

# Tedworth Hunt Supporters Club



## Newsletter



Robert and Lady Julia Hiscox were our generous hosts at their home in the beautiful setting of Rainscombe Park on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> October on the occasion of the Opening Meet. A fine, sunny and warmish day with barely a breath of wind saw a good attendance from both the Hunt and their supporters and the new Joint Master, Lt. Col. Symon Robinson MFH, warmly welcomed everyone and thanked our hosts on behalf of the Hunt and shortly thereafter Huntsman Ollie Harding blew for hounds.

With the ban on hunting still firmly in place and no word from the Government as to when any debate on the Hunting Act might be, many commentators are of the view that any vote, on a motion as to whether the matter should be debated, is unlikely during the present administration's term in office. Indeed recent editorials and articles in the pro-hunting press have been decidedly negative with regard to the subject, and the more pragmatic members of the hunting community are, understandably, taking the view that, all things considered, the matter should be left 'to lie on the file' for the present.

We must work for repeal of this illiberal law, but we must be patient.



DEFENCE TRAINING ESTATE SALISBURY PLAIN – EASTERN  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT [THE ‘NEW’ ROAD’]

Defence Training Estate Salisbury Plain [DTE SP] is the largest, busiest and most diverse armoured manoeuvre and live fire series of artillery ranges in the United Kingdom. The Plain is an SSSI, c SAC [candidate Special Area of Conservation], is a Special Protection Area [for birds] and has many EU ecological & archaeological designations. These latter aspects are important as they bring with it European funding for various projects e.g. EU Life Project brought £2M matched by similar funding from our treasury coffers!

Currently training patterns are dictated by restrictions in the northern areas forcing tracked and soft skinned [wheeled] vehicles of Battle Groups and Combat Teams to utilise only the southern parts thus continuously adversely eroding the important natural habitat [40% of the natural chalk grassland in Northern Europe is found on Salisbury Plain]. The return of armoured brigades from Germany required new build barracks adjacent to the Plain hence the birth of the Super Garrison and major refurbishment of Tidworth, Larkhill, Bulford and Warminster Garrisons/Stations. New units needing local training areas brought forth pressure from the Statutory Bodies to maximise the available area for training on the Plain; hence the Eastern Infrastructure Project [the New Road!]. This project will deliver in November 2011 a stone tank track that will enable commanders to tactically utilise both the ‘old’ southern route and now the new northern route across the top of the artillery impact areas [15 & 16]. ALPHA & ALPHA 1 [A & A1] crossings have been immensely upgraded, new tank crossing have been built east of Upavon and west of Everleigh and across the A345 [north of Tidworth]; this will open up Perham Down. ECHO ECHO crossing at Shipton Bellinger is currently undergoing a major revamping and a new track will be cut from here to NOVEMBER NOVEMBER crossing beside FOXTROT small arms range. The project is costed at approximately £21M; which was agreed by HQ Land [thankfully!] some three years ago before the financial downturn became quite so apparent. Once this major project is completed the benefits to troop training will be considerably enhanced and hopefully regeneration of this important ‘Jewel in the Crown’ habitat will be further protected and improved upon.

N.O.H. de Foubert.



Hunting on Salisbury Plain

Following publication of the previous two newsletters in which the Editor had written comment with regard to the Hunting Act and the unlikely event of an early repeal, we received three letters from hunt supporters who did not agree with what had been written. We are always pleased to receive any comment or criticism with regard to anything that is published that may be considered unrepresentative, misleading or simply not agreed with. The following are extracts of these letters.

“I am sorry to say that I wasn’t too impressed by the editorial on the front page of the last newsletter or, for that matter, the one on the previous newsletter to that one. I am a huge advocate of freedom of speech and I am very aware that many people agree with the view that ‘we are deluding ourselves in our belief that there will be an early repeal of the Hunting Act’ However, it does not provide a positive message and does not provide the balance of a counter argument. I feel particularly embarrassed that our Hunt Staff have to read this. They are in an impossible situation and need our support.”

Tedworth Hunt Supporter

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“I have no idea who writes the editorial but I can tell that he or she does not hunt a pack of hounds under the current legislation. If you want to promote the behaviour of turkeys voting for Christmas and state ‘that the Act is best left on the statute book as it ’is better the devil you know than the devil you don’t, you should be more representative and state that the CA, the MFHA and Council for Hunting are keeping up the pressure on the government, for a repeal.”

Tedworth Hunt Supporter

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“The Conservative party are committed to repealing the Act. Meanwhile our conduct must be above reproach.

The MPs’ whose campaigns we were so involved in will remain proud to call us their friends and will vote for repeal when the time comes.

We must take every opportunity to become involved in local politics, read what the papers are saying, reply to letters in the press, respond to polls and take every chance to state our case against this illiberal law.

