

Hampshire & Surrey Borders RDA

Riding for the Disabled Association

Welcome

Welcome to our August 2017 Newsletter. A highly successful fundraising event at the Fleet Carnival is the highlight of this year—more on that in a separate article. We are now settled into our new routine at the Four Seasons and our children are happily attending the new venue and are now acquainted with the new ponies. All our volunteers have embraced the change and continue enthusiastically to step up to the plate when fundraising opportunities arise. Read more and enjoy the photographs of our RDA year and please note that we do need your input for our next Newsletter—any newsworthy item may be sent to Sylvia (hebdon369@btinternet.com). We are always seeking a paragraph or a lengthier article and any photos you may have.



*Tuesday Lesson at Four Seasons
June 2017*

Zebon Copse Fundraising Event

One of our most consistent fundraisers is Janet who has for about 10 years been raising money for our RDA Group at the Zebon Copse Fete Refreshment stall. Here she gives us an insight into her annual fundraiser. Over to Janet . . .

“Well what can I say? I must enjoy it as I have been involved with it or running it for the last ten years. The Zebon Copse Residents Association puts on the annual fete as a way of bringing their community together and very kindly let us have use of the kitchen in the community hall free of charge in order to raise funds for the RDA. The first year or so we were under canvas on the field with a portable water heater! I am pleased to say it is much more civilised now.

With a trusty band of helpers, we sell tea, coffee and cakes to anyone who pays a visit to the kitchen serving hatch. The wonderful array of cakes made by the RDA volunteers (without whom we couldn't run the refreshment stall) makes our job very easy. We do advise customers, tongue in cheek, that as the cakes are sold for a charity, they are both guilt and calorie free!

Three years ago, I was asked by the residents committee if we would consider making and selling bacon rolls for the other stallholders prior to the fete opening. This is where my husband became involved. I am provided with a list of pre-ordered bacon rolls and he cooks between fifty and sixty rashers of bacon, depending on the number ordered. I couldn't manage without his help. This has proved to be very popular with the stallholders—who other than a vegetarian could resist the smell of cooking bacon?

Our day at the fete starts around 11 a.m. when we unload the car and prepare the kitchen and the day ends at 5:30 pm when we finish clearing up. The bacon rolls must be made, sold and the kitchen cleared up by 12:45 pm ready to have the cakes set up for 1:00 pm when the fete officially opens.

We don't charge a fortune for the tea and cakes, in keeping with the whole ethos of the fete, but we always make a reasonable amount towards our fundraising efforts. We must be doing something right as we are invited back by the Zebon Copse Committee year after year. It is little to do with me and more to do with the wonderful variety of delicious cakes provided by our volunteers. If I was ever to lose my list of things needed on the day, a list which seems to grow longer each year, I would be truly 'snookered'! With my list in hand I am quite relaxed and it is always a good but exhausting day. I am more than ready for a relaxing sit down when I get home but never really fancy a cuppa or a piece of cake - I wonder why!!”



Janet raises around £250-£275 at each Zebon Copse Fete and contrary to what she says, we believe it is a lot to do with Janet, her great organisation and willingness to keep flying the RDA Fundraising Flag – well done Janet.

Inside this issue:

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Triumphant Event—Fleet Carnival

One of our best Fundraising Events of this current year will no doubt prove to be the Fleet Carnival. As you all know, we were the Carnival's chosen Charity for 2017 for which we are all very grateful.

Lots of hard work went into the preparation for this event—the “float” being a major project handled superbly by a talented team of RDA volunteers. Special thanks go to Fiona, Sam, Suzanne and Sue Goff - who not only spent many hours preparing the float but also stuck a lot of tickets on a lot of bottles! - and to John Clarke and John Astle who were there to help when the frame construction



Children's drawings on the float

began. Extra special thanks to Mandi who made our float centre-piece (Cecil the seahorse, on which our rag doll rider rode the waves) and provided or made

“Our volunteers give their time freely—their enthusiasm is crucial to success with the children”



Side-walkers and buckets at the ready—our RDA float ready for the procession

many of our float essentials, like netting and ‘rocks’, and helped with the decoration. Mandi also made a lovely quilt that was raffled along with Cecil the sea horse to raise more funds for us.

The pupils of both of the schools that we work with provided lots of artwork to dress the float – all in the theme of “under the sea” and we were delighted with the fantastic results, which included a giant blue octopus, many colourful jellyfish and fish of all shapes and sizes. Our thanks to the staff of Badshot Lea and Henry Tyndale Schools for entering so enthusiastically into the spirit of the event.



