

Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

JULY 2016



Hiya.. The summer holidays are here, fingers crossed that the lovely summer weather continues. Hopefully everyone has got something lovely planned over the next few weeks, off somewhere exotic, riding somewhere new, doing something challenging? A few of us from GVRC are doing something that involves all of those things.. Brenda, Tina & Tom, Jane and I have just come back from riding smashing Icelandic ponies for a week, following the herd and toltng speedily along. Should have a couple of good photos in next month's newsletter.

Stuff that's happened...

Weekend Fun Camp

This was a brilliant weekend as always, we had a few new faces which was nice to see. Most of us camped and corralled which made it a really good social event as well as fun with horses.

Saturday started with a ground work demo from Brenda. Joules has written her thoughts on the sessin.....

When I first saw Online Demonstration on the agenda for camp my first thought was "How will we all fit around a PC in the middle of a field, and what will we be watching?" Such was my knowledge of Online horsemanship!

Brenda started off with a pretty impressive demo of how to ask your horse by just using a long line (AHA ! That type of line!), and her voice to move in an outline, under no stress just on the end of a rope.

Most impressive was that he would move away or towards her by the very lightest of touch .I may be wrong but I see this as a cross over between natural horsemanship and Parelli, in that you work with your horse and how they respond to your body language. Brenda's help, advice and patience really came into its own with my own stroppey gelding later on in the day, and it all made sense, without getting stressed out and using my body language and breathing , she helped me settle him down after he became anxious when his field mate and "Bestie" went out of sight.

Another amazing sight was to see her little mare Summer just lie down when asked too, and Brenda sat next to her, but my heart was stolen that day by Elvis, Brenda's handsome donkey, whom she has been training, his party piece was to pop himself up onto a tree stump and stand there....to me, this showed what can happen when you build up a relationship of trust and mutual respect.

Thank you Brenda for really opening my eyes and giving me lots to think about with my horse.





After coffee it was time for the treasure hunt – everyone was put into pairs and off they went following a set of directions and looking for the answers to given clues. Here is Jo's account - *My partner was Wendy on Bert. The people who didn't know the area we were partnered with those familiar with the area. Wendy, being an endurance competitor, went off at a high speed, Spangle wondered what hit him, he's never trotted so far on Tarmac, however, we stuck with Bert who's a good two hands bigger. The route was great a couple of canters and a log to jump as well!!! The clues were easily seen from horseback. I've got to say we made a good pair, winning the event. Thank you Brenda and Tanya as I love treasure hunts on foot, car and now on horseback. I look forward to the next one.*

After lunch everyone could have a practice going over the jumps and have a try at the obstacles in preparation for the obstacle dressage

We had a brilliant BBQ in the evening, thank you to Brenda's husband Bill and grandson Will for doing the catering. Followed by some daft games which had everyone laughing. The After Eight game and picking a box up with your teeth created some rather marvelous photo opportunities!



Sunday morning started with a soothing, stretching yoga session provided by Tina's friend Anya. Over an hour of calm relaxation... Bliss. Some of us could even be heard snoring by the end 😊

Wendy updates on the next activity...

After a chance to practice the obstacle dressage on Saturday and some calming yoga on Sunday morning we all rushed to tack up for the 'obstacle dressage'. For some of us this took but a few minutes but for others copious amounts of grooming and even some tack cleaning seemed to be needed!

A few of us had tried to learn the route but after the fun and games the night before we were a little woolly! Help was available.... a caller!

Our fierce judges, Brenda and Tanya, solemnly watched our efforts, whispering comments to each other and scribbling notes on their clipboards, however everyone was given encouraging applause on completion!

Hopefully we weren't too scary!! It was great to see everyone's performances and how an obstacle that one partnership would find easy could cause problems for others. This was followed by the Control of Paces....Walking as quickly as

possible along a measured section. Then turning round and cantering as slowly as possible back to the start. Points were awarded depending on how fast/slow you went.

And the final event of the day was the 'find your own line jumping'. We had set up fences of various difficulty and each fence was allocated a number of points. Everyone had one minute to jump as many as they could within that time, accruing points for each fence that they jumped. Jane comments: *Sterling performances from Wendy on Burt, Alex and Twiz and Jo with her speedy Sparkle pony was followed by a hilarious on foot display from other Jo including refusals! And a ventilator needed for Jane and Ashley who had to jump as many as possible on line!!*

After totting up all the points we had the final presentation before everyone packed up and wended their merry way home. It was a close run competition with top three results as follows - Wendy and Burt were the overall winners having a particularly strong Obstacle dressage. Joules and Archie came second with a steady performance and Jo and Spangle third with a good jumping result. Well done and thank you to everyone that came along and made it such a good weekend



22nd June - Steve Halfpenny light hands equitation clinic

This was a really good day with loads of improvements made. Six of us rode in two sets of three so each of us got a good amount of time with Steve. We started the day with some groundwork, some issues with respecting space and following the feel appeared and were corrected. We worked on back up, moving off right and left and turn on the haunches all without coming forward or crowding. We also worked on our circles, pushing the hind off the circle, then the front end.

