

Dates for your diary:

30th August 2020 at RDA Wilton  
Ride, Coach, Ride Dressage  
Places still available.  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 Day Camp  
Remember

- Wash your hands
- Stay Alert
- Keep the 'two metre' if possible  
one metre if not social distance
- Protect our NHS
- Save lives

# AUGUST

## Newsletter

### Wessex Riding Club

I am delighted to report that our first event at RDA this year went really well, and the feedback from some of those who took part has been very positive. It's been a long wait to get back to some sort of normality although with differing levels of intervention and lockdown I suspect we may be in for a challenging winter!

I wanted to welcome two new additions to our membership, Marie and Madeline who joined us in July. I am really delighted to see that we are getting new members when our year has, to date, been so restricted. Let's hope we can do some group activity soon so that we can all share our horsey passions, trials and tribulations. I miss our evening Talk and Chats because it was always a chance to learn something new and meet with likeminded folk. Hopefully we will be in a position to start these again in the near future.

With that in mind are there any topics or areas of interest that you would like to put on the agenda for planning in the future? The range of topics has been wide in the past,

I particularly enjoyed the talk given by the historian Robert Lloyd who talked to us about his project and passion 'the War Horses at Purton, near Swindon'. I took a stroll around the village some time ago, two summers ago and just as we were told, there was not a sign there of what had gone on in the First World War.

Hundreds of horses were re-trained and sent to the front; loved horses who had spent their early lives working on farms or being ridden in the local hunt were commandeered by a team from the ministry and

purchased to become part of the War machine. Many horses had come from far away, transported by train to the local station and walked by the ladies of the village to Mr Robson's yard.



*'I see no ships mum'* Part of our pleasure ride gallery photos range.

Mr Robson aided by his sons, in Purton were recognized as experts in the re-training of naughty horses so it became a centre for schooling. I still have my laminated brown label that tells me that 'Horse No R87 Brown gelding from Veterinary Hospital Swaythling was sent to Robson's Retraining Establishment Purton'. Under Remarks on the tag this horse was noted 'For Training - Dangerous'. Very few ever returned and the memorial

that Robert had managed to have constructed was hidden from view because of redevelopment of the buildings and grounds of the Pear Tree Hotel that it had been placed in. I believe this had been the site or very close to the original Robson Yard.

I remember being very disappointed, but I think I might go and have a look and see if it has resurfaced?

If you come across a topic or story let me know and we can see what can be arranged. Either we can pop an article together or arrange a Talk and Chat programme wish list for the future.

I referred to Dressage tests by video in the last newsletter. Having discussed this further with the committee, we feel this is a good way forward along with the Ride Coach Ride, as these are activities that we can manage safely. It also means that we can take part without having to worry about travel and social distancing constraints. I and the team are on the case, keep an eye out for further details!

Going back to the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 event, it was a great start at long last! The places for this were snapped up quickly and it went really well, with the exception of Monty and I, we parted company in the warm up arena so never made it to the coaching stage!!

The next event is booked for **30<sup>th</sup> August 2020** so please register your interest and book if you want to compete. Again, I can only apologise that we are limited to 12 spaces. Feedback from those who took part last time is that it was very worthwhile and the judge was kind to all! Ali is ready and waiting for your bookings.

Refer to Website for entry form and go to Ali at the usual email address

[wrcdressage@gmail.com](mailto:wrcdressage@gmail.com)

**Below is an update from Lorna regarding the Day Camp booked at RDA for 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 if you wish to book a slot email her immediately and she will give you a booking form**

*Dear Members,*

*We are delighted to confirm that we have arranged a day camp at the RDA on the 23rd August.*

*We are hoping this will be a regular activity for our summer events and although we have had to scale it back a little with wanting to keep everybody safe and well, we hope you will find it fun as well as informative.*

*We will be using both the indoor and outdoor school and there will be an hour's flat work lesson (indoors) and an hour's pole (non jumping ) or grid work (jumping) lesson outdoors. Please ensure you indicate on the booking form whether you want to jump or not.*

*Trudi and Sarah are our instructors for the day and you will have a lesson with each instructor. There will be a chance for rest, relaxation, chat and lunch in-between your two lessons (Covid restrictions permitted).*

*Places are strictly limited for riders. Non - riders are more than welcome to join us at lunch time for fish and chips, chat, Pilates for riders and demos by our instructors but again numbers will be limited.*

**Costs are:**

*£10 non rider including lunch*

*£60 riding including lunch, 2 x 1 hour lesson*

**Example timetable**

*10-11am lesson flatwork (indoor)*

*11.30 Pilates for riders (optional)*

*12pm lunch (fish and chips), social time and demo 1 by instructor*

*12.30pm demo 2 by instructor*

*1-2pm lesson gridwork (outdoor)*

**Booking**

*Please find further details on the booking form attached, places will be allocated on a first come first served bases. Send completed forms to [lorna\\_roger@hotmail.com](mailto:lorna_roger@hotmail.com).*

### **Payment**

*Please make payment at time of booking by BACS, please use reference DC.*

*Lorna\_roger@hotmail.com*



Someone had other ideas of pleasure!

