

IPSWICH HORSE SOCIETY

The Firs
Norwich Road
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January 2019

Welcome to 2019. Our Chairman, Mike Bloomfield, myself and our committee hope you had a happy Christmas and New Year.

With 2019 here, we are busy arranging our events which, as usual, are the Easter Monday show and the spring and autumn sponsored rides.

2018 was a year of mixed fortunes for the Society. You may remember East Anglia being hit by the 'Beast from the East' which arrived when other events were being planned, resulting in some being cancelled. As our Easter Monday show was at the beginning of April we kept our fingers crossed that we would be able to go ahead. We knew the going at Trinity Park would hold up. We just prayed for a dry day. Unfortunately, we didn't get the answer we wanted (!) - although not a cold day, it was damp which did affect the number of competitors who braved the weather. Those that did come said how good the ground conditions were and what a lovely show it was. This year, Easter is near the end of April so let's hope for much nicer weather.

Thankfully, our next event, the ride from Winston Hall in June, was held on a lovely day and, as usual, our hosts, Bill and Margaret James, were very hospitable. We had a slightly different route which meant roadwork was minimal. Both the show and this ride were in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance and a donation of £1,347 was sent to them.

Our autumn ride in September started in the lovely setting of Old Hall Estate at Barham by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Tanner. This was extremely well supported and, again, the weather couldn't have been better. Lynne Mortimer, a journalist from the East Anglian Daily Times and who also can be heard on her regular comment slots on Radio Suffolk, came along and spent a good while chatting with us and to riders. Her article, which appeared in the EADT, EDP and Bury Free Press, covered the history of the Society, our aims and our donations to local charities now amounting to well over £100,000.

The committee decided to donate sponsorship from this ride to Street Forge Workshops at Thornham Magna, a very small charitable organisation providing training and activities for adults with disabilities. They make wonderful items mainly from wood, including hedgehog boxes, bird and owl boxes and many smaller pieces. The committee visited them on one of their open days at the end of last year and presented a cheque for £783. They were absolutely delighted as they rely totally on donations and profits from selling their goods. Many of us couldn't resist purchasing something. I bought a little hedgehog made from a large cedar fir cone - really lovely work.

In December, Mike and I attended a 'thank you' evening given by the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS). Over the years we have donated £13,000 to this extremely brilliant charity - again, all funded by donations. Specialist voluntary doctors from this service are usually first on the scene of any accident, including horse rider related. We heard about their work and the state-of-the-art equipment they have just purchased which assists them in treating a patient in cardiac arrest with the machine giving chest compressions allowing the doctor to concentrate on other areas of care.

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So we go into 2019 wishing you all a happy and successful year. We hope as a Society we can continue to offer events for equestrians for a little while longer, although we are all getting older and have more aches and pains. We smile as we often say we should rename the Society the 'Hipswitch' Horse Society as five of our committee have had hip replacements so that only leaves four of us who are not yet bionic!

If anyone would like to help at the Easter Monday show in any way do please contact me. We are a very friendly committee.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone who has helped us at our events in 2018. We are so grateful to you all.

Regards

Margaret Walton

Margaret Walton

2019 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
AGM 28 th January
SPRING SHOW Easter Monday 22 nd April at Trinity Park, Ipswich
SPRING/SUMMER RIDE To be arranged
AUTUMN RIDE To be arranged