

South Bucks RDA

NEWSLETTER

| Winter 2020

The evenings are getting lighter (just!) so hopefully Spring is on the way.

Sad News



Last Autumn, Kevin Hartley a valued volunteer died suddenly aged 60 years. He had been helping here for approximately 2 years and in that time he did so much to keep the facilities in good repair. He was always willing to help with the riding sessions which he did as required but mainly he spent his time doing maintenance. He is very sadly missed, especially his cheerful disposition and sense of humour. His partner Simon continues to be a volunteer.

www.kevin-hartley.muchloved.com

Group News



Visit of Clare Balding

As an educational exercise, ten children from Coteford Junior School, who ride with us on a Wednesday, read and reviewed the latest Clare Balding children's book. As a result, and as a special treat, Clare Balding came to South Bucks specifically to meet the children and to thank them for their Review.

Prior to her visit, each child had been tasked with thinking of a question to ask her and to use their computer skills to research Clare herself, so that they knew exactly who was coming to visit them. Their questions were excellent and covered many topics and their faces were a joy to behold as they listened intently to Clare's answers. Each child brought in their own copy of the book which Clare signed for them and they were thrilled to be able to sit beside her and have their picture taken. It was wonderful to witness these children, who all have different disabilities, enjoying the opportunity to interact with such a famous visitor. Clare has a talent and a lovely way of making each child feel special and at ease with her.

In addition to riding therapy, at South Bucks we also encourage Life Skills through riding, so, at the end of her visit, the children themselves thanked Clare for coming to see them.



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Quiz Night

Come and join in the fun of our Annual Quiz Night, organised and run by the amazing Tolmie family (Theresa, Chris, Alison & Andrew). All monies raised for South Bucks RDA.

Saturday 7th March at St Teresa's Parish Centre in Beaconsfield at 7.30pm.

Teams are 6 people strong, create your own or come along and join a team on the day.

Tickets £9.00 available from theresa.drake@southbucksrsa.org

Hobby Horse Ho Ho Ho

On the 1st December 2019, a cold and frosty afternoon, out of the mist came the Hobby Horse Ho Ho Ho, a fun Christmas event for all the family. A countryside challenge course, dressage tests and best turned out were open to all competitors and their trusty steeds. I think the photo's say it all!



Romilly & Sophie



Karen and Janet

Advance warning there will be another Hobby Horse event at the Summer BBQ – get your hobby horses in training now!



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Berkshire Women's Institute...

....is 100 years old this year. Emily (the doll) is spending a week with each W.I. in the county and last week she came to visit us from Windsor Great Park W.I. Here she is meeting and having a ride on Harley with Sarah on a Saturday morning.



Summer BBQ

This years' summer BBQ will be held on Sunday 13th September and it will include 'Hobby Horse Ho Ho Ho – The Return'. We hold the BBQ to celebrate the achievements of all our riders throughout the year and more importantly it is our opportunity to say thank you to our volunteers without whom RDA would not run. Please come along and celebrate your success as a rider and say thank you to the wonderful people who give up their time to enable you to ride.

Riders

Well done Natasha for winning her class in Dressage Anywhere with 70.88% riding Robin.



Jess and Mabel went off to Solihull in October for Squad Training



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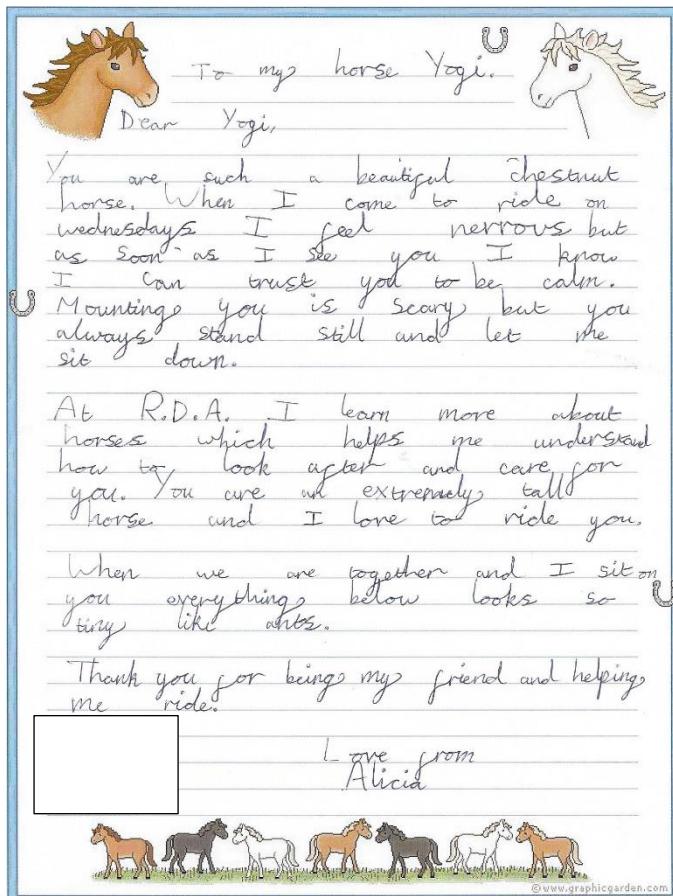
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Horses - We have another new horse



