Epsom RDA

Annual Report & Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2026

Vision & Objectives

Epsom RDA's mission is to enable disabled people to improve their health and wellbeing through the therapeutic power of horses.

We are a thriving charity providing therapy, enjoyment and achievement for nearly 200 disabled participants, supported by a team of more than 250 volunteers and our own herd of ponies. Riding sessions take place every day and each session is carefully adapted to the needs of the individuals taking part. Every participant is supported in a way that enables them to develop confidence, skills and independence.

The therapeutic benefits of interacting with horses are widely recognised. Riding helps exercise and strengthen muscles, mobilise joints and develop balance, coordination and sensory awareness. Spending time caring for horses also builds confidence, encourages relationship-building and improves communication skills for both participants and our dedicated volunteers.

Whatever the challenges, our goal remains the same: to ensure that even more disabled people can experience and benefit from the therapeutic power of horses.

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Chair's Foreword

It is a pleasure to present this year's Annual Report for Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association. Over the past year we have continued our mission of enriching lives through the unique therapeutic benefits of horses, providing opportunities for people with disabilities to develop confidence, independence and enjoyment in a supportive environment.

None of what we achieve would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our supporters and the commitment of our riders and their families. Week after week, our volunteers give their time, energy and expertise (often in the pouring rain) to ensure that every session is safe, welcoming and rewarding. Their enthusiasm and compassion remain the foundation of everything we do.

This year has brought both progress and challenges. Like many charitable organisations, we continue to navigate rising costs and the ongoing need for sustainable funding. Despite this, the resilience and determination of our community has enabled us to maintain a high standard of activity and care. We have seen many riders grow in confidence and ability and it is always inspiring to witness the powerful bond between horse and rider.

I would also like to thank our trustees, instructors and wider support network whose governance, professionalism and encouragement ensure that the charity remains strong and well managed. Their efforts allow us to focus on delivering meaningful experiences for those who benefit most from our work.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on this year's achievements, strengthening our volunteer base and ensuring that Epsom RDA continues to be a place where riders can thrive. With the continued support of our community, we are confident that the coming year will bring further opportunities to extend the positive impact of our work.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to everyone who contributes to Epsom RDA. Your support makes an extraordinary difference.

Ray Lee – Chair

Participants

In 2025/26 we provided a therapeutic service to both adult and child participants who have a learning disabilities, physical disabilities or neurodiversity. During the year we delivered 2245 sessions of therapy. This was 1927 rides and 318 pony care sessions which is slightly down on the previous year, due to the availability of the herd. Having purchased 3 new horses, the number of sessions increased in the second half of the year and we are in a much better position to move forward.

During 2025/26 our waiting list remains closed as the herd's health and numbers improve. We will be considering whether it is appropriate to re-open this for the sessions with better availability and limited demand. We currently have 30 people on our waiting list, down from 32 last year.

We are actively looking at how we can fill as many places as possible, however, due to the high demand for weekend and evening sessions, they still have a longer waiting time than weekday slots. We continue to develop our pony care offering for those who are either over our weight limit or are unable to ride. This therapy proves to be as beneficial as riding for many participants.

Volunteers

Without our wonderful volunteers, Epsom RDA simply would not be able to operate. As a predominantly volunteer-led charity, our volunteers undertake a wide range of roles across the organisation. Many give their time in more than one capacity and without their commitment, generosity and expertise, Epsom RDA would not be the thriving organisation it is today.

We were delighted to recognise the dedication and achievements of some of our exceptional volunteers at our Annual Prize Giving in November 2025, where long service awards were presented. For 2025/26, we would also like to give special recognition to our Evening Horse and Pony Care Team, who have gone above and beyond to ensure that our herd received the care they needed every single evening throughout the year, regardless of the weather. This has required an enormous commitment from the whole team.

As a charity, we must ensure that we remain compliant with all relevant regulations and so we began a review of our policies this year. This important work will continue into 2026/27. We also delivered two Fire Marshal training courses, along with Stage 1 and Stage 2 Horse and Pony Care courses.

We are always looking to welcome new volunteers. If you have skills you could offer, we would love to hear from you. We have a variety of roles available, including maintenance, gardening, fundraising and administration. No equine knowledge or riding experience is required.

Horse and Ponies

This year has been challenging but one which we have come out of with positivity for the future. Several herd members experienced another bout of liver issues, while many horses and ponies had other unrelated health problems.
We hired an Assistant Horse and Pony Manager in June 2025, allowing equine welfare to be covered every day of the week.

We have successfully welcomed and settled in three new horses to the herd this year:

Little Blue

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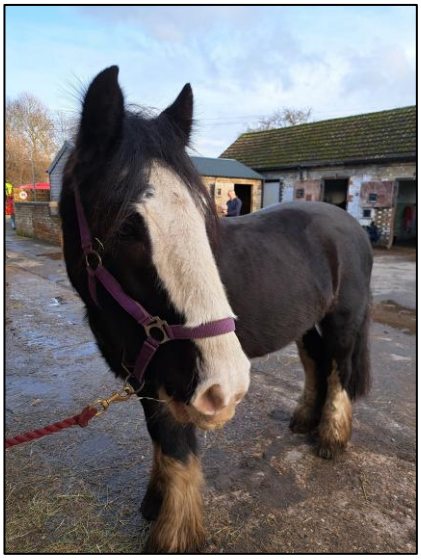
We found a true prince in Little Blue Prince, known on the yard as Little Blue. He is an adorable piebald cob with blue eyes and came to us from Snowball Farm riding school in July 25

Casper

In October we were very lucky to purchase 6 year old Casper from Kilnhanger stables, he is a grey gelding with the most stunning mane and tail! He has been an absolute star and so sweet



Sweetcorn

Like a Christmas present, Sweetcorn joined us in December. Willowbrook riding centre in West Sussex was, unfortunately, closing and we were very pleased to provide a new home for Sweetcorn. Coming from a riding school he has taken to his new role like a duck to water and has become a key member of the team.

