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August 2014

I hope you're having a good summer and getting in some practice for the Halloween Hunter Trials in October! Our next fun ride is on 25th August, bank holiday Monday and will be along the Ridgeway with June Collier at the helm. Details will be sent out very soon. Our recent one around Tusmore Park was great fun and enjoyed by all.

Please don't forget to take a look at North Oxford Riding Club's website (www.northoxonridingclub.com) as we are sharing training sessions and they are a very friendly and welcoming bunch!

Summer Area 5 Dressage Qualifier on 6th July 2014

Turning left shortly after the Long Itch Diner (I love this name for a café) we came to Princethorpe College in Warwickshire for the Area 5 summer dressage qualifier in July. Stoneleigh Riding Club had secured the beautiful setting once again and Sue Ruddock, Natalie Warren and Anna Reynolds were pleased to be representing the club on that hot Wimbledon finals day. Anna and Natalie rode warm up tests in preparation and for the qualifying class they all did pleasing, calm and obedient tests in the scorching sun and were delighted to be rewarded with a team win! Once again ORC are excited to be off to the BRC Championships in Lincoln in September.



Tusmore Ride 10 July 2014

We decided to explore a new part of Oxfordshire and organised a ride to start from Bainton, near Bicester. This is a mostly unsung corner of Oxfordshire, bordering on Larkrise to Candleford territory, with proper working farms and lovely countryside. We met at Home Farm in Bainton by kind permission of Julie and Robert Adams. Julie led us on the ride which was just as well as a few times we came to the end of a field and there were several paths to choose from and we may not have made it back before dusk without her!

Quite close to Bainton we passed by a stone monument in the middle of a crop field – this is the Monument to “Lady”. It was erected in 1812 by Sir Thomas Mostyn (Master at the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt 1800 – 1830) in memory of his favourite hound, Lady. We then passed through Stoke Lyne and past a tiny pub called the Peyton Arms – sadly none of us had any money or we might have stopped for a swift half in traditional Oxford Riding Club style – maybe next time! Julie then took us onto the Tusmore Estate which belongs to Wafic Said. There is a bridleway which runs in front of the main house – Julie told us to be careful not to ride on the grass as there are several security cameras and we didn’t want to be ticked off!

We had a fantastic gallop down the bridleway which runs from the front of the house along a big stretch of parkland and all the horses had a bit of a pipe opener. It seemed to be a ride of ‘monument spotting’, as we rode past an enormous obelisk which had been erected by Wafic Said as homage to the Queen on her diamond jubilee. It’s 92 ft high and there is a 5 ft cap covered in gold. From there it was through the woods and onto the village of Hardwick. We were lucky with the weather and had gorgeous views over to Brill Hill as we came back to Bainton.

It was a lovely ride, nearly all of it on grass. At the end we each donated £5 which is to go to the Stoke Lyne Church Restoration Fund. Many thanks to Julie and Robert for letting us park at Home Farm and for allowing us onto their land.

Bernadette





Summer Dressage Show

The Summer Dressage Show was once again held at Heath Farm in Nether Worton by kind permission of Mrs Anne Ballard. All the tests were on a surface we had a record number of entries. Despite some early rather grim weather it was a great success. Very many thanks to all the helpers who made it run so smoothly and to our judge, Lynne Kerrison. Here are a few pictures from the day!

