

ACORN & SQUIRRELS OF EXETER 26TH NEWSLETTER – Christmas Term 2018

This term went very quickly and we had quite a lot going on. Our early ride on Tuesday's now has three riders, Isabella, Robert and Logan. The boys are progressing well and both are able to ride off the leading rein and have conquered the rising trot! We hope to take them down to Cornwall for the Regional Dressage Competition in May next year. Isabella just likes the movement of Will which does her so much good and playing with the toys.

The younger riders are all doing well and thoroughly enjoy their riding sessions and are very reluctant to get off at the end – especially Tom. We have three boys and just one girl. They ride from 9.30 – 10.00am and are followed by eight riders from WESC

One of our riders Hannah Batterbee who rode with us from WESC very sadly died earlier in the year. Alice and Sue V thought it would a lovely idea to have a trophy in her memory and on the last Tuesday of term the Hannah Batterbee Memorial Trophy for Endeavour was presented to Anna Wilkinson. Hannah's family were with us and gave Anna the trophy. Anna, who has minimal sight, was thrilled as the trophy is of a horse's head and she was able to feel the ears and eyes and mane. The trophy will be awarded annually and it was very special having Hannah's parents and brother Jamie and sister Olivia with us.

On the same morning Pearl Harris, also from WESC, was awarded with 'The Most Improved Rider Trophy'. Pearl is a young lady who takes a long, long time to assimilate what is being said to her. Her first riding sessions with us it would take her at least 15 minutes to get from the mini bus to the mounting block and then a long time for her to actually mount Will. Over the weeks because the situation is now familiar to Pearl she comes in much quicker and once on she is very happy, is becoming verbal and listening to what is said. The improvement is very rewarding and hopefully she will ride again next term and we can continue the good work.

The six from Tavistock who ride on Wednesday afternoons have had a bit of an off term with visits to Goosey Fair, Butlins, windy weather, dentist appointments etc!! But, when they have ridden they have enjoyed themselves. The two sessions Helene takes on Wednesday's are going well and in the third session Nina, Harry and Christina have been doing their own thing off the leading rein which is good to see.

The riders had lovely Christmas rosettes and Christmas goodies on their last rides of term!

Our ponies have been in good form all term and Sooty is the lucky one as he was presented with a new numnah by The Lions Club of Exeter West. It has the Lions Club logo embroidered on one side and his name on the other – I hope we can keep it clean!

We have been very lucky with donations this term and with some of our own fundraising. The Raffle was successful raising £127.00 with Jamie from the stables winning the hamper. The Christmas cards along with the sale of a lovely painting done by a friend of Val's made a wonderful profit of £206.00 (after the cost of the printing of the cards) Thank you very much to everyone who has so kindly donated to the Group.

We have a website at last! www.acornandsquirrelsda.co.uk Have a look, it's great!

Thank you all for another good and successful term and have a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

DATES FOR NEXT TERM – WE RESTART ON 15TH/16TH JANUARY 2019.