



Issue 2  
June 2026

# The Pembroke Centre News

## Home of The Wilton RDA



## Big Plans for the Indoor School

Anyone who has spent time at Wilton RDA knows that our indoor riding school is the heart of everything we do — so we're delighted to share that we're getting on with replacing its roof, and the difference is going to be transformational.

The roof work will be carried out over the summer holidays by a reputable local company, keeping disruption to a minimum.

The total project costs is around £120,000. So far, we've raised just under half — roughly £55,000 — including a wonderfully generous £50,000 promise from the Stephenson James Charitable Trust, which has given the Trustees the confidence to commit to the project.

**"The Trustees of the Stephenson James Charitable Trust are delighted to support this very worthwhile cause. We look forward to seeing the transformation the new roof brings to riders, ponies and volunteers. It's a privilege to be part of this project and to make a substantial difference to a charity that really matters."**  
*Lucy Matthews, Trustee, Stephenson James Charitable Trust*

More details and plans on page 3

### Can you help us reach the finish line?

We still need to raise **£65,000** to complete the **roof project**. If you know of any grant-giving charitable trusts or individuals who might like to support this project, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jackie Worrall (Chair of Trustees) or Richard Acland (Treasurer). Every contribution brings us a step closer. *Contact details on back page.*

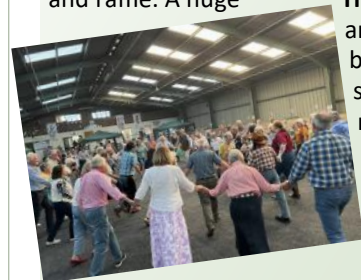
## Barn Dance raises a stomping great £6,000 for the Roof Campaign

The indoor school came alive with the sound of country dancing and laughter last Saturday.



The Hambledon Hop Step band filled the dance floor, Paula Turner-Cooke produced a delicious spread and Bim, Sam and Di raised yet more on the silent auction and raffle. A huge

**Thank you** to the amazing team behind the scenes who made this fun evening go so smoothly.



## Smiles all round at our Fun Show

We were blessed with a perfect spring day for our 2nd Fun Show in early April where achievements, rosettes and smiles were order of the day. We were joined by riders from Wellow and Warminster RDA centres to make it a proper regional show.

Jane Holderness-Roddam CVO CBE, eventing royalty and former chair of RDA UK, judged the dressage tests and lent gravitas to the discipline. She kindly presented awards at the end of the day.



Beatrice on Nobby with Lyn



Photos taken by Mya Sales

Other events were a little less serious with a testing 'Show Poles' course, the challenging 'Handy Pony' complete with a very smart letter box and a more relaxing 'Endurance' ride through the woods.

Well done to all the riders that took part and a **huge Thank you** all the volunteers who helped set up the day before, groomed and prepared the ponies, led and side walked, cooked and fed, and were general heroes all day long - you are amazing - THANK YOU!

## The Impact Wilton RDA makes..

**A reminder, in 2025...**

- 229** people enjoyed **3723** riding sessions
- 90** people attended **9** Tea with a Pony sessions
- 23** sessions of Yoga with Horses ran
- 181** volunteers gave over **25,000** hours of their time

Take a look at our 2025 impact report available on our [website](#)

## Inside this issue

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- ⇒ **Tea with a Pony**
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## Victoria Cheshire

Hi, I'm Victoria Cheshire, and I've proudly been the Ambassador for Wilton RDA since October 2022. I started riding here when I was about 2½ years old, back when the stables were at Wilton House, before moving to the Pembroke Centre — now my "happy place."

Riding with RDA means so much to me. I always feel safe and supported, and it's helped me grow in confidence over the years. I also love encouraging other riders to enjoy their time at the stables.

Since 2012, I've taken part in a range of competitions, including Dressage Anywhere and the National Championships, where I've won many rosettes and trophies. In 2025, I was honoured to receive the Participant of the Year Award at Hartpury. As Ambassador, I've helped raise awareness and funds, including taking part in the Windsor Great Walk (with my dog, Cliff!). I also introduced the Ambassador's Award, recognising Coach of the Year, voted for by riders, staff, and volunteers.



## A lovely photo of Jemima Jordan with Millie

Jemima is one of our Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers who helps on a Saturday. She prepares Millie for riding every week, helps in the stables and side walks. Like many young people Jemima is very good at building communication with our riders.



