

EAST PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP

ISSUE 31 - February 2023 - May 2023

EAST PARK NEWS



*Roll on
lazy summer days*

News

We went to Hickstead

Children take on the Regional Qualifiers

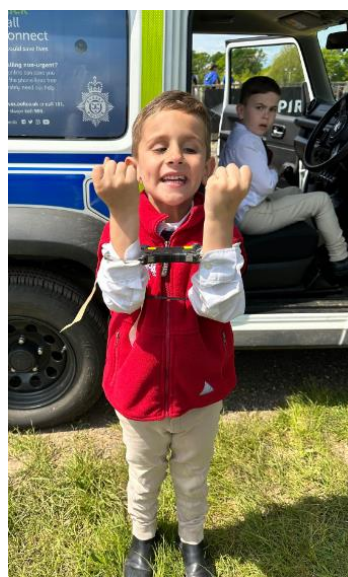
The Regional Qualifiers for the Countryside Challenge were moved from Felbridge to Hickstead Show Ground this year. We are very grateful to the dressage show organisers who worked so hard to accommodate the event.

Four very excited pupils, one from Oxted School and three from St Stephen's, arrived on time and looking incredibly smart in the East Park red gilets, jodhpurs, shirts and ties. The ponies, Guy and Star were looking equally smart. How Sally and Annie managed to get little Star quite so white remains a mystery!



After their initial excitement they all settled down to some hard work walking the course and staying clean. Not as easy as it sounds with juice and ice-creams on offer. They put all they have been learning in their weekly lessons into action and did their very best to achieve a perfect round.

The weather was the best it had been in weeks and following the actual riding we all had a picnic in the sunshine while we waited for the results. As tension rose the younger pupils were side tracked by two friendly police officers who really didn't stand a chance. Three incredibly cute and persuasive lads descended on them and their car and within moments horns were set off, batons were drawn and the handcuffs came out! The boys definitely won round one! The officers were reprimanded for the horn blowing so close to horses and you had to feel sorry for them as controlling three excited and inquisitive boys is a bit like herding feral cats!



Order was restored and they waited patiently as the results were announced. 1st and 2nd place riders would go through to the Nationals held at Hartpury Equestrian College Gloucestershire in July. They were all entered in different classes and rather incredibly (drum roll please)... all four of them won their respective classes!!

We're off to the Nationals!



We really do need to thank the organisers for stepping in and holding the competition at short notice, Sally and Annie from Little Brook for turning the ponies out so well and transporting them all the way to Hickstead and our lovely coach and volunteers whose gift of time each week truly changes lives.

Thank You!



Generosity of Classic Car Club

MG Car Club Sussex Wanderers rally round

A very cold day in February was dramatically warmed up by our friends at this long established Car Club.



Each month they set off on a jolly in their wonderful cars, ending up with lunch at a pub, where the hat is passed round. The members are very generous and we are extremely grateful to them. Ursula Griffiths handed over a cheque for £2,300.00 which is a staggering amount considering the currant economic climate.

Several of their members came to watch one of our school lessons and were impressed by all they saw.



The car in the middle was an interloper but we made allowances just this time ☺

Upcoming Lesson opportunities

Do you know a group who could benefit?

Two sessions for up to six riders have unexpectedly become available for this summer term. Both are at 11 a.m. one on a Monday and the other on a Wednesday. The sessions are fully supported by volunteers and can be for any age group or ability.

Please call Sally or Annie on 01342 837546 or 07803 813947 for more details.

East Park RDA Fund-Raising Trustee needed

Your chance to make a real difference

We're looking for a highly organised and personable volunteer, ideally with some experience or background in sales and/or marketing, to be responsible for generating income for the Group. The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Applying for grants
- Liaising with potential donors
- Organising at least one fundraising event per year
- Creating innovative ideas for maintaining and improving income

Fund raising is crucial to ensure our valuable work continues.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is run by a small group of trustees, who meet four times each year on a weekday evening between 6.30 and 8.30. It is a very enthusiastic team who like to work in a relaxed and friendly environment. As the Fund-Raising Trustee you would be expected to attend these meetings and to communicate regularly with the other six Trustees during the year.

The CIO relies on grants, donations and fundraising events to raise some £17,000.00 per year to continue operating. There are established links with grant making bodies and donors and the CIO has an excellent reputation among local companies and councils.

Please do consider joining us. You will be made very welcome and supported to carry out your role. Although we are only looking for one trustee you can partner up with a friend to carry out the role, pooling your skill set, sharing ideas and lightening the load on you. The role is not as daunting as you may think.

Contact in the first instance by telephoning Sally O'Neill on 01342 837546.



