

KESTEVEN RIDEABILITY

Newsletter November 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1074079

Another year is reaching its end but we have had another wonderful Summer but it doesn't mean we stop. We are already looking forward to our Annual Quiz which will again be held at Carlton Scroop Village Hall. Save the date: January 31st 2020.

We hope your Summer was as good as ours and that you also have a happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
The Trustees

Another competition season gets off to a flying start

Regional Qualifiers

As April came around again the competition season began. The RDA North Midlands Regional Dressage Qualifiers for the RDA National Championships were held this year at Scropton Riding and Driving Centre in Derbyshire. First up was the Dressage in April and Sue, Tracey and Emily were competing. This was followed in May by the Countryside Challenge Qualifier in which Timmy and Thomas were competing. Both days were fine and the ponies were boxed up and carefully driven over the border into Derbyshire. All the riders rode super tests with Emily and Thomas qualifying for the National Championships in July and Sue and Timmy only missing out by miniscule marks. It was a very successful outing for our Group!



Timmy [L] and Thomas [R] competing in the Countryside Challenge



Thomas receiving his rosettes

Scropton "Have a Go" day



Tracy with her 1st place rosette

In May and August we returned to Scropton to take part in their "have a go" days. This is another opportunity for our riders to compete in Dressage or The Countryside Challenge but without the pressure that comes with the Regional Qualifiers. It is also another opportunity to introduce our ponies to the hustle and bustle that surrounds many competitions and acclimatise them to the different sounds, smells and unfamiliar horses and ponies. In May was the Dressage and Sue did her first Walk Trot test on Rio coming fourth. Tracy did a Walk test coming first and taking the red rosette. In August it was time for the Countryside Challenge and both Timmy and Thomas took part each winning a rosette.



Sue and Rio

RDA National Championships, Hartpury

July saw our qualifying riders set off for the RDA National Championships at Hartpury in Gloucestershire. It's a long drive but the ponies were happily set up with their hay nets and Gay duly helped with the very careful driving. Valuable cargo onboard!

Once again we were very successful with Emily coming second in her Freestyle to Music test and Thomas coming 4th in the Countryside Challenge—his very first National Championship! Well done to both!



Thomas with his rosette



2nd place at the RDA National Championships. Well done Emily!

Our major fundraising events

Both of our major fundraising events went off successfully again this year. The annual quiz in January was another fun filled evening with over fifteen teams of players who all turned up with the requisite food and drink (you can't quiz well on an empty stomach!). The winners were the Scrambled Heads. The Fun Dog Show in August got off to a good start....with a sudden cloudburst of rain! But thankfully it didn't last very long and anyway, as always all of our dog lovers didn't mind a bit a rain! As usual lots of different dogs came along; Retrievers, German shepherds, a Beagle and Cockapoo as well as lots of mutts. The classes were well supported and it was so lovely to see many of the youngsters sporting the rosettes their dog had won. With lots of different classes to enter there was much fun and laughter as the dog with the waggiest tail, the fastest biscuit eater, musical sits and best trick were judged. Along with our Quiz we raised nearly £2,000, which was marvellous



Our Best in Show winner

Flagship Pony!

Earlier in the year we were excited to learn that our very own pony, Rio had been chosen to be the "flagship" pony for the RDA. With his own spot on the new RDA website he was to be representative of all that is best about our RDA equines. With over 2,500 horses and ponies working for RDA this was a real honour for our group. Rio is a purebred Dales pony with a stellar pedigree—his pedigree name is Lemonsholme Prince which is a bit of a mouthful for day to day work which is why his stable name is Rio. As an RDA pony he has to adapt to many different riders, something he does impeccably. From the youngest to the oldest he works very hard for us. He is still a young pony so hopefully has many years ahead but already he encompasses all those qualities that are considered essential in an RDA equine; such as adaptability, obedience, willingness, kindness and intelligence.

What a star he is!



Lemonsholme Prince aka Rio

Young Rider Achievements

Over the summer many of our youngsters have achieved milestones in their riding. Isabella, Victoria and Lauren achieved their Endeavour Awards. Timmy and Thomas achieved their RDA Proficiency Tests 1 & 2 Riding as well as undertaking their first independent trot and members of our Saddle Club achieved their Level 1 Show-jumping certificates.



Most Improved Rider Awards

Most improved adult rider this year was Tracy Yarnell. Tracy has been riding with Kesteven Rideability for many years but has just begun a new partnership with our pony Rio. Her reaction to the award *"wow that is awesome. Rio makes riding so comfortable and we have jelled so well. He is a pleasure to ride and learn Dressage on. I have a lump in my throat.."*

I think we can safely say that Tracy is enjoying the experience of being on our stable star!



