

Hylands Horses Schedule

June 2010

Sat 5th June	Horses at the Essex Wildlife Trust Country Fair at Abberton Nature Reserve
Sun 6th June	Horses at the Essex Wildlife Trust Country Fair at Abberton Nature Reserve
Mon 7th June	10.30am to 3.30pm - Horses in the Stables Visitor Centre
Sun 13th June	10.30am to 12.30pm – Horses in the Stables Visitor Centre 1pm to 3pm - Carriage Rides outside Hylands House
Mon 14th June	Horses extracting timber from South Wood throughout the day
Sun 20th June	Carriage Rides at the Hylands Hearts Perfect Sunday. Times TBC.
Mon 21st June	Horses extracting timber from South Wood throughout the day
Sun 27th June	10.30am to 3.30pm - Horses in the Stables Visitor Centre

Times may be subject to change due to weather conditions etc.
Please check with staff at the Stables Visitor Centre before travelling long distances or looking for us on the estate. The Visitor Centre phone number is 01245 605523.

For news and updates please visit
www.hylandshorses.co.uk

The Hylands Horses Project

The Hylands Horses Project is a partnership between Chelmsford Borough Council, Hawthorn Heavy Horses and Writtle College to return working horses to the Hylands Estate. Located on the outskirts of Chelmsford, Essex, Hylands House and the newly opened Stables Centre is a stunning heritage venue set in 574 acres of Grade II* listed parkland.

Using rare breed Suffolk Punch horses, we support the management of the Hylands Estate by providing environmentally sensitive management and visitor attractions, including carriage rides, grass cutting, harrowing, timber extraction and heavy horse related educational talks.

The horses are usually at Hylands on Sundays and Mondays, although this may vary due to special events.

Chelmsford Borough Council purchased the estate in 1966 (under the Physical Training and Recreation Act of 1937) when the house and other estate buildings were in a very dilapidated condition, with an uncertain future.

Following stage one and two applications, CBC was delighted to hear back in March 2003 that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) approved a grant towards the Hylands Estate restoration project in the region of £3.2 million. The Councils Executive Committee also supported the project and approved the remaining funding for the project, and entered into contract with HLF in February 2004.

The work covered the restoration of the Repton landscape, including parts of the Pleasure Gardens, the Serpentine Lake, final phase of the Hylands House restoration, the relocation and improvements to the estate grounds' maintenance depot at Home Farm, repairs to flint cottage, and the conversion of the listed stable block to form a new visitor centre. This work was completed by 2006.

The final part of the HLF project was to reintroduce heavy working horses back to Hylands. A partnership was formed between Chelmsford Borough Council, Writtle College and Hawthorn Heavy Horses to provide the technical expertise to ensure that the project will succeed. The project then commenced in May 2008, and the horses first arrived at Hylands in June. Holly and George are Suffolk Punch horses and were chosen because they are the local heavy horse breed, and also because they were resident on the estate during it's last period of private ownership by Mrs Hanbury from 1922 to 1962. Local people still talk of the Suffolks who were used at Hylands and on the surrounding farms, and it is a real achievement to have them back and working.

The horses add value to the Hylands visitor experience in various ways, such as:

- Their presence in the Stable Block, the parkland and at other times in Home Farm.
- Available on special event days to provide carriage rides for visitors
- Used to carry out traditional estate management works such as grass cutting, woodland management / logging, clearance etc.
- To promote the estate and the horses at shows and other public events, and to seek possible sponsorship and grants
- To assist in the interpretation of the Stable Block and estate

The horses are also available for private hire on the Estate, for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and picnics. For more information call Matt or Claudia on **01245 399512**. For more information about the project please visit **www.hylandshorses.co.uk**