WHATEVER ELSE, HORSES ARE CERTAINLY ON THE AGENDA!

I imagined with delight my late parents pirouetting in their graves when, on morning television during the Rio Olympics, the nation was hearing an explanation of half pass!

Dressage is fast becoming a household word, who would have thought it possible; so too, the growing awareness of horses in education and therapy... what possibilities. All credit and many thanks to everyone concerned and let us hope for the growth of the Federation of Horses in Education and Therapy International (HETI) to guide and inspire.

Many of you will know of my Mother’s death in January 2015. She would have been as thrilled as any of us by the dressage success in Rio and most especially - with me - by the extraordinary ongoing development in the BHS of their work with horses to change lives.

The conversations I now so often have with many are what were once such as only dreams were made of... The HETI Education and Scientific Journal is now peer reviewed; smart news, especially for the many people working on their dissertations in their studies and in the general development of the work.
At the FCRT the horse is put before the cart! When, however, traditional teaching style and learning environment are put first for some young people, the cart is put before the horse! Cart before horse makes learning difficulty about the individual. Horse before cart, on the other hand, turns the focus onto the suitability of the learning environment. Matching a person to their environment and a suitable peer group removes learning obstacles; the focus of difficulty is shifted from the individual as their problem, onto an emphasis of providing a suitable learning opportunity.

The FCRT commitment is to continue to build on a desire to learn. Learning happens when the learner feels the point of doing so: learning difficulty arises when the purpose is not clear and the place is not held dear.

Equine Facilitated Education is so much more than learning about horses. It is a means of achieving positive outcomes in necessary learning... It tackles head on the problems that concern us all, competence, self-reliance, health, social integration, employment, safety, the stuff of what morning television is made of.

Thank you to everyone, especially FCRT colleagues (staff and much appreciated volunteers), whose combination of skill, tenacity, dedication, empathy and entrepreneurship combine to result in the parent of a FETH Course student writing to me recently to tell me, "...there are no words to express what you have done for my daughter, you have saved her life..."

In July 2017, after 27 years in the saddle at FCRT, I will be handing over the reins of Director to my colleague - and present Head of Education - Jane Delves. It is my hope, meanwhile, to see as many of you as possible at our Ruby events on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November 2016, to celebrate 40 years since the founding of the FCRT. It will be on Sunday, 20th November that we also join together in the dedication of the Founders’ Garden.

_Jane Delves, Class 2_
There was a large turnout for the New Forest Hounds meet at the FCRT. After a breakfast of roast potatoes and sausages, handed ‘round by students and staff, the field, including a FETH Course student with member of staff, headed off...

Students and staff also shared their hospitality with the New Forest Beagles, before they set off with a FETH Course student helping to lay the trail.

FETH Course students show off other skills in the Indoor School at a fundraising Dog Show...

I spent two weeks this summer at the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy on placement as part of my veterinary medicine studies at the University of Cambridge. Over my time there, I was continually impressed by the conduct of the students and the staff, and by the quality of the organisation as a whole.

The staff at the FCRT were lovely – everyone was so friendly - and without exception committed to supporting each and every student with unfaltering diligence and enthusiasm. It was genuinely rewarding to see the impact on the students of being treated with patience, care and most importantly respect.

The nature of the learning at the FCRT means the constraints of a traditional classroom are removed; instead, the students work with the staff as valued members of a team and everyone receives the attention they need to achieve their potential. The ideas the students learn from working with the horses can be applied to so many situations, from basic maths, reading and writing, to caring for their own and others’ physical health and wellbeing, and to interpersonal relationships. The flexibility this provides also allows the system to cater to students of different backgrounds with a variety of needs.

By far the most enjoyable aspect of the placement for me was working with the students, who were enthusiastic, funny and gregarious, and who welcomed me into the FCRT with uncommon warmth and friendliness. It is thanks to a truly special environment that these qualities can flourish.

