NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2026! Happy New year to everyone!



Ebony and Lucky enjoying their Christmas holiday

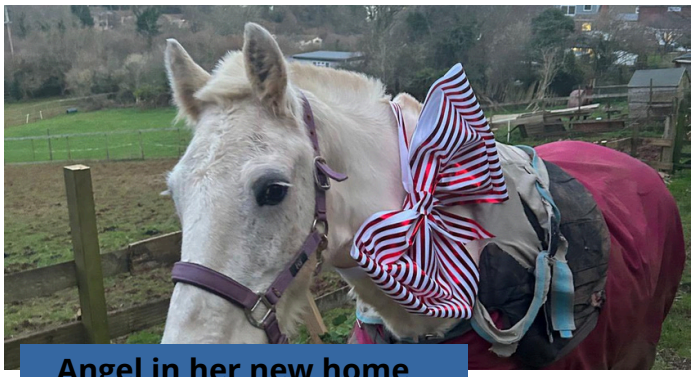
We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable festive period.
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave Christmas donations, gifts, and support over the holidays — your generosity is truly appreciated and makes a real difference to our group.

At the start of term, all riders must be weighed and personal details updated in the office. This includes contact and medical information.
Please speak to whoever is in the office when you arrive.
Regular weight checks are essential for horse welfare, and we thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our horses healthy and comfortable.

Important Reminders

Yard Safety Reminder - Please drive slowly when arriving and leaving, and take extra care when crossing the yard. Your caution keeps our riders, volunteers, and horses safe.

❄️ Winter Weather
If weather conditions are uncertain, we will always update Facebook first. If in doubt, please contact Peggy on 07882 286421 (call or WhatsApp). If you decide not to attend due to the weather, please let us know.



Angel in her new home

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us throughout 2025. A full list of donors and fundraising supporters will be circulated shortly.
Our Christmas fundraising efforts raised an incredible amount:

- Raffle at The Brook – £200
- Thank you to Hayley Thew for the beautiful hamper won by Darcey
- Countryman Choice & Butchers Raffle – £300
- Christmas Craft Fair – £460
- Well done to everyone who helped run stalls, especially the Changing Lives Through Horses group and Kirstyfor selling her homemade items throughout the day

Safeguarding Reminder
As we start the new year, we kindly ask all members to refresh themselves on:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Fire Evacuation Procedure

Copies are available in the office — please sign to confirm you have read them. If you are unsure about anything, ask a member of the team.

Congratulations to Leah, Amy, & Sophie Y on successfully passing their coach assessments — a fantastic achievement!

First Aid Courses

We have First Aid courses running next week:
12th January – Emergency First Aid (evening)
13th January – Full Day Equine-Specific First Aid (£50 per person)
(Spaces still available — please ask in the office)



Thank you to The Ringfeeder for hosting our Chritmas meal

Fundraising

To remain financially solvent, we rely heavily on being chosen as an annual charity and on support from fundraising groups and individuals.
We are run by a voluntary committee of nine people, working hard to deliver sessions and raise funds. We truly need help from those who benefit from the group. If you have fundraising ideas, contacts, or are able to help in any way — please get involved and help spread the word.
Riding Costs – Important Reminder
The £20 per ride is a donation only and covers roughly one third of the actual cost of providing a session.
Our current running costs are approximately £120,000 per year.
We are grateful for every contribution that helps keep the group running.

Dressage Practice – Wednesday Afternoon

Next Wednesday afternoon, Carrie Payne has very kindly offered her time to judge dressage tests.
This will be a great opportunity for practice for riders with a busy competition year ahead and will take place during the usual Wednesday afternoon sessions with Karen Lisk.

Reminders

A reminder that, in line with RDA national guidelines, personal phone numbers should not be exchanged unless approved by a director. If you have any questions, please speak to Peggy.

RDA Creative Writing Competition

The RDA Creative Writing Competition is back for its tenth year, with the theme "RDA Celebrations."
Participants can enter a poem, letter, short story or picture story, in any format that suits them.
Open to all RDA participants — riders, drivers and vaulters.
Entries close on 3rd March.

A comment box will be available in the viewing gallery.
We welcome constructive suggestions and ideas on how we can improve — thank you for helping us move forward.

Sweatshirts & Polo Tops
We will shortly be placing an order for Erme Valley RDA sweatshirts and polo tops.
As we don't have funds to hold large amounts of stock, these will be pre-order only.
Please let us know in the office if you would like to order.

Dates:

7th Jan - Term starts
12th Jan – Emergency First aid – Happy Hoof 6.30 -8.30pm
13th Jan – Full day equine specific first aid equine specific - 3 spaces available £50
20th Jan - Accessible Social Club - The Brook
27th Jan - Tea with a pony
16th Feb - 22nd Feb - Half Term
Full list of dates to follow