

PERFORMANCE IDEAS PLOUGHING

Chestnut Ridge Magazine

Issue 40 - April 2017

SUFFOLK PUNCH

Learn about this iconic British breed

FEEDING HORSES

Feeding
real horses

WIN!
GYPSY
VANNER

STORY TIME

Julie's Story

LIVE SHOW REPORTS MAJESTIC MINTY LIVE

NEW



NEW FOR 2017

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Knightsbridge House, Knightsbridge Lane, Pyrton, Watlington, OXON, OX49 5AR

Phone: 07752 083676

Email:

catriona@chestnutridge.co.uk

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You can purchase back issues of our magazine from www.chestnutridge.co.uk

October 2016 is available printed, all other back issues are sent as PDF.

Back issues are priced at £2.00 PDF or £5.00 printed.

ADVERTISING

To place an advert or to submit an article please email: catriona@chestnutridge.co.uk

Submissions for June 2017 must be with us by May 31st.

This month learn the story of Julie the Chestnut Ridge donkey.



This issue we are delving into the world of food and farming as we explore everything from heavy horse breeds to feeding real horses (I think we can all agree that one of the many advantages of model horses is that they do not require feeding)!

As well as our exploration of feed and farming we've even included a recipe to make your very own equine

cupcakes! As well as a fun article on eating at live shows (a very important activity).

On the subject of live shows the next few months see our next two Colours of the Rainbow shows, Crazy Citron and Majestic Minty. These shows are for artist resin and china and miniature models respectively.

As well as reading the magazine do make sure to take a look at our member's exclusive models that are now available to order.

OUR FRONT COVER HORSE

Our front cover features two Schleich model horses. These are the Knabstrupper Mare and Foal.

The mare is #13617 and was produced from 2007-2015. The foal is #13619 and was produced from 2007-2013.



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Breyer mould

NEWS



Magpie models such as Ozzy here will be available from September

Magpie Models Return

SEVERAL years after Magpie disappeared from our lives they are back!

Magpie models have a new owner and they have updated their website and Facebook page.

From September onwards a variety of different models and accessories will be available including my personal favourite Lunan Bey.

You can find out more about the horses here: <https://www.facebook.com/MagpieModelHorses/>

Rainer

RAINER is the first of the Collector's Club special runs for 2017. He is a beautiful blue roan pinto on the Othello mould and was available to Breyer Collector's Club members in February 2017.

He is the first in the America the Beautiful series and was limited to 350 models. He was available on a raffle based system as usual.



Second release in the America the Beautiful series.



Wailua

WAILUA is the second Collector's Club special run for 2017.

He is a stunning glossy dapple grey on the Legionario III mould. He is the second in the America the Beautiful series and was limited to 350 pieces.

These models are available to Collector's Club members and are allocated on a ballot based system. Once you have entered you simply have to wait to see if you are picked! If you would like to sign up to the Breyer Collector's Club then you need to visit their website at www.breyerhorses.com

has a high gloss finish and a flaxen mane and tail.

As well as the horse himself you also receive a red Arabian halter with tassels and of course the new vintage style boxes.



He was released to member's in early March 2017.

New Copperfox Mould?

COPPERFOX have hinted at the development of a new mould to be released this year or next year.

A poll appeared on Facebook asking fans what British Breed they would like to see. We await more news!

In the Show Ring

SUNSET VIEW STUDIOS LIVE

Sunset View Studios Live was held in March 2017. The show had a variety of different sections for all types of model horses including performance.

Supreme Champion was awarded to a dapple grey Valor resin.

CRIMSON CORAL CUSTOM LIVE

Crimson Coral CM

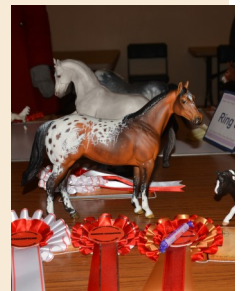
Live was held in February 2017. It was a specialist live show for custom model horses.

Supreme champion was awarded to a bay blanket spot ISH.

OMG ORANGE OTHER OF & NEWCOMMERS LIVE

OMG Orange Other OF & Newcommers Live was held in March 2017. This was a specialist show for plastic CTF, commercial resin and china and newcommers.

Supreme Champion was awarded to a beautiful hand made felt Suffolk Punch.



Quinn

QUINN is the second release in the Breyer 2017 Vintage Club Collection.

Quinn is a chestnut heavy sabino on the Sham mould. He

BREYERFEST

2017

The Gateway to India has been opened as we delve into the world of this year's BreyerFest model horses.



BREYERFEST is just month's away and we are already excited! As with other year's they have been teasing us with sneak peaks and releases of some of the beautiful model

horses that you will be able to get your paws on if you attend BreyerFest 2017.

As well as a selection of special runs being released they have also released a

variety of different shop specials and raffle prize models. To keep up to date with all the BreyerFest updates we recommend following the BreyerFest Blog at www.breyerhorses.com



Chestnot Ridge
The home of model horses

So who is going to be available this year? Well let's take a run down of those released so far.

