

# Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

## December 2023

Hi everybody! Well doesn't time fly - Christmas is just around the corner and our last event of the year, the Christmas Gathering, is creeping up on us. We have also had a busy Autumn as you can see below:



### Stuff that's happened...

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Random Ride from Abbotswell Car Park, Frogham

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, the lovely Sarah Madgwick had to pull out of this one, but luckily Brenda and Tanya kindly stepped in to lead the ride. I even walked my new boy, Frankie, up to the meet in hand to test his reactions and he was a chilled out little star - he didn't even mind when the group set off. Here is Niki's account of the event:



*"It was a beautiful sunny morning and there was a great turn out at Abbotswell car park. Although originally a Madgwick adventure, and I must say you were much missed Sarah, Brenda and Tanya combined efforts with Brenda leading the fast ride and Tanya taking the more sensible riders at a more sedate pace. We all rode for a couple of hours starting together to the Hasley enclosure where we parted with some for a canter round the red sands, the others heading off quietly through the enclosure and on. The fast group headed down to Holly Hatch then onwards, winding our way across the forest with some of us popping a few logs on the way, which was great fun. The horses were great, Wendy sat the most amazing spook by Laila and then subsequently coped well after realising Laila only had 3 shoes!*



*We all had a great ride and I think it made us all realise how lucky we are to have such a wonderful place to enjoy our horses and the beautiful views on the New Forest. It was a great get together, having just got back from our honeymoon in Egypt, and a great hangover cure for Mark after his energetic dancing with Tom at the Godshill harvest supper! Hopefully Andrew and Sharon will have been sent some pictures of the day to go with this report.*

*Niki and Merlin"*

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October - Spooky Obstacles at Tina's Field, Godshill

Well, I think this event may win the prize for the wettest one ever (although the dressage clinic in the summer was a close 2<sup>nd</sup>!). Unfortunately, Andrew and I had to abort the event as we couldn't even get the horses out of the field and across the extremely high stream to load, so went by car instead. However, a few brave souls turned up and gave it a good go!



Tina and her team of helpers had done a fantastic job building an interesting course, including spooky jumps, huge cobweb complete with spider to duck under, the swamp of doom and even apple bobbing for the horses! Alex and Jane insisted on treating a few people to some interesting face painting, creating green witches and skulls like pros.

As usual, it was another fun GVRC event - everyone supported each other, a few quirky awards were handed out (ask Jane about her squidgy banana??!!), and the soup was delicious and very welcome. We did however decline the final game of hunting for sweets in the flour with no hands. We all felt that we had suffered enough with the rain! Well done everybody!



### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November - AGM at The Horse & Groom, Woodgreen

Our AGM was very well attended as usual. If you have never been to one before, you should definitely put it in your diary next year and give it a go. I can promise you it is an enjoyable evening. Andrew reports as follows:

*"It was a lovely social evening and our hosts at The Horse & Groom really looked after us. As ever, the food was delicious and plentiful! With formalities such as the chair's speech with a review of past events out of the way, we thanked Tina and Tanya for their years of dedication to the club and committee as they stood down and they were presented with wine and flowers."*



*After the lovely meal, Tina very enthusiastically ran a raffle and had really gone to town with cajoling people to give some super prizes. Local suppliers and members had been so generous, with a cream tea at Hockeys, a hypnotherapy session, and every prize was really something special. The evening was a real success and I think a great time was had by all."*

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Talk on Lorenzo at Tanya's Armadillo Barn, North Gorley

I was sad to miss this after a little riding mishap that day. However, the lovely Susie has kindly done this write up about the evening:

*"Tanya truly did us proud again by inviting us all to her lovely cosy, warm barn for the evening to listen to Patrick Kempe tell us all about his experience with the great 'Lorenzo' and his beautiful Lusitano horses. Patrick has been extremely lucky to have worked with this wonderful horseman from the French Camargue area for over 15 years. He showed slides and videos of the amazing relationship that Lorenzo has with his horses and told stories of their exploits together whilst on the road, attending all sorts of shows and exhibitions in Europe and the UK."*

Patrick introduced Lorenzo to the show circuit in the UK ( I think there were some of us that were hoping he would introduce Lorenzo himself, but unfortunately that was not to be haha!!!). It was an interesting evening for about 20 of us Gorley Valers, but I don't think many of us will be putting much of Lorenzo's amazing horsemanship into practice very soon!!! How he stays on his horses is quite a miracle. Thank you Tanya for your wonderful hospitality, as usual, and to Andrew for organizing an interesting insight into what can be done on horseback."



## Stuff that's happening...

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Gathering, The Alice Lisle Pub, Rockford



**LAST CALL EVERYBODY!!** Usually a popular event that gets everyone in the Christmas spirit. Come and join us at 12 noon (with or without your trusty steeds) and, as usual, fancy dress is encouraged. Can you beat Tina's attempt last year as one of the 3 kings, complete with an impressive beard!!? Partners also more than welcome.

It's great value at £15 each for a ciabatta, chips and a mulled wine (which we are promised will be drinkable this year!). The choice of ciabattas is:

- Owton's pork sausage with caramelised onion
- Smoked chicken with rocket and garlic aioli
- Tuna mayonnaise and cucumber
- Tomato and Laverstoke Park Farm mozzarella with basil pesto

OR a

- Falafel wrap with pickled cabbage, sriracha sauce and tahini dressing

The pub needs our orders by **MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER LATEST**, so please let Sharon know your choice of food ([Sharon.rupertbear@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Sharon.rupertbear@hotmail.co.uk)) and pay £15 (Ref: Xmas) into the GVRC account.

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Quiz Night at Tanya's Armadillo Barn, North Gorley



Always a very popular event, our quizmasters Andrew and Tanya have kindly offered to host another Quiz Night. A fun evening starting at 7pm with pizza and a raffle for only £10 per person (Ref: Quiz) Teams of up to 6. Contact Tanya ([sunshine.gardens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sunshine.gardens@yahoo.co.uk)) to book. Please note any donations for raffle prizes would be gratefully received!



And finally...

## 2024 Membership Fees

Just a reminder that the membership fee of **£28 per person** for 2024 will soon be due and, for the first time, British Riding Clubs is developing an online membership portal. Hopefully, you should have all received an invite via email from the BRC for you to log on to the portal and set your password and edit your profile. It is user friendly so don't be scared. Even a muppet like me can do it! Our wonderful secretary, Cherie, is hard at work setting up the payment page and will let you all know as soon as it is up and running.

## Fancy a Holiday?

Is Winter getting you down? Do you feel the need for a change of scenery? If so, Teresa Hunt (one of our lovely members based in Italy) is offering a members discount to holiday in her lovely apartment in the quaint Piedmont town of Barge. The special winter rate is 75 euros per night (usually 90!) or in the summer it is 60 euros instead of 80!! Go to the website [55onthehill.com](http://55onthehill.com) for all the details and contact Teresa direct to make a booking. Go on - why not treat yourselves. I am sure Teresa will make you feel very welcome!



Wishing you all a lovely Christmas!  
Sharon x



Bank details for payments are as follows...

Sort code: 30-97-08 Account no: 01404126

**Please make sure you put the appropriate reference otherwise it is exceedingly difficult for our Treasurer, Sally, to keep track of who has paid what for when!!!**