

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

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

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

# MAY 2020

## Newsletter

### Wessex Riding Club

I hope this edition finds you and yours well? A tad bored with the situation, but ever vigilant and trying to stay focused (what day is it? is a well-worn phrase in my house!). We can only abide by the guidance and stay safe, stay at home and keep the social distance of two metres.

At least it has been sunny. My garden has never looked so tidy, the car is shining because I have washed it and the house looks like someone elses! Our deepest gratitude and thanks go to all those key workers who are keeping things going and keeping us safe.

Whilst I have your attention, you may have heard the plight of Riding for the Disabled and their pleas for assistance due to the current position. We sponsored four of their horses last year and on behalf of the club we doing the same again this year sending in a cheque for £100.00, which as we know is a drop in the ocean towards costs but as Tesco will remind us, every little helps!

“Wilton RDA normally carries out life changing riding therapy for over 160 child and adult riders in the Salisbury area. Due to COVID-19 all normal fundraising activities have had to be cancelled and our income has now dropped to a sustainable level.

Our wonderful, loyal 16 horses and ponies still need to be fed and cared for during this period of

extended lockdown. We have therefore launched a fundraising appeal.

Now we are all staying at home, spending less, why not...

**Instead of buying 2 coffees** – donate £5.00 for a bale of hay

**Instead of buying a round of drinks in the pub,** donate £10.00 for 2 bales of hay.

**Instead of a trip to the cinema,** donate £20.00 for a sack of supplementary feed.

**Instead of lunch out with a friend,** donate £30.00 towards a Farrier's visit.

*Thank you,"*

*AlexThomas RDA Wilton*

Makes you think doesn't it?

I have attached a copy of the 'Adopt a Pony Form' to the email with this newsletter. They do such amazing work, bringing horse mobility to hundreds of youngsters and at the Wilton Pembroke Centre they have provided us with a perfect venue for our dressage competitions so I think this is the very least we can do to assist.

Any donation, however big or small is hugely appreciated. To donate please see the link below, or send a cheque payable to "**Wilton RDA**" to **RDA Pembroke Centre, Home Farm Road, Wilton. SP2 8PJ**

<http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/RDAWiltonfeedappeal>

To try to keep this alive and interesting I have added a quiz to keep you thinking. No cheating, no Google search try it first then see how you get on then Google those that slip your mind, memory or thoughts.

Just as a reminder the BRC advice has not been updated or changed so if you have any queries please refer to the April newsletter on our web site.

Or to the links below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

A very useful article on commonly asked questions can be found on Horse & Hound at this site

<https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/coronavirus-horse-riding-equestrian-businesses-grooms-riders-710146>

BRC advice updates are carried on the Clubs website and Facebook page.

What are you doing to keep yourselves busy in this challenging time? No doubt many are trying to work from home or are actually at work, doing a great job keeping us all going.

I am looking for very short tales of what is going on out there, what are you doing to keep busy? I need pictures, they don't have to be of horses, they can be cooking disasters, decorating experiments or gardening triumphs. I am in the process of turning myself into a dog groomer! Our two Wire Haired Fox Terriers have been roaming around like woolly sheep without eyes, so I have taken the clippers to them. I am doing this cut in stages. Mainly due to lack of experience and confidence on both our parts, theirs in particular, but we are getting there. Needless to say, neither Hamish nor Stanley have left any tips for the hairdresser as yet! I will produce pictures for the next edition. So lets see some of yours.....?

You can email me at [janetbower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janetbower@tiscali.co.uk)



Recently I caught up with Caroline, who runs the Pleasure Riding Scheme and her trusty steed Jigsaw (by email in line with social distancing policy!). We had persuaded her to give a talk to us all one Tuesday evening about her visit to the Lipizzaner stud and see the White Horses perform. So, without further ado here's what she had to tell us.

### 'The Lipizzaner Horse.'

*"I have been asked what attracted me to the white horses in the first place.*

*It was when I was a child. I watched the children's programme the white horses (as I imagine many of us did!) and fell in love with the dark kind eyes of the wonderful graceful horses that captivated me by their grace and power.*

*A brief history of the Lipizzaner is not easy to do. They have had a very long and at times scary history. Because of the turbulent history of Europe, the Lipizzaner has had to flee for their lives many times from 1797 due to Napoleon an up until 1949 due to the second world war.*

*The first official stud farm for the Lipizzaner is the one in Lippitza Salvinia, (this is the stud that I visited last year) which was founded in the 1600's. As I have mentioned the horses fled to various locations, so by the end of 1947 there were only 23 breeding mares left!*

So, the battle to keep the original Lipizzaner breed was underway.



