

Newsletter

July 2018

Elisabeth Curtis Centre Riding for the Disabled

Charity No. 1137217; Company No. 7302917



A Member
Group of

RDA



It's what you **can**
do that counts

Chairman's report

Since the last newsletter, things have continued to be busy at the Centre. We recently held our AGM, which is a good opportunity to reflect on the last year. It is also an opportunity to recognise the work of our volunteers, a number of whom reached milestones in the number of years they have given to the Centre. These milestones range from 5 years to 30 years, and it is only right that we celebrate all their contributions.

We also reflected on the number of projects that have been completed at the Centre, ranging from new fencing, cleaning the roof and skylights, the work on the banking behind the stables, the driveway up to the hay barn, and much more. There is more work in the pipeline too, so my thanks to all involved in arranging the work and being on site while it was being completed.

It would not have been possible to undertake all these maintenance projects without the generosity of the many people who support the Centre, either through individual donations or through supporting our fundraising events. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of £3,000 from our Honorary Life President, Derek Woods. We are extremely grateful for Derek's continued support and generosity. In addition we received £4,000 from Mrs Dicker, who is also a long-term supporter of the Centre and we appreciate her continued generosity.

This AGM was the last one for our treasurer, Allan Bennett as he is stepping down from the role at the end of the year. Allan has been volunteering with us for 20 years and has done an amazing job as treasurer and supported me hugely in my role as Chairman. This does mean that we are looking for a new

treasurer, so if you know anyone who would be interested in taking on the role, we would be very pleased to hear from them. Please contact any member of the Management Committee for further information.

On the subject of finances, we have had to make the decision to increase our riding fees from September. All riders should have received a letter about this, explaining the new charges. We have not increased our fees for a number of years, but continuing increases to our costs have made this increase necessary.

At the AGM we welcome Kirsty Brogden and Kyle Palmer to the Management Committee, so I would like to welcome them both, to the Committee.

Victoria

Denise Rawlings

Sadly Denise is leaving the Centre after volunteering with us for 23 years. Having worked with Denise on a Tuesday evening since I started as a volunteer, I would like to express my thanks to Denise for everything that she has done for the Centre and wish her all the best for the future

Victoria



Donations

Recently we have stopped recording the actual amount of donations with our list of people we want to thank, as not everyone who made a donation wanted the amount to be published. We will continue to name people or organisations, if they are happy for us to do so, but we will only include the amount if the sum involved is over £1,000. We hope all of our supporters will understand that all donations are important to us and not be offended by this decision. We have been incredibly fortunate to receive the donations listed below.

- Judy Davies
- BGL Group
- Jan Tozer
- Charles Wells Ltd—from the Prince of Wales, Bromham
- K.A. Frazer
- Mary Hallam Saunders
- David Saunders
- Barbara Bellamy
- Noel Robinson

The Elisabeth Curtis Centre Needs You!

The Management Committee know, and appreciate, you already give very generously of your time, but would you like to become more involved?

The MC does not know the additional skills you have!

Does helping with the Newsletter appeal to you? How about writing an article for the newsletter, or helping to produce the newsletter?

Perhaps fund-raising appeals to you? New suggestions are always welcome, as is help at our events.

Maybe you would be interested in taking on the role of New Volunteer co-ordinator?

There are plenty of other opportunities. Any help, in whatever form, will be greatly appreciated!

If you can give us any help, please contact a member of the Management Committee

The Centre is very grateful for any donations of unwanted foreign coins or used stamps. We also have a number of small collecting boxes which you are welcome to take and fill with any spare change you may have.



Thanks to All at Tudor Rose!

With many thanks to Tudor Rose, Oakley, for their continuing support for the Centre. They hold regular workshops and donate a lovely selection of knitted items, including really cute mice.

I popped in there a few weeks ago with a poster for our Summer Fair and they had 3 bags of knitted cuddlies for me!

A lot of these knitted items were made by Daphne Kitchen. I contacted Daphne last week and she said she had another bag for us! As well as bears and dolls, she had knitted several wonderful mermaids.

These knitted items were included in our Summer Fair and were very popular.

YOUNG FARMERS' COUNTRY SHOW & RALLY

Saturday, 19th May 2018 – does that date ring a bell? Oh yes, that was the date of the Young Farmers' Country Show and Rally at Scald End Farm, Thurleigh! Think something else happened that day, but it has slipped my mind at the moment. Never mind!