Masters and Hunt Staff should not have to constantly look over their shoulders wondering who is watching, if they are being monitored or worrying if they may be prosecuted.

We must support our Hunt and continue to work for repeal.

Yours faithfully

Sally Jones – Hunt Supporter



Sally Jones pictured at the Tedworth Hunt SC Hunter Trials

## Hunting Etiquette

Many more people are hunting today and to those new to hunting, whether mounted or just following on foot or in the car, it may appear at first sight, and sound, a tad bewildering. Apart from the small problem of the Hunting Act which, since it became law, makes it a criminal offence to hunt a fox with a pack of hounds, it still appears to look as though nothing has changed. Mounted members of a Hunt still wear traditional hunting attire, of which the most prominent being the scarlet coats with brass buttons adorned with the hunt crest worn by Masters, Huntsmen, Whippers-in, other Hunt staff, former Masters and male members of the Hunt who have been awarded the Hunt Button. Female members who have been awarded the Hunt Button can be distinguished by their coloured hunt collars and buttons worn on their black or navy blue coats. All other members wear a plain black coat with unadorned black buttons. But how can you tell exactly who is who? The clue is in the number of buttons being worn. Huntsmen, Whippers-in and other professional hunt staff wear five, Masters and Amateur Whippers-in wear four and ordinary members wear three. Younger members of the field also adhere to a strict rule of clothing etiquette. Under eighteens wear a tweed jacket, commonly known as 'ratcatcher', throughout the hunting season. Over eighteens will wear ratcatcher during 'Autumn hunting' (late August until the Opening Meet) after which they switch to formal hunting attire. Ratcatcher may also be worn during the season by guests or visitors who are not regular hunters.

A variety of headgear can be worn while out hunting. Gentlemen may wear a top hat, a bowler or hunting cap. Ladies may wear a bowler or a hunting cap unless riding side saddle when a top hat may be worn. Another clue as to who's who can be seen by looking at the ribbons worn at the back of a hunting cap. Normally professional hunt staff, Masters and Hunting Farmers wear their ribbons down, while members of the field and amateur staff wear their ribbons up.

The colour of breeches can vary from Hunt to Hunt but are generally of one colour, usually pale – and always white with a scarlet coat - though some Hunts permit two or even three colours throughout the year.

Footwear is generally limited to 'Butcher boots' - plain black without tops which should be worn with a black or blue coat, and 'English dress' or top boots – black with a mahogany coloured top which should be worn when wearing a scarlet coat. Ladies who have been awarded their Hunt Button would wear black boots with a black patent leather top similar in proportion to that of the mahogany top.

Hunting can be great fun and, at the same time, a privilege, thanks to the generosity of the farmers and landowners who allow the Hunt access to their land. All that is needed in return is respect for that privilege. A smile, a wave or merely a word of thanks is enough whether it's to your host, the scruffy looking person holding open a gate or the motorist who slows down to let you and your horse pass safely. Good manners cost absolutely nothing and it's good for the name of hunting.

Tally ho, and good hunting.

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## Good news.....

The AGM of the Tedworth Hunt Supporters Club was held at the Woodborough Social Club on the evening of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Paul Bowerman, who asked all those present for a moments silence in remembrance of Charles Spencer, David Jones and Roger Wheeler before asking the Hunt's chairman, Robin Gamble and Joint- Master Symon Robinson to give their respective reports. After hearing from the treasurer, Angela Bowerman and club secretary, Jo Donovan it merely remained for the members to vote former Hunt Secretary, Harriet Allen, onto the committee. It was unanimous!



Harriet Allen pictured with Barbara MacMullen

## And more good news.....

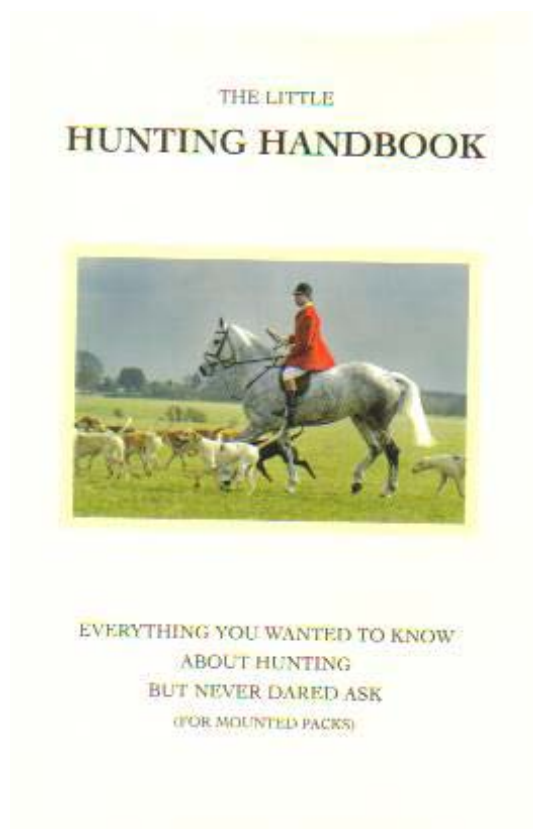
To James and Katie Read, a son, born on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and weighing in at just over seven pounds, Charles Read (pictured below) aged three weeks and three days, attending his first Meet when the Tedworth met at Pewsey Vale Riding Centre on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Charles (who most likely will be known as Charlie) comes from an illustrious line of former Joint Masters of the Tedworth going back to his great-great grandfather, Monty Read. His great grandfather, Jim Read and grandfather Bryan Read were also Joint Masters. James is currently vice-chairman of the Hunt Supporters Club.