Two of our horses entered a very well-earned retirement in 2025

Shannon

Shannon, a beautiful black mare loaned to us by a local family and a firm favourite for many riders and volunteers, left us in July to start what we hope will be a very long and very happy retirement

Spice

Spice left us in December to spend his retirement in Pembrokeshire and the stable he came to us from. We have had updates from Nolton stables where he has settled very well and is enjoying a happy retirement.

Very sadly we have had four horses pass away this year:

Romeo

We lost an absolute favourite and poster boy of the yard in darling Romeo. After 10 years of being a wonderful RDA horse, from patiently taking the most nervous riders in a steady walk in our school to taking more confident riders to national RDA competitions, we sadly lost Romeo to a neurological condition in May 2025

Ria

Ria, a black mare with an exceptionally kind and gentle nature who provided us with seven years of being the darling of the yard, was sadly diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease and had to be put to sleep after becoming very unwell over the summer

Shona

Shona, our clever, sassy and stunningly beautiful dun coloured highland mare, after a wonderful 10 years of faithful service to Epsom RDA, was also sadly put to sleep on vet advice in the summer of 2025

River

River, the beautiful Clydesdale mare, such a gentle giant with beautiful kind eyes who come to us on loan last year, very sadly had to be put to sleep following being diagnosed with a neurological condition in September 2025

Change of ownership

Tandi
RDA life doesn't suit all ponies and wasn't right for Tandi. She has now been purchased by two of our dedicated volunteers and remains on livery in the fields at Epsom RDA where she is enjoying life.

Epsom RDA has 11 horses and ponies in the herd at the end of 2025/26, with a range of ages from 7 to 23, providing their extremely valuable service to our participants and being looked after superbly by our wonderful staff and volunteers.

The ponies all benefit from regular chiropractor visits from the wonderful mother and daughter team, Gill Maybury and Georgie Wood, which together with their carefully

planned exercise programme, keeps them in great condition. Our thanks to them both for providing this service free of charge.

Some have also had physiotherapy treatments. Horses and ponies can't easily tell us of their problems. If they seem out of sorts or unhappy it can be due to aches and pains. Our dedicated horse and pony staff can investigate this and chose the right professional help for the equines. Following their treatments we can see how much happier the horses and ponies are in their work, more comfortable being groomed and being playful out together in the fields.

We look forward to welcoming more horses and ponies to the team in the coming year.

Property and Grounds

Our gardening and maintenance teams have continued to work tirelessly throughout the year to keep our site safe, welcoming and attractive. For many of our participants, an environment that feels calm, well cared for and inviting plays an important part in helping them feel safe and relaxed. Maintaining a riding school of this size requires a tremendous amount of work.

Throughout the year, we have continued to invest in both the site and the wellbeing of our ponies with improvements including additional new field shelters, repairs to the water system and well-maintained fields.

The teams have been busy developing and improving the sensory tack which is now being viewed by RDA regional as a resource for training others in Countryside Challenge.

Once again, we were delighted to host several companies for corporate volunteering sessions during the spring and summer months. These volunteer days are mutually beneficial: they provide us with valuable practical support to help maintain and improve the site, while offering participating organisations rewarding team-building opportunities for their staff. During the year we welcomed:

- Atkins Realis spent 2 days with us.
- SGN have a regular arrangement to help the gardening team worked with them on the sensory track and the car park. They have also donated equipment. We look forward to welcoming them again this year.
- Structural Design Studio spent 1 day
- CBRE spent 1 day
- Unily spent 1 day.

We would like to thank them all for their hard work during their time with us. Their help in maintaining the grounds is very much appreciated.

We are enormously thankful to both the maintenance and gardening teams for ensuring that the many smaller day to day repairs and compliance tasks are carried out promptly and efficiently to keep us all safe.

Fundraising and Events

We continue to expand our calendar of fundraising events, and this year has seen a consistent increase in activity in growth. Our dedicated, enthusiastic and imaginative fundraising team continued to deliver a range of well-attended and extremely popular events during 2025/26. Their efforts are very much recognised and appreciated.

Our 2025/26 year of fundraising events opened with the first of our dog shows in April 2025, well-attended by over 1,000 people and hosting a multitude of dog breeds that were entered into our 8 classes. This event raised £1,450.

Our next major event was our Showcase/Open Day in May 2025 where we hosted over 1,200 people, with many stalls from a range of external exhibitors, as well as RDA's stalls and refreshments. This year, we were also privileged to be joined by Sophie Christiansen, one of GB's most successful Paralympic riders who also gave a very interesting and insightful interview, which was thoroughly enjoyed by many. We also had 2 demonstrations showcasing to visitors what we do at Epsom RDA and we thank each and every one of our incredible volunteers and amazing riders in helping us put this together so successfully. Our Showcase/Open day raised a fabulous £1,300 and we are hoping to better this in 2026/27.

