

Reading Carriage Sale

Our Spring Carriage Sale is always an exciting event, and for many marks the start of the Driving Season, a chance to catch up with old friends as well as the opportunity to purchase a few things for the months ahead.

As ever, the sale catalogue was packed with over eighty carriages entered, as well as over eight hundred lots of other items, to include whips, saddles, carriage parts and accessories, harness, pictures, models, and books.

The highlight of the sale proved to be a Four Wheeled Pot Wagon, beautifully decorated with red, green and gold lines on a marron body. A vehicle like this was always going to be highly sought after, and after spirited bidding, our auctioneer Richard Dance finally sold the carriage for £22,500.



An Open Lot Wagon, again well decorated and ready for the road, sold for £7,750.

If you were in the market for more of a project, A High Sheriff's Coach that required renovation sold for £4,000.

Carriage Sale manager Rebecca Seear was delighted with the results, commenting "It's always a pleasure to see carriages find new homes and begin the next chapter of their stories".

The Carriage section of the sales always attracts a large crowd, and our new display area proved popular with customers, and allowed all the vehicles to be easily inspected, which was reflected in the strong prices achieved throughout.

Not everyone is in the market for a Carriage, and the Sundries section of the sale was, as always, extremely well attended, with strong bidding from beginning to end.

The demand for good whips shows no sign of abating, with a Dealer's whip by Lardner & Lardner selling for £1,400 and another by G. Holland hammered down for £1,000.

Other notable sales included a pair of round-fronted Mail Coach lamps achieving £1,800 and a paraffin footboard lamp by Holland and Holland selling for £1,650 after brisk bidding from around the crowd.

Side saddles proved to be in strong demand, with a restored Champion & Wilton side saddle going on to sell for £1,350, another for £800 and a Lissadell side saddle by F.W. Mayhew & Co selling for £550.



It was very noticeable that internet buyers played a more prominent role in this sale, with good bids coming on items throughout the catalogue.

One of the more unusual items in the sale was a lifelong reference collection of harness decorations, complete with annotated notes and rare books. It was lovely to see something that had been so collated with such care get so much attention, which was reflected in the bidding, before selling for £1,500.



In somewhat uncertain times, the level of prices achieved and interest in the sale was wonderful to see, and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back for our Autumn Carriage Sale.

The above prices are the hammer prices and DO NOT include the Buyers' Premium of 7.5 % on carriages (9% inc. VAT) and 12.5% (15% inc. VAT) on the remainder of the sale. For further details about Thimbleby & Shorland and their auctions, or if you wish to enter items into the next Reading Carriage Sale which will be held on Wednesday 22nd October 2025, please go to www.tsauction.co.uk or email info@tsauction.co.uk.