

CENTRE UPDATE

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

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What a wet half term week. We really need some nice sun and wind to dry up the fields. We welcome Gina Porter to the staff team this month in the new role of Equine Operations and Development Manager. Gina will be responsible for continuing the smooth running of the Equine side of the Centre and developing wider equine activities to help our funds. Income from Riding for the Disabled lessons only covers 50% of the cost of each lesson. The Centre needs to fund the remaining 50% by non-disabled riding activities and fundraising. Engaging with horse owners to ride their own horses at the Centre in return for a donation is an important part of our financial planning. Long term plans to improve our offer to current riders and encourage new ones include an all-weather track around the perimeter of the land and an improved x country course. We will also be introducing Vaulting and Carriage Driving. In the short term a new roof is vital. We have £60,000 towards the £70,000 needed to commit to the work. If we do not use the money before October we will lose £50,000 (it is a time restricted grant offer) and the plan will halt. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising or contacts that may reduce the cost of the roof please do get in touch with Jane. Obviously we also still need every penny we can raise to continue to repay the bank loan taken out to buy the land we use. Volunteers, riders and parents have been hard at work supporting the Centre's fundraising activities recently. Abseiling, working on the stand at Badminton, marshalling the Badminton Fun Ride and bucket collecting have all been going on among other things. Thank you to everyone involved in fundraising, we could not operate without you.

During the RDA holidays our instructors and arena volunteers take a well-earned break. I hope you are refreshing and recharging your batteries as we will be very pleased to see you all back next week. We never forget that what you do in the arena with our riders is what we are all here for.

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Your efforts and achievements were well rewarded with a wonderful trip to the Regionals resulting in a team of riders qualifying for the National Championships in the Summer. More later.

With this Centre Update volunteers will find an updated training guide that reminds all volunteers the approach we need to take in the arena to ensure we are all following best practice. A consistent approach is vital for horses, riders, volunteers and instructors so please take the time to read the guide and check if the way you do things has been updated. Your instructor will be able to help you with any questions as they have all been part of the production of the training guide.

The Centre always strives to operate in the safest possible way so it has been good in recent weeks to meet with the Health and Safety Executive and Fire Service who have been very complimentary about our procedures and ways of working.

Fundraising Update



Abseil team raise over £3000!!

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the 190ft abseil down the Avon Gorge in April battling rain, wind and nerves. The whole team completed the challenge and we all have the t-shirt to prove it!!



Events

GLAM Party – Tuesday 17th June, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

A fun evening of fashion and accessories courtesy of GLAM originals (you may even recognize a couple of the models.....).

Tickets which cost £5 and include a glass of bubbly and nibbles are available from reception.

GLAM will donate 10% commission on any sales and will also donate raffle prizes.



FIREWALK

Saturday 20th September, from dusk

Following on from the abseil our next challenge is a FireWalk. This will be an atmospheric and exhilarating event so if you fancy a real adrenaline rush sign up now!

Full training will be given prior to the walk by the organisers who have many years' experience of this type of event and who come highly recommended.

Numbers are limited so please contact Jane Turner at fundraising@avonridingcentre.org.uk to book your place.



Gloucestershire Fun Ride – Sunday 29th June 2014

On Sunday 29th June 2014, Avon Riding Centre will be organising a fun ride for riders who have their own horses. The ride will start at Billow Farm, Breadstone and will make its way around farm land which has been opened up just for us by neighbouring farmers.

For further details please email Billow Farm on simon@billowfarm.com.



*6th Bristol & Bath
Classic Car Run
Sunday 13 July
2014*

OPEN TO CLASSIC, SPORTS AND OTHER CHERISHED
MOTORS OF ALL AGES.

An approximate 90 - 100 mile scenic tour and great day out for you
and your motor.

Route includes Cheddar Gorge, Mendips and Chew Valley Lake.

Support this event by entering yourself or by asking family, friends,
colleagues and neighbours to take part (no car is too young!).

For further information go to
www.avonridingcentre.org.uk or
call us on 0117 959 0266.

Breakfast starts at 9.00am.
Hot food & desserts at
finish.
Live Jazz

AVON
riding centre
Avon Riding Centre for the
Disabled
Kings Weston Road
Henbury
Bristol
BS10 7QT
Tel: 0117 959 0266



Blaise Women's 10K Race – Saturday 2nd August 2014

We have again been offered the opportunity to
raise £700 for the Centre by having a minimum
of 25 of our volunteers, riders or staff marshal
the Blaise Women's 10K Race on Saturday 2nd
August 2014.

Proposed times are below, but firm times will be
distributed closer to the time.

8.00am	Car park marshals on site
9.00am	All marshals on site
10.00am	Race commences
12.30pm	Event finishes

This event is an easy fun way to raise money for
the Centre. If you would like to help please email
admin@avonridingcentre.org.uk.



Riders

Notice to RDA Riders

Please note that Term 6 will now finish on Friday
18th July 2014. This will be the last day of riding
before the summer holidays.

If you have decided not to return to riding in
September could you please inform Claire on
Reception by Friday 1st July 2014. Notice will need
to be given in writing either by post or email
reception@avonridingcentre.org.uk.

Rideathon – Monday 11th August 2014

Please remember to enter the Rideathon on Monday
11th August 2014. Speak to you instructor for more
details.

RDA Regional Qualifiers

Many many Congratulations to our successful team
of Riders who competed at the Regional
Championships. All qualified to attend the National
Championships to be held at Hartpury College in
the summer. This means a team of 8 riders
consisting of

George Brindley
Verna Clifford
Alisha Craigie
Tegan Vincent Cook
Liam Bailey
Jonathan Kemp
Emily Rodman
Joe Cordey

Will all represent the Centre in the summer at the
RDA National Championships.

Our thanks go to everyone associated with the
Centre who helped make this possible, in particular
the RDA volunteer instructors and volunteers and to
the friends and family who have supported the
riders. They could not have done it without you.

Spotlight on our Supporters

Elliott Hire

A huge thank you to Elliott Hire for donating a cabin which has now become a new office.

Elliott Hire provided fantastic support to the Centre and saved us thousands of pounds.

Howdens Joinery

Many thanks you to Howdens Joinery for helping to keep Centre expenditure down and donating several much needed items including 3 new fire doors.

Staff

Congratulations

Congratulations to Melinda Molner, Groom, for passing her BHS Level 1.

Congratulations also to George Brindley, Groom, for coming runner up in the Hadden National Apprentice of the Year competition.

Well done to you both.

Support Your Centre

Please vote for us!

We've applied for funding from Mars Milk Play Fund which will be allocated on the basis of public voting – please vote for us by following on the following link

<http://www.marsmilk.com/fund2014/clubs/avon-riding-centre-for-the-disabled>

Textile Recycling Collection

Thank you to everyone who helped make the collections in November and March so successful. We're offering you another chance to clear out unwanted clothes, towels, sheets etc and help raise money for the Centre. All unwanted items must be bagged and dropped off by Thursday 3rd July 2014.