Our third major event of the year was our second dog show in September. Again, this was attended by many people who brought their beautiful dogs, with many entering more than one class on the day. This event raised a further £1,178

In addition to our 3 annual events, the fundraising team also hosted a series of educational events and clinics, such as our regular pole work and working equitation clinics, and our dressage competitions, all of which prove popular with many returning time and again to take part/compete. These events not only provide opportunities for RDA's riders and the public but continue to raise the profile of the RDA in our community as well as acting as a valuable and consistent form of income.

Our monthly tack sales continue to draw in many people from outside Epsom RDA and we often have the Tack Shack open on clinics and competition days to maximise our opportunities to raise funds. We are extremely lucky to receive many donations over the year, ensuring we always have plenty of stock and a wide variety of items to sell, with many of our visitors returning every month. Funds from our tack sales continue to increase, in some cases achieving revenues of over £400 in one evening, and we have recently seen an increase in the number of external sellers having stalls at our tack sales, raising donated funds.

In December 2025, we hosted one of our most popular and well-attended events of the year, our annual Carols at Christmas at Epsom RDA, and this year was no exception in

proving to be extremely popular. We again sold tickets online and this continues to prove a successful way of ensuring attendance as the majority of people had purchased their tickets online before the event. This helped to reduce the queues at the entrance and together with sales on the door, we raised £1,875 which was shared with All Saints Church, West Ewell, who supported and contributed to the event. At this event this year, we also launched our Christmas Baubles campaign, which focused on our Amazon Wish List needs, raising nearly £200, and we started our Sponsor a Pony initiative, which continues to prove popular.

Our two manure sales were very popular with many people and garden centres in the community, raising over £1,850 in 2025/26, while our much- loved Quiz Night in October raised £1,300 and our 80's Night in February raised £995.

Volunteers from every session as well as non-session volunteers from our fundraising, maintenance, gardening, admin and IT teams have been involved in making our fundraising events successful. We thank them all for their continued support and dedication to Epsom RDA.

As always, we continue to review our ongoing events over the calendar year and look to optimise the opportunities where we can. We are also continually thankful for the many donations and legacies we are privileged to receive from organisations and individuals over the year, with 2025/26 being no exception.

Communication

During 2025/2026 we have worked hard to improve our communication with participants, volunteers, members and the general public. We use a range of communication channels to highlight and profile the charities activities.

- Liz, our Horse and Pony trustees sends out regular updates on the health and wellbeing of our herd to all volunteers
- The Hoofbeats newsletter is sent to all participants and volunteers
- The Fundraising newsletter goes out to everyone
- And the newly introduced ‘View from the Chair’ is sent to all volunteers after each trustee meeting.

In addition to these the fundraising team produce leaflets on the activities being undertaken and our volunteers are working to ensure these get distributed far and wide into the community.

Future planning

The financial climate for charities across the country remains challenging, as household budgets are under pressure and donation levels have declined. In response, the Trustees are committed to strengthening the charity’s financial position and are developing a robust financial strategy to support the organisation over the coming years. This work is already underway and will continue throughout the next financial year.

While the fundraising team continues its valuable work on smaller-scale and regular income-generating activities, the Trustees are also exploring opportunities to secure more substantial funding through grant applications, corporate sponsorships and legacy giving.

Despite these challenges, we remain ambitious. We are determined to continue increasing the number of ponies—and therefore the number of rides we can offer—while also improving facilities for both ponies and participants.

Epsom RDA

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2026

Shaw Gibbs Limited

Salatin House

19 Cedar Road

Sutton

Surrey

SM2 5DA

EPSOM RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the year ended 31st March 2026

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting their report and the independently examined financial statements for the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2026 which have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is a registered charity (charity registration number 1180061).

The names of the persons who were Trustees at any time during the year ended 31 March 2026 and up until the date of signing these accounts were as follows:

Raymond Lee (Chair) – appointed 10th November 2025

Neil Chawla – appointed 12th January 2026

Ann Stuart

Elizabeth Clark

Angela Wilson

Objectives and aims

To promote the objects of the Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage-Driving, a charity registered under charity number 1180061, by providing disabled people with the opportunity to participate in equine therapy to benefit their health and well-being in Surrey/Southeast area.

Public benefit

In planning the activities of the charity, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Financial Review and Accounts

The financial year ended 31st March 2026

Overview

For the year ended 31st March 2026 the charity showed an annual operating deficit of c.£78.3k (c.£11.3k surplus in 2024-2025). These figures do not include any income or expenditure related to the Future Strategy which is classed as non-operating expenses and income. The operating deficit reflects difficulties faced during the year with herd health and loss of herd members resulting in fewer participants and higher pony care costs.

In March we received a legacy of £85k from the estate of Betty Grant (see later). The trustees have agreed to allocate this to designated funds as future strategy income line for future salary costs and new herd members.

