

Gorley Vale Riding Club Newsletter

September 2024

Hi Everybody!!

Many apologies for the lack of a Newsletter in August. Life has a habit of getting in the way and being a little challenging at times! I hope this one makes up for it...

Happy reading!



Stuff that's happened...

Friday 28th to Sunday 30th June - Summer Camp at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

We had a great turnout at camp this year and even welcomed some newbies. Vanessa Kidby was one of these and she kindly agreed to do a write up on her experience:

"This time last year my chunky cob Storm and I were only just getting to know each other and neither of us could even contemplate going along to the Gorley Vale Summer Camp. It had been decades since I was riding regularly, and Storm had been a field ornament (or should I say potato as he was decidedly tubby) for a long while with his previous owner. Things felt different this year. We have developed a good bond and Storm is now much fitter, so I decided to be brave and go along.



After our initial camp meeting where Andrew welcomed us all (and reassured those of us who might be feeling some trepidation), we set off in groups of two or three for the Treasure Hunt. By chance our group, the Barefoot Babes, all had unshod ponies. I rode Storm in Flexboots on the fronts, Cherie rode Libs in Scoots and Clare rode Jip barefoot. The clues took us along Flood Street to Long Steeple Lane, a track which runs between Whitsbury and Breamore land. We initially missed the gate onto green hill and went further than we should before

realising our mistake. None of us minded however, as it was great to ride somewhere different. For me, it was a real trip down memory lane as I grew up in Breamore and often rode along the track as a girl on borrowed ponies and later on my loan pony Gina, a chestnut mare with occasionally challenging ideas. We arrived back at camp, having completed all the clues and had lunch while the ponies had a break.

The afternoon was hot and sunny, and it was lovely sitting in the sunshine watching the Working Equitation sessions with instructor Charlotte Hughes. I felt a little bit nervous when it was time to saddle up Storm as I didn't know what he would make of it all, but I needn't have worried. We both had fun and he took it all in his stride - and we even managed the rope gate! We rounded off the afternoon by piling into cars and going for a swoosh in the river which was a perfect way to cool off.



We all had a delicious BBQ in the evening and even us veggies were well catered for. There was then wine, silly games around the firepit and some pretty suspect dancing to 80's disco to round the day off. I spent a cosy night in my tent, but ultimately the hard ground and Pilates mat I had brought to sleep on outdid me and I went home at daybreak for a nap!

Sunday began with the pole and jumping sessions with Trudi. Whilst waiting for our group's turn, we busied ourselves with making hobby horses. The committee had provided us with everything we needed, (bar the sock and the skills) to create them for the children's hospice where there will be a fund-raising hobby horse race and auction. The outcome was varied and brilliant and - like our real ponies - all very unique. By mid-morning, it was time for Storm and I to do poles and jumping. We began by trotting the poles and learning the course in two halves. We then trotted the complete course and finally jumped the course. It was a lot of jumps and I thought Storm might conk out mid-way, but he did me proud. I appreciated the instruction from Trudi and the tip to shorten my stirrups and close my fingers more.

After lunch, Gina Hemmings gave us a talk and then a practical lesson on our ponies on Equilates. As a long-term Pilates practitioner, it was great to see how I could bring this into my riding. With the aid of a symmetry training jacket, we were able to see if we sat correctly. Gina showed me that I sit a little crooked and that by bringing my right hip forward I would achieve better symmetry in the saddle (and consequently stop it slipping). We focussed on our breathing, soft eyes and a gentle connection with one's pony which was a really lovely way to end the ridden part of camp.

We concluded with a delicious cream tea, rosettes and closing speech from Andrew thanking all the people who had made the camp such a success, especially Brenda who had allowed us all to come to her fields. To top it off our team came second in the Treasure Hunt and Storm got a beautiful blue rosette. It was really such a brilliant weekend, and I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming and encouraging. I never imagined I would be doing anything like this a year or so ago!"



Saturday 13th July - Breakfast Gathering at The Horse & Groom, Woodgreen

This turned out to be another successful, relaxed and social GVRC event, reported on by our Chairman, Andrew:

"As a nervous rider, I was slightly anxious but excited to do my first spider ride on my new boy. Nikki Porter, Cherie Lane and Claire Isaac looked after me and I had a blast riding in an unfamiliar part of the forest for me. Artie was a star and took it all in his stride. The ride there and back was beautiful. This was another example of why belonging to such a supportive club means so much to me. Everyone wants the best for you, they look out for you and do not judge.

We had our usual warm welcome from the Horse & Groom team, who presented us with lovely breakfast baps and tea and coffee. It was a real social event with a good turnout. We made our way back to Godshill. The weather up until this point had been fabulous but five minutes before we got back to our trailers, the heavens opened and Nikki and I got soaked but we'd had a fab time!!"



Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 21st August - Jumping Clinic at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

Thanks to all those members who braved these jumping clinics with our lovely instructor, Trudi. Judging from the pics on facebook, everyone seemed to have a fab time - smiles all round! Well done Alex for organising.

Stuff that's happening...

Sunday 15th September - Horse & Hound Competition at Brenda's Fields, Burgate

Come along to this fun event, starting at 10am. Complete a round of obstacles with your horse and then do a round with your dog. If you don't have a dog, we can lend you one!. As usual, it's all very low key. I seem to remember that at the last one we did, Andrew did a great round on Trooper, only for Roscoe to disappear halfway round the course to go and noise up Brenda's poor donkey! Don't worry, he is not on offer. The cost is £10 per person (Ref: Horse & Hound) and the contact is Brenda (pootlin@hotmail.com).

Sunday 22nd September - Tack Sale at Ibsley Village Hall

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Tack Sale has unfortunately been postponed. New date yet to be confirmed.

Saturday 26th October - Spooky Halloween Gathering at 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. As usual, fancy dress is encouraged and I am sure there will be a prize for the best spooky attire!

Spooky soup and evil cakes (i.e. calorie laden!) provided. The cost is £8 per person (Ref: Halloween). Contact Debbie (debjcooke16@gmail.com) to book your place.

Further events in the pipeline for September/October include a possible gridwork clinic with new instructor Aimee Dovey and a drill flatwork clinic with Nikki Green. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details.

Future dates for your diary...

- Thursday 7th November - AGM at The Horse & Groom, Woodgreen
- Saturday 7th December - Xmas Ride at The Fighting Cocks, Godshill

And finally...

NEW GVRC COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED!

Our AGM is fast approaching and, having done our bit, Andrew (Chairperson), Cherie (Secretary & Membership Secretary) and myself (Committee member and newsletter writer) will be stepping down this year. We all plan to continue supporting the club, but it's time for change!! So come on guys - are you willing to put yourself forward to keep our great club going? Please contact us if you want any further details.

HAPPY AUTUMNAL RIDING!

Sharon x

Bank details for payments are: 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!!!