

Erme Valley RDA

Offering opportunity by opening doors



September 2025 Newsletter

Welcome back to a new term! We hope everyone enjoyed the summer and followed our updates and photos on Facebook. The horses have all had a well-deserved break and are ready for the season ahead.

Nationals

17 riders attended the Nationals on 7 horses in very hot conditions, and we're proud to say there were **great results across the board**. Several riders achieved first places, and everyone was placed in their events. Ysabel, Cara, and Rachel were overall **class champions** in dressage and showjumping, while our artists came away with both **group and individual first placings**. Once again, our horses, volunteers, and riders did the group proud!

AGM, BBQ & Awards

At the AGM, the following directors were reinstated: **Peggy, Sue, Jane, Ann, Cathy, Ginny, Ian, Sophie, Janice, and Jane VG**. We also welcomed **Katherine**, who has been co-opted for this year to shadow and attend meetings. A big thank you to all our directors for everything you do.

Awards:

- Joe – Art and Stable Management
- Ysabel – Steve Bryant Memorial Award
- Janice & Jane – Mary Quale Plate
- Evie – Junior Volunteer of the Year
- Annabel – Anna Mill Trophy
- Kelly – Marmite Special Endeavour Award
- Logan – Sean Du Brou Special Endeavour

The evening was a great success, with sunshine, a bouncy castle, and a delicious BBQ. Thank you to **Pony Magazine** and **Liskeard Show** for providing rider goodie bags.

Endurance

We're hoping to join the **Winter Endurance League** this year, led by our coach **Mark**. More details to follow.

Rider & Volunteer Surveys

Rider surveys haven't been as well supported as we'd hoped. We will collate the responses we have, but please do complete one this term if you haven't already. They are **vital for publicity, fundraising, and the efficient running of the group.**

Thank you also to everyone who has taken part in the **new volunteer survey and review.** This new format is part of our annual volunteer review process, and your feedback will help us put useful actions in place.

Virtual Championships

We are once again running the Virtual Championship classes. These opportunities take a lot of time and effort too organise, so this year the cost will be **£25** to cover the additional entry fees and staff time.

If you'd like to take part, please inform the office by **Saturday 20th September at the latest**—unfortunately, late entries cannot be accepted.

Fundraising & Working Parties

A huge thank you to Ann for once again leading the pole painting, and to everyone else who gave their time for tidying and maintenance. Approximately **800 volunteer working hours** were given over the summer holidays—an incredible achievement.

Two working party dates remain: **Wednesday 27th August** and **Wednesday 3rd September.**

Summer Events

- **Chris Honour Racing Club:** Our group was the chosen charity at their open day, raising **£350** towards new lights and a mounting block for the mechanical horse room.
- **Rattery Fair:** We ran a stall alongside Dame Hannahs as part of being **Charity of the Year.**
- **Moonlight Steeplechase:** Well attended and a lovely evening out for all.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and attend these events. Fundraising totals are still being finalised and will be shared in next month's newsletter.

The **Horse Care Days** were also well attended. Please remember to BACS your **£20 contribution** if you haven't already.

Education Programmes

We are looking forward to welcoming back participants for **Horse Harmony** and the **Changing Lives Through Horses** programme. A couple of limited spaces are available this term—please ask **Sophie or Peggy** for more information. Don't forget, we count as an **alternative provision for those in education.**

Next Term

As always at the start of term, please ensure all participants are **weighed** and that any **changes to contact details or medical conditions** are updated with the office.

40 year Celebration - save the date!

As we approach the end of our 40th year we thought it was important to have a celebration. Please keep the **Saturday 18th October** in the evening free for a celebration of RDA, line dancing, music and food at The Anchor, Ugborough! Poster to follow shortly. Please share the word, Tickets will be available to purchase soon - don't miss out!!

We Currently Need:

- Cleaning supplies
- Tea, coffee & biscuits
- Sponges
- Fly spray
- Local honey
- Felt tip pens
- Pencils
- Biro
- Lined paper
- Bin bags

Thank you all for your support—we're looking forward to another exciting and successful term!

Dates:

- 8th September - Start of term
- 9th September - Accessible social club - The Brook
- 15th September - Happy Hoof bowling
- 20th - 21st September - Virtual filming
- 23rd September - Driving day
- 23rd September - Accessible social club
- 26th September - Succession wealth community working party day - 9am - 1pm (Help needed)
- 27th - 28th September Virtual filming
- 30th September - Tea with a pony
- 7th Oct - Accessible social club
- 18th October - 40th year celebration evening
- 20th October - Happy Hoof
- 21st October - Accessible social club
- 27th October - Half Term Week
- 14th - 17th November - Happy Hoof Finlake trip
- 30th November - Ukulele sing along, Ugborough village hall 2:30pm
- 9th Dec - Tea with a pony
- 20th Dec - Last session before Christmas
- 21st Dec - London Horse Show