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Wheelwrights' Questionnaire

2 November 2002

Dear

Traditional Rural Crafts in England: Wheelwrights & Wheelwrighting

I hope that you will be able to help with information via the enclosed questionnaire for this study, which has been commissioned by the Countryside Agency, with funding support from the Headley Trust, the Ernest Cook Trust and HRH the Prince of Wales.

Its principal objective is "an assessment of the present position and future prospects for the traditional rural trades in England, their sustainability and further training", and I am undertaking the wheelwrighting section.

The project has the support of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights and of *Heavy Horse World* magazine, as part of a wider support for the improvement of training opportunities. Questionnaires often provoke a groan of resistance, but I do ask you please to take a few minutes as soon as you can to fill in and return this one, in the enclosed sae. It will help substantially in the formulation of future training policies so that the skills of this micro trade, as with others, may be passed on in a proper manner from one generation to the next.

As a valuable spin-off benefit, it is planned that a combined gazetteer of working wheelwrights will emerge from the various address lists kindly made available, so that a new and up-to-date gazetteer may be of use to all parties, including of course intending clients and customers.

Traditional Rural Crafts in England:

Questionnaire: Wheelwrights & Wheelwrighting

| GAZETTEER INFORMATION | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Name | |
| Address | Post Code |
| Company name | |
| Telephone no. | |
| Fax no. | |
| Email address | |
| Website address | |

| PERSONAL PROFILE | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | the following personal information is for training profile purposes only: |
| Gender (please circle) | Male Female |
| Age | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Do you live in a | city town village countryside |
| How many years have you lived in this area of England? | |
| If you moved here from another part of the UK, from where? | another county/ city/ town/ village/ countryside |
| | (please circle all answers as required) |

| | |
|--|---|
| PROFESSIONAL PROFILE | |
| On average, how many hours per week do you work as a wheelwright? | hours per week |
| Have you another income-earning occupation? | Yes No |
| At what age did you become a professional wheelwright? | Age |
| Previous occupations, if any. Please specify. | |
| Were/are either of your parents, or close relatives, crafts- persons? If yes, which crafts? Please specify. | Yes No |
| How did you learn wheelwrighting? Please tick | Apprenticeship College full time |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>College part time</p> <p>Self-taught</p> <p>Self-taught plus short</p> <p>Training course</p> |
| Did you/do you have a 'mentor/trainer', i.e. an experienced craftsperson to whom you can turn for help and advice? | Yes No |
| Are you in fact a 'mentor/trainer' yourself to others? If so, to how many people? | |
| EDUCATIONAL PROFILE | |
| <p>Do you possess a qualification in wheelwrighting?</p> <p>If yes, please give the name of the qualification and level (e.g. NVQ).</p> | Yes No |
| <p>Do you possess any of the following?</p> <p>In which subject(s)? Please specify</p> | <p>HND</p> <p>HNC</p> <p>Ordinary Degree /</p> <p>Honours Degree</p> <p>Teaching Qualification</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | |
| <p>Have you attended a wheelwrighting course</p> <p>in the past year?</p> <p>in the past 5 years?</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p>Yes No</p> |
| <p>Do you anticipate attending courses in the next 5 years?</p> <p>If no, is this because</p> <p>a) you believe your skills to be of a high enough standard to meet your requirements</p> <p>b) courses are too expensive</p> <p>c) too far to travel</p> <p>d) the courses you might like to attend are not on offer</p> <p>e) other.</p> <p>Please add comments.</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>e.</p> |
| <p>What is your view of the current training provision?</p> <p>Please tick</p> | <p>Good</p> <p>Adequate</p> <p>Poor</p> |
| <p>How might the current provision be improved?</p> | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Would a training in Business Methods make your business more profitable?</p> <p>If yes, which of the following topics are most relevant to your needs? Please tick what you believe are the three most important topics.</p> <p>a. simple book keeping</p> <p>b. basic computing (word processing, simple graphics)</p> <p>c. computer-aided design programs</p> <p>d. e-commerce</p> <p>e. designing and maintaining own web-site</p> <p>f. filling in tax return</p> <p>g. marketing.</p> | <p>Yes No</p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>e.</p> <p>f.</p> <p>g.</p> |
| <p>How do you assess your level of computer skills?</p> <p>a. non-existent</p> <p>b. beginner</p> <p>c. competent over a limited range of skills</p> <p>d. competent in more complex tasks</p> <p>e. advanced.</p> | <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>e.</p> |
| <p>BUSINESS PROFILE</p> | |
| <p>Is work currently</p> | <p>Growing</p> <p>Static</p> <p>Falling</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Compared with 1996-7 are your trading profits</p> | <p>Higher</p> <p>Similar</p> <p>Lower</p> |
| <p>Through which channels do you normally market your skills and successfully obtain commissions/contracts for work?</p> <p>Private vehicle owners</p> <p>Museums (public and private collections open to the public)</p> <p>Dealers, the antique trade, the pub trade etc</p> <p>Ceremonial, military, public companies etc</p> | <p>Yes No %</p> <p>Yes No %</p> <p>Yes No %</p> <p>Yes No %</p> |
| <p>What percentage of your sales are through intermediaries (as against direct)?</p> | <p>%</p> |
| <p>Do you advertise your products and skills?</p> | |
| <p>Approx what proportion of your working time is spent doing the following types of work:</p> <p>Waggons, carts and traditional farm vehicles</p> <p>Show drays etc</p> <p>Carriages</p> <p>Wheels only for domestic display etc</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p> | <p>%</p> <p>%</p> <p>%</p> <p>%</p> <p>%</p> |

