

# KESTEVEN RIDEABILITY

## Annual Report

**2020**



**2021**

Reg. Charity No. 1074079

# Group Information

## Sessions

Between September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 Kesteven RDA provided 540 sessions to over 50 participants with the help of 16 volunteers. This is twice as many sessions as provided pre-Covid.

## Riders

With an increase in our client numbers riding now takes place all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturday mornings.

The new simulator continues to provide a means to give therapy sessions for those not able to ride and to provide an indoor alternative during inclement weather.

The “Silver Hour”, “Pony Play” and “Therapeutic Groundwork” sessions allows older and less advantaged people with disabilities to enjoy the company of our horses and beautiful surroundings free of charge. The sessions involve meeting and grooming, simple groundwork such as leading and lunging the horses plus a chance for a chat over tea and cake.

We also run Carriage Driving sessions on a Tuesday.

As many of our clients are vulnerable numbers of sessions and riders are still being spaced out to comply with the ongoing Covid 19 protocols.

## Volunteers

The number of volunteers actively involved in the group at present is 16 and we welcomed 3 new young volunteers in 2021. Encouraging young people to volunteer with Kesteven RDA helps to ensure succession planning and secures a healthy future for the charity. The volunteers consist of Trustees on the committee, riding session helpers and people who help with the riding holiday, National competitions etc.

## Our Trustees

Kesteven RiDeAbility is supported by a board of Trustees who lead the charity and decide how it will be run. We must comply with all relevant charity laws as well as our own governing document. All of our Trustees are voluntary with some having specific responsibilities. Each person uses their individual skills and experience to support KR and help it to achieve its aims.

### Present Trustees are:

Nicola Webber [Chair]

Sharon Watson [Secretary]

Gay Hatton [Treasurer]

Karen Thompson [Group Organiser]

Claire Honeywood

Elizabeth Jones [Safeguarding]

Clare Brown

Emily Johnson [Rider representative]

Susan Jane Ashton [Rider representative]

Gill Smith [Horse and pony welfare]

## Restarting our activities

Lockdown was once again implemented in late October 2020 lasting until December 2020 so again all sessions were cancelled. We resumed some sessions in late December for a small number of independent riders but by Christmas it was obvious that another lockdown was to be implemented and in January 2021 this was confirmed.

We reopened in April 2021 resuming all activities but retaining all the necessary Covid protocols. By this time we had experienced an increase in enquiries for our services and to date we now have twice as many clients as pre-Covid. In order to accommodate these and to ensure we continue to maintain social distancing requirements we have extended our RDA days to all day Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturday mornings.

We now have a new Coach in Training, Gay Hatton, who will help to facilitate the extra riding sessions resulting from our new clients.

## Rider Achievements

Each year we present awards to our adult and junior riders. In 2020 the winner of the Fronerthig Delyn Aur Trophy for the Most Improved Junior Rider 2020 was presented to Grace. She now rides independently in walk and trot and in achieving these skills she has shown such determination.

In 2021 we awarded this Trophy to Victoria Neasham one of our youngest riders.

Our most improved adult rider was Shanny Farrow who was presented with the Kesteven RiDeAbility Most Improved Adult Rider shield. We did not award the shield during 2020.

Many of our riders gained their Endeavour Awards and also passed their riding proficiency tests.



Leo with his Endeavour Award



Victoria with Fudge



Katie and Shanny with their Grade 1 riding certificates

# Regional Competitions 2021

## RDA Regional Qualifiers 2021

The RDA North Midlands Regional Dressage Qualifiers for the RDA National Championships were held virtually this year as with the Covid restrictions travelling horses and riders was not possible. Each test was videoed in our arena and uploaded to the RDA site for judging.



In the Dressage class both of our riders qualified for the National Championships each coming first in their class. Katie rode Trefenter Fred (aka Bob) our newest RDA horse and it was very pleasing to see how he responded to his first RDA competition. Emma our second Dressage entrant competed in the Canter class riding her own horse Pip. In the Showing Walk/Trot Emily presented Lemonholme Prince (aka Rio) and three of our younger riders took part in the Countryside Challenge with Grace, riding Fudge and qualifying for the Nationals. In the Arts & Craft section Timmy took first place in the Photography class.

