



Hope in the Valley Newsletter

Hope in the Valley is a charitable riding group for physically disabled children. Manned entirely by volunteers, its aim is to give these children between the ages of 3 and 16, the opportunity to experience the pleasure, independence and therapeutic benefits that riding a horse brings.

Important dates

5th September	Volunteer training day
12th September	First riding
13th September	AGM
11th October	Regional AGM, Crawley Down
24th October	Half term - no riding
29th October	Regional Instructors Training Day, Plumpton
14th - 15th November	National AGM, Belfast
15th November	Jewellery Party, Plumpton
5th December	Christmas party & last riding
9th January 2008	First riding

Autumn 2007

Jewellery Jamboree Thursday 15th November at 7.30pm

The jewellery designers **Icon Live** of Burgess Hill have made Hope in the Valley an extraordinarily generous donation of several hundred items from their **Pinkie Jones** range (sold in the House of Fraser stores).

This quality up-to-the minute costume jewellery normally retails from about £8 up to £30 according to item. We are celebrating this exceptional gift with a party to which you are cordially invited, along with any friends or relations who might be interested. As we have an embarrassment of riches we are knocking the retail prices down by at least 70% - yes, I did say 70%! And within each category there will be one particular piece knocked down even further to 50p or £1. There are some intriguing bag and keyring accessories, impressively chunky rings, quirky brooches, deliciously pretty

ear-rings and a large range of bracelets and necklaces - for example some stunning black and silver bead necklaces are reduced from £25 to £6.

This is a one-off occasion where you can treat yourself or buy Christmas presents which will amaze the recipients by your apparent extravagance. And at the same time you are raising money for the group.

So come along on

**Thursday 15th
November
at 7.30 pm**

to the Sheila Blair Gallery at Plumpton. Wine and nibbles will be available. It promises to be quite a party and first come first served.

DON'T MISS IT!
Diana Crook

Sheila Blair

After 31 years with Hope in the Valley, Sheila retired at the end of term. A collection provided a generous donation to the Dame Vera Lynn Trust for children with Cerebral Palsy, whilst the Trustees presented Sheila with a beautiful garden bench.

*On 11th July the **Sheila Blair Gallery** (formerly the viewing gallery and tea-room) was opened by Carla Butler, Vice Chairman of Lewes District Council.*

Jane Green

In the Queen's Birthday Honours, one of our volunteers, Jane Green, was awarded an MBE for her voluntary services to the British Heart Foundation. Jane can often be seen behind the tea counter on Wednesday afternoons and has been helping at Hope in the Valley for 25 years.

AGM

Thursday 13th September

This year the AGM will be at 7.30pm on **Thursday 13th September** at **Patcham House School**.

After the AGM, Lesley Morrill will talk about her trek to Mount Toubkal.

Vacancy for Treasurer

After 4 years as Treasurer, Debbie Medicott has decided not to stand for re-election at the AGM, although she will continue to help the riders on Wednesday afternoons.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in taking over, please contact Nikki Terry or Sheila Camilleri for full details.



Hope in the Valley Riding Group for Physically Handicapped Children

Reg. Charity No: 1074384

A member of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving registered under charity number 244108
Company Limited by Guarantee No 5010395

Pony News

Ricky and Magpie need wheels

Ricky and Magpie have been volunteering their services to Hope in the Valley for some years now. Belinda is no longer able to transport them regularly but both ponies say they are keen to keep coming. However, Plumpton is too far to walk from Ardingly and as an older model Magpie doesn't come with Sat Nav.

Is there anyone out there who can help? Are you a trailer driver/owner with a few hours to spare once a week or fortnight? We pay a mileage allowance.

The group would also welcome assistance from drivers who would be prepared to transport to and from Ditchling, South Chailey and other areas in Mid Sussex. Contact Nicola Cramond: 01825 750284.

Ponies - put RDA on your CV!

The group is always on the lookout for new equine recruits and some of our best ponies are privately owned.

