

THE FRIENDS OF



July 2021

NHRM FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL HORSERACING MUSEUM



NEW EXHIBITION...
MUD, SWEAT & TEARS
A history of Jump Racing
OPENS JULY

*

Dear Friends

After the rigours of the past 18 months, it was hoped that 2021 would usher in renewed certainties but, as we have heard in recent days, the much longed for end to lockdown has been delayed. I would have liked to introduce myself to some of you personally at one or other of the events we hoped to run in July, but hope this brief introduction will suffice for now.

I am delighted to have taken over from Katherine Stewart as Chairman of the Trustees of the Friends of NHRM and to work on your behalf. As you will have read in the previous newsletter, I have many years' experience in the racing industry as well as curatorship of the Jockey Club Rooms' art collection and I look forward to working with the Friends and the museum.

I would like extend a warm welcome to Jane Meade, Anne-Marie Hogan (Museum Director) and Sal Fletcher (Packard Curator) to the board of trustees. We also must say a huge thank you and bid farewell to Alan Grundy who is stepping

down from his financial role on the Board. Alan has worked on behalf of the trustees of the Friends for many years, and we are grateful to him for his contribution and wish him well for the future.

The main purpose of this message is to ask you for your feedback and to make sure that you are getting the best from your membership. The museum and trustees are extremely grateful for your continued support. With that in mind, we want to make sure you are happy with your membership and to ask what more we can do for you to enhance your experience, email friends@nhrm.co.uk.

If you can spare the time to get in touch, we would be very grateful and will consider all suggestions for any improvements. Details of events we are planning for the second half of the year and 2022 are included this newsletter. If you have any ideas of what other types of events you would enjoy when we regain our freedom, we would love to hear from you.

Kind regards, **Ben Hanbury** (Chairman)



GD ARMOUR - A LIFE ILLUSTRATED

We are very fortunate to have been loaned a significant collection of G.D. Armour's drawings dating from his childhood until the 1930s. George Denholm Armour: *a life illustrated* will be on display in the Thompson Gallery until August.

We will also be offering our first online exhibition from September 2021 with Fred Astaire at Newmarket – an exhibition about his love of horseracing and his connections to Newmarket.

FRIENDS OF NHRM AGM

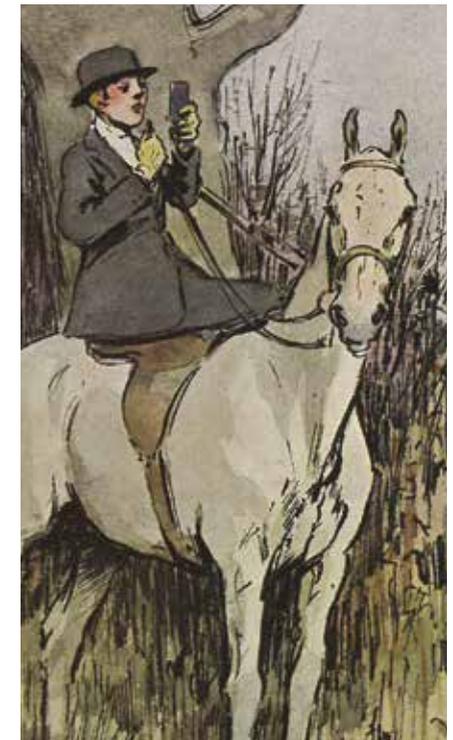
The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Horseracing Museum will take place at 11.00am on Tuesday 13th July at the museum. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown extension this meeting will be restricted to the Trustees only as we must adhere to government regulations. Please contact Annette Bell if you would like a copy of the minutes of the meeting (abell@nhrm.co.uk).

MUD, SWEAT AND TEARS EXHIBITION

We are delighted to announce the Mud, Sweat & Tears exhibition which celebrates National Hunt Racing and is due to open on 10th July.

We look forward to seeing some of you at the preview event on 9th July but for those who cannot attend, the exhibition will run until November.