The Young Farmers' raised a substantial amount for the Centre that was used to purchase Dixie, so the FRG thought it only right to support their Country Show. The day dawned hot and sunny, with a cloudless blue sky and just a light breeze. With our gazebo erected, we set out our tombola, home-made jewellery, donated plants and our 'Elisabeth Curtis' banner. All we needed then were customers!

Business was steady, so we were able to take it in turns to have a wander round the stalls, see the livestock, and visit the Craft Tent and, of course, just glance at the food and drink outlets! It was such a friendly atmosphere and the show was so well-organised. Sam Helliwell (who does our fencing) was much in evidence, Alistair Burt came and had a chat with us, and hopefully, we recruited a couple of new volunteers. The morning session was manned by Ros, Pearl, Charlotte and Oliver. At lunchtime, Pippa and Caroline arrived.

Caroline brought along her 'cuddlies' tombola' which included knitted Prince Harry and Meghan Markle cuddlies. Ah, just remembered that was the other event on the day! The wedding was being shown on the big screen and it confirmed that Caroline's mum had achieved a good likeness with her knitted cuddlies! Thanks, Jan. Incidentally, they were won by a brother and sister, so will stay under the same roof. Many of

our cuddlies were donated by Tudor Rose, in Oakley.

The afternoon was busier with events and many competitions staged in the arena. There was a parade of floats made by the branches of Young Farmers. All-in-all, it was a brilliant day! Lovely weather, friendly atmosphere and many complimentary comments about the Centre and the work we do! We made a nett profit of £143, quite good, and of course, 'every little helps.'

A Sense of a Goose A story of teamwork

When you see geese flying along in 'V' formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly in that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in the 'V' formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if the bird in front flew on its own.

LESSON:

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they're travelling on the thrust of another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back in formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.

LESSON:

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go, and be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to others.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

LESSON:

It pays to take turns doing the tasks and sharing leadership. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON:

We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging and not something else.

When a goose gets sick or wounded, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own starting another formation, or catch up with the flock.

LESSON:

If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

This article was shared with Liz Riding by the Bedford Trefoil Guild, when Liz attended their AGM to talk about the work of the RDA. The Trefoil Guild Association has chosen Riding for the Disabled as its national charity this year. The money raised will be used to sponsor the Countryside Challenge at the National Championships.

Regionals 2018

On Sunday 20th May, 9 riders, 4 ponies and a number of coaches and volunteers attended the East Region Qualifying Competition. It was a lovely day, and thanks to our grooms, coaches and volunteers, the ponies all looked beautiful. We would also like to thank everyone from the East Region involved in arranging the Championships for all their hard work in arranging the day. We would also like to thank Andrew Gourlay for sharing his photographs from the day and for allowing us to include them in our newsletter.

8 riders competed in the Countryside Challenge, with all riding really well. Two of our riders, Tara and Roisin will now go forward and compete at the National Championships, which is a great achievement.

Roisin came first in her class at the Regionals, and as you can see from the cover photo, was presented with a huge cup! Sophie Williams came 3rd in the same class in her first time competing. Tara came first in her class. Richard was second in his class.

Leigh competed in the East Region Dressage, winning her class and was also overall Senior East Region Dressage Winner

Leigh riding Lolly



Roisin riding Muscadeu





Tara riding Lolly



Sophie riding Lolly



Richard riding Lolly





Ethan riding Sam



Hannah riding Sam



Abigail riding Huggy



Bobby riding Muscadeu

Summer Fair 2018

Total after expenses - £919.97

Refreshments	-	£163.22
Plants	-	£ 223.95
Bric a Brac	-	£ 134.65
Pony Rides	-	£119.00
Cakes	-	£127.15
Knitted cuddlies	-	£47.10
Name the bear and treasure hunt	-	£27.50
Tombola	-	£78.00
Guess weight of the cake	-	£14.50
Guess no. of sweets in the jar	-	£12.50
Jewellery/workshop	-	£95.10
Marble Game	-	£22.00
Donation bucket in Stables	-	£85.30
Donation	-	£50.00

Thank you to everyone involved!

Framed Prints of our Horses

Owen, my nephew, has offered to provide artistic framed prints of our horses, with all the proceeds going to the Centre.

Examples of his work will be displayed at the Centre over the coming weeks. There will be order forms in the folder for anyone interested.

Any queries, please contact Ros (Tues am)



Term Dates for Bedford Borough Schools 2018

AUTUMN TERM

***Monday, 3rd September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December
2018***

Half Term: Monday 22nd October – Friday, 26th October 2018

***Dates may vary according to session – please check with
Coach***

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