



# Willow Farm Newsletter

December 2007

I feel a bit of a fraud writing to you about what went on in November, as I was off sunning myself in Bali for half of it! However, the show did go on as they say, we had another Open show jumping competition on November 18<sup>th</sup>, which was quite well attended, but we could definitely do with some more competitors! There are fantastic rosettes, trophies and prizes and the jumps start really low. For our December show on December 16<sup>th</sup> we are also having a Chase-me-Charlie. The University of Kent came for a late night shopping event at the beginning of November and will be back again one night in December for some last minute Christmas shopping. If you still need to buy some presents yourself, then why not buy a Willow Farm Gift voucher? We have devised a selection of grouped activities for beginner riders and advanced, with discounted lesson prices, or you can simply purchase a gift voucher for a set amount to be used in the riding school or the shop. We now have our own range of Willow Farm rugs for sale in the shop. They have been designed in conjunction with the Willow Farm team – including Rodney the trotter who has been testing one in the field, he is very pleased with it. They have a 300g fill and are 900 denier with excellent fastenings and are only £62 – but hurry – this price is for the month of December only. The mulled wine and mince pies went down well at the start of December and lots of people came in the shop to make use of the 5% discount, I didn't drink a drop and anyone who said I did is a liar!!

We had a visit from our equine dentist, Siobhan Berry, who visited some of the livery horses on site, she is back next week to do the last of the riding school horses. Because of uneven wear on horse's teeth they can develop sharp edges, and therefore can't grind up their food properly, so they need to have their teeth rasped (or floated) annually. Some of our older horses and those with 'unusual' shaped mouths may have theirs done every six months. We also had several visits from the saddler this month, which revealed to our dismay, that some of our horses have had their saddles overstuffed, which has led to discomfort from uneven weight distribution. I am very pleased to report that all these issues have now been rectified – but we need to keep having the saddles checked on a regular basis as the horse's back change shape throughout the year. What the heck!?! It's only money!!

The really good news is that the coffee machine is working again, so we can have a latte in the morning to prepare us for the day ahead, the other good news is that Roy didn't buy any horses while I was away on holiday!!

If you would like to join us for our Christmas party on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm then please come into the shop to book it – we will be drawing the raffle at this event, there will be a three course meal (Chilli for main) for just £8 per head – bring your own booze. From all the staff and residents at Willow Farm have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Burgess

## RIDING SCHOOL EVENTS DECEMBER

- Colette's Dressage – Saturday December 15<sup>h</sup> for details see <http://www.cbequine.co.uk>
- Jumping Show – Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am, for details please call 01795 533669 or check our web site [www.ridewithwillow.co.uk](http://www.ridewithwillow.co.uk)
- Musical Dressage – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm until 4:15pm – Liz will be singing Christmas Carols and Roy will be wearing his choirboy cassock!
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Queenie and dumpling will be appearing at Strood Market to drum up business
- December 27<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Hack – the route is yet to be decided but the fee will be between £30 and £35 depending on how long we are going out for, riders must be assessed before they can join this hack (for your own safety)
- December 21<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Mini Activity Morning – for the young 'uns - £28 from 10am to 1pm; treasure hunt, races, handy pony and bottom hole jumping

## SHOP EVENTS DECEMBER

- Christmas party – Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm, tickets £8 per person
- We will be open throughout the Christmas period except for Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, Dec 26<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. (Please check if you are unsure as some days we will be closed at 4pm in the shop)
- Cappuccino and cake £1.80 – the cafe is open for chips and the like on Saturdays and show days
- Join our loyalty scheme and receive 5% off all purchases in the shop
- January SALE starts January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- NEW Willow Farm rugs, £62 until December 31<sup>st</sup>

## Willow Farm Schooling & Livery Services

We are now offering DIY livery at Willow Farm; the cost per week is £48 which includes all hay and bedding – and of course your own stable and grazing. All our liveries obviously have access to our wonderful facilities and they also receive 10% off in the shop and discounted lesson fees. We also have spaces for full livery clients at £100 per week. We are currently schooling a pony called Roger who is a bit of a monster at almost 10 hands! He has settled in very well and is improving every day. Schooling fees are £180 per week.

*To write a review about Willow Farm please visit [www.touchlocal.com](http://www.touchlocal.com) and search for Riding Schools in Faversham or use the links page of our Web site.*