



A Message from the Chair of Wenlo RDA:

"As we begin the festive season and prepare to welcome the New Year we can take a moment to reflect on 2022 and what it has meant for Wenlo RDA.

Wenlo RDA has continued to grow in participants, volunteers and new activities. Wenlo participants have achieved great success at Nationals in July and virtual competitions throughout the year winning many individual awards, trophies and rosettes, but we also continue to see the individual success, improvement or sensory experience of every Wenlo participant in their individual lessons or activities. Little improvements and personal goals bring much reward too.

Wenlo welcomed HRH The Princess Royal in October. What an honour for our group and Charity. Wenlo participants, trustees, coaches, volunteers, families and supporters will remember this wonderful day for many years to come.

In November we were extremely honoured and overwhelmed to receive the award for 'Sports Club of the Year' at Rushcliffe Borough Council's Community Awards evening. This award reflects the Work of Wenlo RDA and all who belong to our group and Charity.

May I take this opportunity to say a few 'thank-you's' of my own.

To all of our participants in whatever area, session or activity. I never cease to be amazed by your enthusiasm, effort and determination. You should all be so very proud of yourselves. Please continue with your enthusiasm, determination and enjoyment of your time with Wenlo in 2023. The coaches and volunteers are so very proud of every single one of you.

Dawn and her amazing team of coaches, volunteers and participant volunteers. The volunteers work in many different areas and duties at Wenlo RDA. I am so incredibly proud of you all, the time you give to Wenlo RDA, the hard work this involves and the dedication you show in helping to make a difference to the lives of adults and children with physical and learning disabilities, mental health challenges and the elderly within our communities who live with Dementia or Alzheimer's. This alongside the hard work involved with our animal welfare on the yard, administration duties, social media posts, fundraising and general maintenance and groundwork that is of paramount importance. What you do is truly inspiring and I am blessed to work alongside you all.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow trustees who volunteer not only in sessions and activities but work tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of our group and Charity, making many decisions to ensure that Wenlo RDA can continue now and for years to come.

WENLO Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving
UK Registered Charity No 1191961

Bowleys Barn Farm, Stanford Road, Normanton-on-Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5ER
Tel: 01509 646361 Email: wenlo.rda@hotmail.co.uk Web: www.wenlorda.org



Thanks must go to the families, friends and carers who accompany participants to their individual sessions. We at Wenlo acknowledge the time, support and commitment that you give to your participant but I must also acknowledge those who go above and beyond by supporting Wenlo in other areas such as administration work, fundraising help, social media input, nomination writing and helping to organise events alongside our volunteers. This is what makes us stronger and we are grateful for your extra help and support.

On behalf of everyone at Wenlo RDA I would like to thank the kind businesses and organisations in our communities and further afield who chose Wenlo RDA as their 'Charity of the year 2022'. We as a group are so blessed to have your support throughout 2022 and the amazing work that you have done in raising much needed funds for us. Your generosity allows Wenlo RDA to continue doing what it does best which is making a difference to over 160 disabled adults and children.

Wenlo RDA would, as a group and Charity, like to show our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the individuals and businesses who have believed in us, taken time to visit us to see our work for themselves, supported us and generously given time, labour, materials and other resources to help us to improve our facilities. Who have provided raffle prizes, donations, sponsorship or have attended events in support. Thank you so much. You are all considered part of Wenlo family.

Thank you to those who support us through our social media posts. Your interest in Wenlo RDA and your support and comments always lift our spirits.

Thanks to RDA UK for your continued support in ensuring we run smoothly and efficiently with help, training, guidance, support and encouragement.

My biggest gratitude must go to the heartbeat of Wenlo RDA, our amazing horses and ponies who truly make a difference to the lives of so many participants and volunteers who grow such bonds with them and lead better lives because of them. They are all loved, respected and valued by all.

I would like to wish everyone at Wenlo RDA as well as our fellow RDA groups in our region and throughout the UK, and the lovely friends we have made within our fellow RDA, groups a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2023 as we begin another year which will see us carrying on doing great things with inspirational people and making a difference through our work.

Sharon Garner
Wenlo RDA Chair, Trustee and Volunteer

22 December 2022

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