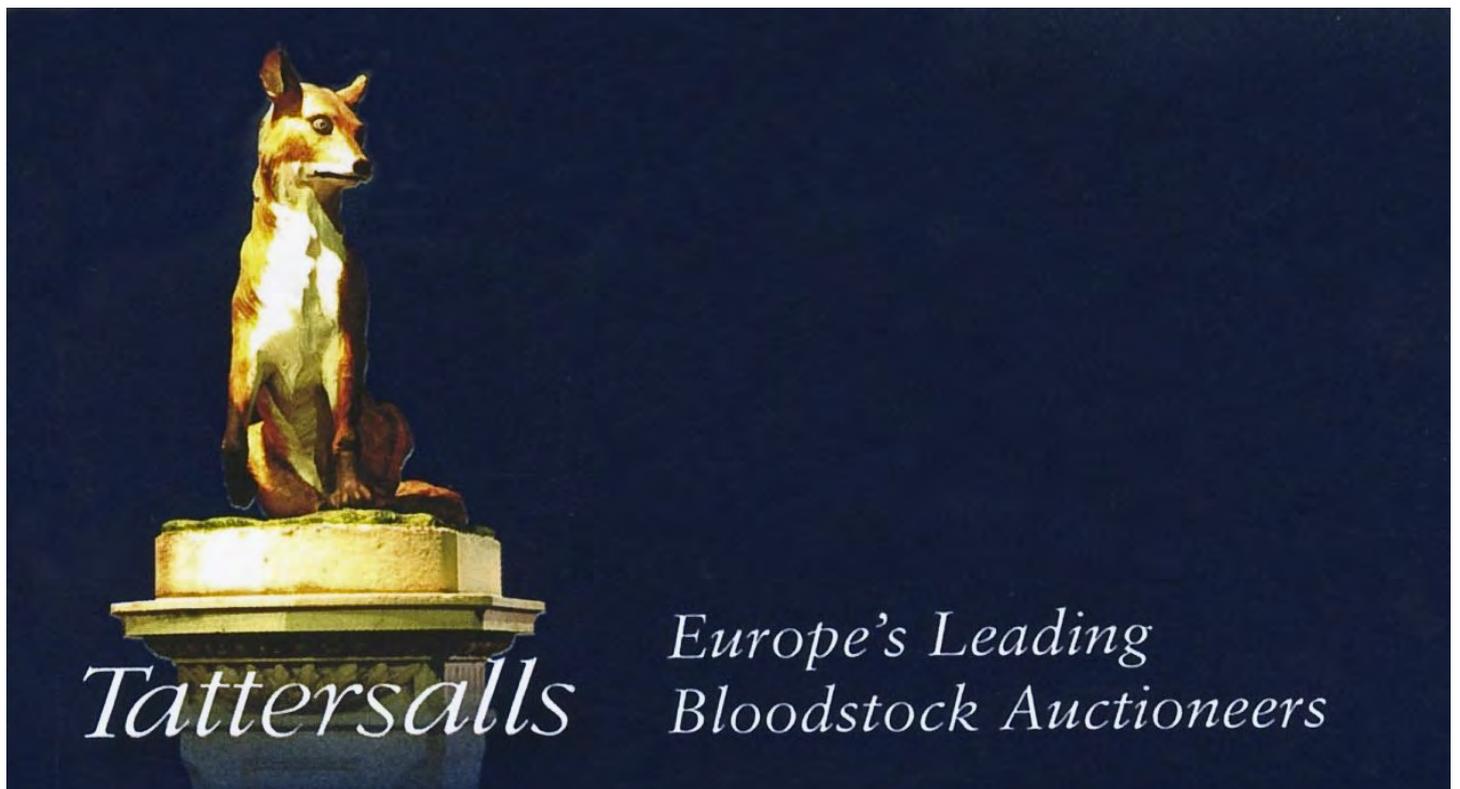


Hands-On

An essential part of the new National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art will be a Volunteering Programme offering a range of short and longer term volunteering opportunities. Volunteers will be needed from January 2015 for such roles as:

- * cleaning, packing and documenting objects ready for the big move to the new site
- * updating our social media posts on Facebook and Twitter
- * meeting & greeting visitors
- * helping out with events and learning activities

To find out more come along to our Open Morning on Tuesday 25th November (further information on our website) or contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Hazel Courtley. Tel: 01638 667333 (ext 13) or email hazel.courtley@nhrm.co.uk



THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL HORSERACING MUSEUM

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