

December-July2016

Fame at last for our very own Sara and Sue, this appeared in Horse and Hound online

Written by Lucy Elder - 24 December, 2016

Toblerone, a donkey wearing a sombrero and a bottle of questionable spirits — all things you may consider classic holiday trinkets. But two ladies have brought home some much larger “souvenirs” to remember their Spanish riding holiday — a pair of Andalusian horses.

Friends of 30 years Sara Llewellyn and Sue Whitehouse, who kept their horses together for many years, had long-discussed going on a trail riding holiday.

“We always said we wanted to ride a trail and stay in different places along the way, but we never got round to it — life got in the way,” Sara told H&H.

Last year, Sue moved back closer to Sara again and they decided to “just do it” and booked a riding holiday through the Pyrenees through Venture Co for this summer.

“We didn’t go out there with the idea of buying a horse at all — I wasn’t looking for anything!” said Sara.

“After the first day we fell in love with our horses and as the week progressed we bonded with them even more.”

The horses were not for sale, but part-way through the week the pair made enquiries.

“I think [our guide] kept an eye on us to see how bonded with the horses we were,” she said.

“I texted my husband and said ‘I have fallen in love with a Spaniard’.

“Eventually I let slip that it had four legs and I think he was a bit relieved.”

During the holiday they rode across varied terrain and even swam with the horses.

“The horses were fabulous and they looked after them really well,” she said.

“Every time we stopped the horses were cared for first.

“We just had the most fantastic time — we went through the Pyrenees and were in the saddle for around eight hours a day. Sudocrem and Deep Heat were our best friends!”

On returning to the UK, the pair kept in touch with the guides and the horses’ previous owners.

Sara then made contact with one of her friends, who runs an international horse transport company, and arranged for the pair — Lucero and Llampec — to be brought to Britain.

“We came home and told everybody that we were buying the horses and they all told us we were bonkers,” said Sara.

“The whole thing seemed to run really smoothly — I was completely amazed.”

They were given all the details of the route, the lorry, the driver and his qualifications and the horses arrived safe and well at their new Somerset home in September.

Sara said they are being carefully managed and are settling to the way of life in the UK.

The pair have started hacking them out and are hoping to enjoy some riding club activities with them.

“They are beginning to show their real characters now,” Sara added.

So is Sara glad she decided to bring her four-legged Spaniard home from her holiday?

“Absolutely!”

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Another member making the headlines has been Emma Smith and Dixie. This extract and photo were in the Somerset County Gazette.

A BUSINESSWOMAN and her horse are set to hit the big screen after filming as extras in the first of a trilogy.

Emma Smith, of Blackbrook, Taunton, was one of 12 owners and horses who spent a day shooting at Brean Sands before Christmas for The Wall of Lyon, which is due for release later this year.

And her horse Miss Dixie Bell so impressed the director that it was filmed nearest the camera.

Miss Smith, who runs ES Pet Care, said: "It was something I'd wanted to do for a long time.

"There were about 500 applicants and 12 of us from all over the country got picked, including a horse that was in Braveheart.

"They really liked the look of Dixie and put us camera-side.

"We had to canter and gallop in formation up the beach and then part around the actor.

"There was a lot of re-shooting and filming from different angles and we're in four scenes.

"It was a lovely experience and to share the day with my horse was very special - Dixie's my world. It was a day I'll never forget."

Miss Smith regularly competes with Dixie in showing and dressage events, added: "As it's a trilogy, we're hoping we get used again."

The Wall of Lyon sets the scenes for an epic journey spanning time and exploring humanity and our perception of who we are.

It is heavily influenced by ancient mythologies and interlaced with what we have become in our modern world.

It was written and directed by Ashleigh Harley and stars Wolfie Hughes, whose previous credits include King Arthur: Excalibur Rising.

Secretary Report for December 2016

I have sung Away in a Manger many times since the 1st December, helped Angel Gabriel with his wings and wrestled a cardboard donkey to the ground, Christmas is coming and 2017 is almost here! I start with some sad news; Waterford, the cheeky and truly adorable horse of Victoria Pitcher has been put to sleep at the grand old age of 24.

Victoria writes - I had eleven wonderful years with him - he looked after me - taught me so much and was truly a horse of a lifetime - I never once came off him in this time! I loved dressage and he was such a character - quirky but safe - he was a gentleman with impeccable manners. He started his showing career with Robert Oliver in small hunter classes - he had a 15.2 life height certificate; how he shrunk to that height I have no idea! He went to the Royal International on many occasions. I bought him at 13 years and by then he had become very naughty in the ring and was there for the gallop - not much fun to be on top as he was sooo on the ball and anticipated with squeals and fly bucks!