At NHRM we always have a range of interesting volunteering opportunities from working with our ex-racehorses in the Rothschild Yard to helping as a volunteer host, please do get in touch if you wish to help us, apply to info@nhrm.co.uk





GEORGE DENHOLM
ARMOUR
a life illustrated

EXHIBITION OPENS
1st JUNE 2021

Book online: www.nhrm.co.uk



Book Exhibition Online >>>

Use Coupon Code:
FRIENDS2021

Use code www.nhrm.co.uk >>>



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



FRIENDS UPDATE

At the risk of sounding like a well-worn record, all the staff and I would like to thank you for your continued support of the National Horseracing Museum, particularly during the past 18 months of the Covid 19 pandemic. We are now well in the throes of gearing ourselves up for a busy summer which includes an exciting array of exhibitions, new and updated learning programmes and community events at weekends for families.

We were thrilled to open to the public on Tuesday 18th May after 18 weeks of lockdown Mk III and enforced closure. We have maintained and updated all measures required to ensure our visitors remain safe and protected while visiting the museum. We remain fortunate that the gallery configuration, large yards and paddock spaces make the implementation of a one-way system relatively simple, ensuring appropriate social distancing can be maintained.

We are delighted to announce that we have horses back in the Rothschild Yard and will be welcoming some famous four-legged stars during the summer to coincide with the upcoming exhibition in the Moller Gallery of *Mud, Sweat & Tears: a history of Jump Racing*. This exhibition explores the excitement and unpredictability of National Hunt racing. Among the highlights will be a Cheltenham Gold Cup, rare prints showing the first Grand National.

The exhibition *Sporting Talk*, which showcases the linguistic legacy of sporting pursuits from the 17th to the 19th centuries, has been moved to the second floor of Palace House and will remain until October when the prints will need to be returned to dark storage.

Our Curatorial team, led by Sal Fletcher, have been prioritising the effective management of our collection documentation by upgrading the management system to MuseumPlus and streamlining object tracking processes. Mariam Hussain, our Coral Pritchard-Gordon graduate trainee who we reported on in the previous newsletter, has worked tirelessly through lockdown to repair over 4000 broken file images of the collection. There are also several trade shows planned for the team to attend. The first one at Lakenheath took place in May this year.

Matthew Grant and his marketing team have continued their excellent progress on engagement; reaching out on social media, marketing emails and newsletters. Their hard work is allowing us to capitalise on the predicted Staycation summer ahead. The proof that this is working was seen on 5th June when we welcomed almost 300 visitors to the Birds of Prey display.

During the closure we have been working on the refurbishment of the Mews building which is due for completion mid-July. We have no doubt this will enhance our corporate appeal and provide a solid commercial asset to the Museum to host weddings and other events.

We remain resolute with our goal of promoting NHRM not just as a national showcase, but also a community resource for Newmarket.

The Tack Room restaurant and Bakery continue to provide high quality catering which adds to the experience of our visitors and the local community. I hope this provides a taste of our plans for the future and we look forward to welcoming you back to the museum.

Anne-Marie Hogan
Museum Director

Friends of NHRM

Palace Street, Newmarket CB8 8EP. Charity Number: 291154. Tel. 01638 667314 Email: friends@nhrm.co.uk

FRIENDS EVENTS FOR 2021 & 2022 - THAT WE HOPE YOU'LL BE PART OF....

FRIENDS EVENTS UPDATE

The recent extension to lockdown has forced us to change a number of plans and restrict access to other events. A number of venues we approached for visits this year are understandably cautious but will be happy to welcome us in 2022. We do, however, have some ideas for this year so please see below a list of potential events. If you have any suggestions for other locations, we would love to hear from you.

Coach transport will be dependent on numbers and may be subject to a charge per person. An application form will be sent for each event you have selected. Places are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis on receipt of payment.

☐ Tom Clover's Racing Yard – Date TBC

Tom and Jackie Clover have kindly agreed to allow the Friends to take a group to Kremlin House Stables to watch the horses at work and have a tour of the yard. Following the visit we will return to the museum for late morning "Afternoon Tea" style refreshments at the Tack Room, Palace House. PRICE PER PERSON £20.00 (Price includes a tip for the staff at Kremlin House Stables) Own Transport only

☐ National Horseracing Museum & Jockey Club Rooms – Date TBC

A Curatorial highlights tour of the Museum, lunch at the Museum followed by a tour of the Jockey Club Rooms' art collection. PRICE PER PERSON £25.00 Own Transport only

To receive an application form, please indicate the event/s you would like to attend by ticking the appropriate box, cut out and return the page to Annette Bell, Friends of NHRM, Palace House, Palace Street, Newmarket, CB8 8EP or email your preferences to abell@nhrm.co.uk.

