



Charity No: 1074005

This Winter

'The Met Office' continues to predict a two in three chance of a colder-than-average winter for much of Europe. If this holds true, parts of the UK — especially southern regions — are expected to have temperatures below normal. There is also an indication for a drier-than-average winter over much of the UK. That's the good news!

The last eight winters have been relatively mild and perhaps have given the impression that these are 'normal'. The balance of probability is for a winter colder than those experienced since 1995/6. Sessions we have lost this term due to bad weather, at the last count, was about 80 individual driving slots and 50 riding slots, as well as about 4 vaulting sessions!!! There will be regional variations across the UK this coming winter. For example, historically, when southern and central England experience a harsh winter, it is quite common for parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland to be less cold. The other bit of good

The Perry Riding and Driving Group -Improving Lives

Winter Newsletter

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news being that other RDA groups may catch a break!

This raises some concern for the financial implications of this (despite being unable to work obviously they still require quality care & as a non-profit organisation, the winter will be harsh in another sense) and also of course for the therapy which we are able to offer to our clients. Often the benefits are accumulative and a break can return the individual to square one. Simply another instance to highlight the need for a covered schooling area and reassurance if any were required that we as a group are moving in the right direction!



Sponsorship Sought!

A perfect gift for the person who already has everything! Do you know of anyone who would be interested?

Berry Bay 15hand gelding cob x thoroughbred 19 years old (20 after Christmas) Has been with the group 9 years and was bought as a riding horse only. Within a year of arriving he had been broken to drive and has been helping us with our driving sessions ever since. He is brilliant with very nervous riders as he is very patient and kind. He has been to the National Championships every year since he has been with the group.

Ned Kelly Bay 16.1 hand gelding thoroughbred x clydesdale 9 years old. Has been with the group 2 1/2 years and was bought completely wild and unhandled as a 6 year old. He is our full time vaulting horse and is also used for riding sessions. He went to the National Championships Dressage last year.

Scrumpy Jack Black 15 hand gelding Irish cob 7 years old Has been with the group 6 months and has been passed to use for carriage driving. He is very useful for riding sessions because of his height and strength. He is very friendly and popular with the children because of his good nature.

Mr Jones Grey 13.2 hands gelding Welsh 5 years old Is a new member of the group. In training for driving and riding sessions. Very pretty. Seems to be settling in sensibly to the driving and is currently being ridden by more experienced children.

New Responsibilities for Committee Members

We have received new instructions from RDA National office regarding the responsibilities of Group Trustees. NO recommend that the Trustees of a Group take an active role in the day to day running of the Group since it is ultimately their responsibility that it be done correctly.

All members of the group are encouraged to share any ideas, please refer to list for contact;

Lizzie Lawrence	Chair person – Charity Commission Reports & Returns
Deb Daniel	Treasurer - Funding applications (with Jane)
Denny Johnson	Secretary – Newsletter – Census - Media
Joyce Elliott	Group fund raising and planning
Judi Fox	Volunteers forms, green cards, CRB checks when applicable
Margaret Green	Volunteers forms, Rotas and green cards, CRB when applicable
Claude Hart	Volunteer Bureau info & talks
Avril Pluck	Volunteer Training info, training & talks
Dulcie Raynor	Volunteers' forms, rotas and green cards, CRB
Sue Roberts	Horse vaccination dates



Peri's Progress

Peri was sent away to be broken to drive this summer. He has come back a reformed character and is doing really well in harness. He had his first public outing at Dobies Garden Centre where he was required to give Santa and a Fairy a lift round to the front door for the Grand Opening of Santa's Grotto. Sadly Peri wasn't invited to go through to the Grotto with them but he coped very well with all the kids outside the doors and the Beacon

Radio presenter willing them all on to cheer their loudest for Santa's arrival!

