

Woodchurch Driving Group RDA

LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

Hello everyone here we go with issue 2 of your news and words of fun and wisdom I hope you enjoy the read. Ed

What have I been doing during lockdown? Well, I have been busy pottering around a lot in the garden, which has not looked so tidy in years! I have to admit that sitting in the garden catching up on reading the pile of books I have bought over the years but never read is preferable to weeding but there is enough time to do both. If the weather is no good for being outside I like doing jigsaws -mostly with a horsey theme- so I always have one 'on the go' I have been enjoying the free streaming of plays, ballet and opera on YouTube from The National Theatre, Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House and English National Ballet, all from the comfort of my own sofa. The choice is very wide so there always seems to be something interesting. The best by far has been the Royal Ballet's 2005 production of La Fille mal Gardee starring Marianela Nunez and Carlos Acosta. Even if you're not really into ballet or theatre why not give it a go - it's free and a great way to pass a couple of hours. Being at home so much has meant that I have had more time to look at the local wildlife. We had a tawny owl sitting on our garden gate the other evening before it went dark as well as a badger regularly strolling across the lawn. The highlight has been having our own family of mallard ducks. In April a female decided to lay 11 eggs in a plant pot in a covered, open-fronted area at the side of our house. All the eggs hatched and she took them the short stroll to our garden pond. Sadly only 3 of the ducklings survived through to the end of their first week but the 3 that did have done really well. They are now 7 weeks old and nearly fully grown. We feed them birdseed so they appear at the kitchen door with their Mum several times a day. She has done a great job of looking after them as most of the mallard mothers we have seen over the years have been hopeless at getting any of their young through their first few weeks. The first photo was taken when the ducklings were 2 weeks old and the second at 4 weeks. They are so cute!

Best wishes to all our drivers and volunteers and let's hope we can all get back to normal soon - I have been missing the RDA sessions, all our drivers, volunteers and horses, especially Winston. Keep safe everyone, Best wishes Ann Achow



When compiling articles for the newsletters I sent out the photo of our successful day at Hadlow Show and invited anyone in it to comment on how they felt that day and how they feel now. Below are some of the responses.

I certainly did recognise myself in that lovely photo of everyone at the Hadlow show. I recall it was the most glorious of weather and ended is probably one of the most glory filled days that our little group has had. All our participants won rosettes some more than others and of course the Group Shield. All in such high Spirits it was a joy to be part of it all.

I miss everyone during these tough times and I am sorry I can't help out at the moment. My daughter and family flew over from Western Australia in February for a trial six months of 'English life and work'. Now of course like many others are complete change of circumstance and opportunities and who knows when those times will return again.

On the plus side the weather has been glorious the garden has never looked so colourful and then my old horse of 30 years he is as fit as a flea. I only ride him occasionally but like all old folk he enjoys a little ride out through the country lanes now there is less traffic and more bird song.

Hope to see all our drivers soon and be back helping out as soon as we can. Good luck everyone. Jan Bowman

Thoughts on the Show picture from drivers Martyn and Neil

Happy memories of a great day for the group at the RDA show it was a wonderful achievement, all the drivers did very well making our group the most successful. It was great to be part of the team with special thanks to the coaches and volunteers for their support. Looking forward to being back in the carriage once lockdown is over. Martyn

Neil wished to endorse these comments, saying it had been a memorable day. He also wished to thank all the volunteers without whom none of it would be possible. *Thank you both I think I speak for all volunteers when I say we are happy to help. Jean*

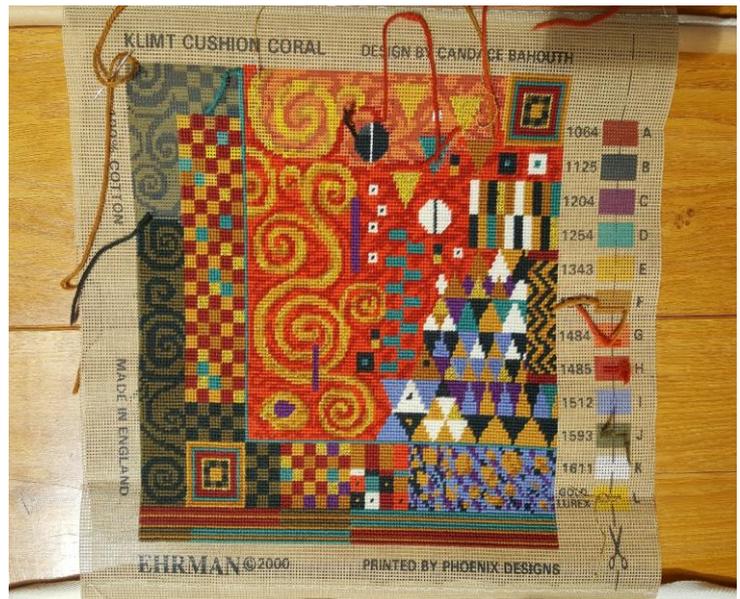
**WHAT I'M MISSING, HOW ABOUT YOU?
WEDNESDAY**