The proud father

May we recommend this little book, the cover of which is pictured below. It is full of, as it says, everything you have ever wanted to know but never dared ask and is illustrated with over sixty coloured photographs. It would make the ideal stocking-filler. It costs a very modest £10 and proceeds will go to the Hunt Staff Benefit Society

If you would like a copy please contact Angela Bowerman on 01672 562233



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The club also has a number of items for sale, all modestly priced, including Hunt Supporters ties, Sweat shirts, T shirts, baseball caps, aprons and Fleece jackets. All carry the THSC logo and the jacket is worded on the back, 'Tedworth Hunt'.

Call Jo Donovan on 01672 811531 to place an order. Ideal presents for Christmas.

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**THSC Race Night**  
**Woodborough Social Club**  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011**  
**Tickets £10 to include a fish and chip supper**

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### **A GENTLE REMINDER TO ALL WHO WOULD GO HUNTING**

“We are privileged to be able to go hunting. To be able to get on a horse and go hunting is an even greater privilege, but this privilege confers no rights at all; indeed we have no right to hunt. It certainly does not confer the right to be ill mannered, rather the opposite, there is a positive duty to be even more gracious than you usually are. Assume that, and act as if, everyone has more right to be where they are than you. Be pleasant to everyone you meet, if a car slows down for you, acknowledge their courtesy, it will encourage them to do so again. If someone opens a gate for you say 'thank you' even if the 27 people in front of you have already done so. Never obstruct the Queen's highway, she requires all her subjects to have beneficial use of it, she does not want you blocking her road with your horse or your car. There is little that annoys the hurried motorist more than to find progress impeded by a mass of steaming horses badly parked cars and chattering humanity oblivious to the world around them. It makes non-hunting people into anti-hunting people. Whether you like it or not, and whether they admit it or not, when you are on a horse the dismounted public will regard you as a sample of the knightly caste; this will evoke respect from some, dislike from many others. However unknighly you may feel, it nevertheless behoves you to behave with the utmost chivalry whilst mounted. Never allow yourself to offend anyone unintentionally. If you feel an urge to be rude to somebody, follow the admirable dictum of Colonel Wintle that 'you should never be rude to anyone under the rank of full Colonel'. Full Colonels are more than able to give as good, or better, than they get! “

'Hunting - an introductory handbook' by R.W.F. Poole.



Gin may be pink, the coats are scarlet or black!

The association of the phrase 'in the pink' with the so-called pink coats worn by fox-hunters is controversial. Red was known sometimes as red, usually as scarlet, and very occasionally as pink. The origin of the word 'pink' is obscure enough; its elevation to mean the scarlet hunting coat is baffling as there was no leading (if any) 18<sup>th</sup> century tailor of that name, to dispense with a frequent explanation, in London or anywhere else in this country. Tailoring is a trade as well documented as cabinet making et al and if there were a tailor named Pink, (Pinke or Pinque) associated with hunting, records would exist. And why is there almost a century's gap between the first use of the word "pink" for the colour of a red hunting coat and the first appearance of the tailor Pink story?

Here are some of the theories of the origin of "pink" and the tailor Pink story that I have found. Pick whichever one you prefer.

The coats are so called as they were made by a Mr. Pink. maybe the tailor's given name, or nickname

Transference of meaning from "pink" as meaning fashionable dandy, common in the first decades of the 1800's.

Transference of meaning from "pink" meaning pinnacle or excellent extreme, as in "pink of health" or "pink of courtesy."

After a season's use, a scarlet coat fades to pink or in rain, a scarlet coat's dye washes out to pink.

There was a tailor named Pink, a character in a novel or play, given -- following a practice common in Victorian humorous writing -- an occupational surname, similar to Trollope's Dr Fillgrave or Surtees's Peter Leather, etc. Somewhere along the line people forgot he was fictional.

## Fell Hunting

**H**unting in the fells is, and has been for generations, a way of life. In times past every farm had a hound or two and these 'trencher-fed' hounds would be taken to various meeting points to join others with their hounds. Hunting became a focal point of social and cultural contact between people who otherwise would have led not only hard but isolated lives. From this simple beginning has evolved a way of life that is unique to the area.

