

Dates for your diary:

Next Year 2021 to be announced

Remember

- Wash your hands
- Stay Safe
- Make Space.
- Please help protect our NHS

October 2020

Newsletter

Wessex Riding Club

Welcome to the WRC newsletter

As I write this the cooler days and darker nights are looming in on us! And of course the clocks went back, which means winter is upon us. Where did the summer go? It seems as though we have all been hanging around waiting, not quite sure for what but summer has left and suddenly we face winter without any warning. This has been a very strange year and promises to be a difficult winter, so I am pleased that we all have something in common, our horses!

I am delighted to report that the 'Day Camp' as a measure of making do with the access we had has worked really well and I have added some reports on the day's experience from several viewpoints for you all to enjoy. Let's hope we can organise some more and get our online dressage up and running to give us all some goals.

I have been contacted by several members with items that they would like to see added so this letter is a bit of a catch up of all these as well. But my first item is one that I hope everyone takes to heart.

There is an app available called What3words; its free and you should download it to your phones.

Heres why;

'Please can you share with our members how useful it is to have the "What Three Words App" on your mobile if you are going out riding. Unfortunately, I recently had cause to discover first-hand how fantastic this App actually is. I found myself in the very frightening position of being involved in an accident out on the forest where it was difficult to describe to the emergency services exactly where we were. My riding companion came off her horse and had a suspected broken pelvis. Although this happened somewhere I ride often, I really did not know how to describe the location to the emergency



services and to make matters worse, we were also somewhere inaccessible to ambulances. Thankfully my injured companion had the **WhatThreeWords** App on her phone so we were able to give the 999 call handler our three words (I can't remember exactly what our words were, but I know one of them was "Sparkle"!). When the air ambulance arrived (as pictured above) it flew directly to the scene of the accident, then circled around for a few moments to find somewhere nearby that was suitable to land.

The paramedics were clearly pleased that we had used the three words app as they said this had made the job of finding us so much easier. They also praised us both for wearing High Viz and said this always helps them with their searches. I am very pleased to report that although

concussed, very bruised and shocked, nothing was actually broken and my friend is now recovering well'.

If you are unfamiliar with this app then here is a little guide to finding it! The app has divided the world into 3 metre squares and given each one a unique identifier made from the words.

You can find very handy step by step instructions on how to use the app at <http://what3words.com>

Next up, Shelley has given us an insight to her experience at one of our 1 Day Camp events at RDA that we ran earlier in October.

Day Camp recollections.

Despite my trepidation about the terrible weather forecast and expecting to be out in the rain for the whole day, Truly and I had a fabulous day out at the Day Camp on Sunday 4th Oct.

Firstly, we had a pole work lesson with Trudi in the outdoor school. It was a little bit drizzly but that did not put us off and Trudi soon had us trotting around over lots of poles without crashing into them as if we knew what we were doing. By the end of the session we progressed to raised poles which really was quite an achievement because we definitely did not know what we were doing beforehand! I really enjoyed the lesson and think Truly did too - she clearly had to think about what she was doing with her feet and seemed to enjoy the challenge.

Next came the demo jumping lesson with Lorna on her lovely Leyla with Trudi instructing. Although jumping is not something I am interested in doing myself, I found this lesson really interesting as Trudi explained the links to the pole work which I had just been doing. It was also great that she knew Lorna and Leyla so well and could explain why they were doing what they were doing, what they had been working on recently and what the horse and rider found difficult and what they found easy.

After a hearty portion of fish and chips which the RDA cat was determined to share with me, we watched a lunge demo with Sarah instructing Hazel riding Lorna's daughter's horse. I had thought a lunge demo would

involve Sarah teaching Hazel how to stand in the middle with a lunge whip and make the horse go around her but it actually appeared to be training to join the circus! No reins, standing up in stirrups - I do not know where Hazel found the energy. I was exhausted just watching - although it looked like really good fun and I would definitely like to have a go myself if I had the opportunity - and the energy.

Next, Truly and I had a flatwork lesson in the indoor arena. Luckily for us we had just stepped indoors when the heavens opened and it really poured down for the first time of the day. Sarah seems to have got my measure - this was the second lesson I have had with her having been to the previous day camp - so she put us through our paces and gave me some really helpful tips and advice about staying in balance in left canter. I went away feeling that I had learned a lot and enthusiastic to practice some of the exercises I had been given.

I loaded my very tired Truly into her trailer and drove her home feeling extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to share such a fantastic day out with my gorgeous horse, my lovely riding club friends and that the rain had (mostly) held off.

Shelley.



A contribution has come in from Nancy Buchanan and with Christmas coming we could all do our bit with stamp collections!

'Many of you will know that I collect used stamps and old foreign coins for the World Veterinary Service. Last week I took a large bag collected by members throughout the

last year or so over to their Bookshop in Cranbourne. They are always delighted to receive them!

