



Riding For The Disabled Association Broadlands Group

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

Broadlands
Medstead
Alton
GU34 5PX
Tel: 01420 563382

It is always a pleasure to thank so many people for their commitment and involvement in making Broadlands a success. The donations this year come from many different sources, and on behalf of the riders, the helpers, instructors and parents for bringing it all together, we thank you all.

We would also like to thank the committed teams of helpers that turn up in all weathers with a smile and cheery positive comments to ensure the children get the most from their ride – you are a truly unique band – THANK YOU.

The riding challenges are greater as the riders grow up. The ponies rise to the challenge as they continue to enjoy life to the full in the consistent and happy surroundings and the fabulous helpers look as young and healthy as ever - happiness - a true measure of success. We have dedicated this newsletter to the riders and ponies and used their comments, as their hard work and happiness makes it all so worthwhile.



Detailed preparation for the Open Day

To Daisy,

You are so wonderful I love riding you. You are very nice and always clean apart from when I was allowed to take you out on a hack then you got very dirty. I love you so much.

Ola xxx



Final adjustments at the Regionals

What a lovely open day!! The best we have been to yet, I think. Perfect weather, beautifully turned out and well behaved ponies, children having great fun, learning from and supporting one another with parents, helpers and friends celebrating the successes and achievements of each "special, unique person". It was a very happy occasion which brought everyone together, reminding us all of what a wonderful RDA Group Broadlands is, and how privileged we are to be a part of it.

We would like to say a huge "Thank you" to you, Suzanne for your leadership and to ALL those who help, instruct, train & prepare the ponies and support the riders.
Katie Brown & Family

When I go riding I love rising trot but sitting trot is tricky. I rode on a sheepskin and it was very hard because I had no stirrups to support me. At the end of the riding lesson I rode on my own for a few moments. It was wonderful.

Bridget



Getting my helpers ready for a wet ride



Help at hand



Fund Raising at The Alresford Show

To all the people at Broadlands.

Everyone here has made me so welcome I look forward to my riding lesson so much. Everyone is always willing to help.

I even have a nice lady that cleans my tack for me even though she can't see. I thank you all very much for the lovely time that I spend out with you. I know that all of you work very hard.

Love Ola xxx

“Without the Ponies and the Helpers Broadlands would not be able to help so many riders to achieve so much and have fun as well.”



It's not all just about riding

Megan	makes everyone feel better, gentle
Brandy	always looking after the children
Daisy	goes and stops
Rosie	lovely
Roz	Not too fast

The Ponies

(Yes I know two are horses)

Roz, you're my favourite I admit
 Daisy, still a madam now and then
 Megan, an old friend to me
 Rosie, good to ride and on the bit
 Colleen, old and kind (she hasn't changed)
 Brandy, too small now but still the same
 Fossie, a gentleman giant all the time
 Then there's Ash too;
 But I'm afraid I can't say much about you

By Anne-Marie

FUNDING REPORT

The funding drive to provide the hydraulic lift in 2005 demonstrated that fund raising for a particular project is often easier than raising money to continue the core activities of the Group. The accent in 2006 has therefore been mainly to raise funds towards salaries for our part time staff and core funding.

Since March 2006 we have been successful in attracting funds from:

- Children in Need who are providing a grant towards salaries for 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- The Local Network Fund, which is administered by Community Action Hampshire, has given a generous grant towards salaries for 2007.
- The Community Forum (Alton and surrounding villages), a grant towards salaries for 2007.
- The Henry Smith Charity for core funding.
- The Ellis Campbell foundation for core funding.
- The Thomas Roberts Trust for core funding.
- BAE Systems Integrated Technologies for core funding.
- Mrs Swithenbank and friends for core funding.
- Hampshire Playing Fields Association towards a saddle.
- The Macintosh Foundation, donation towards training.

Our very grateful thanks go to all of the above for their continued generous help, which is so necessary to help the Broadlands Group carry on with its wonderful work.

In 2007 we will be contacting businesses seeking their support to either sponsor a pony or to donate funds following events such as dress down days. If you are connected with, or know of, a company sympathetic to our cause, which would be prepared to hold such an event please contact either me or Suzanne. Our experience is that a personal connection can be very valuable when seeking to raise funds. Any other ideas or offers for fund raising would be gratefully received.

Nicky Gregory

Pony Sponsorship

We are looking for local companies or individuals to sponsor a pony

A pony's costs average out to £2,000 per year. This includes feed, vet, farrier, tack, bedding, training etc. It is possible to sponsor a whole pony or just part, in return you will receive a range of items including – mounted photo with pony's background, a 'used' lucky horseshoe, quarterly updates on the pony's progress, a door plaque with your name at the stable. Please let us know how you would like to help.