

The official newsletter for Bennington Enthusiasts

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The Bennington Team

WELCOME FROM SUE



Not long until the warmer weather...

Happy New Year to you all from the Bennington Team. We wish you an enjoyable and successful driving season for 2009.

Our ponies have been enjoying a well deserved rest during the winter but we are now starting our 2009 training programme.

Our first National event will be at Brighton on the 8th—10th May. If you are new to driving, the Brighton event is well worth a trip and with Stanmer Park being

just outside Brighton, might be an ideal opportunity for a weekend break. Further details can be found at:

www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk

We have a number of ridden dressage events scheduled and have found these a fantastic way of getting our pony Zack working in company and having to listen!

We are working hard with our friends in the sport to progress our selection for the

British Team for the World Pony championships in August. Dedication, commitment and hard work are needed and we are grateful for all the support we are receiving.

We hope you like the new format newsletter and please let me know if there's anything you'd like featured in future issues!

Happy Driving



NEW BENNINGTON WEBSITE

One of the many upcoming changes at Bennington is the launch of our new carriage website.

During 2008 we listened to our customers and realized that we needed to make some important changes.

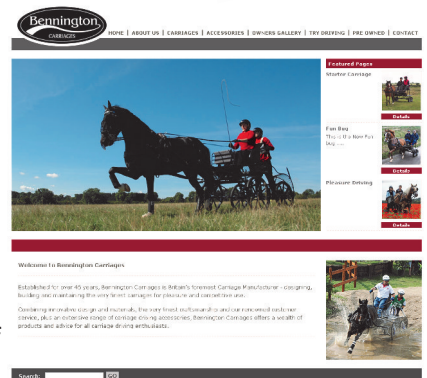
The comments we

received were that we needed a simple site that was easy to navigate and importantly, for it to become the "hub" for Bennington enthusiasts — for example, one Bennington owner wanted somewhere to share her pictures taken whilst driving

her Bennington. We would of course welcome your input as to how it can be progressed.

Additionally, we felt it important to capture the "spirit" of Bennington, customers, suppliers and staff.

We hope you enjoy it!



www.bennington.co.uk



DID YOU KNOW??? At Bennington, we have over 230 years combined experience of designing, manufacturing, maintaining and of course, driving our renowned carriages. Needless to say, we've probably got the answer to all of your driving related questions - so if you have any, please get in touch!

TRY DRIVING WITH BENNINGTON!

Continuing the enormous success of 2008 Try Driving, Bennington Carriages in conjunction with Amanda Saville is delighted to confirm 2009 Try Driving dates of:

21st / 22nd March and 25th/26th April 2009

Whether a complete novice or looking to improve your general driving skills, Try

Driving offers one to one tuition with Amanda Saville, one of Britain's leading carriage drivers. Amanda will be using her natural exuberance and skill to ensure that your session will be unforgettable.

Try Driving consists of Amanda using our renowned Fun Bug carriage and her highly skilled ponies. As such, you can be assured of

an insightful, highly rewarding session that will be a unique, fun way to increase your level of driving proficiency. A Try Driving session also makes an ideal gift!

Our Try Driving events will be held at Long Bennington and further information can be found on our website.

We look forward to seeing you there!



2008 Try Driving

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY...

To allow potential customers to appreciate our unique ride quality and craftsmanship, we are pleased to announce our "Try Before You Buy" days — the first being on March 21st / 22nd 2009.

These sessions will allow Pony and Cob sized Fun Bug carriages and our

experienced driving ponies to be driven at our specialized driving centre.

The centre includes a full size dressage arena, cones course, off road driving area, obstacles and water splash. This course will be available to put the Fun Bug through its paces and to allow potential

customers to experience the ride and quality whilst receiving friendly advice from the Bennington Team.

These events have always proved to be very popular and booking is essential. As ever, spectators are welcome.

For further details contact Sue Mart at Bennington Carriages.



Fun Bug with Dillon

DID YOU KNOW??? ...Here at Bennington, we've been busy making carriages for the last 46 years and whilst most of carriages are delivered to our loyal customers in the UK, we have exported carriages to a multitude of countries including the USA, Saudi Arabia, Canada, South Africa and even Argentina!



ROYAL WARRANT EXTENDED

Bennington is delighted to have received another 5 year extension to our Royal Warrant.

Royal Warrants are a mark of recognition to companies who have supplied goods and services for at least five years to various members of the Royal family. Warrants have always been regarded as demonstrating

excellence and quality, and are highly prized.

Bennington is proud to have held the Royal Warrant by appointment to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as Carriage Builder since 1979.

This latest extension is received with pride, and continues to unite us with other warrant holders who share a

common commitment to the highest standards of service and excellence.