He put the fear of God in me at times but over the years, I realised what a safe horse he was. I enjoyed fun rides, and last season enjoyed 4 days hunting on him - he was impeccably behaved! I have loved dressage with him and we competed up to elementary level; I have loved every moment with this beautiful boy. I had the greatest of fun with all riding club activities - he hated coloured jumps but so did I; at cross country he was awesome, I can honestly say he was the kindest horse and so respectful to handle and take anywhere - I will miss him terribly.

Sadly, he started falling with me on the roads and he never enjoyed hacking on roads - I decided to retire him a couple of months ago and he was allowed to get fat on some good grass - I knew he would not be happy doing nothing and had to make a decision as the weather was turning - he was nearly 25 - the hardest decision; but I felt it was the right one.

BHRC remembers him fondly for many reasons. He was one of our original quadrille members - when we didn't know if it would work! He was also dressed up the following year as the friendly lion from the Wizard of Oz, complete with Tor dressed as Dorothy; and he was also in our Warhorse Quadrille, the one where everyone in the audience cried!

Victoria has donated a beautiful cup in his memory. It is to be presented to the BHRC Veteran who gains the most points at our showing shows. More details to follow but it is a lovely way to remember a very special horse.

- AGM & Christmas Party – it was lovely to meet up with all BHRC friends at our AGM recently.

CHAIR AND SECRETARY SPEECH 2016 AGM

I want to start off by thanking the committee for all their hard work and dedication. I usually say this at the end but I don't want it to be seen as an afterthought. It is thanks to this brilliant group of ladies that Gem and I have been able to prance around at many of our RC events again this year. As I have said before, you don't always see them at every event, but they all contribute in their own special way and 2016 has been no exception, not a cross word between us all year!

Deana has taken on the mantle of training again this year and has booked Karen Cameron at both Paddocks and Conquest for a variety of flatwork rallies. We have also used Kate Hopper to teach grid work training at both Conquest and Clippersharp. All training has been popular and well attended and we shall continue next year.

Joy started the year off to a great start with our ever popular Dressage League. Organised superbly, I

am tempted to say it runs itself – except I know it would grind to a halt if Joy and her helpers were not around. Schedules are out for 2017 – we start on 19th February, weather permitting. Following on from this, the committee have decided to run a Summer Dressage League over the summer months on an evening. We will be looking to use a new venue and new tests so if you have any thoughts or suggestions see one of us later as we will be planning this at our next committee meeting.

And on to camp! This year, we got the weather right. Karen and I looked skywards after Saturday lunch expecting to see the resident black cloud overhead to be greeted by blue sky – and so it continued all week end. A lot of people did a lot of things to make the week end go so well, I am not going to name anyone as I am sure to forget someone and offend them. You know who you are and we are extremely lucky as a club to have such wonderful helpers, camp would not happen without you. Thank you all. Camp was also the debut outing of our new camera. I got in everyone's way and irritated a lot of people; Karen learnt to teach around me and Billy decided the only way to shift me was to land on the bit of Paddocks I was stood on! Karen and Paddocks are booked for August 5th & 6th 2017.

The following week end we all met in Sainsbury's carpark and hopped on to a mini bus to Gatecombe Horse Trials. I took the new camera and sadly, felt a little inadequate as my lens was considerably smaller than the professional photographers. Let me tell you, size does matter. I have also put on my Christmas list a hi- viz vest with "photographer" on it – because everyone else had one. Thanks to Sara for organising this, we will go again in 2018, this is a free day out paid for by the riding club.

Jill has organised our two showing shows again this year and they are two more events you would think run themselves – except we know differently! Jill has a merry and super-efficient band of helpers who work like clockwork over the day answering the question "how many in class....." approximately every minute from 8.00 am until the last championship. The shows are very popular and it is nice to have them in the heart of the Blackdown Hills. They will run again next year, the spring schedule will be out in the New Year and I have already had an email from a competitor asking for the date of the Autumn Show 2017. The Spring Show is 23rd April and the Autumn Show is the 1st October

We ran two evening clear round jumping sessions this year and they proved to be popular again. Thanks go to all those who helped put up or take down the course. It was also lovely to see Kate Hopper's pupils putting into practise what they had been taught and earning a rosette for their efforts. This will continue again next year at Paddocks on a Friday evening.