The students are a credit to the FCRT, their families and to themselves, and from what I saw, should all be proud of what they have individually achieved. The importance of the FCRT was summarised for me by the difference I saw between the first years and the final year students [FETH Course]. When talking to the third years, I saw confident, happy individuals who told me for the first time in their lives, they felt they were genuinely good at something.

It was a privilege to work with an organisation that can give something so precious to people in need, and I truly believe our society would be a far better place if more organisations like the Fortune Centre existed.

Alex Sampson
Thank you all very much

The FCRT is tremendously grateful to all its supporters and volunteers. Without whom the work would not be done with the same scope, efficacy or pace. The gifts people contribute, those of funds, equipment, time and hard work all enhance important opportunities for young people. Some of those who have made donations to the FCRT recently...

The College of Policing donated smart chairs, office furniture and other valuable and much appreciated equipment.

Staff from Lloyds Bank (New Milton Branch) each donated a full day of their time volunteering at the FCRT; they painted stable doors and did a ‘yard clean up, fuelled by FCRT homemade flapjacks and brownies...

The New Forest Mummers play raised £1,580 for the FCRT and the Mummers performed their Christmas production for students at Wootton Hall Farm.

On behalf of The Butley Vintage and Steam Fair, Jonathon Narey presented FCRT Senior Physiotherapist Claire Creasey, with a wonderful donation of £2,000.

A Beaulieu Young Farmers Quiz Night in aid of the FCRT raised a gratefully received £500 towards the refurbishment of the FCRT Feed Room at Avon Tyrrell.

Former member of FCRT staff Sarah Stephens put in a great run at the New Forest Half Marathon to raise money for FCRT; well done Sarah!

The generous donation of furniture by Shoosmiths Solicitors in Basing View has enabled us to update and refurnish many areas at FCRT.

A donation from Christchurch and East Dorset Council of pedestals and desks has also been very helpful.

The gifts of time given and donations made by and via the families of beneficiaries is of real help and encouragement.

All of the generosity towards the FCRT and the support given is invaluable and appreciated. Thank you to all our donors and supporters.
**NEW POLES FOR WEEKLY RIDERS @ WHF...**

FCRT beneficiaries, volunteers and staff are very grateful for new poles kindly donated by one of our wonderful volunteer ‘Side Walkers’ in memory of Yvonne Nelson.

**BHS THERAPY HORSE OF THE YEAR**

The FCRT goes on delighting in the news that Sonny, a member of the FCRT equine team, was awarded the British Horse Society (BHS) Equine Personality of the Year award 2015. Sonny was nominated for the award by FCRT staff and we are very proud that he won... The award was presented at The Saddlers’ Hall by BHS President Martin Clunes!

Sonny works mainly to provide weekly sessions for local children with complex disabilities and is an example of the outstanding movement, patience, acceptance, help and pleasure given by horses and ponies to so many people.

The impact of the movement of a horse or pony on a rider’s body is a dynamic opportunity, especially to enhance the work of physiotherapists.

The valuable provision of Weekly Riding Therapy sessions is only made possible at the FCRT by many dedicated volunteers... volunteers we thoroughly appreciate.

**FETH COURSE LEAVERS GO TO BUDLEIGH SALERTON!**

In 2015 and in 2016, final year FETH course students organised their leavers’ trips to Budleigh Salterton Riding Centre. The students stayed in cottages enjoying the communal catering facilities offered by the Riding Centre. Students enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on their shared experiences and time spent at the FCRT.

The daily activities they had chosen for their leavers’ trip involved exploring the local environment and riding on Woodbury Common, which gave the students the opportunity to demonstrate and extend their riding skills.

Students also explored the local beaches and enjoyed the dining experiences of Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth.
The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy
Registered Charity No: 1045352
and Martin Clunes, FCRT Patron, invite you to join them at the
Ruby Anniversary Race Night
Saturday 19th November 2016
7pm Champagne and Canapés Reception for Dinner at 8pm
To be held at and in aid of The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy,
Avon Tyrrell, Bransgore, New Forest BH23 8EE
Ruby Auction with Martin Clunes as your Auctioneer
Silent Auction
Big Screen Racing Fine Dining by Red Herring
Sporting Quiz Draw
In support of our Anniversary Project: A new IT skills and equine learning classroom.
Please help us to raise £60,000 to complete this important project.
£80 each to also include 3 bottles of wine per table of 10.
Additional wine, beer and soft drinks can be purchased on the evening.
Dress: Smart with a touch of ruby and a touch of racing style!
Cash only evening.

