

# South Bucks RDA NEWSLETTER

| Summer/Autumn 2022

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Centre Manager Frankie Paine and her lovely dog Rocket. She has moved from Kington in Herefordshire to join this Group and brings with her a wealth of experience in many fields, please say 'Hello' when you see her and introduce yourself, it was great that so many of you were able to meet her at the BBQ.



Well done to all the riders who qualified for the RDA National Championships, and I was so sorry that the excessive heat led to the cancellation of the Sunday competition, I know that some of you have gone on to successfully take part in the virtual competitions, so congratulations! Thank you everyone that made both these events happen.

The horses and ponies have been enjoying the early autumn sunshine which brought about a late flush of grass which they have enjoyed even more, and this has helped the Group with much less hay needing to be fed.

It is extremely fortunate that the Reverend Roger Royle has agreed to lead the Carol Service again this year on Sunday 4th December, and I hope that as many of you as possible will attend, it is always a memorable event.



**Di Redfern**  
Chair



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**Gem**

In August, Gem left us after 8+ years at South Bucks. She, Lisa and Billy have moved to pastures new in the West Midlands. Thank you to Gem for her hard work and dedication to our horses, volunteers and riders.



**Annual General Meeting**

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM in October. Trustees were re-elected, you'll find their details on the noticeboards. Among many others who received long service awards, Francis was presented with an Over and Above Award for 40 years (yes 40!) of volunteering at South Bucks.



Carol Moreton	25 years
Rosalind Russell	25 years
Wendy Harrison	20 years
Karen Brown	15 years
Sarah Baron	10 years
Glynis Greenough	10 years
Karen Blackie	5 years
Simon Miller	5 years
Julie Thomson	5 years
Cathie Ball	1 year
Daniel Brodie	1 year
Christine Cleary	1 year
Sue Collins	1 year
Toby Davis-Carnell	1 year
Alan Gray	1 year
Samantha Green	1 year
Emma Lawrence	1 year
Soizic LeLesle Fauvelle	1 year
Aniya Shah	1 year
Chloe Ward	1 year
Amy Grace Whitford	1 year
Sophie Winwright	1 year

*"Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless but because they are priceless"*



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**Summer BBQ**

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual BBQ and welcomed Frankie and Rocket. Thank you to our friends at Tesco for providing much of the lovely food and for their continued support. Also, Gina for yet again demonstrating her fantastic organisational skills; Jarek for making us look so tidy; and Chris and Theresa for BBQing with such style.

The weather held, and a lovely time was had by everyone, meeting up with both new and old friends.



**'Laughter is good exercise, it's like jogging on the inside'.**



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### Thank You

As always, we have many people and organisations to thank for supporting our Group.

To **Biogen** for spending another Corporate Volunteering Day with us. Such a fantastic bunch of people as always. Field shelters painted and protected for another year, woodland paths cut back so they are clear and safe for our volunteers, horses/ponies and riders while they are walking around the woods, water troughs cleaned, fields all poo-picked and some ditch clearance! A huge amount of work carried out and all organised by Employee Volunteering who we highly recommend. They project manage the whole event which ran like clockwork.



**BIFFA Waste Management Services** sent a team to South Bucks (along with a skip), to help us clear our site – there was much activity, strimming, mowing, cleaning of BBQs and moving all sorts of waste.

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Nick from **Clear Drains** came out to empty our septic tank, these things need to be done! Clear Drains (UK) Ltd in Marlow have donated their services to us for many years and we are very grateful for their ongoing support.



**Budget Tyres** of Farnham Rd in Slough fixed our trailer tyre without charge - what a lovely company to have locally.

**The Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches** have been amazing supporters of South Bucks RDA over the years and currently sponsor Duke. So how could Duke say no when he had the opportunity to help them in return. The Rotary Club held a Virtual Run to raise funds to support the Ukraine Crisis. Duke and South Bucks RDA Volunteer Glynis took part in the charity run and are now the proud owners of a Finishers Medal. Here is Duke (with another one of our fantastic volunteers) not only showing off his spectacular wavy locks but proudly wearing his medal. Well done Duke and Glynis!



In September Duke was on form with a young rider, Theresa, Hazel and Rotarian Ian Griffith. Burnham Beeches Rotary Club continued their support of Duke by donating £1000 to contribute towards his welfare covering his shoes, saddle check, feed and dentistry for that all important smile.