SPECIAL RUNS

First up is Saffron. Saffron is a stunning buckskin sabino on the Geronimo mould (released as a Premier Club model last year).

Second is Vahana one of the most popular Special Run models. This beautiful model is a bay roan pinto on the Shannodell mould. You can see a picture of Vahana on page 8.

Third is Kaalee and one of my personal favourites. Kaalee is a lovely black rabicano on the Yasmin mould. You can see her in the centre of page 9.

Fourth is Darjeeling. Darjeeling is on an older mould, the Mustang stallion. But there is nothing old about



his stunning bay blanket spotted pattern and high gloss finish!

STORE SPECIALS

First up are Dolly and Spanky. This adorable little pair are a pony and dog trick team who will be performing at BreyerFest 2017. The set includes a bay Shetland pony with the characteristic 'S' on his quarters along with an adorable Jack Russell with red neckerchief. You can see them on page 8.

Second is Holi. It wouldn't have been a celebration of India without an elephant and Breyer have not disappointed! Holi is a gorgeous elephant



with full decorative paint. An absolutely stunning model.

OTHER MODELS

The Sunday raffle prize model for this year's BreyerFest is a lovely bay sabino on the new True North mould that will be released as a



Premier Club release this year. You can see Rangoli on the top right of page 9.

The diorama prize for BreyerFest this year is 'Sona'. Sona is a lovely flaxen chestnut with minimal sabino markings on the El Pastor mould. You can see him on the bottom right of page 9.

More BreyerFest special runs will be released over the next few weeks as we run up to BreyerFest, including of course the Surprise Model who will appear on the day. Keep up to date with the latest BreyerFest news on the Breyer Blog and by following the Chestnut Ridge Blog, where we will try to post images of the surprise model as soon as they appear! What mould do you think it will be?



GG Valentine & Heartbreaker

£41.95

GYPSY VANNER

**“Which Gypsy
Vanner model was
released by CollectA
in 2016”?**

Competition

Choose Your Prize

Pick from the CollectA Gypsy Vanner Foal (right), Gypsy Mare (below) or Tinker Stallion (bottom right).



How to Win

Send your answer to the question
top right to
competitions@chestnutridge.co.uk



Some Rules

Title your email 'Gypsy Vanner Competition'. International winners are responsible for postage. For full terms please email.

CLUB MEMBERS

Exclusive Models



CollectA Quarter Horse Sorrel

Made by CollectA this 1:24 scale CollectA model is perfect for performance junkies.

Price: **£7.50**

Quantity Available: **6**

Not a Club Member?

Membership is just £15.00 a year and will give you access to exclusive models such as these as well as other benefits. Visit www.chestnutridge.co.uk to sign up.

CollectA Lusitano Mare

Made by CollectA this 1:12 scale mare is gorgeous.

Price: **£19.99**

Quantity Available: **6**



Artist Resin 'Other'
Champion



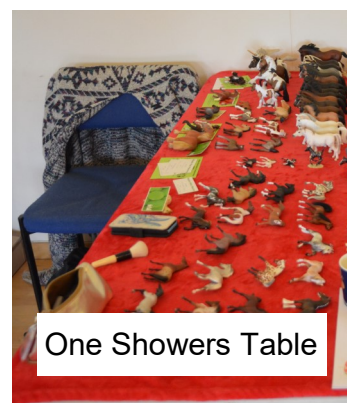
Majestic Minty Mini Live 2017



Animal Artistry Arabian
Mare & Gelding



Original Finish Partbred
Arabian



One Showers Table



Custom
Arabian

Miniature in size but certainly not lacking in detail or quality, take a look at one of the UK's many specialist mini model horse shows

On the first weekend of May Chestnut Ridge ran their fourth show in the Colours of the Rainbow Lives series.

The show was held in Lewknor, Oxfordshire and was a specialist live show for miniature scale model horses. For the purposes of this show anything below around 1:18/19 (around Schleich or CollectA size) and smaller were allowed.

The show had a variety of different sections and classes so that nearly all miniature model horses could be shown. These included Original Finish, Custom Finish, Artist Resin/China,

Animal Artistry and CTF.

The Show Day

MY day started early as always, I'm looking forward to someone running a show in Lewknor which I am not involved in so I can have a lie in!

Having packed the car and removed the cat from a suicidal attempt to join us we headed off. The advantage of mini shows is that they take up very little space! I had just three boxes one of which was only half full, so for once we only needed to take two cars instead of the usual three.

We arrived at the hall bright and early to the delight of realising that a new table had appeared, very good as

Lunchtime fun classes

At each of our live shows we run special lunchtime fun classes. These are open to all those who attend regardless of whether they are actually entering the show.

We allow entrants and spectators to judge these classes by placing sweets by their favourite horses! Everyone loves the forced fun :)



Showing miniature model horses

It can often seem like miniature scale model horses won't stand as much of a chance as their bigger counterparts but this is definitely not the case!

Specialist mini shows are always fun because they do allow different model horses to win but that does not mean that minis cannot win at general model horse shows.

