

CENTRE UPDATE

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Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

A huge thank for your support during 2014. Last year was a great year for the Centre with the hugely successful Abseil, Firewalk and as always, ending on another wonderful Nativity. We also have a brand new arena roof, thanks to the hard work of Tania Honey and Jane Turner. As usual, we look to you all to help us make 2015 a successful year by continuing to support our riding lessons and events.

As you all know we said goodbye to our departing CEO, Tania Honey, at the end of December and we anticipated appointing a new CEO earlier this month. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, the candidate is now unable to take up the role and we must therefore continue our search for someone to replace Tania. In the meantime Yvette Whiffen has kindly agreed to step in as Interim Centre Manager and we are pleased that operations will continue as normal.

Fundraising Update



Challenges

We are keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking part in either the **Avon Gorge Abseil** or a **FireWalk** at the Centre. Both events were very successful last year and if there is sufficient interest we will run them again – the abseil would take place in April and the FireWalk in October.

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Last year one of our supporters really decided to challenge herself and took part in a **ToughMudder** event – if you think this sounds appealing or have other events in mind please contact the Centre if you would like help with your fundraising.

Charity of the Year

This is often the time of year when companies decide to choose their charity partner – if you work for an organisation that gets involved with charity fundraising please nominate ARC for support. We are able to offer unique opportunities for partner companies including team building days at the Centre and the opportunity to participate in some of our fundraising events.

For further details please email fundraising@avonridingcentre.org.uk

Clothes Recycling

We will continue to do regular recycling collections during 2015 but are moving to a Bristol based company who will **only collect** the following items:

- Clean clothing
- Paired/bagged shoes
- Belts and handbags

The next collection from the Centre will be on Thursday 5th February so could you please bring filled bags in by **Wednesday 4th February**.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported this activity – last year's recycling collections raised almost £700 – so it's well worth the trouble of clearing out your wardrobe!



And finally...

I will be leaving ARC on 22nd January and would like to thank you for your support – I've met some amazing people during my time at the Centre and will take some great memories away with me.

Many thanks

Jane Turner, Community Fundraiser

Nativity & Carol Service

This particular evening is eagerly looked forward to every year by so many of us and, as always, it was very well attended.

At the start of the evening awards were presented to both riders and volunteers and the following people received them:

The Don White Cup went to Verna Clifford for her achievement in winning her National Championship Class for riders with Total Visual Impairment for a second consecutive year and a third time in the last ten years.

The Stella Saywell Achievement Award to Sarah Taylor for exceptional physical and riding improvement during the last term of 2014

The Kerry Stoves Achievement Award to George Brindley for his effort and determination to improve his riding as well as being one of the few riders in the country to compete in the first ever RDA Show Jumping competition at the National Championships and gaining an excellent 2nd place in Level 2.

The Avon Riding Centre Volunteer of the Year Award to Mair Davies for her longstanding dedication and support of the Centre as a volunteer in the arena

The Ken Canby Unsung Hero Award to Peta Battersby for her willingness to give a huge amount of extra time to assist with a wide range of fundraising events over and above her arena volunteering commitments.

The Nativity play's cast is made up of riders, volunteers and staff – all of whom are in beautiful costumes and the horses look stunning under the spotlights as the Christmas story is told, accompanied by carols.

There follows a visit from Father Christmas (arriving in a pony and trap) and finally the audience are served with mince pies and hot mulled punch that is very welcome on a cold winter's night!

A huge thank you is due to everyone involved, both within and outside the Centre, in making our Nativity & Carol Service such a memorable, special evening at the start of Christmas festivities.



Future Events

Moorland Multi-Terrain 10K Community Challenge Race

On Sunday 25th January 2015, at 11 am Avon Riding Centre in association with Town and Country Harriers are organising our annual 10km (approx.) multi-terrain race. The multi-terrain challenge follows tracks through a variety of surroundings including fields, woodland and a reedy nature reserve with 75 metres of hill climb in total. There will also be a children's race for runners between the ages of 8 to 15 years.

All proceeds from this race will be donated to Avon Riding Centre.

More details of the race and an entry form can be found on our website. Alternatively, you can register online at <http://www.tach.org.uk/races.php>.

Volunteers Needed!

We will still need people to help in the arena selling refreshments and serving water etc. Extra marshals would also be welcome! If you can help, please email Yvette Whiffen on admin@avonridingcentre.org.uk or call us on 0117 959 0266.

