

No dates at present on the calendar BUT important do's for today and onwards:

- Wash your hands
- Stay Alert
- Keep the 'two metre' social distance
- Protect our NHS
- Save lives

As its been said many times – we will get through this xx

Well at least things have started to move forward for us and our riding experiences, small steps albeit cautious ones! I sincerely hope that you are all in good health and that your families are safe. We are starting to see the light at what has been a rather dark tunnel. From the daily press briefings to the gloom news it's been a very difficult time and perhaps we must be very thankful for the fact that the South West has got off so lightly in comparison to other parts of the country, but as they keep reminding us 'Stay Alert' and keep that social distancing two metre space.

At the time of writing this newsletter plans are afoot to start doing some club activities starting off with an event in July but we are awaiting sign off from the RDA. I would ask that everyone keeps an eager eye on the website and Facebook. The idea is to run a Ride Test Ride event which will adhere to all the precautions and social distancing rules but allow those who take part to get back into the saddle and compete in a dressage environment – with themselves! The idea being to ride a selected test, spend time with the judge discussing where tweeks (and in my case improvement !!!) can be made and then get back on and do it all again, going home with a rosette, a feedback sheet with judges comments and a certificate of participation and of course a smile. The tests for this are as follows:

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Wessex Riding Club

- Intro A
- Prelim 1
- Novice 22

Sorry, but we will not be able to offer DTM

Once we have clearance from RDA we will make that known, then anyone is interested to contact Ali at wrcdressage@gmail.com.

It is proposed that this event will take place on Sunday 26th July 2020. Again, please keep your eyes on Website and Facebook pages.

Likewise training on a limited scale is being discussed and news will be forthcoming as soon as we can get clearance. If you are interested and eager to know what is in line for us why not email Catherine directly, I know she is very keen to start but we must respect the venue owners at this time as there is a great deal at stake if we get ahead of ourselves.

Faulkner_catherine@hotmail.com

I am delighted to confirm that since our last newsletter catch up, Wessex Riding Club is now the very proud 'Adoption Parent' of four very lovely, hard working ponies from the RDA at Wilton. I have asked the adoption team to give me some background on these four, so news will follow, but in the meantime I would ask you to do a little something for the future of these four and all the

ponies at RDA! I have attached a document which will get you doing a 'Blue Peter' and reliving your childhood or maybe a first for some of that 'sticky back plastic' and making an RDA moneybox to collect that loose change. Enjoy the assembly of your tin, any small standard size beer or soft drink can, it won't matter! the instructions appear at the end of this newsletter, so happy sticking.

It's been a challenging time for all of us, I have heard tales from many of you so thought I would relay, with previous permission I assure you, a rather humorous tale from Trish – she sent me pictures to illustrate her frustration at her ponies behavior, which made me smile as normally she is the essence of 'Calmness and Tranquility' when she appears at the dressage competitions – to me it means there is hope for us all!

This exchange started when I had asked her for some feedback on how things were going and what she was up to....

"What I haven't told you is I agreed to take on a new pony at the 'end of the winter' which of course got confused with the lock down, hence my new pony has been with us now for one week only. She is just for hacking and possible slowish hunting (if we ever get to go hunting again?) I sold my lovely grey Conni Finn half way through the lock down !! (quite an achievement, the deal was all settled mid-March but then fell through). 'Not the right time to be getting a new pony etc.'

Then, they contacted me back in mid-April only to tell me that they still wanted him and without much ado arrangements were made and all of a sudden he was gone! Sad really, I had had him for 8 years, he was a lovely, friendly, fun loving pony but a bit too 'fun loving' and after having bucked me off once too often, I decided he needed a fresh start with a younger family.

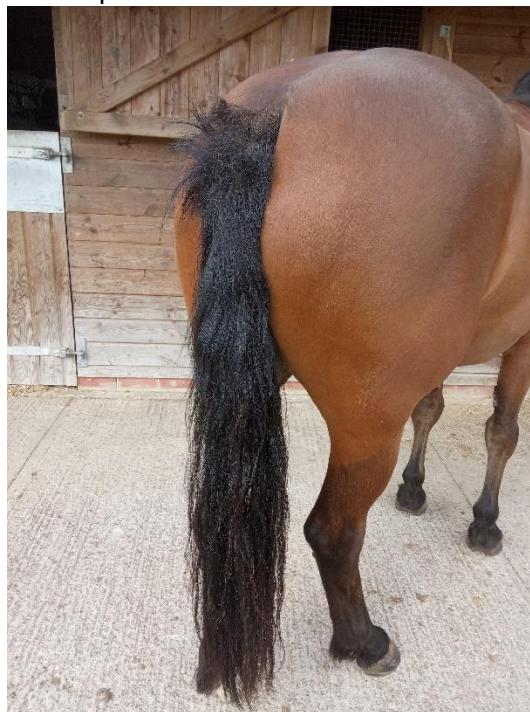
Being of an advanced age, I like my ponies to be well mannered and hopefully good at dressage !!