Our charity day was at the beginning of September and raised money for the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund. A great time was had by all and we raised lots of money. More importantly, it was the debut of our first ever musical ride. This was the brain child of Kate Hopper who came to a committee meeting earlier this year; either because she was lost or there was nothing on the telly that night. "I have had an idea" she said, "how about a musical ride?"

"Great idea" we said, "you're in charge!" (As a committee, we have learnt the art of delegation!) Some would have run a mile, but Kate is made of sterner stuff and sure enough, it worked! We took on a military feel, Jill did us some beautiful brow bands and we whirled, twirled and ended up where we should have done, a feat in its self! It was yet another example of BHRC trying something different and having fun with our horses, neither us nor the horses had a cross word either. Kate has bigger plans for 2017, OLIVER THE MUSICAL RIDE. She assures me there will be parts for everyone, even if you just want a walk on part. Gem and I are signed up although it is difficult to see either of us passing as a waif or stray; however, we do know how to ask for more.

Then there was Strictly Dressage. I went to Conquest to book some training in January and was told there was no longer going to be X Factor Dressage. Again, some would have said "never mind, what a pity." BHRC said, "We'll do it." We wrote a schedule, tweaked it, tweaked it again and kept our fingers crossed. We did not expect to make a profit and we were not sure anyone would enter after last year, but as competitors ourselves we know a bit more about what is important and it is not always to make a profit – sorry Deana.

It was a long day, I prowled around the indoor school early on Sunday morning, checking for Mr Badger, but he seemed to have got the message. The music system played beautifully, if Jill turned up the volume up any more you would have heard us on the Blackdown Hills it was so clear. Gem behave disgracefully in the morning, jumping the sunlight shadows on the school surface and then bucking – because she knew I couldn't do anything about it, all others were beautifully behaved and we had 10 go through to the final. Thanks to Jill – again, we did make a profit – about £3 if my memory is correct, more importantly, we had a great time and we plan to run it again next year. I have provisionally booked Conquest for 17th September, but I haven't told the committee yet!

And that is about it. We have had another successful BHRC year, we have laughed, shed a few tears, got covered in mud and burnt our noses in the sun; we have watched the ground turn from swamp to

concrete and back again, swept, clipped, shovelled barrels of poo, drunk endless cups of tea and coffee; Groomed, bathed and plaited (us and the horses) spent a fortune and hidden our purchases and receipts from our husbands (or maybe that's just me?) and we will do it again next year because of our one common love – the horse!

Below are the members who were awarded trophies and cups at the AGM. If you were not with us on the night they are being kept safely with me until you can arrange to collect them.

Senior Achievement **Dezi Nicholls**
Junior Achievement **Alice Major**
Most Enthusiastic Member **Sylvia Bentley**
Newcomer **Greta Duff**
Flatwork Training Award **Bea Perham**
Individual D2M, Dressage League **Kate Hopper**
W & T Dressage League **Alison Tomlinson**
Prelim. Dressage League **Tricia Budd**
Novice Dressage League **Greta Duff**
Autumn Show **Emma Smith**
Spring Show **Rebecca Turner**
Good Ambassador **Karen Cameron**
True Spirit **Jo Richards**
Helper Award **Jill King**
Most Improved Junior **Samara Nicholls**
Prelim WS&D Dressage **Emma Pearce**
Exceptional-ness **Mia Perham**

There are also some trophies outstanding, please return them to me before the end of December so I can hand them over to the 2016 winners.

- **Training** – Deana has this in hand and is about to book Karen at Conquest early in the New Year so we can have a practice before the Dressage League. I am happy to book some more grid work/show jumping training with Nicky Lumb if there is enough interest.
- **Dressage League** – if you can offer a few hours help we would be very grateful.

Secretary Report for October

Blackdown Hills Riding Club does Strictly Dressage

On Sunday 25th September BHRC held its first Strictly Dressage competition. This was a two phase D2M competition, the morning was judged as a standard dressage competition – with a twist! Competitors were encouraged to dress up. We saw Spanish, salsa, fairies, ballerinas, cowboys and the Jungle Book, to name just a few! Everyone was very encouraging, clapping at the end of each routine. The judge – Helene Hewitt and her writer Jane Palfrey had their work cut out because as well as awarding places 1st – 6th, they had to decide on other categories such as best fancy dress, most amusing routine and the best costume. By the end of the morning, 10 competitors were selected to go forward to the afternoon final.