What most worries you about the future of wheelwrighting?

Currently, is your workload

a. too small

b. just right

c. too heavy. Please tick

a.

b.

c.

Are you having to turn down offers of work?

Yes No

Many thanks for answering this questionnaire. Please feel to use the rest of this space to add further responses, or as a statement of your personal views on any aspect of this research. All information will be treated as confidential.

MANY THANKS

Please return to:

8 Tower Street, CIRENCESTER, Glos GL7 1EF

23rd October 2002

Wheelwrights: Personal Profile Returns

[Note : not all questions were answered by all respondents]

Gender All male

Age 30; 35 'retired'; 42; 42; 43; 47; 49; 50; 52; 53; 54; 54; 55; 55; 57; 58; 59; 60; 60; 62; 65
retired; 65; 69. [total of 23]

Do you live in a city, town, village, or countryside?

City 0; Town 2; Village 13; Countryside 10.

How many years have you lived in this area of England?

10; 16; 16; 17; 19; 20; 20; 27; 28; 30; 30; 35; 42; 43; 46; 47; 53; 55; 59;
60; 62; 65; 69. [total of 23]

If you moved here from another part of the UK, from where: another county,
city, town, village, countryside?

Another County 0; City 1; Town 1; Village 2; Countryside 6.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

On average, how many hours per week do you work as a wheelwright?

none; nil; 2; 6-8; 8; 8; 10; 20; 20; 35; did 35; 38; 40; 40; 40; 45; 60; 60; 70+; 110+;
plus three with riders attached:

"4-6, main income is from associated woodcraft"; "40 as general carriage builder &
restorer"; "full time, but heaps of time goes on telephone etc and sorting out materials
and subcontractors"

[total of 23]

Have you another income-earning occupation?

Yes = 13; No = 11.

At what age did you become a professional wheelwright?

14; 16; 16; 17; 19; 19; 20; 20; 21; 22; 24; 25; 25; 31; 33; 35; 38; 42; 44; 45;
51; 52; 54. [total of 23]

Previous occupations (if any).

- ? Joiner/boatbuilder (2)
- ? Carpenter & Joiner (1)
- ? Estate Joiner/Forester (2)
- ? Farm Labourer, Plasterer, Builder, Bread Roundsman, Farmer (1)
- ? Harness maker (1)
- ? Motor Mechanic (1)
- ? Agricultural engineer (1)
- ? Joiner, Farmer, Heavy Plant Operator (1)
- ? Builder (1)
- ? Teacher (3)
- ? BT Exchange System/Installation/Commissioning Engineer (1)
- ? Local Government Direct Labour Manager (1)

Were/are either of your parents, or close relatives, craftspersons?

Yes = 12; No = 12.

If yes, which crafts?

Father a woodwork teacher; Master Builder; Wheelwright; father a Saw Doctor, built threshing machines at Garretts of Leiston; Coach Painter; Carpentry; grandfather a Master Forester; father a Millwright/Engineer; Buying and Selling Traps and Horses; father a Mechanical Engineer; father a Boat Builder & Rigger; Woodsperson; Master Plumber & Decorator; brother a lecturer in fine furniture and joinery; Engineer.

How did you learn wheelwrighting?