There are several things to remember when showing smaller models. You will see a few people showing very small models on bases, this serves several purposes. First it means that the judge does not miss them (trust me light coloured horses can blend into tables) and secondly it raises them up slightly and emphasises the model. Also remember to dust and add breed cards just as you would with your larger models. Finally place tags next to models not around legs so as not to dwarf them.



had appeared, very good as we'd forgotten to go and get the spare ones!

Once all set up I started about filling bowls with sweets. We had asked all show attendees to bring sweets with them and by the time that everyone had arrived there were two filled bowls of sweets on each table. I was quite happy not to be taking too many home but I'm pretty sure I'm responsible for every attendee gaining several pounds in weight!

The show day started with original finish, custom finish and artist resin. As usual we ran three rings and induced lots of panic in showers who were trying to run between rings!

Having been reminded that I should probably get someone to sell some raffle tickets we broke for lunch including the usual fun classes.

The raffle was as popular as ever with some wonderful donations including a Traditional scale Unicorn, cuddly lemur and beautiful Animal Artistry foal (thank you Donna)!

We are really pleased to announce that we raised a massive £96.00 from the raffle. This will be added to the money raised from other shows and be donated to the LGBT Foundation at the end of the year.

The fun classes for this particular show were, Best Unrealistic Green Model, Smallest Model and Miniature Performance. They were as fun and filled as ever, including a really stunning performance entry which I felt deserved a much better prize than the sweets on offer! As usual they were judged by entrants placing sweets in front of their favourite model. The green

class was particularly interesting with several horses in a delightful array of different shades of green!

Things soon got started again as we moved onto Animal Artistry and CTF sections. Donna had joined us for the day and donated some wonderful prizes for the AA section. The champions were clearly delighted with their prizes.

Before we knew it, it was the end of the day and everyone was packing up ready for the Supreme Championship. The line up may not have been huge but it was definitely of an extremely high quality.

Supreme champion was awarded to the custom champion, a gorgeous G4 driver. Reserve Supreme was awarded to the AA champion, a beautiful Sleepy Shire and reserve to reserve supreme

Show highlights

Check out some of our favourite horses from the day.

Below: AR Gypsy Vanner



Above: AR Fell Pony

Below: AR British Spotted



Above: Custom Arabian

Below: AR Marwari



was awarded to the Artist Resin champion, a lovely rabicano Arabian.

It was of course then time to pack away and head home, exhausted as ever. The show was full of horses and involved a lot of running around and shouting but was definitely a great success! We look forward to running another minis show next year as they appear to be so popular amongst showers.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made it such a wonderful day. We hope to see you all again soon!

Original Finish: Champion

Original Finish champion was awarded to a Breyer Stablemate Icelandic. This is the Premier Club Stablemate Icelandic in a lovely bay pinto colour with a high gloss finish.

He is owned by Catriona Harris.

Custom Finish: Champion

Custom finish champion was awarded to a custom Breyer Stablemate G4 Driver to light bay with slight repositioning.

He is owned by Laura Graham.

Artist Resin: Champion

Artist resin champion was awarded to a bay rabicano Arabian mare. The mould is the Jezabel resin sculpted by Sarah Rose.

She is owned by Debra Hulse.

Animal Artistry: Champion

Animal Artistry champion was awarded to a china Sleepy Shire in light bay and adorned with cat.

He is owned by Laura Graham.

CTF: Champion

CTF Champion was awarded to a grey CollectA Camargue mare.

She is owned by Jody Wheeler and was purchased from Chestnut Ridge!

Well done to everyone who entered this show and were awarded championship placings. You can see a full list of the results from this show at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/435869266624232/>

If you have suggestions for live shows you would like to see us run in future please do get in touch. These specialist shows have been so popular we would love to keep going!

The Facebook group above also provides information for the remaining Colours of the Rainbow Lives including Beautiful Blue Bendy CTF Live and Pretty in Pink Performance Live which both still have spaces remaining.



Want to show some minis?

If this article has given you the itch to get out there and attend some miniature specialist shows then you are in luck! Majestic Minty Mini Live is not the only specialist mini show this year and at least one other still has spaces.

Starweenies is on the 3rd of June and is held in Tadley, Hampshire. This is a specialist minis show with a Star Wars theme and still has some spaces left.

Halloweenies is an annual event held in October and is always one of the years most popular live shows. Held in the same location as Starweenies this show always sells out in minutes but you can be added to a waiting list if you would like to attend.

Email us if you would like more details.



The Art of Live Show Feasting

Mary Dixon introduces us to the secret world
of the live show diet

The model horse live show, the early mornings, model horse, judging, spending money and chatting with long distance friends takes a hungry and thirsty toll on attendees. I cast my mind back to my first live show... it was a very early morning, fuelled by none other than a cup of coffee. Kitty Kitty Live 3 did not disappoint. Cakes, biscuit, tea, coffee and Brandy was supplied in abundance. Brandy made an excellent welcoming party and the coffee was a bonus.

