

HOOFPRINT



www.gaddesdenplacerta.org.uk

August 2022

Welcome to the Summer issue of our newsletter

We hope it will give you a flavour of what's been going on, changes made, changes to come and of course an update on our wonderful ponies.

In This Issue

- New Learning Centre
- New Website
- Pony News
- Coaching News
- Dates for Your Diary

The Sir Peter O'Sullevan Equine Learning Centre

Finally, after false starts, the pandemic, shortages of materials etc, etc, our new Learning Centre and home for Champion is now fully completed and in use, and we are absolutely delighted with it.

We had a brilliant team working on it, from our architect to the builders (who were so good at working around us and trying not to cause too much disruption), and our own Chris Grant who project managed the whole thing for us. So many people from our RDA community came to help with the final finishing off job of painting the interior. Our huge thanks goes to everyone who has helped in any way to get our old barn converted into what it is now – a brilliant new facility.



Our Barn before!



What a transformation — Amazing!

Margaret's Missive

Gaddesden Place RDA is in the process of real change. We have two new ponies that are now settling into their work and we have a wonderful new Learning Centre, which allows us to think of expanding our teaching of ASDAN Groups and Equine Therapy. We hope to see it being used to its full potential over the coming months. It is also the permanent home for Champion our horse simulator; what a star he has been! We have introduced Tea with a Pony, which has been a huge success for some of the regular participants. All of these are strong positives in the story of Gaddesden Place RDA and bring a wider range of participants to our Centre.

To continue to grow we need not only new ponies and facilities, but we also need new coaches. We are delighted that Izzy has successfully achieved Group Coach status but ideally we need more coaches joining us, or training to become one. It is a long process, but having been a Coach for eleven years I can safely say it is a rewarding and hugely worthwhile experience.

There are changes too in the group of Trustees, with resignations due to family commitments or moving away. Our Treasurer, Kha, who has done an amazing job in transforming the finance and accounting side of our Centre and reporting to Trustees on the continued financial security of our Centre, is stepping down in November. It is also time for me to step back after ten years; the past few years have been difficult for obvious reasons and I now would like to focus on my new role as an RDA County Coach.

We are fortunate to have recently welcomed Simon Double as a Trustee. Simon, who runs his own racehorse syndication and hospitality business, Solario Racing, says: *"I remember the RDA's good work at Suzanne's Riding School, Harrow where I first learned to ride and when I was given an inspiring tour of Gaddesden Place RDA, I did not need much persuading to become a Trustee. I feel honoured to have been asked and look forward to helping on the fund raising side of the business."*

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, Treasurer or Secretary, or you know of anyone who might be, please do email us for further information or to arrange to come and have a chat:

info@gaddesdenplacerta.org.uk



Gaddesden Place
Riding for the Disabled

Gaddesden Place is a dedicated RDA centre offering anyone with additional needs and disabilities the opportunity to participate in a range of equine based activities

Find out more

Website new look


New Website!

Have you been on line and spotted our new Website? If not, please take a look: www.gaddesdenplacerta.org.uk, and then have a browse around.

It really is a much more up to date and secure site that highlights all that we do. No longer do we only offer riding – there is so much more that is proving so worthwhile for a wider range of participants.

Our thanks go to Sarah, helped by Karen and Chris who worked with the local web design company Indigotree to produce this great new site.

Registered Charity Number 1140330



Home - Gaddesde...
gaddesdenplacerta.org.uk

Meet our ponies

Learn about the wonderful team of ponies we have at Gaddesden. Even find out how you can get involved and sponsor a pony!

Meet our ponies

Find out about the boys

The Pony Team



Top/down: Wally, Bill, Barney

The past few months have seen some great changes at Gaddesden, with Barney and Wally gradually joining the team in sessions after a period of time settling in. They are both doing really well, taking at least a session a day with Wally doing slightly more - we still have some work to do with certain areas such as mounting from the lift or hoist but these things will come; we've only had them about 4 months so the progress so far is brilliant.

All of the boys now get more regular hacks out round the estate and some more schooling work from staff; both these things are vital for our ponies' welfare, longevity and happiness within RDA. For Melvin, Barney and Wally especially, this work is about their happiness but also back muscle as this needs improving to enable them to work in a more beneficial way for them and us; we are already seeing the positive effects this is having with Melvin, who has come on so much since we got him and started this work. He is comfortable and happy working in sessions as well as being the main horse for Tea with a Pony sessions (he practically brings himself in ready for this!). Bramble has loved hacking out and the hope is to do this more and include more fun hacking for him. Bill equally has enjoyed hacking out (especially with Barney, where he is adamant that despite being 2 hands shorter he will keep up all the way!). Blue loves a gentler hack round the estate and spends the whole time ears pricked, happily marching out and waiting for his trots that he loves.

As some of you may already know we had decided to retire Bramble, so started to ease of his work and get riders comfortable with a different pony ahead of this happening.



Top/down: Melvin, Bramble, Blue

However, after doing this Bramble has really improved both mentally and physically - his sparkle is back, his coat is shining and he just looks/feels better all round. So, we have amended our decision and he will be semi retiring, meaning he will stay with us, doing one session maximum a day, combined with staff schooling and hacking out round the estate. As this clearly is an arrangement he likes, this gives us time to search for a new pony but without putting extra stress onto the rest of the team.



Laura schooling Wally

What a great team of ponies we have!!

Towards the end of their well deserved break, we start to get the team back to being ready for their return to RDA and work. As well as an important and accurate weigh bridge session for them all, we begin schooling and lunging for those that need it. Such good boys!



Izzy schooling Barney

Coaching News

We were thrilled when Louise, our Centre Manager and Coach, applied to RDA National for a place on the new RDA Advanced Coach training course and was picked from a strong field to undertake the training. We wish Louise well and are delighted that we will have a nationally accredited Advanced Coach as part of our team.

Congratulations to Izzy, who has completed the RDA coach training and is now a fully qualified Group Coach. We all knew how brilliant she was but it needed to be "official"! A great addition to the coaching team she is too.

Pony Sponsorship

We are currently updating our Pony Sponsorship literature, but we do have new ponies who currently do not have any sponsors: Barney and Wally. Pony Sponsorship is an easy and simple way to help us financially look after our ponies, who are the bedrock of all that we do. A sponsor receives a photo of their chosen pony, twice yearly updates on them and an invitation to come and meet him. A Pony Sponsorship could also be a great gift!

If you are interested in sponsoring any of our ponies, please do look on the new website and the link is there - "*Help us keep up the good work*".



Barney, Bill & Wally ever hopeful!

Fundraising and Thanks

A BIG thank you to all our volunteers and fundraisers who, without their help and assistance we could not keep GPRDA running successfully. From the early morning groomers, pony leaders, side walkers, coaches, yard helpers, fund raisers, cake bakers, jam makers, gardeners, marshallers, general helpers with cleaning, tea making it all goes to help GPRDA run like clockwork. It's been a tough couple of years due to covid, but you have all been fabulous!

Dates for the Diary

Berkhamsted Medieval Festival

Sunday/Monday 28th/29th August
Come and see us at Berkhamsted
Cricket Club

RDA Quiz: Saturday, 24th September
at Little Gaddesden Village Hall

Why not get a team together – it is always a great night!
If you would like to reserve a table, please contact Karen
at: info@gaddesdenplacerta.org.uk

Open Day: Sunday, 25th September – all welcome

AGM: November tbc

Term Dates

Winter Term

10th September — 22nd October (inclusive)

Half Term

23rd October — 31st October (inclusive)

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