



## **RDA JERSEY CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020**

This has been a very strange year for all Riding for the Disabled Groups due to Covid 19. It arrived in March and we had to stop riding due to the Island-wide lockdown. From September 2019 to just before the lockdown, we continued to provide 11 rides each week, during the term, which were run very successfully at Le Claire Stables. This is about the maximum we can offer and we now have a waiting list of riders. Whilst this is encouraging and demonstrated the benefits and success of RDA in Jersey, it is very frustrating that rather than look to expand, we have had to stop rides.

The Jersey Group were one of the first RDA groups to start riding again towards the end of June when, having completed all our risk assessments and with guidance from the States of Jersey and RDA National, we were signed off to ride 2 independent riders. These riders were so excited to be back riding and we were so pleased to see their happy faces. Since the beginning of the school year, we are back to very small groups again with States of Jersey approval and operating under strict Covid procedures. Both the children and adults have so enjoyed being back but it is very sad that we are only able to help a small number of our regular riders at the present time.

All our Coaches and Volunteers have been given additional training to assist our riders while the Coronavirus is still in the Island and the Committee would like to thank them for their understanding as we manage the situation under these restrictions.

Many thanks must be given to long standing Committee member and Joint Group Organiser Rachel Andrews, who retired from Committee responsibilities but who is still thankfully a very active Coach on Wednesday and Friday. Thank you to Lucy Johnson who has become Joint Group Organiser.

RDA Jersey's application to be added to the new Register of Jersey Charities was approved in December 2019 and our Registered Charity Number is 296.

The annual RDA Bridge Tea afternoon was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February at Trinity Parish Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped at a very successful event which raised a healthy amount. We do hope that we will be able to hold next year's bridge afternoon, but at the time of writing it looks unlikely.

Like many charities in the Island, our fundraising activities have been curtailed but we have been fortunate to have received donations throughout the year and would like to thank those who have supported us. We do not charge for our rides and do not wish to change this, so greatly appreciate all who support us.

We do hope life can return to normal very soon and we can get all our riders back at Le Claire, but we are very fortunate to be in a position to at least hold some of our rides and hear cheerful voices and see smiling faces. Hopefully it will not be too long before we get back to "normal" – or a "new normal".

**Cathy Fricker and Lucy Johnson – September 2020**