



# EPSOM RDA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020/21

## Supporting Your Epsom RDA

While “it’s not all about the money, money, money,” (with thanks to Jessie J!) with ten ponies to care for and feed, plus 16 acres of grounds and buildings to maintain at a annual cost of £42,514 (2019/20) we need it to keep the Group running and ready for when our riders return.

Although our fundraising events are

unable to take place at the moment there are still lots of ways you can support your Epsom RDA.

Two of the easiest ways you can support us are:

### EasyFundraising

Register with Easy Fundraising. Every time you shop on line we get a donation at no cost to you. We have received over £900 in donations this way.

### JustGiving

A great way to make a one off donation or a regular direct debit. We receive every penny plus the gift aid.

### **More ideas**

They are more ideas on how you can support us on page 2. And even more on the [Support Us](#) page on our website [www.epsomrda.org.uk](http://www.epsomrda.org.uk)



## Presidents’ Award

We're delighted that Jo Lee, Trustee and Group Coach, has been selected to receive the RDA President's Award, which is the most prestigious volunteer award within RDA. It is awarded for service of an exceptional nature for a period of over 30 years, and recognises both length and breadth of service.

The nominations

process is highly competitive. The submission is forwarded to Regional for approval before going forward to National for the final decision.

Jo has over 30 years' continuous

service with us starting as teenager for her Queen's Scout Award!

Our nomination recognised Jo's exceptional organisational skills (pony schooling team,

the Harold Newton riding competition, fundraising quizzes to name but a few), quiet diplomacy, and commitment to the daily management of our herd and finding that elusive perfect RDA pony.



### Inside this issue:

Supporting Your Epsom RDA	2
Your Fund Surrey	2
Volunteering Trustee	3
Not all about horses	3
Website launch	4
Covid update	4

## Supporting Your Epsom RDA

### Corporate Partners

Let us know if you know any local companies or organisations that could become a partner.

[Atlees in Dorking](#) have had the brilliant idea of supporting us by encouraging their customers to donate their loyalty points to us. We can then exchange the points for goods.

### Challenges

Taking on a lockdown challenge? Running, riding, walking (with or without the dog!), cycling, skipping

or even keepie uppie. Whatever your challenge get the extra bit of motivation by getting your friends and family to sponsor you and donate the proceeds to us.

### Instead of....

Over Christmas one supporter asked for donations instead of gifts and raised £1,000. Instead of the meal out, the evening at the cinema, your season ticket fare, birthday gifts or gym fees, donate the equivalent value to us.

### Making and Baking

How about getting creative then selling your wares and donating the proceeds to us?

Our supporters have made and sold jewellery ([Annettes Gemstones](#)) and baked chocolate reindeer to help us buy essential equipment.

### Ride Money

A number of our riders are continuing to donate their ride money. We are very grateful for this generous gesture which

is helping us meet the costs of looking after the ponies.

### Text Donations

It is simple to donate £10. Text EPSOMRDA to 70085. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message

### Trusts and Grants

Do you know of grant making organisations or Trust Funds that could fund our projects. Let us know their details by email at [info@epsomrda.org.uk](mailto:info@epsomrda.org.uk)

## Your Fund Surrey

We need your help to appeal for funding from “Your Fund Surrey”, the Surrey Community Projects Fund launched by Surrey County Council. Your Fund Surrey is investing in exciting and inspiring projects that will deliver a positive benefit to local people.

Despite the challenges of the last year we are planning for the future. We have planning permission to build a new indoor riding school which it had been hoped to start building during 2020, but COVID 19 has slowed progress. This is largely due to a number of grant making bodies who had expressed interest in the project suspending their

funding programmes.

We currently help over 300 disabled riders. Nevertheless, almost 200 disabled people are waiting for the opportunity to ride with us. It is frustrating that we cannot help these people because of the limitations of the size of the current arena, the lack of covered space for use in poor weather and lack of indoor mounting facilities. By building a new indoor riding school not only can we overcome these obstacles and help more disabled people from the local community, but we can also give our existing riders the opportunity to enjoy improved facilities that will enhance their riding experience.

To achieve this ambition we need to secure funding. We would love your support in helping us to get this funding. It is easy and quick to support Epsom RDA. All you need to do is to click on the [Your Fund Surrey interactive map](#) and then click the Agree button to show your support. Please encourage your family and friends to lodge their support as well.

If you would like to find out more about the indoor school project visit our website [www.epsomrda.org.uk](http://www.epsomrda.org.uk) or email [ray.lee@epsomrda.org.uk](mailto:ray.lee@epsomrda.org.uk) or speak with any of your Trustees.

The logo consists of the words "YOUR FUND SURREY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically on a yellow rectangular background.

