

IPSWICH HORSE SOCIETY

The Firs
Norwich Road
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January 2021

Hello everyone

Well what can I say about 2020 other than we all witnessed something we have never before experienced and, hopefully, do not go through again and I am talking about the Covid-19 pandemic. It had, and is continuing to have, a huge effect on people and events, including the IHS.

Towards the end of 2019, the committee took the decision not to hold our Easter Monday show 2020 and, thankfully we did, as we would have had to cancel as the country went into lockdown and that's where we stayed for some months.

Luckily, the weather in lockdown was perfect for working outside and I, for one, took advantage of the sunshine by painting stables/buildings and spending time in the garden. I think a lot of people were doing the same and many gardens looked amazing. Also, having horses and ponies provided motivation as animals need looking after whatever else is happening.

Our June ride, which is held at Winston, near Debenham, was one of the events that couldn't go ahead. This was disappointing. As you will know, all our events support local charities so we were not able to do this. Most charities have lost out financially as they rely on donations to keep their services running.

Also, a dark side of Covid is that many people have lost their lives and some of you may have family members or friends that have been affected. Our thoughts are with you.

Another sad time for the committee was back in June when our Vice-Chairman, Roy Dale, passed away (not Covid-related). Roy was a founder member of the Society in 1973. He, with his wife Mary, was regularly seen at events over the years – Roy often being the BS course builder. He had a wealth of knowledge having, in his younger days, competed in point-to-pointing and showjumping. Roy has left a big gap on the committee.

Back in September, between lockdowns, we were able to hold our autumn ride at Old Hall Estate, Barham, following strict Covid rules. What a super day we had. The weather was perfect – sunny and warm – and 86 riders attended. Sue Leverett did a sterling job taking entries on-line and we then sorted time slots for all riders and on the day it couldn't have run more smoothly. An entry fee was charged and all monies were donated to the Injured Jockeys' Fund in Newmarket. This was chosen by Mary Dale in memory of Roy as he really did enjoy his racing and spent most weekends from December to March at point-to-points. A magnificent £1,600 was sent to the charity and we received a lovely thank-you letter from them.

The committee would like to thank Mr and Mrs Tanner – owners of Old Hall Estate where we start and finish the ride – and also the other farmers and landowners who allow us to go on tracks that would normally be unavailable to riders.

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As we go into 2021 we will have to wait to see how restrictions are in the months ahead. Maybe once the majority have had the vaccine things will start to get back to some kind of normality with a gradual return of everything we have desperately missed. I, for one, will again really miss the Suffolk Show which is not going ahead this year but fingers crossed for 2022.

So let's all look forward to better things to come and we will get there if everyone follows the rules.

Stay safe and we hope we can organise something this year for all you horse riders!

Regards

Margaret

Margaret Walton

Our committee

Mike Bloomfield	Chairman
Jenny Walton	Treasurer
Anne Johnson	Secretary
Wendy Simmons	Website
Mary Dale	
Ann Skeet	
Sue Leverett	
Margaret Walton	