Mickey is a 16h Irish Draught Cross who has done all Riding Club and Pony Club activities including, dressage, show jumping and eventing. He is 22 years old and happy to enjoy a quieter life with us.

In memory of the lovely Yogi who we lost this month.



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SBRDA Fundraising Committee

At the end of November 2019 I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to represent South Bucks RDA at a reception following the National RDA AGM in London, the day started rather strangely when I met and spoke to Ann Widdecombe on Paddington station, I then had my first experience of an Uber and later in the day at the reception had the pleasure of meeting HRH Princess Anne.

During the reception I also met several other people who all have some sort of voluntary role in RDA Groups around the UK, I've been taking either one or both of my sons to South Bucks for the past 11 years, I'm now going into my third year as a trustee and learning more all the time about RDA, talking to these volunteers from other groups I found that we at SBRDA are really fortunate to have the facilities we have at Fulmer, I spoke to two ladies who run a group quite close to ours but have to borrow everything and can only offer rides 2 mornings a week, not only that but another RDA group also use the same yard and ride on 2 other mornings, someone else I spoke to from a group a bit further away have to use borrowed ponies, have some of their own equipment and have to fundraise like mad to survive, then there's a group in north Bucks that have facilities but no indoor arena so if it's too cold or wet they have to cancel rides.

We are so lucky to have the facilities we have at Mill House Farm and to be honest most of us take it for granted that no matter what rides will take place more or less every day of every week of the year.

South Bucks RDA have staff, volunteers, our own horses and ponies, buildings, fields, woods and vehicles, as riders or parents we can arrive, park and have a lesson or ride in comfortable surroundings , head off home and know it will all be there ready for next time, when we stand or sit on the gallery and watch we see all the hard work going on in front of us and believe me there's a lot of hard work behind the scenes too.

We always need more volunteers to help lead a pony and rider or to side help, so if your able it's really rewarding and good fun to be part of the team, our instructors are able to give Green Card training for the role and of course it's subject to a DBS check but that's quite painless.



We also need to constantly raise funds, we already have 8 events we hope to organise or attend during 2020 so please support us in these, details will be emailed out by Gina and will also be posted on the green notice board on the gallery by the fire exit, please help us to keep SBRDA as the wonderful place it is, we wouldn't ever want to struggle as some of our neighbouring groups do.

If you can help as a volunteer or help us with fundraising then please contact Di, Caro, Gina or myself at the yard.

Jenny and Emma volunteering on Boxing Day

Thank You.

Alan Lawrence - Trustee Fundraising

07881 950147 alanlawrence5@btinternet.com



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Dates for your Diary

South Bucks RDA Quiz Night (FR)	Saturday 7 th March
Regional Training Day at South Bucks	Sunday 15 th March
Fulmer Fun Day (FR)	Beginning May (date tbc)
Farnham Royal Cricket Club Family Fun Day (FR)	Usually May Bank Holiday (date tbc)
Slough Together Walk (FR)	Saturday 2 nd May
South Region Show	Sunday 24 th May
Fulmer Day (FR)	Saturday 20 th June
RDA National Championships	Friday 10 th – Sunday 12 th July, August Bank Holiday (date tbc)
Beaconsfield Stretcher Race (FR)	Beginning of September (date tbc)
Woburn & Bourne End Village Show (FR)	Sunday 13 th September
Summer BBQ and Hobby Horse Ho Ho Ho	Sunday 6 th December (date tbc)
South Bucks RDA Carol Service	

FR = Fundraising Event

If you are available on these dates to attend or help with our Fundraising efforts, please come along and support South Bucks RDA – Your Group Needs You!

Thank you to N20 for their continued support, photocopying our newsletter



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