



# OAK LEAVES

Newsletter from the Oaks Driving Club

June 2021

## View from the Top

What a relief that life is starting to get back to normal. We had a lovely days competition at Ardingly on 3rd May. Beautifully organised by Moira and with 17 entries made for good competition. Thank you to all who supported the event.

In this issue we have compiled our own memories of the Duke of Edinburgh who sadly passed away, he did so much for carriage driving and practically wrote the rule book to which we abide today.

Our next event is the Matchy Matchy World Cup at Hooe. This competition will appeal to those who don't want to drive faster than the speed of light. Get out your best marathon gear for yourself and your groom and match the colours of your pony's pad, boots etc and you may win a special rosette.

The Berwick Weekend will be slightly different this year. There will be free on-foot training for members on Saturday afternoon. Andrea Scott has many years experience at national driving trails having covered the UK competing, she also plays a major part with the para drivers abroad too. Andrea will guide drivers through everything they need to know and do during an ODE. When to use your stopwatch, what to do with the green card and what you mustn't do approaching the finish, all this will be explained and the course will be walked through leaving no stone unturned. Do bring your groom along, £5 for non-members. It looks like we are going to have a fun filled summer!

*Liz Howe - CHAIRMAN*



**Next Event: Matchy Matchy World Cup.  
Hooe Recreation Ground, 19th June.**

### Inside this issue:

Dates for your diary	page 2	Spring Competition, Ardingly	page 6
HRH Duke of Edinburgh	page 3	Spring Competition Results	page 7
HRH's Gaffs	page 5	Something to ponder over	page 8

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2021

**Please note: These dates and venues are not confirmed and are dependant on Covid 19 regulations in England 2021.**

### June

Saturday 19th Matchy Matchy World Cup  
Hooe Recreation Ground,  
Hooe TN33 9HR  
*Contact: Kevin Jeffrey*

### July

Saturday 17th Berwick Weekend  
Sunday 18th Berwick BN26 6SP  
*Contact: Liz Howe*

### August

Sunday 1st Club Drive, members only  
*By kind permission of the Fieldwick family*  
Knockhatch Wood Smallholding,  
Arlington Road West,  
Arlington BN27 3RD  
*Contact: Liz Howe*

Sunday 22nd Club Annual Show and  
Accumulator Cones,  
Broad Farm,  
Hellingly BN27 4DU  
*Contact: Jan Curd*

### September

Sunday 5th World Cup, Hale Farm BN8 6HQ  
*Contact: Pru Wynne-Evans*

Sunday 26th ODE, Priory Court Farm,  
Sayerland Lane,  
Polegate BN26 6QX  
*Contact: Jan Curd*

### October

Saturday 9th Autumn Indoor Event  
Plumpton College  
Ditchling Road  
Plumpton BN7 3AE  
*Contact: Moira Evans*

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visit the website for up-to-the-minute news

**[www.oaksdrivingclub.com](http://www.oaksdrivingclub.com)**

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in the articles printed in the Oak Leaves are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor of the Oaks Committee.

## HRH Duke of Edinburgh

### Carriage driving memories of the Duke of Edinburgh

Briefly meeting him at the Halt at Brighton Driving Trials where I was helping the vet with checking the horses. He did say thank you to us, which we weren't expecting!

Watching him on his monkey bike whizzing around Stanford Park with Lady Braeburn clinging tightly on the back and his security chap trying to keep up!

Dressage writing for Bill Vine at Brighton when Bill asked me who it was coming into the arena as he was more interested in looking at the horses!

At Windsor BDS annual show he would drive up in his car, after church, to come and watch the main arena. He had to pass through the VIP/Judges marquee which I helped run along with Sheila (Luck) and he was always chatty and relaxed making straight to speak to the Chelsea Pensioners who were invited guests and engaging with them for quite some time. Once he came through – looked at all the home-made cakes on offer and said in his inimitable way – “No wonder everyone's so fat”. A bit of a tricky moment as one of the main sponsors wife was on the (very) large side and standing just behind him! Oh, how we laughed!!!

*Jan Curd*

My photo of the Queen and Prince Philip taken at The BDS Show, Smiths Lawn 1988 with my pony Flying Shadow of Nectar.

The Queen presented me with the Show Championship gold trophy and rosettes and was about to pass me the sash when Prince Philip seized it with a great flourish and proceeded in a very charming way, to do the job himself!

During my competitive driving trials career at National level, from the late 70's with horses Cameo and Eclipse, Prince Philip was a regular competitor himself so would be amongst us, walking the obstacles & cones and sometimes exchanging opinions on the course. Brighton driving trials, in particular, was popular with the teams as a warm up to Royal Windsor which followed immediately after. The hills and inclines at Stanmer Park were a test for most equines and drivers as it was the first event of the season and so being fit could be a challenge, especially as health & safety was not the priority it is today.

