

A day in the life of the Daniel Thwaites Horsemen

Life at the stables begins as early as 6am, all year round, with a breakfast feast for the Shires. Each horse will eat 35 pounds of mixed food per day - some 5.8 tonnes per year. The food needs to be prepared daily for freshness, ensuring that each horse receives adequate nutrition and that they remain healthy.

Following their breakfast, each stable needs to be cleaned and prepared for the day with new bedding. This is quite a strenuous role and it takes a few hours to prepare the stables for our 'gentle giants'. The Shires need lots of room to move around and the horsemen ensure they receive a daily exercise programme to avoid health problems. This exercise programme takes them out and about and they can often be seen on the streets of Lancashire.

Grooming and sanitary conditions of the horses is particularly important to avoid infections and the horsemen are passionate about ensuring their standards are met on a daily basis.

With the daily programme now complete, it's time for a tea-break to look over the schedule of forthcoming events plus the planning and preparation of cleaning the tack & harness in readiness for their next tour of duty. During shows and competitions the horses will receive extra attention as their manes are plaited and their harness polished to perfection.

Lots of work goes into ensuring the horses and dray vehicles are in pristine condition when exhibiting and we at Daniel Thwaites are very proud of our 'gentle giants' who regularly bring home trophies and awards from the many showgrounds they attend.



Why not try our award winning beers.

Success over two centuries has been built upon a reputation for brewing great tasting, easy drinking beers and we invite you to savour some of our best!

DANIEL THWAITES
Star Brewery Penny Street
Blackburn Lancashire BB1 5BU
t 01254 686868
e info@danielthwaites.com
www.danielthwaites.com



DANIEL THWAITES
'FAMOUS SHIRE HORSES'



www.danielthwaites.com



History of the Brewery Shires



The history of the Shires is thought to date back to the Medieval times and the central regions of the England counties, 'The Shires', hence their name.

The Shires' use throughout history is one of aiding the civilization of modern man and during the medieval times these heavy horses were used as great warhorses - being strong and docile they were well suited to carrying the hundreds of pounds of a fully armoured knight into battle.



This noble horse has been a well mannered servant and faithful companion for many hundreds of years.

When Daniel Thwaites Brewery was founded in Blackburn in 1807, the Shires made all the local deliveries and were the main source of transportation for all raw materials and beer deliveries. Pubs at this time were within a few miles of the brewery gates and motor vehicles had not been developed.



Daniel Thwaites however, was investing heavily in the use of steam wagons and as the investment and the progression of the automobile continued, the demise of the Shires was inevitable. The last horses left Daniel Thwaites Brewery in 1927 and the stables were closed.

On 1st May 1960, the Shires were re-introduced back to the brewery, work the previous year had been done

in sourcing horsemen, stable equipment and the Shires themselves. Due to the demise of the Shires over the past 100 years the shire breed was hard to find, but the brewery managed to acquire a perfect pair. On Mayday 1960, the first two shire horses were led out of the smart new Thwaites stable and yard by two draymen. It was a decision that has become a major landmark for the brewery, as the fame of the Thwaites Shires has spread throughout the country, embodying the traditional values that are such an important part of the companies heritage.

Our Success



Today the Shires have been photographed with many famous people and dignitaries - HM Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Royal and Prince Charles. They are known throughout the industry as prime examples of the tradition and heritage of the brewing industry. Prize winners in their own right, they can often be seen bringing home the first prize trophies from the latest shows. Today the horses are used for public relation purposes, no longer the dray crew of the brewery, but take pride of place at showground's, carnivals and publicity events throughout the country.

Over the last 50 years the Shire Team have won many prestigious awards and trophies including the National Championship at the Shire Horse Society Shows, Peterborough (7 times) which is a great honour!

Meet the team...

| DANIEL | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Reason for Name | Daniel is named after the brewery founder Daniel Thwaites. He came to the brewery in 2005 and was previously used as a stallion and has 3 sons and daughters. | |
| Jobs | He works as nearside wheeler in a pair with Bomber and when all four horses are together they pull the majority of the weight as the rear pair. | |
| Colour Black | Height 18.3hh | Weight (approx) 1 tonne |
| Birthday | 12/04/02 (bred in Derbyshire) | |
| Favourite Foods | His favourite treats are carrots, washed down with a pint of Daniels! | |
| Unusual habits | Daniel likes to be groomed and pampered. | |
| Character | He is good natured and quiet and likes going out exercising around the town with Bomber. | |

| BOMBER | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Reason for Name | Bomber is named after Thwaites Lancaster Bomber, one of the brewery's finest ales, available in pubs, bars and supermarkets all over the country. | |
| Jobs | Bomber joined the brewery in 2003 and was previously used as a stallion like Daniel, he has 8 sons and daughters. His position in the team is offside wheeler. | |
| Colour Black | Height 18.3hh | Weight (approx) 1 tonne |
| Birthday | 01/05/1999 (bred in Lincolnshire) | |
| Favourite Foods | Bomber likes all food, although he is partial to a pint of Thwaites Lancaster Bomber. | |
| Unusual habits | He likes lots of sleep and often kicks the doors for attention and polo mints! | |
| Character | He is a very laid back character who is always relaxed and likes to spend all his free time eating and sleeping. | |

| MIDAS | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Reason for Name | Midas' name was chosen from a selection of names submitted as part of a competition to commemorate the golden anniversary of the Shire Horses. | |
| Jobs | Midas joined the brewery in 2009 when he was 3 years old. Before he joined us he was used for ploughing. His position in the team is nearside leader. | |
| Colour Black | Height 17.1hh | Weight (approx) 1 tonne |
| Birthday | 22/06/2006 (bred in Cardigan) | |
| Favourite Foods | His favourite treats are apples and carrots. | |
| Unusual habits | As he is the baby of the family he hasn't picked up any unusual habits from the others... but he's learning! | |
| Character | Even though he is only young he is quite a grumpy old man and hates having a bath. | |

| WAINWRIGHT | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Reason for Name | Wainwright was named as part of a competition to commemorate 200 years of Daniel Thwaites and 100 years of the Blackburn born son, Alfred Wainwright (author). | |
| Jobs | Wainwright joined us in 2007 when he was 3 years old. He came to us from a horse dealer in Blackpool and was broken to drive at 4 years old. His position in the team is offside leader. | |
| Colour Black | Height 17.1hh | Weight (approx) 1 tonne |
| Birthday | 25/05/2005 (bred in Derbyshire) | |
| Favourite Foods | His favourite treats are apples and carrots. | |
| Unusual habits | Likes to have his nose scratched and his chin tickled. | |
| Character | He has a kind, placid nature and likes a pint of Wainwright. | |