Live shows run on coffee and tea. Much like the British work force, we need it to function. It powers us. In addition to biscuits, necessary for dunking. BMEC is another excellent example of coffee consumed. Those of us staying at the classy Days Inn at Leicester Forest East grouped together, for that essential Starbucks. This started our days, both on the Saturday and Sunday. Essential for the stress that is BMEC. With some people showing over 300



Live show food isn't always attractive but if it is edible and has sugar then it is sure to be popular!

horses, I'd say hydration was pretty low on the list. But that's where the useful partner/ husband/boyfriend/child comes in. They can be the delegated refreshment provider. BMEC was lavish in the supply of junk food. Crisps, small bites, tea and coffee. Oh and then there was cake, which couldn't be eaten until after it had been judged. Catriona made this excellent unicorn rainbow shaped cake thing, that was free from everything. It was tasty and sugary!

The reliance on refreshments is key in running a successful live show, big or small. It also means there is

space for creativity. Sunset View Studios Live Show saw unicorn poop cakes, apparently they tasted better than their name! BMEC has a cake bake championship, which is an incredible place to see the weirdness that can be achieved by this universal plastic pony obsession we call a hobby.

To conclude, coffee is needed before, during and after a live show. Brandy is also welcome.

By Mary Dixon



The BMECS Baking Contest

As baking for live shows became more common BMECS introduced their lunchtime baking contest. Open to all the only stipulation really seems to be that you have to bake something!

Shown right are a fan favourite, the white chocolate and raspberry brownies, which combined with chocolate fudge brownies won on the Saturday of 2015.

Julie's Story



Who could ever imagine such a sweet and innocent face would be capable of such mischief!

Julie is a very innocent looking donkey, if such a thing ever exists. A sweet little grey jenny she spends most of her time stood in the field casually grazing. Occasionally she is taken out for a drive and has even been used to carry hay down to the horses in winter, but generally she seems to just enjoy existing in her own quiet little world, receiving the odd cuddle from a passing horse owner.

But looks can be deceiving, as often they are when it comes to the naughtiest of creatures. To many Julie is just the calm and

reliable yard donkey. A slightly strange addition to the herd but a perfectly nice one. But to those who know her she is the naughty little creature who once almost ruined a wedding.

Josie yawned as she rolled out of bed. She had hardly slept the night before, she was far too excited! It was her wedding day and that hadn't quite sunk in yet.

"Morning sunshine" her mum breezed into the room carrying a tray of croissants, juice and a warm cup of tea.

"It's the big day today, now you need to be up and ready for the hair woman at 9am and remember the cake is being delivered at around 8.30am so

please make sure you are decent by then, and then hopefully you will be in your dress and at the church for 11am sharp, now what have I forgotten?"

Josie stared at her mother and took a sip of tea. Within moments she heard the running of small feet up the stairs as her younger sister ran into the room and leapt onto the bed.

"I CANNOT WAIT TO WEAR MY DRESS" she screamed at her sister before grabbing a croissant and running out again singing as she skipped down the landing.

Her mother followed after her shouting to make sure that

she behaved and to please not run and no don't touch that you'll break it. Josie laughed to herself and she slipped out of bed and pulled on her dressing gown.

She had been waiting for this day for so long and couldn't wait to walk down the aisle but it seemed that even now, on the day there was so much to do, so much planning and organisation, she couldn't turn her back for a second or everything would fall apart.

But first off she had to make sure she had seen to the animals, she headed out the back door quietly so her mother wouldn't here and slipped on her wellies. As she trudged down to the yard she smiled, lapping in the early morning sunshine and revelling in the normality of her morning routine.

Her two horses and three donkeys all seemed fine and happy in their fields. She checked the levels on the water trough and handed a carrot to Julie, a lovely little grey donkey jenny that she had recently purchased.

"You just think it's another normal day don't you" she said as she stroked her neck. She tried not to let anxiety well up inside her, it felt like suddenly everything had hit and she really didn't feel ready. Maybe I just need a quick cuddle she thought to herself and slipped through the gate and off to see her beautiful bay mare, Duchess. Duchess looked as pleased as ever to see her and

barely noticed as she threw her arms around her neck and buried her head into the familiar fur.

She loved Patrick, she knew that, but it didn't stop her from questioning whether she had made the right decision. Slowly a quick tear formed as she realised her life would never quite be the same again.

"JOSIE" her mother screamed from the kitchen "where are you??? The cake has arrived and you need to be here getting ready, come on!"

Josie quickly ran back to the house pulling the gate behind her as she did. She heard the familiar clatter as it fell into place and continued to run up to the house to see her mother.

"Come, come, come, come, there is so much to do, come on, your father can see to the animals, speaking of which where is your father, I asked him to put up some bunting an hour ago, DAVID, DAVID WHERE ARE YOU?" her mother shouted as she whisked her daughter into the bathroom and seemed as if she would personally wash her before she rushed out of the door to deal with yet another person that had appeared at their house.

Alone in the bathroom Josie stared at herself in the mirror. Pull yourself together! She said out loud as she began to wash her hands and face. She scrubbed her nails hard, removing as much dirt and mud as she could, she never had

been good at this beauty thing.

"JOSIE JOSIE THE HAIR WOMAN IS HERE" her mother screamed from downstairs.

