



**IMPROVING LIVES**

## **CRANLEIGH RDA GROUP NEWSLETTER**

Charity No 1125242

2009/2010

Casi's Farm, Rowly Drive, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8PL

### **Sponsored Ride 2009**



*Ready for the off:- Rafferty, Perdigau & Badger with their riders Sarah Ginsberg, Hilary Jubert & Sarah Sjoholm*

Our three youngest ponies, Perdigau, Badger, and Rafferty, took part in the Cranleigh RDA 11 mile Sponsored Ride over Blackheath, Farley Heath and Winterfold. This is one of our major annual fund raising events held on Good Friday each year. The ponies, ridden by Cranleigh RDA volunteers, all successfully completed the ride and raised £1,000 in sponsorship money thanks to the support of many of our friends and local schools and businesses. In total the event brought us £5,000, a wonderful result, with over 100 riders taking part coming from a wide area around Cranleigh.

This year's Ride will take place on Good Friday 2 April. To enter, please contact Angie Hargreaves, 01483 563495 or email [angie.hargreaves.1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angie.hargreaves.1@hotmail.co.uk).

### **SAVI rides with Cranleigh**

**RDA** In 2009 three Saturday riding sessions were arranged for partially sighted children, through cooperation with the Surrey Association for Visual Impairment (SAVI). Most of the children had no previous riding experience. As well as all the usual benefits of riding, the fact that the horses offer lots of sensory experiences – touch, smell, sound – makes them of particular value to those with partial sight. We hope to continue our association with SAVI in 2010



### **Days Out - Fun Day and Dressage at Hickstead**



Once again riders from Cranleigh RDA went along to these Regional events .Eight riders and four ponies took part in Fun Day at East Grinstead (see left) in early May where fun and rosettes were flying everywhere and on a lovely sunny day too.

In June an eight strong team of smartly turned out competitors, both adults and children, represented us after weeks of preparation and practise for their various tests. For our riders, just as any other, the challenge is to master nerves and be able to perform in front of outsiders and a judge. The eight riders, together with their instructors and helpers, are pictured (right) triumphant after their considerable success - five firsts, two seconds and a fourth!



## The World's Biggest Riding Lesson

In 2009 RDA National reached its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to mark the start of a year of celebrations the World's Biggest Riding Lesson was held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Riding centres worldwide gave the same riding lesson to as many people as possible on the same day and over 5,000 people were riding in support of RDA on that day. Cranleigh group gave the day a party atmosphere and riders from Jigsaw School, St Dominic's School, Lockwood Centre and Gosden House School took part, a total of 45. Some riders were treated to the extra excitement of receiving rosettes from Pippa Funnell, local equestrian celebrity, who kindly came along to support the event. Pippa's warm, friendly interest and involvement made her an outstanding hit with riders and volunteers alike.



## AGM October 2009

The Barnes Shield for the most improved ride this year went to the Monday Evening Ride in recognition of their work on the ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) project. Two of the six riders, Olivia-Mai Cameron and Evie Reddick are pictured here with their instructor, Pauline Lane and the group Chairman, Liz Harrison. The Shirley Gates Award for the Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Hilary Jubert for her exceptional contribution to the group, including her outstanding and devoted work preparing Perdigau, our Camargue horse, for RDA work. After the meeting Sue Gardner, equine behaviourist and Cranleigh RDA volunteer, gave a fascinating demonstration of some horse handling techniques.



**Our new Stable Manager**, Maria Collyer (pictured here with Perdigau and Rafferty) joined us in January 2009 and her high standards ensure that the ponies and everything at Casis's Farm are well kept and in splendid good order.

Facts and Figures: The 2009 Census showed over 190 riders rode with Cranleigh RDA in the last year with the help of over 100 volunteers.

### Looking Ahead – Fund Raising in 2010

Join our Jordan Trek challenge from the Dead Sea across the desert to the ancient wonder of Petra, 16-23 October 2010. Raise money for RDA and have a life changing experience. Email PaulineLane@msn.com for details

Members of the Guildford County Club are to hold a Charity Golf Day on Tuesday 5 October in aid of Cranleigh RDA. Please buy your raffle tickets from April onwards and support us!



## New Volunteer Training Programme

New volunteers joining Cranleigh RDA are now invited to attend a Training Day to give grounding in leading and side walker techniques, providing more knowledge and confidence for working in our sessions. The first Training Day was held in October 2009. In future a course will be held each term

## Thank you to our Supporters

Gemma Hunt, physiotherapist and Cranleigh RDA volunteer, ran the Sussex Beacon half marathon in February and raised £700 for Cranleigh RDA.

Sue Hall and her lady golfers at West Surrey Golf Club in Milford raised the magnificent sum of £4,324.30 over a year of fund raising for Cranleigh RDA.

Sharon Barratt, whose son Justin is a Saturday morning rider, encouraged fellow parents at Longacre School in Shamley Green, to donate the proceeds of their July Summer Party to Cranleigh RDA, a wonderful £2,000!

Grateful thanks to the Community Pay Back teams from the Surrey Probation Service who have given us hours of input over the summer and autumn.

Claire Jordan walked 5 miles to claim her personal sponsorship of £160 and won the prize for raising the largest sum for the Sponsored Walk. £500 was raised in total.

Genitrix Animal Health Ltd of Billingshurst celebrated their 10th Anniversary with an away day with a difference - painting field shelters for us!

Thanks to the many others who have donated their time or money in the past year and have helped us to continue providing our service. Our grateful thanks also to the many professionals who advise and support us throughout the year.