Class 1 – W&T

1st Amy Yapp & Stevie's Royal Pride Q
2nd Sammy & Colnafarra June Q

Class 2 – Open

1st Kate Hopper & Sauber Q
2nd Amy Yapp & Stevie's Royal Pride Q
3rd Amy Durkin & Comanche Q
4th Kerry Osbourne & Slim Q
5th Tricia Budd & Just Gem Q
6th = Greta Duff & Mary's Squirrel
6th = Emily & Peasdown Amarillo

Class 3 - Pairs

1st Kate Hopper & Sauber and Emma Smith & Miss Dixie Belle Q

2nd Gina King & Doublon and Lynne Tarr & Elliott Q

3rd Tricia Sainty & Nico and Jackie Parris & Boris H/C

Wild Card – Ann Enticott & Pocahontas

- Youngest Competitor - Isobel & Red Champion
- Oldest Horse - Mary's Squirrel
- Oldest Combination - Greta Duff & Mary's Squirrel
- Most Amusing Routine - Gina King & Doublon
- Best Props - Gina King & Doublon
- Best Combination - Greta Duff & Mary's Squirrel
- Best Fancy Dress - Isobel & Red Champion

The main competition was judged by a panel of 3 judges who watched all the routines and spoke to the competitors afterwards. After all 10 finalists had finished, they had the unenviable task of sorting them out 1st – 10th - a lively discussion followed!

Whilst they were making their deliberations, the newly formed BHRC Musical Ride did a display dedicated to the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund. Deana Rowland on Indie, Emma Smith on Dixie, Kate hopper on Sauber, Tricia Budd on Just Gem, Greta Duff on Squirrel and Sylvia Bentley on Max performed a routine to “A life on the Ocean Waves” and other military tunes.

The musical ride was formed in the spring of this year and had been meeting every couple of weeks. This was the brain child of Kate Hopper and she has been training them thorough-out the summer with her lovely pony Sauber playing all sorts of positions as the ride sorted themselves into some sort of order.

After their performance they were presented with rosettes and goody bags to thank them for all the hard work they had put in.

Then it was time for the results. The public had been given voting slips for the fun categories and they were announced first.

- Favourite Combination - Ann Enticott & Pocahontas (Jungle Book)
- Best Costume - Kerry Osbourne & Slim (Concours d'Elegance)
- Best Routine - Amy Yapp & Stevie's Royal Pride (Jungle Book)
- Best Props - Gina King & Doublon and Lynne Tarr & Elliott (The Mob)
- Best Fancy Dress - Ann Enticott & Pocahontas (Jungle Book)
- Youngest Competitor - Sammy & her pony June
- The Oldest Horse – Just Gem (25)
- Oldest Combination – Tricia Budd & Just Gem

Then the chairwoman of the panel of judges announced the winners, she explained that the quality of the routines had been particularly high and the results had come down to technical merit – the results were as follows –

1st - Amy Yapp & Stevie's Royal Pride (Jungle Book)

2nd - Tricia Budd & Just Gem (Dance of the Hours)

3rd - Kate Hopper & Sauber (Wild West)

4th - Kate Hopper & Sauber and Emma Smith & Miss Dixie Belle (Entertainment)

5th – Kerry Osbourne & Slim (Concours d'Elegance)

6th - Sammy & Colnafarra June (Purple Prince)

7th - Gina King & Doublon and Lynne Tarr & Elliott (The Mob)

8th - Amy Durkin & Comanche (Buena Vista Social Club – Cuba)

9th - Ann Enticott & Pocahontas (Jungle Book)

10th - Amy Yapp & Stevie's Royal Pride (Wipe-out)

BHRC would like to thank everyone who attended, either as a competitor, helper, groom or taxi driver, Jill Perrior for sponsoring the rosettes for the fun categories and playing the music, all our judges who gave up their time so willingly and Conquest Centre for allowing us to use their facilities. BHRC hopes to run this event next year.

Musical Ride report – From Kate Hopper - For those of you lucky enough to have been at Conquest on Sunday 25th Sept you may just have seen the culmination of a lot of (hopefully) fun training & dedication. I won't pretend that training wasn't without it's issues & on no occasion did we manage to have the full line up of riders & horses (although my thanks go to those that stood in, doing a sterling job & contributing to the routine) but we overcame everything & performed one of our best routines to date when it really mattered.

The last few months have been a fantastic opportunity to get to know other members of the riding club & their beautiful horses & I thank you all for sticking with it especially in those moments when it looked quite hopeless but I said it would be fine & it was! Thank goodness!!