Josie left the bathroom and headed into the lounge to get her hair done. She smiled as she greeted her bridesmaids one by one and took the glass of bucks fizz her father had prepared. Suddenly she felt more at ease, everything was going to be OK, she just needed to enjoy herself. Afterall isn't this supposed to be the happiest day of her life?

Within an hour they were all ready and Josie was being helped into her dress by three bridesmaids and her mother. She had no idea how she would use the toilet or how she'd ever get out of it again but as she turned to look in the mirror, for the first time in a long time, she felt beautiful.

As she walked downstairs she was greeted by the photographer who ushered them outside for photographs. The whole family, bridesmaids and even a hairdresser and make up artist filled the front garden as people fussed and moved around and photographs were taken. After around 10 attempts to remove the family dog they eventually gave in and all laughed as he settled himself down for the family photograph.

At that moment an ear piercing scream ran out through the house and into the garden. "What on Earth?" Josie's mother turned almost

white as she ran towards the house, followed quickly by the entire entourage.

There in the kitchen stood the two caterers. And in the corner, by the open back door, covered in white fondant icing was Julie, the little grey donkey.

It took a moment for the reality of the situation to settle in but when it did Josie's mother let out a cry that was most likely audible from space. Her father attempted not to laugh and Josie just stood there, completely speechless as she watched her donkey munch away on what had been her wedding cake, box and all.

"What are we going to do?!?!?" Josie's mother screamed "Well don't just stand there David, get this awful creature out of the house, I don't even understand how she managed to get out of her field, o what are we going to do what are we going to do?" She hung her head in her hands and groaned silently to herself.

Knowing better than to delay Josie's father ushered the donkey back through the front door and with a dog lead around her neck led her back into the field to join her herd.

Josie continued to stare. She wasn't quite sure whether she wanted to cry or laugh, the whole scene was like something out of a school food fight. White buttercream covered the kitchen and bits of fondant flowers mixed with sponge and cardboard lay about on the floor.

"Right" said Josie's mother pulling herself together "we will find a cake, don't you worry love, we'll get it all sorted, make sure to not mess your make up, it's nearly time to go to the church, you must be so excited" she pushed a hair off Josie's face and headed off armed with a laptop and the house phone.

"Don't worry, we'll get this cleaned up" the caterers smiled as they started to try and clean up the scene of destruction before them. If needs be we can probably source a cake locally, it won't be the same but at least it will be something. Josie continued to stare, not really sure what to think.

Before long it was time to head to the church and Josie forgot all about the destruction in her kitchen, or the ruined cake as she said her vows. Outside the church she beamed with happiness as the photographer snapped images of her and the family.

As they

walked up to the wedding cars she felt her mother grab her arm "don't worry love, it's all sorted, your uncle Steve is going down to Waitrose now to get a new cake". It took Josie a moment to remember what had happened, she felt a sinking feeling in her stomach as she realised she'd have to explain to Patrick how the several hundred pounds worth of wedding cake they had carefully chosen and designed had been destroyed in mere minutes by her pet donkey. Not the best start to a marriage.

As they drove back to the house the anxiety grew as she tried to figure out how she was

Not all things are as they seem - Julie may look innocent but she is far from it!



going to break the news. Surely he would see the funny side? Her father after all had found it hilarious, maybe Patrick would too? Maybe she should just make out like it was a joke, "hey Patrick you'll never guess what happened this morning, it was hilarious, Julie ate the wedding cake!". In her head she pictured his face, moving from anger to disappointment to pain. She couldn't picture him finding this very funny at all. She sunk into the chair.

"What's up love?" Patrick said as he turned to her, "are you OK?" his face turned to concern as he held her hand, "not having regrets already are we?" he laughed.

"Something awful happened before we left" she said as she suddenly burst into tears "Julie, Julie ate the wedding cake" she wailed in the back of the car, causing the driver to check his rear view mirror to make sure all was OK.

"Whose Julie?, is she one of your cousins?" Patrick said confused.

"No, Julie, the donkey!" Josie wailed back.

Patrick took a moment to allow the news to sink it and then out of nowhere he burst out laughing.

"It's not funny" Josie cried "she's ruined everything"

Patrick smiled and put his arm around her, "I know the cake was important to you and I know you wanted everything

to be perfect, but this day is about us, being married and as long as we have that then I don't care if we have a half eaten cake or a full one"

As they pulled up to the house Josie wasn't really feeling much better about the situation. At the same time she saw her uncle Steve's car pull into the drive and watched him leap out, triumphant with several large Waitrose shopping bags.

"There she is, the beautiful bride" Josie's mum beamed, "let's get you a drink, Champagne? Of course Champagne it is your wedding day" she beamed at Josie as she thrust a glass into her hand before bustling off to usher guests and welcome people whom Josie was pretty sure she had never met.

At that point Steve stepped out of the house with a broad grin across his face. "Ladies and gentleman" he announced with a proud and victorious voice "I present to you, the wedding cake". Josie felt her heart do a 360 degree turn inside her chest, she thought she would faint, what would people think, what had he bought, she felt like she wanted the whole ground to eat her up.