Do you have a special photo to share? Please send them (and any news) to [newsletter.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)

## Congratulations Carmela – youngest ever MBE!

Past Wilton RDA rider, Carmela Chillery-Watson, 13, made history last year as the youngest ever recipient of an MBE. Recognised for her services to charitable fundraising for Muscular Dystrophy UK (over £400,000) and Julia's house in Salisbury, Carmela was included in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List.



Carmela has LMNA congenital muscular dystrophy - a progressive muscle-wasting condition and rode at the Wilton RDA for over 4 years before moving away to Dorset. She loved riding Smoky and Bertie and, when she came back to us briefly last summer, Starky did the honours.

Carmela is a true inspiration to us all and she is sorely missed here at the Pembroke Centre. She is about to embark on a triathlon and in the past has walked and wheeled hundreds of miles, raising thousands of pounds for Muscular Dystrophy UK and Julia's House Hospice, often dressed in superhero costumes.

#cure4carmela

Good luck Carmela!



## Tea with a Pony

Guests from Elizabeth House Social Centre enjoyed meeting some of our friendly ponies before sitting down to a delicious afternoon tea together. It was lovely to share smiles, conversations and special moments with

everyone who came along.



## Wilton RDA made Pippa's Willberry Wish Come True

Sally and some Thursday volunteers helped Pippa, aged 9 and bravely fighting a spinal cord tumour, fulfil her Willberry Wish of a Pony Party with her friends. One sunny May half term day Pippa and her friends were treated to a lovely afternoon of riding, pony pampering, rosettes and, of course, cakes. Starky was the star of the show and had never looked glossier once the girls had finished with him.

[Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony](#) is an equine-based charity that raises funds to support research into bone cancer and to fulfil Willberry's Wishes to seriously ill people of all ages.



# Thank you to our fabulous Fundraisers!

## Stratford Subcastle Café raised £635 Thank you!

Stratford sub-Castle Cafés are a welcoming community café held monthly at the Reading Room. Visitors enjoy beverages, homemade cakes, kitchen and garden produce, and preloved books. The café brings the community together while raising

valuable funds for local charities and community causes—this time an incredible £635 to the Wilton RDA.

Thank you to Wednesday volunteer, Anne Nash, for making this happen.

## Salisbury City Football Club donated £163 Thank You!

Supporters at Salisbury City Football Club showed tremendous generosity donating an impressive £163.20 at their last home game of the season. Donations came from both loyal home supporters and members of the visiting away team, demonstrating fantastic community spirit and support for the valuable work we do at the Wilton RDA.

## The Pembroke Walk raised £750 Thank You!



Thursday Team plus dogs enjoying a perfect Spring day on the Pembroke Walk



Our intrepid collectors (L to R) Jackie, Bim and Nancy

### Thank you from RDA UK

The week of June 1st was Volunteers' Week and RDA UK released a heartwarming video thanking Volunteers involved in every aspect of making RDA happen.



To watch the video on YouTube go to <https://youtu.be/1mhbx1komU?si=NqjvJg4JvCYDKOkx> or scan QR code.

## Caroline Nicholson's Spring Fling raised an incredible £5,680

### Thank you!

Wednesday volunteer, Caroline Nicholson, raised this fantastic amount at her **Spring Fling** for the Wilton RDA. Around 70 guests enjoyed an evening of Scottish Reeling in a farm barn with the enthusiastic John Carver as the caller. [Compton McRae caterers](#) provided a delicious chilli con carne supper and cheeses were donated by the [Fine Cheese](#) company and [La Chasse](#).

Thank you to local companies [DPMarqueses](#), [Rob Beale](#), [Semley Village Hall](#) and especially [Compton McRae](#).



### Join us at the Wilton Carnival

Saturday July 4th. The theme is Wilton: Out of this World. Parents, riders, carers and volunteers—please come and join the parade. It's fun and great publicity for the Centre.

The Procession kicks off from Market Square at 1pm featuring floats, community groups, and imaginative space-themed entries. See you there!

### Well Done for Achieving...

#### Grade 1 Riding

Abi Karthik Pillai  
James Racher  
Roman Wells  
Rory Bassett

**Grade 1 Riding & Horse Care**  
Sam Proudley

**Endeavour Award**  
Henry Rockett

**Group Coach**  
Paula Turner-Cooke  
Ally Acland

## Roof replacement technical update



The current fibre cement roof has served us faithfully for around 35 years and is critical to our operation. Rather than wait for a repair to become an urgent necessity, the Trustees have taken the decision to act now, while we can plan the work properly.

