



# WINDSOR CARRIAGES

## *A Great Park Experience*

WELCOME TO OUR 2020  
DIGITAL BROCHURE

INTRODUCING  
OUR HISTORY, HORSES,  
CARRIAGES AND TOURS.



**SPECIAL OFFER: ALL TOURS BOOKED IN APRIL AND MAY  
FOR A LATER 2020 / 2021 DATE WILL RECEIVE OUR  
BEAUTIFUL GIFT CARD**

For enquiries  
Call: 01344 538493 | 07305 318512  
Visit: [www.windsorcarriages.co.uk](http://www.windsorcarriages.co.uk)  
Email: [tours@windsorcarriages.co.uk](mailto:tours@windsorcarriages.co.uk)



# *Tours on The Long Walk since 1849*

MY LATE FATHER, JOHN SEEAR, DROVE ON THE LONG WALK FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS, AND I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO DRIVE WITH BOTH MY FATHER AND GRANDFATHER IN WINDSOR GREAT PARK. IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO PRESERVE THE TRADITION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION AND BEYOND.

WHEN I 'TOOK OVER THE REINS' IN 2013 I BEGAN COMBINING MY DAD'S WONDERFUL STORIES, HANDED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS, WITH THE MAGIC OF THE GREAT PARK. IT MEANS OUR CARRIAGE TOURS OFFER A TRULY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF THIS MAGNIFICENT ROYAL ESTATE. DURING THE DRIVE WE SHARE IN THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT PARK, AND OUR GENERATIONS OF HORSES AND CARRIAGES, WHILE YOU TAKE IN THE STUNNING VIEWS OF WINDSOR CASTLE, MEET THE RESIDENT DEER AND ENCOUNTER HISTORICAL MONUMENTS, ANCIENT FORESTS AND STUNNING HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS.

BOOK TODAY AND EXPERIENCE THE PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY OF THE GREAT PARK ON ONE OF OUR CARRIAGE TOURS OR CONTACT US AND LET US HELP PLAN THE PERFECT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR WEDDING OR EVENT.



ALL OF US AT WINDSOR CARRIAGES LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON

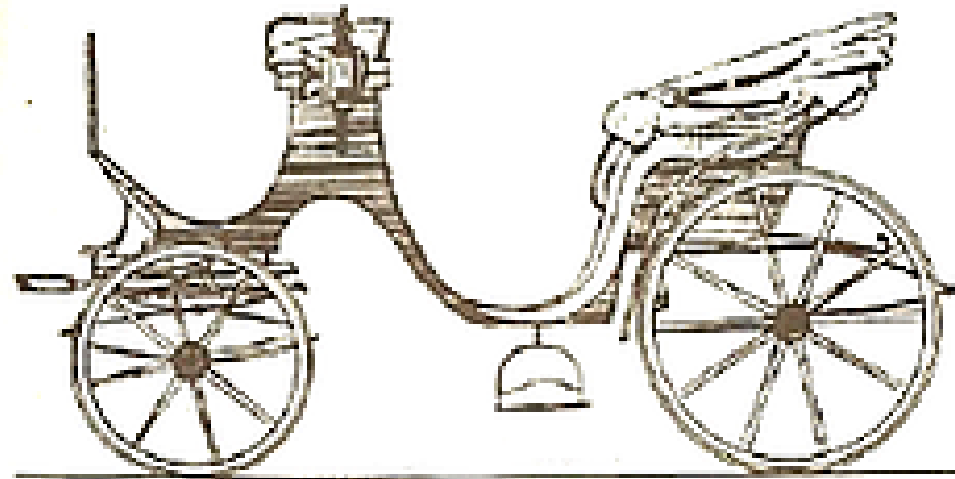
REBECCA SEEAR  
WINDSOR CARRIAGES





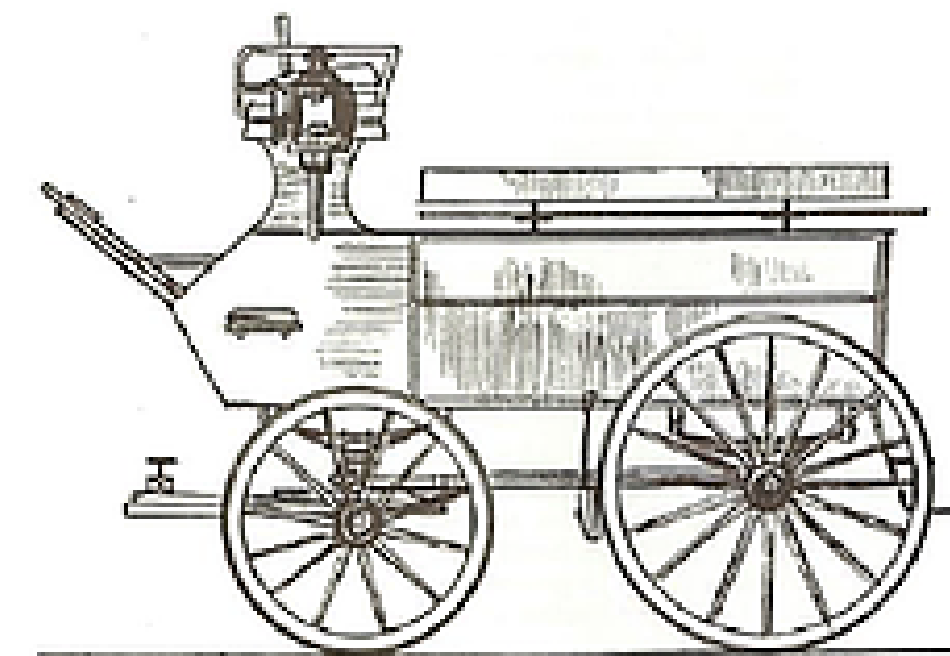
# Our Carriages

You can't have a 'proper' ride without the right vehicle. Our carriages are all classic models that have been maintained, restored or recreated to the same specification as those used centuries ago. They are fitted with authentic wheels and traditional fittings – we still work with craftsmen such as Greg Rowland, our wheelwright, who uses skills which date back to the 14th century.



## *The Queen Victoria*

The Victoria has long been considered one of the most elegant of all coachman carriages. It evolved about 1860 and was first used in Paris and it was admired by Queen Victoria after whom our English version is named. There are no doors just a low scooping body which allowed passengers to be admired. The Victoria seats 2 comfortably, with optional leather hood up or down.



## *The King George*

Our newest addition commissioned for Windsor Carriages in 2019 stands tall and smart, providing a larger than average shooting break seating for up to 6 passengers.

These were somewhat ungainly versions of the first Wagonette introduced in the late 1860s. They were generally used as utility vehicles for exercising horses or taking furniture from house to house when one moved from the country estate to town.



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# Our Horses



The horse is the most critical consideration in every decision made during the operation of our carriages. In addition to this, since Windsor Carriages represents over 5 generations of Hackney carriage drivers and their horses, the highest standards of turn out, conduct and interaction with the public are always upheld.

Always immaculately turned out, these boys know their job and really enjoy their time out in the Park. They are named in memory and connection to Minos and Hector, The Windsor Great Park legends who drove for over 27 years on The Long Walk with my father. My father named them after the Greek kings and brothers Minos and Hector. When I researched that 'Orion The Hunter' was the only male descendant of these two Greek kings, I instantly knew the name for my pair of princes.

Introducing Windsor Great Park's black beauties:  
Orion and Hunter.

Long may they drive in memory of the horses before them.



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# Our History

## 1635

### *First Cab Rank*

The first recognised cab rank was established by Captain Bailey at the Maypole in the Strand (where St Mary le Strand church is today). Four coaches were run from here.

A year later, King Charles I issued a proclamation restricting the number of Hackney coaches to just 50, and they were only allowed to pick up passengers who were travelling more than 3 miles.

The term 'hackney', as used in Hackney coaches and cabs comes from the Norman French word 'hacquenée,' meaning a type of horse suitable for hire.



## 1654

### *Oliver Cromwells Act Of Parliament*

It was Oliver Cromwell who set up the Fellowship of Master Hackney Carriages by Act of Parliament, when taxi driving became a profession.

According to my father, Oliver Cromwell wished to ensure carriages were regulated by yearly checks. The Coachman was required to drive to the town hall for the carriage to be checked by the wheelwright, the harness by the harness maker, and the horses' feet by the blacksmith. If all were approved as fit for work, a licence was issued and a fee paid. Was Oliver Cromwell's motive safety or another tax on a growing and lucrative industry? We will never know!

Further regulations were brought in as required to control this growing business. In 1679 'Conditions of Fitness' were introduced for Hackney carriages, and in 1768 the number of Hackney licences increased to one thousand, causing considerable congestion!