The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy
Registered Charity No: 1045352
and Martin Clunes, FCRT Patron, invite you to join them at the
Ruby Anniversary Lunch
and Dedication of The Founders’ Garden
Sunday 20th November 2016 from 12 noon
To be held at and in aid of The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy,
Avon Tyrrell, Bransgore, New Forest BH23 8EE
Exciting selection of stalls, crafts and gifts.
Competitions Silent Auction Ruby Quiz Tombola
To include: Hog Roast/Vegetarian Option, Salad Bar, Ice Cream, Cheese
and Fruit Table, Glass of wine, beer or soft drink
In support of our Anniversary Project: A new IT skills and equine learning classroom.
Please help us to raise £60,000 to complete this important project.
Adult £25 16 & under £10 Family of 2 adults and 2 x16s & under £60
Dress: Smart casual with a touch of red! Cash only event, including bar.
At The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy, the FETH Course (Further Education Through Horsemastership) is run for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) whose educational needs post-sixteen cannot be met in general further education provision. The Course is for students who are motivated to concentrate, communicate and co-operate around horses.

Equine Facilitated Education and Therapy (EFET) is the planned use of the natural scope of the horse for human learning. At the FCRT, now in its 40th year, the power and relevance of transferring learning from an equine environment into life skills development has provided and continues to offer new opportunities for many young people.

Ruby Anniversary Project: £60,000 target

A new IT skills and equine learning classroom is needed at The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy’s site at Avon Tyrrell, to be located near the indoor school on the stable yard. We would like to transform an existing space to create an enclosed IT/learning area.

This will enable us to enhance our teaching using IT and give young people at The Fortune Centre the chance to learn and extend their IT skills whilst also further extending the successful use of Equine Facilitated Education as an authentic, established means of relevant, social and positive self-development.

The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy, Avon Tyrrell, Bransgore, New Forest BH23 8EE
Telephone: 01425 673297     Website: www.fortunecentre.org
In 2015 it dawned bright and sunny; in 2016, very wet and blustery, but whatever the weather the atmosphere shines bright and the importance of catching up and chatting with old friends leaves no need to talk about the weather! Some 50 OFA members come, many with parents or carers. Current members of the FCRT staff team are delighted to give their time to greet and join in with OFA visitors throughout the day; in 2015 Marian Grannell ran the Hobby Horse Grand National (you had to make your own horse first!) and in 2016 Sue Brown organised some horse-based games that got everyone racing around too!

During the day everyone loves the chance to have-a-go at Rhythm Work (or Vaulting) again and in 2016 Richard Mosley presided over a drill ride on foot!

It was wonderful to hear the chat this triggered amongst the OFAs about memories of doing similar work in their day! Final year FETH Course students do a great job with Suzi Barnett to help host, along with the OFA Co-ordinator and FCRT Local Supporters’ Group. Claire Moir delighted everybody in 2015 with a display on her beautiful dressage horse, Davonport Bewes (Rodney), followed by the opportunity for OFA members to speak to Claire and admire Rodney at close quarters in the indoor school.

There is particular affection and gratitude for the OFA Co-ordinators, Marian Grannell and Sue Brown. Sadly for the rest of us, but excitingly for them, Marian, Phil and Clare were at a family wedding this year and not with us! Mrs. Nelson is much missed.

Special thanks go, as ever, to Selena Langlands and her team of Local Supporters, who co-ordinate refreshments and make a sumptuous lunch. In 2016 the food for the day was donated by Bidvest, County Foods and Harvest, for which thank you. Thank you too to Anna Price for collecting everyone’s up-to-date news.

