



Jenny Pitman

Jenny Pitman was born in 1946 on a small farm in Leicester, the fourth of seven children. Her father, George was a tenant farmer who *'kept a few of everything'*. With no electricity, gas supply or mains water, it was a hard way of life & every member of the family had to keep up with their work. Jenny grew up surrounded by animals.

The first horse she knew was her Dad's old carthorse Nellie who did nearly everything around the farm - her earliest riding memory was of sitting on Nellie's broadback. On leaving secondary school in 1960, Jenny started work in a racehorse training yard where she started at the bottom & learnt everything she could. She obtained a trainer's license in her own name in 1975 when it was still very rare for women to be trainers.

Following the breakdown of her marriage, Jenny moved in 1976 with her young sons, Mark & Paul, into Weathercock House & over the years Jenny transformed it from a 19-box dilapidated yard into an 80-box modern training establishment. In 1999 on her retirement from training, Jenny's son Mark took over & continues to train racehorses there.

Jenny has had an incredibly successful career as a trainer. She sent out some 800 winners, including; The Grand National twice with Corbiere & Royal Athlete & the Cheltenham Gold Cup twice with Burrough Hill Lad & Garrison Savannah (the latter ridden by her son Mark in 1991 who was a professional jockey at this point). Her National win with Corbiere in 1983 was the first by a woman trainer & she is still the only woman to have done so.

Jenny also won the Scottish Grand National & the Welsh equivalent three times as well as the King George VI Steeplechase & Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. With a win at the 1997 Irish National, Jenny joined only one other trainer in history in winning all the Grand Nationals in England & Ireland. She also trained the winners of the King George VI Steeplechase, The Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, The Welsh Champion Hurdle & many other big races.

Jenny was awarded the OBE for services to racing in 1998, won the *National Hunt Trainer of the Year Award* in 1983 & 1984 & has received several other awards for lifetime achievement, including the first *Helen Rollason Award* in 1999, which was particularly poignant as it was in memory of a great & dear friend.

Her autobiography **Jenny Pitman** was published in 1998 & became the best-selling racing book ever. On retirement from training, Jenny & her husband David moved just a few miles down the road.

Jenny remains one of the most popular figures from the world of racing & audiences enjoy hearing her life story & the business messages she has to share about her extraordinary career.

**For more information on Jenny Pitman,
Contact: 0113-239-2222**