

Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

August 2023

I hope you are all enjoying our wonderful Summer weather! However, our members are a stoic lot and we haven't let the rain stop us from making the most of the varied events on offer...

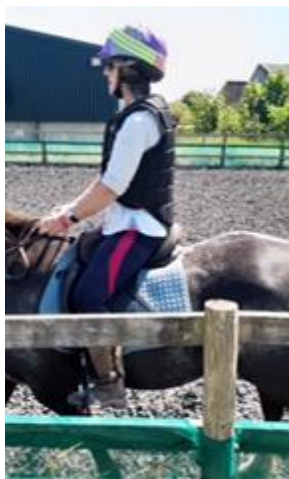


Stuff that's happened...

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

Believe it or not, the sun was actually shining for this event! Our members learnt how Pilates on horseback could improve their posture, build a connection to their horse and build confidence. Sandra definitely enjoyed the session and reports as follows:

"We all had fun using our core and balance, whilst using bands and Franklin balls! Sounds fun you say - it was :) Anna explained at the start how we could use each item, either by placing them under your rider seat - to improve a deep seat, or around your wrist - to keep those hands still. We found this one very tricky and it felt like we didn't have any control. It did however make you aware of how you move your hands around, for me, far too much! There was also a longer band, that you position around your body to link up with your hands and reins - this enables you to sit up in a good rider position, again keeping your hands balanced.



We were then able to have a go freely, guided by Anna. Our group all went in to the arena saying we will not be cantering but, by using these tools, it gave us all the confidence and good position to encourage our equines to canter by the end of the session. We all had lots of fun."

Thank you Sandra for organising such an interesting clinic - definitely one I would like to have a go at in the future!



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

Although a little down on numbers this year, camp proved to be a very enjoyable affair. Here's Andrew's take on the event:

"Summer Camp 2023 was awesome! We enjoyed pole and jumping clinics, as well as some fun gymkhana games and barrel racing, proving that some were much more competitive than others - naming no names! Then there was the obligatory craft session, which this year was making jewellery using horse hair...thanks Tina! What will you think of next year?! For the first time ever, we (well not me!) enjoyed Austin's mobile sauna!! This (to my surprise given how warm it was) was very popular. That's if you enjoy sweating your xxxxx off, then being doused with buckets of freezing cold water!!

Whatever takes your fancy!! Saturday evening was filled with the usual frivolity and delicious pizza. Camp was closed with a delightful cream tea on Sunday before we all headed home for a shower and comfortable bed!! All in all, a great event and we even had a new member attendee - Tia McCarthy who did brilliantly and seemed to thoroughly enjoy herself ."



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

Well despite the weather warnings that put a stop to the ride for the majority of us, it didn't stop us all getting together anyway and enjoying wonderful breakfast baps, hot drinks and a good old natter in our favourite environment - a pub!

In fact, it was the best turnout for an event all year, so well done everybody! It was lovely to see so many friendly faces.



Two intrepid riders, Sarah and Cate Madgwick, ignored the warnings and braved it anyway. Luck was on their side as they made it to the pub still dry - I just hope they didn't get too wet on the way home! A big thank you to Nicole and all the staff at The Horse & Groom for their fantastic hospitality and thanks also to Cherie for organising such a successful event.

Sunday 30th July - Dressage Instruction/Test and Clear Round Jumping at Brenda's

This new event proved to be a very popular format and was enjoyed by all. Susie Reed has kindly done the write up for this one:

"Waking up to a miserable and damp Sunday I must admit did not give me much motivation to get Babs ready for Alex to kindly transport us both to the Club (Brenda's) field for the Dressage and Jumping Day. However, once there, I realised that so much effort had been made by Club members, the committee and friends that I began to feel glad I had made the decision to attend. The tea and coffee tent was up - phew! A nice warm cuppa helped sooth the nerves a bit and the cakes made by Debbie were yummy!!!"

The clear round jumping ring, operated by the lovely Wendy, was very inviting but I decided not to attempt a round with Babs as the ground was already quite wet and Alex (mum for the day) reminded me it was probably not a good idea for me anyway haha!!!