[Apprenticeship/ College full time/ College part time/ Self-taught/ Self-taught plus short training course]

- ? Apprenticeship (4)
- ? Apprenticeship and College part time (3)
- ? Master Wheelwright, College part time.
- ? Self-taught plus short training course (2)
- ? Apprenticeship and self-taught.
- ? Self-taught (6)
- ? Self-taught and Army.
- ? "Self-taught – 37 years of studying wheels and horse-drawn vehicles continually".
- ? Training course.
- ? Training Course at Salisbury, Countryside Agency, 2-year course.
- ? "After a 5-year apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner I taught myself with help from a retired wheelwright."
- ? "Training course, working with wheelwright at Acton Scott Museum for 2 years, and at RDC Salisbury for 2½ years".
- ? Job Centre Training Scheme

[total of 24]

Did you/do you have a 'mentor/trainer', i.e. an experienced craftsperson to whom you can turn for help and advice?

Yes = 14; No = 10.

Are you in fact a 'mentor/trainer' yourself to others? If so to how many people?

Yes =

- ? Yes, to one (2)
- ? Yes, to one, but now left during lull in business and earns more elsewhere.
- ? Yes, my son.
- ? Yes, to two.
- ? Not now, have had 2 in past.
- ? Have trained 2 wheelwrights over the years, but none at the moment.
- ? Will be training others as the business expands.
- ? Yes, to several ex-trainees and others who I meet and who feel bold enough to ask questions.
- ? Helped and advised, and still do, many people over the years but could never afford to pay an apprentice to train up.

No = 12

EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

Do you possess a qualification in wheelwrighting?

Yes = 9; No = 16.

If yes, please give the name of the qualification and level (e.g. NVQ).

- ? City & Guilds (4)
- ? NVQ 3
- ? Wheelwrighting NVQ 1,2,3
- ? NVQ
- ? "I wrote the NVQ"

Do you possess any of the following? HND; HNC; Ordinary Degree/Honours Degree; Teaching Qualification. In which subject(s)?

- ? B.Ed. Art (Hons) Dip. Design & Craft
- ? Honours Degree and Teaching Qualification
- ? Honours Degree
- ? Teaching Qualification
- ? Honours Degree and Teaching Qualification, Rural Science
- ? Teaching Qualification – on the horse training side
- ? HNC City & Guilds Building/Carpentry & Joinery

Have you attended a wheelwrighting course in the past year?

Yes = 0; No = 24

Have you attended a wheelwrighting course in the past five years?

Yes = 2; No = 21

Do you anticipate attending courses in the next 5 years?

Yes = 1; No = 22

If no, is this because:

- A) do you believe your skills to be of a high enough standard to meet your requirements?**
- B) courses are too expensive**
- C) too far to travel**
- D) the courses you might like to attend are not on offer**
- E) other.**

A = 10; B = 1; C = 2; D = 1; E = 4.

Please add comments.

- ? Work too erratic to justify expense at the moment.
- ? After 40 years as a practicing wheelwright I feel it is maybe too late for me.
- ? No courses in Northern Ireland.
- ? Not enough time – too much to do.
- ? Revision courses.
- ? I was always told that you must learn to read a wheel.
- ? I have no knowledge of any courses other than the CA one I attended which was excellent
- ? I've seen some terrible work from people calling themselves wheelwrights. I stick to the rules and guides from George Sturt
- ? Too busy
- ? Retired.

What is your view of the current training provision?

Good = 1; Adequate = 7; Poor = 5.

Comments added:

- ? Not known (2)
- ? Unaware of current training provision.
- ? No idea.
- ? Don't know (5).
- ? What training provision?

How might the current provision be improved?

- ? Not known (3)
- ? Access to specific information when needed.
- ? I have always maintained the wheelwright trade is not strong enough to stand on its own, but should be taught as an extension of another trade such as the joinery or carpentry trade.
- ? At home courses.
- ? By letting us know what is on offer as training.
- ? Best training for craftwork is at the bench using hands and talking to older tradesmen.
- ? Attain qualification in use of chainsaw.
- ? Why? There is very little demand. Wheelwrights need to earn a living.
- ? Better funding for training.
- ? As an add-on course to carpentry qualification.

Would training in Business Methods make your business more profitable?

Yes = 9; No = 9.

Comments added:

? Possibly

? I would like to think it would!

? Not applicable.

? Don't know.

If yes, which of the following topics are most relevant to your needs?

Please tick what you believe are the three most important topics.

- A) simple book keeping
- B) basic computing (word processing, simple graphics)
- C) computer-aided design programs
- D) e-commerce
- E) designing and maintaining own web-site
- F) filling in tax return
- G) marketing.

A = 4; B = 0; C = 4; D = 2; E = 3; F = 3; G = 8.

H) [added] "Self-assertiveness – but I don't go in for mind-altering training"

How do you assess your level of computer skills?

- A) non-existent
- B) beginner
- C) competent over a limited range of skills

D) competent in more complex tasks

E) advanced.