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# Our History

## 1834

### *Purpose Built Carriages*

Joseph Hansom patents his two-wheel cabriolet (the Hansom cab), and two years later a four-wheel version follows – the 'Clarence,' aka the 'Growler.'

In Windsor, sights of these carriages were rare as the vast majority of English citizens would travel by foot or horse and cart.

Carriages such as these, were used in the city centres by those wealthy enough to arrive in London by coach and horses, or their own livery.

Windsor Hackney carriage drivers would have used 'whatever they could lay their hands on at a reasonable price.' The Landau carriage is a good example of this, built in 1860 and licensed in 1890.



## 1849

### *Windsors Cab Rank*

Licensed Hackney carriages line up outside the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle. The metal bars can still be found on the hill, which were installed for the carriages to rest on and take the weight from the horses. Carriages would take passengers wherever they wished, using The Long Walk as a thoroughfare, like all tradesmen.

In 1849, with the redesign of Windsor Town, all public traffic was prohibited from the Long Walk – however, Hackney carriages were granted access and our licence was one of only twelve issued this privilege.

In 1869, an Act of Parliament gave the Commissioner of Police authority to regulate the manner in which the carriages were to be fitted and furnished, and importantly, the number of persons allowed to be carried.



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# Our History

## 1907

### *Taxis become motorised*

With the arrival of the motor vehicle, taxi licences began to be transferred from carriage to car. In fact, the first motorcar in England was bought by Evelyn Ellis (pictured) in 1895, who lived just 2 miles from Windsor, so we can imagine Windsorians may have been the first to see one!

Permissions to move through private estates across England were gradually removed for motor vehicles, and in Windsor were not permitted on the Long Walk or Great Park. Only the remaining horse drawn Hackney carriage licensees retained access.



## 1960

### *Four carriages remaining*

A tourist trade in Windsor begins to grow with only four horse-drawn Hackney carriages remaining, as licences revert to motor vehicles once the licensee passes away. The cab rank in Windsor was shared between the taxi cars and carriages, with carriages allowed at the front of the queue.

Pictured here is George Paget of Eton Wick (Great Uncle to me), driving The Landau which we still have.

[This carriage was first licensed in 1910, and you can read more here.](#)

The licensees were:

1. Conrad and Marcus Ford of Eton Wick who drove with their single horse Bunty, known as The Ford Brothers.

2 and 3. George (pictured) and my dad John Seear.

3. A driver we only knew as Doctor Death, which is another story!



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# Our History

## 1989

### *The last hackney carriage*

As regular taxi work dried up with the car and train taking most passengers in and out of Windsor, the tourist trade soon grew to be the main carriage business.

We were often called upon for town activities such as Father Christmas processions or opening of a new store, such as Fenwick's, where Prince Charles paid a visit to the Hackney carriage as pictured.

We slowly became the last carriage in the town to operate under the original 1654 licence issued by Oliver Cromwell, but diversification was needed to survive!



## 2002

### *The 'Cab Rank' is closed*

In 2002, retired Hackney carriage drivers, Marcus and Conrad Ford, campaigned with my father for further licences; they recognised the growing tourism trade this would serve. However, their campaign with the council was not successful. The horse-drawn taxi rank outside the Curfew Tower was closed, and the last remaining carriage (John Seear, left) was moved to Castle Hill. This followed quite a few years of being moved around the town as it got busier. For several years my dad shared the same 'spot' as the sightseeing buses. A particularly difficult time seeing our horses standing amongst the heavy and growing levels of traffic.

1936 remains the year the last licence for a horse-drawn Hackney carriage was issued. New licence holders can apply under more recent horse and carriage regulations, but are limited to public roads only.



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# Our History

## 2013

### *Rebecca joins*

In 2013, due to my father's poor health I quit my job as Head of EU Operations for Amazon Prime, and rejoined dad on the carriages. Dad added me to the licence, allowing me to drive on The Long Walk with him, and I created the website, branding and business you can book today. More importantly, I persuaded dad to trial pre-booked trips from outside The Castle. This provided a more peaceful location for the horses, and allowed us to better manage our time and the work schedule of each horse. Gone were the days sitting in the town waiting for trips. Sadly, I lost my dad John Seear in 2016, and as you will learn on our tours, he certainly left quite a legacy.