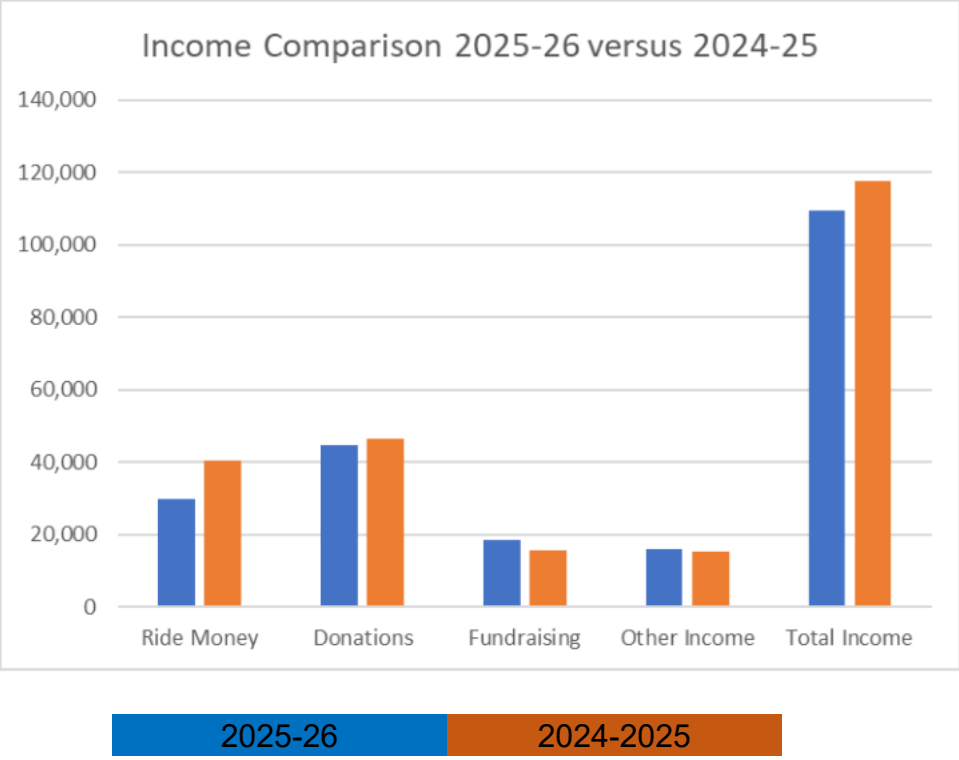
This comprised total operating income of c.£109k (c.£119K in 2024-2025) with operating expenses of c.£187.4k (c.£108k in 2024-2025). Income has decreased since last year against a significant rise in costs. The cost increases are seen mainly in the rising cost of feed and in pony care. The rise in pony care costs includes increased vet bills (c.£24k) but also the strategic decision taken by the trustees to bring in a paid Horse and Pony manager and deputy (c.£39k total salary related costs) was funded from designated funds and has been instrumental in keeping our herd operational and comfortable.

The total surplus for the year was c.£6.7k (against a surplus of c.£11.3k in 2024-2025).

Income

As the operating deficit grew during the year, the trustees reviewed the fee level for 2026–27 and agreed to increase it to £20 from 1 April 2026. From September 2026, individual participants, in line with organisations, will also pay one month in advance for all available sessions. The cost per ride was £57, compared with £45 in 2024–25. Our aim is to cover the cost of running the herd, excluding the purchase of new herd members and the Horse and Pony Managers’ costs, which will be funded from ring-fenced strategic funding. However, because of rising pony care and feed costs, and reduced pony availability due to health management, income of c.£29.5k was below the c.£67k cost of maintaining the herd. The remaining cost of running the charity depends on donations and regular income from livery, school hire and letting space to Austin & Jenkins builders.

The total income for the year is standing at c.£109k which is decrease on the c.£118k in 2024-2025. Donations for 2025-2026 were slightly down at c.£45k against 2024-2025 which were c.£47k. Events during the year netted c.£10k a slightly up against £7k last year. Tack sales at c.£4k are also up against c.£3k last year. This reflects the hard work and enthusiasm the events team have put into getting a regular programme of events as well as the Open Day and Carols at the Stables. Income has benefited from steady interest rates during the year with interest at c.£4.8k.



We have also received support from generous donors including: -

- Annette Emery Gemstone Jewellery who continues to make and sell jewellery with the profits used to buy items we need for our ponies
- Epsom and District Caledonian society
- Epsom Fireworks
- Former and current Participants and volunteers who continue to donate monthly
- Harold Bell Infiel Charity
- Papillon School
- Rotary Club of Ewell
- Ewell Old Boys
- The Epsom Club
- Meadows and Co solicitors and Sarah Lewis
- Theatre Lovers Facebook club
- Merton Dog Club
- 1st Ewell Scouts
- The Thompson Family Trust for their ongoing regular monthly donation

- Laurence Anastasi
- Waitrose 2 branches
- Epsom Golf Club captain David Burrell

Of course, we are also grateful for all the donations we receive from volunteers, friends and relations of participants, the local allotments and gardeners who donate when collecting our quality manure, hot chocolate reindeers and pocket money as these unrestricted funds go directly to supporting the upkeep of the herd and their home to the benefit of our participants. We are also grateful for the volunteers who never claim expenses, donate carrots and cotton wool pads and organisations who give us time and labour.

In 2025-26 we also had money donated in memory of Sheila Sizell. June Moore, a supporter who has been donating monthly for 30 years also sadly passed away this year and asked her family and friends to donate to the charity. Over the past 30 years June has donated c. £10k and we thank her friends and family for the additional £400.

Betty Grant Legacy

In February we received the news that we were to receive the sum of £85k as an interim disbursement from the estate of Betty Grant.

Betty was born in 1925 and volunteered with ERDA for 44 yrs. She was involved in all the volunteering roles over the years. She retired in 2016/2017 when driving became difficult. She was responsible for the feeds and tack cleaning, with some assistance up until the day she stopped.
Soon after Betty moved into a Residential home but was visited by Thursday team members. The manager of the home contacted me to ask about Betty visiting and this was arranged. Betty & other ladies from the home visited for Tea with a Pony on a few occasions.

Betty passed away in September 2023.

Our thanks are with her sister-in-law who allowed us to celebrate a long-standing volunteer who still enjoyed spending time with her friends and most of all the ponies.

