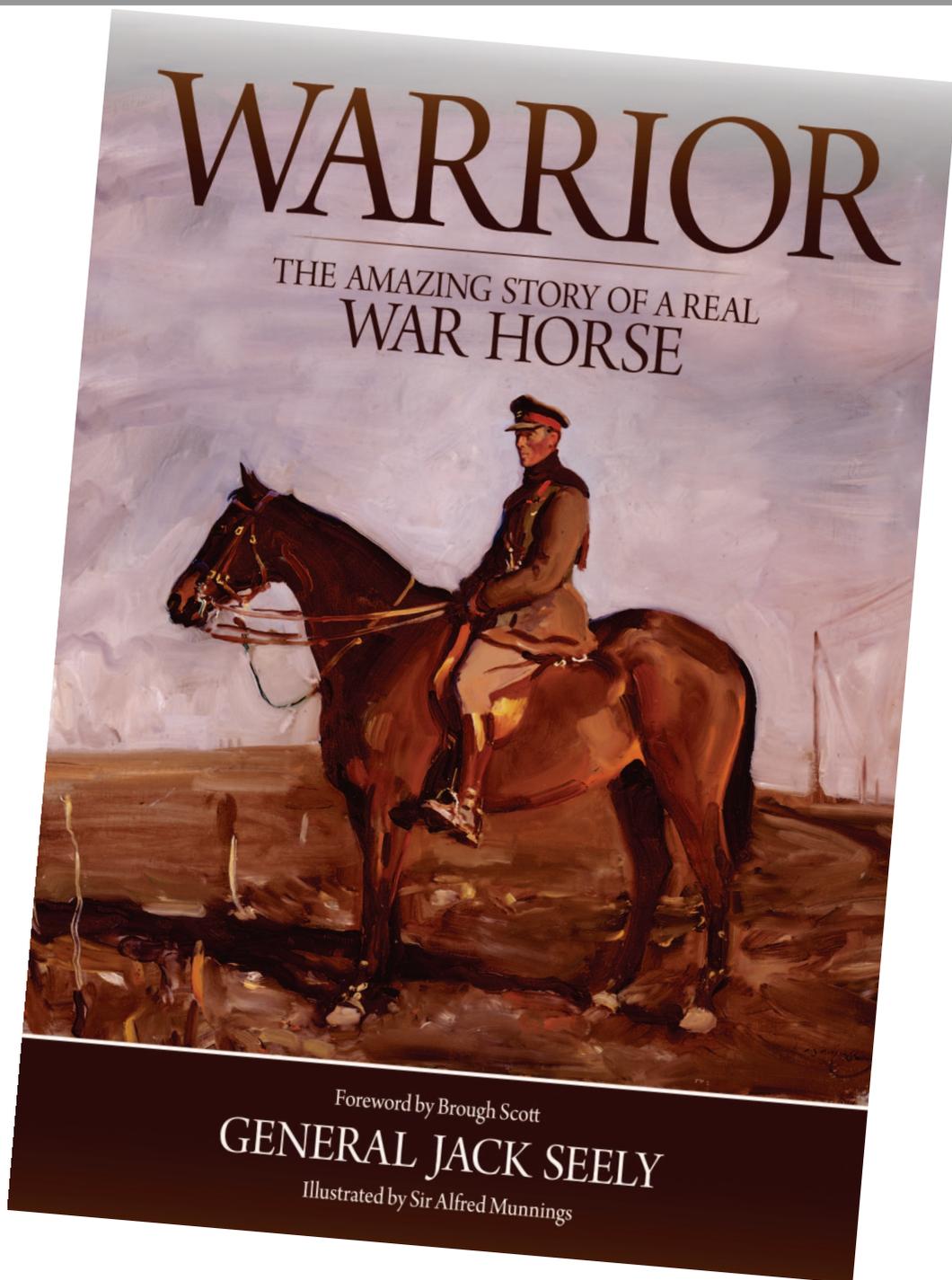


HORSE PLAY >> Lifestyle guide for equine lovers



A true warrior

WITH a preface by Sir Peter O'Sullivan and an introduction by Brough Scott, the story of Warrior has been republished, some 77 years after it first saw the light of day. To add to the book's attraction is the fact that it is illustrated throughout by Sir Alfred Munnings.

Incredibly, Sir Peter was given a copy of the book by his father Colonel John O'Sullivan on its publication, with the inscription that "this book is written by a friend of mine and it is a true account from beginning to end." That friend was General Jack Seely, later Lord Mottistone, and he was Brough Scott's grandfather. Small world.