Windsor and England's last horse-drawn taxi continues!



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# Where do our tours go?

All Tours Experience Views of Windsor Castle and The Long Walk



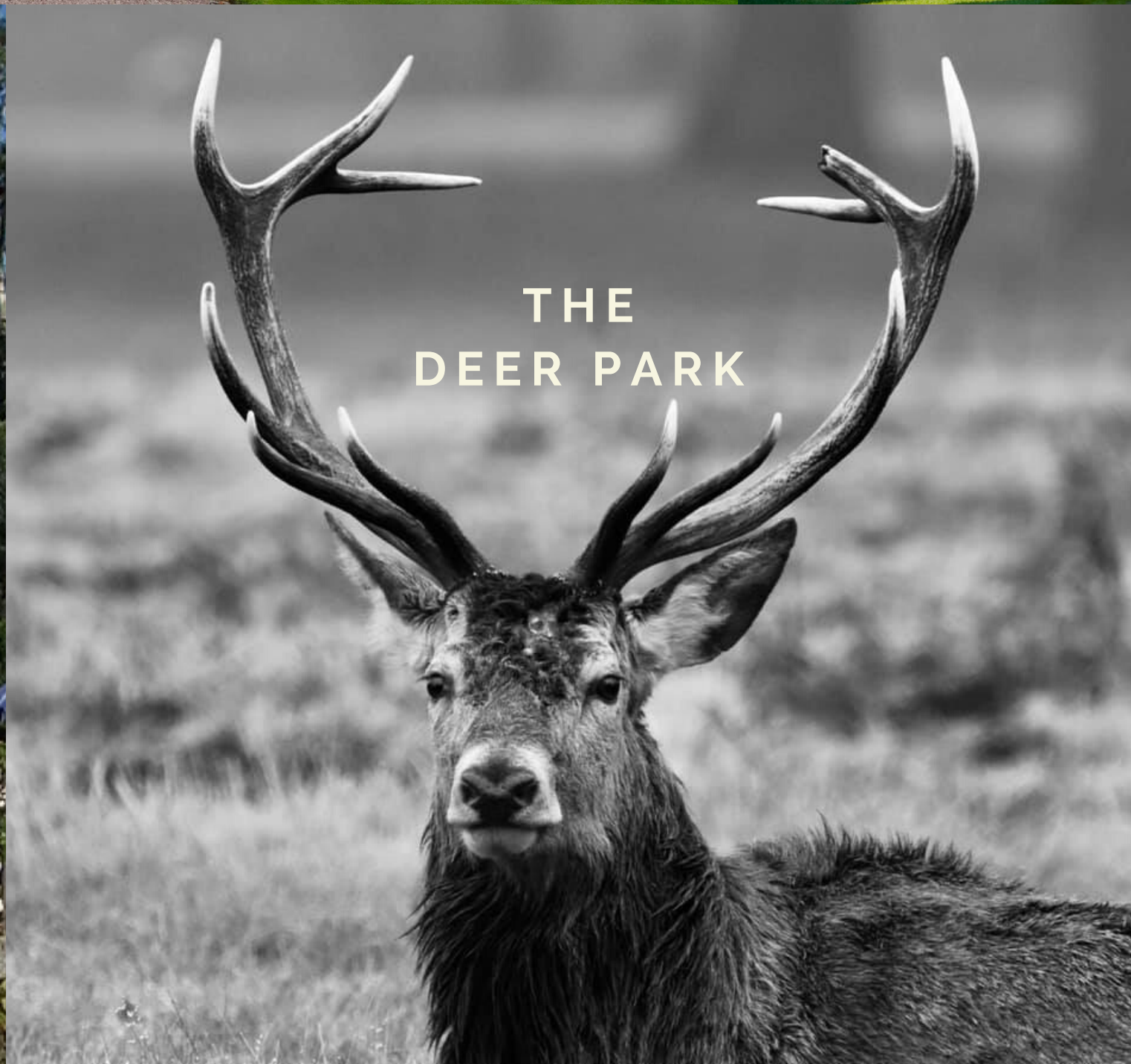
WINDSOR  
CASTLE



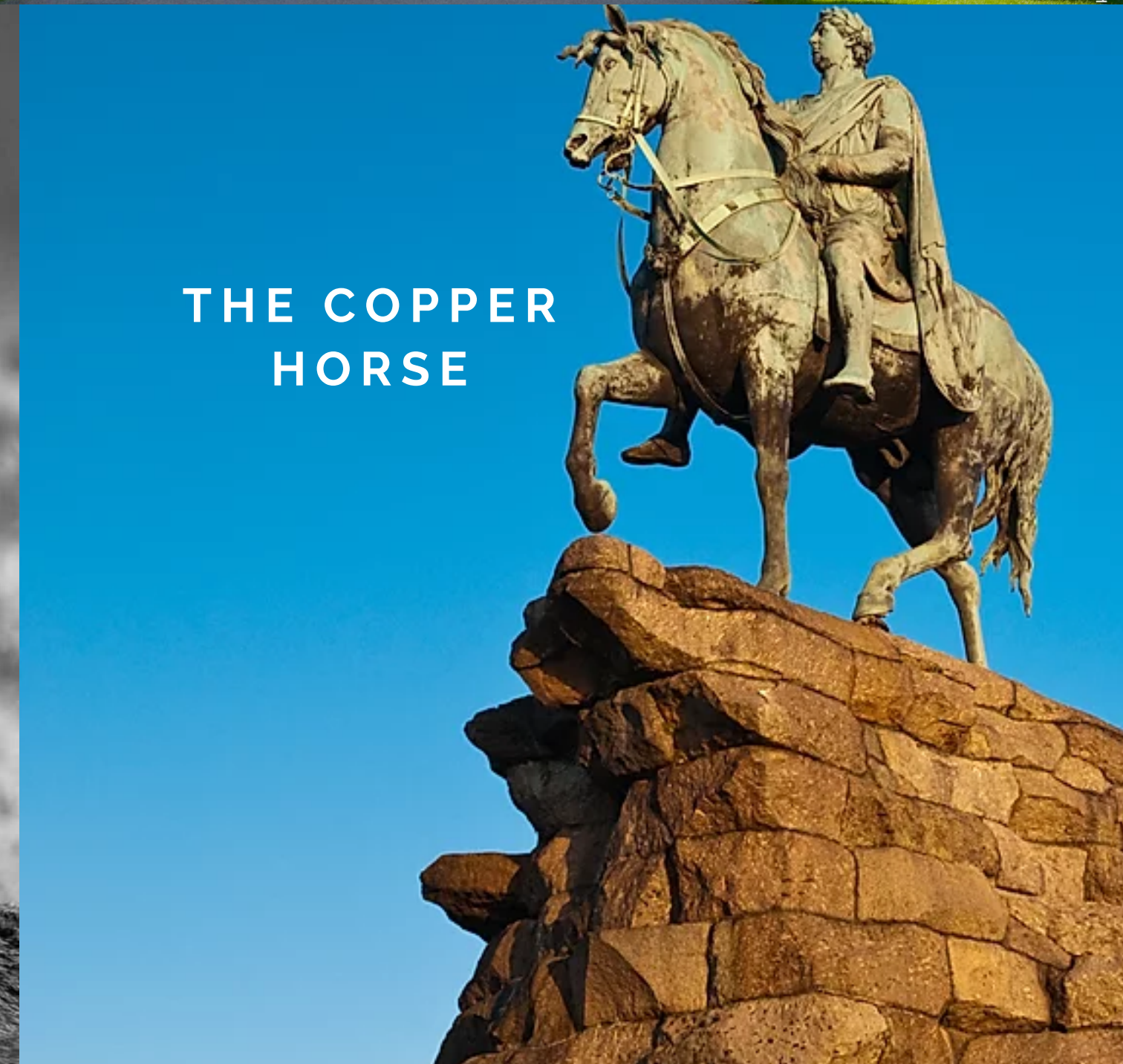
THE LONG  
WALK



THE GREAT  
PARK VILLAGE



THE  
DEER PARK



THE COPPER  
HORSE





# Our Tours

## THE LONG WALK TOUR



Enjoy the spectacular approach to Windsor Castle on The Long Walk, featured across the world in 2018 at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. A one-mile journey enjoyed by royalty for centuries and exclusively shared with guests of Windsor Carriages by licence since 1849.

During the tour, we share in the history of The Great Park whilst you take in the stunning views of Windsor Castle. This iconic tree-lined avenue stretches down towards the ancient fortress, illustrating the regal grandeur and royal heritage of Windsor Great Park.

A perfect photo memento from your visit to Windsor.

## CARRIAGE TO THE CASTLE



In our view, the only way to arrive in Windsor.

