Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

August 2021

Hi all, Cherie here. I have temporarily taken over the reins (ahem) of the newsletter for a couple of months while Tanya is super busy. I hope you are all enjoying a lovely summer out and about with your horses

Stuff that’s happened…

17th & 18th July – Annual Fun Camp

15 members attended camp this year, the atmosphere was relaxed and happy and the sun was shining, in fact it’s hard to believe just how gloriously hot it was that weekend!

Here is a write up from Pauline Grant for whom this whole camp business was new territory…

Truth be told I nearly didn’t come to camp! I was so worried about absolutely everything. What if Jasmine didn’t settle in the corral? What if I was the worst rider there? What if Jasmine was the worst horse? I would probably fall off. Jasmine would certainly spook at all the new things. No way would she do the working equitation obstacles. And that was before I even started to think about hanging out with a group of strangers for a whole weekend!! Would I make friends? I really wanted to try though, so I pulled on my big girl pants and hatched a plan that if after day 1 it wasn’t for me, I’d pretend Jasmine was lame, bow out and go home. Haha

The reality was so different from my fears (it always is though, isn’t it). We had the BEST time! On arrival I popped Jas into her little paddock, she put her head down and started eating completely oblivious to the other horses, tents, gazebo and bunting. Great start! Everyone was really friendly and welcoming and there was also an abundance of cake (I’ve found my people!). The lessons were fun and everyone worked at their own pace, Pole clinic with Nikki and then jumping the next day with Trudi. Jas was great and had a go at everything I asked of her, no spooking at all the new sights & sounds (which was surprising given she spooks in the school if the mounting block has been moved).

For me the highlight was the working equitation, having the opportunity to ask Jas to walk over a platform, back up through a lane of poles after ringing a bell & trot through a chicane amongst other tasks! Never in a million years did I think my little horse would do that… all whilst fellow members and new friends were watching and cheering us on.

Once the horses were put to bed, the gin came out and the party really started! Lots of laughs over pizza & chatting around the firepit. Equestrian Zumba is forever fixed in my mind, I’m not sure if that’s a good or bad thing though! Can’t wait for next year… it was a great way to get the summer started!

3rd August Sampsons Percherons driving event

On a beautiful summer evening a few of us met up at the Sampsons abode in Harbridge to experience what it felt like to get up close and personal with an enormous percheron stallion or two….totally awe inspiring! After watching Robert and Tom harness up these impressive horses we were split into two groups. One group harrowing a field with Robert at the helm and the other group on a wagon ride around the estate pulled by two stallions and driven by Tom. Then we swopped over and everyone had a go at taking the reins for both experiences. I confess there was a bit of singing in our wagon to the tune of ‘didn’t we have a lovely time the day we went to Bangor’ watching the sun setting across those dappled horsey bottoms as we rattled around beautiful countryside in the wagon. Anyone for a cider?

8th August –Spider picnic ride to Debbie and Louise’s field at Hale Purlieu.

What a lovely social event this was! Here is a write up of the event from Claire Issac…

On Sunday 8th August, we set off on a rather grey day for mine and Lucy’s first ever spider ride with the club. We set off at 11am and met at Cherie’s field along with Pauline, Jacqui, Jackie and Sarah.

Our destination was Debbie’s field at Hale, which I was glad that Sarah and Cherie knew the way as I had no idea. Debbie very kindly took our picnics from us to save carrying them along the way.

The ride out took just over an hour and all the horses behaved perfectly and all seemed to love it. At some points it looked like touch and go if it would rain (our typical summer!) but it held off for the picnic at least.

At one point along the ride a herd of new forest ponies decided to gallop across our path, not sure what had set them off but they were having a whale of a time, I thought at one point some of ours were thinking about joining them !! It certainly made them gee up!

We arrived to a field full of grass which our horses all loved and we were greeted with tea/coffee and lovely home made cakes (I didn’t need my picnic after all that!).

We stayed for a lovely chat and catch up and rode back and yes it did tip it down, but thankfully at the end of our great ride. What a lovely bunch of people, so glad to be part of this group. Thank you to Debbie for her hospitality

Stuff that’s happening…

26th September – Poles with Nikki at Folds Farm

Running 9am -1 pm, there will be 4 x hourly slots. Each session to last 50 mins to allow a 10 minute hand over. Groups of 4 max £15 per person

Please contact Cherie to book with your preferred time slot and pay into the GVRC account with Nikki as your reference.

October - date TBA – Fancy dress Halloween Spider ride

November – date TBA - AGM

Next committee meeting is 2nd September where the next lot of events will be discussed. If anyone has any ideas for events that they want to put forward please let us know before then. Also if anyone has been up to anything interesting with their ponies this summer and they want to do a little write up for the newsletter that will be fab!

Next newsletter will be issued at the end of September after Nikki’s clinic

Bank details for payments below,

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

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

Happy summer riding!

Cherie xx