

Elisabeth Curtis Centre

December 2025



**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY**



**14TH DECEMBER 2025
ELISABETH CURTIS
CENTRE CHRISTMAS
SOCIAL 12 - 3 P.M.**

Pony Updates

Well-deserved retirement plan for Muscadeu!



Thanks to much hard work, Sherie has secured a place for Muscadeu at the Horse Trust. This was not an easy task, but because of his unique history and his contribution to the Centre they have awarded him a place and he is set to leave us in 2026. Just a quick reminder of his wonderful story.

In May 2008 ten Camargue horses were ridden from the Camargue in the south of France to begin a new life in Great Britain. Muscadeu d'Arbaud, known to all at the Elisabeth Curtis Centre as Muscadeu, was one of those ponies. The Sète Lorient London (SLL) Association is an Anglo-French charity who provide horses for the English and French RDA. All the ponies were ridden to the UK by disadvantaged young people from France and the UK who also benefited from the amazing experience of riding across France and **then to London** on the 'White Horses Project', looking after the ponies as well as each other.

Five of the horses were donated to four RDA Centres across France. The remaining five continued their journey to the UK and were donated to Elisabeth Curtis Centre, Bromham, Bedfordshire: Barrow Farm Group, Chelmsford Essex: Cranleigh Group, Guildford Surrey: Bradbourne Group, Sevenoaks, Kent and Bank Farm, Chesham Bucks.

Since joining the herd at The Elisabeth Curtis Centre, Muscadeu has been an outstanding, much loved and valued RDA pony. He has taught many children to ride and is one of those 'special' ponies which are very precious to the RDA. The Elisabeth Curtis Centre is very lucky to have such a willing pony who is a firm favourite with all the volunteers and riders. We will keep you updated as and when we have a definite date for his new adventure with the Horse Trust. Whilst we will be sad to say our fond farewells, it is in the knowledge that he will have a wonderful and much deserved retirement. Our thanks to Sherie for making this happen.

A New Home for Trojan

We have now found a new home for Trojan, and he will be leaving the Centre for Blue Cross in January when he turns 19. Trojan joined us in 2023, as a potential carriage driving pony.

He adored our younger participants and excelled when ridden independently – his hi-light being his enthusiastic debut at the regionals in 2025.

Whilst full of character and confidence, he was rather unpredictable at times and certainly had his favourite volunteers! He would have continued working well in sessions had it not been for age related lameness. As he is field sound, the plan was for him to become a companion pony, but a place has been found at Blue Cross, and we are sure that he will enjoy his days looking beautiful but generally caked in mud!



Fundraising

A huge thank you to our Community Engagement Team for all their hard work this term. They ran a very successful Quiz and Curry Night raising £1236.00 in October and the Christmas Craft Fair that took place in November raised a further £1109.46. We cannot thank the team enough for all their dedication and contribution.

There are people we must thank for unexpected donations. The Swan, Bromham have run a couple of events for us and have raised £2450.00! Our huge thanks go to Mark and his team for being so supportive of the Centre. Their contribution is invaluable.

We also received £1000 from Bolnhurst Vintage & Country Fayre. Sadly, they are no longer continuing with this event and wanted to share their remaining funds between some local charities. Elisabeth Curtis Centre was one of them, and we are grateful for this unexpected windfall.

There were also legacies, bequests, and anonymous donations totaling close to £2,000.

Elisabeth Curtis Centre
Published by Sherie Holliday Ecc · 19 November at 12:33 · 🌐

We have had a hive of fundraising events at the Centre recently including our annual Quiz and Curry night and the Christmas Craft Fayre.

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude and thanks to all our volunteers and our wonderful CET who gave up their time to help us raise these funds, thank you also for the kind donations and ongoing support! You are the heartbeat of the Elisabeth Curtis Centre and we can not thank you all enough. 🙏👏👏👏👏👏👏👏

#RidingForTheDisabled #volunteersmakeadifference #donate #volunteerwithus





Mark Blythman
Corporate Fundraising



We Welcomed:

Mark Blythman has joined us as a Trustee responsible for Corporate Fundraising. Mark has a background of working in operations, strategy, communications, and corporate sponsorship. We wish him well in his role on the Board.

Becky Brightman and Sophie Lockyer joined the Equine Care Team as sub-contracted grooms. We are sure you have seen them at the Centre, and we are delighted that they are working for Elisabeth Curtis Centre.

We said goodbye to:

Verity Beaton has stepped down as a Trustee for Marketing and Communication due to work and personal commitments. We thank her for her invaluable contribution to the Centre in the short time she was with us. We will be recruiting again soon.

ECC Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Event – Not too late to RSVP

Plans are underway for our Christmas Event on 14th December at the Centre. We are delighted that so many participants and their families will be joining us. We will also have the pleasure of the company of the Mayor of Bedford Tom Wootton, High Sheriff Camilla King, and local Borough Councillor Dylan Simmonds, and many of our wonderful Sponsors, and Donors.

We will be having a brief ceremony for some length of service awards, and some outstanding contribution awards too.

It isn't too late to give your RSVP to Sherie, I am sure it will be an enjoyable afternoon with refreshments, carol singing with Unisong, a visit from Santa Claus and of course some of our wonderful ponies putting in an appearance!



Trustee Vacancies

We are always keen to ensure our Board has a varied skill set to best meet the needs of the Centre. We would like to talk to anyone who is interested in becoming a Trustee, particularly if they have experience in the following.

- **Social Media and Marketing Communications**

If you, or anyone you know, is interested, we can arrange for an informal chat to find out what is involved.



A member group of the Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving Riding for the Disabled Charity Number: 244108

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



Elisabeth Curtis Centre, Chestnut Avenue,
Bromham, Bedford, MK43 8HP – **Charity**
Number: 1137217 Company Number:
7302917

Email: office@elisabethcurtiscentre.co.uk
Telephone: 01234 824469