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**Trelow Father Abraham -
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New British Percheron Society president based in Ireland

New president of the British Percheron Horse Society is Dr Miles Frankel from County Cork, Ireland.

Dr Frankel, who has kept riding horses for many years never expected this to lead to breeding and working heavy draughts. Dr Frankel, who is a medical doctor with a general practice in a small town, has a number of mares and five horses broken to work in shafts and chains (two pairs of geldings and a stallion). This horse, Kilbrack Inkerman, born 1996, is a black, by Pinchbeck Harry out of Lime Marie-Therese. In the past 18 months he has imported 10 two- and three-year-old fillies to Ireland and all have been broken to work in small market garden enterprises that sell their produce into farmers' markets.

"Horse power is alive and well in Ireland," says Dr Frankel, who adds that being a doctor and a farmer at the same time "has its moments", but it allowed him, as a Londoner, to become part of Irish rural life in a way that would otherwise have been impossible. Being president of the Percheron society was a "great honour", he said.

Happy days for filmstar Shire X Lippizaner

A 17.1hh Shire X Lipizzaner, 12-year-old Mr Happy, spends his life hunting with the North Cornwall and Four Burrow with his owner, event rider Rosie Malcolm, but has achieved some fame by starring in a music video. Shot at a farm on Bodmin Moor,



the video You've Changed was filmed by Rosie and the Goldbug, a Cornish band which spent last season gigging festivals all over the country: the video was released in December. The lead singer, also a Rosie, who was brought up with horses, rode Mr Happy at a gallop chasing the camera crew strapped to the back of the farmer's quad bike, and then rode him through woodland whilst singing! On account of his filming experience Mr Happy, who also enjoys dressage and showjumping, ridden hunter classes and the village show's fancy dress, is now available for modelling, acting and prop work. He has a website, www.myhappywhitehorsemodel.com. The band's website is www.rosieandthegoldbug.com.

Brian Winn sends his Lincolnshire champion to Austria and buys a stallion from Germany

Brian Winn of Gautby, near Market Rasen is pictured right with his Lincolnshire Shire Horse Association champion foal, Winestead Layla, who has now been exported to Austria where she has joined the stud of Joseph Pixner Jr. Winner of nine shows in England as a foal, Layla is out of Liversedge Zoe and by Antaris Cosmic Dancer, who Brian imported from Germany, but has now sold to a Birmingham breeder. Meanwhile Brian has imported a new stallion from Germany, Frettholt's Joker (pictured below right), now three-years-old, but champion two-year-old at the Dutch and German shows last year. Joker is well bred, says Brian, out of Hainton Lindy Lou, who was by Stanley House Aristocrat. Brian Winn spotted the horse when he was judging the German show and again in the Netherlands, soon reaching a deal with his owner Martina Joksimovic, who owns his sire, Frettholt Joseph. She keeps three stallions, last year serving 64 mares with them. Brian Winn has been breeding Shires since 1989 and has five brood mares, three by Antaris Cosmic Dancer. The Winestead prefix comes from the Yorkshire village in which he grew up.



New European group celebrates heavy horse versatility

German heavy horse enthusiast Karin Anger of Stud Farm Dudelhof has founded a new group, Clydesdale & Shire Horse Friends, with Arclid Shires of Cheshire, UK and Shire Horse Swiss.

The performance she mounts for competitions, shows, events and parades includes up to 10 Shires and Clydesdales with riders in costume and is much in demand in Germany, Switzerland and the UK. Performances range across dressage, in-harness, musketeers, ridden tandem, circus, skiing, pas de deux and since last year, the quadrille.

The Friends group also runs seminars and experience days for interested people at the Stud Farm Dudelhof and this year will stage the first Clydesdale & Shire Horse Friends Show, on 15 August.

Karin Anger has been successful in showing with her Clydesdale stallion, Arclid Hillside Legend, but also in dressage competition untypical for a heavy horse. She trained Legend herself, as with all her horses and he learned fast, she explains, including difficult dressage movements such as transitions within a pace, change of leg in canter and a half pirouette at a walk between halts.



Karin Anger riding Arclid Hillside Legend.

Meanwhile Tajana Jautz from Switzerland has begun competing in competitions with her Shire mare, Arclid Brickell Annie, including dressage, obstacle trail, and cattle-work, in which she separated a calf from a small herd within 1.7 minutes.

"We are a community of people interested in presenting the gentle giants and their impressive versatility," says Karin. "We have so much fun together and are a friendly, all-round and successful team."

Further information: www.clydesdale-shirehorse.com.