The fact that the ponies have another activity keeps them interested and owners have the benefit of mid-week exercise and regular boxing. For our more 'senior' equine volunteers like Taylor and Shalimar the work gives them a sense of purpose while the light school-work helps to keep them fit and flexible.

So what makes a good RDA Pony? Needless to say temperament is probably the most important characteristic we are looking for; our ponies need to be calm and able to

cope with sidewalkers, mounting blocks and games equipment (not to mention noisy instructors). They do need to be sound and a good free action ensures our riders get the full therapeutic benefit. Apart from that we need ponies in a variety of shapes and sizes that are able to commit to Wednesdays (weekly or fortnightly) during term time.



If you think you know a suitable pony please give Nicola (01825 750284) or Lesley (01273 684859) a call - it could open up a whole new world for them.

Nicola Cramond

Christmas Party 5th December 2007

The Christmas Party is on the last day of riding for the Autumn Term so dress up and join in the fun. There will be tea & cake included - bring your own tinsell!



Burgess Hill Bonfire Saturday 29th September



Burgess Hill Bonfire Society is a loyal supporter of Hope in the Valley and will again be raising funds for us this year.

The evening is great fun with a procession at 7.30pm

followed by the bonfire and fireworks at 10pm.

Fancy dress is optional, but any help you can give with a collecting bucket will increase the funds donated to Hope in the Valley.

If you can help, meet in Cyprus Road car park, Burgess Hill at 7pm where you will be given a collecting bucket. More details from Sheila Camilleri.

Photo competition 2007



The categories for this year's competition are:

1. Typical RDA activity
2. Learning
3. Individual RDA ride or carriage driver (with or without their helper)
4. Spirit of RDA

The closing date is 1st October 2007 and entry forms are available from Nikki Terry.

Recycling

USED INK CARTRIDGES, TONERS AND MOBILE PHONES

Hope in the Valley needs **YOU** to save used ink and toner cartridges and mobile phones.

We receive £1 for every ink and toner cartridge and up to £24 for a mobile phone. This is an excellent way to help raise funds for us and help the environment.

Please bring your used cartridges and used mobile phones to Plumpton. There is a box in the Sheila Blair Gallery for you to deposit them and Hilary Bowles will do the rest.

Welcome to new volunteers

Caroline White, Nikki Terry, Liz Stone, Ron Pattenden, Georgina Forbes, Claire Thomas

New Secretary

Most of us will have met Nikki Terry, who joined Hope in the Valley in April as our new secretary.

Nikki joined the WRAF after leaving school, and subsequently worked for Nationwide Building Society where she was branch manager. This was followed by 10 years working for an insurance broker.

She lives in Rodmell with her husband and two cats and enjoys playing golf.

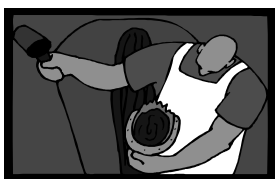
Nikki says: "There is plenty to learn but I am thoroughly enjoying helping the children ride and being involved with an organisation such as Hope in the Valley".

Horse care

Due to the influx of new helpers, the trips to the American Barn and Victorian Stables have been numerous this term with almost one-to-one help.

These beautiful facilities are perfect to help illustrate the lessons.

Richard the farrier is a firm favourite and never minds



being bombarded with questions even when his head is under a nervous horse and he is holding a red-hot shoe!

The stables give the children a perfect example of different types of bedding, together with a well-stocked tack-room.

The Victorian Stables are very attractive, especially on a sunny day and there is a good feed store here. We are incredibly fortunate to have these unique facilities to offer the children.

Jenny Brown

Bradbourne Fun Day Results

On 15th May several riders and ponies visited Bradbourne in Kent for the South East Regional Fun Day. The results of the Countryside Challenge were:

- ◆ **Robby Porter** on Heineken came 2nd in led + sidewalker class. This result qualified Robby for the RDA National Championships at Hartbury in July
- ◆ **Ahid Ghbaya** on Sonny was 3rd in the led class
- ◆ **Lily Hill** on Rose came 4th in the led class
- ◆ **Valentine Sharpe** on Magpie was 5th in the led + sidewalker class

Well done to all riders and helpers.