Such was the fame of Warrior that his death was recorded and told by *The Times* in London. He went to war in August 1914 as part of the Expeditionary Force and he saw actions at Mons, Marne and Ypres. With a short interval, Warrior served continuously on the Western Front until Christmas 1918. The Canadians called him 'the horse the Germans could not kill'.

The horse and Seely returned to the Isle of Wight. There they won a point-to-point in 1922, having narrowly failed to do so the previous year. In 1938, as a sprightly 30-year-old, the horse was still being ridden by the then 70-year-old Jack Seely.

This heart-warming tale is well told and the book a simple delight to own.

WARRIOR: THE AMAZING STORY OF A REAL WAR HORSE, by General Jack Seely, is published by Racing Post Books and is only £14.99

SKI TOUR FOR AIRC MEMBERS

BAD Gastein is a spa town in the Austrian state of Salzburg, situated at the northern rim of the Hohe Tauern National Park. It has almost 6,000 inhabitants. The name "Bad" means "spa", reflecting the town's history as a health resort. It is located at the head of the Gastein valley, about 1,000 metres (3,280 ft.) above sea level. The townscape is characterised by historic multi-storey hotel buildings erected on the steep slopes.

Next February the town will be invaded, hopefully, by hordes of skiers marshalled by the Association of Irish Riding Clubs' director general David Abbott. Before you switch off, you do not have to be a member of the AIRC or even be interested in horses to join this tour. You do, however, need to be able to enjoy yourself.

Every level of skiing ability - and none - will be catered for and you can travel as part of a group or as a single person. You will be sure to meet and make lots of friends.

The AIRC have teamed up with Topflight to organise this tour which will take place from Saturday, February 25th until the following Saturday, March 3rd. There is some 250km of piste to ski and this is sure to be a ski trip with a difference.

For further information - and early reservations are advised - visit www.airc.ie or speak to Maurice in Topflight on 01-2401700. Don't forget to mention you heard about it in *The Irish Field*!

EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE



Padraig Parle

TONIGHT sees the official opening of an exhibition of works by Mary Wallace and Gilly Thomas, titled "Poppies, Cherries, Curving Lines". The exhibition will be opened by Billy Roche.

This show of painting and sculpture will run at The Annexe, Wexford Arts Centre, 3 John's Gate Street, Wexford and coincides with the Wexford Festival Opera. Open daily from 11am to 8pm, the exhibition will run until Sunday, November 6th.

A show with a slightly longer run, this time in Dublin, is "Barren Empire", an art exhibition of work by Padraig Parle. There is however a Wexford connection as the artist is from the county and the official opening on Wednesday 26th will be performed by Brendan Howlin, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

The exhibition will run until November 22nd and will be at The Origin Gallery at 83 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 from Monday to Friday from 10am to 5.30pm. Details can be had on 01-4785159.

MEMORABLE EVENING OF FINE THINGS

PLANNING a visit to London at the start of next month? Looking for a different dining experience? Are you open to a little adventure?

Then look no further than dinner at an as yet secret location, with art as an accompaniment. For three nights, November 3rd to 5th inclusive, the organisers promise a memorable evening of art, food and hospitality in an unusual and beautiful location, with a view you won't believe in the centre of London.

The Art of Dining is a collaboration between Moro-trained chef Ellen Parr and artist and set designer Alice Hodge. This pop-up dining experience with The Horsebox Gallery will feature a 7.30pm rendezvous with dinner served at 8.30pm. Places are limited to 45 diners each night and costs £45 each. For this you will receive 'six courses of rations' and you buy your own drink on the night.

To book, simply visit www.theartofdining.co.uk and hurry. Places sell out quickly. A selection of Valeriy Gridnev's paintings will be shown and available for sale on the night. It all sounds very intriguing.

Get your frock on the rocks

Shanny Bolger and Lucinda Hall are on the road to Cashel next week, and they will be followed by hundreds of women from all over Ireland. Why?

The intrepid ladies are bringing their 'Frocks On The Rocks' concept to Tipperary for four days. Ladies with an eye for fashion and a bargain are guaranteed to back a winner during the four days as Shanny and Lucinda will be offering a huge choice of nearly new designer clothes at bargain prices.

The venue is 98/99 Main Street, Cashel and after saving yourself lots of money

you can adjourn to the next door Spearman's Tea Rooms for some sustenance. The event will take place from Wednesday to Saturday, October 26th to 29th and the showrooms will be open each day from 10am to 7pm. This is an extravaganza not to be missed, whether you are looking for something for a special occasion, for the races or just something smart for everyday use. There will be a range of accessories also available and details of the event can be had in advance by calling Lucinda on 086-8036536 or Shanny on 086-8247123.



Dress up for a special occasion