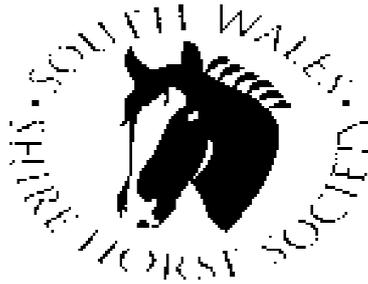


SOUTH WALES SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY



Charity No: 519067

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

Dear Member

I begin with wishing you a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. It has been a difficult year for us all but I feel confident now with news that the vaccines for Covid 19 are being rolled out that we can all start enjoying life with some form of normality very soon.

I can confirm that plans have been and continue to be taken for the South Wales Shire Horse Society Annual Show for 2021 to go ahead provided that Government guidelines allow us to do so. I feel quite positive that our Show will go ahead as we are an open air Show which takes place every year in July which really does give us every chance. It is with my optimism I can say that this year our Show will hopefully take place on Saturday 3 July 2021 at our usual venue Bailey Park, Abergevenny.

At this juncture I have to inform you that although we had confirmation as was mentioned in our last newsletter, that our show as a 2020 qualifier will be rolled over to 2021, I have now been informed by The National Shire Horse Society that this is no longer the case and that HOYS have made the decision to give the qualifier to who would have had it in 2021 which is The Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. It goes without saying that I, our Secretary and the Committee are incredibly disappointed by this decision and although both myself and our Secretary Mary Davies have been in touch with the National Shire Horse Society who confirmed to us that the qualifier had been rolled over and that our show in 2021 will have the qualifier, they have advised that they did not agree with HOYS and the decision has been taken out of their hands.

However regardless to this decision our Society throughout 2020 despite all the difficulties has got stronger and stronger and there is no doubt in my mind that this year's Show will be an absolute show stopper and I am looking forward to meeting you all once again to share our passion and admiration of the Shire Horse and all heavy horses and to keep to the forefront the reasons why we all carry on through thick and thin to promote the Shire Horse.

I have missed seeing you all at our Show, meetings and hands on days but it does seem that with the way things are going we will be able to arrange an AGM very soon together with a hands on day which I, as I am sure you are, looking forward to. I am very pleased to announce that potential dates for events will be given further on in this newsletter. It goes without saying that all guidelines at the time of each event taking place will have to be adhered to and I am keeping a

very close eye on all changes in these guidelines. When an event can be put on by SWSHS all government rules, regulations and guidelines will be issued with every invitation to each event and then of course it is a decision for you as to whether you wish to attend or not. I can confirm that at any event SWSHS are able to carry out, all Covid 19 measurements that are advised at the time will be put in place, and hopefully by that time the vaccines will have been rolled out to the vast majority. Face masks and hand sanitising products will also be provided by the Society. (Hands, Face, Space).

As always thank you for all your messages and kind words which I have to say continue to come in. It is amazing and quite overwhelming which just shows what a strong Society we are and as I have said previously it is with no doubt in my mind that South Wales Shire Horse Society continues to go from strength to strength.

Lastly thank you all for your support and making South Wales Shire Horse Society the Society it is. I very much look forward to seeing you all soon.

With kind regards and best wishes
KEEP SAFE
Mal Phillips
Chairman

Thank you Mal for all you have said and for all the hard work you have put in throughout and in particular this last year which has by no means been easy. You are a strong leader. Thank you. I would also like to congratulate Mal on behalf of SWSHS on his presentation last year by the Society for his 30 years' service as Chairman of SWSHS. An achievement of which is to be highly commended.