And then she watched, as the caterer wheeled out on a trolley a long brown cake. It took her a moment to realise what it was and when she did she burst out laughing. She could barely stand she laughed

so much. Presented in front of her were four caterpillar cakes, with their ends removed to make one long cake, surrounded by butterfly cakes and sugar flowers. The whole thing looked slightly magical and slightly comical at the same time.

Within moments waves of laughter rippled around the stunned crowd as everyone realised what had happened. Josie and Patrick walked up and proudly cut their caterpillar cake before happily eating a slice. It may have been an unusual choice but it was the best choice. After all what could have summed up her personality more than a child's birthday cake?

Despite her uncle's last minute saving of the situation Josie was still not particularly happy with Julie when she went out to the paddock in the afternoon sun to say goodbye before they headed off on honeymoon. And as she pulled the gate shut behind her she turned to say one last goodbye and watched, as slowly but surely, it rolled out of its lock and opened. She burst out laughing, properly securing it and winking at the innocent looking donkey who had nearly ruined her wedding.

If you would like to submit your own story for publication please email catriona@chestnutridge.co.uk



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Suffolk Punch

One of the UK's most iconic heavy horses





History

The Suffolk Punch is an ancient British breed of heavy horse originating in the county of Suffolk.

The breed's development started in the 16th century with the official stud book being created in 1880. The breed has

a mix of blood with testing showing the influence of the Fell and Dales as well as European ponies such as the Haflinger.

The breed faced extinction following mechanisation but renewed efforts have enabled it to grow in modern times.

Conformation

The Suffolk Punch stands between 16.1hh - 17.2hh and weighs between 900-1,000kg.

They have a powerful arching neck, well-muscled sloping shoulder, wide back and a broad croup.

Their legs are short with broad joints and little or no feathering. They have well formed hooves, a part of the breed which has improved greatly due to the introduction of judging of the hoof structure and conformation.

Horses have a true movement with a springing action, their trot should be well balanced with straight action.

Colour

All Suffolk Punch horses are chestnut in colour or 'chestnut' as it is described in the breed registry and when referring to all Suffolk Punches.

The majority of horses are a standard red chestnut although flaxen chestnuts are also common and livers can also be seen. There are historically seven different colours described: dark liver, dull dark, light mealy, red, golden, lemon and bright.

Horses have little or no white markings. The registry will allow a small amount of white on the face and white is allowed on the fetlock, but not on breeding stallions.

Modern Uses

Like many other heavy horses the Suffolk Punch suffered as a result of mechanisation.

Traditionally the Suffolk Punch would be used for farm work, pulling ploughs and carts and even being used in the mining industry.

In modern times Suffolks can most often be seen in local and country shows, often performing displays of strength and ordained in beautiful ribbons.

They have become a popular show horse and are also used to produce riding horses and contribute to the development of other breeds due to their temperaments.



Model Suffolk Punches

They may be a rare breed but that does not mean they cannot be found in the model horse world!

One of the most commonly found examples is the Breyer Stablemate G1 Drafter. This chunky little model was rereleased in 2015 as part of the Best of British Stablemates set and still proves popular amongst collectors.

Brands such as Schleich have also added Suffolk Punch's to their range. Shown in the centre is a Schleich Suffolk Punch, no retired, and sadly featuring a little bit too

much white on the legs!

There are a small variety of model Suffolk Punch's available to purchase. One of the most commonly seen is 'Ted' (or Little Ted when produced in his Stablemate form) by Animal Artistry. This adorable little Suffolk is available in both resin and china and can be seen in a variety of different chestnut shades. He will soon also be available in Rubber!



Another popular resin is Woodbridge by Kitty Cantrell with his large dinner plate hooves indicative of the breed. As well as a stocky appearance he also features a beautifully braided mane.

Horsing around have also produced a trotting Suffolk Punch. This beautiful model sculpted by David Mayer has a powerful appearance with heavily defined muscles and a beautiful trotting stance.

The British pottery makers have also produced several examples of the breed. This include the popular Royal Worcester Suffolk, the rather sausage like Beswick Suffolk and the lighter North Light Suffolk Punch.

Bake Your Own Equine Cupcakes

Create your own horsey cupcakes to eat at home or take along to a live show

1

Make the Cupcake Mix

Heat the oven to 180°C or Gas Mark 5.

Line a 12 case muffin pan with 12 muffin cases.

If you are using cupcakes then do 24 cupcakes :)

Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Beat the eggs in a separate

dish.

Add the eggs and the cheese to the butter and sugar and mix well.

Mix together the flour and baking powder.

Add the flour and baking powder to the mix and stir until everything is thoroughly mixed and there are no lumps.

Add in 150g of glace cherries (or normal cherries) for flavour.

You can substitute the cherries for a flavouring of your choice,

3tbsp icing sugar

White sugar paste icing

Black sugar paste icing

Black food colouring

Remove the cherries and replace with vanilla essence for vanilla cupcakes!

Choose your own colours of sugar paste for other horse colours!

vanilla essence will work well for vanilla cupcakes or chocolate for chocolate ones!

Once everything is thoroughly mixed it's time to bake!

2

BAKE!