Getting up earlier in time to help with horses
(Early for me)
Queues in traffic 4 sets of road works
Send you off on different courses
Checking the 'to do' list to see who's team
You're joining
Hoping that your pony and team will find the day
Rewarding
Going through the harness hoping it's
Correctly placed
The names the drill the 'do's and don'ts'
To make it always safe
The lovely smells of ponies and countryside
That I am lucky to share
With likewise people who love the same and
Volunteer because we care
Garden looks great
Baked cakes and walked
My Jack Russell Rose is now 2" shorter
I send my good wishes
Stay well and have fun
Hopefully Boris will soon allow us to gather
And carry on doing what really matters
BEING TOGETHER AGAIN
Love Jen Richardson

Well done Jen very clever you are a poet.

With mixed emotions and understanding that it's very early days in terms of legal compliance, I will be leaving Kent for pastures new.
I wish to thank everyone past and present whom I have shared many happy memories with.
Given the situation I am sad that we have been unable to meet up to laugh and natter and share ginger cake sorry.
This sounds like a eulogy it's not I am so grateful for all the friendship and support I will keep in touch and when I am settled will look for opportunities to support a local group be it riding or driving. Denise

Sorry to see you go Denise thank you for all your help, we hope you will be very happy in your new home.



This is a bit of fun submitted by Richard that you can sing along to!

To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. Here are the lyrics she used:

**Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.
Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.
When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
and then I don't feel so bad.
Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.
Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.
When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.**

*What I Did in My Holidays!
by Helen, age...*

To be honest I wasn't much interested in addressing my chaotic cupboards. So, I didn't.
Instead I set about finishing the one, two or even three stitching projects lurking upstairs in the creative corner. My priority a tapestry, one of a pair started a while ago, niggling my conscious to re-join it's finished partner. Sadly, over the intervening years the moth had shown more interest in my work than me and had made a tasty meal of the little I had completed. So, with much muttering of rude words and slightly deflated in spirit I unpicked the damaged areas. Fortunately, the unused wool had proved less desirable and I had plenty to re stitch and continue. Tapestry is a very meditative occupation, requiring you sit still, so a good opportunity to avoid the heat and listen to some very interesting pod casts. Almost complete I hope my enthusiasm will carry me on to the next project.....another tapestry but this one has never been out of its original packaging. Clearly, I'm quite behind!!

What a talented girl you are Helen and so prettily

Our lockdown has been busy and very funny with our new puppies. Sadly we lost our Great Dane Ruby in mid February at almost 14 years old. Having decided that we wouldn't get another dog until after a family summer holiday, we changed our minds with the onset of the coronavirus. We found 2 beautiful Blue Great Dane puppies and went to visit them in Essex.

With the threat of lockdown imminent, we collected the 7 week old boys on that first day. By coincidence, Paul's aircraft was in Thurrock for maintenance that morning, so they were collected in the airfield truck, then took their first flight in the plane back home, travelling first class. They slept all the way. Such an exciting start to their new life with us! They no longer fit in the plane!

Photos show Wilbur & Buzz at 7 1/2 weeks and the second at 19 weeks. They are growing like weeds. I hope you get to meet them before too long. Stay safe and well. Susi



So cute and full of life but who's who?

COMMUNITY MORALE

Written 20 years ago inspired by Martin Luther King

Let me take you to a land where no one's ever been

It's a wonderful place, a dream beyond a dream

It's a place beyond all hatred and hostility

It's a land with no I'll will no animosity

A world where you will have no foes not one enemy

A dream where we can live in tranquility

It's a dream where we can fly and ride upon the breeze

You'll find out what it is to be absolutely free

A dream where the sun will shine no matter what the weather

A dream that will never stop but carry on forever

It's a dream where everyone is everybody's brother

A dream where we are not alone, a dream where we're together

Let me take you to a world where no one's been before

It's a very far off place.....but only just next door!

Thank you

Issue 3 to follow

Jean