

PRESS RELEASE



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Majestic family house with extensive equestrian facilities comes onto market

It is very unusual to ever see such a fantastic rural retreat come on to the market. This spacious family house, complete with over 24 acres of land is set in the South Downs National Park on the Preshaw estate, adjacent to the world famous Meon Valley Stud – a horseman's paradise. Preshaw is regarded as being the cream of the Hambledon countryside

It has the most amazing and interesting history (an outline listed below) steeped in equestrian lore and probably has one of the most sought after facilities, accommodation and locality one could wish for.

The house itself has everything, from six magnificent bedrooms to a selection of reception rooms, offices, a conservatory and even a cellar, all surrounded by picturesque countryside.

In addition there is a large courtyard of traditional outbuildings including seven stables, garaging, more offices, a studio and modern agricultural buildings. The rest of the estate includes a beautiful swimming pool, mature gardens, eight paddocks and woodland. This backs on to the world famous Meon Valley stud and overlooks the late Bill Wightman's gallops.

With all these facilities, Lower Preshaw House would make an excellent small stud, show jumping, dressage or showing yard.

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Further Information

Lower Preshaw House (LPH) has strong contemporary and historical links with the horse: hunting, racing and family life.

The old Hambledon Kennels, now a gamekeeper's cottage, is only ½ mile further up the farm drive. Preshaw was regarded as the cream of the Hambledon country. It was regularly hunted over by the famous Squire Osbaldeston, Master of the Hambledon Hunt before becoming Master of the Quorn. In the 19th century, Walter Long of Preshaw House was Master of the Hambledon and the late Sir Alwyn Pelly Bt jealously guarded it for its hunting. The traditions are continued by his grandson, Sir Richard Pelly Bt, who farms the land and the woodlands with a strong conservation bias. Even now, a meet or hunting (trailing) on Preshaw is eagerly anticipated with pleasure and excitement.

LPH's owner was a former Joint Master of the Hambledon, now the Hursley Hambledon. Carolyn, his wife, was once Secretary and Point to Point Secretary, and is now responsible for building and maintaining the Hursley Hambledon hunt jumps.

In the late 1970's and during the 1980's, Michael Poland was prominent in the campaign to modernise the British Field Sports Society, now the Countryside Alliance. Many of the most distinguished names in modern foxhunting and field sports stayed or met in the house, including a Government Minister. The county structure of the BFSS originated at a meeting in LPH. The house hosted puppy show lunches and farmers' parties. Indeed, it is a wonderful place to entertain from.

The thoroughbreds Regal Beauty and Crystal Spray both resided at LPH. Regal Beauty was bought from the legendary Jim Joel at his Tattersalls dispersal sale for 5,200 guineas. Under Michael's ownership, she went on to become Ireland's Thoroughbred Broodmare of the Year in 1993. Her first foal, High Estate, retained by Joel, was Europe's Champion Two Year Old in 1988 and at stud he went on to sire the Derby Winner High Rise. King's Theatre, bred by Michael and jointly owned with Sheikh Mohammed, won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (Group 1) and was second in both the Epsom and Irish Derbies. He was Cartier's European Champion Three Year Old in 1994. Now at stud in Ireland, he is one of the top National Hunt stallions.

Michael bought Crystal Spray, also owned by Joel, as an unraced two year old in training at Tattersalls for 7,000 guineas. She bred notable Stakes Winners, State Crystal and Solar Crystal, before she was sold, again at Tattersalls for 500,000 guineas to Lord Lloyd Webber. He went on to breed from her with even greater distinction. In 2007, her grandson sold in North America as the world's highest priced yearling.

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Carolyn Poland has had her own successful racing career. In 1994 at the age of 48 she won the coveted Newmarket Town Plate, a race over 3m 6f on Newmarket's July Course and the world's oldest race. Riding Seabuck, a former Cheltenham hurdler, she trained on Bill Wightman's gallops. Her colt Crystal Hearted, trained by her brother-in-law Henry Candy, was a successful racehorse, racing in England, Scotland, France, USA and Germany where he was their Champion 10f horse of his year.

Famous steeple chasers Our Nobby and Givus a Buck (the demoted Whitbred Gold Cup winner) lived out their retirement years at LPH, hunting with the Isle of Wight (where Michael became Master and Huntsman), the Hursley Hambledon and the New Forest.

LPH is ideal for family hacking. 7 spacious loose boxes, close to the kitchen door, with 20 acres of quick-draining chalk grassland make it easily manageable. Much foxhunting is within hacking distance. Situated in the South Downs National Park, LPH is ideal for riding out from, with easy access to miles of unspoilt bridle paths, including the South Downs Way, with only a minimum of road work.

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