Check the oven is up to temperature.

Spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases (you may find it easier to use an ice cream scoop if you have one).

Bake for around 15-20 minutes, checking regularly.

Check your cupcakes are done by putting a toothpick through and seeing whether it comes out clean.

Once done leave to cool on a wire rack.

Ingredients

125g unsalted butter

120g caster sugar

2 eggs

350g low fat soft cheese

250g plain flour

3 tsp baking powder

300g glace cherries (optional)

2 sheets gelatine



wire rack.

3 **Make the Icing**

As we've made cherry cupcakes we are making cherry icing.

Soften the gelatine in cold water.

Puree the remaining cherries using a blender or fork if you do not have one.

Warm the gelatine in a saucepan with 2tbsp of the cherry puree.

Stir in the remaining puree off

the heat.

Add 1tbsp of icing sugar and the cheese and mix well.

Add a couple of drops of food colouring if you want to enhance the colour.

Spread the icing over each of the cupcakes.

4 **Time to Decorate**

We are making grey horses but you can make whatever colour horse you like, you could even make a unicorn!

Cut 12 ovals of white sugar

Different Horse Colours

You can use different types of sugar paste icing to create different horse colours.

Use brown for a bay horse, with a black nose and black mane.

Use marzipan for a palomino, using white for the nose and mane. Or add black to create a buckskin.

Mix in some black and white to create a piebald!

Cut 12 ovals of white sugar paste (they need to be around the size of your cupcake in length).

Cut 12 circles in black sugar paste and place on top of your ovals at the bottom.

Cut 24 triangles out of white sugar paste.

Fold in the bottoms of the triangles to make your ears!

Use a ball pointed tool (or anything small and round that you can find) to create the nostrils.

Use a pointed tool (or a pointy object) to create the smiley mouth (optional).

Mix a small amount of icing sugar with some black food colouring and a tiny amount of water.

Use a piping bag and small nozzle to create the mane and eyes.

Place your complete horse heads on top of your iced cupcakes.

Top Tip - Whilst you are waiting for your cupcakes to cool create your horse heads. That way you can get them straight on whilst the icing is still wet so they will stick well.

Your cupcakes are now complete - dig in! You can use different colours and ingredients to add variety to the basic design. You could even create rainbow unicorns or give your horses headcollars! It is

Different Cupcake Flavours

Use these substitutions for different flavours:

Vanilla - 1tsp vanilla extract

Chocolate - 20g cocoa powder (reduce flour by 20g)

Coffee - Half a cup of instant coffee



Cinnamon - Half a tsp of cinnamon

Toffee - Replace sugar with muscovado sugar & 1tbsp treacle

entirely up to you.

Remember if you are under 16 years old you need to get an adult to help you, especially when handling the oven!

We would love to see your own equine cupcake creations. You can email them to us at catriona@chestnutridge.co.uk and we will feature them in our

Facebook gallery. Alternatively why not bake some for a live show? I would love to dig in and taste whatever you have created!

We hope you enjoyed this article, why not submit your own article for our next magazine. To find out more please email catriona@chestnutridge.co.uk

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Ploughing

**Learn how heavy horses once proved essential
to the farming calendar**



Ploughing has been an essential part of farming for thousands of years. It involves turning over the soil in preparation for planting. The idea is to dig up and turn over the upper layer of soil thereby bringing nutrients to the surface and burying left over crops and weeds. This then creates furrows of fertile soil.

Initially ploughing was performed by oxen before the use of horses and then heavier draught horses for the work. Nowadays it is more common to see a tractor ploughing a field but horses (and other animals) are still used the world over. In Western countries, however, you are more likely to see a team of heavy horses competing or as part of a display team than out working in the fields.

Ploughs can be pulled by one or several horses depending upon the design of the plough. Traditionally a



plough would consist of a beam and then a cutting board which would furrow the ground. Often a coulter would be added just before the cutting board in order to cut into the ground. The end of the beam would contain the coupling which would attach to the horses harness.

It wasn't until the 1600s that attempts were made to improve the shape of the plough. The shape was changed several times developing what is now known as a mouldboard plough, the

basic design of which is still used in mechanised ploughs today.

Typically a horse would wear a bridle with reins that pass back to the person doing the ploughing, more modern ploughs would contain a seat for the ploughman to sit on, more traditional designs require the ploughman to walk behind the horse or horses.

The horse would also wear a collar with traces that attach to the plough. The harness will also have a girth through which both the reins and traces will pass. The majority of harnesses will also have a crupper and breeching for stability.

Modern display harnesses are often highly decorated horse brasses. More complex harnesses may be used where more than one horse is used to pull the plough.

Ploughing can now be seen at displays around the country, look online for your local one!



Feeding Horses

Feeding horses is a subject often filled with controversy and confusion, but it is one of the most important parts about keeping a horse

Anyone who has owned a horse will know that the world of horse feed can often be confusing at best and at worst some sort of dystopian horror story. With so many products on the market promising so many different things it can often be hard to know what is best for your horse.

The first and most important thing to remember is that every horse is unique, what works for one horse may not work for all and you need to find the right diet for your horse's needs and your own wallet!

