

Impact Report

2022-23



Onwards and upwards

The past year has seen unprecedented growth at the Cavalier Centre. Participation is up by over 50%, we've opened the new Little Bradbury learning barn, planted a sensory garden and made big improvements to the site. We've gained a 5* Riding School Licence and are a Highly Commended BHS Approved Centre in all areas of our work.

The uplift in people taking part is incredible and just shows that the work we're doing is both valuable and appreciated.



Our year at a glance

The Centre is open seven days a week and its wide range of programmes are attracting participants from three years old (for hippotherapy) to people in their nineties who enjoyed Tea With A Pony.

Not only have we continued with our regular RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association) Riding, Carriage Driving, and Vaulting sessions, we've also introduced the British Horse Society's Changing Lives Through Horses programme. This new course runs alongside our STEPS eight-week confidence building programme, Stable Relationships – a 12-week, one-to-one emotional intelligence course, At Home with Horses for people with refugee backgrounds, and our much loved Tea With A Pony and Quiet Time With A Pony sessions as well as holiday activities.



Did you know?

566 regular participants across all our programmes



Our impact

Making a difference in many different ways

With our incredible volunteers, coaches and team members we've delivered:

- 1,079 RDA Riding sessions
- 424 RDA Carriage Driving sessions
- 49 STEPS sessions to 23 people
- 12 Stable Relationships 12-week courses
- 62 Non-ridden equine sessions
- 86 Pony Care sessions
- 85 Changing Lives Through Horses sessions
- 4 Inclusive sports days for 180 participants

But behind those statistics are individual stories of lives transformed, confidence built, and happiness found. Every day we hear our participants and volunteers talk about what the Cavalier Centre means to them and how it's their "happy place".

With encouragement our participants try new activities, push themselves out of their comfort zone and compete in RDA Regional and National Championships – often coming home with rosettes and trophies to demonstrate their achievements.

One participant's parent said that their daughter loved coming to the Centre and has learned a lot about herself and well as gaining in confidence.

12 people
competed
at RDA
Regionals

22 riders
competed at
RDA Virtual
Nationals

7 people
placed in
Top 3
at RDA
Nationals



Did you know?

There were 4,136 times that people took part in activities



It's those kinds of comments that not only demonstrate the importance of the work we do, but how much our horses and ponies do in terms of empowering people to achieve more than they think they can.

Whether it's attending a carers' wellbeing retreat, learning to groom in a Pony Care session, or discovering what it means to set boundaries as a young person, we continue to dedicate ourselves to removing barriers and delivering meaningful equine-related activities to everyone.

The Cavalier Centre is truly a place where horses make the difference.

People and ponies

Participants and carers

We can't always put into words what the Centre means for our participants. But one of their carers said this: "From a parent's perspective, you got more out of her than anywhere else she has ever been - even her College. You have valued what she says and as a result she felt valued, that's such a big thing for her. Even from the first time she came here, as soon as she gets back in the car she says every time I come here, I remember the reason why I love it."

"You have reminded her of her worth, in the way in which you all treat people, you stand by your ethos, you don't just say it, you do it and that's the difference with the Cavalier Centre."



Volunteers & Coaches

"I promise you I get more out of the time I spend at The Cavalier Centre than you will possibly ever realise". That's what one of our 180 plus lovely volunteers said.

Their lives, the lives of our participants, our team, and our horses are all enriched by the engagement of our volunteers, who are vital to the Centre.

Over
20,000
volunteer
hours given



Over 80% of our
participants feel
a sense of
achievement
from taking part

Sky high fundraising!

One of our participants, Brad Wale, did a skydive with Annabel, our Yard Manager, to raise over £3,600 for us and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Brad said that the Cavalier Centre has given him the encouragement and hope he needed to keep going no matter what life throws at him. Thank you Brad, you're an inspiration!



Horses and ponies

Continuing to be the stars of the show, our 14 horses and ponies have been enjoying their varied lives here. From Riding and Driving to Pony Care and Quiet Time, they're all living happy and fulfilled lives. This past year we retired Rocky, Billy and Storm and welcomed Teddy and little Shetland Super Ted.

Plus, they're all enjoying drinking fresh spring-fed water from the new automated troughs that have been installed this past year, making the most of our site's natural resources.

Thank you!



Fun Fact

35,770 piles of muck were picked up!

New for the coming year

Given how much has been achieved in the past year, it's quite a daunting prospect to look forward to what the next 12 months will bring. But we know there will be good times ahead.

We've already enjoyed two diverse events: running an RDA Equestrian competition as part of the historic Wenlock Olympian Society Games, and hosting Lead Up International, who use Monty Roberts' natural horsemanship principles to work with young people around assertive leadership and non-violence.

We'll also be launching a Friends of The Cavalier Centre scheme later this year - more information will be coming soon.

We are excited to see our new sensory garden mature. It was planted in memory of Sam Bowman, who brought energy and creativity to the Cavalier Centre and is so sadly missed.

We will continue to develop the site over the next year, with a focus on nature and the environment. So it really is a case of "watch this space"!

Thank you so much!

We're so grateful to everyone who has supported the Cavalier Centre over the past year. As a charity, we literally cannot operate without the generosity of people, businesses, foundations, families and more.

Whether it's a large capital grant to enable us to build the Little Bradbury Arena, or our nine-year old friend Eva, who raised £130 by walking, cycling and riding over 70 kilometres, every penny helps. We are in awe of so many people who give so willingly of their time, their talent and their finances.

And for the people who leave a legacy to the Centre, or fundraise in memory of their loved ones, we remain ever thankful.



Fun Fact

Nearly 250 horse shoes fitted to our ponies