Katie with Trefenter Fred (aka Bob)



Fudge competing in the Countryside Challenge for the Regional Qualifiers

## RDA National Championships: Summer 2021

There were no regional classes for the Carriage Driving so our newest recruit Sue was entered directly into the Novice Class at the National Championships. Driving Pepsi she completed a course set up in our cross country field. It was fast and furious but great fun. Although Sue didn't come in the top six she only missed out by a point so a good effort considering she has only just begun carriage driving.



Sue driving Pepsi in the Carriage Driving Novice Class





In the riding classes we had three medal winners. Emma won a bronze, coming third on her own horse Pip. Riding Lemonsholme Prince (aka Rio) Emily won a silver and Grace won a bronze. Our newest pony Trefenter Fred (aka Bob) took Katie to a 7<sup>th</sup> place, only one point behind the top six in her class. We also had a talented rider enter the Arts and Craft class. Timmy was successful winning a 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Photography Class. All our entrants did well and overall this year's Championships was very successful despite having to be run virtually.

Rio getting ready for his competition and showing off his super plaits.

## Silver Hour and Equine Therapy

After almost 18 months away we were once again able to resume our *Silver Hour* sessions in August of 2021. The *Silver Hour* was successfully launched in 2018 and we were very keen that it continue. The programme offers elderly disabled adults the chance to benefit from interaction with horses helping them to reduce stress and anxiety but it also offers an ideal opportunity for older people to rekindle their love of equines or to experience a connection with a horse for the first time. So successful has the programme been that we are regularly contacted by various charity groups asking if they can bring along members they feel would benefit from the equine therapy sessions we offer.



Meeting Fudge at Silver Hour

At present we provide regular sessions for two care homes in our locality and two mental health charities. These take place on a Thursday when the participants are introduced to our ponies and given time to interact with them before tea and cakes are served. The groups are all very appreciative of the chance to visit and throughout the summer, weather permitting, many of them build bonds with one or more of our ponies.

## Carriage Driving

As we were not allowed to run sessions during the lockdown we made use of any time we did have when restrictions were relaxed to hold theory sessions in our "quiet corner". Sue, our first carriage driving client spent time with Joss, her coach, learning practical things like how to hold the reins, the parts of the saddlery and in which order the pony is saddled and harnessed up. Other elements covered were how to set up an obstacle course and what considerations have to be built in to accommodate pony and carriage. It was very useful and meant when we resumed actual carriage driving sessions in April we could move on more quickly with the basics. We were the only group in the country offering theory sessions for carriage drivers and have been complimented on our innovative approach to the limitations of the lockdown.



Sue receiving a theory carriage driving lesson from her coach Joss

Carriage Driving resumed in early Summer 2021



## Fundraising Events

Fundraising has been curtailed since March 2019 but in August 2020 we were able to hold a virtual version of our Fun Dog Show and asked our supporters to enter photographs of their dogs for the “Best in Show”, “Prettiest Bitch” and “Cutest puppy” classes.

We hoped this would help to keep our supporters engaged during very tough times when it was hard to physically keep in contact with everyone. There was no entry fee. It was all for fun. Our best in Show was Ronnie whilst the Prettiest Bitch was Lolly and the Cutest Puppy was Norman.



Ronnie – Best in Show



Norman – Cutest Puppy



Lolly – Prettiest Bitch

## Visitors

In September 2021 we were visited by the Ed Bracher, Chief Executive of RDA, and the Chair of the RDA Trustees, Rachel Medill. They came along to see how we had coped during the pandemic and to find out more about how we were faring once we were able to again run our sessions.



Their visit also coincided with a visit from the Leader of Kesteven District Council, Kelham Cooke who also wanted to see how we had managed throughout the past eighteen months and how we had benefited from the grants made available to us to help us through the difficulties of lockdown.



Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader South Kesteven District Council and Rachel Medill, Chair of Trustees RDA.

## Online Activities

To maintain links with our clients during the period they were not able to visit we introduced an Online Learning Zone to our website. This was intended to support our younger riders by enabling them to continue their riding knowledge by completing fact sheets and quizzes and was very well received.

## Sully the Simulator

Our new simulator, arrived in mid-2020 and after discussion with the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Trust, who granted us the funds to purchase him, we named him "Sully"

after Sir Peter. We were not able to make full use of him until lockdown was fully lifted but with more clients than ever he is getting regular workouts and with the extra ability to canter is providing even more benefit than our old one, Lloyd.

Emily and her mum trying Sully for the first time



## Social Media

Currently we have 711 Likes on our Facebook page and 770 Following, both of which represent a rise from last year. The page is linked to our Twitter account. We often receive enquiries from potential new riders and volunteers from these sources. The website continues to attract new clients and sponsors with some funders using the site to check that the group's activities fit their criteria before approaching us

## SEIB Search for a Star 2020 and SEIB RDA Centre of the Year 2021

In November 2020 our Dales pony Lemonsholme Prince (aka Rio) won the SEIB "Search for a Star" Competition. The competition was run virtually so we had to submit a photograph of Rio which was then judged. The judges were very impressed describing him as "amazingly well turned out" and looking "very well in his coat"



Our submitted photograph of Lemonsholme Prince (aka Rio) for the SEIB Search for a Star 2020 competition.

We were also nominated for the SEIB RDA Centre of the Year Award and learned in May 2021 that we had been shortlisted. The results were announced at a lunch held at the Dallas Burston Polo Club, Southam, Warwickshire. We didn't win but did receive a very nice plaque to celebrate that we had been shortlisted.



Lemonsholme Prince (aks Rio) with his SEIB Search for a Star 2020 winner's rosette and sash



Karen Thompson, Chief Coach and Gay Hatton, Trustee, with our SEIB certificate and plaque

## Pony Angel party

In September 2021 we were finally able bring our supporters back for our first Pony Angel party since 2019. We normally hold this each year to thank all those who sponsor our ponies by being a "Pony Angel". With fundraising curtailed during the pandemic the support of our Pony Angels has been vital in providing ongoing and regular support for our three ponies Rio, Fudge and Bob.

This year the party was a chance to not only introduce our newest pony, Bob, but also an opportunity to show off our new simulator, Sully, funded by a grant from the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust and to showcase a little of what our newest activity, carriage driving, is all about. After the sessions in the arena tea and cake was provided before all three ponies were introduced to their sponsors. It was a lovely afternoon made more special by it being the first time we were able to bring sponsors and their families to the centre for many months.

## Pony Angels

The group own three ponies: Bob, Fudge and Rio and hire other ponies from The Paddocks Livery Centre to help run the sessions. At present there are four businesses and 13 individuals who are contributing towards their board and lodgings through the Pony Angel Scheme by guaranteeing a set monthly donation or a discount on services provided.





## **Our RDA Ponies: Bob, Fudge and Rio**

### **Our Pony Angels**

Marie Ashton  
Kathy Blake  
Chandlers  
Mark Frazer  
Gay Hatton  
J & V Heslop  
Hills Polyprint  
Andy & Claire Honeywood  
Iris Halliday  
Paul Johnson

Lincs Rug Wash  
Suzanne Sanders  
Sarah Shelbourne  
Stephanie Smith-Maxwell  
Rachel Stothert  
Ros Wentworth  
Rachel & Lee Williams  
Mick Jones

## **Donations**

**Further donations have been received from:**

Skylark Endowment Fund	Karen Moore	Tryac
Victoria Neasham	Sue Ashton	R Wood
Mrs S Watson	Mrs E Charlton	Ms J Beckett
S Leckey	Grace Moore	
South Kesteven District Council	Kathy Blake	