☐ Cheltenham Countryside Day Friday 12th November 2021

A visit to Cheltenham Racecourse to attend the first day of this unmissable three-day meeting at the Home of Jump Racing. PRICE PER PERSON TBA Coach from Newmarket / Own Transport

☐ Thursford Christmas Spectacular: November/December 2022

The Christmas Spectacular is an extravaganza of singing, dancing, music, humour and variety which draws audiences from across the country. Bring a picnic for the coach journey or choose one of several food outlets at the destination should you wish. Estimated price per person £40.00. Matinee or evening performance depending on availability. Coach from Newmarket / Own Transport

☐ Sandringham House: May/June 2022

Visit to the Royal Studs followed by an optional entry to Sandringham House, museum and gardens. PRICE PER PERSON TBA Coach from Newmarket / Own Transport

☐ Cheveley Park Stud – 2022 Date TBC

A visit to this historic stud just outside Newmarket. Meet Chris Richardson and his team and be treated to refreshments on arrival and a stallion parade. Followed by lunch at the museum. Price £30.00 per person (Price includes a tip for the staff at Cheveley Park) Own Transport only

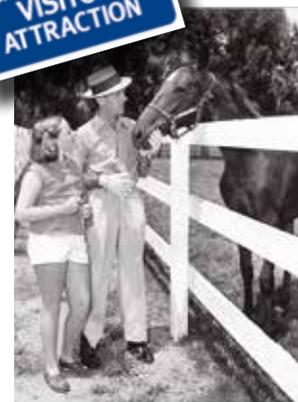
☐ A Day at Newmarket Races – 2022 Date TBC

Join us for a full day at the races with hospitality. Date and details TBC

Name:

Address:

Postcode:



SHERGAR THE FIRST MAN TO RIDE...

ANOTHER HIDDEN GEM IN OUR MUSEUM: DAVID GOODWIN

1981 was full of sporting heroes.

In early April we had seen Bob Champion's heartwarming victory in the Grand National on Aldaniti and during July and August Ian Botham single handedly won the Ashes. Sandwiched in between these two momentous sporting moments, Shergar, a bay with a white blaze and four white socks won the Derby ridden by the 19-year-old Walter Swinburn.

What many people won't know is who was the first person to sit on Shergar. David Goodwin, whose career in racing began in his native Scotland at Ken Oliver's yard in 1966, had that honour after breaking in Shergar, the son of Great Nephew at

Michael Stoute's Beech Hurst yard, David had only joined Michael Stoute's yard the previous year. David Goodwin today works every Friday in the practical gallery at the National Horseracing Museum, remembered Shergar, who was owned by HH Aga Khan, arriving in the autumn of 1979 after the yearling sales.

"He was part of the first group of horses owned by the Aga Khan to be trained in England for a little while. He was just another horse when he arrived. He was a nice-looking horse. He was a straightforward horse and there were no issues with him. But you can't tell at that stage what they might become."



"Michael Stoute had just moved up into the top echelon of trainers and had won the Oaks the year before. At the time, five or six of us would break in all the yearlings and then once we got them going, we would pass them on to the other lads who would continue to ride them. I rode him up until the summertime but once we knew he was going to be a bit above the average, the yard's lead work rider, Cliff Lines, took on Shergar."

Paul Mellon owned Glint of Gold could have been more. Peter Bromley on BBC radio had famously said as Shergar galloped clear "you need a telescope to see the rest." Third, a further two lengths back, was the 50/1 outsider Scintillating Air, who was trained by Bruce Hobbs at Palace House Stables. Scintillating Air, ridden by Geoff Baxter, will likely forever remain the last horse trained at Palace House stables to be placed in the Derby.

"He won by a wide margin as he had in his two trials at Sandown and Chester. He was very good but when horses win by wide margin you have to ask about the quality of the opposition" said Goodwin.

