

## **Storm**

It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that Storm was put to sleep on 21st August 2017. Sadly Storm had been suffering with arthritis which had deteriorated so the kindest thing to do was to put him to sleep. Storm was a much loved pony and will be very sadly missed.



## **JJ**



It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that JJ was put to sleep on 7th March 2017. JJ had been at the Centre since February 2006 and was very much loved by everyone. He will be sadly missed.

## **Bonny**

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that Bonny, our lovely Norwegian Fjord was been put to sleep in June 2016. She had not been well, and the vet was called. Sadly the prognosis was not good, so the kindest thing to do was to put her to sleep. Bonny was a much loved pony and will be missed by everyone at the Centre.



## **Chunky**

It is with great sadness that we have to report we lost Chunky in October 2014. He had been so well in the summer months that his sudden death from Sycamore Atypical Myopathy was most unexpected. Chunky was a most loved pony – an exceptional herd leader, a steady ride for some of our most disabled and nervous riders and a calm and intelligent pony in an uncertain situation. We will miss him dreadfully.

### **Sunny**

We are very sad to say that after many years of loyal service to the Centre, our much loved pony, Sunny, was put to sleep in February 2014. Unfortunately, his health had deteriorated and the prognosis wasn't good. After much discussion between the vets, the Riding Committee and the Management Committee it was agreed that it would be kindest to put him to sleep before his condition deteriorated further.

Sunny was a very popular pony and played a full part in the Centre's activities. He was endlessly patient and unflappable. He was much loved by volunteers and riders alike and will be greatly missed.

### **Screwball Rally**

Greg and Sue Warwick took part in the 2013 Screwball Rally on 25th September for 5 days, driving through France and Northern Spain and back. Their car was generously provided by Terence Byrne, director of Progress Skoda in Elms Farm, Bedford. This trip was totally funded by Greg and Sue so every penny donated went straight to the Centre.



### **RDA National Championships**

Congratulations to Leigh McInnes, one of the Tuesday evening riders, and Tom, who came first in Countryside Challenge and Dressage at the RDA National Championships in Hartpury. Congratulations also to Emily Walker who came second with her lovely painting of herself, Tom and the team of helpers at Oaklands 2012.

### **Obituary**

Remembering Rosemary Martin.

Rosemary joined the Elisabeth Curtis Centre in 1989 and she was just the kind of volunteer we love. She was already a highly qualified teacher and horse owner, and soon went on to become a qualified RDA Group Instructor (1993). She worked with riders from Grange School and Bromham Hospital, before moving to the Thursday morning session. She also took over a group in Cambridgeshire for over a year until they managed to find someone to replace her. Rosemary worked towards her RDA Instructor qualification but due to a mix-up

over exam dates, did not take the final exam. Rosemary was a member of the Riding Committee and Management Committee. She was Chairman for about four years around the time of the second visit of HRH the Princess Royal, in 1998. She continued to volunteer whenever she felt well enough and would still pop in for coffee even if she didn't feel strong enough to work with the riders and ponies. She loved her time at the Centre and always did all she could to help it to flourish. Sadly, Rosemary died at St John's, Moggerhanger on 19th June 2013. She will be greatly missed.

### **Obituary**

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Sharon Thompson, Instructor, after a brave fight against cancer. She will be greatly missed by riders and helpers, both past and present, on the Tuesday evening session. Our thoughts are with her family.

### **London Marathon 2012**



Thank you to Matthew Doyle who raised an amazing £1,618 for the Elisabeth Curtis Centre by running the London Marathon.

Matthew is pictured here with Jan, our Chairman, being presented with a certificate to thank him for his fundraising.

### **Oaklands 2013**

#### **RDA Regional Qualifier, Oaklands College, St Albans**

On Saturday 11th May, a small army of volunteers descended on the stables, loaded down with buckets, soap and towels. For Tom, Muscadeu, Huggy and Bonny it was bath time! Bathing a horse is not easy! Ours are very patient and don't make a fuss, but it always seems to end up with too many bubbles and soggy volunteers, and this Saturday was no exception! But it was all worth it because the next day was THE SHOW!

Sixteen riders from the Thursday morning session and both Tuesday sessions arrived at Oaklands College early on Sunday. All were very keen and perhaps a little nervous; for some it was their first time. It was the first time for Bonny too. She was there mainly to get her used to the environment, ready for next year (maybe). All riders had been entered into the Countryside Challenge, in different classes according to their age. This competition mimics a ride in the countryside with all the obstacle that you might meet. There are gates to open and farmyard animals to negotiate – sheep can be very scary!

All riders completed the course without incident and as you can see from the huge smiles in some of the pictures, really enjoyed the experience. Leigh did particularly well in her class and came First. This means she will go forward to the National Championships in July. Well done, Leigh. We look forward to hearing how you get on.

We must, of course, say a huge “Thank You” to all the volunteers who made this happen and to Chris for all the wonderful pictures. It was certainly a day to remember!

## **Oaklands 2011**

Here are some accounts of our day at the Regional Championships at Oaklands;

I thought that the competition last Sunday was great. I enjoyed it, particularly when my pony went a bit faster than usual. However I struggled to post the letter and I dropped it two times! LOL. I eventually succeeded though. I was a bit scared when I was just about to go on Huggy Bear, because some of the other ponies were a bit upset. I love Huggy Bear! He is a very nice horse! Thank you for letting me take part.

The competition was fun! I rode Sunny and he didn't eat the apples that I had to put in the bucket. He tried to help me open the gate which was funny! We watched a bit of the dressage at the show and I entered the art competition too. I came 3<sup>rd</sup> in my class so I got a yellow rosette.

This was the first year our daughter was entered into the countryside challenge. It was a fantastic day for all the family. A week on and our daughter is still talking about it. She treasures her rosette and shows everyone. Taking part has been great for her confidence. If she didn't have riding she'd have very little. Thank you