



Willow Farm Newsletter

January 2008

Happy New Year - Now all the festivities are over and things are getting back to normal for us, we have had 3 whole days when both the shop and the riding school have been closed – but its business as usual now. Throughout January we will be holding a *massive clearance sale* in the shop – all stock apart from books, cards and external sales at least 20% off. Come along and see what bargains you can find. Our December jumping show was really well attended and our next one is on Sunday January 13th. We have lots more shows planned for 2008, as Colette intends to expand the number of dressage shows she holds here and is also planning several jumping shows. If you would like to hire one of our horses for these events please ask your Riding Instructor for their advice. Our gift vouchers were very well received and some of them even sold via our on-line web shop! We can create gift vouchers for any kind of equestrian activity – just ask in the shop for more details. The Christmas party went really well – our thanks go to Sylvia for all her hard work on the catering side – and of course to Roy for his charming chilli. The karaoke was – er – a success, some might say. Some might say you can check on Youtube to see if this is true! We were a bit limited to Kylie numbers, but we did our best. We are extremely busy in the riding school at the moment, so make sure you book your regular lesson place in advance – the 11 O clock lesson on a Saturday is now full! We have a demonstration day on Sunday 27th January at Willow Farm, organised by Moat View Riding club. Tickets can be obtained from the shop and are only £7.

After Christmas we had two fast hacks, out to the Belmont estate, the weather held out and everyone really enjoyed the experience, we will be holding another fast hack on Sunday January 27th – ask your Riding Instructor if you would like to go – you need to be ready or able to gallop. A more sedate hack can be booked in the usual manner and lasts one hour, or if you are less adventurous try a mini trek. We have held a number of pony fun mornings over the Christmas period and they have been enjoyed by staff and children alike – and ponies I suspect. There will be more of these in February half term week, but Pony For The Day can be booked for most weekend days. We currently have two horses in for schooling, one is a stallion and one was a stallion until last Friday (he doesn't want to talk about it). Thanks to the indoor school we have been able to keep schooling our youngsters through the winter months and they are all coming on very well, please check our horses for sale section of the web site if you are interested or ask one of our staff for more details. Next Saturday at 2pm (12th) we have our monthly Musical Formation Ride, if you would like to take part then please contact us as soon as possible as there are only a few places left.

Sadly, we lost one of our oldest residents at the start of the year. Her name was Sage and she was between 48 and 50 years of age. She has been retired and living the life of Riley for a number of years, after a great career teaching many children to ride. She was a great old trooper and had an amazing attitude (for a pony!) to working. She will be sadly missed, but didn't suffer, and was able to have a little flirt with our stallion the day before she passed away. We will be planting up an area of the garden in her memory and the outdoor school will now become Sage's arena (as our indoor school is named after another wonderful horse called Cedar). Unfortunately this is the downside to rescuing horses and giving them a home for life, but we are all really glad that she had such a lovely retirement because of the work we do – and the funds that are provided by our clients, thank you. *Liz Burgess*

RIDING SCHOOL EVENTS JANUARY

- Colette's Dressage – Saturday January 26th for details see <http://www.cbequine.co.uk>
- Jumping Show – Sunday January 13th from 9am, for details please call 01795 533669 or check our web site www.ridewithwillow.co.uk
- Musical Dressage – Saturday 12th January at 2pm until 3:15pm
- Refer a friend vouchers – if you know someone who would like to come and ride with us (new clients only) and you are an existing Riding School customer, ask for a voucher and get £10 off your lesson and theirs! We must be maaaad! This offer is not valid with any other discounts.
- Sunday January 27th – Fast Hack - blow the cobwebs away for a couple of hours - £35 or enjoy a mini trek around the farm

SHOP EVENTS JANUARY

- **Massive Sale – AT LEAST 20% OF ALL STOCK** (excluding cards, gifts and external stock)
- All change – Sharon and Wendy are now planning a change around in the shop – so watch this space for more details – and new lights of course!!
- Loyalty scheme – join for free and get 5% extra off all purchases (ask about exclusions)

Willow Farm Customer Services

We are keen to ensure we always offer the best service, if you would like to comment on anything then please e-mail us or leave your comments in the comment box in the café area. You can also log onto touchlocal.com (via the links page of our web site) and register a review there. If you are unhappy with any service you receive from us, then please contact us so we can resolve the matter.

To write a review about Willow Farm please visit www.touchlocal.com and search for Riding Schools in Faversham or use the links page of our Web site.