



Riding For The Disabled Association Broadlands Group

Charity No: 1074408

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2011

Broadlands
Medstead
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Celebrations

Our 55th Anniversary – it seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating our 50th, and now our 55th has been and gone. The weather was superb, the going good with a great crowd. Four Marks and



Medstead Rotary again organised the parking, once they had been fuelled with bacon rolls off the bar-b-que, manned by Sue and John. The riders were all immaculately turned out along with the ponies that had been bathed where necessary, especially Brandy, and the tack faultless as always.

This year we had the company of our adult riders who demonstrated that riding isn't only for children. Pip, who is our fabulous groom and totally blind, and Carol, who has MS and runs 5K each year raising funds for us, performed a pas-de-deux, while Val demonstrated that your riding can improve no matter what.

A great chance for the riders to demonstrate all they had learnt. Time for old friends to meet and enjoy a lovely piece of cake and cup of tea, reminisce over pictures dating back over 50 years, whilst meeting riders from the last 20+ years. Frightening but heartening to think of the number of people's lives Broadlands has positively affected.

It was great to see the change in Rowan, from his excited trot in the arena in 2009 to warming up on the lunge rein with Suzanne, followed by being ridden by one of our riders. Iain, who started riding with the Aldershot Group and came to Broadlands around 11 years ago, is now studying Equine Management at Merrist Wood College.



From our riders:

Whilst we are always confident that our work makes a difference it is super to receive feedback from our riders.

These are a few which give a snapshot of the impact.

My name is Iain Stevenson and I have been riding since the age of 4 and I started riding at Broadlands RDA and since I started riding there it has changed my life so much and I was able to get my riding to a higher level and I was able to compete in the regional's and nationals and one year I won the nationals and I was so proud of myself and I would not of been able to do it without the help from all the support from the helpers and instructor but it would not of happened if it was not for the help of Suzan Stafford's.

Broadlands R.D.A. School

Broadlands R.D.A. School is a riding school with a difference. My name is Daniella Ballard, I have Cerebral Palsy and I am 11 years old. I joined Broadlands in 2008, since then it has helped me exercise, bond with the horses and most importantly have fun.

A normal Saturday morning for me is this:

I get dressed,
I have my breakfast,
I leave for Broadlands,
I arrive at Broadlands,
I get onto a special lift,
I get on to my horse using the special lift,
I start riding my horse.

All of the time that I have been at Broadlands I have ridden three different horses. I started riding Daisy, and then I moved on to Ash because Daisy was too small for me and recently I have started riding Megan because she has a better ride for a while.

Broadlands has made me feel like I am an able bodied child and that I can do anything like everyone else and that is why Broadlands is so special and important to me.



*Dear Sosan
I felt great up on Bella she is a lovely horse, she walks much faster than Ash but is more responsive. I like her speed, she is very pasiont and calm.
She was very good when I pulled her up from eating. Her stride suited me and when I was trotting it felt safe.
she whowed easerly.
I typed this myself.
From Bridget*

*Note from Ed:
Bridget is a 10 year old blind rider.*

*the ability to improve the lives
of those with a disability*

Fund Raising

The challenge never gets easier but there is certainly a lot of Fun in fund raising. The chance to meet people and explain what we do motivates them to do something to help. We can give a small discussion on our work and the benefits, through to a multimedia presentation for a whole auditorium. Please check the website for further details.

Golf Day 2010

14 teams of 4 enjoyed the Blackmoor Course in superb condition. Arriving to a huge bacon bap, the teams discussed their strategy over tea and coffee whilst watching the Broadlands presentation running on the big screen. Fabulous weather for a great day of golf.

The raffle was well subscribed with super prizes and the silent auction helped to push the total raised to £3,500. 'The Hazzards' were the winning team and each won a Calvin Klein Original Windbreaker.

Boogie for Broadlands 2010

Boogie for Broadlands in Four Marks Village Hall - a complete sell out for people to see local resident, musician and Broadlands helper, Tony Humphrys. The Ploughman's Supper was fresh and tasty, thank you Caroline and co, the company superb, the music amazing and dancing - what can one say!

The dance floor was busy all night and the tickets and raffle raised £740.

Ironman 2010: Hugh and Hugo beat the target

In our last newsletter we mentioned the engraving of the mirror, on the long side of the school, in memory of an Olympic 2012 hopeful who died in a rare riding incident. Her brother and a friend competed in the 2010 Iron Man UK challenge. Their sponsorship through charitygiving.org.uk went towards Broadlands, raising over £13,000 plus the Gift Aid. The funds have been reserved for new ponies and some has been used to fund the vetting and transport of Millie, featured below. Our immense thanks to Hugh and Hugo for their incredible effort.



Helpers

People often ask what makes Broadlands so successful? Our team of helpers is at the top of the list, along with ponies and the environment. Without them we couldn't achieve the high level of success. Whether getting the ponies ready, cleaning the tack, side walking, leading, setting out the school or park, preparing feed or generally keeping a watchful eye on everything that is happening, nothing would happen without them. In November we ran a very successful 'New Helpers Open Morning' in preparation for the new Shepherds Down Ride in January and will be following up with another in March. There will be a super article in the local press, written by a new helper, plus posters around the towns and villages, so please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to get in touch. Whilst it is a regular commitment it is also very rewarding to see children achieving things never possible in their normal school day. We are always keen to get their feedback as to the whys and wherefores of becoming a helper, and our informative website keeps cropping up as to why Broadlands! With our new 'Helpers' Handbook' in last revision we hope to make their lives easier and more enjoyable with a simple but informative perspective on RDA work at Broadlands.

Spread the word

As the profile of our work spreads the number of different donors and events to support us increases. Whilst it is not possible to thank everyone personally in the Newsletter, we are eternally grateful for your support. All our costs have increased this year, for example hay bales are now at £5.50 compared to £3.75. We have seen a lot of the vets this year despite our efforts to keep the ponies as fit as possible. Fortunately Cedars have known us a long time and with their supplier, Frontline, they raised £250 with an event before Christmas. So we can afford a few more visits!

Website

We have added a calendar to the website where you can see information on the term dates for the rides and other activities at Broadlands. Pictures of the Monday Shepherds Down Ride are also available for the riders and their families to share. So please keep watching to stay up to date.

New Pony

Millie

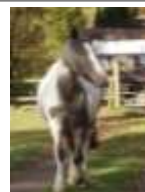
Grey Roan/
Skewbald

14.1hh

Born in 2002

Irish Sport

Loves people and attention.



New Pony

Bella

Black

13.2hh

Born in 1995

Welsh X New Forest

For those that know Daisy,
Bella is a black version!



www.broadlandsgroupprda.org.uk



A Member of the Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving

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