ERME VALLEY RDA · NOVEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

Our riders · Our volunteers · Our community

Welcome to November!

As we head towards the end of another busy year at Erme Valley, there is plenty to celebrate and lots to look forward to!

We have enjoyed wonderful social activities, fantastic fundraising achievements and brilliant results from our riders. Thank you to everyone who gives their time, energy and support to make it possible.

A Lovely Afternoon for Our Younger Riders and Families

Our recent social gathering for younger riders, parents, carers and siblings was a great success. It was lovely to see the children playing and making friends while families had the chance to relax, chat and get to know one another.

These occasions are about much more than riding: they build friendships, support families and strengthen our Erme Valley community. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped.

Fundraising – Thank You!

£750

Horse & Bike Challenge

Our joint 12-hour challenge with South Devon West Pony Club saw 29 mechanical horse riders and 35 static bike participants cover more than 250 miles. A fantastic £750 came to Erme Valley. Thank you to everyone who took part, sponsored or helped.

£500

City of Plymouth Concert Band

The concert at Ivybridge Methodist Church raised a wonderful £500. Thank you to the band, conductor, organisers and everyone who attended.

£640

Ukulele Fundraiser

Our wonderful Ukulele Group has done it again! Thank you to the musicians, organisers and everyone who came along. Attending these events is one of the simplest ways to support the group.

The George Inn – Charity of the Year!

We are delighted that **Erme Valley RDA has been chosen as one of The George Inn's Charities of the Year for 2026/27!** A massive thank you to everyone who voted and shared the appeal.

We look forward to working with George and his team at The George Inn in Plympton on fundraising events and opportunities to raise awareness of our work.





KETCHUP: OUR NEW MECHANICAL HORSE

THE DIFFERENCE IS LIFE-CHANGING.

Passing the reins from Jack to Ketchup means riders can continue building strength, gaining confidence and becoming more independent.

Our overall project target is approximately **£92,000**, covering the new mechanical horse and improvements to the space where he will be used.



We Have Raised £26,000 – Next Stop £30,000!

£26,000 raised of £92,000

£4,000 to our next milestone of £30,000

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, we have already raised an incredible **£26,000!** We are now just **£4,000 away from our next milestone of £30,000.**

We also have **ten funding applications in the pipeline.** Look out around the yard for our fundraising thermometers to follow our progress.

Please continue to share our appeal, suggest potential sponsors and organise fundraising activities. Every contribution matters.

Donate or share: www.justgiving.com/campaign/ketchup

Christmas Fair – Saturday 5th December: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

11am–3pm at The Brook

Our next big fundraiser is the Erme Valley Christmas Fair, and we need everyone to get behind it! It is a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors to The Brook and raise vital funds.

Could you run a stall, help set up, donate prizes, invite friends and family, or share the event? Most importantly, please come along and support it.

Please speak to Peggy if you can help in any way. Let's make it a fantastic Christmas event!



Christmas Fair at The Brook



Separate wreath-making fundraiser in aid of Erme Valley

RDA Virtual Championships – Fantastic Results!

A huge congratulations to everyone who entered this year's Virtual Championships. **Thirteen of our riders have finished in the top three** in their classes! We are proud of every rider and grateful to all the coaches, volunteers and families who helped.

Save the dates for live streaming: RDA's refreshed format will feature highlights and commentary of the top-three performances across three Saturday evenings: **14th, 21st and 28th November.** Watch on Facebook and YouTube and cheer on Team Erme Valley!

Coaching Reviews & Safeguarding Training

All Directors and Coaches are required to complete the **RDA online safeguarding course** (a two-hour Zoom session). Coaches should ensure their reviews and safeguarding training are completed before Christmas.

All other volunteers are encouraged to complete safeguarding and Prevent training online through GOV.UK.

Coaching reviews with Sue Mc: 24th and 25th November. Please make the necessary arrangements.

CPD – Thursday 19th November

Aims & Goal Setting with Mandy Frost
7pm at The Brook.

Accredited for both Pony Club and RDA CPD.

Cost: £10 for RDA members; £20 for non-RDA attendees.

An opportunity to develop how we set meaningful goals and recognise progress. Please contact Peggy to attend.

Finlake Weekend – Have Fun!

Our Happy Hoof Club trip to Finlake takes place **13th–16th November**. We hope everyone has a wonderful time making memories together.

Thank you to those who organised the trip. Please confirm any final details with Peggy.

Christmas Lunch – 15th December

Our Christmas Lunch is on **Tuesday 15th December**. Please sign up so we can plan numbers and arrangements.

We look forward to celebrating together!



Accessible Social Club

A look at our social club activities at The Brook.

Next meet-up: 17th November

Important Dates for Your Diary

12th November	**No evening sessions**
13th–16th November	Happy Hoof Club trip to Finlake
14th November	**No sessions**
14th, 21st & 28th November	Virtual Championships livestreams
17th November	Accessible Social Club meet-up at The Brook
19th November, 7pm	Mandy Frost CPD: Aims & Goal Setting
23rd November	Happy Hoof Club
24th–25th November	Coaching reviews with Sue Mc
1st December	Tea with a Pony
5th December	Christmas Fair and fundraiser
15th December	Christmas Lunch; please sign up
19th December	Last day of regular sessions
21st December	Work experience only
4th January 2027	Work experience only
6th January 2027	Regular sessions resume

An Easy Way to Support Erme Valley

One of the easiest ways to support Erme Valley is by setting up a **monthly Direct Debit.** Whatever you can afford provides reliable support for our horses, participants and everyday running costs.

Please speak to the office for details about arranging a monthly Direct Debit. Even a small regular donation makes a real difference.

What Could YOU Do?

Fundraising does not need to mean organising a huge event. Could you fill a penny jar, hold a coffee morning or cake sale, take on a sponsored challenge, ask your workplace for support or suggest a school non-uniform day?

Perhaps you could nominate us as a Charity of the Year or share our Ketchup appeal with someone who might be able to help. **All of these efforts help us to help you!**

Thank You for Your Continued Support

As we approach the end of 2026, we have so much to be proud of – from our riders' achievements and the friendships formed at The Brook to the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and fundraisers.

Our costs continue to rise and we are working hard to secure Ketchup for the future, so we need everyone's support more than ever.

Whether you volunteer, attend an event, make a donation or help spread the word, your contribution really matters.

Thank you for being part of Erme Valley RDA. Together, we can continue offering opportunities and changing lives.