


"That was a great time, the summer of '71 - I can't remember it, but I'll never forget it!" Lemmy Kilmister, lead singer, Motörhead.

April 2020 to March 2021 - I don't really want to remember it, but I'll never forget it!"

April to March is the financial year for RfS and the time we must report to the Charities Commission. It has been a challenging year for everyone. RfS is emerging in a strong position. Page 2 of this Update provides a summary of the sort of things we will be sending to the Charities Commission. Hope it is informative.

Book now! In the last two weeks over 30 RfS sessions from five schools have been booked to take place during the Summer Term. Contact Stephanie on info@ridingforsmiles.org



The Carriage project is progressing well, and we are absolutely delighted that bookings are coming in. We can accommodate up to 2 wheelchairs and their carers on the carriage. We are allocating an hour for getting into the carriage, making everyone safe (fastening the chairs down), having a super sociable ride through the Craggs and alighting from the carriage.

Do please consider bring one or two wheelchair users either with a booked session or indeed quite separately. We need to learn and understand the best way to operate, and your input is very welcome. And, we do have targets to meet set by Sport England.

The good news is we have just received funding of £6,000 from The Cloth Workers Foundation to enhance our facilities particularly for wheelchair users. Consequently, we are getting quotations from local builders to concrete a small area of the car park to include easier parking and access from vehicle to carriage. We will also have a large accessible toilet which will also be accessible from the concreted area. Funding will dictate the eventual size, shape and 'poshness' of the facility. Hopefully, work will start soon.

Riding for Smiles has come through this period in a strong position.

The invaluable partnership with Coloured Cob Equestrian Centre has been developed and captured in a new Service Level Agreement.

RfS is delighted to have agreed a new working together agreement with Stephanie Hind.

Full reviews and updates have been completed of the RfS Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct, RfS Constitution, RfS Risk Assessments, RfS Rules, Agreement forms, Information Sheet etc.

RfS took delivery of a new carriage designed and built in the UK especially for wheelchair users and their carers.

RfS worked with consultants, Connected Thinking, to re-examine its business plan, the make-up of its Board of Trustees, its marketing and engagement plan and many other aspects of its vision, mission, and values together with its operational procedures.

RfS started to build a digital presence starting with a web site, www.ridingforsmiles.org

RfS has submitted bids to the Boots Foundation, Cash for Kids, Children in Need, and others. Not all these bids will be successful, the submitting of funding bids is vital to our existence.

April 1st, 2020 – March 31st, 2021 in provisional figures.
(Figures for 2019–2020 in brackets for comparison)

RfS in partnership with CCEC delivered 210 (more than 600) equestrian experiences.

RfS received a £13,000 development grant from The National Lottery to fund the mental health project, the external consultant's review and report, and the building of a web site and a presence on social media.

RfS received £5,000 from Sport England funded by Toyota towards the purchase of a wheelchair friendly horse drawn carriage.

RfS received £8,055 unrestricted funds and £24,805 restricted funds, total £32,885 (£22,440) from grants and donations.

RfS has been granted £10,000 restricted funding and £5,000 unrestricted funding which will be received during the year, 2021–2022.

Contact us

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