A lot of you may not know that unfortunately Mal towards the end of last year contracted this dreaded virus Covid 19 and has been incredibly poorly but thankfully although taking some time Mal is on the road to a good recovery. Mal unfortunately caught this virus by just being Mal, always ready and willing to help anyone in need. On this particular occasion he went to his father-in-law's aid who, most of us know as Des, Jenn Phillips' father, following a fall. Des of course was caring for his beautiful wife, Sylvia, Jenn's mum. It was not known at the time but following Des' admittance into hospital after his fall to be checked, Des tested positive for the virus. Sylvia in turn had to be admitted to another hospital. Both seemed to be getting on really well and ready to come home. Unfortunately prior to Christmas things took a turn for the worse and Des passed away quietly in the evening while Sylvia passed away quietly the following morning. This is incredibly sad and such a difficult time for both Jenn and Mal. I would like to pass on my personal condolences and best wishes to you both together with those of the Committee and all SWSHS members. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Des and Sylvia will be sadly missed by the Society. They have worked and supported SWSHS for 30 plus years alongside Mal and Jenn and have contributed so much to the Society over these years. Both Des and Sylvia touched so many people in so many ways. God Bless !

Mary Davies
Secretary

I would also like to thank Mal for what he has said and all that he has done and continues to do. Thank you Mary for paying tribute to both Des and Sylvia and for those of us who knew them they did indeed work and support tirelessly for the SWSHS and I absolutely agree they did touch so many people in so many ways. Such a beautiful couple.

Before we say our goodbyes to Des and Sylvia I have received a poem from Mr Brian Nicholls who would like to pay a special tribute to them and has permitted me to share it with all our members.

“Des and Sylv

We miss you in so many ways, we miss the things you used to say
And when old times we do recall, it's then we miss you most of all
Instead of a card we send our love, Instead of a gift a prayer
To you both we thought the world of and miss beyond compare
In the hearts of those who loved you, you will always be there
Thinking of you at Christmas
We talk of you still we haven't forgotten you and we never will
We never need a special day to bring you to our minds
For the days without a thought of you are very hard to find
You will live forever in our hearts and minds

From Brian Nicholls”

Brian thank you so much for this beautiful tribute to Des and Sylvia. Thank you.

As you may all recall an anonymous benefactor generously funded two SWSHS Draws for all our members to say thank you for all the support given and that the first draw took place in June 2020. I can confirm that the second draw took place on 31 December 2020, as promised at the end of the year, and I have pleasure in confirming the winners being the first 5 members drawn out as follows (who have all been informed prior to this Newsletter going out):

First Prize of £50 - Steven Boulter, Second Prize of £40 - Anne Jones, Third Prize of £30 - Jean Pleavin-Edge, Fourth Prize of £20 - Ffion Marks and finally Fifth Prize of £10 - John Worthington.

Congratulations to all of our five winners of the second SWSHS Draw and a very big thank you goes to our anonymous benefactor who enabled us to carry out these two draws for our members.

I am now extremely thrilled to announce a few potential dates for your diary – but please due to Covid 19 - before you attend any of these events check with the organisers that the event is still going ahead to avoid disappointment.

13 – 14 March 2021: National Shire Horse Society Spring Show at Newark Show Ground

March/April/May 2021: 2020 AGM (Date and Venue TBC)

May 2021: South Wales Shire Horse Society – Hands on Day at Colloe Farm, Collafield, Little Dean, Gloucester (Date TBC)

May 2021 Bank Holiday Weekend: Abergavenny Steam Fair at Bailey Park, Abergavenny (TBC)

3 July 2021: South Wales Shire Horse Society Show – at Bailey Park, Abergavenny.

19 – 22 July 2021: Royal Welsh Agricultural Show at the Show Ground in Llanelwedd

7 August 2021: Brecon Show at the Brecon County Show Ground

September 2021: South Wales Shire Horse Society – Talk Evening (Date TBC)

November/December 2021: South Wales Shire Horse Society AGM – (Date TBC)

Whilst we are on the subject of events which I am very optimistic that such events will at long last be able to go ahead, the SWSHS Committee have been approached to organise a weekend camp or a few day camps in relation to activities such as ploughing, harnessing, plaiting and much more. I can confirm that at our last Committee meeting this was discussed and it was agreed that this will be looked into in the hope that SWSHS can indeed arrange such a camp as soon as restrictions allow us to do so which I think will be an extremely positive move for all our members and indeed non-members who just need that encouragement and confidence of becoming a Shire Horse owner or indeed a heavy horse owner in the knowledge that they will not be on their own and that there is always someone there to help and advise.

