

Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

June 2023

Hi All! I am sure you will agree that the club has definitely been very busy this Spring. In fact, I have never had so many events to report, so 'bear with' (as Tilly would say). Deep breath everyone - here goes...

Stuff that's happened...

Saturday 1st April - Horses in Motion Demo, Wick Farm, Downton

Thanks to all our stoic members who braved the rain and attended the Horses in Motion Demo and from the comments received, I think they were pleased they did! Andrew, our esteemed Chairman, went along and reported as follows:

"I wasn't sure what to expect from the forthcoming Horses In Motion event, but I was pleasantly surprised! I got there slightly early and was greeted by the lovely Sandra who suggested getting a coffee from the farm shop, which was the best I have had in a long time. The weather wasn't great so the demo started in the barn and then went outside for the ridden part. Helena and Anna were fantastic and so knowledgeable. The artwork on both horses was incredible and really helped the audience understand more about the skeletal and muscular structures of the anatomy. Not being very knowledgeable myself, I learnt so much about warming up, cooling off, the benefits of pole work and the effects of each gait on the horse. We all braved the rain and it was so interesting that we completely forgot about it. Typically, towards the end of the session, the sun came out. Just before leaving, I could not resist another coffee, sausage roll and salted caramel brownie!!"



Easter Monday 10th April - Easter Spider Ride to Debbie's Field at Hale Purlieu

Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and everybody safely made their way at their own pace to Debbie's Field. After a lovely social get together over hot drinks and Debbie's famously delicious cakes, it was time to hunt round the field, fencing and hedging for the many, many Easter eggs that had been hidden. I wouldn't be surprised if Debbie was still finding them now! To finish the event, Sue and Wendy were presented with the prize for the best Easter bonnets and then everyone made their way home (hopefully before the storm descended!). A big thank you to the Cooke family for being such fantastic hosts, as always.



Thursday 20th April - Talk on the New Forest Ponies, Tanya's Barn

Suzanne Kempe, who has lived in the New Forest for 30 years and breeds and produces New Forest ponies, gave a very interesting talk and here's what Brenda thought of the evening:

"Not knowing what 'soft drinks' are 😊😊 Wendy and I headed off with our bottle of wine to the talk on New Forest Ponies. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and loads of scrummy cakes and savouries welcomed us, homemade by our wonderful members who are brilliant bakers, set in Tanya's lovely cosy Armadillo barn with the log burner roaring away.

Suzanne is an entertaining speaker, who is obviously passionate about our amazing local native breed, the New Forest Pony. We had a great turnout and everyone listened intently and I'm sure we all definitely learnt a great deal. The talk explained the history of the breed from well before Norman times right up to the present day. It was really encouraging to hear how much the NFPB & C society do to protect and promote the breed, and how



the unique system of commoning, Agisters and Verderers all have a part to play in how the forest and the livestock are run. We saw loads of photos showing how versatile the New Forest Pony is. They seem to be able to turn their hoof to anything, Derived from Arabs, Thoroughbreds,, a fair few of the other native breeds and even a bit of Spanish blood, we seem to have the pick of the natives right on our doorstep. Ponies jumping huge fences, driving, showing, racing. You name it they can do it, produced from lovely mares who have never left the forest or been ridden. I was especially pleased to see some photos of the sire and grandsires of some foresters that I have owned and still have now.

A big big Thank You to Tanya for the use of Armadillo and to Chairman Andrew for organising the event. I think the evening was a real success. Everyone stayed for a chat afterwards (way after Tanya's bedtime) 😊 which was great as it gave us all a chance to socialise. Here's looking forward to our next Talk and Chat."

Thursday 4th May - Driving Experience at the Sampsons, Harbridge

Despite the weather, it was another enjoyable visit to the Sampsons and thanks go to Tina for organizing it and she reports: *"The last time we all went to the Sampson's Farm in 2021, it was a perfect summer's evening, birds singing and warm evening sun on our backs. So this year we had the other type of weather - rain and more rain - but to my delight it was still a truly special visit.*



It's not only the chat about their gorgeous horses and a new foal to coo and marvel at, nor even the experience of driving either the wagon or the harrows with two amazing Percherons at the lead, it's more, no really more. We were all treated with such joy and warmth, and having a snapshot of their unique equestrian lives and the gossip of those round about. Obviously I could write about how many horses they have, some of the breeding, work they do, but really I can't recall all the details and neither does it matter - it just was.

As the rain came down harder, we asked if we could hang around and use the big barn to have our crisps and sausage rolls, cider and lemonade. They agreed in their normal relaxed way. Relaxed is just how you feel after, like a Horse Spa Experience no wonder their horses are happy, I know we all were damp but happy."

Sunday 7th May - Random Ride, Godshill Cricket Pitch

Another fab random ride was had by all and Wendy kindly wrote:



"Our organiser (and I do use the term loosely!) was Alex. She pronounced a good turnout, but then qualified it with 'I only mean in number'! The ride really was indeed pretty random and with no route planned, we had a few too many leaders! But we settled on a route, and were off.

Dr. Green Grass had been busy so several horses were rather full of the joys of spring but soon settled.

