

The Group has had a far more normal year with our 10 rides full and running well. We still operate with Covid protocols of sanitiser on the gate for everyone arriving at the stables. All the riders are thoroughly enjoying the experience of learning to ride, and we have many of the Islands primary schools wishing to ride with us so we are continuously looking at how we can fit them all in.

We have several changes to our committee. Our Hon. Sec, Louise Ferns, is retiring from Committee this year, and so too are Helen Dorey and Lorraine Morvan. Our thanks to them for all their time and support given freely during the last year. We are very happy to welcome Charlotte Renouf who will be our new Hon. Sec, Vix Millar and Paula Wilkinson who have kindly filled the resultant vacancies on our Committee.

We welcomed Mark Cunliffe and Becky Monk back this year for all our Coach assessments. It was an extremely busy week as all the Coaches needed assessing as Covid had prohibited an earlier visit. Everyone passed with flying colours and we were able to have practical and theoretical training sessions while they were here.

We were able to hold our fundraising bridge tea in February. It was wonderful to have the parish hall full of happy bridge players and we raised £2,112 which will help us with the hiring costs of the ponies. RDA Jersey does not charge for their sessions and we would like to continue this model for as long as possible.

Last year we reported that a group of children would be going to the Calvert Trust in Exmoor. The group travelled in July and by all accounts had the time of their lives! We would like to thank the sponsors again for their generosity in supporting this trip and hope to send another group soon.

For the first time, RDA Jersey Group had a dressage rider competing at the Riding for the Disabled UK National Championship Qualifiers in Cornwall. Ryan Le Monnier has been volunteering for RDA since 2016 and he won his Grade 7 walk and trot test to qualify for the UK National Championships at Hartpury. Unfortunately, the National Championships were cancelled due to very hot weather, but Ryan completed his test online which he also won. This qualified him for the British Summer Para Dressage Festival to compete in the RDA class where he rode and scored well. We congratulate Ryan for such a successful summer and he is looking forward to competing in many more competitions.

The Group has a number of new primary schools joining our RDA family this coming year proving that RDA is such an important charity for those with learning and physical difficulties. Ponies and horses really do help adults and children if they have muscle weaknesses, lack of confidence, delayed speech, and communication issues and we witness such benefits every year.

Lucy and I thank all our coaches, volunteers and supporters for remaining with us and helping us deliver such worthwhile therapy to all our riders.

Cathy Fricker and Lucy Johnson  
December 2022