



'Gem' of a story.



You need to pack a punch in business!

Right from the start, being a Suffolk based business, the well-known 'Suffolk Punch' heavy horse was chosen for the company's logo, as it was robust and strong so matching our industry renowned products.

We decided that having adopted the breed as our logo and being a traditional and craft based business we should build on this natural association. We joined the 'Suffolk Horse Society' as a corporate member, fully intending to take an active part in supporting the breed as a whole.



In May 2004, for the first time ever, the company decided to take a stand at the local South Suffolk Show in order to display our wares to the local market, other than simply via the media.

At the show Hugo Corrie had the presence of mind to go to the 'heavy horse' collecting ring and ask if anyone wanted to be associated with, and sponsored by, The Suffolk Gate Company; Norma Bradley, the owner of 'Fenland Gem' a four year old mare at the time, spoke up and the rest is now history.



A jewel indeed!

After the success of our first show we quickly sought space at the Suffolk Show, the premier county show at Ipswich. We were accepted and within the short space of a month we were showing at the beginning of June 2004.

'Gem' was showing also and not only did the company have a very good show but 'Fenland Gem' not only won her class but also was judged to be overall champion of the breed.



The association had started with a 'bang' and all were keen to see it flourish.

To cart off the booty!

In 2004 'Gem' was a 4 year old gast mare and it was Norma Bradley's intention to have her covered as soon as possible to produce a foal.

It was also discussed that Suffolk Gates wanted to purchase a 'traditional' rig to show and promote its gates and we wondered whether we would be able to have 'Gem' pull the cart.

Norma's son Jonathan found a cart, took some pictures, and we decided to buy it. Much refurbishment is needed and it is our intentions to have our skilled craftsmen do the work to show off their skills, which, in turn, are the skills we apply to the company's products.

The cart was bought and is awaiting refurbishment as this article is being written. Gem is to be covered in March 2007 with a view to foaling in February 2008.

Gem has a full season in 2007 and will also be shown 'in hand' for the first time. With luck and good fortune she will foal next Spring and enjoy a season as Mare and foal.

Who knows we may well have either Gem or her offspring pulling the Suffolk Gates rig in 2009.



Watch this space for further updates!