At the 2016 Reunion we shared an amazing Ruby Anniversary celebration cake donated by Jenny Wright especially for the reunion. A replica stable complete with horses’ heads, an eco friendly green roof and a very Ruby red inside was enjoyed by all.

OLD FORTUNATES ASSOCIATION (OFA) REUNION

The first Saturday in October is a day of days; the day of the annual Old Fortunates Association (OFA) Reunion.

In 2015 it dawned bright and sunny; in 2016, very wet and blustery, but whatever the weather the atmosphere shines bright and the importance of catching up and chatting with old friends leaves no need to talk about the weather! Some 50 OFA members come, many with parents or carers. Current members of the FCRT staff team are delighted to give their time to greet and join in with OFA visitors throughout the day; in 2015 Marian Grannell ran the Hobby Horse Grand National (you had to make your own horse first!) and in 2016 Sue Brown organised some horse-based games that got everyone racing around too!

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TEN YEARS ON!

In the Spring 2006 edition of ‘Walk On!’ the above picture appeared, taken on the day Judy Sharrock and “Westy” visited the FCRT and walked from John O’Groats to Lands End on the stable yard at Avon Tyrell! FETH Course students and staff had drawn a giant scale map on the ‘yard and lined the route that Judy and “Westy” would take on their epic adventure. Supported by so many much appreciated helpers, followers and sponsors, JOG to Lands End raised nearly £40,000 for the FCRT and Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital.

Now, ten years on, Judy has created a book about her adventure. The beautifully book of photographs and extracts from the blog Judy kept each day is a stunning recollection of the JOG to Lands End. With the help of Envisage Books, a limited edition has been printed; seventy eight in total, equal to the number of days taken on the journey.

The book sale was be launched at the FCRT Autumn Open Day on the 20th October 2016 when Judy and ‘Westy’ (now 27 years old) were our guests.

The Limited Edition book of photographs will be available for sale at £78 each; a contribution of £45 for each book sold will be given as a donation to the FCRT. Thank you again.

At the 2016 Reunion we shared an amazing Ruby Anniversary celebration cake donated by Jenny Wright especially for the reunion. A replica stable complete with horses’ heads, an eco friendly green roof and a very Ruby red inside was enjoyed by all.

WE UNDERSTAND WHY YOU RIDE

Cavaletti is very proud to be associated with the FCRT and to supply riding wear and student uniforms

10% discount with this code: FCRT 16

www.cavaletticlothing.com
A RIGHT NOT A FIGHT!

Students with learning difficulties and disabilities from Specialist Colleges join forces at Westminster to protest that their access to further education should be “A Right not a Fight”.

They and their families believe the current system is failing them, that significant amounts of money are being wasted on bureaucracy and that there is a national “postcode lottery” of funding and access.

Young people and their supporters talk of their “fight” to get into specialist colleges and speak passionately about the progress they make at specialist colleges and of their future ambitions. Former students from specialist colleges also return to lend their voices to the protest. One man has said “If I hadn’t gone to a specialist college, I wouldn’t have a job now. I’d be on the scrapheap”.

Specialist colleges have some of the most outstanding rates of progress into employment. The Association of National Specialist Colleges (Natspec) claim that “A whole generation of young people will miss out on the right support if we don’t address this now. We want to ensure that young people with learning difficulties or disabilities are equipped with the right skills and confidence to lead positive, fulfilled adult lives and contribute to their communities, leading to a reduced spend through the public purse”.

Other supporters lend their voices to the ARNAF protest including students’ MPs, Ministers and representatives from the Education Funding Authority. They are able to listen firsthand to the experiences young people and their families endure.

One mother has said it was like her son “didn’t exist – his feelings and what he wanted in his life weren’t listened to. He’s just a number to them. To us he’s not a number, he’s our son. People like him have enough to contend with in their lives. They don’t need the system knocking them too”.