Betty with Romeo

Expenditure

The upkeep of the herd forms a major part of our outgoings. This year our herd (11 ponies at year end – 15 at the start 2025-26, with Tandi being on a loan for re-schooling – Tandi has now been purchased by Liz and Becca) cost c.£106k (c.£68K in 2024-2025 when we had the same number of ponies) which includes expenses for feed and hay (c.£20k), farriers' costs and dentist (c.£6k), vet bills and medicines (c.£24k), Horse and Pony Managers (c.£39k) and various equipment including our new bits, saddle pads and other essential tack (c.£6k). The increase in expenditure continues to be driven the rising costs of hay, feed (including new supplements for all our herd) and services (we remain grateful for those services who have held their prices lower for ourselves). Hay costs have been subject to the extreme change in weather as a dry summer restricted our grass which meant we were feeding field hay for more of the year than usual. This will affect both the cost and supply in 26-27. We have started to source our medicines online to reduce costs. We continue to be grateful to Gill Maybury for her continued provision of chiropractor services to all our herd at no cost to us.

This excludes the cost of purchasing new herd members Casper, Little Blue and Sweetcorn. (2024-2025 the cost of purchases was c£3.6K in 2025-2026 this was c.£19.4k). However, during the year we saw the retirement of Shannon and Spice and the sad loss of Ria, River, Shona and Romeo to illness.

The average cost of keeping a herd member during the last year was c.£6,065 an increase from the previous year where it was £3,786 per annum (this excludes the cost of the Horse and Pony Manager who is funded from designated funds). This is the equivalent of £117 per week which is a c.60% increase on the prior year. So, a donation of £7 can buy a bale of hay, £84 pays for a most ponies to be visited by the farrier and £50 pays for a visit from the equine dentist.

Our next expense is in keeping the site safe, secure, and well maintained. The cost of maintaining the buildings and grounds in 2025-2026 c.£50k (2024-2025 was c. £25k) this reflects the investment made on site in provision of new shelters and mud slabs for the horses (to allow us to utilise our gazing much better), new lighting for the outdoor school (funded by Epsom Fireworks) and a new mounting block for the indoor school. It also reflects some unexpected costs mainly the water leak we experienced.

Other expenses include insurance, utilities, training, security, and general office expenses. All essential to our operation, costs are in line with 2024–25 and trustees have been reviewing all regular spend in an effort to minimise essential outgoings. As always, we are grateful to Steve and the maintenance team for all their hard work keeping our site safe and well maintained. Also, to the gardening team for maintaining the sensory track and general garden spaces.

Reserves

As a charity we are in the fortunate position that we have always been prudent with our use of incoming funds versus expenditure. This allowed us to weather the large operating loss we were experiencing for most of 2025-26; the legacy we received in February has allowed us to maintain reserves. At the end of 2025-2026 we had c.£257k cash in hand in various bank accounts (c.£250k in 2024-2025).

However, the trustees recognise we need to develop a more sustainable funding model to ensure we remain financially viable. This includes the rise in participant fee, investment in the Horse and Pony care team to ensure we have the herd available to deliver a full service, ambitious targets for events income and a team focused on bringing in grant funding and corporate sponsorship.

The Trustees have several ringfences in place on this money:

Future Strategy Fund (formerly Indoor School Project) - £85k in (2025-2026 £25)
Trustees have re-prioritised the provision of the Horse and Pony care team and the purchase of new herd members (our maximum manageable herd is 14 and we currently have 10). The £85k legacy received during the year has been ringfenced to this fund and will be held against future strategic investment in the charity.

Minimum Reserves as required by the Charity Commission - £120K
All charities have a statutory duty to set minimum reserves to ensure their continued status as a going concern. Our minimum reserves were set some years ago to be held at a year

running costs. The trustees reviewed these during 2025-26, as we do on an annual basis, and agreed that £120k was still the appropriate amount to hold. These funds are there for dire emergencies and can only be utilised for general running costs should our status change and we need to use them to remain a going concern.

Funds available for use as at 31st March 2026– c.£137k (in 2024-2025 c.£105k)
This is the cash (including the £85k designated funding) we have in hand that we can use to keep our herd fed and well, to maintain our land and buildings and to make improvements for the safety, wellbeing, and enhancement of our offer to our participants. We also keep an amount of designated funds account mentioned above for major works to ensure our site is safe and secure for our herd and our participants.

The employment of the Horse and Pony Manager during 2025-2026 has proved to have added considerable value to the charity. As we have an aging, vintage herd and continuing health issues it was impossible to ask that this role be carried on in only a voluntary capacity (and we are extremely grateful to those volunteers who continue to support this role). Given the success of this the trustees agreed to appoint a deputy in 2025-26, this has added to the health of the herd and also training of ponies and volunteers. Having trained individuals focusing on the care of our herd it gives our volunteers more time to concentrate on our participants. The health and availability of our herd is key to us being able to offer equine therapy and, as such, has been prioritised as essential expenditure. The trustees have agreed to fund this from restricted strategic funds in 2025-26.

During 2024-2025 the Trustees delegated authority to the Finance, Performance and Governance Committee (FPGC) to manage the running of the charity by allocating budgets to designated Trustees who have the responsibility for property management, health, safety and cleaning, the upkeep of the herd and general running costs (e.g., insurance, rubbish removal, utilities, professional services including the bank account, audit fees etc). FPGC had full authority to spend within their budgets and there is a procurement policy which was agreed by the Trustees which gives us a framework to ensure we spend wisely and get the best value for money we can. Towards the end of 2024-2025 the number of trustees reduced so the committee was suspended with decisions reverting back to the trustees under the same terms as FPGC. In 2025-26 it was decided that there was no longer a need for the FPGC however, the governance remains in place with decision making sitting with the trustees.