Hickstead Dressage

On 7th June, five of our riders competed in the South East Area Dressage at Hickstead.

Kelly Gunn, riding Heineken came 3rd in the led test

Harry Dale on Rose was 6th in the same event

Kaia Hancock, **Charlotte Virgo** and **Karl Lee** also competed and a wonderful day was enjoyed by everyone.

Particular thanks to Lesley Morrill and all the volunteers who spent several Saturdays preparing the riders for the competition.

One of the parents donated fabulous chocolate medals to all the riders - you can see a picture of them over the page.

Also at Hickstead was the judging of the South East Regional round of the Arts and Crafts Competition. Hope in the Valley entered a wonderful picture which was made during horse care classes and achieved second place in the competition.

Well done everyone!

RDA National Championships, Hartbury

Despite the terrible weather on 15th July, **Robby Porter** on Heineken came 5th in the Junior Countryside Challenge, 4th in his Dressage Class and 2nd in the Combined Training Class. Robby was ably assisted on the day by Liz Allen and Hilary Bowles.

A fantastic result for all involved!

Trophy cabinet in memory of Ziggy (Newholme Gaiety Girl) 1973 - 2006

Ziggy was part of the Fogg family for almost 25 years. An all-round Pony Club pony, Ziggy gave Sophie and Hannah loads of fun. She was a great Prince Philip games pony and was in the Southdown Hunt East team for over ten years. Ziggy served Hope in the Valley for 15 years and won numerous RDA dressage competitions at Arundel and Hickstead. She retired in

2003 when her eyesight began to fail. Ziggy enjoyed her last few years peacefully in the paddocks at Folders Farm and latterly at Mopeshole. Ziggy died on Christmas Day 2006 aged nearly 34.

The new trophy cabinet has been donated by Mr and Mrs Fogg in Ziggy's memory.

Margaret Fogg

Joiners, leavers and movers

WELCOME to **Sam Goodwin & Lara Bradley** who join us in the new term.

WELCOME BACK to **Sophie Pengilly** who rejoins us in September.

GOODBYE to **Beatrix Livesy-Stephens** who is off to live in the USA for a year, and to **Penny** and **Kimberley Dean** who are now leaving school and are both going to college.

Deanna Sharpe and **Abbi Heinzl** are moving to the 2nd session, **Robby Porter** and **Karl Lee** are moving to the 3rd session and **Kelly Gunn** and **Ahid Ghbaya** are moving to the 4th session.

Contact details:

Sheila Camilleri (Group
Organiser & Child
Protection Officer)
01273 846136
sheilacamilleri@f2s.com

Nikki Terry (Hon.
Secretary)
01273 470471
hopeinthevalley@mac.com

Sylvia Ager (Volunteer
Co-ordinator)
01273 842816
sylvie-a@amserve.com

Group mobile number
(Wednesdays only)
07842 209384

**Grateful thanks
for the support
given by the
Yorkshire
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Charitable
Foundation for
this issue of the
newsletter.**

Newsletter editor:

Mary-Jane Sharratt
01273 845596
mary-jane@uwclub.net

Contributions to future
editions are welcome.

Summer Term Trophies



The results for the Summer term were as follows:

Abbi Heinzl - Novice Riding Cup

Zacchary Reed - Novice Horse Care Cup

Robby Porter - Junior Cup

Harry Dale - Junior Horse Care Cup (Marc Godfrey Cup)

Kimberley Dean - Sarah Baverstock Cup for Personal Achievement

Beatrix Livesey-Stephens - Pamela Hazell Joy of Riding Cup

Ahid Ghbaya - Senior Riding Cup

Charlotte Virgo - Toffee & Mr Moon Senior Horse Care Trophy

Penny Dean - Canterring Certificate (on the mechanical horse)

Rosettes were awarded to **Danielle Spence** and **Joss Perring**

Summer Term Photos

**Opening of the Sheila Blair
Gallery**



Pony Bathing



Hickstead
dressage team
with chocolate
medals and the
award winning
arts and crafts
picture