Young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities believe their campaign “A Right not a Fight” is vital because the system isn’t equal and people with the most needs are getting the least information and support. As one student put it “being at a specialist college meant for the first time in my life I wasn’t ‘special’ – I was a young woman, moving on, learning new skills, making friends – who just happened to have a disability”.

WEST KINGTON STUD VISIT

The exclusive visit for FCRT supporters to West Kington Stud in June 2016 was an amazing experience, thoroughly enjoyed. Hosted at Church Farm by Tim and Jane Holderness-Roddam, guests started the day with coffee and biscuits with Tim and Jane and then headed out onto the yard, guided by the superb Stud Manager Tessa Clarke who masterminded a tour and demonstrations that left all present in awe of the knowledge and expertise involved in running this amazing place. Vet Camilla Scott allowed us to watch her at work and gave a fascinating insight into the outstanding work undertaken at WKS.

Tim and Jane hosted lunch in their garden (thank you for the delicious strawberries and cream), after which Jane took guests on a tour of the competition yard and to see all the beautiful mares and enchanting foals, many of whom will, undoubtedly, be the absolute equine stars of the future.

Over many years the Holderness-Roddam family have given the FCRT such valuable support in many ways, for which all who have benefited are most grateful. The generosity of Tim and Jane and their staff in providing Work Experience and occupation for FETH Course students is outstanding. Thank you everyone at Church Farm.
CAKE WE HAVE EATEN!

The New Forest and Hampshire County Show is an annual three-day Agricultural Show during which the FCRT hosts a ‘Shop and Drop’ facility for visitors to leave their bags and belongings safely with us, while they enjoy the day.

This year saw a variety of items left with us for safekeeping ranging from bags, bikes, furniture, live chickens and a weary gentleman in need of rest while his wife went off to do more shopping!

The original aim of the New Forest Show was to encourage agricultural improvement and innovation in the area, as well as a day of fun and competition for local people.

Archive documents show that the early New Forest events were held at Bartley Cross, near Totton and they were modest affairs: admission was two shillings and four pence, with competitions, one tent and dancing in the evening.

The event’s locations have varied; it was originally held at Bartley Cross (1920–1924), Morant Estate, Brockenhurst (1925–1929), Mevrick Estate, Hinton Admiral (1930–1932), Testwood Park, Totton (1933), Northenwood Park, Lyndhurst (1934–1937 & 1939), Cuffnells Park, Lyndhurst (1946–1954) and New Park, Brockenhurst (1939 & 1955–present). There was no Show from 1940 – 1945 due to WWII.

The Countess of Wessex was the 2016 Show President and the 79th person to hold that office. HRH spent two full days at the Show, visiting every area of the showground, enjoying the wide variety of exhibits and competitors.

Yvonne Nelson MBE, BHSI 1925–2015
Yvonne Nelson, teacher and co-founder of the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy (FCRT) died in January 2015 aged almost ninety. Yvonne (or as she was fondly called “Mrs. N”) was a wonderful example to us all...she is missed by everyone.

Yvonne originally trained as a teacher of English and Drama at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London. Later becoming quite well known, Yvonne became a passionate, effective and inspirational educator; teaching was her love.

Yvonne was born and brought up in London...she lived in Bermuda, Canada and the US and in various parts of the UK. Yvonne worked with her husband, Swedish Engineer, Cavalry Officer and master horseman.

Yvonne trained at the Porlock Vale Riding School, where she much later became Chief Instructor (when it had become known as the Porlock Vale Equestrian Centre). After moving to the New Forest in 1976, she co-founded the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy.

Yvonne’s dedicated mission to work with horses to improve the lives of young people with difficulties was outstanding and she was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2003. Yvonne was always keen to raise awareness of the value of transferable skills through Equine Facilitated Education and Therapy in a full time residential setting, which enabled growing life skills and independence to be developed in every area of a young person’s life.

REMEMBERING WITH GREAT APPRECIATION...

Yvonne Nelson MBE, BHSI 1925–2015
Colin Winser, TD 1931 – 2015

Colin was a Trustee of the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy from 1996 until 2015. He was an outstanding contributor throughout those years, giving so much to the FCRT through his wisdom, experience, integrity, wonderful manner and example.

