

## **SOUTH DOWNS RIDING FOR THE DISABLED NEWS UPDATE**

### **AUGUST 2016 – IT'S HERE**

Huge excitement at Bridge House as we took delivery of our hydraulic platform which enables us to help even more riders. Many thanks must go to the Gatwick Airport Community Trust, Billingshurst & District Lions Club and the Argus Appeal who donated so generously to help us purchase such an amazing piece of kit. We bought the platform second hand from another RDA group but it was in dire need of a complete overall, so very special thanks must go to Steve Hymas of Birch Engineering (Cuffley) Ltd of Ware in Hertfordshire who totally refurbished the platform and delivered it to us at minimal cost, we couldn't have done it without them!

Picture – Carolyn Heitman, South Downs Group Chair and Steve Hymas of Birch Engineering.



### **FAMILIARISATION AND TRAINING**

There inevitably followed a period of training and familiarisation not only for our volunteers but more importantly for our ponies and what little stars they turned out to be.

Picture – Holly being introduced to the platform for the first time



Picture – Marvyn’s turn



### **NEW TUESDAY SESSION LIFTS OFF!**

In November we held the first of our new Tuesday afternoon sessions. After much planning and practising, Amanda was our first rider to use the new electric platform. Holly was a real pro as always and all went incredibly well, we were delighted and very impressed with how well Amanda did on her very first ride with us. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible.

Pictures – Amanda mounting from the platform and enjoying her first ride on Holly.



## **FUNDRAISING**

This task never ends and December saw a very hardy band of volunteers manning our stall at BILLIFEST in Billingshurst, selling all sorts of handmade items from knitted Christmas decorations to homemade cakes and sweets, all kindly donated by members of our group and family and friends. We raised an amazing £180.

## **CHRISTMAS AND END OF TERM FUN AND GAMES**

Picture – our Thursday morning riders enjoying festive fun and games!



## **40 YEARS OF SOUTH DOWNS RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP**

2017 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the establishment of the South Downs RDA Group and we still have one founder member working very hard for us in the form of our Treasurer, Fiona Wright. We are extremely proud of all the good work our group has achieved over the years and are continuing to do so, in fact expanding the number of sessions and the facilities that we are able to offer our riders. However we are always seeking new volunteers to join our group because without them we could not exist, so if anyone is interested in joining us we would be delighted to have a chat and invite them along to watch a session. Further details are available on our website at:

[www.southdownsrda.org](http://www.southdownsrda.org)