



# **HERON'S GHYLL NEWSLETTER**

## **MARCH 2021**

Hello and welcome everyone to our latest newsletter. We do hope that you are all keeping safe and well after what seems like an eternity away from our previous normal lives. There are one or two items in this newsletter which might give you hope that we are getting a step closer to being able to meet up again and resume carriage driving, perhaps not initially as before, but slowly resuming our meetings at Burchetts and hopefully by the summer we shall be able to take part in some of our planned fun events. We are certainly looking forward to seeing everyone again and I for one can't wait to give our horses and ponies lots of strokes and pats!

## **Bluebell Walk**

This is beginning to look more hopeful as Pat's recent email has outlined, but unfortunately since then, and almost on a weekly basis, rules and instructions are changing. Although we have decided to support John McCutchan with his plans for this event which he hopes to open from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May, we cannot be certain that it will definitely be going ahead. The dates that we hoped to have for volunteering had not been confirmed and unfortunately were not available, but we have now been allocated Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. In the hope that this will go ahead, Jo will need 5 or 6 volunteers to help per session and will set up a rota closer to the date. Due to the many Covid restrictions, we are unable to offer food and drink this year but visitors will be allowed to bring picnics and entries will be pre-booked so one of our tasks will be to check visitors in as they arrive.

Many apologies for the vagueness and confusion about arrangements for this event and for our possible involvement, but it seems to be the way we have to live at the moment until things finally get back to normal. We will keep you up to date with details as and when we are informed.

Do let us know if you think you might be able to help on either day, but there is no pressure to do so if you are at all unsure of any possible risks. The whole event will obviously be dependent on whatever government restrictions there are at the time.

## Planned Return to Driving

This will be a gradual process and, as mentioned, will be dependent on any restrictions recommended by the Government and RDA.

We hope that from the end of March and through April, Buttons, Diesel, Dexter and Nutmeg will meet at Susanne's to re-introduce them back to the carriages and driving. For two or three weeks in May we hope to start training for volunteers at Burchetts and ponies will be allocated to drivers and helpers.

From 20<sup>th</sup> May we hope to be able to return to driving but this will be with a reduced number of drivers at each session to allow for the cleaning and wiping down of the carriages, equipment etc. Before this, all volunteers should have a full understanding of the RDA protocols which will become available and all drivers will be made aware of the risks of returning.

# Our Horses and Ponies



## Bertie

Christina met Anthea out with Bertie recently and says both are in fine fettle. Bertie has been clipped and looks incredibly white considering the mud we have had to deal with and he was obviously enjoying his drive. Both Anthea and Bertie are looking forward to coming back to the RDA when we start.

## Charlie

Here's a 'before and after' of Charlie which shows how woolly he was before he was clipped!



# Funny Photo Caption



There were eleven suggestions for a caption to this photo and the committee decided that Liz Baverstock's suggestion was the winner –

“Is this what I have to wear in public – a face covering?”  
Kathrine has sent her a small box of chocolates as a prize.



This is our photo for this month which is very funny so we're hoping for some good suggestions for a caption.

Send your suggestions to Kathrine at [Kathrinelynn@quarry-house.co.uk](mailto:Kathrinelynn@quarry-house.co.uk) or to me at [rosimummery@gmail.com](mailto:rosimummery@gmail.com)



One of Kathrine's uncles, long dead before her time, used to drive a local pony and milk cart – not as big as this one. Apparently the pony knew the rounds and exactly where to stop for deliveries. It may be a tale but she was told that the pony used to stop by the local pub as a matter of course! and not just for delivering the milk!

If anyone has any old photos of horses and carriages which might be of interest, I welcome any ideas for contributions to the next and future Newsletters; please let me know, either by email – [rosimummery@gmail.com](mailto:rosimummery@gmail.com) or a phone call.

Please keep collecting milk bottle tops and stamps as before, hopefully in a few months' time we shall be meeting up again.

Best wishes

Rosi