Colin was able to encourage and inspire in others both effort and a will to achieve the necessary detail to transform the ordinary into something much more. Colin taught us all so much of value and was one of the finest examples many of us have ever had the pleasure and privilege of knowing.

Charles and Rae Fry

Charles and Rae were two of the first FCRT volunteers and remained loyal and generous supporters from beginning to end.

Charles and Rae made everything worthwhile; their help and encouragement was always - and remains still - precious. Charles and Rae were a pleasure to work alongside and an integral part of the development of the work, especially weekly sessions for local children.

Robin Mackenzie1926 - 2015

Robin was a Trustee of the FCRT and Vice President of the FCRT from 1981–1996. Robin was a Tandem Volunteer at Wootton Hall Farm. Robin was a wonderful way of communicating.

David Jackson

David encouraged and inspired many, through the involvement of the FCRT in the life of his wife Alli, the FCRT also benefitted greatly from David’s charm, enthusiasm and wonderful way of communicating.

Over recent years David became the popular Quiz Master at regular East End Arms Quiz Night’s in aid of the FCRT. David’s contribution to the life of the FCRT will be long remembered and particularly appreciated.

Angela Burry

Angela was one of the first FCRT volunteers, working tirelessly and consistently with children attending weekly riding therapy sessions at Wootton Hall Farm. Angela and her family have been such an important part of making the FCRT what it is today. Angela was dedicated to her work at the FCRT and her experience and presence gave a dimension and greatness to things that became the standard to which any volunteer aspired.

Mary Boddington 1927 – 2016

Mary was one of the first members of the FCRT staff team and became someone without whom the FCRT residential provision would have lacked the opportunity Mary provided to develop in scope and stature, providing security and structure in the lives of many.

Mary was gifted as a listener; she was entirely accepting of others, through a part of the development of the FCRT in a way that also encouraged each of us to do better too. Mary’s family have been integral to supporting the work of the FCRT over the years. One of Mary’s daughters was an FCRT volunteer in the early days and both one of Mary’s sons and one of her daughters – in – law were part of the staff team for many years.

David Fry

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**MARRIAGES & BIRTHS...**

**Congratulations**

- **Nicki Hayes to Dominic Chennery**, married in June 2015
- **Kayleigh Wright to Wayne Taylor**, married in September 2015
- **Paola Russell to William King**, married in October 2015
- **Kirsty Elliot** gave birth to **Sophia Millie** born 8th April 2015.
- **Rosie Henderson** gave birth to **Samuel** on 30th December 2015.

**FCRT FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES**

**Saturday 19th November 2016**  
FCRT Ruby Anniversary Race Night  
(FCRT Avon Tyrrell).

**Sunday 20th November 2016**  
FCRT Ruby Anniversary Lunch  
with stalls and Dedication of the Founders’ Garden  
(FCRT Avon Tyrrell).

**Sunday 11th December 2016**  
Christmas Dressage competition  
(FCRT Avon Tyrrell).  
Enquiries: Claire Moir on 01425 672323 or email clairemoir126@btinternet.com

**Tuesday 20th December 2016**  
The Fortune of Christmas  
Refreshments, raffle and stalls from 5.30pm.  
Tableaux, 6.30–7.15pm  
(FCRT Avon Tyrrell).

**Early 2017, date to be announced**  
An evening with Sarah Montague  
Radio 4 Today Programme Presenter.

**Thursday 11th May 2017**  
FCRT Open Day 11am-4pm  
(FCRT Avon Tyrrell).

**Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th July 2017**  
Shop & Drop  
New Forest Show  
New Park, Brockenhurst.

**BIRTHS**

- Kirsty Elliot gave birth to Sophia Millie born 8th April 2015.
- Rosie Henderson gave birth to Samuel on 30th December 2015.

If you no longer wish to receive “Walk On!” please let Paola King know. email: pj.king@fcrt.ac.uk or telephone: 01425 673297