

Erme Valley RDA

Offering opportunity by opening doors



February 2025 Newsletter

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It's been a challenging month with a lot of extra work and unexpected expenses. Thankfully, we were able to contain the situation to just one pony, and the rest of the yard has now been clear for over three weeks. With this good news, we are excited to announce that sessions will restart on **10th February!** Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during this time.

We are still working to make up for the financial losses incurred over the past five weeks due to having no income. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us, whether financially, with their time, or in other ways. Special thanks to the Holway's for allowing us to use their field, which has kept three of the ponies safe and away during this period.

Despite the challenges, we've been keeping busy. The horses at the Brook have been undergoing training, we've had a thorough clean and tidy of the yard, and we're pleased to share that the carriage now has its own shed!

Fundraising Updates

Fundraising efforts continue, and we're incredibly grateful for the community's support. A few upcoming events include:

- **Ugborough Primary School:** The school is hosting a mufti day event this Friday to raise funds for us.
- **The Big Breakfast:** Organised by local residents, this event will be held at **Ugborough Village Hall** on **Sunday, 2nd February, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.** Come along for a hearty breakfast while supporting a good cause! See the poster below.

If you'd like to get involved or have ideas for other fundraising initiatives, please reach out. Every effort helps keep us going!

Educational Programmes and Transport Funding

We are thrilled to announce that we have received funding from **Action for Children** to support educational programmes and transport for our riders. This funding will make a huge difference in ensuring our activities remain accessible to all. A big thank you to Ian for his hard work in putting together the successful application!

If you have any ideas for additional programmes or know of other funding opportunities, please let us know.

Horse Updates

The horses are all doing well, and there are no changes at the moment. However, we are beginning to look for replacements to add to our team. Our most urgent needs are for horses in the **14.2hh to 15.2hh range**.

National RDA Creative Writing Competition

The National RDA Creative Writing Competition is coming up soon. This is a fantastic opportunity for our riders to showcase their creativity and share their stories. we encourage everyone to participate.

Class 1: A poem about RDA

Your poem doesn't necessarily have to rhyme, but must have an RDA theme. Maximum 350 words. Open to all ages/abilities - all entries will receive a rosette and congratulations letter!

Class 2: A letter about RDA

Perhaps to someone special at RDA telling them about an achievement that you or someone else has had? Or maybe a letter thanking your favourite volunteer...or horse? Maximum 500 words. Open to all ages/abilities - all entries will receive a rosette and congratulations letter!

Class 3: A short story about RDA

It could be fact or fiction, but aim to inspire, entertain and amaze! You can be as imaginative or creative as you like, but make sure you don't go over the limit of 500 words. Open to all ages/abilities - all entries will receive a rosette and congratulations letter!

Please see the details below or follow the link to find out more.

<https://myrda.org.uk/assets/2025-Creative-Writing-Competition-Entry-Form-2025.pdf>

Rider Fundraiser Reminder

We need your support now more than ever! Please consider helping us by filling a jar with coins or any spare change. Every little bit adds up and helps us continue providing opportunities for our riders.

A big shoutout to Chris Clare for being the first to fill his jar—well done!

Contact Information

A quick reminder: If you need to contact Peggy, please **WhatsApp** her on **07882 286421** or email **peggydouglasrda@gmail.com**. Kindly avoid using Facebook Messenger for communications.

Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to seeing everyone back on the 10th of February and can't wait to get back to our usual sessions!

Dates:

- 10th February - restart
- **11th February** – Accessible Social Club - Aquarium
- 11th February - Tea with a pony 3pm
- **17th - 21st February** –Half Term
- 17th February - Visitors coming to the yard. Work experience on.
- 24th February - Happy hoof
- 25th February - Accessible Social Club - Painting clay models
- 27th February - NO RIDING SESSIONS DAY OR EVENING - Work exp. only.
- **27th February** - 2 Hours - Emergency first aid (staff, coaches and work experience are priority)
- 10th March - Happy hoof
- 11th March - Accessible Social Club
- 1st April - Tea with a pony 3pm
- 7th April - Happy hoof - Bowling
- 14th April - 22nd April - Easter holiday
- 29th April - Countryside challenge and SJ - Regionals (The Brook)
- 2nd - 4th May - ICC Bicton (?)
- 20th May - Dressage Regionals (Lakefield)