



EPSOM RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

Adopt a Pony

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017 18

Welcome to the annual newsletter from Epsom RDA Adopt a Pony. It has been yet another busy year so much so we are a little late in getting this Newsletter out to you this year.

Planning for the Future

Our **227 volunteers** and our **herd of ponies** gave **330 disabled riders** the chance to ride with us during 2016/17. Even with this impressive numbers we still have a long waiting list of disabled adults and children who want to ride with us. To be able to give these people the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful benefits riding can bring we have exciting plans to expand our facilities including building a new indoor school.

To find out more about our plans visit our website www.epsomrda.org.uk

Herd News

We have seen a year of change in the herd with some new additions.

Briony and **Nala** have both joined us earlier in the year quickly settling into their work. They are both stunning looking Cramellio's with cream coats and pink skins. They are so similar in looks that it has been known for a case of mistaken identity when bringing the ponies in from the field!

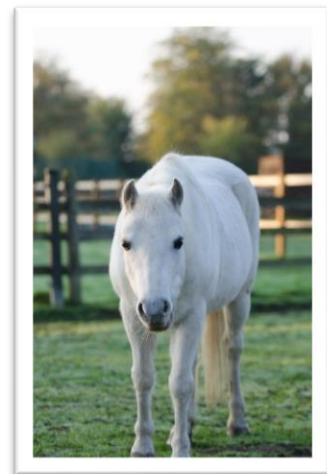
Later in the year we added a further two ponies in **Giles** and **Ria**. They both came to us a result of the closure of long established

riding school, The Ridgeway, in Wimbledon. Both Giles and Ria have worked hard as riding school ponies, so we are giving them an opportunity to have some rest and relaxation before we introduce them to their new careers as RDA ponies.

Look out for Briony, Nala, Giles and Ria joining the Adopt a Pony team in the year ahead.

Last year we reported on the retirement of **Marigold**. A little prematurely as it happened! We are delighted that after long period of rest Marigold has come out of retirement and returned to her RDA duties. She is thoroughly enjoying being back helping her riders.

A newbie last year was **Polly**. Our smallest pony in the herd at 11.2h she has taken to RDA work very well. She is a pretty pony who looks after our youngest riders.



Polly is noted for her patience and her calm nature. Polly has been added to Adopt a Pony team. More details about Polly are on our



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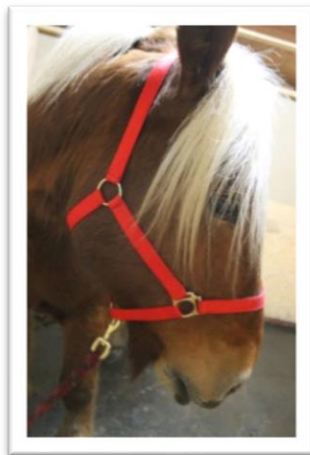
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Adopt a Pony Page on our website

www.epsomrda.org/adoptapony

Another newbie in 2017 was **Archie**. Although Archie had a successful first year with us going to the RDA Regional and National Championships it became clear that he preferred being looked after by one person so we have decided to find a new owner for him. He will be going to a 5* home with someone who can give him the one to one attention he thrives on and the opportunity to go out and experience a variety of horsey activities.

Romeo, the second Comtois, in our herd is now established as a member of the equine team. He is a vocal pony who calls out to his friends when we take them out on a hack in the local country park.



In 2017 Romeo travelled to Hickstead in Sussex and Hartpury in Gloucestershire to take part in the RDA Regional and National Championships.

Our stalwart ponies **Buffy, Milton, Moss, Sinatra and Thor** continue to give great service to their riders. The younger pony team members of **Alicia, Dazz, Shona and Sultan** are now established as firm favourites with their riders and volunteers. All four benefit from being members of the Pony Schooling team which helps them keep fit and supple.

Brush off the Stetsons!

Our big event for 2018 is a Barn Dance on Friday 8 September being held in partnership with **Sutton & Epsom RFC**. Keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page @epsomrda for **ticket details**.

Other Ways To Support Epsom RDA

There are a number of other ways that you can continue to support Epsom RDA

- Make an on-line donation at www.justgiving.com/epsomrda
- Send a Text Donation up to £10 to 70070 followed by our unique code ERDA19
- Go Shopping: www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- Go Searching: www.easysearch.org.uk
- Become a volunteer – email us at epsomrdavolunteering@gmail.com for details

*Thank you for your support from all the
riders, volunteers and ponies at Epsom
RDA*