It has also been suggested that perhaps SWSHS could purchase and own certain implements such as harness, plaiting materials etc., that SWSHS could loan out for the use of members for Shire and other Heavy Horses who perhaps would like to try different classes but does not have the equipment yet or who is not sure on what class they would prefer to specialise in and so without going to all the expense of buying such things could firstly try it out loaning such equipment from the Society. Again this was discussed in our last Committee and will be seriously discussed again by the Committee as soon as practically possible. I personally think this suggestion is one which should be looked into as I am a firm believer in encouraging the younger generation with the vast knowledge and expertise of those who are more experienced. This will certainly allow and help the Shire Horse Breed to live on forever and a day.

SWSHS have also been approached to hold talks in its own right that members and members of the public can attend such as what to look for when buying a Shire Horse/heavy horse, veterinary talks, farrier talks, the list just goes on. As many of you know our Chairman Mal Phillips has himself been invited by numerous organisations to give talks on the Shire Horse of which I have been very lucky to have accompanied him on many of these over the last year or two, before Covid 19 struck.

I can advise you that during 2020 whilst in lockdown Mal has agreed to give talks himself but has also been in touch with a lot of people who have also agreed to give talks on their expertise such as farrier and veterinary. As above you can see that we already have plans after SWSHS 2021 Show for an evening with a talk to take place and that date will be confirmed in due course.

Our Chairman and Secretary have been extremely busy during lockdown with the Committee ensuring that we have a very strong and positive 2021 in not only keeping the Shire Horse Breed at the heart of this Society but also looking after all our members as without you we do not have a Society. All members and exhibitors are extremely important to the Society as we all have one thing in common and again the words from Eric Such spring straight to mind “we all have one love”. (I can see Eric’s words becoming a slogan for SWSHS very soon)

Now that things are looking much more positive with the vaccine on the horizon being rolled out and we are most likely going to be able to meet in person that our newsletters will be reducing from monthly to three or four times a year. Although periodically in between the Newsletters we are looking to put together a “SWSHS Keeping in Touch Bulletin”. These newsletters and possibly Keeping in Touch Bulletins will now only be sent out to members, so any exhibitor or sponsor who is not a member but would still like to continue receiving our newsletters and any other literature and would like to become a member please, please, contact

myself or our Secretary, Mary Davies, and/or complete and return the enclosed form. I must admit I have thoroughly enjoyed and I am still enjoying speaking with you all, putting the newsletters together and receiving all your wonderful stories, photographs, sayings, recipes and much more. It goes without saying that it is so important to our Chairman, Secretary and the Committee that SWSHS look after all our members, exhibitors, sponsors and ultimately all who take part with SWSHS which I hope during this pandemic we have shown that as a Society we care and that each and every one of you are so very much valued by us.

At this point I would now like to just remind everyone of the benefits of being a member.

Shire Horse Mare Grants Scheme

This is a £200 grant for breeders of the Shire Horse who are members of SWSHS only and can be claimed for one mare per member per year. The grant however can only be paid out on receipt by the Chairman or Secretary of SWSHS of a serving certificate or a veterinary certificate and evidence that the mare has been served by a premium stallion.

Also all members who are not exhibitors are entitled to free entry to our Show Ground on Show Day with a free pass into the hospitality enclosure for the day and enjoy a buffet with soft drinks. Those members who are exhibitors are entitled to reduced entry fees on show day also with a free pass into the hospitality enclosure for the day with a buffet and soft drinks.

Further benefits for all members include free passes to any hands on days, talks, social gatherings to meet all members and committee members so we can all put names to faces.

Any weekend trips that are arranged to go to other shows all members will have a reduced rate. (Cost TBC at time for members and non-members).

Again when SWSHS can arrange any weekend camps or day camps all members will have a reduced rate. (Cost TBC at time for members and non-members).

Lastly if/when SWSHS are in possession of any heavy horse equipment this will be announced on our website and media platforms to enable any members to loan should they wish for either exhibiting or any hands on day or camp.