Wade's World

Wade is a miniature Mediterranean donkey foal purchased by the Lions Club to train to be a therapy donkey, in remembrance of their Club colleague and Thursday RDA volunteer Rob Holwell.



Wade begins his work



Our little donkey is growing up.

The mischievous little donkey is progressing so well in his training he has been trusted to spend time with people who are in need of a little donkey company and what a charmer he is proving to be.

Wade has had several visitors who lavish him with love and attention (it's a hard life) by cuddling and grooming him. He listens attentively to their chatter and is spectacularly good at keeping confidences.

So if you know anyone who would benefit from a little donkey wisdom and calm do give Sally a call and we'll set you up with the handsome chap.



Unless of course it's warm and sunny, in which case you will find him laying full stretch on the tarmac soaking up the warmth!!!



Carriage Driving at East Park

Now summer is here it's time to consider making the most of the warmer weather by getting outdoors. Carriage driving could be the activity for you. If you have driven before or are new to this exciting activity we have a limited number of carriage driving sessions available.



If you wish to brush up on your existing carriage driving skills, or try an introductory lesson to see if it's a sport you might enjoy, do get in touch. We can accommodate children as well as adults and many abilities and disabilities, including wheelchair users. Bring your enthusiasm and we'll supply the rest.

Although we are more Downton Abbey than Ben Hur!



Forthcoming events

None at present, but do watch this space...

Grants & Donations

£2,300.00 MG Car Club



East Park can only operate with the kind donations from companies, organisations or individuals and we would like to express our grateful thanks to the following organisations:

**The Village Jewellers,
Woodhatch**

**East Grinstead Lions &
Horley Lions**

Little Brook Equestrian Centre

The Star
Public House Lingfield

Copthorne Golf Club
Borers Arms Road

Our grateful thanks for their continuing support by fundraising on our behalf.

Help Fundraise!



A new easy way to donate

Help us to help others

With your help we have been able to continue as a group through another difficult year. The opportunities to raise much needed funds have however, again, been restricted. We would ask if you are in a position to donate, please continue to do so as it really is a lifeline for us. A huge thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

After difficulties with our previous donation platform, and in order to make donating as easy as possible, we are now using Charities Aid Foundation where it is easy to set up regular or one off payments. If you received this newsletter by e-mail you can follow the link below, or alternatively use the button on our website or Facebook page. <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19524>



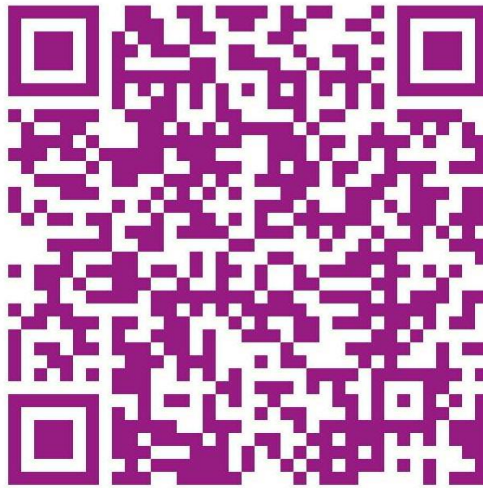
Support local
good causes &
**WIN UP TO
£25,000!**

Help us fundraise via the Tandridge Lottery!

We have signed up with the Tandridge Together Lottery, a weekly draw supporting good causes in the Tandridge District. For each £1.00 ticket purchased we receive 50p directly, and another 10p goes into a general fund to be shared between all the good causes. The draw takes place each Saturday, with prizes of up to £25,000.00 and every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize.

Please sign up for tickets and chance your luck for a big prize, while supporting your favourite RDA charity.

Below is a QR code which takes you straight to our Tandridge Lottery page.



Note Cards Singly at £1.20 - or in packs of five for £5.00 - note cards with pictures of our horses are available from Little Brook Equestrian.

Easy Fundraising If you regularly shop online, you can help us with every purchase you make. Simply register with www.easyfundraising.co.uk and access your favourite websites through their page. We receive a donation every time you shop.

Become a Friend of EPRDA For £10.00 per year, you can become a Friend of East Park RDA and receive newsletters to keep you up to date with our activities.

Our Supporters



RDA Term dates

Start dates account for not commencing the first week following the re-start of each new term.

Individual schools may decide to cease riding the week before the end of each term.

Start of term	Half term	End of term
Monday 24 th April	29 th May - 2 nd June	Friday 21 st July

East Park Riding for the Disabled Group

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We're On The Web

WWW.EASTPARKRDA.ORG.UK



Please Like Us on Facebook

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EASTPARKRDAGROUP

Registered Charity Number: 1168147

A Member Group of Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving, Registered under Charity Number 244108