*Hilary Hill*



*Hilary Hill*

Just putting to for our dressage a tall gentleman came over and started chatting to Twinkle saying what a beautiful pony she was and how she reminded him of a Victorian rocking horse, it wasn't until I looked up that I realised it was HRH!

The marathon was incredibly tough in very wet muddy conditions and sadly half way around we made the decision to retire Twinkle as it was just too much for her. Walking back to the lorry we were stopped by the Duke to enquire how we'd got on, and when we said we'd retired he said thank you so much for looking after my rocking horse!

The next morning he came over the horsebox to enquire how Twinkle was, and to make sure if she was ok we would take part in the cones - He was very kind and encouraging. Twinkle went brilliant in the cones to win and got another pat from the Duke.

*Sally Bullar*

I was very privileged to have met HRH twice and both times through carriage driving.

The first time was many years ago when I was asked to work on the BETA (British Equine Trade Ass) stand with Gary Docking in Birmingham (the new Wembley) .. we were displaying new harness ( not leather) and rugs for which we took my pony Fizz along as the model. ( he was stabled inside) all kinds of new and innovative carriage driving equipment. We were told HRH would stay a maximum of 9 minutes he stayed over 20 he was so interested in all we had there so charming and funny .. Gary said I hogged him lol .. our own Queen was not amused !

The second time was the Princes 80th birthday again with Gary Docking and 60 other carriage drivers representing the BDS we were invited to Windsor Castle in the long hall we had drinks and canopies Prince Phillip made a lovely speech spoke to each and everyone of us .. we were then surprisingly joined by Her Majesty the Queen who said she just wanted to take a look at the other like minded people with whom

Her Husband enjoyed his passion .. she again was warm and gracious to us all ..

Memories like Prince Phillip made not to be forgotten.

*Sue Smith*

I was standing with Linda Warburton watching Brighton Driving Trails many years ago as we took the Magazine Drive Time there.

Watching all the horses coming in for presentation. Linda tapped me on my arm saying Phil is next to you. Call it a Blonde moment I replied to her and the others I don't know a Phil. I then looked to my right it was Prince Phillip with smile on his face.... I had to laugh and smile.

2nd moment:

I was up Smiths Lawn I was walking to get my number for the classes. I stopped for moment to watch a class. Heard a team of horses coming up. Not really looking I stood to watch the Non Hackney class. All of sudden a voice came over to "Madam what class is this" I looked behind me. It was Prince Phillip on his carriage and team of fells. Just at that point Gary Docking joined me, as I became lost for words stepping in to answer the question - lovely smile and drove off.

*Susanne Harris*

One day long ago, I was at Brighton Horse Driving Trials. Round the corner of my horsebox, in one direction went my bearded collie, at a gallop. Round the corner at a brisk walk in the other direction came Prince Philip. The next moment, both are flat out on the ground, at my feet. My heart sank, my imagination raced, and I blurted an apology. But HRH got himself up to sitting, hugged the dog, saying "We were both in too much of a hurry, weren't we?" laughed, and refused a hand up, still laughing. A kind, animal loving man.

*Joanna Beasley-Richards*



## HRH Duke of Edinburgh - well known for his gaffs. Courtesy the Daily Mail.

### ON SCOTLAND

'How do you keep the natives off the booze long enough to pass the test?' *To a Scottish driving instructor in 1995.*

'It looks as though it was put in by an Indian.' *His verdict on a messy-looking fuse box on a tour of a Scottish factory in 1999. He later explained: 'I meant to say cowboys. I just got my cowboys and Indians mixed up.'*

### ON CHINA

'Ghastly.' *Verdict on Beijing in 1986.*

'If it has got four legs and it is not a chair, if it has got two wings and it flies but is not an aeroplane, and if it swims and it is not a submarine, the Cantonese will eat it.' *To a meeting of the World Wildlife Fund in 1986.*

'If you stay here much longer, you will go home with slitty eyes.' *To a British student on a visit to China in 1986.*

### ON FOOD AND DRINK

'Get me a beer. I don't care what kind it is, just get me a beer!' *On being offered fine Italian wines in Rome in 2000.*

'Don't feed your rabbits pawpaw fruit - it acts as a contraceptive. Then again, it might not work on rabbits.' *To a Caribbean rabbit breeder in Anguilla in 1994.*

'You're too fat to be an astronaut.' *To 13-year-old Andrew Adams who wanted to go into space.*

### ON MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN

'There's a lot of your family in tonight.' *After noticing business leader Atul Patel's name badge during a reception for 400 influential British Indians in 2009.*

'The Philippines must be half empty - you're all here running the NHS.' *To a Filipino nurse in Luton in 2015.*

### ON WOMEN

'British women can't cook.' *To the Scottish Women's Institute in 1961.*

'Ah, so this is feminist corner then.' *To female Labour MPs in 2000.*

'You ARE a woman, aren't you?' *To a Kenyan woman in 1984.*

'If it doesn't fart or eat hay, she isn't interested.' *On daughter, Princess Anne.*

'When a man opens the car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.'

