

January has been a very busy month in the Riding School and the Saddlery. On Sunday 27th January, Moat View Riding Club held a very successful demonstration day, which was very well attended. Visitors to the Saddlery benefited from 30% off on the day and riding school customers enjoyed another fast hack, with perfect weather and no fallers! Roy is still hoping to come further up the field than 4th, but he could have a long wait as Fella, Isla and Griffin are not willing to let him past....yet! As I'm late sending out the newsletter this month (still working on the bulk e-mail issues) we have already had our Musical Formation ride. Twelve riders took part, one of whom travelled from Hoo – with her horse. With so many riders it was difficult to keep together and in rhythm, but by the end of the lesson it was looking really good. Colette's dressage was well attended again, and the standard of competitors seems to be improving every time. This month we have Colette's dressage on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd February – and she is back the next day for show jumping in the morning! For more information see www.cbequine.co.uk, if you would like to hire one of Willow Farm horses for either competition please ask your riding instructor for more details.

Welcome to all our new customers, we have a record number of new arrivals – of all ages and abilities, with this influx we will have to consider adding more horses to the Riding School. We are shortly going to wean our foals, so their mothers can rejoin the riding school. Some of you may have noticed the new stables being built in the pole barn at the top of the lane, once complete (and they are being done by Bob the Builder in record time) we can use this yard for weaning purposes. The new yard is being built to accommodate liveryes – working and DIY. If you would like to know more about our livery services please e-mail me or call 01795 533669. We are looking forward to purchasing some more grazing in the very near future, but these things always take longer than estimated, as soon as we have it we can move ALL the horses from the main field and give it a well earned rest. The good news is that Roy has a new tractor so that's him happy for a week or two with his new toy, if you are interested I am sure he will give you a guided tour of the new beast!

We have lots of events running over the half term holiday – a pony fun morning on February 13th (£30) which runs from 10am to 1pm, there are 3 places left; half term varies from school to school this year so we have 2 weeks of activities! On Saturday 16th we have a novice hack going out at 12pm, please ask me if you would like to join us – just walking and trotting. The following week we have pony for the day running on Monday, Thursday and Friday. The day starts at 10am and runs until 4pm, riders are given a half hour group lesson and taught how to carry out basic stable management skills. There are 4 levels to work through so it is also suitable for more advanced riders. On Saturday 23rd of February we have a 1 hour group jumping lesson at 12:30 followed by a 'sedate' hack at 2:30, both costing £25 each. If you aren't feeling sedate there's a fast hack on Sunday 24th at 11:30.

We are very excited that a Riders' Fitness course is starting on Thursday February 21st at 7:30pm, more details below..... I have been riding for nearly 30 years and have never seen anything like this on offer before. I am used to dealing with yoga and pilates teachers who don't really understand the intricacies of riders positions and the areas which need to be flexible, so I have signed up for this 10 week course and urge any serious riders to consider it too. Finally we have some great events planned for March - more dressage and jumping with Colette, a ridden and in-hand show on March 9th in aid of Head Ways Charity and our own Open Show on Easter Monday (March 24th). For more details on any of these events please e-mail me and I will send out details to you. The Willow Farm show will consist of lots of fun classes, so our own clients can take part without being overwhelmed...handsomest gelding, prettiest mare, handy pony, scurry and lots more.

Customer Service; We have received some feedback from clients, as requested and we aim to use these to keep improving our service. It was felt that on busy days we need more staff in the café, we agree! We also had one comment of "I had lots of fun – thank you", we thank you Georgina, and one anonymous comment of "I don't think Liz looks nearly 40" (I quite agree). Thank you to those of you who have added a review on touchlocal – if you would like to add a comment about your teacher or the service you received in the shop please access this page from our links section on our web site or e-mail me a testimonial. Look out for more information about an event on May25th – Kelly Marks is coming to Willow Farm!!! Have a happy February. *Liz Burgess*

RIDING SCHOOL EVENTS February

- Colette's Dressage – Saturday February 23rd for details see <http://www.cbequine.co.uk>
- Colette's Jumping Show – Sunday February 24th from 9am
- Half Term - Pony For the Day, Pony Fun Morning, sedate hack, fast hack – see above for available dates and times

SHOP EVENTS February

- Loyalty scheme – join for free and get 5% extra off all purchases (ask about exclusions)

Riders Fitness

“Are you fit to ride your horse?” Riders Fitness sessions maybe your answer!

Riders Fitness has been created by two dedicated fitness professionals, who also have a passion for riding. The course aims to improve the standard and ability of riders throughout Kent and Great Britain. All sports people get fit to play their sport- so why shouldn't we? We have created a 10 week programme specifically aimed to improve the ability of the rider with the emphasis on fun with like minded people. It includes fitness assessments on weeks 1 and 10, so that you too can be amazed at your progress and the benefits of this training. Full support is given throughout the course, and all fitness abilities are welcome to attend. Classes will include exercises that cover beginner to advanced levels, and any riding or competition level can be targeted. With the backing of professionals such as Guy Williams (International Show Jumper) and various BHS Instructors, Riders Fitness is set to be extremely popular this Year. Riders Fitness Courses are being show cased at Willow Farm Equestrian Centre, Faversham, starting on 21st February 2008.

To book onto this course, call us now on: 07748 988851 / 07701 067534.

More details are available at an introductory night on Tuesday February 19th at Willow Farm