



October 2018

Issue 3

Welcome to the 3rd Pegasus RDA Newsletter. So far, 2018 has seen lots of positive changes for the group!

Move to North Cheshire

In April, we moved to North Cheshire Equestrian Centre in Carrington. We had a fantastic first year at Bank Farm but needed capacity to grow and improve our facilities.

We are sure you will agree that the move has been a huge success, in spite of the early morning starts! We have access to a range of super ponies, an indoor viewing area and a café. We have also introduced an additional session every other week, meaning that even more riders can benefit.

We are currently working on improving disabled access to the gallery area and toilet. Building work is starting soon. We have also purchased a new metal shed for storing our equipment.

Fundraising and Grants

We were delighted to hear that we had been successful in securing 3 years funding from Children in Need to fully subsidise our riding lessons. A huge thank you goes out to Helen for all the hard work that went into preparing the bid, even conducting an interview while in hospital!



Pegasus relies solely on grants and fundraising to keep running and we would like to extend our thanks to a number of organisations who have supported us this year.

We were overwhelmed to receive a donation of £500 collected by the Bramhall Methodist Thrift Shop.

We have been awarded a grant of £250 from the Ford Britain Trust to purchase our new shed.

We received a donation of £250 from RSM, which we will put towards some Christmas fun and treats.

Coach Klaudia held a cake sale at her company, Solutions PT. The sale raised over £200 for our group so a big thank you goes to everyone who contributed by baking, buying and eating cakes!

We always welcome fundraising ideas so if you would like to get involved, please speak to a member of the trustee team.

Volunteers

We simply could not operate without our fabulous team of volunteers. The first week in June is National Volunteers Week, so what better time to acknowledge the hard work and commitment demonstrated by all our volunteers? Our volunteers each received a certificate and a small gift to say thank you – we really do appreciate all your help!

As we are growing, we would like to recruit some new volunteers to be part of the team. If you know anybody who might like to join us, please do spread the word!

RDA Volunteer of the Year – Helen Bacon



On the back of last year's success, with our volunteers winning both regional and national awards, this year we are so proud that our Trustee and Coach, Helen, has won the RDA National Volunteer of the Year Award! Helen was presented her award by Clare Balding at the RDA Gala Awards Dinner. This award was presented in recognition of the exceptional contribution that Helen makes to Pegasus RDA.

Helen is a huge driving force behind our group, working constantly, both in our sessions and behind the scenes to ensure that Pegasus continues to run smoothly. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and her energy and determination put most people to shame. We could not think of a more worthy recipient of this award – congratulations Helen and thank you for everything you do!

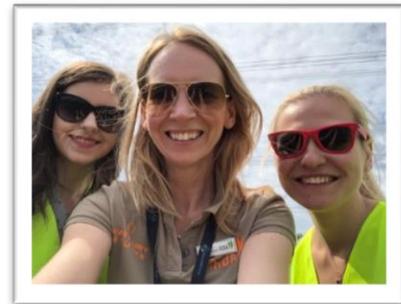


Events and Activities

We have been able to represent Pegasus at several events this year. In April, two riders from our group, Matthew and Fiona, attended the RDA riding holiday at Clwyd. Matt and Fiona spent three days riding, expanding on their horse care knowledge and even trying out the mechanical horse!



Unfortunately, we were not able to take any riders to the North West Regional Show this year. However, our coaches were there acting as judges in the Countryside Challenge.



In July, coaches Gill and Megan and rider Matt and his family attended the RDA Participants Event at HAPPA. The day was great fun and included talks and demonstrations and a tour of the facility.

We have also been busy providing new challenges and opportunities for our riders and volunteers. Over the summer, Regional Coach Kate Bailey visited us to deliver showjumping training and we are now a Grade 1 & 2 Showjumping Group. We have been working with the RDA Physiotherapists to ensure our riders are getting the maximum therapeutic benefit. We also hosted a regional Safeguarding Training event, which was very well attended with volunteers from RDA Groups all across the Region.