From an historic point of view, it is believed that it was during the early 18<sup>th</sup> century small packs of hounds would spend the winter months kennelled together from whence they could be hunted and in the summer returned to their individual farms. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century many packs had been merged and formed the basis of the present day Fell Packs. There were also some individual enthusiasts who maintained their own pack of hounds notably John Peel (1776 - 1854).

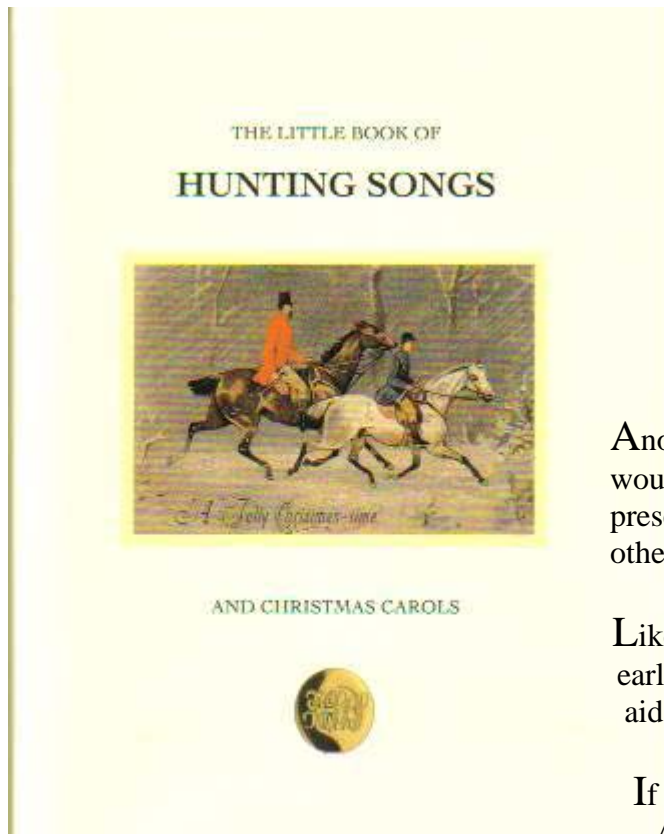
There are six Fell Packs: Blencathra, Coniston, Eskdale and Ennerdale, Lunesdale, Melbreak and Ullswater. All the aforementioned are full members of the Central Committee of Fell Packs. In addition there are three affiliated members: North Lonsdale, North Pennine and Wensleydale. It is the Blencathra that is best known perhaps because of the old song,

*The bold pack of Blencathra is free alike to all,  
The poor man from his cottage and the rich man from his hall,  
All are welcome here to follow, no thoro'bred horse you'll need,  
But manly strength and daring, the mountain chase to lead!*

But, as has been pointed out, one could substitute the name of any of the Fell Packs in the first line!

There is no dress code on the Fells; only the Huntsman wears a uniform consisting of a red coat and waistcoat, breeches and a riding hat, the latter as protection from falling stones. Footwear comprises a stout pair of good quality walking boots, though traditionally it would have been shepherds boots and gaiters. All the follower requires is an equally stout pair of walking boots, warm and weatherproof clothing and a stick. For the most part the terrain hunted is rugged and mountainous and, unlike the followers of the 'shires' packs, Fell Pack followers take an active part in the hunt.

Whether following on foot or getting to a high vantage point atop a valley in the Landrover, Fell hunting is both exciting and exhilarating. Some hunts last a few minutes. Hunts lasting one to one and a half hours are considered long although they can last as long as three hours – unusual but not rare! But however long, or short, there's nothing like it. And don't miss out on the pub at the end of the day – the singing is marvellous!



Another delightful little book which would make an equally delightful little present for Christmas, or indeed at any other time

Like its companion book featured on a earlier page proceeds of the sale are in aid of the Hunt Staff Benefit Society.

If you would like a copy please call Angela Bowerman, but hurry, as copies are going fast.

Hunting songs have been passed down through the generations as part of a proud culture in rural Britain.

They tell of great hunts and brave beasts; of the fox, the hounds, horses and men.

Each part of the country had its heroes the best known beyond the hunting world being John Peel.

These songs are full of humour and affection and on winter nights around Christmas they are sung in Lakeland pubs at the end of a days hunting on the Fells, and no doubt a pint or two!



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The Newsletter is published by the Hunt Supporters Club and contains reports of Hunt events etc and articles of general interest to supporters and followers of the Hunt. Contributions are welcome from anyone on any relevant topic preferably in electronic format but typed or handwritten articles are also most welcome, so please, send them in.

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Wishing all our readers seasonal greetings.

Have a very happy Christmas and good hunting