All pure Lipizzaner horses originate from six stallions. They are Pluto 1765, Conversano 1767, Neopolitano 1790, Malestoso 1773, Favory 1779 and Siglavy 1810.

The Lipizzaner is known for its noble head, dark eyes, medium height strong legs and feet and of course flowing exaggerated action.

All Lipizzaner horses are born dark in colour. They slowly become lighter and should have their beautiful white coats between 4 and 10 years. There are some Ovations horses that will keep their dark coats.

My visit to Lippitza stud was a dream come true. I had in my memory the wonderful pictures of loads of beautiful white mares and foals running together in the fields at Lippitza in the white horse's programme.

To see it for real was wonderful I must admit I had a few tears!

We were given a tour of the farm and were allowed to touch the horses and just wonder around them. They were so kind and seemed to very much enjoy the attention.

We had the privilege to see a stallion being lunged. My goodness he knew he was beautiful. His feet didn't seem to touch the ground!

A show is put on each day in the indoor school of the horses showing off their various skills. We saw them being ridden to the high standard that we see at the Spanish riding school including the movements off the ground, the Capriole, the Levade and the Courbette - amazing!! The Lipizzaner is also known as a driving or carriage horse. I am sure they are not supposed to go the speeds we saw them do! It was a wonderful show of skill from the driver and power of the horses.

The show was finished as it started where mares were allowed to enter the school and just roam around as they wanted. Some rolled, others just laid down and it was a very calm and beautiful experience.

I have also been asked if the white horses have influenced my passion for dressage to music.

I have always been fascinated by dressage. When I was a lot younger!! and first started to ride, I never thought I would ever be good enough to manage this skill. But as the years have gone by, I have a good go at it. Maybe in the back of my mind I see the beautiful white horses that have inspired me to have a go.

My two greatest joys in life are music and horses so putting them together seems the right thing to do so when Jig and I are dancing together maybe in my mind Jig is a white horse gliding as I see the white horses do."

Caroline Carroll.



Caroline having some quiet time with a rather beautiful 'White Horse' - Did anyone tell Jig?

**A Quiz to get you thinking?** Some of these questions may need some research into different eras but they may provide you with some information that send you on a journey of discovery.....

**Q1. 'International Velvet'** was the follow up film to 'National Velvet'. The original starred Liz Taylor, but the follow up tells the story of a troubled young girl whose dream, aided by her Aunt, played by Nanette Newman, was to win an Olympic Gold. What was interesting about this film was they used well known riders of the day. Tatum O'Neal played the role of the young rider (but didn't jump the jumps). Center stage was a young British star to ride the cross-country course. The big question – who was this British eventer and a true star in the horse world? A clue – she had a day job too!

Bonus point if you can add the young rider who also appeared in this film who went on to win Badminton on three occasions.

**Q2.** A late 60's pairing in the showjumping arena that had a very keen following across the country because of the strange action of the horse over each jump. The rider was the youngest to win Leading Showjumper of the Year when he was sixteen, a record that stood for many years. Can you name the horse and his jockey?

What was the 'action' that caused so many gasps?

**Q3.** To racing we go now, who was the dream team that won the Grand National, he was a lucky man who recovered from cancer, his trusty steed was an also ran in the yard who stepped up to the plate on the day and made it one to remember for all concerned.

Who was the jockey, the wonder horse, and what year did this fairy tale happen?

**Q4.** Topical to this newsletter. Who was the artist that sang the White Horses song from the TV show and what year did it first hit the television screens? Bonus points if you can name the young girl in the series.

**We miss you all, so please stay in touch and please send in photos and anecdotes to raise a smile across our members**

**Email contact details for feedback**

**Membership and enquiries and feedback**

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**TREC update – Your thoughts so far?**

We would really like to have feedback on this branch out of our comfort zone. If you can drop Kate or I a line so we can look at what else can be done in this rather challenging time. Hope you got to see the YouTube slots? I was fascinated, she a natural! If you have any ideas or have you made one yourself that you would be happy for us to circulate to the members? Please let us know.

*Janet*

**WRC Chair and the Committee**