



OAK LEAVES

Newsletter from the Oaks Driving Club

April 2020

View from the Top

It's with a very heavy heart that we have had to cancel/postpone some of our events due to the Coronavirus but we like everyone else must abide by government guidelines to ensure the safety of our members and indeed the country as a whole.

Fortunately we have had a successful training day with Sara Howe, our AGM and a Have-a-go at driving day with the riding school at Priory Farm. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to give newcomers a taste of carriage driving. Our indoor competition has a provisional date of 30th May at Golden Cross - I wish I had a crystal ball to foresee whether we will be able to proceed with this event. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further developments. As soon as it's safe to start up again we will.



Some animal feed stores are now opening for just a few days - might be a good idea to check what days your local store opens and pre-order your feed to ensure you can get what you need.

I was very sorry to hear from Susanne Willis that she had lost her lovely pony, Fly. I know many of you will remember Fly doing just that - flying through obstacles with Susanne giving vocal encouragement, both of them giving their all.

Just to keep you amused and just for fun, on page 4 of this newsletter is a quiz. Hopefully we can hold our charity quiz at a later date.

Please follow the Public Health England advice on washing your hands frequently and stay hydrated. I hope you all keep safe and well during this very trying time.

Liz Howe - CHAIRMAN

Events and competitions postponed until further notice due to Coronavirus.

Inside this issue:

Dates for your Diary	page 2	Oaks AGM	page 5
Have-a-Go Driving	page 3	Training with Sara Howe	page 7
Quiz	page 4	Church Bulletin Board	page 8
		Quiz Answers	page 9
		Court Recorders	page 9

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

April

Tuesday 21st Charity Quiz, Berwick Inn
BN26 6SZ **Postponed**
Contact: Jan Curd

May

Saturday 16th Inside/Out, Burchetts Farm,
Whitesmith BN8 6HA **Postponed**
Contact: Kevin Jeffrey
Saturday 30th Spring Indoor Event, Golden Cross
Equestrian Centre BN27 3SS.
Contact: Moira Evans

June

Sunday 7th Evolution Event, Priory Court
Farm, Sayerland Lane,
Polegate BN26 6QX
Contact: Christina Fowden

July

Friday 17th On Foot Marathon Training,
Berwick BN26 6SP
Saturday 18th Members Training, Berwick
Sunday 19th Open Mini ODE, Berwick
Contact: Liz Howe

August

TBC On Foot Marathon Training.
The Fir Grove, High Hurstwood
TN22 4AE
Contact: Andrea Scott
Sunday 23rd Strictly Come Driving,
Broad Farm BN27 4DU
Contact: Liz Howe

September

Sunday 6th ODE, Priory Court Farm,
Sayerland Lane,
Polegate BN26 6QX
Contact: Jan Curd
Sunday 27th World Cup, Hale Farm BN8 6HQ
Contact: Pru Wynne-Evans

October

Saturday 10th Autumn Indoor Event, Golden
Cross Equestrian Centre BN27 3SS.
Contact: Moira Evans

visit the website for up-to-the-minute news

www.oaksdrivingclub.com

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in the articles printed in the Oak
Leaves are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect
the views of the Editor of the Oaks Committee.

Have-A-Go Driving

On Saturday, 22nd February 2020 the Oaks Driving Club put on a "Have-A-Go Driving" day at Priory Court Farm near Polegate with kind permission of Therese and Claire Cousens. There was a huge take-up of prospective drivers so numbers were capped at 24 so as not to exhaust the two ponies taking part (particularly with reference to Rebel!!).

Andrea Scott brought Pip Holgate's lovely skewbald pony, Texas, with Joanne McNicol taking the reins. I brought my Dales pony, Rebel. Texas was driven to a 4-wheel competition vehicle and Rebel to a 2-wheel Bellcrown to show the different turnouts.

An early hiccup occurred when I realised that I had omitted to change the harness from Rebel's usual 4-wheel tugs and backband to the 2-wheel variety, leaving the latter at home. Gina and Kevin came to the rescue, lending me their show harness backband and tugs, which fortunately fitted perfectly.

The day was divided into two sessions with 12 beginners having a drive from 12 noon and another 12 from 2pm. Andrea kept everyone informed about harness, carriage and driving generally whilst the ponies were doing their stuff, and she answered questions throughout the day.

When Texas and Rebel were having their lunch break, Gina and Kevin's lovely Friesian horse, Beau, was used to demonstrate harnessing up and putting to. Beau also gave a couple of beginners a go at driving.

There was a split of approximately 60/40 in favour of adults to children taking part. All were very enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A couple I talked to even had their own harness and carriage but had never used them.

