

BIG DAY FOR THE HUNT

Acton Turville, tiny Cotswold village, is all pinks and polished topers as the Duke of Beaufort and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands join 300 riders in the Beaufort Hunt's biggest, most brilliant meet. The Duchess of Norfolk is there, too, as the spirit of John Peel moves again in the traditional setting.

The huge field moves off to follow the pack to the first covert, and with the village population temporarily more than doubled in a morning, it's more of a queue than a chase. But then the field fans out in open country and the hunt is on.

The year's most glittering meet brings a breath of pageantry to the calendar of country life.