Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 10 January 2026

The Chair's New Year Message

Well , Christmas was coming and my ponies were getting fat – turned out on their winter grazing! I do admire people who carry on over the winter and do Indoor driving events but I confess that in the winter I become a fair weather driver! But lounging on the sofa gives me the luxury of looking back on 2025 – and what a season we had! Big thank you to all our amazing organisers, judges, sponsors and stewards – literally it couldn't happen without you. Six fantastic events all well supported as Liz has outlined in the Newsletter – I think we can all feel very proud – and looking forward to 2026 with confidence and excitement.

A big thank you must also go to Lester Dagge who, while running his own business has always been available to design and update our website and social media. This year he also designed an online entry system which was a great help to our fabulous and wonderful scorers Caroline Court and Andrew Tilley.

2025 has seen some changes as Richard James has decided to stand down as a director of AIAT-GB. Richard, along with Wally and Eunice Binder, was instrumental in bringing AIAT to these shores and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for everything he has done both financially and organisationally. On a personal level, he has been a tremendous source of knowledge and reason during my first two years as Chair and I am sure we won't lose his support in the future. We are very fortunate though that, after some persuasion (!), Derek Wootton has agreed to fill Richards' place as a Director and join myself, Caroline Douglas and Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett as fellow Directors. We look forward to benefitting from his extensive experience both as a carriage driver himself and as an official in both Horse Driving Trials (as it was) and British Driving Society. Derek also has extensive professional experience as a Director in Local Government culminating in Emergency Planning.

We had a very successful Annual Meeting in the autumn, kindly hosted by Elizabeth, when your organisers and officials looked back on the 2025 events and made plans for 2026. Much to look forward to as it's the 10th Anniversary of Glamis Castle and we have a new venue at Glebe House in West Sussex, very kindly hosted by Jane Robinson. One decision we made was that it would be nice for some venues to be biannual so we are pausing Sandringham for this year and hoping to be back in 2027.

Do make the effort to come and support us at the pre-season Hoscars Ball on February 28th– will you be a winner of one of the Hoscars? More details will be published later but do Save the Date.

Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 10 January 2026

AIAT GB Calendar 2026

Hosscars Dinner Dance 28th February

Glamis 9-10th May

Ashfields 13-14th June

Beamish 18-19th July

Glebe 9-10th August ***New venue!**

Mostyn 5-6th September

New Forest 19-20th September

Save the dates!

Rosemary Neale Chair presents Richard James with a gift to honour his huge contribution to AIAT GB.

Sharon Wootton, Supreme champion at Sandringham

CIAT Sandringham report by Rosemary Neale

The CIAT at Sandringham this year was a different event to those we are normally used to as, rather than a stand alone event, we were part of the Festival of Carriage Driving organised by British CarriageDriving by gracious permission of HM King Charles III. The event included a Coaching Club drive and dinner, British Driving Society Show classes, the Scurry and Trials group and Horse Boarding UK as well as the usual British CarriageDriving trials event. Her Grace the Duchess of Edinburgh and her daughter Lady Louise Windsor are keen supporters of this event and are keen to continue the legacy of the late Prince Philip. We were honoured to receive entries from three turnouts from the Royal Household. The Duchess herself driving one of the late Duke of Edinburgh's' Fell ponies to an 1848 French Pony Chaise originally driven by the late Queen Elizabeth II at the inaugural Royal Windsor Horse Show just after the Second World War. The Horse Pairs class saw two turnouts from the Royal Household – Coachman Lucinda Perrett driving Conwy and Charity, two Windsor greys, to Prince Albert's 1860 Four wheeled Park Wagonette by Slack Brothers of Manchester and Andrew Hogg driving Holyrood and Shadow to the stunning 1887 Balmoral Dog Cart by Corall and Corall.

We were again blessed with great weather for the Sandringham weekend but this time many felt it was a little too hot and so, at the competitors briefing, the President of the Jury, Richard Lanni agreed that while competitors should appear at the Presentation in full presentation attire including jackets for the gentlemen, it was acceptable to leave the jacket off for the Routier. As British horses and ponies aren't used to the heat, the Technical Delegates, Paul Mills and Martin Wilkinson insisted on a compulsory extra 10 minutes over and above the usual time allowed. The judges panel consisted of Richard Lanni (GB), Tom Burgess (USA) and Gordon Marks (GB).

Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 10 January 2026

CIAT Ashfields

Our second event at Ashfields in August was another great success with a grand party of live singing and much dancing in between the serious bits of the competition over two days. Courtesy of George and Dulcie Lock and the Ashfields team, we were able to display the traditional driving skills and stunning original carriages to members of the public visiting the excellent Ashfields Country Kitchen patio overlooking the ring. Commentary from Nick Westwood and me managed to interest more newbies to the sport; always a pleasure to spread the word.

The routier saw a new PC designed by Paul Mills which gave all the drivers a new 'take your own line' challenge. It was very interesting to see the myriad routes people took though feedback suggested it could be even more challenging as most people drove it with no penalty.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcJhyk3SDPA follow this link to watch Joyce Simpson make it look easy! And another link to show why our regular Champion Sharon Wootton comes home with a clear routier score! https://www.youtube.com/shorts/IsmAAc_f2PI if you listen carefully, Paul is suggesting she could drive a much longer rail with ease!

For full results see the AIAT GB website.
https://www.attelagedetradition.co.uk/events/ashfields.html

Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 10 January 2026

What a great season!

Another year of six wonderful events and as well as many regular faces returning to support our venues, many newcomers to AIAT have successfully completed and enjoyed the sport. AIAT GB has once more enjoyed displays of a high number of traditional carriages and expert driving skills.

The recent AGM hosted by Elizabeth Cartwright Hignett at the lovely Iford Manor recognised the hard work and attention to detail achieved by our organising committees.

After much discussion, the 2026 proposed Calendar is out and has a lovely spread of dates and geography to suit as many people as possible. As always, the venues depend upon the willingness of volunteers to do the donkey work!

Check out The Glebe Estate in West Sussex, an exciting and beautiful new venue for AIAT after a number of years of hosting successful driving trials. Thanks to Jane Robinson for offering her private estate for us to enjoy next summer.

We must always thank our generous sponsors for their support but also our entrants! Raffle and auction prizes are so generously given..thank you.

Join us to celebrate the very best of the very best at the annual AIAT GB Gala Awards and Dinner at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire.
To include a gala dinner, awards ceremony followed by live music and dancing.
Dress code is formal, Black tie and Cocktail Dress Tickets £69 each available from Sam Searle on 07883 538591
There will be a raffle on the night.

Donation of prizes welcome.

Your Snippets from Beamish and Mostyn!

Gilly Chippendale is with **Nic Brown** at **Beamish Museum**.
12 September 2025 · Stanley ·

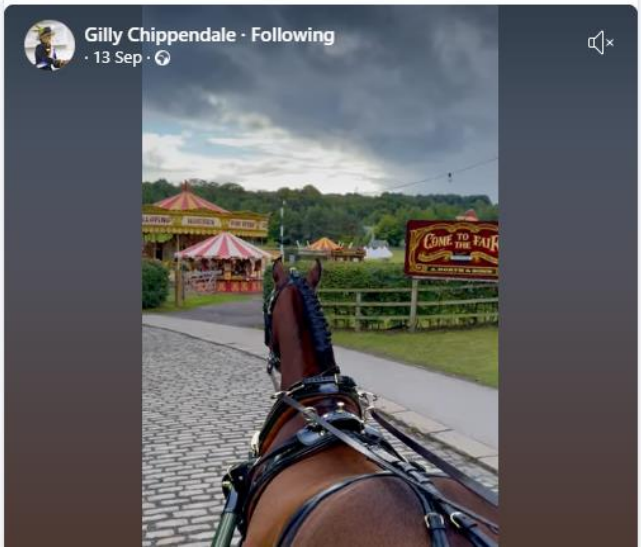
Arrived
CIAT Beamish

You, Helen Stevens, Joanne Dobson and 52 others 16

Love Comment Share

CIAT Beamish
13 September 2025 ·

Gilly Chippendale · Following
· 13 Sep ·



Beamish Museum
13 September 2025 ·

The Attelage Horse Weekend is officially underway! Join us today and tomorrow to see this spectacular carriage-driving competition by the Concours d'International d'Attelage de Tradition.