Texas, Rebel and Beau were beautifully behaved throughout the day and were much admired.

There has been a lot of positive feedback so hopefully more people will join the driving fraternity.

Another taster day is in the offing as quite a few people had to be put on the waiting list. This is yet to be arranged.

Huge thanks to the Priory Court Farm team who made us so welcome and provided great facilities.

Moira Evans



Texas



Rebel

Quiz

As we cannot have our charity quiz in April - here are a few questions just for fun.

1. Of which country is Kabul the capital
2. Which self-deluding knight was created by Spanish writer Cervantes
3. In which novel by Charles Dickens did Mr. McCawber appear
4. Of which of the arts would you associate Sir Alfred Munnings
5. In Greek mythology which gorgon was slain by Perseus
6. How many feet does a hexapod have
7. A Tom Collins is a mix of Sugar, Soda water, lemon juice & what spirit
8. What was the surname of the original surgeon in the Star Trek series
9. In athletics what measures 2.6 & 2.7mtrs (male) and 2.2 & 2.3mtrs (female)
10. Eric Knight wrote a fictional dog story in 1940 about whom
11. The de Havilland Mosquito plane of WW2 was made almost entirely of what material
12. Who played the King of Siam in the original production of the musical The King & I in 1953
13. Which is the hottest planet in our solar system
14. What are Basal (lubricant), Irritant (defensive) & Psychogenic (emotional response)
15. Gunpowder is a mix of Potassium nitrate, charcoal & what else
16. Who was the daughter of James V of Scotland & Mary of Guise
17. In what year did the 1st British H.bomb explode in the Central Pacific
18. Which programme achieved the UK's highest TV viewing figures on Xmas day 2019
19. How many canine teeth does a human being have

20. David Stirling founded what unit of the Forces in 1941

21. In 1936 the 1st BBC broadcast was from where

22. What was the 1st public national museum in the UK

23. In WW2 who or what was nicknamed "Uncle Joe"

24. Inspector John Rebus is a creation of which Scottish writer

25. Where in the human body can you find an average of 480 million aveoli

26. What was the name of the mammal used by Dame Edna Everidge as a greeting

27. What was the former name of Vietnamese city of Ho Chi Min City

28. Geoff Bezos founded what

29. What is a cock chaffer

30. Punties, Blowpipes & Gloryholes are all associated with what activity



Oaks AGM

A.G.M. 2019 Awards

Onslow Award (Best marathon score in club ODE)
- Jeni Longley.

Slate Scroll Highest achievement of novice driver
at National Level - Sally Bullar.

Novice Trophy (Club ODE Whip with lowest
dressage score) - Lily Ann Milton.

Open Cup, - Club ODE, whip driving horse or pony
in Open Classes with lowest overall score - Jeni
Longley.

Topper Memorial Trophy - Best junior whip - Lily
Ann Milton.

Committee of '95 Award - Person committee feel
has aided/helped club in the last year - Hilary Hill.

Beginners Award - Highest achievement for
new/novice whip - Jane Cook.

The Kelly Shield for Shetland pony with best total
at ODEs - Millie, Rosie Fieldwick

Frank Sillet Award - "Senior" who has, over the
past year, given most within the club - Frances
Collings.

Service Award - Person considered by Committee
to have given most service to the club - book
voucher kindly donated by Tom and Sheila
Petitpierre - Gina Jeffrey

Alf Bousell Hansom - Young whip - Lily Ann Milton.

Groom's Rosettes - Bella Freeman, Sonya
Norman, Holly Goldsmith, Susanne Willis.
Martingale - Tina Ray

Acorn Shield - Best small pony under 12hh - Billy,
Helen Bridges.

Chairman's Salver - Pru Wynne-Evans.

'A' for Effort Awarded by the Holgates in memory
of Arthur - Bella Freeman.

The Cameo Memorial Cup - Awarded by Hilary
Hill in memory of Cameo and chosen by her -
Alison Reilly.

The Sharon Roughton Multiple Trophy -
Achievement with multiple - Donna Simmons.

Class Section Points Winners Rosettes

Novice Pony - Alison Bones

Intermediate Pony - Angela Lydall

Open Pony and Overall Points Champion - Jeni
Longley

Novice Horse - Abi Fowden

Open Horse - Christine Buckland

Multiples - Donna Simmons

A good turnout at our AGM held at Broadoak
Village Hall on Sunday 23rd February.

The Chairman kicked off the meeting reporting on
a good and bad year for the club, the bad being a
few events cancelled due to lack of interest.

