

Clydesdale Horse Society - E News-sheet - 15th July 2025

As I write this newsheet I'm also in the middle of creating the Society's six monthly newsletter which will go out towards the end of this month or in early August. Alongside this, every member will receive communication from me concerning our annual fundraising raffle and I hope as many of people as possible will be able to participate in this at this time.

We had such a volume of information for the newsletter that it sadly was not possible to include everything there and so I'm delighted to be able to share with you a very interesting historical article which came my way via Seamons Mcfarlane. Those of you who have an interest in the historical aspects of breed may find this to be a good read.

A Snapshot in Time: The Paisley Corporation Carters of 1926



On 2nd of September, 1926, a group of working men posed outside a large arched brick entrance in what was likely the yard of a municipal depot. At their feet, a white dog sits calmly, framed by a sea of flat caps and the firm, proud expressions of men used to labour.

Above their heads, the brickwork bears silent witness to a bygone era—one of physical work, horses, and a deep sense of community pride. This is the Paisley Corporation Carters, captured in a photograph that serves as both historical record and a tribute to a disappearing way of life.

The Role of the Carters

The term carter refers to a person who transports goods by cart, and in early 20th-century Paisley, they were indispensable. Before the mass motorisation of transport, the town relied heavily on these men and their horses to move everything from coal and refuse to building materials and goods for public services.

The Paisley Corporation, the town's local government body, employed these carters to carry out a range of municipal tasks. These might include:

- Street cleaning (collecting and carting away waste)
- Road maintenance (delivering stone, tar, and other materials)
- Coal delivery to municipal buildings and poorhouses
- Moving goods to and from council stores, workshops, and depots
- Transporting animal waste from stables to farms or dumps

This was not glamorous work. It was dirty, physically demanding, and required skill and patience—not only with heavy materials but with the horses that pulled the loads.

Paisley in the 1920s: Industrial Heritage and Shifting Times

In the 1920s, Paisley was a town in flux. It had long been a prominent textile centre, globally renowned for the distinctive "Paisley pattern" that adorned shawls and cloth. Yet, by the 1920s, the textile industry was beginning to wane, and new technologies were reshaping urban life.

Despite the rise of motor vehicles, horse-drawn transport remained dominant for short-range haulage, especially in towns with narrow streets, heavy loads, and established stable systems. Municipal authorities like Paisley's held onto their horses and carts longer than many private companies, partly due to infrastructure and cost.

It is worth noting that just a few months before this photograph was taken, Britain had experienced the *General Strike of May 1926*—a huge industrial action that brought many industries to a halt. While there's no record linking this particular group to the strike, municipal services were directly affected, and essential workers like Corporation Carters may have been either drawn into the unrest or relied upon to keep basic services running.

The Horses Behind the Work

Behind every carter stood a horse—or often, walked beside one. These were usually heavy horses, such as Clydesdales or Shires, prized for their strength and endurance. The bond between carter and horse was essential; many carters had a designated animal they worked with daily.

The Paisley Corporation Stables were likely located at or near the site of this photograph. Corporation yards typically included large brick stables, feed stores, and smithies for shoeing horses. Carters were expected to groom, harness, and care for their horses themselves, adding to the already long and strenuous workdays.

A common practice was for carters to arrive at the yard before dawn, load their carts, and head out on routes that could span the length of the town. The horses were stabled and fed at Corporation expense, but the care and character of the animals were a point of pride for the workers.

Decoding the Photograph

The men in the photo appear arranged by hierarchy or role, with possibly a foreman or senior figure seated centre-front. Their dress, while informal, shows a kind of uniformity: cloth caps, dark waistcoats, rolled-up sleeves, and sturdy boots. Some have ties and jackets, suggesting supervisory roles, while others appear more rough-hewn, with sleeves rolled and hands ready for labour.

At least one man on the far right appears to have a crutch, suggesting injury or long-term impairment—perhaps even war-related. Many men in such roles were veterans of the First World War, and municipal jobs like carter roles offered steady work for returning soldiers.

The white dog at the front centre is especially notable. Dogs were common in working yards—not only for companionship but sometimes to guard tools or assist with herding livestock. This particular dog's inclusion hints at its popularity with the group, and its position suggests it may have been considered a "mascot."