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### Our Riders & Participants

In July, Andrew, Jenna, and Pav braved the heat on the Saturday of the RDA Nationals and did us all proud

Jenna riding Billy G came 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 83.5% - Countryside Challenge – Led with Walker  
 Andrew riding Bruce came 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score 86.75% - Countryside Challenge – Independent  
 Pav riding Duke came 6<sup>th</sup> with a score of 61.25% - Dressage – Led, Walk and Trot



And Harry came 5<sup>th</sup> in his Show Jumping class riding Harley with the Lambourn Group.

Well done also to Joe, Natasha, Harrison, Daisy, and Charlotte who also qualified for the National Championships but were unable to compete as Sunday's competition was cancelled due to the extreme heat. We know you would all have been brilliant.

### Endeavour Awards – Well Done

Darcy who received an Endeavour Award for improved focus when riding over the Summer – Freddie wants one too!

Harry, Jovan, Monty, Archie, Ziyad & Azariah from Claytons Primary School; and

Aaron, Courtney, Jack, Joshua, Katherine & Leo from Little Green Junior School

Who all received Endeavour Awards for grooming and leading their ponies.



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### Our Volunteers

As always, our thanks to everyone who volunteers, and gives up their time to make South Bucks the best RDA Group in the world!



Over the Summer, Saturday volunteer Leanne and her new husband Simon, eloped! Congratulations to them both – when's the party?

Saturday coach Sharon, as part of team 'BA Safety and Security' finished off her day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October by running in one of the largest Midnight Marathons ever. She ran the full length of Heathrow Airport's northern runway at midnight - 4.85km, raising money for the Heathrow Community Trust. British Airways who Sharon works for are great supporters of the Group, funding the purchase of our arena mirrors. We're not quite sure where Sharon gets her energy from!



### RDA E-Learning

We would like to encourage all our volunteers to visit the RDA National E-Learning website – [www.rda-learning.org.uk](http://www.rda-learning.org.uk). Here you will find many useful and interesting short courses, covering areas such as: Safeguarding; Equine Knowledge; Disability Awareness; and Person-Centred Approaches. The more volunteers we have with this knowledge the better for the Group. Any questions please contact [Theresa.Drake@SouthBucksRDA.org](mailto:Theresa.Drake@SouthBucksRDA.org).



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### Our Horses

We would like to celebrate two trusted friends who we have lost in the past few months.

#### **Tribute to a very Special New Forest Pony.**

MILLERSFORD FORRESTER (Reg. New Forest Pony Society No. 39/019)

Forrester was a very well-schooled and much loved children's pony who, as a 6yr old, came to South Bucks from a family who wanted him to have a "forever home" home with children. He was the first Pony Club pony of Lara Butler, now an International Grand Prix Dressage Rider and British Team member.



Forrester was great fun – a little boy with a big character, who was a work colleague as well as a pony. He worked within the boundaries set by the riders, coach or session and was exceptionally versatile, from therapy to handy pony, from jumping to dressage. He was totally trustworthy whether working on the lunge, lead rein or independently.

Five days a week he helped riders with many different disabilities, in the school or hacking out, his versatility benefitted everyone who rode him. He gave confidence and was a brilliant schoolmaster who responded to correct aids, encouraging and inspiring his riders to improve their performance.

Forrester gave numerous children their first experience of competition riding. He has an impressive record of achievements and partnered disabled riders at all levels. He won the very first National Countryside Challenge Championship but was equally happy to participate in Fancy Dress, Handy Pony, Music or Dressage competitions. For many years and with many different riders he won or was placed at National level, and in 2007 won the Para Equestrian under 14 years Junior International Championship. Many top level riders started serious competitive careers with Forrester, including multi Gold Medal Winning Para Olympian Natasha Jaconelli (nee Baker).

During his life, Forrester became an "Honorary Rotarian" a title given to him by the Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter Rotary Club. Following sponsorship fundraising events, they "adopted" him in their support of South Bucks Riding for the Disabled. Along with Father Christmas he attended their Christmas Charity evenings in the Town Centre where he listened to carols, entertained the crowds and generally helped to fundraise and promote the work of the Rotary Club and South Bucks RDA.