A = 12; B = 8; C = 4; D = 0; E = 0.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Is work currently Growing; Static; Falling?

Growing = 11; Static = 8; Falling = 3.

Comments added:

- ? Erratic.
- ? Static as we are setting up a new workshop.
- ? [Growing] despite my efforts
- ? Retired
- ? Falling – with regard to wheelwrighting
- ? Falling – only as regards wheelwrighting
- ? None

Compared with 1996-7 are your trading profits Higher; Similar; Lower.

Higher = 9; Similar = 7; Lower = 5.

Comments added:

- ? Retired, was similar
- ? Rely very little on wheelwrighting now
- ? However I am limited by disability.
- ? Lower – only as regards wheelwrighting
- ? None

Through which channels do you normally market your skills and successfully obtain commissions/contracts for work?

- A: Private vehicle owners
- B: Museums (public and private collections open to the public)
- C: Dealers, the antique trade, the pub trade etc.
- D: Ceremonial, military, public companies etc.

[Assessed on the basis of percentages]

| A | BC | D | | |
|-----|-----|----|----|-------------------------|
| 60 | 20 | 00 | 20 | |
| 50 | 05 | 40 | 05 | |
| 100 | 00 | 00 | 00 | |
| 80 | 08 | 02 | 10 | |
| 60 | 20 | 10 | 10 | |
| 50 | 25 | 00 | 25 | |
| 40 | 10 | 10 | 10 | [+30% other activities] |
| 40 | 60 | 00 | 00 | |
| 90 | 00 | 10 | 00 | |
| 40 | 50 | 00 | 10 | |
| 00 | 100 | 00 | 00 | |
| 50 | 05 | 05 | 20 | [+20% elsewhere] |
| 50 | 00 | 00 | 50 | |
| 50 | 05 | 05 | 20 | [+20% elsewhere] |
| 65 | 30 | 00 | 05 | |

| | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|----------------|
| 15 | 15 | 00 | 70 | |
| 60 | 20 | 20 | 00 | |
| 80 | 10 | 00 | 10 | |
| 100 | 00 | 00 | 00 | |
| 100 | 00 | 00 | 00 | [when in work] |
| 100 | 00 | 00 | 00 | |

plus one comment : "variable = 10-20 / 10-20 / 60-70 professional coachbuilders / 2-5 % plus 20-40 % TV, Film etc" [total of 22]

What percentage of your sales are through intermediaries (as against direct)?

0% = 16
 10% = 2
 20% = 2
 33% = 1
 40-80% = 1 [total of 22]

Do you advertise your products and skills?

Yes = 6; No = 13.

- ? Sometimes
- ? Will when the new business is set up
- ? Some
- ? Only a little

? Heavy Horse World magazine

Approximately, what proportion of your working time is spent doing the following types of work:

A: Waggon, carts and traditional farm vehicles

B: Show drays etc

C: Carriages

D: Wheels only for domestic display etc

E: Other (please specify).

[Assessed on the basis of percentages]

| A | BC | D | E | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|--------------------------|
| 30 | 00 | 50 | 00 | 20 military |
| 00 | 00 | 20 | 10 | 70 gypsy caravans |
| 98 | 00 | 00 | 02 | 00 |
| 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 00 |
| 50 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 05 |
| 75 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 25 wheel repairs |
| 00 | 05 | 90 | 05 | 00 |
| 00 | 00 | 70 | 00 | 00 |
| 60 | 00 | 10 | 00 | 30 horse drawn equipment |
| 80 | 10 | 00 | 10 | 00 |
| 60 | 10 | 30 | 00 | 00 |
| 00 | 00 | 40 | 00 | 00 |
| 90 | 00 | 10 | 00 | 00 |

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|---|
| 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 100 wheel repairs and renewal |
| 19 | 01 | 80 | 00 | 00 |
| 20 | 50 | 10 | 0 | 20 |
| 20 | 00 | 75 | 00 | 05 model gun carriages |
| 15 | 10 | 60 | 15 | 00 |
| 00 | 00 | 10 | 90 | 00 |
| 90 | 10 | 00 | 00 | 00 [when in work] |
| 20 | 10 | 39 | 01 | 30 gypsy caravans and carts, traders barrows, miniature dog carts |
| 00 | 00 | 80 | 10 | 10 %of workshop working time, half of time teaching and training horses for carriage driving |

2% of total time on wheelwrighting

[total of 23]

What most worries you about the future of wheelwrighting?

- ? No worries about the future of wheelwrighting.

