

COVID-19 Update 14th September 2020

Digswell Place Group RDA Back to Riding Step 1 in place.

For info & updates visit www.digswellplacerda.org.uk

Email: info@digswellplacerda.org.uk

Dear all,

Hope this finds you and your families well following the summer break. In normal times we'd all be starting a new "school" year at Digswell Place, but of course these aren't normal times so a note to update on where we are at the moment.

In our July update we told you of our plans to restart riding at Digswell with a gradual return for a few independent riders requiring minimal volunteer support to maintain safety. I'm delighted that following sign off from RDA UK on 9/7/20 we reopened to 13 independent riders on 20th July. For the first time we stayed open during the summer holidays and our thanks go to the Yard team, coaches, volunteers, riders and ponies for making this happen. We know that sadly this still leaves many volunteers and riders not yet back with us but social distancing limits what we can do safely. However, in the RDA spirit of "*it's what you can do that counts*" we've begun looking at other ways to involve some more of our community safely & maybe differently. Your session coach or Sue J will be in touch in the coming weeks if this involves your session.

Having successfully overseen our reopening, Caroline McFarlane retired as Trustee and Chair of Management Committee for a well earned rest. Our thanks go to her for 7 years incredible service to DPGRDA, we are sorry to see her go but please rest assured that Sue Sian, the Management Committee and Trustees continue working to return us to a new normal. Whilst many charities are suffering in the current climate, it is comforting for us all to know that with prudent financial reserves, forward planning, budgeting & careful spending DPGRDA is still able to weather this storm, thanks to our generous supporters, some small grants and the work of the Management Committee & Trustees.

Looking forward we're forecasting continued lower rider income and the rule of 6 may compromise our plans for the Ball and Dogs & Daffs fundraisers in 2021 so we need to look at innovative ways to raise & secure funds. If you'd like to help with new ideas, admin or on one of our committees we'd love to hear from you via our email above.

As always many thanks to Sue J, Sian, the minders & the maintenance team for keeping the Yard running, our ponies fit & well and everything in such good shape. Remember you can still stay connected with lovely pictures from the Yard on our Facebook page, have you seen the cute new members of our pest control team?

We will keep you updated as we respond and adapt to our new & ever changing environment and meantime thank you again for your patience and support. Please feel to get in touch if you have any questions, comments or would like to help.

Kindest regards

Sue Clarke & the DPGRDA Trustees and Management Committee