Thanks also to the tireless ground crew. Saraloo, who played the music & spent most of the time without a clue of what we were doing - you were not alone! & Jill who designed our lovely browbands. Next year we are going to do 'Oliver, The Musical Ride' so if you would be interested in joining in let me know. This is going to be so much bigger & better so I would love lots of you to be involved in this! I will be scouring the Radio Times Christmas double issue for the film to bring myself up to speed although I understand Trish is a bit of a connoisseur on this subject.

“In this life, one thing counts, in the bank, large amounts, I'm assured these don't grow on trees, you've..... join in when you're ready”! T x

- **Autumn Show – 2nd October at Heazle** – and the following week-end we all met up again! Another glorious day and although entries were slightly down from the Spring Show, the quality certainly made up for the quantity. I left Gem at home as she is having a well-deserved rest after her exploits the previous week end, so I was poo picker and photographer – I have got into this role rather well, the paparazzi have nothing on me, one nice lady even asked me where she could buy my images! The highlight for me was seeing our very own Emma Smith and Dixie awarded the in-hand Championship – congratulations to them both.

- **AGM and Christmas Party** – Friday 2nd December 7.30 pm at the Catherine Wheel Pub, Hemyock. Everyone is invited, you do not have to be a member. Come along and help celebrate another wonderful year for BHRC.

- **Trophies** – on that note – if you were lucky enough to be presented with a trophy last year, please can you return it? Many thanks, T.

- **Flatwork Training – at The Conquest Centre, Norton Fitzwarren, with Karen Cameron**

- Monday 24th October at 6.00 pm

- Monday 21st November at 6.00 pm

- £15 per person. Contact Deana to book your place. deanarowland2@aol.com

- **Friday 11th November at The Conquest Centre – 6.30 – 7.30 pm, show jumping training with Nicky Lumb. £15 per person. Book with Tricia on triciabudd24@gmail.com**

Secretary report for September

I am back at work, Gem is getting woolly and the nights are drawing in!

The eagle eyed of you will have noticed this email comes from a different email address – I have done a foolish thing! Back in the summer my account was hacked and I changed my password; no problem. My iPad and iPhone are linked and have cookies so I don't need to use my password. When I got to school I tried to log in to my account and for the life of me I can't remember my password. I have tried every possible combination I can think of – nothing. I can send a request to the phone or email address I used when I set up the account. But the phone has long gone and Steve can't remember the password to the recovery email! I can still send and receive emails to my "24" account, but its days are numbered. Therefore, update your contacts and use triciabudd1991@gmail.com for all further communications to me. 1991 was the year I got married and the year Gem was born – which do you think I am remembering in my email address?!

Royal Marines Dressage - The latest competition in the Blackdown Hills Riding Clubs busy year was a fund raising event with all proceeds going to the RMCT fund. Competitors were encouraged to dress themselves in a military style and special rosettes were given to the best outfit in each class. The newly formed Blackdown Hills Riding Club Musical Ride made its debut performance. Eight horses and riders rode to a selection of sea-faring music, including the Royal Marines theme tune “a life on the

ocean waves". The horses were foot perfect and looked great in matching brow bands made by committee member Jill Perrior. The sun shone and the club had record entries; dressage Judges Sally Haddon and Karen Cameron commented on the high quality of tests and the ever popular have-a-go dressage2music classes were great fun and hotly contested! The whole day was a great success, making over £300. The results are as follows –

Class 1 BB W&T Intro B
1st Trudi Mann Fizby R
2nd Sarah Gallaway Hot Toddy
3rd Megan Final June
4th Bea Perham Baby Jay

Class 2 Prelim 4 Section A
1st – Suzie Maunder Just Nicola
2nd – Deana Rowland Indie
3rd – Ann Enticott Pocahontas
4th = Sarah Gallaway Hot Toddy
4th = Sylvia Bently Max
6th –Megan Edwards Dandy

Class 2 Prelim 4 Section B
1st Janet Sage Beau
2nd Georgina Palfery Billy

Class 3 Prelim 12 WS&DD
1st - Suzie Maunder Just Nicola
2nd Ann Enticott Pocahontas
3rd Dezi Nicholls Pollyanna Q
4th Emma Smith Miss Dixie Belle Q
5th Janet Sage Beau Q
6th Jenny Jordan Bramble
Class 4 D2M Individual
1st = Kate Hopper Sauber
1st = Greta Duff Marys Squirrel
3rd - Tricia Budd Just Gem
4th – Jenny Jordan Bramble

Class 5 Novice 28
1st - Dezi Nicholls Pollyanna Q
2nd Janet Sage Beau Q

Strictly Dressage to Music – Sunday 25th September at Conquest. Entries are in and times will be out next week. This is free entry to spectators who will get a voting slip for the “Fun” categories, a chance to see if you agree with the judge’s panel! The Musical Ride will also be doing their Royal Marines performance at approximately 2.30 pm. If anyone is able to help for a couple of hours I would be very grateful. Gem is sound and behaving like a part broken thoroughbred so we are hoping to compete – fingers crossed!