- ? I think that compared to other skills such as joinery and carpentry (building) etc, market forces have kept the wheelwright's wage relatively low resulting in the fairly recent demise of some businesses. I imagine that this decline will continue until a balance is reached where a reduced number of craftsmen will be faced with too much work for which they will be able to charge a reasonable fee ... but I don't know.

- ? Cheap imports; customers unaware of time/cost involved; vanishing market.

- ? Much cheaper foreign imports are already affecting carriage building in this country and will I believe have an inevitable knock-on effect on wheelwrights, many of whom, like me, are also dependent on carriage building and repair.

- ? The amount of vehicles imported for competition purposes. The lack of funding to museums and collections for restorations. The amount of so-called wheelwrights that come part-time into the trade for a short time having been made redundant from other industries with no woodworking training and undercut our prices and then leave the trade.

- ? The quality of work on some of the vehicles which come to me is very bad – they are often very dangerous. There are not enough craftsmen to repair wheels properly – I could make a living doing nothing else.

- ? Difficult to charge sufficient rate of pay for skill involved and time taken on old vehicles.

- ? Young people have no interest in the trade.

- ? Not enough young people being encouraged at school as a hobby or job.

- ? That the traditional way of wheelmaking will disappear for modern ways.

- ? Availability of materials, i.e. elm and large section ash. Customer attitude to craftwork and willingness or not to pay for really first-class work. Health and Safety Regs. Attitude of suppliers, e.g. paint, timber to small one-man bands!

- ? Cost to the private owners. Materials and so-called wheelwrights that are metal fabricators.

- ? I don't make enough money to keep up with rising wages in other industries.

- ? The ignorance of the average carriage driver who now believes that metal wheels are better – often comparing new metal wheels with 100 year old wooden wheels. Enthusiastic and often early retired or other persons with a private income or pension, being taught in a few months how to make wheels (HOW – I've been making them for 28 years and am still learning) and therefore a glut of 'wheelwrights' taking work from us.

- ? The threat of bureaucracy from central and local government taking up our time. But some of the best jobs come through that sort of route! There seem to be dwindling numbers of people with a very fine appreciation of the design and craft traditions of old carriages (not so wagons, although here the fineness (finesse if you like, but that is different) is becoming more difficult to find. I think the problem arises in part because the vehicles are often used and chopped about to make them fit current fashion and to make economical repairs. Museums seldom actually appreciate carriages, they seem to be thought of like a quirky and overlarge piece of furniture. [see response for comments: Science Museum v British Museum]

- ? Lack of money.

- ? Whilst appreciating that we must be aware of the advantages of modern methods and materials, in some cases, the traditional wheelwright craft is not being passed down.

- ? [Son describes father as 'the most accomplished wheelwright in the world'] The skills [learnt] on a day-to-day basis are from 60+ years of experience. It would be impossible to teach these skills in any college course. Due to legislative constraints, impossible to employ apprentices. There are a lot of wheelwrights producing wheels for decoration. Few have the knowledge on full vehicles and carriages. This shop is a traditional shop, we still do all the jobs which carpenters are unable to.

- ? My main concern is that short term courses churning out people that have made a wheel is seen as keeping the trade alive. Training needs to be in depth, across broad range of carriage building skills and to a high standard. Preferably a youth doing a full apprenticeship.
- ? The number of modern vehicles being produced by people who obviously have absolutely no idea about the correct measurements or the scale etc, making them totally unsafe for the poor horse and the driver. The formulas for scale and the correct construction seem to be lost. Many wooden wheels being made which are not tyred properly or constructed properly – certainly not up to proper use and unsafe, supposedly made by wheelwrights!! The general public is absolutely at their mercy!!
- ? Decline in demand. Not enough money generated from it for level of dedication required in general for youth of today.
- ? Lack of knowledge by most people to the skill/work and materials required in wheelwrighting and this is reflected in the price they expect to pay! Could we end up with too many wheelwrights with too little work? As you are aware I know of three other wheelwrights who are now in this area (15 mile radius) and this must have an effect on local workload.
- ? As with most skills the public do not want to pay a going rate for the craftsman. In ten years I made no real profit but I enjoyed every minute.
- ? Elm.

Currently, is your workload

- A) Too small
- B) Just right
- C) too heavy

A = 3; B = 11; C = 6

Are you having to turn down offers of work?

Yes = 11; No = 7

- ? No if prepared to wait 12 months.
- ? Selective as to what we want to do.
- ? Not applicable – not working.

