



# The Pembroke Centre News

## Home of The Wilton RDA



Issue 1

March 2026

**Welcome to our newsletter!** We hope it will inform and inspire everyone connected with the Centre - our volunteers, riders and their families, teachers and carers, fundraisers and donors, as well as the wider local community. There is always so much happening at this special place and we want everyone to know.

Our aim is to publish once a term with news, events, fund raisers, plans, fun-facts and ideas where you can help. We welcome any suggestions and ideas to make this newsletter of value to everyone in this special place. Please email [newsletter.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.pembrokecentre@gmail.com) if you have news to share.

### An Unforgettable Nativity



They say never perform with children and animals - well ours were priceless! Impeccably timed poos and pees from the ponies and 'I'm bored!' comments from a child when asked how they were enjoying the experience, brought the house down. Despite that, it was a magical performance from children and ponies alike and set a lovely festive scene for the start of Christmas. We all felt warm and fuzzy inside and very proud of our ponies and children. A special thanks to the Wilton Rotary Club

for erecting their magnificent stable and to Claire for bringing the whole fabulous spectacle together with such efficiency and empathy.

There were some well-deserved awards presented at the nativity:



L-R Chair, Jackie Worrall with:

1) Victoria Cheshire and Sally Lefroy

2) Patrick Holland

3) Sian Williams

**Coach of the Year** – Sally Lefroy

**Volunteer of the Year** – Sian Williams

**The Suzy Cup** – Ayla Roberts

**Adult Rider of the Year** – Kit Teed.

**Child Rider of the Year** – Chloe Courtney Harfield

**Outstanding Achievement certificate** – Louisa Lewis

**Award for our new tractor driver** – Patrick Holland

**Pat Burgess Award** – Ella Harrison

### Did you know? 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 the [website](#). It makes fascinating reading.

### Open Afternoon for businesses

**We are reaching out to local businesses** who may be interested in supporting the Pembroke Centre. Our 'Open Afternoon' is on the afternoon of Friday 27th March where we intend showcase what we do, the impact it has on people's lives and how local businesses can help.

Do you run a local business or do you know of anyone we should approach? Please contact Jackie Worrall [chair.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:chair.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)

### Inside this issue

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## Equine Update

We have 16 wonderful horses and ponies at present. They are at the centre of everything we do here at the Pembroke centre. In 2025 they gave **3723 riding sessions to 229 people** making a hugely positive difference to the lives of riders and volunteers alike.



*Fabulous Mikey (top right) and Gorgeous George (above) Awarded Horses of the Year at the Nativity*

Very sadly we had to say goodbye to Frodo and Drifter this year. Both were stalwarts of the RDA and gave years of pleasure and service to our riders for which we are so very grateful.

We are constantly on the look out for suitable mounts that are quiet and bomb-proof (as well as fit and healthy!) and in return we give them the best of care and an interesting life full of companionship, activity, love and attention.

If you think you can help please get in touch with Clare Hacker, our Centre Manager Email: [centremanager.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:centremanager.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)

Tel: 01722 744822



## Extraordinary General Meeting

In February we held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss volunteer safety and an update to session charges at the Pembroke Centre.

### Volunteer Hats

Working with ponies and horses always carries some risk, and we recently had an incident at the mounting block that came very close to causing a serious injury. Following this, and with expected tighter insurance requirements and guidance from the RDA, the Trustees now advise that any volunteer who is physically connected to a pony (for example, leading) should wear an approved riding hat.

Hats will be provided by the Pembroke Centre. Volunteers who choose not to wear a hat will be asked to sign a disclaimer. All under 18s will be required to wear a hat.

### Session Charges

The Pembroke Centre is a charity which costs over £110,000

per year to run caring for our treasured horses and ponies, maintaining our fabulous facilities, and delivering our much needed services. This is achieved with just two part-time members of staff - the rest with volunteers.

In 2020 we introduced a £10 session charge, which at the time covered around 30% of our costs. Since then, expenses have risen by around 50%.

To help keep the Centre running sustainably, the Trustees have decided to increase the session charge to £15 per session from after Easter. This is still well below the cost of comparable services.

We understand this may be difficult for some families. If the increased cost is a concern, support may be available through Pat's Fund. Please speak to Fi, our Riding Co-ordinator, who will be happy to discuss this confidentially.

[riding.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:riding.pembrokecentre@gmail.com) Tel: 01722 744822



## Well Done!

And Congratulations to Marcus (*left with legend Mikey*) and Chloe Courtney Harfield (*right with coach Maggie Gill and superstar George*) for achieving their Grade 3 in Horse Care and Riding Proficiency Tests.





## RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN

This year we are launching a major fund-raising campaign to upgrade some of our important infrastructure. This starts with the roof over the indoor school which is coming up to 30 years old and showing its age. Whilst it's not urgent, it will need replacing in the next five years at an estimated cost of £150,000 so we're going to start raising funds now – and have fun while we're doing it!

Our launch event will be a **Barn Dance** in the school itself on **June 13<sup>th</sup>**. Picture young and old alike having fun on the dance floor having a go at some country dances to a toe-thumping band with a caller guiding the moves. There will be food, bar, tables & chairs and stalls for when you need a rest from dancing. All ages and abilities are warmly welcome we hope you will come along and bring the family.

Tickets and further details will be announced nearer the time so please put the date in your diary, get a party together and spread the word!



## The Pembroke Centre Walk

Come and join us on a picturesque, signed walk from our centre through the beautiful woods of Wilton.

**There is a choice of three routes available to suit mobility:**

Avon route - 1 mile (fairly flat).

Wilton route - 1.5 miles (a little rough under foot but fairly flat) and

The Pembroke route - 2 miles (hills and rougher terrain).

Download your entry and sponsorship form from the [website](#)

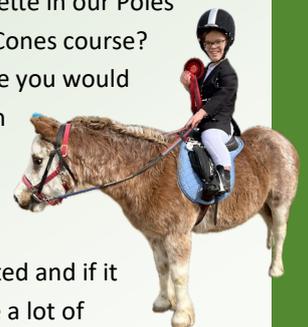


## Pembroke Centre Fun Show 8th April

Or perhaps in the Handy Pony? Maybe you would like to try out the Endurance course in the woods. If so, have a chat with your Coach and they will see what ponies are available for you.

Neighbouring RDA groups will be invited and if it was anything like last year there were a lot of rosettes awarded and smiles all round.

Fancy having a go at winning a rosette in our Poles and Cones course?



## What's on

**Friday 27th March**  
Open Afternoon for Local Businesses

**Wednesday 8th April**  
The Pembroke Fun Show

**Saturday 11th April**  
The Annual Pembroke Walk

**Saturday 13th June**  
Raise the Roof Barn Dance

## How you can help

It costs over £2,000 a week to run the Pembroke Centre and provide its life-enriching experiences through horses. Our horses require a lot of feeding, housing, vetting and farriering and we have our much-envied facilities to maintain.

We are extremely lucky to have the support of the Wilton Rotary Club, Biffa, Tesco's, Salisbury

Racecourse and many dedicated 'friends' who raise money through sponsored physical endeavours.

We run regular fund raiser events which we hope you will support.

There are also a number of other ways you can contribute:



### Adopt a pony

Choose one of our star ponies to adopt for just £25 a year.

You can choose any pony to adopt and you will receive regular updates and the knowledge you are helping their welfare.

Full details on the [website](#)

### 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, a raffle or organise a fun event? Let us know your plans so we can support you with promotion.

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

Join the monthly lottery and you will be supporting Wilton RDA raise valuable funds!

For just £5 per month you could win one of three generous cash prizes every month (the exact amount depends on the membership). Half the income goes to the Pembroke Centre so it's a win-win!

All details on the [website](#)

### Make a donation

Go to [Just Giving](#) and search for Wilton Riding for the Disabled or scan QR code

Donate with  
**JustGiving**



### Become a Volunteer!

Learn new skills, be part of a team, make new friends, boost your CV, **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Experience with horses or disability isn't essential— what matters is enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved. People of all ages and backgrounds are very welcome and we provide training, support and a friendly community. Email [volunteering.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:volunteering.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)

### Leave a Legacy

In memory of a Love One to keep their legacy alive through the joy it will bring to others.

### Tea With a Pony



Did you know that the Pembroke Centre also offers **Tea With a Pony**? This is where the elderly, usually from care homes, have the opportunity to interact with our equine friends in a safe and loving environment. They can chat, stroke, smell and admire our ponies and enjoy a memorable afternoon of hospitality with our volunteers. Contact Fi if you know someone who could benefit from such an experience.

### Term Dates (the Centre is closed during school holidays)

February Term: Tuesday 24th Feb – Saturday 28th March

Spring Term: Tuesday 14th April – Saturday 23rd May

Summer Term: Tuesday 2nd June – Saturday 18th July

### Meet the Team



#### Claire Hacker

Our experienced Centre Manager and Head Coach.

[centremanager.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:centremanager.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)



#### Jackie Worrall

Chair of our enthusiastic and hands on Board of Trustees.

[chair.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:chair.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01722 744822



#### Fi Larkin

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

[riding.pembrokecentre@gmail.com](mailto:riding.pembrokecentre@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01722 744822