Olly the Octopus in the procession

Building up to the carnival we had to find ways to source raffle prizes and bottles, jars and items for our tombola stall in Calthorpe Park.



RDA Stall in Calthorpe Park

Once again our reliable volunteers collected and donated bottles, jars and raffle prizes. Lesley wrote innumerable letters to local companies asking for prizes and many thanks go to all the local businesses that donated vouchers



The collecting bucket brigade

and other items for our raffle and bottles for our tombola. Our eye-catching raffle flyer showed a plethora of goodies including tickets for a West End Show; days out at Wellington Country Park; meals at local restaurants; garden nursery vouchers and many more exciting things.

During the procession we pranced alongside the float with hobby horses and collected donations -

Triumphant Event—Fleet Carnival contd . . .

the folk of Fleet turned out in great number and threw coins (and sometimes paper money) into our buckets.

We were followed by a rather exotic bunch of fit lads in lion costumes from a yoga group and their energetic antics were something to behold!! Wendy (see photo) decided to help these lads along and joined in their dancing much to the amusement of the crowd.



Entertainment courtesy of Wendy!

The procession ended at Calthorpe Park where our volunteers who took part in the procession then made their way to our RDA stall where tickets for the raffle were selling rapidly and the tombola was well supported. At this juncture we must mention Sara's brave foray into the crowded streets of Fleet where she



RDA float approaching Calthorpe Park was single-handedly extracting money from everyone as she sold raffle tickets to all and sundry. Well done Sara.

Our stall was of course manned by a team of volunteers for the whole of Saturday and Sunday – and thanks to everyone who took a turn and contributed to the success of our raffle and tombola. The takings at the stall were £738.50 over the two days and with the money received from the



HSBRDA Tombola and Raffle Stall

Fleet Carnival bucket collection (amount will be disclosed at the Carnival AGM in September) we will have a very welcome boost to our 2017 fundraising.

New Pony at Four Seasons

Introducing a new addition to our pony team—Rolo has quickly learnt the ropes and guesses what the children want him to do before they ask!



Rolo at the Mounting Block

AND—three photos of our regular team at Four Seasons:



Toby & Choice



Toby & Choice



Rolo & Choice

“Pony-riding is a great way for a disabled child to have their physiotherapy—it holds their interest and is great fun”

SMILES—The Tuesday Group

You know the phrase about ducks - floating serenely, while paddling furiously below the water to keep up!

Well, we hope we look serene on Tuesdays, even when faced with TV cameras - actually, the whole morning went very well and the smiles on everyone's face transmitted beautifully - but just sometimes, there is a fair bit of paddling to do!!!!

Now, as we reflect on the past year, *SMILES* are what come to mind. We always say that a smile is the most important thing you can bring with you to riding - one young man teases us with a grimace when asked to smile - a rider's smile makes the horse smile - and my goodness, it makes all the volunteers smile too!

We have been very privileged to have Elspeth O'Donnel (Regional Physio) come to give one of our riders the benefit of "backriding" and I watched him, his Mum, his helpers, Elspeth and all the Instructors at the end of the session - all with the broadest smiles on their faces - it was magical to give him this opportunity, which will continue next term.

More smiles (especially from our grimacing rider) when two of our riders achieved their Grade 3 riding and horse care. Lots of brilliant input from Lucy; the boys took up the reins and ran with the whole idea - big, big smiles and enthusiasm. We don't often get the opportunity to have riders who can

ride independently and with the lovely Rolo and Chocolate they were truly able to achieve this milestone.

Our riders from Henry Tyndale continue to make us smile too - with their achievements, their advances which surprise and delight us and their pleasure in what they achieve. One of the best smiles to see on a Tuesday is that on the face of Sylvie, who brings the children, when one of 'her' children achieves - that is a joy too!

Our two little girls in the third ride are big smilers and are improving their skills all the time.

A big thank you goes to all our marvellous helpers who are so reliable, efficient, intuitive and smiley (our wonderful cake bakers make us all smile at coffee time too - thanks to them as well!) We are very excited that Rebecca has agreed to become a log book holder with a view to becoming an Instructor.

It has been a wonderful first year at Four Seasons, the ponies and the staff have all been brilliant (the only time we did not smile was when we had to say goodbye to Jemma from the Four Seasons on the

last day of term as she moves on to an exciting new job); and we have had the most wonderful weather too!

