



Hope in the Valley RDA Group



Annual Review 2018/19

COMMITMENT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1074384



Hope in the Valley is run entirely by volunteers. Our aim is to give physically disabled children from the ages of 3 to 16 the opportunity to experience the pleasure, independence and therapeutic benefits of riding a horse.

In the year up to 31 August 2019

Patron:

Dane Rawlins

Trustees & Management Committee:

Lesley Morrill (Chairman/Senior Instructor)
Tony Pannett (Treasurer)
Liz Mills (Hon Secretary)
Sheila Camilleri (Group Organiser, Instructor & Child Protection Officer)
Nicola Cramond (Pony Transport Manager/Adviser on Horse Matters)
Margaret Fogg (Adviser on Horse Matters)
Karen Potter (Training)
Karen Butterfield John Jackson (DBS)
Miranda Dart (Publicity & Fundraising)

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank plc
11 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2ZX

Solicitors:

Griffiths Smith Farrington Webb, 47 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1NW

Independent Examiner:

Tracy Rhys-Williams, 7 Rosebarn Close, Burgess Hill, RH15 0HN

Governing Documents:

Group Constitution
Membership Agreement with RDA National

Contact Address & Telephone No.

The Hon Secretary – Liz Mills
End Cottage, High Street, Barcombe, BN8 5BA
Email: info@hopeinthevalley.org
Web Site: www.hopeinthevalley.org

Hope in the Valley is a member group of the Riding for the Disabled Association, incorporating Carriage Driving. Reg. Charity No. 244108. Company limited by guarantee No. 5010395.



It's what you can do that counts!



CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS...

Commitment: Dedication, Loyalty, Unwavering, Diligent, Passionate = Group Volunteer
This year has been as busy as always, and how is that made possible? By the commitment of our amazing cohort of volunteers and supporters.

The year started with Simon Laurens, a former para dressage rider, telling us of his journey to represent GB. A raconteur of tales and a very inspiring individual who made it clear he knew what he wanted and was determined to go for it. This was soon followed by a ridden demonstration for the Trefoil Guild at Firle, visits from CAP students from Roedean School, representatives of Regional RDA to do Coach Assessments and Grade Tests and our Regional Physiotherapist to give sound advice with our more challenged riders; First Aid training was undertaken, and at the Regional Conference in October we were awarded the Buchan Bobby Trophy and of course we held our Christmas Party. We were to celebrate RDA National reaching 50 Years with Sheila Camilleri and Jan Abrahams attending a party in Reigate, and to hear of the loss of Lynn Flowers, a sculptor and former volunteer, who donated the Bronze Horse Trophy awarded to our Volunteer of the Year.

The weather, as always, was testing us throughout the year with storm Gareth in February and a flooded school in June. Combine that with the outbreak of Equine Influenza, means a great deal of organisation has taken place to ensure ponies are kept vaccinated for competition and riding sessions.

Again, we have seen riders doing well at Felbridge and Hickstead resulting in a team of 6 volunteers, 2 ponies and 3 riders heading to the National Championships in Gloucestershire. All our equines are special, but Polly, who never goes anywhere, excelled in giving William a safe ride. Not only that, Polly was to be seen twice on the Countryfile programme later in July.

The Summer Term drew to a close with a picnic in the lovely surroundings of Ashdown Forest, when we, along with Eastbourne RDA Group, went to Kingstanding at the kind invitation of Sussex Police, who use this area for training.

Of course RDA does not actually stop in July, as 8 volunteers, 4 riders and a parent/carer headed off to Clwyd in August for what was our 7th Welsh holiday. The time spent with our riders cannot just be measured in riding achievements, but also watching these young people grow in confidence amongst their peers and the adults present.

Commitment is what we all do, all year, but some do this for longer than others. Therefore it was with great pleasure to see Margaret Fogg honoured by RDA in awarding her the President's Award at Hartpury. The Trustees nominated Margaret for her unflinching support over 38 years.

Finally, it seems appropriate to thank the commitment of the back-up crews many of us have. Our family and friends who support us behind the scenes, enabling all of us to assist our riders to achieve on many levels, over another full packed year of events.

Lesley

PHOTO GALLERY

Below is a reflection of another wonderful year of riding!





PONY NEWS

There is an awful lot of commitment at Hope in the Valley. We are of course committed to our cause and to our children. We are also, as trustees, extremely committed to our volunteers, who by choice are extremely committed to us. Our ponies do not really have a choice. They are chosen because of their physical capabilities, kind temperaments and because of the generosity of their owners.

Several of our ponies are with us for many years. It is not always appreciated that RDA work can be quite hard on a pony and our commitment to our ponies makes us mindful of that fact. We do try to ensure that their 'outside' life offers them some variety and that they do not spend hours and hours plodding around the arena. Both (big black) Rosie and Hobnob (moustachioed College horse) have this year stopped coming to RDA; we do miss them both but it had become clear that RDA work was not suiting them.

So, where our ponies may not have a choice, our pony owners, carers and transporters do, but as a result of their generosity and commitment our ponies turn up as required every week, regardless of what life may have thrown at them. They mostly have busy lives, jobs and families and usually other livestock to care for, but because they have made a commitment to provide a pony for a child to ride, that is what they do.

*Nicola Cramond
Pony Transport Manager*



FINANCE: APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019



Hope in the Valley receives no external funding and is reliant on the generosity of its supporters to finance its activities.