Lost Occupations and Municipal Pride

Jobs like carter, coal heaver, lamplighter, and town scavenger were once staples of urban employment. But the rise of internal combustion engines and changing industrial practices saw the carter trade disappear rapidly in the decades following this photo. By the 1940s, many Corporation yards had traded in their horses for lorries, and the men who knew how to harness a team or navigate a heavily laden cart were being pensioned off or retrained.

This photograph captures the tail-end of an era—one in which working-class skill and municipal service were sources of pride and identity. The men in this image may have had little public recognition in their lifetimes, but their work was vital to the town's daily functioning.

The 1926 photograph of the Paisley Corporation Carters is more than a simple staff photo. It is a rich document of working lives, a symbol of Paisley's civic pride, and a snapshot of a world soon to be transformed by machines. These men, and their horses, formed the beating heart of a town in motion. Their memory, preserved in sepia tones, continues to move us—nearly 100 years on.

Their names may be lost, but in this image, they remain present, proud, and part of Paisley's enduring story.

Finally Some News From America and Cathy Behn of World Clydesdale Alliance

"Hi Ian - I hope this email finds you well. I also hope the Highland was a great success for all exhibitors and the Society! I was wondering if there was interest for the International Tour? And also, if I need to reach out to anyone."

I will reproduce the Tour Data below and it will also be in our Newsletter.

World Clydesdale is also promoting some new awards for any exhibitor in the world.

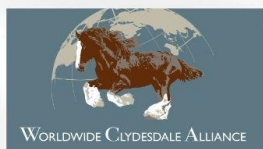
If you would like to find out more about this please email me I can forward the information Cathy forwarded to the Office which is too voluminous to share here. I am told there is no charge to enter, you just have to become a member of the World Clydesdale Alliance.

Cathy Behn can be contacted on email

cathybehn78@gmail.com

2025 World Clydesdale Show International Guest Tour

Hosted by: Worldwide Clydesdale Alliance & Warm Springs Ranch



An Unforgettable Experience

Are you coming from out of the United States to the 2025 World Clydesdale Show in Springfield, IL? The World Clydesdale Alliance and Anheuser-Busch Budweiser Clydesdales have teamed up to cordially invite you to take two exclusive tours as a "kick off" to the 2025 World Clydesdale Show!

Don't miss out!

The Worldwide Clydesdale Alliance and Budweiser Clydesdales are proud to offer these tours to our fellow Clydesdale friends and Clydesdale breeders from afar! A limited number of reservations will be offered for these tours, so please contact us right away to reserve your spot! Come along for great fun and memory making prior to the exciting 2025 World Clydesdale Show!

Cost & Reservations

Price (US Funds)
\$75 per person per day
OR

\$130 per person for the 2-day Tour!

For More Information and to Make
Reservations, please contact:
Cathy Behn - Worldwide Clydesdale Alliance
Contact info below

DAY ONE

Monday, September 29, 2025

Tour to Warm Springs Ranch
the official breeding/training site for the
Budweiser Clydesdales
Booneville, MO

Schedule of Events

Charter Bus leaving
Springfield, IL at 7:00am
Light Breakfast will be served
along the way
Arrive at Warm Springs Ranch at 10:30am

The tour includes a personal guided tour to
three areas at Warm Springs Ranch:

- In the Pasture viewing of horses
- Breeding Program Insight
- Budweiser Hitch/Training Program

Lunch will be served at 1:00pm,
compliments of the fine folks at Budweiser!
After Lunch, return to Springfield

DAY TWO

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Tour to Anheuser Busch Brewery
St. Louis, MO

Schedule of Events

Charter Bus leaving
Springfield, IL at 8:00am
Light Breakfast will be served
along the way
Arrive at the historic Brewery at 10:00am


The day will include:

- Tour of the Anheuser Busch Brewery Visit
Budweiser Clydesdale Stables
- Shopping at the Amazing Gift Shop

Lunch to follow,
compliments of the Worldwide Clydesdale
Alliance.
After lunch, return to Springfield

 admin@worldwideclydesdalealliance.com

 www.worldwideclydesdalealliance.com

 1-815-871-0714