Tracy and the Most Improved Adult shield



The most improved younger rider was Thomas who in his first year of riding with us not only qualified for the RDA National Championships but came home with a fourth place rosette having scored a magnificent 78%. He was presented with his shield whilst sitting on Rio.

Pony Angel Party

We held another Pony Angel party this summer to thank our Pony Angels. Pony Angels are people who support us throughout the year by regularly donating to the upkeep of our RDA ponies Fudge and Rio. Angels, family and friends came along and the party was again a great success.

This year we organised for some of our younger riders to come along and demonstrate the Countryside Challenge test. Our visitors, which included not only our Pony Angels but also parents, grandparents, friends and trustees of our charity really enjoyed watching the children, all of whom did really well. For some of the parents and grandparents it was the first time they had seen their child ride and there were tears of joy as they realised how far many of them had progressed in their riding. After the demonstration we introduced the ponies to everyone and they really enjoyed being stroked and fussed over. Rio as usual loves the attention—he is barely horse sized but thinks he is a stallion - sadly not—there will be no little Rios from him in the future! But he is a wonderful pony and works very hard for our RDA riders. Fudge is a lovely kind pony and is loved by all those children who ride him. Not as confident as Rio he has his own calm way of being up there with the crowd! The party was also our way of celebrating the RDA's 50th Anniversary and each of the children taking part received an RDA 50th Anniversary gold rosette which they were all thrilled to receive. Our volunteers provided lots of home made cakes which were very popular—there was barely one left at the end of the afternoon!



Some of our riders showing their skills in the Countryside Challenge



Would you like to become a Pony Angel?

Have a look at our website at kestevenrda.org.uk or contact ponyangels@kestevenrda.org.uk to find out more and you could be helping to continue the work we already do teaching disabled children and adults to ride.

Another year of equine therapy.

The launch of our Silver Hour last year was so successful that we decided to offer it again this summer. We were lucky to get some funding from the South Notts Centre Fund enabling us to do this which was very gratifying. The programme was devised so that older disabled adults could experience and benefit from being with horses and ponies in a safe and supported environment and for many it was a real treat to come and see us.

Newton House Care Home had visited regularly last year and when they found out we were running the programme again excitedly booked in for regular visits. So successful were these visits that we found ourselves being contacted by a number of charity groups who asked if they could also attend and offer an equine therapy session to some of their members.



Betsy taking part in the Silver hour

The power of a horse

The benefits of equine therapy have been long known and as an extension of our Silver Hour we also hosted visits from Community Intro Club and Grantham Autistic Network who also enjoyed the chance to be with the ponies and give them a little groom and fuss.

Next year we hope to begin running a new saddle club specifically for children on the autistic spectrum.

In September our sim shed get a makeover. The sim shed is where Lloyd, our mechanical riding simulator, is housed and was in need of a bit of a facelift. We were very fortunate to be chosen by Symphony Retail Ai, a company based in Grantham, to benefit from their charity day. Over a number of hours they painted a wonderful mural in the sim shed, gave our portacabin a new coat of paint as well as painting all of our wooden benches and tables. They worked really hard and as you can see from the photograph, the result was amazing.



A view of the new mural in our sim shed

If you want to keep up with our monthly exploits, one of our riders is now contributing a blog on the Genius Equestrian website. Find it at:

A **BIG** thank you from all of us to the following people for their very generous donations...

Haemmerlin Wheelbarrows

Malcolm Broughton

Hon. Mrs C Sacks

RAFC Thrift Shop

Rotary Club of Grantham

South Notts Centre Fund

Waitrose Lincoln

Barkston Garage

Shire Lodge, Sleaford

Grantham Lions

Parallax Plastics

Tryac

Grace Moore

Kathryn Wale

Grantham Rotary
Club

Stephanie Smith-Maxwell

thank
you!

Marie Ashton



Andy Honeywood

Jane & Vince Heslop



Paul Johnson

Rachel Stothert

Ros Wenworth

Chandlers



...and 'Thank You' to our
lovely Pony Angels

Sarah Shelbourne

Suzanne Sanders

Rachel & Lee Williams



Gay Hatton

Kathy Blake

Laura Lynch



Stephanie Smith-Maxwell

Mark Frazer

Kesteven RDA Uniform:

If you would like to purchase Kesteven RDA badged clothing, follow the link from our website, www.kestevenrda.org.uk.

You can choose from a range of garments including smart polo shirts, cosy hoodies, gilets and jackets.

The orders are sent direct from Print Bureau, or you can collect your order from their unit in Grantham.

Contact Us:

On our website...

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