Shergar's first run as a two-year-old came when he won a one-mile Newbury maiden on 19 September. In his only other run as a juvenile the colt finished 2nd in the Group 1 Futurity Stakes at Doncaster over a mile. David had left Stoute's yard by the time of Derby Day to work for Henry Cecil but recalls watching the race on Television. Shergar won the blue riband by a staggering 10 lengths, the largest winning margin in the race's history.

The time was the slowest in the Derby since Airborne's triumph in 1946 but the ground was good to soft on the downs. Timeform did, however, give Shergar a rating of 140, the highest recorded for a Derby winner for the previous 50 years. His subsequent kidnap by the IRA in 1986 may have added to the lustre of Shergar's story but there is no doubt on 3 June 1981 he was a superstar horse.

It is one of those races you will never forget watching. The Aga Khan's colt took up the running shortly after rounding Tattenham corner and the young Swinburn can be seen easing the horse down at the finish. The 10-length victory margin ahead of the



David Goodwin, who works at NHRM, was the first jockey to sit on Shergar in 1979

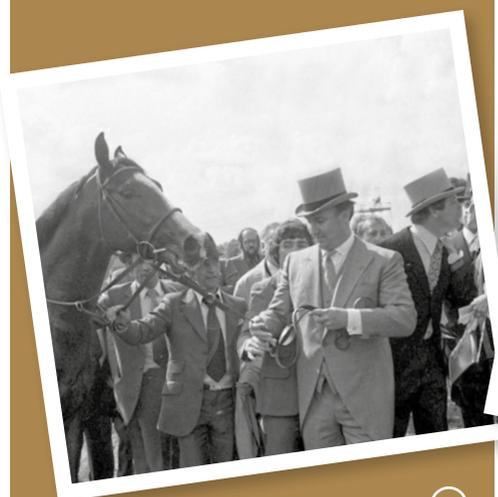
NATIONAL HORSE RACING MUSEUM

David's close association with the Derby continued when he moved to Henry Cecil's Warren Place yard at Newmarket, where he rode and looked after Slip Anchor and Commander in Chief, winners in 1985 and 1993 respectively.

"People think you can spot a Derby winner six or twelve months before, but it rarely happens like that. Derby winners are born with greatness and then it's up to trainers and jockeys to polish the uncut diamond," said Goodwin.

Dave recently came out of retirement to ride out a few horses for Chris Dwyer at Albert House stables in Newmarket. *"I am just a joy rider at the moment"* said Goodwin, though many experts at the home of racing would say the first person to ride Shergar is much more than that.

Stephen Wallis



Shergar during the lead in by owner Aga Khan (top hat) with jockey Walter Swinburn after winning the Derby Stakes Classic at Epsom



The late Walter Swinburn was always slightly embarrassed by his runaway Epsom Derby win in 1981 on Shergar – as BBC commentator Peter Bromley said 'you need a telescope to see the rest'.

Still remembered: Shergar, ridden by Walter Swinburn, winning the Epsom Derby by 10 lengths in 1981



The Benefits of Friends

As Friends of NHRM you play a vital part for the museum and, as supporters and ambassadors, also help to purchase objects for the collection and fund specific projects. With your continued support at our events the museum raises funds and encourages a shared interest in horseracing and its history. You can give the gift of Friends Membership to help us to continue our work.

Join now and receive:

Information and updates on Horseracing and its history through regular emails and biannual newsletters. You also get invitations to select previews, exclusive visits and seasonal events. Plus free entry to NHRM with discounts in the restaurant and shop.

Your gift welcome pack will include:

- A welcome letter to say who the gift is from
- Friends Membership Card
- Information on NHRM
- The latest Friends of NHRM newsletter

To set up your gift membership email friends@nhrm.co.uk or see details and download an application form at www.nhrm.co.uk

Friends:
"True friendship multiplies the good in life. Strive to have friends, for life without friends is like life on a desert island... to find one real friend in a lifetime is good fortune; to keep them, a blessing"

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to the site
- Visitors accompanying annual Friends will be offered a concessionary rate entrance
- Life membership includes a free guest admission
- Exclusive invitations to private viewings, lectures and tours
- 10% discount in the Tack Room restaurant
- 10% discount in the NHRM shop (restrictions apply)

