



The road coach, belonging to the late Les Oakes, which sold in May for £12,700.

The Carriage & Equestrian Sales Review of 2011

Thimbleby & Shorland

2011 was bound to be a difficult trading year with the current economic climate playing a major role; however Thimbleby & Shorland had a total of 326 carriages entered in the Reading Sales and a further 115 at the Oakes Reduction sale, making a total of 441 carriages entered for sale by public auction. At Reading, the clearance was over 80% and at Oakes 100%, showing that selling by auction is still the best way to have your carriage promoted before the buying public.

The total value of carriages sold during 2011 was over £420,000. Add to this the many hundreds of lots in the other section and 2011 turned out to be a full year for the carriage department with a very high percentage sold at every sale. There is always a large crowd of buyers and interested spectators at the Great Knollys Street site, which proves yet again that The Reading collective sales are not only the best place to see a selection of carriages but also the place to meet fellow enthusiasts and competitors.

During the year, it was expected that trade would be a little easier, but there is still a strong demand for the best carriages and those with an unusual interest really stole the show. Hand carts have also been sort after at all the sales. The special sale held for a private client of rural

artifacts attracted a large crowd with the horse brasses being some of the best to come onto the market for many years which attracted buyers from all over the world.

Four wheelers – A state postilion landau (March), built by WJ Frecklington of Australia in 1982 and belonging to the late Bob Arnold of Wimbourne, Dorset, sold for £8,000; a road coach (May), originally belonging to the late Les Oakes, was purchased by a German collector for £12,700; a De Lemerij phaeton (Sept), to suit 15.2 to 17hh pair, made £2,850 and a Victorian hooded carriage (Nov) made £2,000.

Two Wheelers – A round back gig (March), built by William Kinross & Sons of Stirling to suit 14 to 15hh, fetched £2,400; a skeleton gig circa 1910 (May) sold for £1,500; a hansom cab (Sept) fetched £2,700 and a panel cart (Nov), by Hall-Scratwer of Bexley, Kent, made £950.

Farm wagons – A market cart (March), originally belonging to the Fewster family, made £5,000; a miller's wagon (May), originally owned by Les Oakes, fetched £2,450.

Trade vehicles – A flat bed Bradford cart (March) made £2,950; an ice cream cart (May),



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

also owned by the late Les Oakes, sold in Reading for £6,600; a covered hand cart (Sept) made £580 and a hawker's dray (Nov), built by Watts of Bridgwater to suit 15 to 15.2hh, made £4,000.

Gypsy caravans – The top price for a gypsy caravan this year was £16,000 for a ledge wagon (Sept); a Burton showman's wagon (Mar), possibly built in Reading around 1900, sold for £10,200; and an open lot wagon (Nov), built by Tom Gaskin of Doncaster, fetched £6,000.

Harness, sundries & collectables – A single set of tradesman's harness made by Huskissons fetched £2,800; a large pair of Holland & Holland lamps sold for £820; a 23" patent show collar made £310; a state carriage whip with a carved ivory handle fetched £720 and a livery jacket sold for £370. A pair of gent's boots with trees made £280; a box containing various state harness decorations made £320; a tandem brass horn by Callow made £480; a set of brass hames sold for £180; set of four patent coaching pads made £330; horse measurer by a London maker made £200 and a carriage umbrella went for £220.

Pictures, models & books - A watercolour of a Suffolk Punch, by HW Standing, fetched £450; a Border Fine Arts model entitled 'The Opportunist' made £250 and the *Moseman's Illustrated Guide to Horse Furnishings* sold for £55.

The horse brass sale, March

Six award brasses fetched £760; three assorted bell swingers with plumes fetched £200; a set of 10 blue, red and white china rosettes fetched £250; eight assorted hallmarked silver medals made £360; and a royalty hame plate of Edward VII's Coronation in 1902 made £520.

