



*The Chairman of the Hunt Staff Benefit Society  
invites you to a dinner to commemorate the 150th  
anniversary of the Newby Ferry Disaster, which took place  
on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1869*

*At*

*The Chestnut Room, Thirsk Racecourse,  
Station Road, Thirsk, YO7 1QL*

*On*

*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019*

*Hunt Evening Dress or Black Tie*

*Champagne Reception 7.30pm*

*Dinner 8.00pm*

*Carriages 11.30pm*

*RSVP on the enclosed slip*

## *Guest Speakers*

*Nigel Peel, longstanding M.F.H and currently  
Master and Huntsman of the Thurlow*

*Adrian Dangar, former M.F.H and descendant  
of a survivor of the Newby Ferry Disaster*

## *Committee*

*Michael Abrahams – Chairman*

*Nick Bannister M.F.H, Orlando Bridgeman, Mark Campbell M.H, Jamie Cameron,  
Charles Clark M.F.H, Adrian Dangar, Hebe Easby, David Elliott M.F.H, Roger Evans  
M.F.H, James Finney, Vanessa Fleming, David Foster M.F.H, Grania Furness,  
Richard Henderson-Thynne M.H, Maggie Houghton, Max Johnson, Simon Roberts,  
James Sanderson, Rebecca Scott, Richard Waind M.F.H & Belinda Williams*

## *Auction*

*After dinner there will be an auction of a small number of special lots;  
to view these lots please visit the HCBs website: [hsbs.org.uk](http://hsbs.org.uk)*

*All the proceeds of the dinner are to be donated to the Hunt Staff  
Benefit Society, which was itself founded only three years after this  
event, in 1872.*

## *The Newby Ferry Disaster*

*The Newby Ferry Disaster took place 150 years ago on February 4th 1869 and at the time was considered to be a national disaster.*

*The York and Ainsty Hunt had met at Stainley House, South Stainley and after a brisk hunt from Monkton Whin, the fox and hounds swam the River Ure near Newby Hall. Some of the field attempted to ford the river but the waters were swollen with snowmelt from the hills so most of the followers made for the ferry that was moored on the opposite bank at Newby Hall.*

*Sir Charles Slingsby, the Master and huntsman, boarded the boat along with eleven horses and thirteen men, including the Newby Hall gardener and his son who had been summoned to bring the ferry across. Before they were half way over Sir Charles's horse, Saltfish, panicked and leapt over board, dragging his master with him into the icy flow. During the ensuing panic the ferry capsized and within a few minutes six men, including Sir Charles and his whipper-in, William Orveys, had drowned. Nine horses also perished, but old Saltfish was one of just two to survive. The effect of this tragedy was devastating.*

*This dinner will commemorate the disaster's 150th anniversary and remember those who lost their lives. It is hoped all the local hunts will attend with a table or two of supporters.*



*The Hunt Staff Benefit Society runs a pension scheme available to all those working as employees of Hunts, whether as huntsman, whippers-in, kennelmen, countrymen or Hunt grooms.*

*It is highly subsidised, with all administration and regulatory expenses currently covered by fundraising and by subscriptions and donations from supporters of hunting. The Society is particularly lucky to have the Prince of Wales as its Patron and Governor.*

*There is also a charity run in tandem with the HSBS, known as the Hunt Servants' Fund, which is able to help Hunt staff, their widows and dependents, in all sorts of ways if they find themselves in difficulties.*

*[hsbs.org.uk](http://hsbs.org.uk)*