There were 8 club members who had signed up for the day's activities, which consisted of riding a Prelim dressage test in the well put together white boarded arena watched by the lovely Nikki Green, who took notes and then gave a 20 minute lesson to concentrate on what was needed to improve marks. The dressage test was then ridden again using the helpful comments from Nikki to improve the marks second time around. The marked sheets were given out which were a great help to see where you could improve, together with a lovely rosette!

In my particular case Babs, being the Princess she is, threw her toys out of the pram big time because the constant drizzle had then turned into proper rain and the wind had got up. Babs does not do wind and rain!!!! Such a Diva! She insisted on doing the test at 100 mph in racing mode haha!! The ground had got quite slippery by that time and I am afraid I chickened out and called it a day.

Everyone did really well despite the weather not being very kind to us. Brenda and Nemo (who hasn't done much dressage before) did really well. Jackie and her mount were awesome, as was Lucy Isaac who did a great dressage test, as well as clear round jumping. The atmosphere of the event was great, even though everyone got completely soaked and it just goes to prove what a great riding club we are.



A big thank you to all the helpers on the day and to the readers (you know who you are) for giving up their Sunday to help those who had entered. Thank you to Nikki Green for all the advice, help and support and to Cherie for organising a great day. I for one would love to do another one of these events - hopefully in more clement weather - and look forward to the next Gorley Vale Riding Club event."

Stuff that's happening...

Wednesday 9th August - Polework/Jumping Clinic at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

This evening's clinic is **already fully booked**. Have fun everybody!

Sunday 20^h August - Clear Round Jumping at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

Wendy has again agreed to run the clear round jumping from 10am to noon. Starting low, then the jumps will go up a little at 11am Come and have a go for £2 a round at this low key event. You'll have lots of encouragement and support. Payment can be made on the day, but please let Wendy know in advance for numbers (wtreble@btinternet.com).

Wednesday 23rd August - Polework/Jumping Clinic at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

If you missed the session on 9th, here is your chance to get involved and have a lesson with Trudi. Again, there will be two sessions starting at 6pm and 7pm. **Please note that Trudi has not yet confirmed, so keep your eyes glued to Facebook in case the date changes!!** The cost is £15 (Ref: Trudi Clinic) and the contact is Brenda (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 photographic proof of your attendance will be provided! The cost is £15 (Ref: Nikki Clinic) and the contact is Tina (tinawhittet@btinternet.com).

Sunday 24th September - Tack Sale/Equestrian Car Boot at Ibsley Village Hall

Keep the morning free and come and grab a bargain at our Tack Sale from 10am to 1pm. This will be open to the general public, so please tell all your horsey friends who are totally overstocked or in need of items. Cake and refreshments will be available of course!! £5 per table for sellers (Ref: Tack Sale). Contact: Jo (jo@thehouseoflawrence.com)

Sunday 15th October - Random Ride from Abbotswell Car Park, Frogham

The lovely Sarah Madgwick has kindly agreed to organize this one for us (we didn't even have to bribe her!!) Meet at 10am at Abbotswell Car Park and enjoy a fun ride in a beautiful part of the forest. This will be a 1.5 hour ride maximum and will cater for all levels/speeds. This is a **FREE** event, so come on guys - make the most of it and contact Sarah (sarahlmadgwick@gmail.com) to let her know numbers.

Sunday 29th October - Spooky Obstacles at Tina's Field, Godshill



Come and join us at 10am for this spooktacular event! Put yourself and your horse to the test and see how you both cope with the frighteningly good Le Trec obstacles - don't be scared though, help and guidance will be provided.

'Fangs' must go to Tina for organising this one and, as the queen of fancy dress, she encourages you to get your Halloween outfits at the ready, although she will hate me for pointing out that this is optional! There is a prize for the best dressed though! The cost is £14 (Ref: Spooky Obs) and please contact Tina (tinawhittet@btinternet.com) to book your place.

Saturday 25th November - 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) to book. Please note any donations for raffle prizes would be gratefully received!

Future dates for your diary...

Thursday 9th November - AGM

Saturday 9th December - Christmas Ride

And finally...

A big welcome to all new members who have joined us recently. We are a friendly, encouraging and laid back bunch, so please don't feel intimidated - you will be welcomed with open arms! Come and join us at an event soon!

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!!!