In addition, Epsom RDA owns:

- The freehold of St Ebba's Farm, which cost £84,657 (inclusive of legal fees).
- Equipment including two tractors, a trailer, three harrows, a sit on mower and sundry other tractor attachments,
- A hand operated motor mower, a strimmer and various workshop tools, competition fences, poles, and games
- equipment with an approximate current value of £17,000 (2025 - £15,000)

Notes to the accounts

During the year, the charity's total funds increased from £250,170 to £256,836, despite a significant operating deficit arising from investment in the herd, facilities and site improvements. Unrestricted funds reduced from £160,949 to £131,115, reflecting the use of reserves to support charitable activities, while all restricted funds were fully applied for their intended purposes. The Trustees also designated the £85,000 Betty Grant legacy to support future strategic development, resulting in designated funds increasing from £60,107 to £125,721 at the year end. This leaves the charity in a sound financial position, with reserves available to support both ongoing operations and future strategic objectives

Restricted Funds

We have had £7,650 of funds added to the restricted funds. These have been utilised during the year for the replacement of the outdoor school lighting and purchase of pony equipment. In addition, we utilised the £1,986 raised by Lucy Williams in our gardening team for the purpose of purchasing a sit on mower for the sensory track and the remaining £2,128 available from the fireworks 2024 donation to fund the purchase of more equipment for the ponies. The previous legacy of £25k was agreed by the trustees to be utilised towards the wages for the Horse and Pony team.

Designated Funds

The Designated Fund is £125,721 (closing balance as at 31st March 2025 £60,170). The trustees added a designated sum of £15,000 (all spent in the year from designated funds) towards the total purchase of new herd members and the costs related to said purchases of £19,418; £19,480 as the portion of salary related costs not covered by the restricted funds. A further £25,488 was used to provide maintenance to the site including the provision of new field shelters, mud slabs for fields and car park and other essential site work. This designated fund represents amounts set aside by the trustees out of the general fund to meet the cost of future improvements to the property, provision of paid staff for horse and pony care and the purchase of new herd members. The interest on the balance in the Fund provides income for general purposes to help meet the charity’s running expenses.

The trustees also agreed to add the Betty Grant legacy of £85,000 to designated funds to be utilised on future staff costs and herd purchases.

The following projects have been identified by the Trustees, for implementation as and when funds become available: -

- To purchase equipment necessary for maintaining the estate.
- To expand our herd which, although it has been added to over the past year, will need to be expanded further as participants return and in recognition of the age of the some of the current herd members.

- To fund the care of our herd by employing a Horse and Pony care team.
- Future Strategy initiatives have been identified and the trustees have agreed these will be funded through specific fundraising via grants or sponsorship.

During the year, the trustees carried out work as held on the capital project list. This included:

- essential maintenance work needed to ensure the safety and upkeep of our buildings and ground
- provision of equipment for the herd and participants

as well as a list of other projects where donors require a specific use for the funding being offered.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

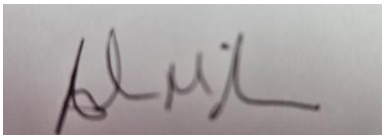
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 31st July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Raymond Lee

Chair



Angela Wilson

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Epsom Riding for the Disabled

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2026 TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 4 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts, under Section 145 of the Charities Act, following the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners, (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a.) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(b.) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

B Clifford FCA
Shaw Gibbs Limited
Salatin House
19 Cedar Road
Sutton
Surrey SM2 5DA
31st July 2026

Income and Expenditure
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	General Purposes	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
Income	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Ride Money	29,503.00			29,503.00	41,484.00
Livery Fees	4,725.00			4,725.00	4,818.00
Use of School	2,820.00			2,820.00	2,475.00
Interest income	4,823.00			4,823.00	4,856.00
Total Regular Income	**41,871.00**			**41,871.00**	**53,633.00**
Gross Income					
Plus Other Income					
Donations	22,574.00			22,574.00	25,344.00
Online donations	14,632.00			14,632.00	14,859.00
Ring fenced Donations	0.00	7,650.00		7,650.00	6,541.00
Tack sale	4,330.00			4,330.00	3,220.00
Events	14,141.00			14,141.00	12,382.00
Adopt a pony	140.00			140.00	0.00
Pony sale	200.00			200.00	0.00
Other revenue	3,485.00			3,485.00	3,043.00
Total Other Income	**59,502.00**	**7,650.00**		**67,152.00**	**65,389.00**
Total Income	**101,373.00**	**7,650.00**	**0.00**	**109,023.00**	**119,022.00**
Less Herd Upkeep Costs					
Pony care	35,338.00	25,000.00	19,480.00	79,818.00	43,196.00
Pony costs-equipment	2,903.00	3,328.00		6,231.00	4,093.00
Pony feed	20,005.00			20,005.00	20,003.00
Pony purchase	0.00		19,418.00	19,418.00	3,583.00
Pony schooling	0.00			0.00	260.00
Total Herd Upkeep Costs	**58,246.00**	**28,328.00**	**38,898.00**	**125,472.00**	**71,135.00**
Gross Profit	**43,127.00**	**-20,678.00**	**-38,898.00**	**-16,449.00**	**47,887.00**
Expenses					
Cost of running site					
Maintenance of grounds	3,019.00	1,986.00		5,005.00	1,423.00
Repairs & maintenance - building	3,923.00			3,923.00	2,144.00
Light, Power, Heating	1,191.00			1,191.00	2,385.00