Combining The Long Walk Tour with a longer experience down the full drive of The Long Walk, and a journey through our own Windsor Deer Park. A momentous approach to Windsor Castle, and a drive which will create memories for a lifetime.

This can either be a one-way trip to The Castle, and we can arrange a private car transfer to return you to your car. Or a return journey can be taken from Windsor Castle itself.





# Our Tours

## THE DEER PARK TOUR



View the spectacular perspective of The Castle from over 5 miles away from within The Deer Park, with views stretching over 20 miles on a clear day. A vista unchanged for centuries. Red Deer can be spotted with a population of around 500 that roam freely around the Deer Park enclosure. Established by our Park Ranger H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, the current herd are all descendants of 40 hinds and two stags that were introduced in 1979. The deer are accustomed to seeing visitors walking around, and will remain fairly close, often posing nicely for photographs!

## THE CROWN ESTATE TOUR



The Crown Estate Tour is designed to take in the most notable sights of The Great Park around your interests in this remarkable estate. Tours around the estate last around 90 minutes, and include refreshments either at The Village Stores within Windsor Great Park Village or onboard the carriage. The tour travels past such sights as Cumberland Lodge, Queen Anne's Ride, The York Club, The Copper Horse Statue, and through The Deer Park. A tour that promises insights into the estate and park life, both past and present.





# Product & Pricing Overview

## Tours

	PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON 4 SHARING*	DURATION	DEPARTS FROM	VISITS THE CASTLE VIA THE LONG WALK	VIEWS WINDSOR CASTLE AND THE LONG WALK	VISITS THE DEER PARK	VISITS THE COPPER HORSE	VISIT THE GREAT PARK VILLAGE
THE LONG WALK TOUR	£50	30 MINS	WINDSOR					
THE DEER PARK TOUR	£100	60 MINS	BISHOPSGATE					
CARRIAGE TO THE CASTLE	£150	60 MINS	WINDSOR OR BISHOPSGATE					
THE CROWN ESTATE TOUR	£175	90 MINS	BISHOPSGATE					

Please call to discuss weight limit for over 4 people.

All carriages are privately hired. Sign up to our newsletter on our website to receive a notification when individual tickets are sold in partnership with local events.





# Groups and Events

## THE LONG WALK TOUR



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## THE LONG WALK TOUR GROUPS AND EVENTS



Our 6 seater carriage is perfect for groups or a special event. Available for up to 2 hours, we can provide tours for up to 24 guests. Combine with visits to The Castle or a hamper lunch provided by us on The Long Walk.

Call Rebecca today to discuss further.



# *Make it a day to remember...*

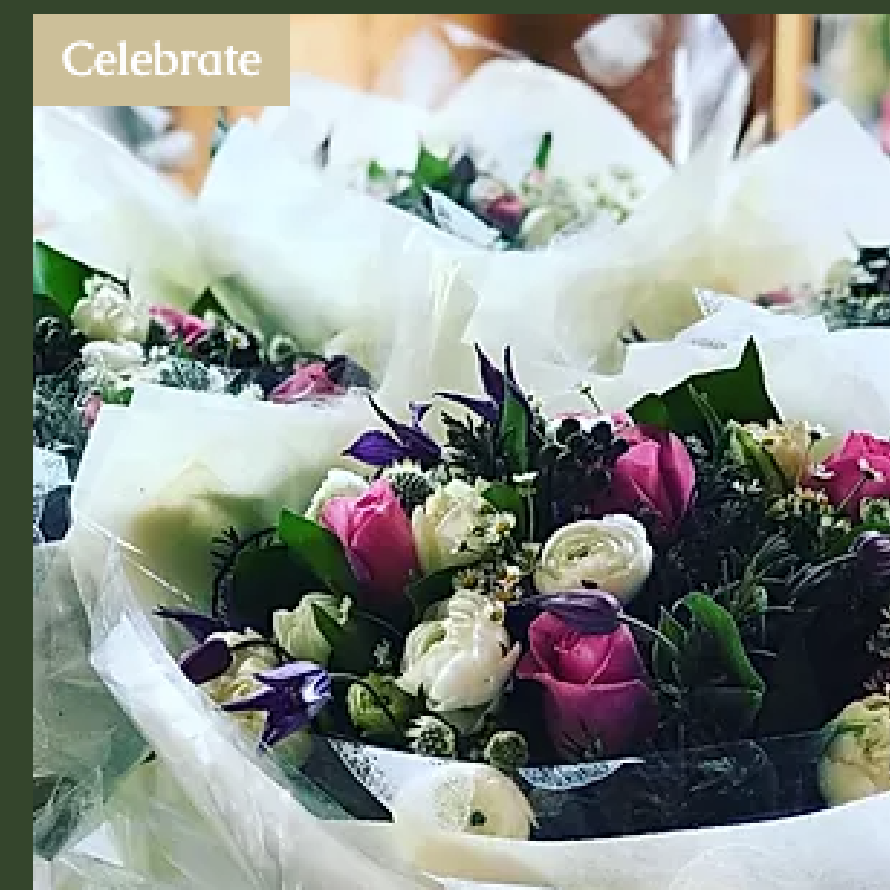
All carriage tours are private experiences with an English-speaking guide. I accompany all carriages and when driving I am joined by another guest from The Royal Estate with equally fascinating stories. Blankets and smiles are provided with our compliments. Celebrate with our gloriously British picnic hampers sourced from local producers, in and around The Park and of course our renowned Windsor Great Park sparkling wine.



