Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

November 2021

Hi all, well here goes – my first attempt at the newsletter!!

Our lovely committee member, Sue Vass, has done a write up of her recent trip to Canada involving quite a unique equestrian experience….

In early October, I had a wonderful trip to Canada, to celebrate my eldest son’s 40th birthday. The travel & Covid arrangements all went very smoothly, Jonathan is an expert at arranging things. We had Jon’s birthday dinner in the rotating restaurant of the CN tower in Toronto, the views should have been breath-taking, sadly it was foggy that evening, but the food was good!

We visited Toronto, Niagara Falls and Montreal. From Montreal, we had a day trip to Quebec.

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ridden.

I had a morning at the Willoughby Ranch, just outside the town of Niagara Falls. I had a go at learning to track a calf (a dummy one, being towed by a quad bike) and had a go at using a lasso. I was hopeless at this, but Jon was very good!

And I tried my hand with a gun. (Though I wasn’t allowed any bullets, as I hadn’t done the safety training course).

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Stuff that’s happened…

Sunday October 31st Fancy Dress Halloween Spider Ride

Here is Mark Brown’s (AKA The Grim Reaper’s) account of the day…

The wind was howling through the trees, branches lay broken and thrown about all over the gardens and roads - the perfect setting for ghosts and ghouls, witches on broomsticks screeching and cackling….what an horrendous day for a ride! Nevertheless, Niki and I donned our Halloween costumes. I dressed as the Grim Reaper, Niki as a wicked witch and we battled through the elements on our trusty steeds all the way from Stuckton to Tanya’s (all of half an hour!), only to discover that we were the only ones to ignore the email going round which had said to abandon the riding and come by car! There was a good crowd of spooky characters already gathered, enjoying Tanya’s homemade soup and cakes made by many. The prize-winning shield went to “scary sister Melling!” for her excellent costume, although the judges found it a tough decision as everyone had made such a great effort in dressing up. There were also lots of fun games - make your own spider then throw it into a tin can, spin the spider on the web (or something like that), spooky skittles, table football and ping pong to boot! Oh, and name the gourd! Which was not your normal type but very comical! All in all, great fun. Thank you so much to Tanya for hosting and providing a delicious lunch and for allowing Texas and Merlin to borrow your small paddock for a quick bite.

Thursday November 11th AGM at The Potting Shed, Hyde

Thanks to all who came to our AGM. Tina, our Chairman, welcomed everyone and did a quick resume on events held this year. She also reiterated that if there is any particular event that you would like us to arrange in 2022, please let any committee member know – **Any new ideas are always welcome!**  It was also agreed that our annual charitable donation of £100 each would go to Young Minds, WWF and the fund for Mila Caplin who has Vanishing White Matter (a rare degenerative neurological disease). The fund will help Mila receive brand new medication that is being trialed in Amsterdam which may stabilize or even improve her condition.

Finally, to the election of officers. Very sadly, Tina has decided to step down as Chairman, although will remain on the committee. Brenda and Wendy presented her with chocolates and prosecco which we understand were soon devoured!! Pauline Grant has kindly agreed to become our new Chairman, whilst other officers will remain the same – Cherie as Secretary, Debbie as Treasurer and Wendy as Membership Secretary. Jo Rudkin (sadly unable to attend the evening) has stepped down from the committee, so the remaining committee members are Tanya, Brenda, Sue and Sharon, who will be joined by Jo Nicholhurst. Hope I haven’t forgotten anyone!!

With the meeting wrapped up, everyone could relax and enjoy a delicious dinner of beef bourguignon or mushroom stroganoff, followed by fruit crumble and cream. And the free glass of vino helped the chitchat flow!

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Stuff that’s happening…

Saturday December 4th Christmas spider ride to The Horse and Groom Woodgreen 12 noon

Get your tinsel and santa outfits ready for this festive social pub ride! As usual, this has been incredibly popular and I am afraid the event is **now fully booked**. You can still join us on foot (**sorry no more horses**) but you need to contact the pub direct to order your choice of baguette.

If you have booked but are yet to pay, please do so now (£15 per person) into the GVRC account using your name and **Xmas** as the reference

And finally…

Membership subscriptions are now due!!

We really hope you are planning to renew your GVRC membership for 2022. An annual adult subscription is great value at £23 and it is **due on 1st December!** Please pay into the GVRC account using your name and **Membership** as the reference. Wendy has to send a list of fully paid up members to the BRC by 1st January, so please don’t delay Please note that the BRC will no longer send out membership cards, but will contact you by email.

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 Debbie, our wonderful treasurer, to keep track of who has paid what for when!!!**

Happy Christmas to all our lovely members

In the words of “Strictly”….. *Keep Riding!!!*

Sharon x

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