Hence most of the week has been spent introducing 'Annie' to 'Percy', persuading them to live in fields next door to each other, without kicking ten bells of s*** out of each other! Trying not to get too fat, as have they have more grass than they have ever had, neither pony has done anything since March 23rd, so I'm trying to persuade them to work on the lunge without zooming round like rodeos, fat, unfit, and under worked etc.

I am already getting exhausted!

I am also trying to sort out my garden and spring clean the house, on the basis of ' if it's not done now it will never be done '!!! So actually progress is going to be slow! hence I don't really feel up to the job of sending you anything useable !

Not sure about you but it made me smile? I see many things in this mini rant that are remarkably familiar. Thank you for sharing that Trish and see below the trials and tribulations of being a pony at Trish's place



Percy badly in need of a trip to the hairdressers, just like the rest of us?



I have to admit that my own time under lockdown has been fairly stress free. I have managed to keep busy. Much to the amusement of my long -suffering other half I actually washed my car! made several sets of curtains from fabric that have been living in a cupboard for over two years. (in the case of my daughter's request two years ago, finally finished her kitchen window curtains) Made my first Roman Blind!

But, thanks to a very helpful yard at Grovely I have managed to ride Monty two or three times a week in the small school arena and have ventured out for a walk in the woods once or twice.

As the heat intensified it came round to big decisions on clipping – I have always kept Monty blanket clipped in summer leaving his legs as I felt that he should keep his feathers, to my mind part of his heritage as a Cob, plus it suited him.

When I first bought him back in the winter of 2015 he came over from Ireland with a hogged mane and despite many warnings from numerous 'experts', I persevered and grew the mane out as I wanted him to have that natural fly swish and of course to look splendid. Bless him, he puts up with a lot of brushing and bathing!

Well the time came and following a bout of itchy feather mites which needed day to day attention (*Vet recommendation: Lime Sulphur and pig oil which did the trick but its heavy duty on time and effort and very regular*

daily inspection) I took the plunge and allowed the yard to strip him bare. I stood and watched as Cam clipped and I must admit I think Monty was smiling all the way through as you can see below at the half-way stage. The result was quite amazing as he looked splendid (I am slightly biased here I must admit but the crew at the yard have all commented on what a different horse we have) and he has certainly been a very happy bunny since. So, it just goes to show sometimes change is good?

Picture of Monty half-way through his ordeal!



Its all gone now and he looks very smart!

Recently , Shelley was contacted by Colin Draper and his wife Louise. Louise was a member of the club several years ago but has had to stop due to poor health problems – we obviously wish her well and I am delighted she thought of us. They are searching for a puppy they specifically wish to buy a Springer Spaniel bitch, if anyone knows of a forthcoming litter in the area – or maybe some distance away! can you let me know as they are finding this search surprisingly hard. If anyone has any ideas can

you email or text me and I will make sure the information is passed on or alternatively if you don't mind Colin getting in touch directly please let me know and I will pass across your information.

Whilst writing this it crossed my mind that other members may have notices, sales or wish lists – please let me have yours if you wish them to be printed in the next newsletter. I can either release your name and contact details or get the response email sent to our mailbox and directed to you.

Two of the RDA ponies Binky and March we have adopted



British Equestrian Trade Association Covid 19 sign

2 **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
Stay safe, keep others safe

metres is the same as...

10 riding hats
5 body protectors (lengthways)
3 showjumping whips
1 horse

beta-uk.org

The diagram illustrates the 2-meter social distancing rule by comparing it to various equestrian items. It shows a large number '2' at the top left, followed by the text 'KEEP YOUR DISTANCE' and 'Stay safe, keep others safe'. Below this, the text 'metres is the same as...' is followed by four comparisons: '10 riding hats' (represented by ten small hats), '5 body protectors (lengthways)' (represented by five protective vests), '3 showjumping whips' (represented by three whips), and '1 horse' (represented by a drawing of a horse). At the bottom right is the logo for the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) featuring a blue horse head inside a red circle.

Brought to you with this newsletter our version of the RDA collection tins – I was going to say 'Here's one I made earlier' but I will leave you to enjoy the challenge and retire gracefully.

To make up your tin you need to print the attached file as follows:

- colour or black and white
- landscape setting and print to 'Actual size'
- All monies to go to RDA – submit collections when you can via an event or a future meeting.

Cut out the label and tape the printed area around your can – no need to cut a lid, small change fits into the can hole – unless you are getting adventurous and collecting £2.00 and 50ps in which case you need the hole bigger!

Until next time, stay safe and keep in touch.

Regards,

Janet

WRC Chair and the Committee