I wanted just to remind everyone that Equine Flu rules are back on the agenda and it would appear that, unless further relaxation is applied, we are now looking at vaccination every six months so bear that in mind when booking events.

Another point that was raised to consider is Micro Chipping. In June 2018 the new law on Microchipping horses, ponies and mules was passed by the government, with a two year leeway. The act comes into full force in October 2020. Costs for Microchipping can vary but are typically around £25 - £30. Those who don't abide by the

regulation are in danger of fines in region of £200, so why wouldn't you get it done? If you sell your horse once the full regulations are in place you need to contact Equine Control who run the Equine database to ensure the transfer is completed at their end. It's certainly worth taking a look at their site and registering your account.

There is a verification process which ensures that you are who you say you are and this will require you doing a very similar process to Identification verification at your bank and building society.

See [equineregister.co.uk/home](http://equineregister.co.uk/home)

Last week we heard some very sad news from our long standing member Sally, who lost Bertie a few weeks ago.

All of our thoughts go out to you Sally and I am sure I can speak for all the members who send their best wishes to you and the family.

Sally has asked us to help her find a new perfect partner and sent me a wish list so here it is:

### **WANTED**

Quality Middleweight Gelding up to 16.2hh  
Gelding with plenty of bone. Ideally between 6 – 10 years. Must be absolute gentleman to hunt and happy to be at the back of the field with the non-jumpers. 100% in traffic, vice free and, importantly, easy to load (trailer). Good to hack alone and in company. To live in or out.

In the summer, he will enjoy going to a party whether it is a sponsored ride, local dressage competition or riding club event. Having fun priority, not winning.

Wonderful, experienced home for life and field companion awaits the right horse.  
Please call Sally Newman on 078064 88168  
or email [sally.newman99@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.newman99@btinternet.com)



Please contact Sally direct if you have any information or better still a horse that fits this wish list.

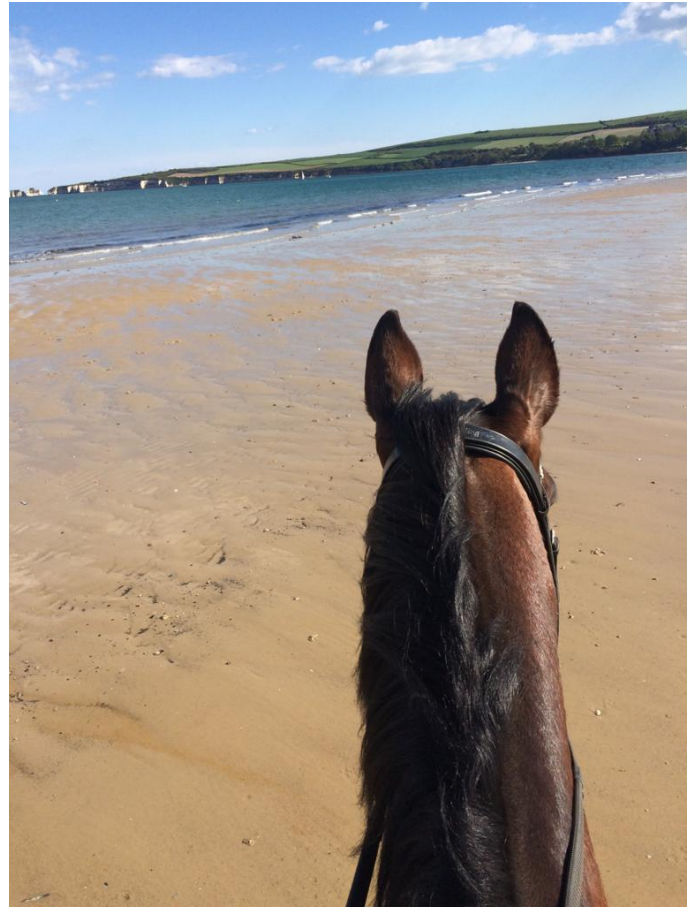
***Janet***

And the WRC Committee

Email [janetbower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janetbower@tiscali.co.uk)

For all Dressage event queries and enquiries / Ride Coach  
Ride interest please send your emails to

Email to : [wrcdressage@gmail.com](mailto:wrcdressage@gmail.com)



*'Mum, I still see no ships!'*