### ON CELEBRITY

'What do you gargle with - pebbles?' *To Tom Jones, after the Royal Variety Performance, 1969.*

'Oh, it's you that owns that ghastly car is it? We often see it when driving to Windsor Castle.' *To neighbour Elton John after hearing he had sold his Watford FC-themed Aston Martin in 2001.*

'I wish he'd turn the microphone off!' *During Elton's performance at the Royal Variety Show, 2001.*

### ON CLASS AND MONEY

'People think there's a rigid class system here, but dukes have been known to marry chorus girls. Some have even married Americans.' *Speaking in 2000 - 18 years before his grandson Harry married Meghan Markle.*

'If you travel as much as we do you appreciate the improvements in aircraft design of less noise and more comfort - provided you don't travel in something called economy class, which sounds ghastly.' *To the Aircraft Research Association in 2002.*

'Everybody was saying we must have more leisure. Now they are complaining they're unemployed.' *During the 1981 recession.*

We go into the red next year ... I shall have to give up polo. *On the Royal Family's finances in 1969.*

### ON THE PRESS

'Just take the f\*\*\*ing picture!' *At an event to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.*

You have mosquitoes. I have the Press.' *To the matron of a hospital in the Caribbean.*

## Spring Competition, Ardingly

Well wasn't it lovely to be out again? I particularly enjoyed seeing all those people and ponies I had not seen for such a long time. Thank you all for supporting the Oaks Spring event at Ardingly Showground.

Although we were promised heavy rain, we actually had no rain at all, just strong winds from lunchtime onwards.

I was impressed with our new obstacle which stood up manfully to the wind and never looked like falling over.

A lot of the ponies were pretty lively, probably due to the fact that they had not been to a "party" for such a long time. Still, it is always nice to know that yours is not the only one to canter in the P & P or even throw in the odd buck!

Jeni Longley did the best P & P test of the day, closely followed by Helen Bridges. Everyone had quite a few time faults in the cones with Alison Milton doing the best round.

Donna Simmons, Alison Reilly and Jeni Longley did the fastest times in the obstacles and were pretty consistent throughout.

At the end of the day, Alison Reilly driving the wonderful Texas came out on top in Open Pony A. Liz Howe driving Jester was a clear winner in Open Pony B. Marilyn Page driving the very much admired Dycott Ohh La La won Intermediate Pony. Alison Milton driving Donna's Zebadee won Novice Pony. Angela Lydall driving Dexter won Open Horse and Chris Orchard driving her smart pair was the sole competitor and worthy winner of the Multiples class.

The Chairman's Choice rosette was presented to Marilyn Page and the Best Groom rosette to Sarah Jane Williams's daughter, Charlotte. Well done both.

Joanna Beasley Richards brought her pretty pony, Buttons, out for her first time to an event. Having led her round and showed her everything, Buttons then completed a very satisfactory P & P test and a good cones course. Joanna decided not to tackle the obstacles in the afternoon as Buttons had never seen an obstacle before and she wanted to finish on a high. Very wise.

As always, my very sincere thanks go to all those who helped during the day – Robert Pawson for designing the obstacle and cones courses, Liz Howe for sorting out entries and being a huge help on the day; Andrea Scott, Frances Collings,

Christina Fowden and Ian Collings for doing a splendid job of judging; Carole Whitham, Joanne McNicol, Pru Wynne-Evans, Abi Fowden Heffer for writing, stopwatching and stewarding; Gina and Kevin Jeffrey, Gordon MacKenzie and Valerie Evans for doing numerous tasks from early until late; Tom Petitpierre for as always doing a superb job of scoring, Susanne Willis for all her help and our new Oaks member Alison Neale, who was a great help whilst learning what driving trials are all about. Margaret and Ron Middleton with Jan Curd in the catering van did their usual brilliant job of providing magnificent service, keeping everyone fed and watered. Many thanks and well done all.

Finally, after the last event when I walked miles chasing competitors round the tracks of Ardingly, I remembered to bring my bike this time and was disappointed not to have to use it at all! You were all so good at being in the right place at the right time. Thank you.