After splitting into two groups, one faster and one slower, we rode east along the valley to Turf Hill. A few people swapped groups and we began our return. Some of the faster group ended up at The Fighting Cocks, (surprise!) and we were then asked to raise our glasses for a promotional photo for the pubs Facebook page! All agreed we had had a fantastic morning and were lucky to live in such a great place!"

Thursday 11th May - Trip to Royal Windsor Horse Show

Well, the super-duper new Trollope Transport minibus with the lovely accommodating driver, Matthew, took us to Windsor and what a brilliant day we all had! We split into small groups or pairs and while some chilled over coffees, others got straight to the shopping. As I have no riding horse to indulge at the moment, I took the opportunity to treat myself instead and bought a lovely pearl and turquoise necklace for Andrew to give me on our Pearl Wedding Anniversary later this year. Not that he knows that.....but I suppose he does now!!

The action in the main arena didn't disappoint. We all enjoyed the fun of the Shetland grand national, followed by the precision of a musical ride of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. The main event for me was the Puissance jumping which was extremely competitive and two riders shared the prize, clearing 7ft. Amazing! Equally exciting was the Azerbaijan Land of Fire performance - a stunt riding team so speedy that I couldn't get any decent photos. You'll just have to take my word for it!



A big thank you to Jo for organising. I would highly recommend this to all our members if we do it again - maybe we could hire a coach. There is definitely something for everybody at this show!

Saturday 20th May - Random Ride, Bramshaw

We must say a big thank you to Pippa for organizing a successful random ride and even providing cake at the end - what's not to like! Being multi-talented (and very kind), Pippa also did this little write-up for us as follows:

"Well we all survived!!! I think a reasonably good time was had by all - the sun shone, the wind blew so the crab flies kept their distance.

Bramshaw random ride was probably even more random than planned! 'Where do I park?' was the trend on Messenger, but 'where are you?' might have been more useful - instructions were provided but at least one was led astray by an errant partner! Still, nine intrepid riders eventually set off - 2 on the slow ride, the rest more open to excitement. Interestingly the slow riders made it to the pub, the fast riders did not - but all returned to Little Applewood Farm for tea and cake. Nobody had an accident, nobody got their trailers stuck in the mud, everybody loaded (eventually) and I was left with a bit of cake for consumption tomorrow - result!

Special thanks to Harriett for leading the fast ride and to Jen for staying home to host the early returners. OK - photos - not my strong point, especially out riding, but I did eventually remember so here is one of the cake!

Happy days, Pippa"



Stuff that's happening...

Saturday 3rd June - Ridden Clinic with Franklin Balls, Wick Farm, Downton

Why not do your horse a favour and come and join us for this interesting clinic with Anna Noble. The use of Franklin Balls improves posture and balance, releases tension and increases strength. This helps to make you more body aware and flexible so you can correct misalignments and, in turn, results in a happier and more comfortable horse! The clinic starts at 10am onwards depending on numbers. Cost to be confirmed (Ref: Franklin Balls). If you are interested, please contact Sandra (sandrapollard40@yahoo.co.uk).

Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July - Summer Camp at Brenda's Fields, Burgate



Yes it's Summer Camp time again. If you have not been before, don't be daunted - everything is low key and great fun! Come and set up on Friday and bring your own grub or enjoy a takeaway (at own cost), washed down with a few bevies to relax you into the weekend.

Then we have a packed itinerary with flatwork clinics, pole/jumping clinics, mounted games, agility and Have a go fun clear round jumping. If you have any energy left, there will be pizza and games for the humans or you can relax in the sauna! Come and join us for only £80 per person (Ref: Camp). Just contact Brenda (pootlin@hotmail.com) to book your place.

Saturday 15th July - Breakfast Ride to The Horse & Groom, Woodgreen

It's your choice - enjoy a leisurely meander or be a speed demon! Make your own way to The Horse & Groom for 10am and the lovely Jason will provide delicious breakfast baps and hot drinks all round. The cost is £7 (Ref: Breakfast Ride) and the contact is Cherie (greencherry.68@btinternet.com).

Sunday 30th July - Dressage Instruction and Test at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

The lovely Nikki Green will be teaching this dressage clinic, with the chance to ride a Prelim test at the end and get that all important feedback. It starts at 10.30am and costs £15 per person (Ref: Dressage). Please contact Cherie (greencherry68@btinternet.com) to book your place.

August - Evening Flatwork/Polework/Jumping Clinics at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

Keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page for details of clinics with Trudi throughout August. Brenda is the contact for these (pootlin@hotmail.com).

Sunday 3rd September - Flatwork/Polework Clinic, Folds Farm

Well you all know the format - Nikki Green has agreed to run another clinic for us, so come and have a great session and Cherie will provide the photographic proof of your attendance! The cost is £15 (Ref: Nikki Clinic) and the contact is Cherie (greencherry.68@btinternet.com).

Future dates for your diary...

Sunday 24th September - Tack Sale

Sunday 15th October - Random Ride from Abbotswell

Sunday 29th October - Spooky Obstacles at Tina's

Thursday 9th November - AGM

Saturday 25th November - Quiz Night

Saturday 9th December - Christmas Ride

Phew - I think that's all for now!

Happy riding

Sharon

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!!!