Out goes the old roof, replaced with modern Kingspan QuadCore composite insulated panels. These offer far better thermal performance, keeping the school warmer in winter and cooler in summer, with a continuous vent along the full length of the ridge for much improved airflow. The panels' white underside will

bounce light around for a brighter, airier feel — and, should we ever wish to, they can also support solar PV in the future.

The Heatguard roof light panels will reduce the penetration of infrared heat while still allowing high levels of natural daylight to pass through — creating a brighter interior while reducing the current greenhouse effect.

In due course we also plan to upgrade to new LED lighting which will save energy and give bright, even, shadow-free light.

This investment will give us a safer and more comfortable environment for horses, riders and volunteers. It will significantly improve the atmosphere of the indoor school and make a positive impact on all we do - and see us through the next 30 years.

Click here to Donate today

Donate with JustGiving

## Become a Volunteer!

### Join the Wilton RDA Volunteer Team – Your Skills Could Change Lives!

Wilton RDA is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help support our charity and the life-changing work we do with children and adults with disabilities. Whether you enjoy working outdoors, helping people, or supporting organisations behind the scenes, there are a variety of ways you can volunteer and you do not need horse experience to get involved.

We are looking for people with a wide range of skills, including:

- ⇒ Friendly and supportive people to assist riders during sessions
- ⇒ Reliable volunteers to help lead ponies and support activities
- ⇒ Gardeners to help maintain our grounds and outdoor spaces
- ⇒ Practical people with fencing, maintenance, DIY, or repair skills
- ⇒ Administrators to help with records, communications, and organisation
- ⇒ Fundraising and event volunteers to support community activities
- ⇒ Creative people who can help with social media, publicity, or marketing
- ⇒ Team players with enthusiasm, patience, and a willingness to help

Every role plays an important part in keeping Wilton RDA running successfully. Volunteering is a rewarding way to meet new people, share your skills, learn something new, and make a real difference within your local community. Full support and training are provided.

If you can help us in any way and are willing to spare a few hours each week, please reach out to us at: [volunteering.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:volunteering.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)

## Organise your own fundraiser

If you would like to [support The Pembroke Centre](#) then why not take on a sponsored challenge, host a coffee morning, run a raffle or organise a fun event? Let us know your plans so we can support you with promotion.

## Adopt a pony

Choose one of our star [ponies to adopt](#) for just £25 a year. Choose any pony to adopt and you will receive regular updates and the knowledge you are helping their welfare.

## Make a donation

Go to [Just Giving](#) or scan the QR code



## Join the 200 Club - You could win £££!

Join the [monthly lottery](#) for just £5 per month and you will be supporting Wilton RDA raise valuable funds! Three generous cash prizes every month!

## Leave a Legacy

In memory of a Loved One to [keep their legacy alive](#) through the joy it will bring to others.

Visit our [website](#) for all details.

## Meet Billy - the latest addition to our Team

Billy came to us in March from Damerham. He is 18 years old and an ex hunting pony so he has 'been there, done that and got the T shirt'! After an initial assessment period he is now settling in well to his new career and very much part of the Team!



## Term Dates

**Autumn Term:** Tuesday 8th Sept - Saturday 17th Oct

**Christmas Term:** Saturday 31st Oct - Thursday 10th Dec

*The Centre is closed during school holidays*

## Hire the Pembroke Centre

Full details, facilities and T&Cs on our [website](#)

E: [bookings.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)

## Meet Wilton RDA Trustees

Trustees at Wilton RDA are all volunteers who help guide and support the charity, using their skills and experience to ensure the organisation runs effectively and responsibly. While there are some specific Trustee roles, we would warmly welcome an informal discussion with anyone interested in becoming a Trustee.



### Jackie Worrall

Chair, Fund Raising and Leadership

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Tel: 01722 744822



### Samantha Cain

Marketing and IT

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### Richard Acland

Treasurer, Finance, Estate, Legal and Statutory

[richard.acland@btopenworld.com](mailto:richard.acland@btopenworld.com)



### Sally Finn

Rider representative



### Helen Bennet

Health and Safety, Policies and Procedures



### Jane Cairns

Horses and Riders



### Alison Ward

Safeguarding

## Our Fantastic Team on the ground



### Claire Hacker

Our experienced Centre Manager and Head Coach.

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### Fi Larkin

Our riding co-ordinator. If you want to book a riding session contact Fi.

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