President, Mr Dick Carey is going to build us
some obstacle gates which should be out in use
this summer.

Jan Curd reported on events in detail and also
summarised the clubs financial position - which
is good!

Christina Fowden reported that membership was
down from last year but we always get ne
members and renewals closer to the date of our
first competition.

Andrea Scott asked that members let us know
what events they would like us to organise - it is
the members club after all.

Dick told an amusing story of how he became
involved with competitive driving and pressed the
view that it is fun, don't worry too much about
stopwatches and minutae, just drive what's in
front of you.

Therese Cousens thanked the drivers for bringing
their ponies to the 'Have-a go' day at Priory Court
the day previously, 25 of her riding school
experienced their first time in a carriage - we
hope some will now 'have the bug' and take it a
step further.

Margaret Middleton again produced a beautiful
Easter cake complete with daffodils, this was
raffled and won by Helen Bridges. A bottle of
prosecco, kindly donated by Jan Curd was won
by Jeni Longley. Margaret received a pretty orchid
as thank you for her and Ron's help in the
catering van.

The awards ceremony followed where Dick
presented the worthy winners with their trophies.
Junior driver Lily-Ann Milton nearly needed a
wheelbarrow to take hers away!

With the business part of the evening completed,
everyone partook of the refreshments kindly
supplied by the committee and enjoyed a social
evening of chatter and laughter.



Dick Carey and Alison Bones



Susanne Willis, Bella Freeman and Sonya Norman



Helen Bridges and Margaret Middleton



Jane Cook



Donna Simmons



Lily Ann Milton

Training with Sara Howe

Sara Howe gave us another training day on 28th February. Despite the rain that persisted throughout the day, it was lovely to get inside the indoor school and work hard.

Sara was on top form and all drivers rapidly showed improvement. Particular attention was paid to getting your pony straight and set up correctly before asking for lengthened movements. Correct bends came under scrutiny and much work was done there.

Helen Bridges turned up with a lovely new Bennington for her pony, Billy. Sara was a great help fitting Billy to the carriage. Helen hopes to drive a pair of Shetlands soon.

Thank you to Jan for putting together the refreshments, although she couldn't be there on the day, she made sure we were all well fed and watered.

We have run four training days throughout the winter, all fully booked and successful with three different trainers. Now everyone should be set up and raring to go in our summer season.



Cheryl Hurle driving Hercules



Helen Bridges driving Billy



This is what Jester thought of the rain



Sandra Pochin driving Nutmeg

ICD Championships

Although the ICD Championships at Keysoe are cancelled in April (they hope to hold them later in the year if at all possible) Congratulations to Oaks members for qualifying in their respective classes:

Jeni Longley, Alison Reilly, Lily Ann Milton, Jason Fieldwick, Dick Carey, Liz Howe, Donna Simmons, Helen Bridges, Frances Collings and Tim Bailey.

Horses can catch coronavirus - but **NOT** Covid-19

Horses are not the only animals that have a coronavirus that affects them - cattle and pigs both have a virus that they can contract but each is genetically different from the others.

And since equine coronavirus is not the same as the Covid-19 strain that is currently spreading in humans, there are few scientific reasons to be worried about close contact with animals any more than usual.

BACS Payments

Please could anyone making a BACS payment make sure to state what it is they are paying for. There is a little box that you can type which event or membership payment. Tom needs to know exactly what the money is for.
Account No: 31440500 Sort Code: 40-23-01



Fire Extinguishers

Please make sure you carry a fire extinguisher in your horsebox / trailer. They need to be checked each year

Church Bulletin Board

The sermon this morning 'Jesus walks on the water'. The sermon tonight 'Searching for Jesus'.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again'. giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I upped my pledge - up yours'.

This being Easter, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break forth into joy'.

How do Court Recorders keep straight faces?

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

30. Glassblowing
29. Beetle
28. Amazon
27. Saigon
26. Possum
25. End of the bronchial tubes (lungs)
24. Ian Rankin
23. Joseph Stalin
22. The British Museum
21. Alexander Palace
20. SAS
19. Four
18. Gavin & Stacey
17. 1957
16. Mary Queen of Scots
15. Sulphur
14. Tears
13. Venus
12. Herbert Lomm
11. Wood
10. Lassie
9. Javelin
8. McCoy
7. Gin
6. Six
5. Medusa
4. Painting
3. David Copperfield
2. Don Quixote
1. Afghanistan

Copy for the June newsletter should be sent to Liz Howe by 25th May 2020
Email: elizhowe515527@gmail.com
If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Liz at the above address.



Online entries and membership
www.ihdt.co.uk/oaks.html

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