

# KESTEVEN RIDEABILITY



Reg. Charity No. 1074079

Newsletter November 2022

Once again it is nearly that time of year, Sshhhh, But it has been a good year despite a few Covid restrictions and the past six months have seen many new riders joining us. Overall the summer was relatively kind weatherwise and we had very few occasions to cancel. The main issue wasn't rain and wind but sun! It was far too hot on occasions but despite this our figures held up well. Each year at this time we must submit a report to the Charities Commission. This includes details on what we have provided, by whom and to how many. The year to 31st March 2022 saw up provide 700 sessions to 48 participants, 19 of whom were attending for the first time. Despite Covid our numbers have held up well and to date we have seen a surge in the number of people asking to join our sessions. We also continued to provide our non-riding sessions; Silver Hour (Tea with a Pony) and The Listening Horse to a mixture of individuals and local care homes.

*Merry Christmas  
to all our Pony Angels  
from  
Fudge, Rio and  
Bob and  
the trustees and volunteers*

## Rainbow Fun and painting ponies!

We enjoy bringing more fun into our pony sessions and in August we held a fun party for our younger riders. Despite the weather we still had fun painting ponies and holding team pony races. It was a close call between "Horse Heroes" and "Pony Magic" so much so our adjudicator held the race a draw! Rainbow rosettes were awarded to all of our participants.



Rio looking smart in his coat of many colours.



Rainbow rosettes for all!

# Hallowe'en Fun!



We had as spooky time at the stables this October. Lots of scary activities; painting ponies, riding the scary simulator and lots of Halloween games. Even Rio got in on the act with this Devil's horns! He's a sweetie although when he's 'off duty' he likes to think he's a bit of a Devil—he isn't!



The scary simulator with lots of witches webs

Rio with his Devil's horns



Spooky pumpkins and beastly bats!



Who is that skeleton? It's Frazer!

## Rider Achievements



Our riders have been so successful this year gaining many Proficiency and Endeavour awards. Here are just a few with their certificates. To everyone—Well Done!



### Most Improved Adult Rider and Most Improved Junior Rider Awards 2022

Each year we also choose two riders to receive the awards of Most Improved Junior and Most Improved Senior rider. It is always difficult to choose between our riders but we felt that Lilly and Frazer deserved special recognition.

Here are [right] Frazer with his pony, Bob and [left] Lilly riding the indomitable Rio. Congratulations to both riders.



## Competition Time



### RDA National Championships 2022. Hartpury

In June we told you about our qualifiers for the National Championships in the Countryside Challenge class. We can now report that all were very successful with Kesteven Rideability bringing home a 2nd place and two 3rd places. Well done to all our participants



Rio looking thoughtful ahead of his competition



Our successful riders with their rosettes

### RDA National Virtual Championship 2022

Some of our riders and drivers preferred to enter the Virtual Championships. This is where a video of the test is taken and then sent to RDA UK for judging.

#### Carriage Driving

As our carriage drivers are still learning their craft we decided to enter them into the Virtual Championship which is judged at the end of October. Each driver was videoed carrying out the Dressage Test in our arena and the video submitted to the RDA for marking. The test incorporates circles, straight lines and serpentines and is intended to test the driver on their co-ordination skills, balance and ability to manage both horse and carriage in pace and energy. All of our drivers did well gaining scores of over 65% which is amazing given they have only been learning for a short while.

#### Showjumping

In the Showjumping Level 2 our entrants came in the top three so it was a nerve wracking experience watching the live stream as each rider performed their test. It was an emotional experience when we found out that two of our riders, Grace and Thomas, had taken 1st and 3rd places! So proud of them!

#### “Have a Go” Shows

After the successes earlier in the year we again took some of our riders to Elms Farm, a local riding school, to take part in a number of “Have a Go” shows. These involved both jumping and dressage. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part and we came home with more rosettes. What a result!



Tim and his 1st place rosette

Getting the ponies used to moving away from the yard and experiencing different places is good practice for when they have to travel to competitions such as the RDA National Championships in Hartpury. It which can be daunting for a pony first time around if they have not travelled in a trailer or horsebox before.

## And another competition!



### British Dressage Intro Test



In August three of our riders took part in their first British Dressage Intro Test. The ponies, Rio and Fudge, were taken up to our local riding school where the test was taking place. It was a lovely afternoon and all riders performed their test admirably—so much so that all three riders placed, winning all top three places! Congratulations to Thomas, Timmy and Ali.

## Carriage Driving



Our Carriage Driving session continue apace and there is quite a lot of interest in our new activity. Sue, one of our first riders to move to Carriage Driving, entered the RDA Virtual National Championships this year and achieved a score of 67% whilst Rosemary really aced her test, scoring 68.5% which after only taking the reins for a short time is tremendous. There were few

percentage points between the top drivers illustrating how close the competition result was.

Carriage driving has become so much more popular recently and for those who can no longer ride or who need a different kind of challenge it offers a really exciting way of continuing their equine journey.

We are hoping to be able to purchase our own pony very soon so that we can increase the number of sessions offered as our loan pony, Pepsi, is heading into retirement.

## The Human and Equine Interaction Register



Kesteven Rideability is now HEIR (Human and Equine Interaction Register) registered through its membership of RDA.

The Register aims to bring together all people involved in the field of human equine interactions to ensure high quality service provision and create a greater awareness of their work.

