

HERON'S GHYLL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2024

Happy New Year!

Not much sign of snow or icicles for us yet but better not speak too soon. We welcome our new chairman Jan Curd at the beginning of 2024 and below is her message to us all:



Hello everybody,

Firstly a very Happy New Year to you all and here's fingers crossed that 2024 brings us productive and importantly, enjoyable driving days – weather permitting, of course.

Also a thank you to all those who came to the AGM and have given me the opportunity to be Chair of the group.

Sue Fragniere had decided last year, to stand down as chair but luckily stayed on for 2023 which gave me the opportunity to serve on the committee and establish, what I hope, is a useful place among you and support her transition towards retirement. I feel sure I've benefited from her gentle manner and sympathetic approach and hope to consolidate on her achievements, such as getting the clubhouse up and running, amongst others.

My background as far as carriage driving is concerned comes from the many years helping my mother support my father, Gordon, who took to driving horses after suffering from a massive stroke. He absolutely loved the group and joining in with all the activities. I have ridden since I was 7, although after leaving home at 16, not so much – I like to think it might be like riding a bike should I ever be tempted at my vast age! I spent several hours having lessons with Caroline Douglas, a well respected horse driver, competitor & judge. Friends in Cambridge had a pair of large Shetlands which I drove both as a pair and singly around the estate of a National Trust property they managed.

Contd. over



After my mother passed away, I took over terrying father around competitions as well as enjoying some pleasure driving around the lanes of Waldron on borrowed ponies and horses. Through my father, I became friends with Hilary Hill and this led on to my being her groom in the last few years of her competing days when we travelled to various Indoor and Outdoor competitions and I was occasionally given the opportunity to drive her beloved Annie.

Horses have always been part of my life, starting with my grandfather who served in the Household Cavalry during WW1 followed by several years as one of the last mounted policemen in Hastings. My father also wanted to be a mounted policeman but unfortunately contracted jaundice and was refused entry, but he maintained a lifetime's enthusiasm for all things equine and passed this on to me. We would often spend afternoons watching the racing or show jumping on the tellybox and liked nothing better than attending agricultural shows to see the heavy horses in action.

Now as my years start to catch up healthwise, I can luckily spend some time around horses without worrying if I'm going to break something by falling off when riding or falling out when driving!

Happy driving/volunteering.

Jan (Curd)

RECENT EVENTS

Our **Annual General Meeting** and presentation of **Annual Awards** took place on 23rd November last year and was well attended by our drivers, coaches and volunteers.



RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2023 ANNUAL AWARDS



All awards
listed over...



AGM 2023 ANNUAL AWARDS

Newcomers cup	Peter Fitzherbert
Achievement Shield	Gregor Brown
Instructors Cup	Michael O'Doherty
Endeavour Cup	Tim Finch
Special Endeavour Cup	Mike Stephens
Disabled Drivers Choice Cup	John Tarry
Helper's Cup (Chosen by committee)	Brian Wilson
Charlie Cup	Shelley Redshaw
Cones Class 1	Mike Stephens/ Shelley Redshaw
Cones Class 2	Peter Fitzherbert
Gordon Trophy Outstanding Achievement Award	Sarah Baverstock
Gordon Plaque Trophy Endurance Award	Lorraine Mercer
Silver Cup Consistent Achievement Cup	Ian Keating
Glass Dish Trophy Above and beyond Award	Karen Tritton

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

7th December at Wellshurst Golf Club

Many thanks to Jo and Jan for organising our Christmas Lunch which was a great success and enjoyed by all.



SPRING 2024 PROGRAMME

January 25 th	Helper's Lunch to be arranged.	
February 8 th or 15 th	Disabled Drivers Meeting and lunch to be arranged.	
February 23 rd (Friday)	Fundraising Quiz in East Hoathly Village Hall t.b.c	7.00pm
March 14 th	Coaches' Training Day at Golden Cross Equestrian Centre.	10.30am
March 21 st	Helpers' and Coaches' Training Day at Golden Cross Equestrian Centre.	10.30am
March 28 th	First Drive at Burchetts t.b.c	10.30am
April 4 th	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
April 11 th	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
April 18 th	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am

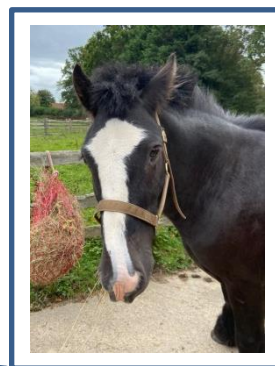
This is just a preliminary programme but we are hoping for a full programme of events this year and we will keep you updated as they are confirmed. Bluebell Walk dates not yet confirmed.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Several of our volunteers were presented with long service awards at the RDA South East Conference. These were the award winners for 2023:

- ❖ Shirley Price - 35 years
- ❖ Sue Page - 35 years
- ❖ Hilary Hill - 30 years
- ❖ Elizabeth Major - 30 years
- ❖ Anthea Shipley - 30 years
- ❖ Elizabeth Baverstock - 25 years

NEW PONY OLIVER



Happy New Year to all of you from me: **Oliver**

I was born sometime in 2015 and nobody knows who my parents were as my passport details were lost. My old family called me Arrow but now I'm called by my 1st name which is Oliver and I expect you'll all end up calling me Olly – I don't mind.

One day mum Sue came with a friend to see me in Lincolnshire and quick as a flash, I came to live with her and some other ponies down in Framfield.

I am well built and the girls tell me, I'm quite good looking, also the farrier says I'm one of the best (in the whole world) as I just stand still and let him do his thing with my feet, which are apparently very hard, so I'm not wearing any shoes at the moment.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in the Spring, but I'm not looking forward to all the exams I have to do first!

Here's a word from mum Sue: If anyone would like to come and see me (Olly) or back step (for which you'll need a hard hat) to give Sue a ring on 07341132189. Don't leave a message as mum Sue has fiddled about and done something to her phone message thingy.

Love from Oliver/Olly xx