Autumn Show - 2nd October at Heazle.

Amendment to the schedule regarding foals.

Class 1 - Young-stock Open will now be accepting foals. This class will be divided as follows - Class 1 A - 1, 2 and 3 year olds. Class 1 B - foals. The full schedule is on our website

blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/events

Quantock Equestrian is holding a sale of Tack, Clothing and Gifts also gifts from Quantock Lavender and Quantock Inspiration with their unique animal related gifts Sunday 2nd October 10am-4 pm Being held at: Broomfield Village Hall, Broomfield, Somerset, TA5 2EQ Come along and grab a bargain. Vicky Henderson.

Training - 24th September at Paddocks with Karen Cameron. Polework and/or flat work. £15 per person – contact Deana to book your place.

AGM and Christmas party – Friday 2nd December at Catherine Wheel Pub, Hemyock. Come along and help us celebrate yet another fantastic year for BHRC.

• Contact us –

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August enews from Saraloo
Hello all,

Where has the Sumer gone? I don't mean weather wise, as in all fairness, its not been too bad. On the sad side, my fields have cracked badly; my garden is in need of water, as do my pots that have shrivelled to nothing. However I haven't had too many nasty flies and for every event I have been to so far, it has remained dry. I just can't believe that it is nearly Autumn. There is dew on the ground most mornings and the birds are singing their Autumn song, why does time pass so quickly?

This was the same for our trip to Gatcombe. I booked the minibus ages ago and yet in no time we had filled it and here I was nervously waiting for everyone to arrive. There was a threat of rain / drizzle but it was all burnt off by the sun and we had a great day.

Well done to all of you that peeled yourselves out of bed at 'stupid o'clock' if like me you had to sort out a few animals before driving to Hankridge in Taunton to meet the minibus for 7.30am.

Having collected my friend on the way we parked up and then watched as the next 10 people gradually arrived. The minibus was a few minutes late, not a problem to anyone except the person who organised the trip (me) always nervous that everything works out ok. I was stood with everything crossed as the very nice, newish minibus arrived driven by the same chap as last year. Our driver had never been to such an event and had thoroughly enjoyed himself and so greeted us with great enthusiasm at the thought of going again.

There was hardly any traffic and so we had a good drive up to Minchinghampton, the small town where all this excitement happens. As per last year we timed it to perfection and arrived before the crowds. Now knowing the site, our lovely driver stated that he would try to get parked where we were last year even though the parking arrangements had slightly changed. I have no idea what he said but we ended up parked along side the Police vehicles right outside the entrance, amazing.

We all piled off the vehicle and headed straight for the coffee. After eating a small piece of very nice flapjack and downing a particularly delicious Latte we felt ready to attack the retail stands. My friend Sue with thoughts of her new horse in mind was so eager to look for practically everything and we as her good friends eager to help her spend her money – he he. It wasn't long before we found ourselves trying to remember which stands we had purchased at, as they very kindly offered to hang on to our goods until the end of the day so we wouldn't have to carry bags of goodies all round the course.

I think this year there were more stands than ever. They were all varied and held an interest for most.

I was especially impressed by the food vans. Having now, a rather alternative diet, it can be very difficult to find anything to eat at these events and I usually take my own food. I had been rather lazy and had only brought water so I was especially delighted to be offered a choice. We ate a leisurely lunch noting the numbers of people now thronging into the stands and food vans and feeling smug that we had done the retail therapy without the crowds, fabulous.

We then headed off to the Cross Country Course where we stayed a while before heading back to the main arena to see the end of the Shetland Grand National.

Into the main arena rode the Devils Horsemen – a group of men and two ladies on Andalusian type horses doing amazing stunts and riding tricks. They were fantastic to watch and proved to be rather exciting for my son who was with us as one of the ladies played a main character in Game of Thrones. (no idea about that) but he was excited and so were two ladies stood next to me, whose squealing of delight at this fact, nearly deafened me.

We stayed on to watch the most hilarious falconry display with a vulture and a huge group of volunteer children. The chap was planting dead mice under the children for the vulture to find, the kids were loving it – the parents – well I'm not too sure, but I found him very amusing.