Riders

Endeavour & Proficiency Awards

Endeavour awards and proficiency tests (riding and horse care) are an important part of the RDA's education programme. They give riders a chance to measure and improve their riding skills and knowledge and once successful they are awarded a certificate and badge.

The following rider has been awarded Endeavour Awards since last term – Nathaniel Johnson

Proficiency tests cover a predetermined syllabus and standard (set by RDA UK) and include both riding skills and knowledge of horse care. The riding and horse care tests may be done at the same time or separately, depending on the individual. At Avon we focus on Grades 1, 2 and 3, but riders can continue to take Grade 4, Bronze, Silver or Gold, although these higher tests must be taken at an exam centre.

The following riders have passed their tests since last term as shown. Well done to each one of them and good luck for the next grade.

Grade 1

Darren Brown – Riding and horse knowledge
Maria Brennan – Riding and horse knowledge
Mike Clark – Riding and horse knowledge
Leo Dymond Meakin – Horse knowledge
Cory Grinter – Horse knowledge
Alison Kerridge – Riding and horse knowledge
William Saville – Horse knowledge

Grade 2

Laura Colman – Riding
Emil Pawlak – Riding



RDA Dressage Competition – Friday 20th February 2015

On Friday 20th February 2015 we will be holding an RDA Dressage competition which will consist of the following classes:

- Class 1** IPEC Test 6a (2002) walk only, led only
- Class 2** IPEC Grade 1 Test 2 (2002) – walk only, unled
- Class 3** RDA 1b Intro (2012) – walk & trot, unled
- Class 4** ARC Test 3 (2014) – walk & trot, unled
- Class 5** British Dressage Prelim 4 – walk, trot & canter

The competition is open to riders at all levels and anyone that would like to take part should speak to their Instructor to find out which Class would suit them best.

Private lessons are also available in Half Term on Tuesday morning and afternoon and Wednesday morning.

Notice to Non-Disabled Saturday Riders

Please be aware that there will be no lessons on Saturday 21st February 2015. These lessons will be moved to Monday 16th February 2015 at the same time. If this is not convenient, please contact Claire on Reception who will book a replacement hack for you or arrange for a deduction from your invoice.

Dates for Your Diary!

Unaffiliated Show jumping dates

Sunday 15th February 2015

Sunday 15th March 2015

Sunday 19th April 2015

Winter Dressage Series

Sunday 1st February 2015

Sunday 1st March 1st 2015

Sunday 12th April 2015



Volunteers

Clive Milkins Lecture

On the morning of Monday 12th January the Centre's RDA Instructors, plus some of our very experienced arena volunteers, were extremely fortunate to be present at a morning lecture on Motivation – The Key to Success by the multi Paralympic Gold Medal winning trainer, Clive Milkins. He has recently taken up a management post in Hong Kong and was only back in this country for a short time over the Christmas period with his parents Ted and Margaret, whom many of you will know.

The presentation was extremely interesting and thought provoking for us all in encouraging us to examine what motivates us in our coaching and volunteering at the Centre as well as including many anecdotes illustrating Clive's own motivation in training Sophie Christiansen to achieve such great, consistent success in European, World and Paralympic competitions over the past fifteen years.

I think we all left the Lecture Room having been inspired to aim to offer our riders as much opportunity as possible to develop their skills and gain the most benefit at all levels.

Volunteer Awards

Our volunteers are hugely valued at Avon Riding Centre and to show our appreciation we regularly celebrate their commitment by presenting them with long service awards. Last term awards were presented to the following volunteers.

1 Year Awards

- Christine Chubb
- Poppy Collins
- Claire Crumb
- Pat George
- Liz Hall
- Sinead Hassett
- Kate Lingwood -White
- Iren Tyler
- Colin Watts
- Polly Weston
- Allison Wood
- Gillian Bristol
- Susan Ford
- Jenny Phelps
- Jodie Pritchard

5 Year Awards

- Gina Tattersell
- Sarah Fitzgerald
- Natasha Lancaster

10 Year Awards

- Joan Harper

Mid-Winter Quiz

A big thank you to Angela Blott for organising the annual Mid-Winter Quiz on Friday 16th January 2015. Angela raised £445.00 for the Centre, not bad for an evening at the Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall!

Thank you also to all of you who attended the quiz in support of Angela and the Centre.