

## WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK!!!!

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### Chairperson's Address:

"On behalf of the new HHRA Committee I'd like to extend a warm personal welcome to all new and returning members. We intend to continue the work of the previous committee to promote safer riding. We have already been working on your behalf by participating in the consultation event run by Surrey County Council regarding their cycling strategy and working with the BHS bridleways officer and the Headley Heath National Trust Wardens. Our first dressage series held at Saddlecombe Stud was very successful.

Thanks to Tracey and Liz for all their hard work and to all of you who attended and made the events such a success. Over the next newsletters we will be introducing your committee members to you but for now I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please let us know what you think of it to help inform future ones. I look forward to meeting many more of you at future events."

**Susan Holbrook**  
HHRA Chairperson

### ABOUT SUSAN

I work as a Local Government Officer and have done so for 38 years. It's a challenging role but one that I enjoy and I get to meet a variety of people and face a variety of challenges. I started riding as a small child and later taught at a riding school in Kingswood.

I finally got to have my own horses once I left school and started work, and since then have competed at dressage, eventing and hunter trials. I have been lucky to own several horses over the years, all with different characters and all who have lived to a good age. Currently, I have two horses, Acres Valentino (Tino), a 10 year old, and Silver Dollars (Silv) a 13 year old ex racehorse. They are kept at a small yard in Headley



*Susan, Tino and Silv*

I am pleased to be carrying on the good work of the previous committee and continuing to push for safety on the roads, and bridlepaths that are a joy to ride on. We have a lot of ideas going forward but also want to hear your views so please let us know what you want and we will do our best to accommodate.

# QUIZ NIGHT

Our quiz night was a smash hit success! We ended up having to turn teams away due to such high volumes of entries we could not fit any more people in the hall. A massive thank you to our fabulous Quiz Master and top joke teller David Figg and his assistant Claire. They did a grand job. Thanks also to Walton Fish and Chip shop for providing a fantastic fish and chip supper - how did they keep over 60 meals so hot? Lastly thanks to our Chair for organising the event. 12 teams took part, the competition was fierce but first past the post were "Five Acres" consisting of Janice & Alan, Lucy & Steve and Janet. Big well done!



## DRESSAGE



### Dressage Day at Saddlecombe Stud 23rd February

Our final dressage of the winter series was at Saddlecombe on 23rd February. Again 2 judges had to be employed to cope with the volume of entries/size of classes!

Full results are on our website. Special well done to all class winners:

**Walk & Trot:** Laura Morriss & My Mr Darcy  
**Prelim:** Patrick Venables & Jimbo  
**Novice:** Cathy Sargeant & Diva  
**Elementary:** Julie Adams & Tucker

There is a team dressage event on 14th June and there will be another series later in the year. Thank you to Mr. Colonna for the use of his premises.

## RAFFLE:

The winner of our raffle prize to be the new face of HHRA on our website was Karen Kemp.

## CONGRATS!

# YOU SAID – WE DID!

In our suggestions box at the meet and greet several people mentioned the damaged gate at the end of the bridleway that runs through Headley Park Farm as being difficult/dangerous to use. HHRA explored who was responsible for this gate and found it to be Surrey CC. However, calls proved futile and Jim and Maggie Parker (owners of Headley Park Farm and recipients of many complaints about this gate) actually replaced the gate at their own expense. HHRA offered them a donation which they refused. Maggie and Jim – thank you so much. Please could we also request that riders ride on the designated bridleway and not through Headley Park Farm itself which is private.

HHRA have funded the replacement of the storm damaged fencing along the path over Oyster Hill and assisted in clearing the debris.

They have also helped clearing the footpath that we are allowed to use at the end of Headley Village.

The work on the Headley Heath main track is still ongoing.



*New fencing along the path over Oyster Hill*

## OUR SPONSORS

### **HHRA are thrilled to announce Bowles & Co Solicitors as our Sponsors.**

“Bowles and Co Solicitors have always been keen to support our local community; whether for example through sponsorship of local school touring groups or charity concerts.

Having grown up in Headley as a keen horsewoman until work and children took over, my family were actively involved with various committees many years ago endeavouring to facilitate

the use of Headley Heath and the surrounding area for the benefit of horse riders.

This background knowledge of Headley Heath Riders Association and Bowles & Co’s desire to support local interest groups made HHRA an ideal group for us to support through sponsorship.

Bowles & Co. are a local firm of solicitors who pride ourselves on not just being good lawyers, but also friendly and approachable. We strive to offer sensible, practical, sound legal advice – please do not hesitate to contact

me or any of my colleagues if we can assist you in any way – take a look at our website to see how we can help”.

*Sarah Lambert, Partner and Family Solicitor*

**BOWLES & CO**  
Solicitors

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## PLEASE TAG/LABEL

The committee have had the lovely National Trust Rangers Will and Mark mention that one of their bug bears is collecting loose horses and/or fallen riders on Headley Heath where neither party are labelled which makes reuniting them or contacting emergency help very difficult! They have asked HHRA to ask riders to label both themselves and their horse with emergency contact info. "It won't happen to me" is short sighted and this is only sensible practice. HHRA Members can ask the membership secretary (usually available at any of

our events) for an HHRA Members tag disc (free of charge) which clips easily on to your saddle and can be written on in permanent marker pen. I have already put my horses name/yard name on mine along with my number and an emergency contact number. I included my own mobile number as if I fell off and my mare ran off (assuming I was walking and talking) I would want to be called by anyone having found her asap! The tags are secure but easily removable so if you want to take them off for your dressage test it only takes a second.

## APPEAL TO ALL HORSE RIDERS from Janet Figg, HHRA Member

I was driving home from work through Headley early evening recently and there were three cars and a horse ahead of me. There were also three cars coming from the other direction, all showing a lot of consideration to the horse and rider. Once the cars from the other direction had passed, the first car in front overtook the horse, then another car appeared over the brow of the hill by the Cock pub. The next two cars waited patiently and once the car had passed on the other side of the road (also slowly) the two cars and myself, overtook the horse. We all showed the horse and rider consideration by going extremely slowly but did the rider show any

of us the same consideration by raising a hand in thanks, smiling or nodding their head to show some acknowledgement - NO!

I don't know who the rider was, or if they are a member of HHRA, but please, please, please acknowledge a car driver when they are considerate enough to acknowledge you and your horse. Manners cost nothing and riders are very quick to complain if drivers don't slow down, but after witnessing eight cars not getting any acknowledgement from this one person, I can understand why some of them don't slow down. Let's stamp out the minority who give the rest of us a bad name.

## SPECIAL MENTION



We would like to pass our best wishes on to Lillian Johns and Ted. Lillian has been a fantastic supporter of HHRA over the years and the time has come for Lillian to retire Ted at the grand age of 26.

We wish Ted a happy and long retirement and much love to you both.

## HORSIN' AROUND FOR A SMILE

**Q: What's a horse's favourite TV show?**

**A: Neighbours!**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

All forthcoming events are on the Events page of our website and up to date info news is on there and on our Facebook page.

We have dressage, show jumping and xc clinics, guided tour hacks of Headley Heath, team and individual dressage, dog show, vet lectures planned and much more! **There is something for everyone.**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all helpers/organisers/members and participants in our events so far. We cannot believe how far we have come in rebuilding HHRA since forming the new committee last October.

If you know anyone new who would like to join, please point them to our membership page on our website where membership forms can be downloaded.

## APOLOGIES:

To Karen Kemp and Olivia Hammond for the typos in their names in the first newsletter. This newsletter writing is harder than I thought! Sorry again.

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