

CENTRE UPDATE

Avon Riding Centre, Kings Weston Road, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7QT

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Welcome Back

There is always so much to share with everyone that it is difficult to know where to start the update! But I start by saying that I hope a change of routines or holidays over the summer has left everyone feeling refreshed and ready for the change of season. Daily activities at the Centre change in school holidays and it was lovely to see so many disabled riders taking the opportunity to have individual lessons over the summer and hear the laughter of the young people who came on our pony activity days. While watching the non-disabled riders take part in mini Le Trec competitions was a real pleasure. As I look out onto a very grey arena though, my holiday glow is struggling to come through as easily as the rain is! Finding the money to replace the roof, make us more sustainable and of course continue to pay of the loans we took out to buy the land we use, continues to be a daily priority for me. The first year of the £1 Million land appeal has been very successful, the loan from RDA National and some of our loan from Bristol City Council has been repaid and we have kept our heads above water with the bank loan. As we go into 2014 though the need to sustain or increase the money coming into the appeal becomes more urgent as the final repayment to the council is due in the spring and the monthly repayments to the bank will increase. In order to increase our fundraising a professional community fundraiser has been employed, Jane comes with a wealth of experience and is a real asset to the staff team. There is more about Jane later, but I hope that everyone will find a way to support Jane's plans and the land appeal. The staff team has seen other changes over the summer and we wish Liz (reception) and Claire (yard) all the best as they both embark on changes of direction in their careers.

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We welcome Claire (Saturday receptionist) as our new full time receptionist and Callum and Jess into the yard. While volunteers are the heart of the Centre, the small paid staff team is crucial and all work in a pressured environment with fewer resources than I would like. All of them have my enormous gratitude for their positive and flexible approach to fulfilling their roles and meeting the ever changing needs of the Centre and its riders.

Tania Honey
CEO

Events



AVON RIDING CENTRE OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER

Doors open 1.30 pm.

Arena Demonstrations from 2.30 pm including Show jumping, pony club games and musical rides

Come and see the Centre in action and support our work

Advance Ticket prices

Family Ticket £8.00 (2 adults, 3 children);

Adults £4.00; Children £2.00

On door Ticket prices

Family Ticket £10.00 (2 adults, 3 children);

Adults £5.00; Children £3.00

All activities indoor - Come and see what we do

Avon Riding Centre Half

Term Activities

Monday 28th October – Thursday 31st October

Private Dressage Lessons

Open to RDA riders. Limited spaces left. Please contact reception.

Tues 29th October

Pony Power Afternoon

12.30 – 3.30

£15

Stable Management and hack to Blaise Castle.

Open to Non – Disabled Riders who can Canter in an open space.

Thurs 31st October

Pony Plod Afternoon

12.30 – 3.30

£15

Stable Management and gentle hack around the Centres land. Riders must be able to walk and trot.

Friday 1st November

RDA Dressage Competition

Some classes still have space. See the website for more information or contact reception.

Future Events

Support the events below by attending the event itself or help out on the day.

- **Nativity & Carol Service**
10th December 2013
- **Annual Mid-Winter Quiz Evening**
Friday 31st January 2014

Clinic &

Competitions

(For Horse Owners)

Winter Dressage Series 2013 – 2014

- Sunday 10th November 2013
- Sunday 8th December 2013
- Sunday 9th February 2014
- Sunday 9th March 2014
- Sunday 13th April 2014

For further information, please visit our website at www.avonridingcentre.org.uk/category/events

Winter Showjumping Series 2013–2014

- Sunday 24th November 2013
- Sunday 22nd December 2013 – Christmas Show
- Sunday 26th January 2014
- Sunday 23rd February 2014
- Sunday 23rd March 2014
- Sunday 27th April 2014

For further information, please visit our website at www.avonridingcentre.org.uk/category/events

Riders

Payment by Cheque

Due to bank restrictions, we are unable to pay in cheques that have been made out in the wrong name. Please be ensure that cheques are made out correctly when paying your invoice.

For RDA Riders please make the cheque payable to **Avon Riding Centre for the Disabled**.

For non-disabled riders please make the cheque payable to **Rainbow Riding**.



Riding Hats – Note for Non-Disabled Riders

A reminder to all non-disabled riders that they are only able to use Avon Riding Centre hats for the first two weeks of their riding. Following those two weeks, riders are asked to purchase and bring their own hat to their riding session.

Photo Permissions

The Centre uses photos and videos of sessions and events to promote the work that we do. We assume that you are happy with this, but if for some reason a rider cannot be included, please inform us in writing stating the time and day or your riding session.