## Volunteering Trustee Recruitment

In March we will be recruiting for a Trustee to join the Trustee team. The role will have specific responsibility for developing a strategy for volunteering to support the vision and aims of the Group. Working with the other Trustees and a team of volunteers, responsibilities will include:

### Recruitment

Grow the number of people who volunteer for the Group to support our

riding sessions and maintain our land and property, plus people who can bring their professional skills in support of our vision for the future e.g., cloud computing, database development, finance, fundraising and project management

### Retention

Continue to improve the volunteering experience for everyone who gives their time to support the Group.

Work with the training team to develop the volunteer training programme providing volunteers with opportunities to expand their skills.

Create a culturally appropriate recognition scheme to ensure our volunteers feel motivated to continue volunteering with the Group.

Look out for more information and details on how to apply coming your way in March.

## Not All About Horses

Volunteering at Epsom RDA is not all about working with the ponies and riders. The volunteers of our Grounds and Property team are essential for keeping our site safe and looking at its best.

The colourful and beautiful array of flowers and shrubs along our driveway that greet visitors, riders, and volunteers are the result of the dedication of the gardening members of the team who spend many hours planting, weeding, and pruning. (plus some help from the ponies providing some of the invaluable growing

material!). The gardeners are also responsible for the seasonal planters around the site. We look forward to welcoming them back as soon as the COVID restrictions are eased.

The maintenance members of the team have been ready to take on all kinds of tasks. As well as the planned work such as building new shelters, they also have to turn their hands to the unexpected challenges that come with running a stables like clearing blocked drains carrying away the water from the stable yard and repairing bursts pipes leading to the pony water



troughs after the recent cold snap.

They deal with these challenges with ingenuity and tremendous camaraderie as they ensure our site is kept safe for humans and horses.

## Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association

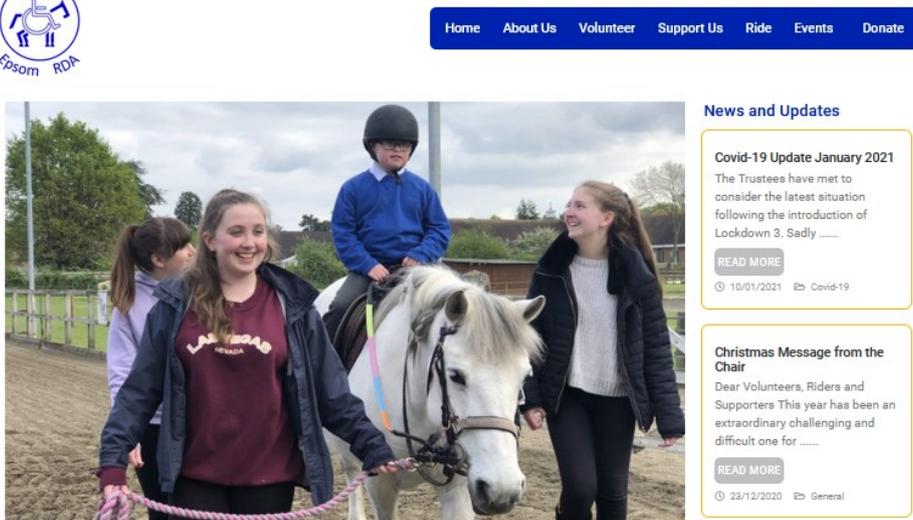
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## Website Relaunched

Our website has been given a much needed redesign.



The site has been designed to be more visually appealing and compatible with a variety of devices including mobile phones and tablets. The site is also accessible those with visual impairments.

Take a look at [www.epsomrda.org.uk](http://www.epsomrda.org.uk) and let us have your feedback.

We will be periodically reviewing and updating the site so any suggestions for future content is welcome.

## Welcome to Epsom RDA

Providing opportunities for disabled people to improve their health and well being through riding

[Get involved](#)

## COVID Update

Following the introduction of Lockdown 3 all riding activities have been suspended until the end of March.

This is enormously disappointing for our riders and their families and carers, However, given the moral imperative to do what we can to reduce transmission of the virus and to keep our volunteers and riders safe this is the best course of action at this time.

We will review this again if the situation improves significantly and the Government lifts its

lockdown restrictions earlier

### Pony welfare and exercise

We are currently operating a minimum welfare regime for the ponies with limited riding in the sessions.

### Working procedures at the yard

Face coverings must be worn in the indoor school with a maximum of 6 people in the school.

The haybarn and coffee room are limited to 2 people.

Volunteer teams should be the

minimum number to undertake the activities safely and efficiently.

Extremely clinically vulnerable people should not attend.

Anyone travelling by public transport to follow the government safer travel guidance.

Car sharing outside of household or support bubble is not permitted.

Anyone showing Covid symptoms, waiting for test results, self-isolating following a positive test, or contacted by NHS Test and Trace should not come to the yard.