SWSHS confirmed to you all that all membership fees that had been paid in 2020 would be rolled over to 2021 and with that in mind I either enclose for you your 2021 Membership Card/s or a Membership Application Form for the renewal/application of your Membership with SWSHS.

I am so proud and honoured to play such a small part within SWSHS and look forward to meeting each and every one of you again soon.

I have now received a heart-warming story from one of our Committee Members Chris Evans called "Life After Stroke" and below I share with the permission from Chris his story.

LIFE AFTER STROKE

"In 2018 I suffered a stroke, in hospital during recovery I knew I had to give up my job as a carpenter. I am right handed, the stroke affected my left side I am one of the lucky ones it has only left me with no feeling in the tips of my fingers on my left hand. I have worked all my life and I thought what do I do now? So I turned back to my modelling (not the catwalk) but making small diorama scenes.

Stroke affects people in different ways but I will say it's hard but don't give up. Chris Evans".



As you can all see this wonderful model that Chris has created is of the Great Train Robbery. Look out for the next model which I have been honoured of having a sneak preview which will be featured in another newsletter/SWSHS keeping in touch bulletin. All of Chris' models can however be seen and admired on SWSHS Show Day in the model Tent.

Thank you Chris for sharing your story with us. You certainly are very inspirational and very talented.

Now although we are a Shire Horse Society we do of course love our miniatures who also show and attend our Show hence "South Wales Shire Horse and Miniatures Show" and I have just been sent some absolutely gorgeous photographs of our very own Chairman's great granddaughter having a splashing time with her mum and best friend Friday.



You have to admit this just makes you melt. Absolutely beautiful.

You are certainly following in your great grandfather's footsteps and I believe it will not be long before you are in the ring as a Champion Young Handler.

Now for our Supreme Shire Horses. I have had a few requests to show the below photographs, which may or may not have appeared in previous newsletters, however I am not at all surprised that these requests have been made. These are two true gentlemen of the Shire world with their splendid Shires. So as promised I show below two wonderful photographs to kick start the New Year off which I am going to use for my very own competition.

For the first five members pulled out of the hat who have guessed correctly the names of not the splendid Shires but the handsome young gentleman who are accompanying them will all receive a SWSHS keyring for guessing one name correctly, guess the two names correctly and the first five pulled out of the hat will receive a SWSHS keyring and SWSHS badge.

If any member can then guess correctly the names of both the Shire Horses and their owners, the first five correct answers out of the hat will receive a Shire Horse Society Mug.

I am so much looking forward to receiving all your entries.



Now I have received another saying to end this newsletter which is:

“In 2021 I am booking a trip to Iceland and if that goes well I will go to Tesco and Asda”.

Finally thank you all for your response in our New SWSHS Fillies Favourite Recipes Booklet which I now have the privilege of informing you has been requested and sent overseas, absolutely amazing news and if you would like to purchase this Booklet please contact either Dana Jones or Mary Davies on the details below. The Recipe booklets are £2 each plus P & P.

As always please forward to me your photographs, stories, sayings, recipes or thoughts for the day that we can all share.

I am feeling so positive for 2021. Things will not be as we know it for some time to come I know but things do seem to be aiming towards some kind of normality. So with the NEW NORMAL let us all keep safe and enjoy 2021 and make the very best of what we have. There is a lot to look forward to and of course our Show on 3 July 2021 at Bailey Park which I am convinced will be a huge success. We will once again be able to see those beautiful animals both Little and Large parading in all their glory and of course watch our new Fun Dog Show. There will also be all our loyal trade stands, crafts stands and catering stands, amusement stands and the display of our classic and vintage vehicles.

**I WISH YOU ALL
A Very Prosperous, Healthy and Happy New Year.**

As always please visit our website at www.swshs.org.uk and our social media platforms for all updates but if you do however have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on the details set out below.

We thank you for your kind and continued support.

**KEEP SAFE
SWSHS.**

Contact Details

Secretary: the.secretary@swshs.org.uk

Events Co-Ordinator

Tel: 07835 459030

Email: dana.jones@swshs.org.uk

Address: “Thorverton”, Litchard Terrace, Litchard, Bridgend, CF31 1PN.