North East Carriage Company
16 September 2025 ·

We had a wonderful weekend at CIAT Beamish winning 1st in our class and overall reserve champion. John was representing the company and stood in for Bruce shepherd at the prize-giving.
Thank you to Jimmy Jeffery for driving pete and Jesse amazingly and for bringing his amazing harness and vehicle. Congratulations on winning the gentleman's whip. Thanks to Ben his groom, who won groom of the year.
A massive thank you to the Lanni and Ross family and Chris Thompson and Paul foster from Beamish museum for making it all happen.
And finally a huge thanks to all of our team at northeast carriage company for all the hard work they put into the horses.

Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 10 January 2026

Your Snippets from Beamish and Mostyn!

Gillian Nicholson is in **Mostyn**.
30 August 2025

Heavy Welsh rain!!

Gillian Nicholson
31 August 2025

Mostyn Hall CIAT Mostyn . 5 th place in single horse class.

Liz Harcombe
7 November 2025

Something about this!! In the rain driving cones at the lovely CIAT Mostyn! Mad or 'driven' or both!

Teresa Hayley VandeScheur
5 September 2025

I am so proud of G, aka Geoffrey, last weekend, he had his 1st stay away at Mostyn. We nailed it, coming 3rd in the single horse section and won the newcomers. Thank you Russell Hand and Pat Hand for this amazing opportunity. Thank you to Ella Maddock for being my willing victim and grooming for me, Etienne Van Niekerk for being my gentleman, Abi Hutchinson for the support and guidance and James Smith for your help and support. We had the best time

Sam Searle
7 September 2025

Had a fabulous time at CIAT Mostyn last weekend with Modris Kesans and his pair of fell ponies - Gren and Mojo.
A big thankyou to Rob Parry and Linda Williams for organising another superb event - always great when the attelage gang get together.
Alison Kesans was judging at this event so both Modris and Rosemary Neale went HC. We had our own mini competition between the two pony pairs and with a score of 14.47 Modris took the red rosette.
Both ponies behaved perfectly... **See more**

Liz Harcombe
31 August 2025

This pony never fails to amaze me.
22 years old and still adding to
his amazing CV.
Yogi never says no and just cracks on with whatever we ask of him.
Overall Champion this weekend at the very friendly and beautiful CIAT Mostyn.
Thanks to Alan and Louise for giving up their weekends to be top crew..
And Amy and Bernie for keeping the home fires burning.
Great competition, congratulations to Gilly and Zach taking reserve champion with only one point in it.

Thankyou Linda, Rob , Jayne and the whole team of judges, stewards and helpers for a great weekend of fun and friendship.

Russell Hand
30 August 2025

Just turned a little rainy at the moment
Lucky we have brought a gazibo to keep everything dry

Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 10 January 2026

The Cart is the Star!

The stars of any Attelage event has to be the carriages and their incredible history. In this post we learn of AIAT GB Chair Rosemary Neale's remarkable discovery of the history of her delightful pony phaeton.
The Crescent Phaeton was made by Hertford Carriage Builder McMullen from 1886. Purchased from a Facebook advert, the carriage had lost all records of its history - save the makers name on the hub caps. After a bit of online research, Rosemary and Martin learnt that McMullen remain in existence today as a brewery - and still in Hertford! She reached out to the owners of the brewery to learn of the astonishing history of the company and the vehicle's provenance including adverts for her very own carriage - the Crescent Phaeton.
Like many traditional carriages, Rosemary's Crescent phaeton carries a wealth of history on its back and it's quite incredible to discover such detailed information. This is one of the many charms of Attelage de Tradition where competitors are re-discovering the back history of their vehicles - whether it's a simple governess cart to a park drag.
If you have been inspired by this feature and know your vehicles history, please get in touch and tell us your story.

EXCLUSIVE!

Elizabeth Cartwright- Hignett has written another fascinating compendium about life with carriage horses and has generously offered her book to AIAT Great Britain for exclusive distribution. Available in a strictly limited edition of only 40 books, this full colour 183 page hardback edition is available for only £30 plus £5 post and package. International customers will need to confirm shipping rates prior to purchase.

https://www.attelagedetradition.co.uk/sales.html to order.