Dispersal sale of a private collection

An exceptional collection of horse brasses, rural artifacts and a large and rare collection of shepherds' smocks, all collected by one man over a lifetime. The sale attracted buyers from all over the country as well as abroad. The best prices achieved were a corded whip engraved with G Holland which sold for £740; a game carrier with a carved fox head made £380; a rush lamp for £260; two livestock measuring mugs fetched £280; a gamekeeper's swingle sticks made £180; two large man traps made £780 and a humane man trap for £760; a shark skin box containing six silver cockfighting spurs dated 1755 and other cockfighting items all displayed in a cabinet fetched £700 and another with assorted steel cockfighting spurs made £1,000. A Sussex shepherd's smock fetched £400; stuff head of the Chillingham Bull made £360; three Dorset owls or Pills made £130; enamel RSPCA sign fetched £230 and a pair of ex-shop display of horse's heads made £120. Five royalty swingers made £530; a cast intaglio brass of a clock face made £410; small brass pole head made £328; a royalty hame plate made £480 and a breast strap by G Irwin, saddler, made £520.

The 2nd Major Reduction Sale of the Late Les Oakes Collection – of farm implements, farm



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Fig. 1 £16,000, the top price ledge wagon.
Fig. 2 The state postilion landau sold for £8,000.
Fig. 3 The millers wagon sold in May made £2,450.
Fig. 4 An ice cream cart which sold for £6,600.
Fig. 5 A selection of horse brasses sold in March.

wagons, hand carts, trade and army vehicles, sundries and garden statuary was held on 29 June on site at Staffordshire, where a large crowd of knowledgeable buyers attended, and this time in the sunshine!

The main attraction of the sale was of the collection of farm wagons from many counties around the country, including a few unusual carriages as well. A North Lincolnshire wagon for £2,600; builder's cart dated 1902 made £4,000; a knackers cart made £4,800; a Hovis hand cart made £2,500; a hearse built by J Marston fetched £6,200, with the pair of lamps selling separately for £1,100; a carousel for £12,000; a hansom cab for £6,400 and a gypsy wagon built by Abbotts & Son made £5,800. A WWI army field kitchen created a lot of interest and sold for £4,600. A set of Dennet springs with wheels and axle made £210; a pair of lamps by Shanks of London fetched £360; a quilted padded saddle made £160; a hay press by Barford & Perkins sold for £500 and a large patent collar sold for £250.

The Reading Shetland Pony Sales

Two sales were again held at the Reading auction centre with a total of 91 Shetlands in the spring and a further 136 in the autumn entered for sale. Although numbers were down on previous years and many breeders were full of doom and gloom about what the trade would bring, when it came to the sales, buyers were there to purchase the best. In the spring, the top price was 1,000gns for the champion black mare, Marillion Tystie. In the autumn the top price of 1120gns went to the stallion, Twyford Merlin, who has gone to a stud in Europe.

The Reading Horse Sales

Six sales were held during the year in which a total 274 horses registered and approximately 2,574 saddlery items were entered. The top price for horses went to Tattoo 15, a six-year-old mare.

- *This report covers one area of the work carried out by Thimbleby & Shorland. The firm is also known internationally as the appointed auctioneers to the Hewden Group, specialising in the sale of Contractors Plant and Equipment. Sales of construction equipment and tools are also held regularly in Reading, plus sales of antiques and fine*



Fig. 5

art, household and office furniture, grounds maintenance equipment, insolvency and receivership stock, vintage and commercial vehicles, and motor cars. There is a land agency department which provides valuations and handles the sale of land and property.

• Thimbleby & Shorland

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2012 Equestrian Sale Dates

READING CARRIAGE SALES

Wednesdays – 7 March and the annual horse brass and heavy horse sale 16 May, 5 September and 7 November

THE READING SHETLAND PONY SALES

Wednesdays – 21 March and 17 October

THE READING HORSE & SADDLERY SALES

Fridays – 2 March, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 7 September and 12 October

All the above sales will be held at the Reading Auction Centre, Great Knollys Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7HU

PAULTONS PARK WILL BE HOLDING A SALE OF THEIR VILLAGE LIFE MUSEUM
Paultons Park, Ower, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 6AL on Wednesday 14 March

For entry forms, catalogues, subscriptions or information, Please call the office or look on line.

The 2012 Fixture List is now available online.