

October 2023 newsletter

It's been a year of change for West Cumbria RDA. The lovely ponies at Watch Hill had reached an age where health problems were becoming significant and so they retired in Summer 2023. Ted, Tigger, Bikkie, Jolanda and Max provided a safe and enjoyable riding experience for many young RDA riders over the past few years and we shall miss them.

Our group coach Caroline moved South in December last year, leaving Linda as the only instructor. At one point we thought we would have to close down the group but luckily two of our volunteers have started their coach training and Linda has kindly agreed to stay on till one of them is qualified to teach on their own. Thanks Linda, Amanda and Sharon!

Thelma and Fran have retired from the Chair and Treasurer roles after many years of dedicated service but will continue as trustees. Deb has taken on the role of Acting Chair and Jim is now Treasurer. Iris has kindly taken on the role of Minutes Secretary, so it's all change. Many thanks to all our trustees. Without you all the West Cumbria group could not continue operating.

We've been fortunate at Whitehaven, finding new ponies that we can use. Many thanks to Gillian and to all the owners who let us borrow their lovely ponies. A big thank you also to Millcroft Vets who not only give us a substantial discount on vet checks but also lend us Jasper the miniature pony to attract the crowds at fundraising events.

Finally, many thanks to our volunteers, schools, and visitors to our fundraising events. We appreciate your support, especially during this year of challenges, and look forward to another successful year for our group.