After a lunch break we mounted up and started with short serpentines, encouraging natural softness and lateral flexion. Worked through some shoulder in/out on a circle, onto a figure eight really focusing on pushing the hind out, sideways movement changing bend, moving the other hind ...no tension in the reins.. soft and supple... well, that's the aim! As Steve says 'every time you want to pull, ask yourself, what could you do instead?'

Steve clearly demonstrates what we are looking to achieve and has a hands on approach. He rode all our horses and we saw immediate improvement... if only they stayed that way when we remounted 😊

Would definitely recommend you come along to spectate at the clinic next year if you get the chance.



Endurance Team - The Piddle Ride

Four of the Wessex/GVRC endurance team went to the Piddle Ride on 3rd July. Hannah has an update.

The Wessex Wanderers had a wonderful jaunt around the Piddle ride last weekend. Brenda and Summer, Wendy and Bert, Tina and Marmite and Rolo and I all enjoyed ourselves enormously as we belted around the beautiful countryside, through crops up to our knees, looking out at amazing views.

From an entirely selfish point of view, it was our best event yet. Rolo had finally figured out that there was nothing sinister in the offing and that all you had to do was bound along for a few hours (easy peasy), have a drink and a rest (hardly a hardship), then talk nicely to the vet without getting your knickers in a twist (trickier). Job done, Grade 2, thank you very much. Finally he has redeemed himself and proved to be a worthwhile member of the team.

Back to the rest of the team: Brenda and Summer set the bar with a stonking Grade 1, Rolo got his Grade 2, Marmite and Tina a Grade 3 and Wendy and Bert, despite as good a ride as the rest of us, had a setback at the final vetting and got a completion. It just goes to show that it all hinges on that final heart rate and that the slightest spook can set the heart rocketing.

Now it is onwards to the next event at Barbary in August where, hopefully, we will be up to our full quota of riders and be fielding two teams: bring it on!

Thursday 7th July - Pub/Pizza social

We all had a jolly good ride out to the Kings Head at Fritham on Thurs 7th. Most of us met up at the cricket pitch at Godshill and made our way to the pub. We arrived to find Jo and Spangle were already there, she said she could hear us all chatting from miles away!!

The pub very kindly let us tie the ponies in the little paddock at the back which made life a lot easier. Sarah and Polo soon arrived at speed (no change there!) and Alison and Jane came on four wheels.

Once everyone had settled down Tina collected the pizzas which she had pre-ordered for us and the pub had kept warm in their ovens. I had goats cheese and broad bean and it was deeeelicious. And even better Sarah had brought home made brownies ... scrumptious.



Pizzas finished and drinks emptied we all remounted on the green and headed off homewards together. It was a beautiful evening and the views from Hampton Ridge were fantastic ... Another good GVRC event.

Reminder of the next couple of things coming up...

31st July Fun Day at Brenda's fields, Burgate Cross

Including jumping & Horse Agility

This is a come and have a go day... No pressure, no competition, just for the fun of it.

A small show jumping course will be available as well as a selection of obstacles to challenge yourselves with. Just bring your lunch and spend a couple of hours having fun with your horse.

Only £10. To book in contact Brenda pootlin@hotmail.com or me sunshine.gardens@yahoo.co.uk

Trip to Olympia in December????(14th - 18th)

We thought it would be great to do a winter social trip somewhere and Olympia has been suggested?? Horses, fun, food, shopping with a bunch of horsey friends... sound good??? So, who would be interested in going? Or does anyone have any other ideas for a trip??? Please let me know asap and we can sort out hiring a minibus/coach... More details in next newsletter.



The Tack Shop

If you have anything horse related; tack, rugs, boots, trailers, ponies! that you want to sell/loan/buy let me know and it will be included in the newsletter. If you can send me photos even better.

NOTHING THIS TIME...

Remember if you have ANYTHING you would like included in the next newsletter; fun things you have done, ideas, photos, etc. Just send it to me at the email below... ... have you been hunting, dressage training, pony clubbing anything at all...

Happy Riding



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