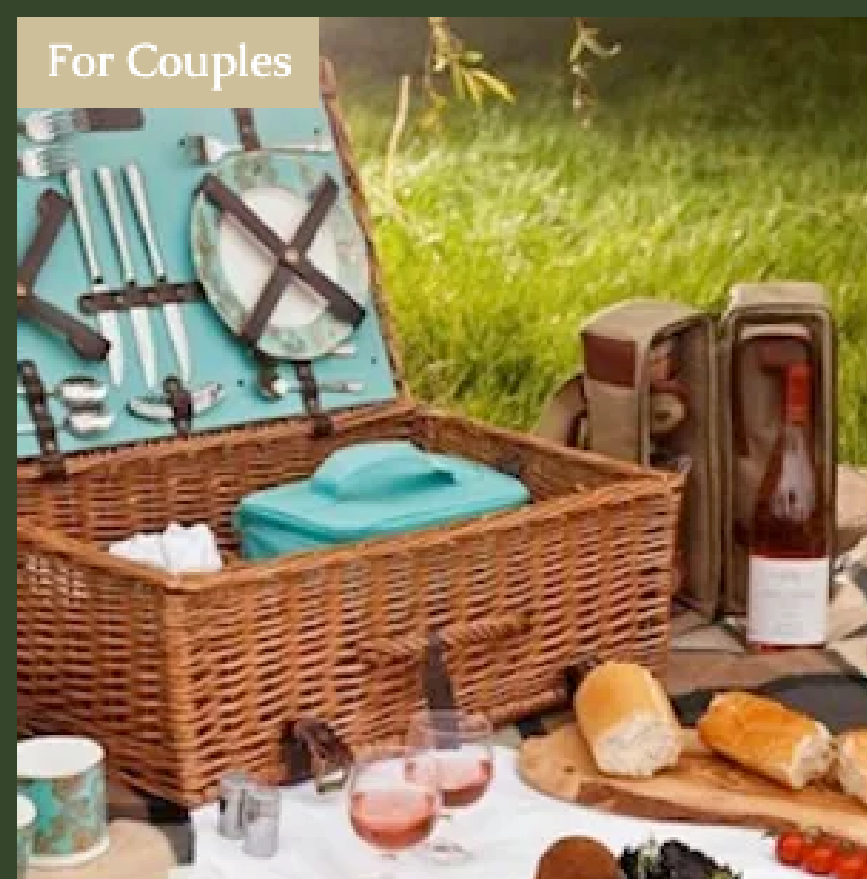
Ask Rebecca about our engagement packages...



Windsor Great Park Sparkling Wine



Flower Bouquet on Arrival



The Windsor Hamper (Two Adults)



Our English Wine Selection



The Windsor Hamper (Four Adults / Family)





# Gift Cards

We have designed a stunning gift certificate which is elegant and sure to impress upon the receiver the unique gift they have received.

The certificate will include a unique reference allowing the recipient to book their gifted tour online or by phone /email with Rebecca, as suits.

Why not add a lunch hamper or bottle of bubbly to make a special day more memorable.



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# How to find us: At Bishopsgate

Address: Bishopsgate, Bishopsgate Rd, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0XU

Nearest Landmark is The Fox and Hounds restaurant

Parking is very limited on the roadside so please arrive early or contact us to arrange a private car to collect you from your hotel or alternate parking at: Savill Gardens.