The second most important thing is to remember that marketing is just that, marketing. If you can gain access to scientific research it is always worth having a look at the journal evidence behind certain products, in particular supplements and understand exactly what is in them and what they actually do. As any vet will tell you some of the most popular supplements on the market are actually proven to do nothing!

When feeding horses it is important to understand how they are naturally evolved to



eat. Horses are evolved to graze, often on poor vegetation and therefore have a compulsion to eat almost constantly. Your horse does not know that he gets all of his nutritional needs from his concentrate feed!

Horses should, therefore, be given almost constant access to roughage, either in the form of grazing (from a good horse pasture with a mixture of grasses and plants) or in the form of hay or haylage. For many horses grazing and some hay will provide enough nutritional value without the addition of concentrate feeds.

However, as a horse's

workload increases as does their need for energy. The natural energy they get from grazing and hay can be easily supplemented using a concentrate mix.

When choosing a mix you need to look at the energy values (all good brands should display this on the packet) as well as its nutritional value.

One of the easiest ways to work out how much concentrate your horse should be getting is by body weight. You can use a tape or body measurement formula if you do not have access to more accurate weighing scales to estimate your horse's weight. From there you can work out



how much feed they should be getting as a percentage of their body weight.

As a general rule a mature horse in light work will need 0.5-1% of their body weight in concentrate per day with around 1-2% in roughage. That increases to 0.75-1.5% of concentrate for horses in moderate work and 1-2% for horses in intense work.

The majority of horses will be in light work. Moderate work will mean a horse that is either working 3-5 hours per day or who is competing in lower level sports and on an appropriate exercise and fitness program. Intense work is horses at high levels of competition including racing or horses who are working more than 5 hours per day.

It is important to actually weigh your feeds, rather than using a volume indication such as a feed scoop. This is

because different feeds can have different weights so it will help you prevent over feeding. It is also important to remember that certain types of horses, such as the sick, elderly, young or breeding stock will have different feeding requirements.

Remember to ensure your horse has access to a clean water supply and also feed using clean buckets and utensils. Horses should be fed at regular times throughout the day and if stabled given appropriate exercise to ensure digestive wellbeing.

A good concentrate feed will contain a variety of different nutrients including fibre, starch, sugar and fat. Fibre is mainly supplied from forage and is a slow release energy source, perfect for horses in light work.

Starch and sugars are the main energy source received from concentrate feed. These

are converted into glucose and produce a good quick release energy source, perfect for intense work.

Fats also provide a good source of energy for horses. Fat stores provide more energy than that of energy stored by sugar in glycogen. It produces a slow release energy that can keep a horse going all day, it is perfect for horses that work in trail work for example, or for horses in work that requires stamina such as eventing or longer distance racing.

Protein can also be used as an energy source but it is not recommended. It is not a brilliant source of energy and can cause an increase in internal heat production which may cause issues for some horses.

Always consult your vet before changing a horses diet and remember to make changes slowly!

Roy

The Belgian

Roy the Belgian was sculpted in 1989 by Francis Eustis. It is Breyer mould number 455 and portrays a walking Belgian Draught Gelding.

This mould was originally released in 1989 as Roy the chestnut Belgian Drafter. The most recent release was in 2015 where, after several years of not being in production, Roy was made the celebration model for BreyerFest Vive la France. The model was a portrait of celebration horse, Simba du Pont de Tourney and was produced in a lovely bay roan.

The model is most suited to a Belgian Draught or similar French heavy horse breeds depending on colour. It does have some conformational flaws but is a nice stocky model with a hardy appearance.

Shown on page 35 is a custom Breyer Roy painted by Deborah Brown. This model has had good showing success as a Belgian Draught, showing how this often under appreciated mould can be turned into something rather gorgeous!

Below is a run down of all original finish model horses produced on the Roy mould. For values we recommend you search completed listings on www.ebay.com or search MH\$P for sold pieces.

1989-1990

1989-1990 #455 Roy Belgian Drafter - Chestnut

1991-2000

1991-1993 #837 Belgian Brabant - Dun

1992 #497092 Drafters Set - Liver Chestnut - Sears Holiday Catalogue, 2,250 made

1993 Test Colour Alabaster - Alabaster - BreyerFest Live Auction, 1 made

1995 Dapple Sorrel with Red & White Ribbons - Chestnut - BreyerFest Live Auction, 1 made

1996-1997 #953 Sebastian - Grulla

1998-1999 #740 Percheron Cross - Black

1999 - Fleabitten Grey Belgian - Grey - BreyerFest Live Auction, 1 made

1999 - Legacy Gift Set II - Grey - Sears Holiday Catalogue

2001-2010

2010 #711081 Priefert's Radar - Chestnut - BreyerFest Store Special, 750 made

2011-2017

2015 #711216 Simba du Pont de Tourney - Bay Roan - BreyerFest Celebration Model, 6,504 made

2015 #711216 Simba du Pont de Tourney (gloss) - Bay Roan Glossy - BreyerFest Prizes/ Auction, 40 made



A custom Roy by Deborah Brown





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