Some fascinating information about Royal Warrants can be found at:

www.royalwarrant.org



By Appointment to
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Carriage Builder
Artistic Iron Products

NEW SEASON CARRIAGE MAINTENANCE



Now is the time to give your carriage some TLC to prepare it for 2009 and ensure smooth, successful and most importantly, safe driving. A wealth of maintenance and care information can be found on our new website but a few essentials are outlined below to get you started.

- Wash your carriage using a good quality car shampoo. Be careful if using a pressure washer not to use it around the wheel hub or brakes. Dry with a chamois or synthetic chamois and check for any metal fatigue or signs of wear – this is good practice that should be done regularly and after every competition
- Make sure wheel bearings are suitably greased. We advise removing the wheels, checking the bearings and replacing the oil seals if necessary. Use a high quality water proof grease
- If pneumatic tyres are used, check the tyre pressure (we recommend 24 psi)
- If a ball bearing turntable is fitted, re grease
- Check swingle tree bolts are tight
- Check brake pads for wear and replace if they are getting close to rubbing the brake discs. Check hydraulic brake levels and if it needs topping up, use dot 3 or 4 brake fluid
- If elliptical springs are fitted apply WD40 or similar to the spring bolts

Don't forget that Bennington offers a full selection of maintenance and service parts – and of course, offers a full servicing and maintenance facility. We can, by prior appointment, even service your carriage whilst you wait.

ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS FOR 2009

Here are just a few of our "must have" products for 2009. Full details can be found at www.bennington.co.uk

INTRO 2 WHEELER

The perfect carriage for the newcomer, the Intro offers unique Bennington quality and comfort in a safe, easy to use carriage. The Intro is ideal for off road driving yet smart enough for BDS pleasure driving classes.

The Intro has been designed for ease of maintenance and can be fully dismantled for ease of transportation and fits a large estate car or single horse trailer partition.

Available in a wide range of colours and options, the Intro is available from £1600 including VAT.



The Bennington Harness Trolley

Store and transport your harness safely—no more dragging on the floor! Can be wheeled in and out of the tack room with ease.

Easily dismantled to ease transportation, the Bennington Harness Trolley is powder coated in an attractive yet highly durable finish. Includes 5 moveable brackets, including a specially designed bridle bracket, a whip holder and 2 hooks for hanging your hats on.

PRICE: £135.00 including VAT



Gullet Safety Strap

Prevents the bridle from being accidentally pulled off and includes a D-ring to attach a lead rope.

Made of quality Zilco material in black

PRICE: £5.96 including VAT



Bennington Harness Rack

Features four main brackets for the saddle, breastplate, breeching and bridle. Wall mounted

PRICE: £16.65 including VAT



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Established for over 46 years, Bennington Carriages is Britain's foremost Carriage Manufacturer - designing, building and maintaining the very finest carriages for pleasure and competitive use.

Combining innovative design and materials, the very finest craftsmanship and our renowned customer service, plus an extensive range of carriage driving accessories, Bennington Carriages offers a wealth of products and advice for all carriage driving enthusiasts.

BENNINGTON SPONSOR TV PROGRAMME

To further promote the sport of Driving Trials, the BHDTA has commissioned the production of a new programme entitled "Try Driving Trials".

Sponsored by Bennington Carriages and Zilco Harness, it will show that Driving Trials is a fun

and friendly sport.

"With interviews from the doyen of the driving world George Bowman to newcomer Chris Ainscough, everyone is keen to "big up" driving trials!" said Jackie Herd of Cavewood Productions. At Bennington we've been enjoying the sport for

years but think its the best kept secret in the equestrian world! As such, we're sure that this programme will capture the interest of many people who might not have thought about Driving Trials before.

Viewers of Horse and Country TV (Sky Channel 280) will be

able to see the programme towards the end of January.

Further details, including programme times, can be found at the Bennington Carriages website or at: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk



horse & country

CHARIOTS OF FIRE

The Chariots of Fire Driving Centre is situated in the Scottish Borders a few miles north of Lockerbie.



Offering excellent indoor and outdoor facilities, and miles of local roads and tracks, it is the ideal place to train drivers and driving horses. The Centre has developed a reputation for encouraging people

into sports driving with regular ongoing competition successes.

We specialise in introducing disabled, disadvantaged and young people with special needs into the sport. We offer everyone the opportunity to do something they have never dreamed of! We have the specialist equipment, ponies, facilities and expertise to offer those who wish to take up the opportunities available. We can train you and your horse using techniques that will ensure you communicate effectively and the information is understood by both of you. We can identify areas

that need attention and release hidden potential.

Coach House Bed and Breakfast and overnight livery and grazing are available. Bring your own horse and enjoy our wonderful countryside, while getting expert tuition. There's also plenty of

non-horsey activities nearby, with golf, walking and beautiful scenery within easy reach.

For further information please check out our website at www.chariots.org.uk or call Amanda on 01576 610248