Cleaning and sanitary costs	2,155.00			2,155.00	622.00
Fuel costs and servicing	689.00			689.00	683.00
Motor vehicle expenses	153.00			153.00	0.00
Gardening	556.00			556.00	790.00
Health, Safety and Safeguarding	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	95.00
Insurance	3,456.00			3,456.00	2,791.00
New Works	60.00	6,450.00	25,488.00	31,998.00	13,769.00
Telephone and Internet	895.00	0.00		895.00	613.00
Total Cost of Running Site	**16,127.00**	**8,436.00**	**25,488.00**	**50,051.00**	**25,315.00**
Other Running Costs					
Fundraising					
Competition costs	0.00			0.00	79.00
Event costs	4,233.00			4,233.00	5,223.00
Prize Giving costs	3,164.00			3,164.00	984.00
Fundraiser Partner costs	418.00			418.00	360.00
Total Fundraising	**7,815.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**7,815.00**	**6,646.00**
Finance and Legal costs					
Audit & Accountancy fees	2,316.00			2,316.00	2,434.00
Bank fees	0.00			0.00	6.00
Subscription costs	260.00			260.00	299.00
Total Finance and Legal cost	**2,576.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,576.00**	**2,739.00**
Training					
Training - coaching and bursary	44.00			44.00	0.00
Training - first aid	0.00			0.00	492.00
Staff Training	1,092.00			1,092.00	120.00
Total Training	**1,136.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1,136.00**	**612.00**
Other Administrative and Misc costs					
IT Software and consumables	142.00			142.00	264.00
Printing & stationery	165.00			165.00	459.00
General expenses	0.00			0.00	569.00
Total Other Administrative and Misc costs	**307.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**307.00**	**1,292.00**
Total Other Running Costs	**11,834.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**11,834.00**	**11,289.00**
Total Operating Expenses	**27,961.00**	**8,436.00**	**25,488.00**	**61,885.00**	**36,604.00**
Operating Surplus (Loss)	**15,166.00**	**-29,114.00**	**-64,386.00**	**-78,334.00**	**11,283.00**
Future Strategy Costs and Income					
Indoor School Project					
Strategic costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Strategic funding	0.00	0.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	0.00

Total Indoor School Project	**0.00**	**0.00**	**85,000.00**	**85,000.00**	**0.00**
Total Non-operating Expenses	**0.00**	**0.00**	**85,000.00**	**85,000.00**	**0.00**
Net Surplus (Loss)	**15,166.00**	**-29,114.00**	**20,614.00**	**6,666.00**	**11,283.00**
Transfer of funds	**-45,000.00**		**45,000.00**		
Balance at 1st April 2025	**160,949.00**	**29,114.00**	**60,107.00**	**250,170.00**	238,887.00
Balance at 31st March 2026	**131,115.00**	**0.00**	**125,721.00**	**256,836.00**	250,170.00

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Balance Sheet

Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving

For the year ended 31 March 2026

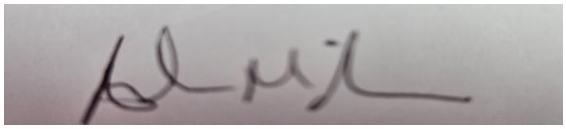
Bank Accounts	Opening Balance	Cash Received	Cash Spent	Closing Balance
ERDA CIO current account	32,974.00	260,170.00	277,755.00	15,389.00
ERDA old charity	4,402.00	594.00	0.00	4,996.00
The Family Building Society	101,423.00	4,082.00	0.00	105,505.00
Accessible savings account	109,527.00	80,723.00	61,294.00	128,956.00
Metrobank savings account	2,048.00	17.00	0.00	2,065.00
Metrobank credit card	-204.00	204.00	75.00	-75.00
Total	**250,170.00**	**345,790.00**	**339,124.00**	**256,836.00**

Receipts and Payments Accounts
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	General Purposes	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Designated Funds (note 2)	2025
	£	£	£	£
Bank Balances at 31st March 2025 held by Epsom Riding for the Disabled (1180061)	**160,949.00**	**29,114.00**	**60,107.00**	**250,170.00**

	General Purposes	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Designated Funds (note 2)	2026
Net Receipts/ (payments) in year	29,834.00	-29,114.00	65,614.00	6,666.00
Bank Balances at 31st March 2026	131,115.00	0	125,721.00	256,836.00

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on31st May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



R Lee
Chair
For and on behalf of the Management Committee

A Wilson
Treasurer

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements.

The charity's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on its success in raising funds from investments, donations and legacies. The trustees have determined there are no material uncertainties as to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future and therefore believe it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on receipts and payments basis.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure on receipts and payment basis.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

The charity is not registered for VAT and as such expenditure is shown inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. The charity's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on its success in raising funds from investments, donations and legacies. The trustees have determined there are no material uncertainties as to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future and therefore believe it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on receipts and payments basis.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure on receipts and payment basis.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

The charity is not registered for VAT and as such expenditure is shown inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Endowment funds come with the specific instruction that only the income generated by the money within the fund can be spent, and not the capital.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Current assets

Short term deposits include cash held on saving account.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Currency

The charity's functional and presentational currency is pounds Sterling (GBP).

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

The charity received donations and legacies in the current or previous year.