Forrester was a once in a lifetime pony. Such was his reputation that at very short notice he was requested as a substitute loan horse for a South African team rider competing in the International Paralympic Qualifying Competitions at Hartpury. Despite his diminutive size, Forrester helped his rider to achieve a good accurate performance and qualify for the London 2012 Olympic Games! A fantastic achievement for a 13.2hh New Forest Pony competing against serious dressage horses.

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Forrester did not want to retire – at the age of 25 years he was still enjoying helping different riders to qualify and compete in the RDA South Regional Show and National Championships at Hartpury achieving success in every class he entered. He liked the routine of life at South Bucks but as he grew older, he was retired from competition, his workload was reduced accordingly and restricted to lightweight riders.

Did you see how many “posts” Forrester generated on our Facebook page? Some lovely comments and memories! He touched the hearts of everyone with whom he came into contact whether rider, volunteer, parent or follower. We all have special memories of this superstar legend who changed the lives of so many people and made such a difference to many hundreds of riders during his time with us.

Here are just a few of the lovely examples:

### **Natasha Jaconelli (nee Baker) .....**

“Forrester was a total legend and there’s no way I would be where I am today if it wasn’t for him. He taught me so many valuable lessons, won me my first trophy and National title and I know he went on to help so many other riders. He really was special, the perfect RDA pony.”

### **Sarah Hutchinson – Coteford Junior School**

“The new kids were so looking forward to meeting him. What an honour and pleasure it has been over all my years seeing the joy he brought to my children, past and present. A True Great who will be sorely missed.”

### **Alison Jane,**

“Being just 2 years older than Forrester and both of us joining as youngsters I’ve not known South Bucks without him. He was the ultimate teacher, always looking after you when you were not sure and keeping you humble when you got too cocky. His sense of fun was just the best and if you came into a competition with your fancy warmbloods, forget it, this little ginger New Forest pony would wipe the floor with them.....”

### **The New Forest Pony Society:**

“What a special pony”

We have all been privileged, honoured and very lucky to have enjoyed the company of Forrester for the last 23 years as part of the South Bucks team of schoolmasters. Throughout his life, he achieved so much and gave pleasure to so many. He was a superstar in every sense of the word and will hold very special memories for all who had the pleasure of knowing or handling him. “Superstar Legend” is the accolade he richly deserves for his extraordinary service to disabled riders. He was also an outstanding example of the temperament and versatility of the New Forest Pony.

***And we’ve just heard that Forrester has been nominated by  
Horse & Hound for their Aquo Pony of the Year Award 2022.***



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**BILLY BLACK (aka Rainbow)**

Billy Black (aka Rainbow) came to South Bucks as a 4 year old in June 2017, purchased with money donated by Allan Kauffman, a former Mayor of Hillingdon and a Fundraiser for the Rainbow Children’s Charity. His first year was spent learning what is required of an RDA horse. Hacking daily in the woods and on the Common learning to accept the everyday hazards which he encountered. i.e., bicycles, runners, dogs, children in pushchairs, umbrellas appearing suddenly from behind bushes etc. He learned to take them all in his stride. If he was concerned about anything, he trusted his rider, and was happy to just stop, have a look and then walk on.



Billy was one of the kindest horses you could wish to meet. He had a wonderful temperament, loved human company, and really enjoyed a chat and a cuddle. He made you feel special because you could talk to him, and he would always be ready with a twitch of his nose or a little whicker. If he wanted a chat, he would whicker as you passed his stable and invariably this resulted in a conversation and a pat for him.

Billy was a special friend to many people, a handsome and gentle horse, who was safe and did his best for anyone who rode him. In many ways he was the epitome of an ideal RDA horse. He was a Welsh Section D Cob and, although he grew to 16hh, was very versatile as he was equally happy carrying an adult RDA rider or helping a little one whose legs only came to the bottom of the saddle flaps.

Billy was a much-loved member of the South Bucks team of schoolmasters and a firm favourite with everyone with whom he came into contact. He was the model, along with Bryony, who featured on the National RDA Handbook. He gave confidence and great pleasure to so many people, whether riders or volunteers, and his passing has left a huge hole in our hearts.



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### Fundraising

South Bucks RDA fundraisers only managed to attend a couple of events in 2022 as we came out of the covid restrictions, we had a good day out at an annual tack sale in Northampton where we managed to clear all our excess stock, tack and raised around £275. Thanks to the two Emma's and Jen for attending the sale with me, and also to Romily and the team at the yard, for the behind the scenes work in preparing the tack for us.



