



Heron's Ghyll Newsletter

Spring 2025

Welcome everyone to the spring newsletter and let's hope for some lovely warm spring weather to come. We have had one or two social events since the last newsletter, but some sad news as well. More details further on.

Here's the updated programme for the next few weeks. Fingers crossed that driving conditions at Burchetts will allow us to get going again.

March 27 th	First Drive at Burchetts t.b.c	10.30am
April 3 rd	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
April 10 th (Thurs)	Bluebell Walk	
April 11 th (Fri)	Bluebell Walk	
April 17 th (Maunday Thursday)	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
April 24 th	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
May 1 st	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
May 8 th	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
May 15 th	Pleasure Drive at Priory Court t.b.c.	
May 17 th	Quiz evening at East Hoathly village hall. Times to come	
May 22 nd	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
May 29 th	Driving at Burchetts	10.30am
June 5 th	Le Trec/Fun Day at Burchetts t.b.c.	



Recent Events



Disabled meeting and lunch Feb 2025

Karen gives us a report:

Sarah, Shelley, Lorraine, Jacky, Ian, Michael (and carers) and I met for coffee at the Green Man in Ringmer for our annual get together.

I took along lots of photos, some going back to the early years when the group started, we had lots of laughs seeing how young we looked.

We look forward to the beginning of the driving season, tuition classes, quizzes, and lots of social events.

Afterwards other members joined us for lunch, hearty meals and lots of chatter.

After 3 or 4 months since some of us met up it was a great start to the year.

Bring on the sunshine.



We were all sad to hear that Sarah's dearly loved pony Kelly, died in February and over the page is her dedication to Kelly...

Sarah and Kelly competing at Beesd, Netherlands in 2016





Valentines Day ❤️💔

The love of my life Kelly

Beautiful, loving, fiesty, clever, kind and polite pony
Kelly came from heaven and has returned to heaven. I
am in shock

The stories I could tell, but it would need a book.

She took me from a Novice to an international and then
two world championships even one abroad, such good
memories and friends along the way.

Hilary Hill and Anthea Shipley coming to try her out with
us, harness falling off!!! But she saw me sitting in my
wheelchair, and said, I am yours please buy me we will
have fun and of course we did.

To training at Stow on the wold with the Paras with first
class trainers Rachel Belleir-Wilson, Sara Howe and
Margaret Brookie, for organising the training.

Kelly did a year at Herons Ghyll RDA giving drivers a
enjoyable time, Percy called her an automatic pony.

Just like to thank all the people who helped me with my
wonderful pony Kelly, will never be forgotten.

RIP my loving pony Kelly, who always looked after me,
I will always miss you, giving me so much fun,
excitement, and the love you gave me ❤️💔😭



Forthcoming Events



Bluebells at Bates Green

Another year for the Bluebell Walk has come around with thanks to John McCutcheon for including our charity in it. It is earlier this year - the 10th and 11th April and we're not too sure the bluebells will be out but hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

We need help on the two days including some cakes & bakes. If you can help for volunteering please let Liz Major know and Jo Angear if you can make a cake/bake.

Karen will be doing her amazing tombola and will need prizes please.

Many thanks and look forward to seeing you there.

Jo Angear

A Message From Liz

Thank you so much to everyone who sent cards and came to John's funeral; it was very much appreciated by the whole family.

Other Recent Events

We recently had the very sad news that one of our longest Heron's Ghyll Members, Greg Cooper, had died. His funeral took place on 12th March at Wealden Crematorium and a number of us attended.

Karen and Moira, who both knew Greg well, were happy to share their memories of him. **Karen said....**

I got to know Greg when he invited me over to crafts fairs at his residential home in Seaford, I would catch the train to Seaford station and we always had a laugh when I arrived as on my way there I had to go up a steep hill and on the way back there was a pond at the bottom, risky when wet.

Greg moved to Holy Cross Priory near Heathfield and I could visit him on the bus, he would telephone to remind me it was the monthly craft fair, I would go along and we would have coffee and cake in the lounge, and sit in his room looking at his new photographs he had taken.

My last visit was with Sarah B and we have a lovely photo of us together.

see over.....



Greg with Sarah and Karen at Holy Cross Priory



Greg with Sue Page driving
Lottie



Moira said....

Gregory Cooper.

I first met Greg, or Gregory as I think that he preferred to be called, when he started Carriage Driving with the Herons Ghyll RDA group and was living near me in Seaford. He was such an enthusiastic driver and I was able to help by taking him to outside and weekend shows to compete. He was always smiling and happy just to be taking part, winning was a bonus and the display of just some of his Trophies at his Funeral showed how successful he had been. I shall always remember his wonderful smile and his great appreciation of all that was done to help him, he was an example to us all.

Thank you Gregory,

You are greatly missed.



Other Recent Events



Dexter and Diesel

Dexter and Diesel have now moved to Chiddingly and are happy in their new home, earning their keep and keeping fit in a riding school.

They are only eight minutes from Burchetts and enjoy turn out, the horse walker and field time.

Angela will be collecting them on a Thursday so they will still be coming to Burchetts for driving days and other planned events.

Training at Golden Cross

A successful training day for volunteers, was held at Golden Cross on Thursday 13th led by Hilary Hill, on harnessing and 'putting to' alongside Brian Wilson on safely loading a wheelchair. This yearly task, recommended by our association with the RDA, is a useful update on any new requirements and a reminder of the correct way demanded for Health and Safety.

What a joy to be introduced to four new potential volunteers who we hope will become welcome newbies and as three of them are experienced horse people, we can add to our regular team. **Jan (Chair)**



Heron's Ghyll Driving Group RDA
Registered charity 1073569

'Carriage Driving for People with a Disability'
www.heronsghyll-rda.co.uk