Wendy, Lucy, Nicky, Sue and Linda



*Backriding
Wendy leading Toby*



Choice at the Mounting Block



Backriding with Elspeth

Special points of interest:

- Several children who started to ride with us were unable to stand or walk independently. Many have now made great progress and have achieved important milestones.
- The games we play while sitting on a pony involves bending and stretching and this is strengthening their core muscles without them knowing it—and it's fun.

TV Interview and a Tuesday Lesson

In June 2017, as a lead-up to the Fleet Carnival Lesley was interviewed by "That's Hampshire TV" - the resulting film to be shown on Freeview Channel 7.



Recording Lesley's Interview

Hopefully we have now all seen the results on YouTube. The idea was to publicise what we do and explain how the Fleet Carnival collection is important to our Group thereby encouraging folk to put their hands in their pockets and contribute.



Chocolate with Veronica, Adam & Lucy

Lesley explained the work undertaken by HSRDA and the benefits to the children. She also explained how we funded the Group, our lessons and that we have maintained our presence for over 40 years.

"Riding improves core and general muscle strength and communication skills are improved measurably"

Lesley also outlined our activities and organisation and this was followed by the TV company recording a lesson at Four Seasons.



Sue & Linda leading a lesson

It is hoped that by spreading the word of our work with disabled children and raising our profile that we can encourage support for HSRDA and build on our fundraising efforts to enable us to continue this beneficial work for local children.



Toby & Choice during a lesson



Rolo and his young pupil making progress

Nostalgic Look at 3 Years Ago—and sending Good Wishes to Rachel & Graham



Fiona making the presentation to Rachel in 2014—with Kim, Nicky and Trish Willats (County Chairman)

Hard to believe but it was 3 years ago in 2014 when we had a great celebration for Rachel's Retirement. (Although she continued to be present and to contribute to HSRDA for which we are extremely grateful). Here are two favourite photos from that occasion.



Rachel's warm words

After hospitalization, Rachel is now back home with Graham and we wish them quality time together in these tough days. Rachel's undoubted spirit will serve her well in adversity and the whole RDA group is praying for her health and safety.

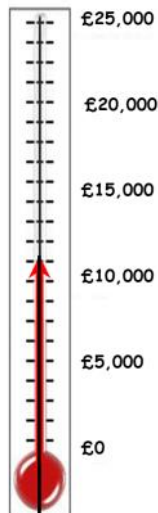
Good wishes to Rachel and Graham

Hart Lottery Fundraising



Fundraising Target

(Financial Year ending March 2018)
Year to date August 2017 (tba)



Thank you to everyone that has bought tickets for the Hart Lottery. Sold to date are 25 tickets raising £650 per year for the HSBRDA. If we could reach 40 tickets we could raise £1,000 per year, or to put it another way, it would pay for 66 of the almost 1,000 therapeutic riding lessons we give each year. Please spread the word.

- Support our cause and we get 50%!
- Win prizes of up to £25,000!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- 60% goes to good causes in Hart!
- Join today it only takes a minute!

Go to <https://www.hartlottery.co.uk/> and look for good causes—find *HANTS AND SURREY BORDERS RIDING FOR THE DISABLED* and purchase tickets to contribute to our fundraising efforts.

Future Fundraising

We are already planning to hold a fund-raising skittles evening in the Springtime. Look out for details after Christmas.

AND—if you have any ideas for fund-raising then they will always be gratefully received—an email to Lesley please.

We're on the Web
www.hsbrda.co.uk

Fundraising Quiz

Wendy and Veronica are holding one of their very popular quizzes at the Crondall Village Hall on Friday, 29th September 2017. Please gather together work colleagues, family and friends to enter a team for this event—see flyer below. Bookings through Wendy williacs@globalnet.co.uk or telephone 01428 604218 / 07787961317

HSBRDA
FUN & FRIENDLY
QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2017
7 FOR 7.30PM
CRONDALL VILLAGE HALL
£10 Per Person to include supper and a glass of wine.
bookings through Wendy
williacs@globalnet.co.uk
01428 604218 or 07787 961317
Tables of 8 but all are welcome to come along and join other tables.
Please book soon as tickets sell out fast .



AND FINALLY

Thank you to all Sponsors, Supporters, Volunteers and Helpers who make it possible for us to keep running, to keep helping local children and help to make a difference year after year – we really do appreciate you all

Hampshire & Surrey Borders RDA

(Registered Charity No: 1074282)

For more information please contact Lesley Bull on 07858 694636
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