

THE INTREPID TRIO FROM AREA 19 TAKE PART IN ENDURANCE AND HUNT RIDES IN EAST/NORTH YORKSHIRE

Gill Greenwood writes about the rides where she was joined by her son Danny and fellow Area 19 member Penny Sarginson.

The first ride was at the beginning of June 2017, which was at Sledmere House (venue of Festival of the Horse). Penny was side saddle on Rosie(27 years young !) , I was side saddle on Storm , Danny road astride on Izzy as our escort and gate opener and shutter, Sledmere is a 10 mile ride. It was a gorgeous day; proceeds for the ride went to RDA Priory Vale at Bridlington.



The photos show views of us in the woods and with the castle house, and the main Sledmere house in the background of the Yorkshire Wolds.

There was lots of interest from people involved with the ride, and our photos will be in their RDA newsletter. There were some interesting woods and steep banks to negotiate!

On the 23rd of July, we three completed the 'Ride Yorkshire ' pleasure ride at Burton Constable house. It was a super ride of 11 miles and was very well organised and marked out with a very enthusiastic and supportive team organising the ride (and an excellent lunch included too). We did get extremely wet when the heavens opened in the last quarter of the ride. There was fabulous stubble to gallop on, and Rosie, Izzy and Storm thought they were hunting All 3 of us rode side saddle this time, it was Danny and Izzy's first time on such a long ride side saddle and they led Penny and I all the way (Izzy just has to go first and showed us a clean pair of heels on the stubble!!!!). On our first track out , we met a lady walking her dog , who was so pleased to see 3 people riding side saddle , on chatting further we find out that a number of decades ago she used to show hunters side saddle at County Level . this meeting was in the middle of a really rural area with not a house in sight, and just shows, that one should always ride at ones best, and never slouch, as you never know who might appear from around a corner!! At the end of the ride Janet Cochrane , who organised the ride , arranged for all 3 of us to ride around to the main house and have some photos taken and I believe they are on ' ride Yorkshire ' face book and there have been some very supportive comments . This ride was to raise funds for under privileged and vulnerable children in Hull to be able to access horse riding.



Apparently the museum at the main house does have some horsey exhibits, including a side saddle, which we did not get a chance to see. We ate lunch once the horses were settled down, in the old brick built riding school, which i expect was built in the 1800's. So we are planning a trip back to explore the house on foot.

Since this ride , i have been in email contact with Janet Cochrane who is the Director of Ride Yorkshire and Janet has forwarded me 2 photos of her maternal grandmother Susan Fane de salis nee Aldworth .



The grey horse photos was taken in the early 1920s and the off side view of the superb old fashioned Hunter (called Mr Barry) was taken in 1925.

Janet s mother still had her mother's habit and saddle until the 1970s, when unfortunately they were sold during a house move. (I thought the off side had a relatively distinctive flap, so wondered if anyone would recognise it) I thought the black and white photos were superb. What a lovely circle of connection.

On the last day of August, we three again took advantage of the last of the late summer evenings and joined our hunt (The Staintondale) for a hunt ride. Again Danny went side saddle , and our hunt master who is usually a very chilled lady , still hunting 2 days a week in her mid 70s , did ask whether Danny would be ok as we galloped en masse across the stubble in the setting sun , i assured her he and Izzy would be fine and of course they were. The views across the Vale of York from the forest were truly stunning.



As an aside, Penny and I rode at the Southfield (Scarborough) show in July, where we were asked to compete in the Concours D'Elegance class. We did have to wear crash hats at this was the show rules, but the photo shows the backdrop of the Yorkshire Wolds. This show always makes for interesting riding, as it is on quite a slope with no flat areas at all, quite a challenge for side saddle. The dressage is always 'fun' as Storm tends to skid downhill into wheelie corners , however Rosie and Penny overcame the local geography and came second in a well supported prelim class. Storm however achieved in other events, including winning the barrel racing and veteran Horse/pony, and second in the riding club horse/pony. In all events Storm competed side saddle and became the Southfield overall Performance Champion.

The intrepid 3 ventured out again to the Staintondale Hunter trial , and competed side saddle in the Nanny & Novice class as a team of 3 on a rather undulating course with glorious views of the sea and Scarborough castle (but sun was in the wrong direction for photos with a view !!).



Dan and Gill went on to compete in other classes (Gill side saddle and Dan back to astride) We had some lovely clear rounds that we are very proud of, but just not quite quick enough to get into the placings.



PHOTOS COUTESY OF DEREK BAKER AND JANET COCHRANE