The Register acts as a helpful resource for service users to make informed choices, service commissioners, funders, practitioners and anyone wishing to find out more about equine assisted or facilitated programmes in the UK.

As members Kesteven Rideability is now able to incorporate the HEIR logo into all of its literature promotional or otherwise.

## Horse Therapy



It was so nice to see Dementia UK share one of the photographs from our "Tea with a Pony" days. Here is Rio stepping up to the mark! These days are so special to us and are enjoyed greatly by all of our older visitors.



During June and July we again welcomed visitors from Newton House Care Home. They do look forward to their visits and we really enjoy giving them the chance to spend time with our ponies as well as having a cup of tea and a nice piece of home made cake.

At present we continue to provide regular sessions for two care homes in our locality as well as a number of mental health charities and individuals. 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.



As a result of these programmes and under the umbrella of RDA UK we are now registered with the Human and Equine Interaction Register (HEIR) and can display their kitemark on our promotional literature and social media postings.

## Generous donations and our annual Pony Angel Party



### New Hats!

Due to a change in the standards we needed to buy new hats for our riders. Many thanks to all those who donated to our hat fundraiser and many thanks to Chandlers Country Stores for sourcing them so quickly and giving us a generous discount.

### Pony Angel Party

In September we held our annual Pony Angel Party. This is an opportunity for all of our Pony Angels to meet their pony they sponsor as well as allowing us to showcase what we do. This year it was the turn of Carriage Driving and we saw three of our Drivers pit their skills against each other around an obstacle course. The Winner was Rosemary who was closest to the optimum time. Sue and Chris were not far behind. We are a very competitive lot! The afternoon was rounded off with tea and homemade cake.



Explaining the pony harness and reins



Rosemary our winner!



Sue and Pepsi driving around the obstacle course

## How you can help us

Whilst we have come through the pandemic we are now looking to expand some of our activities such as Carriage Driving. Our income stream is beginning to recover but we still need your assistance. If you can help and would like to here are a number of ways you can do so.



**For those who are already supporting us as Pony Angels or by individually donating we are extremely grateful—thank you.**

### Become a Pony Angel

Pony Angels are supporters who by pledging a fixed amount every month or year help us cover the costs of our RDA ponies. They are very important to us and we are always grateful for the support they give us. Have a look at our website at [www.kestevenrda.org.uk](http://www.kestevenrda.org.uk) or

contact [ponyangels@kestevenrda.org.uk](mailto:ponyangels@kestevenrda.org.uk) to find out more and you could be helping to continue the work we already do teaching disabled children and adults to ride.



If you use Amazon you can join their charitable donation site Smile Amazon and every time you shop with them through Smile they will donate to your chosen charity. Like easy fundraising, it costs you nothing to do this. Go to

[www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) to sign up.



Join easy fundraising and every time you buy something online you can raise money for Kesteven Rideability. It doesn't cost you anything. Just go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) join up and select us as your charity then whenever you shop online remember

to shop via easyfundraising. It's simple and they even had a little reminder app which will mean you never forget to shop this way.

You can support us and join via our website [www.kestevenrda.org.uk](http://www.kestevenrda.org.uk)

### Take part in LotterySK \*

Many of our supporters take part in this and we have already had one lucky winner matching five numbers to win £2000!



We retain 50p from the cost of each ticket.

You can buy tickets via our website [www.kestevenrda.org.uk](http://www.kestevenrda.org.uk)

*\*LotterySK was created in 2018 by South Kesteven District Council.*

*Set up to support community projects in the local area, LotterySK operates on the principle of raising money within the community for the community. We empower local good causes to raise money in a fun and effective way. In a time of shrinking budgets and increased community need, LotterySK enables people to support the causes they care most about, helping good causes to connect with their supporters.*

A ticket for LotterySK costs £1 per week. There is a top prize of £25,000 and each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning.



You can also donate via Wonderful

Go to our website at [www.kestevenrda.org.uk](http://www.kestevenrda.org.uk)

**We realise that it is a difficult time for many people and that finances may be stretched but donating the cost of just one lesson could make a real difference to us. Thank you.**

A **BIG** thank you from all of us to everyone who has generously donated to us this past year including:

Mike Clark  
Tryac  
Gill Smith  
Mrs J Beckett  
Skylark Endowment Fund  
Liz Briggs

thank  
you!

Rotary Club of Grantham  
Hon Mrs C Sacks  
Grantham Kesteven Rotary  
Club

Melton Mowbray Building Society Charitable Foundation  
Elaine Richards

Marie & Sue Ashton



Jane & Vince Heslop

**Chandlers**



Andy Honeywood

Sue Hesketh

Gay Hatton

Kathy Blake



Paul Johnson

Thank you to all our Pony Angels  
for helping to get us through the  
most challenging of years.



Stephanie Smith-Maxwell

Sarah Shelbourne

Suzanne Saunders

Iris Halliday

Rachel Stothert

Michael Jones

Rachel & Lee Williams

Mark Frazer

Ros Wenworth

## Kesteven RDA Uniform:

If you would like to purchase Kesteven RDA badged clothing, follow the link from our website, [www.kestevenrda.org.uk](http://www.kestevenrda.org.uk).

You can choose from a range of garments including smart polo shirts, cosy hoodies, gilets and jackets.

The orders are sent direct from Print Bureau, or you can collect your order from their unit in Grantham.

Contact Us:

On our website...

[www.kestevenrda.org.uk](http://www.kestevenrda.org.uk)

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You can also find us on...

