



# Riding For The Disabled Association Broadlands Group

Charity No: 1074408

**NEWSLETTER**  
**Winter 2009**

Broadlands  
Medstead  
Alton  
GU34 5PX  
Tel: 01420 563382



## New School Surface

– After 10 years of continued use the riding surface in the covered school was in need of replacement. Having completed the fund-raising, negotiated the correct surface and costs of supply, delivery, and installation all we had to overcome was the weather. The huge delivery lorries and machinery to move the 40 tons of material, had to come through the grazing paddocks, and the damage caused by heavy lorries crossing the paddocks on a wet day would have a significant impact on the grazing. We arranged for the Aldershot RDA Group to reuse some of the old surface. The pictures show the scale of the operation and tell the story of a well organised and hugely successful 2 days.

The new special mix Ecotrack surface supplied by Martin Collins Enterprises is a combination of textile fibres (recycled European carpet fibres) and high-grade industrial silica sand, which is carefully weighed and blended with a wax coating. It is used by the demanding professionals in the equestrian world and has been successfully installed for the racing fraternity, lunging rings, show jumping, polo and dressage establishments and at other RDA groups.

For us the benefits are:

- ✓ Provides secure footing
  - ponies perform more confidently with unbalanced riders
  - helpers perform more confidently
- ✓ Better absorption of shock
  - reduces potential for lameness in older ponies
- ✓ Dust free
  - better for ponies and helpers
- ✓ Lighter colour
  - brighter school

Maintenance is easier as it is more stable so no tracking up, but droppings have to be removed promptly to prevent them contaminating the surface. Aztec Plant Services, who delivered and installed the surface, kindly supplied us with a custom grader to suit our school. This is towed round to level and loosen the surface before being rolled.

This huge project would not have been possible without the support of Team Star Inn and Dr Side, and all the other super people who support us.



### New website and email details

You can now find us at: [www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk](http://www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk) we have added more pictures, the latest news and information about our forthcoming events. You can also watch our new Video 'See What a Horse Can Do.....' Please also check the contacts page as we have new emails.

Since we have been coming to Broadlands the difference has been absolutely amazing. She now listens to what is being said, and actually does it. It's because they want to do it that they learn.

I had an accident 10 years ago and am now totally blind, but Broadlands has helped me come back and work with horses, as I did before.

They are all long term disabled and get rather bored with physiotherapy and exercises. This is a way of giving them exercise which is enjoyable and in which they can actually progress.

## What the parents, riders, teachers and physios have to say:

I actually get better at riding which I can't say for anything else I do. I am generally feeling as if I am accomplishing something, which is very important. Fortunately the horses here are very patient, understanding and obedient, so for someone like me setting out at my time of life it's just wonderful.

The children have to socially interact with animals and other adults. They have fantastic motor skill exercise in that they are having to balance and coordinate so it's very good from a physiotherapy point of view. What I really like is the kids come out here to a lovely environment, they enjoy themselves, they have to deal with animals and treat them carefully, which some of our children find pretty hard.

## Fund Raising

We have had a fabulous Autumn of new events to help with our fund raising – our thanks to to all those involved with ideas and actions to make it all happen.

### Golf Day 2009

8 October 2009

Our inaugural **Golf Day** organised by an enthusiastic team of helpers and husbands was held at the beautiful Blackmoor Golf Club. 44 players enjoyed the 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 gained a Calvin Klein Original Windbreaker.

### Round-Up 2009

16 October 2009

**The Round-Up Dinner Dance** organised by Four Marks & Medstead Rotary at Medstead Village Hall was well attended with a licensed bar and music by Henry Farr & The Rapiers. Feedback included: "what a fantastic night", "food was fabulous", "company was great", "music was very good"..... The £2,000 raised is to help fund the new Pony 'Rowan', a beautiful 15hh Connemara starting his training as an RDA Pony.



### Boogie for Broadlands

7 November 2009

Boogie for Broadlands in Medstead - a complete sell out for people to see local resident, musician and Broadlands helper, Tony Humphrys. The Ploughman's Supper was fresh and tasty, 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.



### New School Mirror Etched

The replacement mirror on the long side of the covered school was funded by kind donations from the family of Emma Thompson and Hartpury Equine College. Emma died in a riding accident and we had the mirror etched in her memory.

### Fun in the Park

Superb weather, excited riders and groomed ponies... plus new experiences for the riders with a game of Polo and some rounds of Trek. The cake stall, teas and tombola were very busy and raised over £300. We also introduced Rowan to everyone especially Four Marks and Medstead Rotary as they are raising the money to fund his purchase.

### Sad farewell to Rosie

Rosie had been on loan to us and took her role at Broadlands very seriously and cared very much for her riders and helpers. She will be sadly missed.

### Sad farewell to Fossie

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Fossie who had been at Broadlands for 17yrs. He was a wonderful old chap full of character and love for the riders. He will be sadly missed.

**See what a horse can do** is our fantastic new promotional DVD. Sony UK, through their charity support programme Sony Engage, produced this promotional DVD for us to help with our fund raising. A bright and sunny Thursday was chosen and Sony UK came along to record the Shepherds Down and Treloar lessons. A few weeks and a few tweaks later we had the final version ready to show at Fun in the Park. You can now see the DVD on our new website at [www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk](http://www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk). Enjoy it.



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

Registered under Charity No: 244108

President: HRH The Princess Royal KG GCVO