



PRESS RELEASE

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Lanburn Connemara Pony Stud marks half a century of excellence

The Lanburn Connemara Pony Stud celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2021.

The milestone coincides with a remarkable find for owners Pam and Paul Clingan – a broodmare to help continue the stud established by her late parents, Bob and Margaret Blackburn, half a century ago.

The couple now run the stud, in Chichester, after Bob passed away suddenly while returning from his beloved Ireland in 2014. Determined to continue her father's legacy, Pam has fought numerous battles to ensure the future of the stud remains bright.

One challenge for the half-centenary year will be to produce a filly foal out of Lanburn Lismore, now 23 and the last of their own Marble bloodline. Glencarrig Dolly, bought to replace the much-admired Glencarrig Eleanor after her loss in 2013, is currently in foal to Spinway Blackthorn.

Another key line has also been secured, with Pam's purchase late last year of the 12-year-old brood mare Dún an Óir Rosalind (Rosie), by Callowfeenish Mairtin. Mairtin sired Pam's pony of a lifetime Canal Village Poacher, a prolific winner in-hand and under saddle.

Bob and Margaret founded the Lanburn Stud in 1971 after first falling in love with the Connemara breed during a caravan holiday on the shores of Lough Corrib with Margaret and Pam. One morning, the couple woke to find a herd of ponies in the field opposite. After tracking down the owner, Jim Lee, the couple agreed a price for a yearling filly and Nettina (Marble x Fort Nancy) was on her way to Sussex to take her place in history.

Nettina was put in foal aged four and the prefix Lanburn was registered. Her first foal, the bay stallion Lanburn Leemoy, enjoyed huge success in the showring, taking more than 20 championships including champion stallion at NPS in 1981 and three times BCPS Champion Stallion.

He went on to sire numerous champions including Lanburn Lacewing, Champion Novice Ridden pony at the then English Connemara Pony Society breed show and winner both in hand and under saddle at the Ponies UK summer championships.

Pam said that finding Rosie represented a new beginning for the stud in its golden jubilee year. She was discovered with her colt foal, Basil, with help from Laura McWeeney, Laura's father James and her husband Kevin Bolger.

Knowing that Pam was on the look-out for a mare by Mairtin, Laura spotted Rosie as she went under the hammer whilst watching the online Mullingar Sales. The owner was traced, a deal was struck then James transported her in his lorry to her temporary home with the McWeeney family, where Rosie will remain until she has been covered again before heading to her new home later this spring.

Pam, who is also a CPBS Senior Panel Judge, said: “We couldn’t possibly have imagined, when we bought Nettina for me to ride, what buying this pony would lead to. My parents were utterly dedicated to the breed and to producing quality stock that would excel in all disciplines.

“Mum used to spend hours studying the various bloodlines while dad was a respected Connemara judge and was invited to judge at the prestigious Clifden Show twice, in 1994 and at the Millennium Show in 2000.

“The past seven years have been a challenge to say the least, but we have overcome planning issues that threatened the stud’s existence and we are opening a small caravan site to help safeguard the future of Lanburn Connemaras.

“We are now looking forward to some exciting times with our new arrivals – I’m sure mum and dad would be very proud of what we’ve achieved. Dad would be hopping with delight that we’ve managed to find Rosie – she, Miffy and Dolly represent the start of my breeding programme and bloodlines. New beginnings.”

-ENDS-

For more information or photographs, please email kate.wobschall@gmail.com.

About Lanburn Connemaras

The stud is now owned and run by Pam and Paul Clingan and is based at Swallow Beck, Westhampnett, Chichester, Sussex. Website: www.lanburnconnemaras.co.uk. Email lanburnstud@gmail.com. Facebook: Lanburn Connemaras.

The stud was established in 1971 by Pam’s parents, Bob Blackburn OBE (1926-2014) and his wife Margaret. Ponies bred at the stud include Lanburn Leemoy, Lanburn Lieutenant, Lanburn Lismore and Lanburn Lacewing. Lanburn Leonie joined the Tyan Stud, breeders of prolific ridden champion and four-time HOYS qualifier Tyan Tullamore and Olympia qualifier Tyan Takara, dam of the well-known stallion Skellorn Harrison, who has also appeared at Olympia.

Picture captions:

Margaret Blackburn puts the finishing touches to Nettina, before she enters the ring with Bob at New Forest & Hampshire County Show. (Photo: Pam Clingan)

Glencarrig Dolly relaxing at home. (Photo: Pam Clingan)

Dún an Óir Rosalind with her foal Basil. (Photo: James McWeeney)

Lanburn Leemoy at the breed show. (Photo: Photo Gems)

