

Erme Valley RDA

Offering opportunity by opening doors



October 2025 Newsletter

Surveys & Feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent rider and volunteer surveys. While we would have loved to see more responses, we're very grateful to those who took the time to share their thoughts. Your feedback is invaluable, and we're already putting actions in place.

For volunteers, key areas include further training, name badges, and clarifying roles. From participants, the majority highlighted the enjoyment factor, while many also expressed a desire for more challenges in their riding sessions.

We're considering reintroducing a **comment box** so that volunteers and participants alike can continue sharing ideas and feedback throughout the year.

✨ We're also delighted to share that we have been **shortlisted for the Plymouth Community Awards 2025 (Team Award)**. The results will be announced on **11th October**—wish us luck!

Virtual Championships

The Virtual Championships are now complete—28 fantastic entries have been submitted! Good luck to everyone who took part. Results will be streamed live on **15th & 16th November**, showcasing the top three in each class.

📌 Don't forget to collect your invoice from the office.

Fundraising

We are awaiting the final totals from the Rattery Fair and Moonlight Steeple Chase, and will hopefully share those figures soon.

Our **40th Anniversary Fundraiser** at The Anchor is coming up on **18th October**—with over 150 tickets already sold, it's set to be a brilliant evening! A few tickets are still available, so act quickly if you'd like to join us (poster attached).

Looking ahead, we're also excited about:

- **Ukulele Fundraiser** – Ugborough Village Hall, **30th November, 2.30pm - 4pm**
- **Christmas Craft Fair** – The Barn at The Anchor, Ugborough, **7th December, 1-5pm**

London International Horse Show

We have a tickets available for the **London International Horse Show** on **21st December**. The £150 price covers both coach travel and admission. We'll be departing early from Ivybridge train station. Expect top-level show jumping, dazzling performances, plenty of shopping, and even a visit from Father Christmas—this trip is always a highlight!

Reminders

 **Parking & Speed** – Please do not park outside the gate, and remember to keep your speed down when driving in. On busy days, parking can be tight, so park close together to ensure everyone can fit.

 **Lesson Respect** – Please do not disturb art, mechanical, or education lessons. Our students are working very hard to focus, and even small interruptions can make concentration difficult. Thank you for supporting a calm and focused learning environment.

Training & Coaching

- **First Aid Training**
 - Monday 12th January – Emergency First Aid
 - Tuesday 13th January – Full-day Equine First Aid
(Course prices TBC)
- We're delighted to share that **four new coaches** have begun their training pathway, with three hoping to be assessed by year's end. Remember—any coaching training opportunities are open to all volunteers. Dates to be confirmed soon.

Horses

We are still actively searching for a suitable larger horse/weight carrier. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time, and for embracing the mechanical horse where needed.

Events

 **Combined Training Day** – Friday 31st October

We'll be teaming up with South Devon West Pony Club for this exciting event, selecting a team of eight riders to take part.

Wish List

We are currently in need of:

- Cleaning supplies
- Sponges
- Shampoo & Conditioner (budget-friendly for horse use)
- Local honey
- Bin bags

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we look forward to another exciting and successful term ahead!

Dates:

- 7th Oct - Accessible social club - At the Brook
- 15th October - No Morning riding Sessions
- 16th October - No evening session
- 18th October - 40th year celebration evening
- 20th October - Happy Hoof
- 21st October - Accessible social club
- 23rd October - Education sessions finish 2,30pm
- 25th October - No Riding Sessions
- 25th October - Half Term Week
- 31st October - combined training
- 1st November - Sessions as usual
- 11th November - Accessible social club
- 14th - 17th November - Happy Hoof Finlake trip
- 15th November - No Riding Sessions
- 25th November - Accessible social club
- 30th November - Ukulele sing along, Ugborough village hall 2:30pm
- 1st Dec - Happy hoof
- 7th Dec - Christmas craft Fair
- 9th Dec - Accessible Social club
- 9th Dec - Tea with a pony
- 20th Dec - Last session before Christmas
- 21st Dec - London Horse Show
- 7th Jan - Term starts