Further responses:

- ? Currently winding down wheelwrighting and woodworking business due to ill health (premises and equipment will be retained for time being).
- ? Some of the questions are difficult to answer accurately as work varies in pressure and nature dramatically so percentages from year to year or week to week can be completely different. Work was so short in the spring of this year that I laid my son off and found alternative work myself for a couple of months but now I have 12 months work at least.
- ? I applaud the government at last looking into our industry and hope that some good will come of all the work you are putting into your survey etc. I wish you well.
- ? Too little too late. I work from 6am till 11pm, 7 days a week, including Christmas Day. I cannot do any more than I am doing.

- ? Modern competition carriages with metal wheels. Even though I built some myself I feel the decline of traditional vehicles will reduce the need for wheelwrights to some degree as with the painting side of the trade (most of it is sprayed with 2 pack polyurethane).
- ? I often do talks at clubs and demonstrations at shows and rallies. The response is usually very good. If you have anything to promote wheelwrighting I would be glad to do so.
- ? Could you please send us a list of practising wheelwrights and any training centres near us. We are hoping the new centre will be up and running by summer 2003.
- ? There always seems to be money available for studies/reports on craftwork. If this money was used to create work, i.e. given to museums for restoration/conservation projects, it would create more work and keep trade alive. Perhaps Wheelwrights Co. should look more at this angle and lobby government for more cash for museums and private collectors. Simply training youngsters lessens the amount of work for existing businesses. If there was more work businesses would employ more people in natural course of trade. No one has ever got rich wheelwrighting. It's hard heavy work and the youngsters I've tried to teach soon get fed up with hard work and leave. I'm of an age where I shall soon need help with some jobs but the Health & Safety Regs. would make it impossible to bring my shops up to scratch.
- ? Although everybody means well I simply can't see a young wheelwright getting a living solely making wheels. We have to be top line coach painters, make all our own iron and the wheelwork comes last.
- ? I think that in finishing a course of training the trainee should have a certificate of competence in the use of a chain saw as this is a vital tool of the trade and is potentially a very dangerous tool.

- ? I've decided to abandon wheelwrighting except for a few special customers. All it has ever done for us is keep us poor. I now make wooden wheelbarrows (real ones) there is plenty of demand and the customers are not devious, unlike some in the horse trade.

- ? After running a business for seven years in the late 80s and early 90s almost solely building new wheels and carriages and repairs I have found better profitability in other spheres of woodworking. Until the 'old school' at old school prices diminish, there is little scope for genuine traditional craftsmanship without another driving resurgence. I retain the skills I have learnt and would hope to pass them on at some stage but at present am pursuing other more lucrative opportunities.

- ? Has become more of a job because am passionate about horses/carriages etc as opposed to a sensible career option!!

- ? With the down turn in farming profitability re foot and mouth etc I had no work for the last two years. The small amount of driving vehicles which used to give some work has gone over to metal wheels. The cost of workshop rental, materials, machinery etc suggests that another job must be carried out in the workshop; possibly stair construction, one-off joinery.

Returns not analysed or included above:

One company : only manufactures modern carriages made from steel, with steel wheels fabricated by them in their own workshops.

One company : when the business started building carriages they could not buy wooden wheels on a regular basis and so started fabricating them from aluminium, and now make around 1000 pairs a year.

One company : no longer has a joinery shop.

One company : ceased trading Spring 2000.

Appendix Three : Directory of Wheelwrights in England

**Directory Of Wheelwrights in England
December 2002]**

[updated to 30th

Sources: WCW Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights

 HHW Heavy Horse World Wheelwrights' Directory (as at Winter 2001
Issue)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ** ANDREWS, Douglas | t/a David Bysouth, The Workshop, Three Cups, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 3JL Tel & Fax: 01435 830776 |
| ** ANSELL, T J | Croft-an-Carne, Higher Lane, Ashton, Helston, Cornwall TR13 9RZ Tel: 01736 763849 |
| ** ARNOLD, Mark | Hatch Court, Loddiswell, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 4AJ Tel: 01548 550220 & Fax: 01548 550322 |
| ATKINSON, Ted | Atkinson's Carriages, The Wheelwright's Shop, Webbington, Loxton, Nr Axminster, Somerset BS26 2HX Tel: 01934 750841 |
| BAILEY, Joseph & Sons | Durham Road, East Rainton, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH5 9QT Tel: 01915 842703. Email: bailey@baileyn.fsnet.co.uk |
| ** BALL, Andrew | t/a Gloucester Wheel & Carriage Company, Weaver's Workshops, The Street, Gloucestershire GL11 5TB Tel & Fax: 01453 860866. |