We then ventured back to our favourite perch on the cross-country course – the hill overlooking approximately six jumps the main one being the water jump with Gatcombe house as the backdrop. We enjoyed watching the last 10 riders do their thing before the end of the days events and then

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well it seemed that every dog on the show ground and course had been let off the lead. They all belted down to the water jump and total chaos ensued. It confirmed that the most popular dog was the black

Labrador I have never seen so many Black labs together, however the boss of them all was some indeterminable breed of terrier, which ran after all the dogs yapping loudly and trying to chase them out. Whilst the chaos was happening in the water, around the edge of the pond and at great speed several whippets were showing off their talent and not daring to venture in the water. Of course the best part of all this was when the owners tried to retrieve their mutts. The raucous yelling that occurred made us all giggle, many of the dogs had selective hearing and who was the last out – why the Terrier of course. Those fifteen minutes was one of the most entertaining events of the day. We headed back to the main arena to watch the prize giving before wandering back to the bus. Amazingly we weren't last and as the stragglers returned we all caught up on each other's adventures of the day and scrutinised what had been purchased – Yes we had remembered to go back to the stands to collect our purchases.

Many thanks to the Riding Club for funding the minibus for us and the driver who was friendly safe and a jolly chap and many thanks to those that came along and made a great day, fantastic.

Sara

The rest is from me – Tricia.

Thank you Sara, I had a wonderful time at Gatcombe, although I forgot the sun screen and got burnt knees; now I know how Gems nose feels!

I have spent the last 2 days repairing and cleaning Gems rugs (all 15 of them) ready for the winter. I love the summer holidays!

I have also updated the slide show on our web site, using many of the photos I have taken with our new camera. I have been putting it off as it is time consuming and tedious as I can never remember what to do and in which order, this time I have written it down! (And I have become a crashing bore with said camera!)

The committee were out in force for our Summer Camp. They are a fantastic bunch and as a club we are very lucky to have them; thank you Joy, Deana, Kate, Jill, Jane, Georgina and Sara a great example of many hands making light work; 2 hours after the presentation of prizes and you would not have known we had been there!

Musical Ride training is this Saturday at Paddocks (20th) at 9.00 am and Monday evening at Conquest 6.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in, either as a spectator or bring your horse and have some fun with us.

Clippersharp have an Equine Car boot sale tomorrow evening (18th) 5.30 pm start. Neither Gem nor I need anything but it will be an opportunity to catch up with friends, have a gossip and eat cake!

Our next event is our Dressage Day on 4th September. If anyone has a raffle prize or a cake, we welcome any donations. Please feel free to come along and join us. Similarly, if you can offer a couple of hours help we would be very grateful.

Times for this event will only be available from Joy; they will not be put on Facebook or our website due to a technical hitch.

Training at Clippersharp has finished for the summer and will resume at Conquest during the winter months. Thanks go to Kate Hopper who taught us well. Gem and I managed poles and grids, all the others have flown over jumps, bounces and all manner of poles in prominent places!

Training will continue at Paddocks for the next couple of months with Karen Cameron. Poles and/or flatwork sessions. Contact Deana for dates and times.

Blackdown Hills Riding Club Summer Camp – 30th & 31st July 2016

T'was the night before camp and at Paddocks the horses said to each other;

That mad lot are arriving, you know the ones
With kettles and flasks and hot bacon buns
With saddles and bridles
And tents by the score
They will keep us awake
With their music uproar.

They take over this place, for a couple of days
With salad and fruit and eyes all a glaze
With coffee and tea
And wine of a night
In a big white marquee
We need to sit tight

They go Sunday evening, with barely a sound
With prizes and gifts and rosettes abound
All tired and happy
With horses content
Ready for next year
In the scary white tent!
The following report has been sent to Ridgeway Rider. Out on the 1st September.

On the last week end of July, 12 members, horses and assorted BHRC helpers took over Paddocks Equestrian, Bickenhall for their 4th annual summer camp. Blessed with beautiful weather for the whole week end, a great time was had by all.

Open to both junior and senior members, camp started with a flat work session for the first ride, whilst everyone else settled their horses into their stables. Then everyone put up their tents, sorted out their beds and tucked into lunch, beautifully prepared by head chef Pat Etherington.

More flat work and grid work training followed on from lunch, all taught by Karen Cameron BHSI who was a great hit with all participants. From tiny Samara just off the lead rein to more "mature" members, several who had new horses and gained in confidence over the sessions thanks to Karen with her humour, knowledge and plain common sense!