ONE: Fairmont Windsor Park

Continue forward on Bishopsgate road past The Fairmont Windsor Park Hotel following signs for Cumberland Lodge.



TWO: The Fox and Hounds

Continue forward at The Fox and Hounds Restaurant.



THREE: Bishopsgate

Arrive at Bishopsgate which is located at the end of the road with white gates.



FOUR: Bishopsgate with gates open.

No entry into The Park, except by Windsor Carriages. Drop off U turns allowed before gates.

We bring a unique perspective to The Great Park experience, sharing knowledge and stories of Royal tradition passed down through the centuries since our original license was granted in 1849.

Our tours offer a truly unique experience of this magnificent Royal estate. During the ride we share the history of the Great Park and our generations of horses and carriages, while you take in the stunning views of Windsor Castle. Meet the resident deer and encounter historical monuments, ancient forests and stunning horticultural displays.

Let us help plan your perfect experience and discover the peace and tranquillity of the Great Park and The Long Walk on one of our Carriage Tours.

Book a Great Park Experience today at

[www.windsorcarriages.co.uk](http://www.windsorcarriages.co.uk)  
+ 44 (0) 7305 318 512

 /windsorcarriages  @windsorcarriages\_





# How to Find us: In Windsor

Windsor Carriages can be located at the top of The Long Walk,  
The nearest landmark is The Two Brewers Pub SL4 1LB.



ONE

Find The Visitor Entrance to  
Windsor Castle on Castle Hill.  
Post Code SL4 1NJ



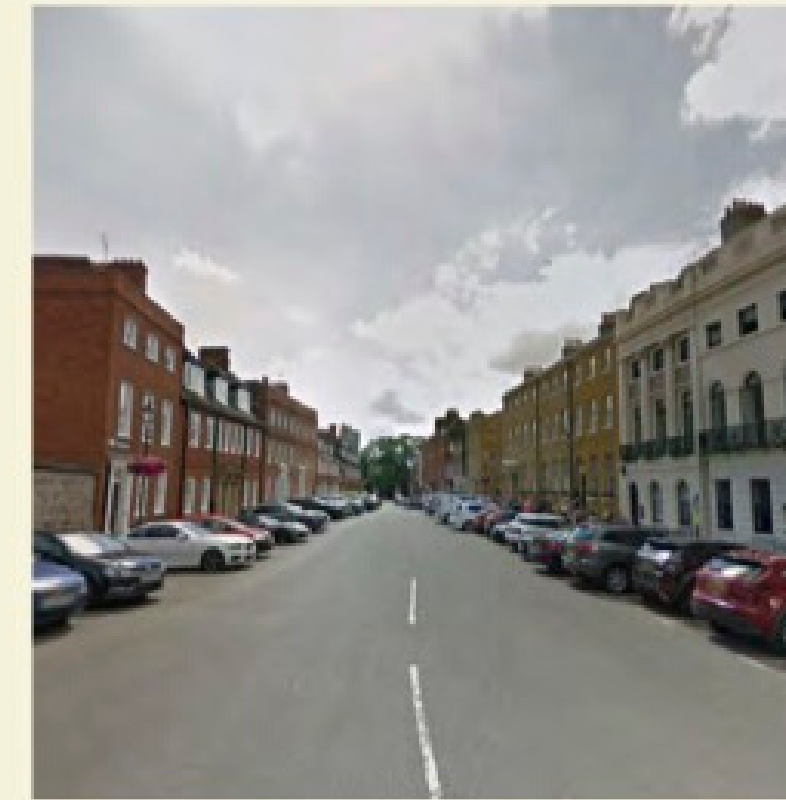
TWO

Turn Right into  
St Albans Street.



THREE

Continue forward until you  
can turn left into Park Street



FOUR

Continue forward until you  
reach The Two Brewers Pub.  
Post Code SL4 1LB



FIVE

Walk Forward through the  
Tall Black gates onto  
The Long Walk.

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@windsorcarriages\_





Grandpa, Frank

Dad, John

Mum, Felicity

Me, Rebecca

Thank you for your interest in Windsor Carriages, and I look forward to meeting you and sharing our history and stories from The Great Park.

Rebecca Seear, fifth generation Hackney carriage licensee





*Thank you*