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| | Website: < http://members.aol.com/andchain/gloswheelandcarriage.html > |
| * BEESLEY, Harry | Dubdale Wharf, Kibworth, Leicestershire LE8 0XA Tel: 01162 792366 |
| ** BROADBENT, Mark | Fenix Carriages, East Ruckham, Cruwys Morchard, Tiverton, Devon EX16 Tel & Fax: 01363 866532. Email: mark@fenix.force9.co.uk . Website: < www.fenixcarriages.co.uk > |
| ** * BROWNLEES, J P | Kyre Garden, Kyre, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8RW Tel & Fax: 01885 410454 |
| CAREY, R G | Parish Farm, Hope, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9HS Tel : 01424 892051 |
| ** CHUN, Raymond | Coombe House, Millpool, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4HZ Tel: 01208 821574. Email: suchun@chuns.freeseve.co.uk |
| CLEATON, B E | Fir Tree Cottage, Craswall, Herefordshire HR2 0PN Tel: 01981 510674 |
| COLLINWOOD Carriage Company | Hill Farm, Brighton Lane, Gundleton, Bishops Sutton, Nr Arlesford, Hamps Tel: |
| * COLLISHAW, Michael J | Wheelwright & Carriage Builder, Wheelwright's Yard, 30 Mill Gate, Newark Nottinghamshire NG24 4TS Tel: 01636 706571 |
| COOPER, Anthony David | Lyvers Farm, East Grimstead, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3RX Tel: 01722 712709 |
| CROFORD Coachbuilders | 405 Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0QQ Tel: 01233 623451 |
| CROWHURST, Edward & Sons | Pitts House Farm, Moss Lane, Church Town, Southport, Lancashire PR9 7 |

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| | Tel: 01704 212236 |
| ELLIOTT, Paul | Harcourt Stud, Weir Bridge, Wigston Lane, Newton Harcourt, Leicestershire Tel: 0421 665038 |
| EMPRINGHAM, David | 233 Desborough Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2TW. Tel 01494 443271 |
| GARNER, G J & Son | Unit R, Hawkes Farm, Dores Lane, Braishfield, Hampshire SO51 0QJ Tel: 01794 368151 |
| ** GRAHAM, Gavin | Woodbine Cottage, Budleigh Hill, East Budleigh, Devon EX9 7DT Tel: 01395 443030 |
| ** HALES, Alfred | The Hackney Stables, Manor Road, Wales, Nr Sheffield, Yorkshire S31 8P Tel: 01909 770476 |
| ** HARTLAND Carriages | Hales Oaks Farm, Loxwood Road, Rudgwick, West Sussex RH12 2BP Tel: 01403 753194 & Fax: 01403 753360. Email: hartlandcarriages@tinyurl.com Website: www.hartlandcarriages.co.uk |
| HODGES, Ian | Studio Workshops, Fermoy's Garden Centre, Totnes Road, Ipplepen, Devon Tel: 01803 813737 |
| ** HOLDER, Philip | t/a The Wellington Carriage Co, Long Lane, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6HD Tel: 01952 242495. Email: Philip@carriages-oakengates.com |
| HOLLAND, Graham H. | t/a A Wiltshire Wheelwright, The Workshop, Gate Farm, Stanley Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3RD Tel: 01773 140242 |
| ** HORLER, Michael | t/a M & M Horler Ltd, Radford Farm Cottage, Radford Farm, Radford, Timsbury, Somerset BA2 0QF Tel & Fax: 01761 470694 |

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| ** HOSKIN, Vyvyan | t/a Oxford Carriages, Mill Lane Farm, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire OX5 3HW Tel: 01869 350501 |
| ** HURFORD, Robert | The Old Mill, Hillfarrance, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1AW Tel: 01823 461397 |
| * HUTCHISON, Rodney | 23 Meadow Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3NE Tel: 01323 841736 and 441400; Fax : 01323 449101 Email: rod@carriage-repairs.com Website: <www.carriage-repairs.com> |
| ** JOHNSON, J M | t/a Bellcrown Ltd., Hampton Heath Industrial Estate, Malpas, Cheshire 000 Tel: 01948 820408 & Fax: 01948 820508 |
| ** KING, Charles D | Wheelwrights, Elm Cottage, Marsh Lane, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamsh Tel: 01296 614821 |
| KINGDON, Stephen | 42 Lower Wear Road, Countess Wear, Exeter, Devon EX2 7BQ Tel: 01392 876854 |
| ** KITSON, Derek (Gus) | White House Farm, Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2NE Tel: 01728 660260 |
| ** LAMBERT-GORWYN, Daniel John | Prinkel View, Cackle Street, Brightling, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 : Tel & Fax: 01435 830776 |
| ** LARKIN, Eugene | 1 Cross Lane, Moira Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT28 2TI Tel & Fax: 02892 621184. Email: elarkin@carriages66.fsnet.co.uk |
| ** MART, Michael | t/a Bennington Carriages, Sparrow Lane, Long Bennington, Newark, Nottin NG23 5DL Tel: 01400 281280 & Fax: 01400 282243. Email: carriages@bennington.co.uk <www.bennington.co.uk> |
| ** OUSBY, Rodney | t/a Ousbey Carriages & Harness Room, Ormond Lodge, Newbold-on-Stour |

