

Elisabeth Curtis Centre

Riding for the Disabled

January 2025



Hello all.

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of January already! I appreciate that it has been a difficult start to the year for the Centre with the news of the sad passing of two of the herd. However, I want to update on some positive things that are happening.

Kyle Palmer

On Behalf of the ECC Trustees

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6TH APRIL 2025
SPRING DRESSAGE
COMPETITION

26TH APRIL 2025
COUNTRYSIDE
CHALLENGE – TBC

27TH APRIL 2025
CRAFT FAYRE

**17TH PREP - 18TH MAY –
COMP - RDA REGIONAL
QUALIFIER 2025**

Exciting Pony News

We are very excited to welcome two new ponies to the Centre. Smartie who is a 15hh, 15 year old piebald mare and Rolo a 15.1hh, 13 year old piebald gelding. Smartie and Rolo are aptly named as they are both super sweet! They are brother and sister and have lived together since they were youngsters in the same home. They will spend the next month being introduced to the routine at the Centre and potentially going on a bit of a diet. We hope to have them starting in sessions during March. They will initially be out in our fields. As with our other recent addition, Teddy, we would ask that you abide by any instructions and notices from the equine team in relation to touching or getting to know the ponies.

Your Volunteer Experience

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new way for you to engage with the Centre and manage your volunteer experience – Assemble, which is our brand new volunteer app.

This new app is designed to make your volunteering journey smoother, more flexible, and more enjoyable. Here's how it will benefit you:

- **Manage Your Own Data**

With the app, you can easily update your personal details, track your involvement, and stay in control of your volunteer profile.

- **Sign Up for More or Fewer Sessions**

No more sticking to a single schedule! You can now sign up for as many or as few volunteer sessions as you like. If you have extra time during the week, simply choose from available slots across various days, beyond your usual session.

- **Ad Hoc Event Support**

Spontaneously available to help with an event? You can sign up for one-off events or activities, making it easier than ever to pitch in whenever you can.

- **Stay Up to Date**

Forget sifting through endless emails – all news and updates about our charity will be available directly in the app, so you'll always be in the loop.



Our New Respect Charter

At the Elisabeth Curtis Centre, we always strive to create a positive and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and respected. It is essential that all individuals associated with the Centre understand their responsibilities and have clear guidance on how to raise any concerns. Many organisations, including charities and businesses, now have guidelines and charters to support this.

To reinforce our commitment to respect and mutual understanding, the Trustees have developed a **Respect Charter**. We kindly ask all staff and volunteers to read, acknowledge, and sign the charter to help us foster a collaborative and respectful environment.

Please either click on the link below or copy and paste it into your web browser to read the Charter, fill out your details to confirm that you have read and understood its contents, and then click **Submit**. We would be grateful if you could do this by 14th February 2025.

<https://forms.office.com/e/qAxe12uggJ>

• Track Volunteer Progress & Recognition

We'll be able to track your training, DBS records, and other important details, ensuring everything is up-to-date. Plus, you'll receive recognition for your contributions, such as certificates for milestones like length of service!

Look out for further communications on this, which will include more details including how to download and use the app. We will also be providing some face to face support sessions if you would like help or more information.

Centre Facilities

As you will be aware, our Centre is showing signs of ageing and the Trustees constantly review any cost efficient improvements that can be made. You may have noticed that our windows in the office were recently replaced. Unfortunately, we have had some issues with blockages to our drains. This has resulted in the unfortunate cancellation of some lessons and the necessity to install a temporary toilet. This issue has now been resolved with Anglian Water and we hope there will be no further issues.

I think this covers off all our updates at present. We will continue to communicate with you on Centre news on a regular basis, but should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the other Trustees.



A member group of the Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating
Carriage Driving Riding for the Disabled Charity Number: 24410

President: HRH The Princess Royal K.G., G.C.V.O.



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