This is a local charity which supports horses and other animals all over the world trying to educate their owners in Veterinary care and Farrier skills so they can care for their animals better. We did have a visit from them a few years ago which was interesting but quite sad in some ways. So, if you would like to help and collect used stamps and old coins please keep them for me and hopefully at some time we will be able to meet as a club and I can take them. If you get lots of Christmas cards, please keep the stamps!!

Also, if you like books they have a second hand bookshop in Cranbourne with many fiction, children's books and non-fiction books at really good prices. She is not taking in books at the moment! Its open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and is just down the road from Cranbourne garden Centre (where you can park)
The garden centre also does good coffee!'

Thankyou Nancy.

Some more feedback from one of our October day camp experiences, this time Hazel, an insight on meeting Beebop for the first time and their journey that day.

How excited I was to meet BEEBOP for the first time, I was a little nervous but Lorna said I would be fine so I tacked her up and on I got.. well with her first steps I knew she was going to look after me. Our first lesson was with her stable mate Leyla and owner Lorna, our instructor was Sarah (who I have lessons at her riding stables in Fovant). We worked on getting to know each other while going through all the movement's in prelim 2 and 14 so Lorna could practice for her event the following week. It really builds your confidence riding different horses. I find that each horse teaches me something new ;-)

Then it was demo time I find time on the lunge helps me to work on my position without worrying what the horse is doing and as Lorna had said what a poppet Beebop is, I thought let's do it and have an audience too!! Sarah lunged her for a few minutes to check she was happy with lunging gear and whip, after a few

minutes Sarah said she would be fine, so I got on with no reins!! BEEBOP was amazing, it was like she was an old hand ;-) we worked in all three paces with my arms outstretched and up in the air. In a short space of time I had started to move with her and could really tell the difference between left and right rein (even though I didn't have any reins) when you have no reins you can't balance yourself through your hands it has to be done with your seat and core!! I loved every minute of the day camp and can't wait till the next one ;-)



Not bad for a first date is it?

Some more feedback from Maggie Gill who has attended Day camp and competed recently at Crofton

Hi,

I have been lucky and have had two very nice outings in the last few weeks due being involved with the Wessex group. Firstly, on the 4th October I attended the day camp on my young pony Ruby. The weather wasn't great and the numbers were low, but I had a super time with one to one sessions with both Sarah and Trudy. My pony went really well it was a good experience for her. Also enjoyed watching Lorna being put through her jumping paces on her lovely horse, and Hazel being made to suffer on the lunge. No pain, no gain.

Thank you to the committee for running the day.

My next outing was on the 17th at Crofton in the Riding Club Dressage Qualifier. It was Robert's turn

to strut his stuff. We were riding Novice 27 which is actually more difficult than I thought as it has two lots of half circles to the centre line and back again, which I found surprisingly difficult to ride. Anyway, he was a total star and rose to the challenge scoring 68.75 and being placed. I was beyond delighted with him, he has had a tough year and this was his first proper competition for about 9 months. Thank you Wessex for making it possible for us to go.

Our pleasure Maggie and congratulations – see you next year for more of the same!



Maggie with Robert.

The next item came winging its way to my email and I thought it might be of interest.

Hi All,

I am a long term (20 years plus) member of Chilworth, and I wonder if you would be kind enough to forward this letter and the attached flyer to your members please.

A good friend and I recently started Loungersclothing Ltd, producing supremely soft, organic brushed cotton trousers that are both ethical and versatile. Our website address is <https://loungersclothing.com/>

We would like to offer Loungers to Area 17 Riding Club members, with 10% discount to members (and Club officials!), and 5% of sales donated to the Club, using the code **RIDINGCLUB** when prompted

online, and including the Club's name in their surname box – eg Leabeater Chilworth

Loungers are made from organic brushed cotton. Our labels are made from recycled cotton, containing wild-flower seeds and are designed to be planted, not thrown away! Our buttons are made from a natural material, Corozo, sustainably produced and providing an income for Ecuadorian farmers, rather than plastic. The packaging is all recyclable, even the tissue paper - as it is printed with soya ink.

Kind regards *Deborah Leabeater*

Dear members if this offer appeals to you, your Riding Club number appears on your membership card or just email me and I can tell you what it is.

We are coming round to that time of the year when the AGM should be in our sights. I feel sad that we had such a great evening last year, I fear a gathering of such numbers will not be permissible this year so it is our intention to send everyone a newsletter during November with an AGM report, voting slips and a full breakdown of club activity and proposals for next year.

If you would like to join the committee full details will be outlined and we are always looking for new members. Our club membership is down on last year which doesn't come as a surprise I know but hopefully we have done enough to retain your support and engagement for 2021 despite these difficult times.

I have also been made aware that BRC will be increasing their fees as insurance costs have soared. It comes at a bad time as everyone is looking at costs and tightening their belts, mind you we will discuss our proposal within the committee and send out our deliberations on the way forward.

Take care everyone and we will be in touch soon, I know lockdown will be hard but we will come through this and we look forward to seeing everyone in the very near future.

Best wishes to all and stay safe.

Janet (And the WRC Committee)

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