Saturday evening saw everyone head off to the local pub, some on horseback and others piled into cars. On their return, all were delighted to find their stables mucked out by Mia Perham and sausages and burgers sizzling on the B-B-Q, cooked by assistant chef Carl Reynolds.

Sunday morning dawned bright and campers rose sleepily from their beds to feed their horses and then themselves with cereal, fruit, yogurts and the very important first coffee of the day.

After either grid work training, hacking or fences in the show jumping field, there was frenzied activity as horses were bathed and plaited, saddles and bridles were cleaned and jackets dusted off ready for the afternoon dressage competition.

After hot bacon rolls and water melon, horses were tacked up and the competition started in earnest. Everyone had a go, being encouraged and supported by friends, family and fellow competitors.

At 4.30 pm everyone sat down to a cream tea in the marquee and were given their rosettes, score sheets and goody bags plus 3 special awards to members who had improved the most over the two days.

Achievement award – Lisa Gane
Progress award – Vicky Henderson
Instructors award – Bea and her new pony Jay.

Dressage Results

Section A

1st Bea and Jay
2nd Samara and Minnie

Section B

1st Deana Rowland and Indie
2nd Megan and Dandy
3rd Vicky Goody and Victoria
4th Kirsty Johns and Oska
5th Lisa Gane and Gem (hers, not mine!)

Section C

1st Georgina Palfrey and Billy
2nd Emma Smith and Dixie
3rd Vicky Henderson and Rodney
4th Emma Pearce and Annie
5th Amy Middleton and Mitzi

Section D

1st Dezi Nicholls and Pollyanna
2nd Tricia Budd and Just Gem
3rd Janet Sage and Beau

Many thanks to Kate and Graham Baker who made us so welcome, Paddocks liveries who didn't complain when we took over their entire yard and Carl Reynolds for the evening entertainment!

Upcoming BHRC events –

4th September at Paddocks – Royal Marines Charitable Trust dressage day
25th September at Conquest – Strictly dressage-2-music
2nd October at Heazle Arena – Autumn Showing Show

Secretary Report for July

Hello to you all, I have recently had my email account hacked. I have changed my password and fingers crossed I am now un-hackable! Thank you to the people who contacted me to report the dodgy email. If you are in any doubt about anything I send you, text me on 0788363354. I send out block emails about once a month and I always put it on Facebook and our BHRC website. On a positive note; the sun still shines and I have less than 2 weeks before school finishes for the summer break!

Summer Camp is fast approaching! We are full but members are welcome to enter the dressage and/or the clear round jumping. We have a special treat in store as at 12.30 pm on the Sunday, Karen Cameron will be giving us a dressage demonstration on her lovely new horse Jet. (Gem is deeply in love with Jet) we are also going to hold a tack sale at camp. If you have anything to buy or sell, you are welcome to bring it along. (There is no charge)
Any help at camp would be greatly appreciated on either day and everyone is welcome to join us for afternoon tea at 4.30 pm for scones, tea, cakes and the presentation of prizes.

Gatcombe Horse Trials

We are funding a mini bus to take us on Sunday August 7th. Last year was a huge success and Sara has 4 spaces left. If you are interested then please email her - saraloosmenagarie@talktalk.net you pay for your own entrance either on the gate on the day, or pre book online.

Members only dressage Sunday 31st July at Paddocks.

From 2.00 pm. One test (prelim 12) but it will be split into several sections depending on entries. Entries to Tricia via email. Rosettes to all.

Dressage-2-Music Display Team - training is at Paddocks on the following Saturdays;
23rd July, 13th & 20th August - £5 per person per session.

Training

- Flatwork training with Karen Cameron at Paddocks, Bickenhall.
£15 for an hour with no more than 3 horses taking part in each lesson. They will be morning lessons, times to be confirmed nearer the dates.

23rd July, 13th Aug & 20th Aug

Anyone wishing to take part please contact Deana via email deanarowland2@aol.com
or by text 07841012410, spaces will be limited, last minute cancellations will still need to be paid for.

- polework/gridwork/show jumping training with Kate Hopper at Southwoods Farm, Culmstock (Clippersharp)
Training sessions will be £10 for an hour, there will be no more than 3 riders in a lesson. To be paid on the day, late cancellations will still need to be paid for and made through Tricia. Contact her on triciabudd24@gmail.com

They are all Fridays and are all 6.00 - 7.00 pm with the option of a second ride, 7.00 - 8.00 pm if the first is over subscribed.

22nd July; 5th & 12th August
