

EAST PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP NEWSLETTER issue 34 December 2024 - June 2025

Surrey Community Fund got 2025 started for St Stephen's students

We were overjoyed to have received a grant early in 2025 for one of the St Stephen's riding sessions from the **Dora Fedoruk Memorial Fund**, for the **whole of 2025**. This came via the **Community Fund for Surrey**.

The story behind Dora Fedoruk is fascinating, as the Foundation's website explains: *"Established in 2012, the Dora Fedoruk Memorial Fund honours the remarkable life and enduring generosity of Mrs. Dora Fedoruk. Administered by the Community Foundation for Surrey, this fund continues Dora's lifelong commitment to aiding individuals in times of need or crisis across Surrey. Dora's journey began as a research chemist, where she contributed to the development and evaluation of vaccines for both humans and animals. Notably, during World War II, she assessed the potency of tetanus toxoid vaccines administered to soldiers, playing a crucial role in safeguarding their health.*

In August 1940, she joined the H.M. Factory Inspectorate, organising fire-watching protocols in factories to support firefighters. Her initiatives saved countless lives. Alongside her husband, Janek Fedoruk, Dora transformed South Park Farm in Haslemere, into a sanctuary for the community, especially welcoming the Polish contingent. Their farm became a hub of generosity, extending support to people and animals in need. After Janek's passing, Dora channelled her energies into supporting families in Poland through the Haslemere Polish Relief, sending food, clothing, and medical supplies.

The Dora Fedoruk Memorial Fund is dedicated to providing grants that assist individuals during times of need or crisis within Surrey ... Through the fund, Dora's legacy of compassion continues to thrive, offering timely assistance to those in Surrey who require it most. Her life's work serves as an inspiring testament to the profound impact one individual's dedication can have on countless lives."





East Grinstead Lions & Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions

A massive shout-out to the ever-supportive and amazing **Lions** charity. The **East Grinstead Lions** and the **Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions** jointly funded a group from St Stephen's primary school for the academic year **2024/2025**. An anonymous donation topped this up to ensure that all St Stephen's children rode until July. The phenomenal Lions have supported the RDA for over 20 years.

Sussex Wanderers MG Car Club

The Sussex Wanderers MG Car Club have been generous supporters for many years. They hold 10 outings per year, driving around the Sussex countryside in their MGs, ending up at a pub for lunch.

At each event they 'pass the pint beer mug' to collect cash for us – and last year they excelled themselves, raising £2,100 in cash and a direct donation of £50. When Gift Aid is added this makes a total donation of **£2,687.50** which is a fantastic amount and will help us to continue our work with disabled children.

Ursula Griffiths, who organises the events, and two of the MG owners came this year to watch the children from St Stephen's School in action, and to present our **Chairman, James Baxter**, with the cheque. We would like to thank all the members of the Car Club for their continued generous support.



We ♥ our volunteers

We couldn't do it without you!

This was our **Monday volunteers** celebrating "school's out" last month. Some of our wonderful volunteers have been helping at RDA for well over 20 years. We, and all our children we help, absolutely adore our volunteers.



At the close of last year, volunteer **Liz Austin** was presented with the RDA Silver Certificate for **25 years as a volunteer** at RDA. Congratulations Liz on reaching this achievement. Liz started at Burstow RDA before moving to East Park and will be sorely missed.



Hickstead, May 2025

East Park RDA took a team of riders from 2 of our Thursday lessons to Hickstead in May for the **RDA Regionals**.

Guy, Fred and of course **Star** were the ponies used and as per normal they behaved like the superstars that they are.

If they handed out prizes for the **loudest neigh**, Star would definitely win by a country mile !

2 riders came 1st in their respective classes, and **2 riders came 2nd**. Plus we had a **4th** and a **6th**!



Congratulations to all the riders who had a great day out. And a huge thank you to all the leaders, support team, and some of our volunteers who helped out stewarding, etc.
Well done to Team East Park!

Kevin Escott, Captain of **Lingfield Park Golf Club** kindly chose us as his chosen Captain's Charity. On July 26th they held the **Captain's Charity Day** – this, along with collection boxes and donations means they have so far raised over **£4000!**

Many Thanks to the **Dormansland Horse and Dog Show** for your continued support of **East Park RDA** and choosing us as one of your Charities of the Year 2025!

Father Christmas visited East Park RDA again this year and put even bigger smiles on our children's faces. Crazy that he always finds time to visit little us - shows just how special we are!

Rest in Peace Teddy

This year we had to say goodbye to the most amazing pony, **Teddy**. Age had finally caught up with him and it was his time to fly high. Teddy does not need us to tell you how **incredible** he was. He taught **countless children to ride** and was the start to so many people's riding journeys and careers.

He truly was one of a kind: the most **gentle, generous and courageous** little pony. He may have been tiny but was most definitely mighty, and the king of the yard.

He was – and still is – loved so much, and will leave a big hole in many hearts. All we can say is **thank you Teddy** for giving us so many years of unforgettable moments and simply being a **total legend**.

We all will love you always and forever.



**We have vacancies for riding sessions.
Contact us for further info!**

Volunteers Needed

Do you have Wednesdays free?

Are you currently free on a Wednesday morning and looking to do some good for your community? We are desperately short of volunteer leaders and side walkers for a school of youngsters that attend between 10 and 11 o'clock every Wednesday. No experience is necessary as we will support and train you to either lead a pony or walk alongside offering verbal support to the rider.

All volunteers will, with our help, complete a DBS check and once that formality is sorted you will become an invaluable part of our team of caring, like-minded people.

Please contact Sally or Annie at Little Brook Equestrian on 01342 837546 or 07803 813947 if you would like a new challenge.

Little Brook Equestrian is without a doubt a beautiful place to volunteer!



Easy Ways to Donate

Charities Aid Foundation

You can donate via our website at bottom of page, or directly click on this link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19524#!/DonationDetails>

Tandridge 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 £25k** 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.

The QR code here will take you straight to the link.



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.

Term Dates

These dates are TBC. Individual schools may decide to cease riding the week before the end of each term, and/or not start the first week of term.

Autumn Term starts **8th September** and finishes **18th December**.

(Half term w/c 20th Oct)

Spring Term starts **12th January** and finishes **26th March**.

(Half term w/c 16th Feb)

Spring Term starts **20th April** and finishes **16th July**.

(Half term w/c 25th May)

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