



Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the disabled

Update on Raise the Roof project - 10/08/2021

On a very wet and windy day yesterday, our little charity took a monumental step towards our future, we broke ground to begin the first stages of our build.

Over the next eight weeks, the excavations, foundations and structure will be undertaken, ahead of the roof being added.

From here we will install the specialist arena surface, followed

by the safety kickboards around the edge. At the same time the block that holds the classroom, viewing area, tack room, toilets and storage area's will be built, followed by their fit out.

We now have seven equines, all are fully integrated in life at Badger's Farm, they are exercised daily and are undertaking various training exercises so they remain passive to a variety of riders, noises and sudden movement. The range of ponies and horses we now have, means we will only need two further equines before we are able to restart the previous lesson timetable we had in place, pre pandemic, so we are on the look out for the next two to add to our head so we are ready for when the centre is usable.

As we undertake our final push to raise the last bits of funds needed for the project, we are reaching out to our local community, via a crowdfunding campaign, which is being supported by local TV, Radio, newspapers, local magazines and parish newsletters. Beyond this we have volunteers attending a number of local events over the next few months, both for fundraising and awareness building.

Our 'front man' Lance, has been riding with us for a number of years, with help from his Mum, he has written a letter in support of our campaign, this has been printed onto leaflets for us to use at events, door drop in our local area and several local business has agreed to have them at till point. We have added Lance's letter to the next page of this report. It was fantastic to have Lance with us yesterday when we broke ground, we had a hard hat for him with his name on which made his day, he also got to have an impromptu ride around the yard which he was over the moon about.

We have installed a time lapse camera for the duration of the build, we look forward to sending some footage with some of our updates, as we hit key milestones in the build.

In the meantime, once again, a huge thank you for your support of our project, we are so grateful that you have been a part of helping us build a safe and secure future for our charity and our riders.

With warmest wishes, The Trustees.



My name is Lance, I am 9 years old, and I have Down syndrome.

I want to tell you about my most favourite thing ever, horse riding!

Mummy took me to our local Riding for the Disabled centre when I was three years old, after my physiotherapist mentioned to her that it would be good for my core strength. Everyone thought it would take me a while to get used to the ponies but we made friends as soon as I met them. I was smitten! Riding days were Thursdays. It was my favourite day of the week because me and my best friend Ella got to take a field trip from school and go riding.

I am very sad at the moment, I haven't been allowed to ride since the beginning of last year, and Mummy can't tell me when I can go back. The pandemic meant the RDA had to close, because the volunteers need to help riders like me, get on and off the ponies, and walk alongside us in case we wobble a bit.

Mummy says the RDA lost their home, this made me even sadder, and that is why I have written this letter.

Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead RDA need your help. They have raised funds to start building a new, fully accessible riding centre at Badgers Farm in Effingham, but they need a bit more money to add the roof, so Ella, myself and all the other riders can start to ride again.

Mummy says that there are lots of children, just like me, on something called a waiting list, who haven't ever had the chance to ride with the RDA yet. With the new centre, extra ponies and more volunteers, up to 180 children like me can ride, how amazing is that!

I really miss seeing the ponies, and getting to ride, if you are able to support the charity by making a donation to their 'Raise the Roof' campaign please visit the website for more information.

www.horsleyandbookhamrda.co.uk

lots of love

Lance (and Ella too!)