*Moira Evans*

Photographs courtesy [www.paulorchardphotography.co.uk](http://www.paulorchardphotography.co.uk)



*Alison Milton*



*Sarah Jane Cook*

ODC Ardingly Spring 2021																
Class	Judges	Scott	Collings	Total	Place	Cones	Total	Place	Obs 1	Obs 2	Total	Place	Date: 3rd May 2021			
													Obs 3	Obs 4	Total	Place
<b>Open Pony A</b>																
1	Donna Simmons	17.00	18.50	35.50	3	17.00	52.50	1	27.00	31.00	110.50		27.00	34.00	171.50	2
8	Cheryl Hurle	23.50	22.50	46.00	4	36.00	82.00	4	41.00	45.00	168.00		36.00	42.00	246.00	4
12	Allison Reilly	14.00	19.50	33.50	2	19.00	52.50	1	29.00	32.00	113.50		27.00	28.00	168.50	1
13	Jeni Longley	17.50	14.50	32.00	1	22.00	54.00	3	27.00	37.00	118.00		27.00	35.00	180.00	3
<b>Open Pony B</b>																
2	Bella Freeman	27.50	27.50	55.00	4	16.00	71.00	3	33.00	43.00	147.00		33.00	42.00	222.00	3
9	Helen Bridges	16.50	16.00	32.50	1	20.00	52.50	1	37.00	42.00	131.50		39.00	41.00	211.50	2
10	Liz Howe	18.50	22.50	41.00	2	16.00	57.00	2	32.00	37.00	126.00		33.00	35.00	194.00	1
17	Joanna Beasley Richards	28.50	24.00	52.50	3	53.00	105.50	4			105.50				105.50	H/C
<b>Intermediate Pony</b>																
5	Marilyn Page	19.00	17.50	36.50	1	19.00	55.50	1	30.00	34.00	119.50		29.00	32.00	180.50	1
11	Samantha de Montaignac	17.50	24.00	41.50	2	E		E	42.00	54.00	96.00				96.00	E
<b>Novice Pony</b>																
6	Allison Bones	18.50	17.00	35.50	1	16.00	51.50	1	31.00	35.00	117.50		32.00	34.00	183.50	2
7	Sarah Otway	19.50	26.50	46.00	3	58.00	104.00	3	43.00	103.00	250.00		38.00	44.00	332.00	3
15	Allison Milton	19.50	19.50	39.00	2	14.00	53.00	2	31.00	35.00	119.00		28.00	31.00	178.00	1
<b>Open Horse</b>																
4	Sarah Jane Cook	20.50	19.50	40.00	2	38.00	78.00	2	30.00	48.00	156.00		30.00	40.00	226.00	2
14	Christine Buckland	22.00	19.50	41.50	3	37.00	78.50	3	42.00	104.00	224.50		39.00	47.00	310.50	3
16	Angela Lydall	20.50	16.50	37.00	1	17.00	54.00	1	34.00	40.00	128.00		34.00	38.00	200.00	1
3	Chris Orchard	22.50	20.50	43.00		52.00	95.00	1	41.00	41.00	177.00		33.00	37.00	247.00	1

**Best Groom rosette:**  
Charlotte Cook

**Chairman's Choice:**  
Marilyn Page



Liz Howe and Jester

## Something to ponder over

### Questions Looking for Answers!

1. If poison passes its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "scent," the s or the c?
3. Do twins ever realize that at least one of them is unplanned?
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims"
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

### Great confusions still unresolved.

1. At a movie theater, which arm rest is yours?
2. If people evolve from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
3. Why is there a 'd' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
4. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

### Vagaries of English Language!

Ever wonder why the word funeral starts with FUN?

Why isn't a fireman called a water-man?

How come lipstick doesn't do what it says?

If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Why are goods sent by ship called cargo and those sent by truck shipment?

Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the cupboard?

Why do doctors 'practice' medicine? Are they having practice at the cost of the patients?

Why is it called 'rush hour' when traffic moves at its slowest then?

How come noses run and feet smell?

Why do they call it a TV 'set' when there is only one?

### 1. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY (written by kids)

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. *Alan, age 10*

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. *Kristen, age 10*

### 2. WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. *Camille, age 10*

### 3. HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. *Derrick, age 8*

### 4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. *Lori, age 8*

### 5. WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

-Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

*Lynnette, age 8*

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. *Martin, age 10*

### 6. WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. *Pam, age 7*

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. *Curt, age 7*

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. *Howard, age 8*

### 7. IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

*Anita, age 9*

### 8. HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? *Kelvin, age 8*

### 9. HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. *Ricky, age 10*

Copy for the August newsletter should be sent to Liz Howe by 25th July 2021  
Email: elizhowe515527@gmail.com  
If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Liz at the above address.



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