1. Restricted Funds

	Donor	Fund as at 1st April 2026	Received	Spent	Fund as at 31st March 2026
		£	£	£	£
Pony equipment	Ewell Rotary	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Outdoor lighting	Epsom Fireworks 25	0.00	6,450.00	6,450.00	0.00
New bits and saddle pads	Donations at Epsom Fireworks	2,128.00	0.00	2,128.00	0.00
Sit on mower	Lucy Kelly	1,986.00	0.00	1,986.00	0.00
Strategic improvement fund	Anonymous legacy	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
		29,114.00	7,650.00	36,764.00	0.00

2. Designated Funds

	£
Opening balance	**60,107.00**
Allocation of funds for new herd	15,000.00
Strategic funding income	85,000.00
Allocation of funds for major works	30,000.00
Total receipts	**130,000.00**
Less	0.00
Purchase of new herd - Little Blue, Casper and Sweetcorn	-15,462.00
Purchase of new herd -trials	-3,956.00
Repair of water leak	-4,128.00
New signs	-780.00
New field shelters	-14,166.00
New mounting block for indoor school	-1,290.00

Replacement washing machine	-404.00
Mud slabs for car park and fields	-1,798.00
Tree removal	-2,922.00
Staff costs for Horse and Pony team	-19,480.00
Total spent	**-64,386.00**
Closing balance	**125,721.00**

3. New Works (Improvements and Equipment) Purchased in year

New Works (Improvements)	£	
Water leak repair	4,128.00	(designated)
New signage	780.00	(designated)
New field shelters	14,166.00	(designated)
New mounting block for indoor school	1,290.00	(designated)
Replacement of washing machine	403.90	(designated)
Mudslabs for fields and car park	1,798.39	(designated)
Tree removal	2,922.00	(designated)
New lights for outdoor school	6,509.92	(restricted)
Total New Works (Improvements)	**31,998.21**	

Equipment

Tack from Firework 24 funds	1,390.95	(restricted)
Rugs and fly masks	895.77	
Saddles	3,810.00	(part restricted)
Overshoes	14.99	
Haynets and rugs	119.77	
Total Equipment	**6,231.48**	

Total new works (Improvements and equipment)	**38,229.69**

TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2026, nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Governance

Epsom RDA is currently managed by six elected trustees including the Chair. Within the group
and with the changes in Trustees there is a wide range of skills and experience bringing well Rounded expertise to manage the charity on a day-to-day basis and plan and deliver for the future.

The changes to the trustees during the year are listed below:

We welcomed two new trustees:

Ray Lee in joined us in November 2025 as Chair. Ray has experience as both previous Epsom RDA Chair as well as a Chair of another voluntary agency.

Neil Chawla joined us in January 2026. Neil has been involved in Epsom RDA for many years as part of the IT team and is often seen behind the bar at many of our events.

Laura Hales stepped down as Chair in November 2025 having led us for the past 3 years. We would like to thank Laura for all her hard work and commitment during this time.

We are also pleased that Laura will remain involved with Epsom RDA with her role at Sunday sessions and any other tasks we may be able to get her to take on.

Micheal O'Neill stepped down in November 2025. Michael continued to volunteer at Epsom RDA with the maintenance team.

The Board operates through remote meetings however they are often seen around the yard. volunteering in sessions or undertaking admin tasks, groundwork activities or helping with fundraising. The Board met eight times during the year.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 16th November 2025.

Our thanks to the kind support from Epsom Downs Racecourse who once again hosted our meeting.

Safeguarding

Everyone within Epsom RDA must report any issues which cause concern about another person in confidence. This can be done to the appointed Safeguarding Officer or direct to our National body, RDA UK.

At Epsom RDA we have a

- Safeguarding Policy Statement
- Safe recruitment – standardised application form, requirement for two references and disclosure checks
- An appointed Safeguarding Officer who can be contacted by email: safeguarding@epsomrda.org.uk

All in the Group are aware of who to contact if there is a safeguarding concern with the details sign posted on our tearoom noticeboard as well as detailed on our website.

All Coaches that run Sessions have a current (within 3 years) safeguarding certificate and are required attend a formal training course provided by RDA UK to renew their certificate. More information on safeguarding guidelines and policy can be found at RDA National Safeguarding.

Trustees as at 31st March 2026

Ray Lee, appointed Chair on 16th November 2025.

Angela Wilson, Treasurer re-elected at AGM on 26th November 2023.

Liz Clark, Volunteering, appointed 14 February 2022. Currently Horse and Pony Trustee re-elected 16th November 2025.

Ann Stuart, Honorary Secretary and Governance joined 18th of October 2024 and was ratified at the AGM on 10th November 2024.

Allie Philpin, Fundraising, joined on 1st December 2024 and was ratified at the AGM on 16th November 2025.

Neil Chawla joined on 12th January 2026.

Reference and Administration

Formal name: Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving

Charity Registered Number: 1180061

Registered Office: St Ebba's Farm, Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 8QW

Honorary Officers:

Chair – Ray Lee ray.lee@epsomrda.org.uk

Treasurer – Angela Wilson angela.wilson@epsomrda.org.uk

Secretary - Ann Stuart ann.stuart@epsomrda.org.uk

Objectives:

Providing disabled people with the opportunity to participate in equine therapy to benefit their health and well- being in the Surrey / Southeast area.

A Member of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving

Registered Company No 5010395 Registered Charity No 1180061

For more information:

Website: www.epsomrda.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/epsomrda

Instagram: www.instagram.com/epsomrda

Twitter: www.twitter.com/epsomrda

Enquiries: info@epsomrda.org.uk