

Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

February 2023

A belated Happy New Year to you all and a big welcome to any new members! Although the cold and icy weather conditions have already stopped play with the planned January Random Ride being postponed, we have plenty to look forward to in 2023!

Stuff that's happened...

Saturday 10th December - Christmas Gathering, The Alice Lisle Pub, Rockford



Feeling like a lifetime ago, our Christmas Gathering proved popular as ever and here is Alex Taylor's take on the event: *"Another lovely GVRC event despite frozen ground conditions. I always really look forward to the Xmas spider ride - it's so lovely seeing all the tinsel wrapped steeds and funny costumes. Even on the ride to and from the pub, it sparks smiles and Xmassy conversations with strangers, which feels very much like we are helping to spread a bit of Xmas spirit!"*



It was lovely to meet up with Marlies and Sox and ride across the forest from the A31 underpass to the Alice. Twiz and Sox had not met before but were super well behaved. The frozen ground meant we did have to stick to gravel tracks and roads, but we are so lucky that even those provide a very pretty route and enabled us to get a trot on and keep warm!! I did try one section on grass/ heather and quickly abandoned that idea when I found the grass was frozen into a solid slippery ice sheet!!

We actually managed to arrive early which, as those who know me, is a miracle!! Greeted by friendly faces and mulled wine/hot food - what's not to like (although the mulled wine did need a bit of sugar tweak as it was a bit sharp initially lol).

Loved all the costumes as always, especially the amazing three kings following the star! Slightly dodgy beards but amazing oriental saddle cloths!! Til next year.....always a Xmas highlight 🎅👑👑👑👑👑"



Stuff that's happening...

Saturday 25th February - Random Ride, Godshill Cricket Pitch

Postponed from January due to adverse weather conditions, so please everyone keep your fingers crossed and pray to the weather gods! We plan to meet at 10am and ride for approximately 2 hours. A well-deserved beer (or coffee to warm up) at The Fighting Cocks could be on the cards at the end. Make the most of this **free** event! To book, please contact Brenda (pootlin@hotmail.co.uk).

March - Tour & Talk at The Equine Dental Clinic, Wimborne

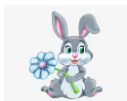
This clinic was purpose built in 2022 and is a centre of excellence for equine dentistry. Come and join us for an interesting tour, showing the latest advanced equipment, and talk on the specialist services now available. Date, time and cost to be confirmed. If you would like to express your interest in the meantime, please contact Tina (tinawhittet@btinternet.com).

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

This fascinating demo will show the skeletal and muscular anatomy of the horse, while Anna Noble and Helena Whiting explain how these are affected and used during work. The time and cost (Ref: Motion Demo) are still to be confirmed. The contact is Sandra Pollard (sandrapollard40@yahoo.co.uk).



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



Choose your own route and make your way at your pace to Debbie's Field to arrive at 12 noon. Riding hats to be decorated in an Easter bonnet theme (optional). Debbie's

cakes and mini Easter eggs supplied, so what's not to like! Cost is £5 per person (Ref: Easter Ride) and the contact is Debbie (debjcooke16@gmail.com)



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

Suzanne Kempe has lived in the New Forest for 30 years and breeds and produces New Forest ponies to a very high standard and is a practising commoner. Come and join us at 7pm for an interesting talk, illustrated with beautiful photos. Refreshments available to purchase on the night. The cost is £6 per person (Ref: Forest Ponies Talk) and the contact is Andrew (andrewgray.drew@hotmail.co.uk).

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

The Sampsons have kindly invited us again to join them for an evening demo and to have a go driving. It was great fun last time, so come and join us at 6pm and enjoy Tina's sausage rolls and cider at the end. This event is £8 each (Ref: Driving) and please book in with Tina (tinawhittet@btinternet.com).

Future dates for your diary...

Wednesday 11th to Sunday 14th May - Possible day trip to Royal Windsor Horse Show (tbcl)

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

Saturday 15th July - Breakfast Ride

Sunday 24th September - Tack Sale

Sunday 29th October - Spooky Obstacles at Tina's

Thursday 9th November - AGM

Saturday 9th December - Christmas Ride

And finally...

If all of the above wasn't enough, we are also planning to slot in some flatwork, pole and jumping clinics with the lovely Nikki, Trudi and Anna – **WATCH THIS SPACE!!**

That's all Folks!
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!!!