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| | Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8TS Tel & Fax: 01789 450351. |
| ** PHIPPS, Stephen | t/a Dartmoor Carriages, Lower Fenemere Court, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, S 2JF Tel: 01939 261011 |
| ** RANDALL, Keith | Randall Carriages, Woodside Farm, Westbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire P Tel: 01243 376120 |
| ** ROBERTS, Graham | 6 Manor Road, East Leake, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 6QW Tel: 01509 820102. Email: g.roberts530@ntlworld.com |
| ** ROBINSON, Ron | t/a Kyre Workhorse & Wheelwright Centre, The Old School House, Stoke E Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8RS Tel & Fax: 01885 410353 |
| ** ROWLAND, Mike | No. 1 Wheelers Yard, Road Green, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6DT Tel & Fax: 01297 552562. Email: greg@nina6.freemove.co.uk |
| ROWLATT, Peter | 10 Temple Cottages, Main Street, Cossington, Leicestershire LE7 4UU Tel: 01509 814528 |
| ** SMALL, Peter J. | The Forge, Whisby Road, Doddington, Lincolnshire LN6 4RT Tel: 01522 500323 |
| ** SULLIVAN, Martin | No. 3 Back Lane, Kingston Magna, Nr Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5EL Tel: 01747 838411. Website: < www.villagewheelwright.fsnet.co.uk > |
| ** TAYLOR, E J & Son | Mill Works, Hazeleigh, Nr Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 6QT Tel: 01621 828661 & Fax 01621 828066. E-mail: mail@ejtaylor.co.uk |
| ** THOMAS, Jonathan D | 138 High Street, Delabole, Cornwall PL33 9AJ Tel: 01840 213362. Email: Jonathan@J-S-Thomas.fsnet.co.uk |

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| ** THOMSON, P | Laburnham House, Bridge Street, Warkworth, Morpeth, Northumberland N 01665 711137 |
| ** WHEELWRIGHT, Barry & Richard | 143 Hollywood Lane, Hollywood, Nr Birmingham B47 5QJ Tel: 0121 430 7102 |
| WHITE HEAD, A J & L J | 5 Milwaukee Terrace, Clun Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9QR Tel: 01588 672928, and The Workshop, Bridgnorth Road, Middleton, Ludlow, Shropshire Tel: 01584 875467 |
| WOOD, Terence John | Camden House, Abbots Drove, Canada Road, Southampton, SO51 6DE Tel: 01794 322781 |
| ** WRIGHT, Mike | Acton Scott Working Farm, Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Church Stretton, S 6QN Tel: 01694 781306 and Fax 01694 781569. Email: actonscottmuseum@shropshire.gov.uk . Website: < www.actonscottmuseum.co.uk > & 5 Myford Cottages, Horsehay, Telford, Shropshire TF4 3BU Tel : 01952 506250 |

Total number of entries = 53 [note: includes one from Northern Ireland]

** = response to postal questionnaire. * = response to telephone or e-mail survey only

no asterisk = no response to postal questionnaire of 23rd October 2002

Appendix Four : The declining trade

Source:

*The Directory of Small Industries in the countryside of Oxfordshire, Berkshire,
Buckinghamshire*

published by Rural Industries Service, 20 Beaumont Street, Oxford
n.d. but accessioned into the Oxfordshire Record Office in 1961

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Wheelwrights listings

Oxfordshire

Baughan & Son, Fewcott, Ardley, near Bicester*

P. Boddington, Weston-on-the-Green, near Bicester

Berkshire

G. White & Son, Appleton*

W. Wheeler, Beech Hill*

J. Godfrey & Son, Buckland

C.W. Cann, The Forge, High Street, Chieveley

T. Metcalfe, Newbury Street, Kintbury*

I.T. Smith & Sons, Stanford in the Vale*

Buckinghamshire

G. Manyweathers & Sons, Aylesbury Road, Bletchley

H. Capp & Son, 23 Main Road, Drayton Parslow

W. Simms, Sawmills, Quainton*

D. Yates, 43 The Green Street, Stoney Stratford*

A total of 12

[* = also listed in the Directory as suppliers of wooden coffins]