We do need a better set of miniature shetland harness and a vehicle for him. If anyone knows where we might find such things we'd be very grateful. We have had a quote of £750 for a hand made set of harness and £500 for a new set of American harness but we will have to wait a while before we can afford to spend that sort of money. Perhaps he could do his own fund raising event? *Any ideas gratefully received.*

Sponsorship Sought Cont.d

Goofy. Chestnut 13hands gelding Welsh 8 years old Has been with the group for 5 years. Nice natured and very pretty pony. Popular with the children because of his flaxen mane and tail. He didn't settle to driving but is very settled in the riding sessions now.

Dillon. Piebald 12.2hands gelding Welsh cross. 12 years old Has been used by the group by kind permission of his owner Angela Lewis for 2 years. Excellent pony to teach more able riders on as he will do everything they ask of him. He has a very good slow canter that is quite easy for children to sit on when they are first learning.

Micky Mouse. Liver Chestnut 12.2hands gelding Welsh. 24 years old. Has been used by the group since it began. Micky has been at Perry Cottage since he was a foal having been saved from the slaughter man at Beeston Horse Sales. He doesn't drive any more since he was lame 18 months ago but he is wonderful with nervous riders as he is so calm and sensible.

Peri. Chestnut 9 hands gelding Miniature Shetland 3 years old Has been with the group as our Mascot since a foal. He was recently broken to drive and is going very well. He will be a very good ambassador for the group and we hope to use him at fund raising events in the future.

Hello all,
I just want to tell you all what it is like working for the RDA. Not only is it great fun but its also very hard work. Since I started working at the Perry in June 2005, I have made loads of new friends and horses too. I have leant to understand how I can help children with disabilities. I found this hard at first but once I have to know some of the children I began to see how much they change when they are riding a horse. It is just as if the horse understands what its rider wants to do just by the slightest sound or smallest movement. They work together as one with a bond that no one can break. It makes me smile when I see that happy look in the children's face. People find it hard to understand that a child with disabilities can work with a horse to complete a task. Which means more to the child than a great big well done.

It takes a lot of courage to work with children who can be so hard to help, but it has great benefits to see the smiles on their faces. None of this

could be possible without the help of our helpers, volunteers and everyone else.

One of the best things I have done while working at the Perry was helping to break Peri the little Shetland to drive. With help from Holly Domer who was also on work, experience had more knowledge than I did. By working together, we long reined him and got him used to walking out in his harness. He then when off to be broken to drive properly and when he came back, we put him to his tiny vehicle and drove him round the field. The feeling that all our hard work had paid off at last it was fantastic. One last thing thank you to all our Saturday helpers, Kate, Sophie, Megan, the little ones and everyone else for cleaning all the tack every Saturday. Just to let everyone know that I managed to raise £170 from my Gold DOE Award Sponsored walk.

Well that is all for now we will keep you up to date.
By Julia Heath

Get Well Soon



We had an accident whilst driving the new horse Trevor. Sadly Pam Ward and Nick Foulkes Jones were injured and are still convalescing. They are both very philosophical about it and we hope they will be back driving with us in the New Year.



Thank You!

Thank you for all of your time and effort over the past year, it is much appreciated and of course essential for the Perry Group to exist.

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!

<p>CAPRICORN Ambitious Capricorn is an EARTH sign, worry-prone and steadfast. Come to Capricorn with your troubles, and be prepared for worried -- even meddling -- advice, but also a strong shoulder to lean on. Jenny Ekstein 18th January</p>		<p>PISCES Intuitive Pisces is a WATER sign, sensitive and adaptable. A chameleon, insecure Pisces can powerfully attain the attributes of any other sign -- all to help it fit in. Joyce Elliot 21st February Robin Pocock 13th March</p>
<p>AQUARIUS Revolutionary Aquarius is an AIR sign, idealistic and inventive. Aquarius often moodswings, optimistically reforming the social structure one minute, then despondent at the impossibility of perfect happiness the next. Jill Harrison 4th February</p>		<p>ARIES Independent Aries is a FIRE sign, impulsive and energetic. Rarely looking before it leaps, Aries sometimes has a problem completing tasks, too caught up in the allure of the Next Big Thing. Emma Rao 22nd March Didi Wilde 27th March</p>