



OAK LEAVES

Newsletter from the Oaks Driving Club October 2021

View from the Top

Despite all the Covid doom and gloom at the beginning of the year we have managed to have an enjoyable summer running a drive, training day plus competitions. Entries overall have been low by comparison to previous years though I know show jumping and dressage have had their usual quota.



The drive was very enjoyable despite a shower of rain and there was a great atmosphere around the catering van afterwards. The training day had full support which was excellent so there is another one coming up on 23rd October - places still available. Pru Wynne-Evans organised a lovely world cup competition and we finally got our ODE at Priory Court Farm which was enjoyed by everyone - those that had enough petrol to attend anyway!

We are all excited to be running an ICD qualifier on 9th October, there will be club classes for non ICD members so do please get your entries in. Moira is running the event so you know it will be a good one.

Our new obstacle has been a great success so we will have a good sort out of the equipment trailer with the possibility of purchasing another new obstacle for next season. I have recently taken delivery of forty new FEI cone balls which we used at the ODE for the first time - will these improve drivers scores I wonder?

I look forward to seeing you all at the indoor competition at Plumpton College.

Liz Howe - CHAIRMAN

Next event: Indoor Competition, Plumpton College

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2021

Please note: These dates and venues are not confirmed and are dependant on Covid 19 regulations in England 2021.

October

Saturday 9th Autumn Indoor Event
Plumpton College
Ditchling Road
Plumpton BN7 3AE
Contact: Moira Evans

Saturday 23rd Training with Sarah-Jane Cook
Priory Court Farm,
Sayerland Lane,
Polgate BN26 6QX
Contact: Claire Cousens

ICD Dates

Sussex, Plumpton College, 9th Oct, 6th Nov,
18th Dec, 15th Jan, 19th Feb.

Kent, Duckhurst & Saddlesdane, 23rd Oct,
27th Nov, 12th Dec, 22nd Jan, 6th Feb,
26th Feb, 6th March

Surrey, Merrist Wood, 24th Oct, 21st Nov,
12th Dec, 13th Feb, 20th March

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Drive from Knockhatch Smallholding

Several drivers took advantage of the kind offer of a drive by the Fieldwick family and Mary's parents on 1st August.

Three different lengths of drive were offered, 5, 7 and 9 miles the latter two taking in Abbotts Wood. Although the day started with good weather this unfortunately deteriorated into a quite heavy shower of rain so it was some soggy drivers who returned to the field. Lovely bright rosettes were presented to all drivers plus their groom.

Margaret, Ron and Jan were on hand to dispense sausage rolls, cake and hot drinks. It was lovely to see everyone sitting around the catering van enjoying social chat. Dick looked so pleased he could have stayed all day but eventually it was time to pack up and go home. Margaret made a special cake for Mary's parents as a thank you with which they were delighted.

Thank you all for a lovely day out, let's hope we can do the drive again next year.



Sam and Anthea with Bertie



Dick Carey driving Magic followed by Claire Cousens driving Beau

Fire Extinguishers

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



How Children Perceive their Grandparents

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I'll probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye.

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me happy birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both real old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me, and she was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try figuring out some of this stuff for yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them

before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use, Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, warily. "How do you make babies?" "It's easy," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

11. "Give me a sentence about a public servant," instructed the teacher during a lesson. One small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," offered one child. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

15. My Grandparents are funny. When they bend over, you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

Training with Sarah-Jane at Priory Court Farm

Sarah-Jane was kept very busy at our training day in August. We started the morning with dressage in the lovely rubber school, elsewhere on the farm a cones course was set out and several obstacles with short routes to negotiate including a bank.

Our training days are always very popular and this one was sold out quickly. If the good weather prevails we may be able to hold another one. Many thanks to Sarah-Jane for her excellent tuition and helpful comments. Thank you also to Claire Cousens and her sister Therese for allowing us to come and use the excellent facilities.



Daisy Bray and Beau



Sarah Otway and Hodge



Helen Bridge and Billy



Kevin Jeffrey and Beau



Liz Howe and Jester. Gordon on the backstep

Church notices with a twist

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

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

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

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

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

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 Association Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday - "I upped my pledge, Up yours".

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

World Cup, Hale Farm

We hoped for nice weather for our annual trip to Hale Farm and we certainly got it - a bit too hot in fact. Pru Wynne-Evans kindly organised the World Cup competition, a course of obstacles and cones combined, but with a twist. A joker cones gate was added at the very end, this was narrower than the usual 145cm width. If driven clear it took away all previous cone faults. Several drives tried and succeeded to improve their scores this way.

The Shetlands, smalls and novices and a gentle bogey time to match whilst the open drivers had a much sharper time, this was matched to within one second by Donna Simmons who went on to a conclusive win. Helen Bridges was on course for a win too but an unexpected and uncorrected error of course let Jason take the spoils. Sarah Otway had her day of glory too, helped by driving the joker cones to improve her overall score.

The catering van team kept everyone fed and watered, cold drinks being very popular. Many thanks to them and to all who gave their time and experience to make the day a success, Tom the scorer and all the stewards too. Special thanks to Pru who organised everything and presented all the winners with a big tub of Celebrations chocolates, the winning grooms received an Oaks mug.

Results

Shetlands

1st Jason Fieldwick
Helen Bridges - Eliminated

Novice/Small pony

1st Sarah Otway
2nd Alison Bones
3rd Joanna Beasley-Richards

Open Pony/Horse

1st Donna Simmons
2nd Bella Freeman
3rd Angela Lydall
Christine Buckland - Eliminated
Jeni Longley - Retired

Chairman's Choice - Sarah Otway

Best Groom - Bella Freeman



Jason Fieldwick and Mowgli



Alison Bones and Domino

Training with Sarah-Jane Cook

Saturday 23rd October

Priory Court Farm,

Sayerland Lane BN26 6QX

Obstacle and cones (or dressage) training
on the all weather arena.

45 minute sessions £28.00.

Members only. Contact Claire Cousens

Copy for the December newsletter should be sent to Liz Howe by 25th Nov 2021
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
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Sweatshirts - Yellow embroidered logo on navy sweatshirt. Small, Medium, Large, X Large, XX Large

Polo Shirt

Body Warmer

Showerproof Jackets

Car Sticker - 50p

Contact: Jan Curd. Tel: 01323 849615

MEDI ARMBANDS

Porcelain Mugs £5.00 each or 6 for £25

Badges (metal) £3.50

Hand cut lead crystal glass tumbler with Oaks logo £7.50

10 notelets with white envelopes £2.50

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Cheques payable to The Oaks Driving Club

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