Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

September 2021

Hi all, I hope you have all had a lovely summer getting out and about with your ponies. Here is a write up from Tina about what she has been up to with the lovely Foggy this year….

To Saddle Tramp or Not To Saddle Tramp. That is the question ?

Saddle Tramping is a term used to describe what we used to call Pony Trekking or similar, travelling with your horse or pony point to point and camping on route. There is an FB page which is very inspiring as people all over the world are doing amazing journeys and I was one person to be inspired. Obviously with the travel restrictions this year it seemed like the perfect Covid safe holiday, so knowing that Brenda and Tanya would be up for a challenge we made a plan to camp 2 nights and see how it went.

I did a reconnoitre with Tom on his trial bike along the Byway from Whitsbury to Salisbury Racecourse then along to Shaftsbury back to Martin and then Brenda’s Field.

We were lucky to meet the Farmer who’s land joined the Byway and asked if we could camp in the field. He kindly agreed and so I thought we were all set with a stop place on the Ridge above Alvediston. There was much planning and a couple of trial rides with packs, it is amazing how much stuff you need even if clothes are just a change of pants, warm top and comfy sleep bottoms ( a must ). I bought a large specialised pack off the internet, Brenda and Tanya had other smaller ones. Tom kindly offered to meet us with electric fencing and horse feed as we hadn’t quite factored in carrying that.

Well, the day arrived and the forecast was hot, hot, hot. Water was our main concern as we looked at the soaring temperatures. There is a lot to be said about the day but I will try and be brief. Our first stop was at a friends farm in Martin which would also be a night stop on the way back. We really hadn’t anticipated how slowly we would be travelling with the full saddlebags. So a journey that would normally take one and a half hours took us three hours plus. While filling water bottles and giving the horses a rest we revisited our map and reduced our distance. This meant a quick trip with my friend in her car to check the crossing on the Blandford, Salisbury road A354. Route decided we set off again, it was incredibly hot by now and we still had loads of miles to go. The scenery was fantastic, glorious, such a joy, we couldn’t believe how lucky we were, but as the hours went on we needed another stop for the horses, they were very hot and drinking lots and the destination still seemed along way off. Maybe we had been too ambitious for our first outing but still that was where we were heading!! More spectacular landscapes, no people just sheep we talked less and sweated more. We walked the horses in hand a lot especially up the hills as they were tired. The heat had lessened and our night spot was within our sight, which was now referred to as Hell-of-a-Distance.

WE MADE IT.. just. What a feeling of relief and pride in our steeds who had all been amazing. We put up our tiny tents and ate ironically named “survival” food. The view was breathtaking and the sense of achievement indescribable.

Home was much easier as we only had to get to Martin and we had factored in a pub stop, much more manageable. The packs still slipped which was an ongoing problem to be ironed out for a long trip.

To answer the question .…. Maybe.. probably, but always with a map!

Stuff that’s happened…

26th September Nikki Green Pole clinic

13 members attended this pole clinic which was held at Folds Farm in the outdoor school. The sun shone and it was a gorgeous autumnal day. Nikki had laid out a structure in the middle of the school incorporating walk poles initially and then on to a combination of trotting poles with points and turns that really got the horses (and us) thinking forwards. Towards the end we also experimented with leg yielding over a straight line of poles changing the bend and attempting it 3- 4 times from both left and right. Feedback on facebook was positive so if you want more of this sort of stuff just let us know.

Stuff that’s happening…

Sunday October 31st Fancy dress Halloween Spider ride

Spider Ride – All meeting up at 12.00 midday at Tanya’s place, Greenfields, North Gorley, SP6 2PL for tea, coffee, hot soup and cake. £10.00 per person. There will be games and fancy dress is a must. Prize for best outfit

If you have the what three words app **biked.overlooks.habit** will bring you to the gate

Please let Tanya know if you are coming sunshine.gardens@yahoo.co.uk

Pay into the GVRC account (details below) use your name and **Halloween** as the reference

Thursday November 11th AGM. The Potting Shed (next to Hyde Garden shop). 7pm start

Looking forward to seeing you all at this AGM. If anyone would consider volunteering to come on the committee we are looking for new members and would really love to have you on board. We are also looking for fresh ideas for events so please do come along and put forward anything you would like us to organise in 2022. Its very much your club and your input is really important.

We plan to have the meeting at 7pm sharp and food around 7.45pm

Choice of Beef Bourguignon or Mushroom Stroganoff both served with rice and crusty Bread. Please contact Tina if you require a vegan dinner alternative

Pudding is Fruit Crumble and Cream

Glass of wine

Cost for all this is just £10 (bargain!)

Let Tina know if you are coming tinawhittet@btinternet.com with your food and colour of wine choice. Pay into the GVRC account use your name and **AGM** as the reference

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

Don some tinsel for a festive social pub ride £15 a head Baguette with chips and salad + mulled wine. Please let Jo Rudkin know if you are coming with your baguette choice before 30th November jorudkin@yahoo.co.uk

Baguette choices are as follows..

• Sausage and red onion chutney

• Roast beef and horseradish

• Fish Goujon and tartare sauce

• Bacon Lettuce and tomato

• Cheddar ploughmans

• Smoked salmon and cream cheese

• Bacon, brie and cranberry

• Pay into the GVRC account use your name and **Xmas** as the reference

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 Autumnal riding!

Cherie xx