Spotlight on our Supporters

Tim Hadaway

Thank you to Tim Hadaway for his wonderful presentation about his involvement in the 2012 equestrian Olympics. We hope all who attended found the evening to be as interesting and enjoyable as we did.



Thompson Airways

Thompson Airways flights out of Bristol are going to give us a percentage of their on board change collection for the coming year and raise other money with fundraising activities.

Thank you to Thompson Airways for supporting the Centre.

Thornbury Rotary Club

Thank you to Thornbury Rotary Club who have nominated Avon Riding Centre to be their Charity of the Year. As part of their raising funds, they will be organising a sponsored swim for us amongst other activities.

Challenge Days

This month we would like to say a huge thank you to the members of staff from the following organisations that have helped us by holding a challenge day with us:

- AXA Wealth – Painted fences
- BT – Cleared and tidied outside the Centre.
- Robin Claridge, BT – Gave us a day helping to improve our Excel spreadsheets.
- Lloyds Banking Group – Painted fences
- Double Tree Hilton Hotel – Bridal path clearing and gardening.

All of these teams did an amazing job on the tasks they were given. Their help was greatly appreciated.

Support Your Centre



Fundraising News

Hello my name is Jane Turner and I've recently joined the Centre as Community Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone I've met so far for such a warm welcome – I'm really keen to meet more volunteers, riders and families.

Previously I worked for Teenage Cancer Trust as part of their fundraising team in the South West, specifically raising funds for their forthcoming unit in Bristol.

In my new role at the Centre I want to develop fundraising relationships with local companies and organisations and also encourage individuals and groups to get involved through a variety of fundraising activities.

Where are we now?

Every year we need to raise over £300,000 to keep the Centre running and with the help of Grant Making Trusts and the kind support of members of the local community we have been able to provide a full service. However the charity sector is struggling and it's getting harder every year so we need to develop new revenue streams to help keep the Centre operating.

Land Appeal

In addition, the Centre had to borrow £390,000 in 2012 to secure 70 acres of our 100 acre site – however these loans need to be paid back and if we're to minimise the amount of interest payable the sooner the better. Since launching the Appeal we've raised £158,000 and we have a generous match funding offer available from the John James Foundation in Bristol – for every £1 raised during 2013 they've offered to donate an additional £1 up to a maximum of £50,000 – so far this calendar year we've raised £35,000 so we urgently need to raise a further £15,000 by the end of December to ensure they give us the full £50,000!!

How you can help

Many of you already help so much and we're extremely grateful to all volunteers who give so generously of their time.

There are many ways that you can help us with fundraising as detailed below:

- **Charity of the Year** – does your employer operate a COY scheme, if so please let me know and we can put together a proposal to support the Centre? Do you belong to an organisation which is involved in fundraising such as a Rotary Club/Inner Wheel/Probus/Church group/Choir/Orchestra/Slimming club etc – if so please consider nominating the Centre as a beneficiary.
- **Challenges** – Do you or someone you know like running, cycling, triathlons or any other form of physical challenge – fundraising through 'challenge' sponsorship is one of the fastest growth areas in the UK and we need to embrace it. So, if you've ever thought of challenging yourself please do let me know and I can help you find the right event and support your fundraising campaign.

- **Events Committee** – I'm setting up a committee specifically to develop new fundraising events and would love to hear from anyone who has an interest or experience in this area and would like to contribute. I'm keen to look at new ways of using the Centre and its grounds to raise funds and really need some like minded individuals to join me!!
- **Textile Recycling** – we have signed up with a company to raise funds for the Centre through textile recycling – this is a popular and easy way to raise money and your support would be appreciated. Bags and leaflets are available from reception and there will be a collection from the Centre on November 21st. **Please bring in your bags between Mon 18th and Weds 20th November** – we're aiming to collect 1000kgs (roughly 250 bags) which would generate £600 in revenue!!

I'd love to hear from you, so if you have any ideas or comments or would just like to say 'hello' please contact me by email on fundraising@avonridingcentre.org.uk or call 07442 507795.

UK Coaching Certificate Level 1

A National coaching qualification with an RDA module will be running in the mid-west region soon. If you are interested in becoming an RDA Coach this may be the perfect course for you to start off with. The course includes a two day workshop and producing a portfolio with some coaching opportunities. The normal fee is £300, however if you take the qualification as part of becoming an RDA coach it will only cost £51.50. Further information can be found on the following website or contact Kim Langbridge, RDA Coordinator.

<http://www.rda.org.uk/assets/UKCC-Level-1-Pre-course-notes-Aug-2013.pdf>