We also attended the Fulmer Fun Day event in St Georges Recreation Field, this is more of a PR event for SBRDA, but we came away with a small cash boost to our account. We ran a pin the tail on the cardboard cut-out of Forrester, we will be doing this again, so Forrester, the legendary gentleman of SBRDA, although sadly missed, will go on helping us to raise funds. Pip was in attendance and as usual was an absolute superstar, attracting the crowds to our stand. Thanks again to Romily, both Emma's, Theresa, who popped in for a while and to Karen and her Grandson for help and support.



At Cookham Scouts Fair we ran a tombola which went well for us, and the weather was quite kind to us as well with the rain staying away until near the end. Thanks to Chris, Emma M and Jen for all their help on the day.

We ran a Tombola, sold SBRDA pens, Christmas cards, a few keyrings and fridge magnets at the SBRDA annual BBQ at the yard. This raised some more much needed funds, thanks to Jen who really did all the work while I got to socialise and talk a lot and thanks to my son, Max who stood guard and sang a lot, I'd also like to say thank you to Francis for all his help in organising and delivering the food and a huge thank you to Petra and her team at Tesco in Taplow and Slough for supplying the food and drink, Petra came along and met some of the SBRDA team and will hopefully be supporting us in the future.



This lovely picture is of Vicky with her daughter Jessica. Vicky is a friend of Glynis, a SBRDA volunteer. Vicky needed a show jacket for Jessica age 11, without paying too much for it, (we all know how expensive all the kit can be), Romily very kindly managed to find this smart, velvet collared jacket in the clothing that gets donated to SBRDA from time to time. Vicky made a donation for the jacket, another great example of ways we can raise funds. Thanks to Vicky and Jessica for sending and allowing us to use the picture.

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The fundraising committee will be meeting again in November at the yard to start planning for events we hope to attend in 2023. If you have any ideas or feel you or someone you know may be able to help us in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me, my mobile and email are below.

We will have tables selling Christmas cards, pens, cuddly toys and Christmas decorations at the SBRDA Carol Concert on December 4<sup>th</sup> so hopefully see you there.

### Alan Lawrence

Trustee – Fundraising

[alanlawrence5@btinternet.com](mailto:alanlawrence5@btinternet.com)

07881 950147

### Date for your Diary

As Di mentioned in her introduction, we are very lucky that Roger Royle will lead our Carol Service on the afternoon of **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. If you would like to come along, please let Gina know, she has already emailed an invitation to everyone.

Our Carol Service is always a special event and made even more so by your involvement, so: if you are a rider or participant and fancy being involved in our Nativity, please let your coach know, and;



if you are coming along, we would love you to make a fluffy sheep and/or a sparkly star to decorate the stable of our Nativity.



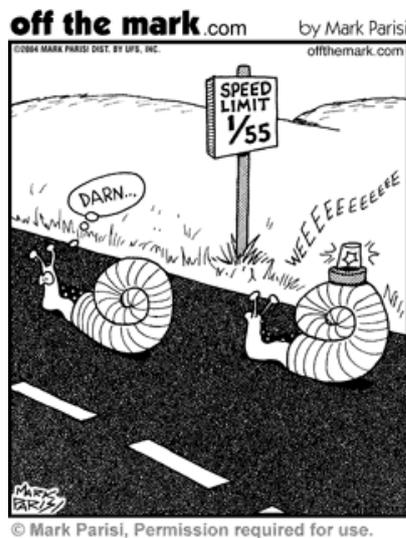
.....and you never know who else might be there.....

## Health and Safety

When you are at South Bucks your safety is very important to us, so here are a few reminders for riders, participants, and volunteers.

	<p>Please use strong footwear, walking boots are ideal. Avoid trainers.</p>
	
	<p>Please wear gloves for leading</p> <p><i>Safety Note</i></p> <p>Avoid wearing jewellery, necklaces and earrings get caught.</p>
	

And if you're late for your lesson, don't worry, give us a call and we'll wait for you. Remember to drive slowly when you're on the premises.



## Happy Memories of Forrester

'For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart.  
 It was not my lips you kissed by my soul.'  
*Judy Garland*

