

We share Merlin thanks to the internet!

HORSE LOVERS GEORGIE AND CHARLY MET ONLINE – BUT THEY WEREN'T LOOKING FOR A DATE – THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A SHARER



THESE PREMISES ARE ALARMED

THINKING OF SHARING A HORSE?
Visit www.yours2share.com or go to the Forum at www.yourhorse.co.uk and click on 'horse share arrangements'

THE OWNER

Georgie Lynch, 33, from Warfield, Berks

I wanted a sharer as much to free up my time as for the contribution to costs. I have a six-year-old son and I wanted to spend more time with him, but I didn't want to give up horses either, so this was a way of doing both!

I've shared several horses before but this is the first time I've shared Merlin. In the past I've shared with friends of friends but they were often unreliable. It's been easier to

work with someone I didn't previously know, which is where something like an internet site comes in. When someone isn't right for the share, it's much easier to tell them so politely.

Merlin is a 16.2hh Irish Draught cross – a big, strong horse – so I knew I had to find someone who could cope with him and who I could rely on. I came across the yours2share site by accident. I told the others at the yard and now there are six of us who have found sharers through the site – that's almost half the yard!

In fact, Charly replied to

a different yours2share ad originally but when she arrived at our yard it was clear she was a little heavy for that horse, but Merlin was perfect for her. Charly then suggested a colleague as a sharer for the other horse and this sharing arrangement is also going well.

I feel so lucky, Charly is the perfect sharer. She takes Merlin out two or three times a week for hacks, turns up on time and helps out in every way.

I compete with Merlin most weekends, but during the week I just don't have enough time to spend with him, so Charly is a life-saver.

THE SHARER

Charly Sheringham, 35, from Farnborough, Hants

I used to have my own horses but I hadn't ridden for five years so I thought sharing would be a good way to relearn my skills.

I went on the yours2share website and originally I went to look at a horse called Wiggles, but I've put on a little weight and I was a bit heavy for him, so his owner suggested contacting Georgie, who's on the same yard.

Well, Merlin is just perfect

for me, we hit it off from the start. Georgie was really great and helpful, and started off giving me a lesson on him, but it wasn't long before we were off on our own.

Merlin really is ideal for me as he's the original gentle giant – he's so docile and, if truth be told, lazy, that I never have to worry about him spooking or bolting with me.

I tend to hack with him and Georgie schools him, but there's no one telling me what to do all the time, which I like. I like hacking as I have a stressful job taking 999 calls, and I find getting out into the

countryside with Merlin really helps me to unwind. As I work shifts I have to let Georgie know what days I can do, but she's always fine with it all.

I think it works both ways because I like to think I help Georgie too. She works 9 to 5 and Merlin is on a DIY yard, so there are times when I can help out by being there at 3pm if she can't, and so on.

When I had my own horses I would've found it really hard to share them, so I try to bear that in mind and treat Merlin as well as if he was my own. I think it's one of the reasons our share works so well.