Our income has fallen this year, due in part to the economic climate. We have received generous donations from our regular supporters. We are very grateful to the companies, societies and individual supporters who have given to the Group in 2018-19. We lost a donor this year who has given a significant amount every year for at least ten years; sadly we no longer have their commitment. However we have the opportunity for new donors to become involved and hopefully commit to a long term partnership.

We are determined to spend our funds wisely and keep our overheads to a minimum. Most of the Group expenditure is on the cost of upkeep, care and transport of horses. We spent 88% on direct charitable expenses, 2% on income generation and 10% on administrative expenses.

I have been involved with Hope in the Valley for 10 years. Some would describe that as commitment. I see many of my colleagues who have been committed for so much longer. Individual commitment to a team effort – that is what makes a team work.

Tony Pannett - Treasurer

COMPETITION RESULTS

Regional Countryside Challenge at Felbridge – 09 May 2019

- Fergus/Toby 1st Junior (Led & Sidewalker)
 - Qualified for RDA National Championships
 - Trophy for highest qualifying score
- Stanley/Toby 2nd Junior (Led & Sidewalker)
 - Qualified for RDA National Championships



Regional Dressage at Hickstead – 29 May 2019

- William/Polly 1st Junior Grade 1-6 Walk & Trot (unled)
 - Qualified for RDA National Championships
- William/Polly 1st Junior Intellectual Disability Walk & Trot (unled)
 - Qualified for RDA National Championships
- Deian/Rose 4th Introduction to Dressage Walk & Trot (Led)
- Willow/Toby 8th Introduction to Dressage Walk & Trot (Led)
- Daisy/Rose 9th Introduction to Dressage Walk & Trot (Led)

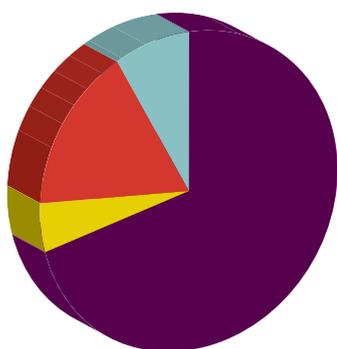


RDA National Championships at Hartpury, Gloucestershire – 13/14 July 2019

- Fergus/Rose 8th Junior Countryside Challenge (Led & Sidewalker)
 83% Tack & Turnout Class
- Stanley/Rose 11th Junior Countryside Challenge (Led & Sidewalker)
 83% Tack & Turnout Class
- William/Polly 11th Junior Grade 1-6 Dressage Walk & Trot (unled)
 79% Tack & Turnout Class
- William/Polly 14th Junior Intellectual Disability Dressage
 Walk & Trot (unled)
- William 94% (Distinction) in the Horse Care Competition
 72% in the Advanced Horse Care Competition

THANK YOU to PETER and MARGARET FOGG for supplying the horse feed at the Championships and to RDA NATIONAL/THE POST CODE LOTTERY for a grant towards our travel costs.

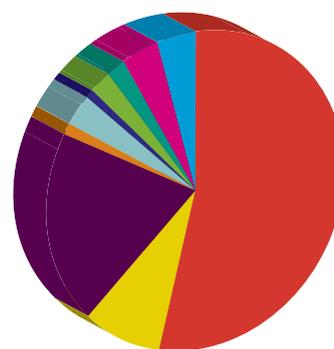
INCOMING RESOURCES



- Donations, sponsorship & bequests **71%**
 - Gift Aid **5%**
 - Other income **16%**
 - Investment income **8%**
 - Fund raising **0%**
 - Grants **0%**
- TOTAL INCOME**
£7,825

Total expenditure £15,757
 Of which:
Direct charitable expenditure £13,908
Income generation £351
Admin £1,498

APPLICATION OF FUNDS



- Horses **54%**
 - Riding sessions **9%**
 - Other riding activities **20%**
 - Riders transport **1%**
 - Equipment **3%**
 - RDA Membership **1%**
 - Fundraising, Publicity & Website **2%**
 - Legal Requirements **2%**
 - Communications & PR **4%**
 - Sundries **4%**
 - Plumpton Project **0%**
- TOTAL EXPENDITURE**
£15,757

GROUP NEWS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Jane Baigent was presented with the wonderful Bronze Horse Trophy at our Christmas Party. Jane has volunteered with the Group since 2012 and in that time has attended our weekly sessions; supported riders in Countryside Challenge competitions, both at Regional and National Level and has accompanied the Group on several of our annual Welsh holidays. Jane brings her equine experience as well as fun and laughter to the Group and is a truly committed volunteer.



TEN YEAR AWARDS

Another award for commitment – this year saw Tony Pannet receive his ten year service award.



BUCHAN BOBBY TROPHY

This annual award was given to the Group by the RDA South East Region for our excellent work throughout 2018. Carol McLean, a longstanding volunteer with our Group, accepted the award from Sophie Christiansen CBE, Britain's multi gold medal winning paralympic dressage rider. The trophy can be seen at Plumpton in our Trophy Cabinet.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This award is given for exceptional dedication to RDA over many years. It was presented to Margaret Fogg by HRH Princess Royal, Princess Anne, Patron of RDA, at a ceremony held in July at the RDA National Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire. Margaret felt very honoured when her fellow Trustees nominated her earlier in the year. Margaret has been a volunteer for over 38 years and a Trustee of the Group for 21 years. She has been particularly responsible for the provision, welfare, and transport of horses. In addition over this time the Group has used three of her horses. Margaret's photo graces the front cover of our Annual Review this year as she is the epitome of commitment.

The Trustees are grateful to the Wellesley Charitable Foundation for donating the funds required to enable four of our riders to attend a riding holiday at The Clwyd Special Riding School near Wrexham, North Wales.