

Molly is the new pony for York Area Riding for the Disabled

York Group Riding for the Disabled Association had a very difficult winter when three of their ten ponies died. Alan Ross, Charity Steward of Francis Drake of York Lodge No. 7825 contacted Ken Lippett the Area representative of the Provincial Grand Charity, who recommended the lodge apply for help via a non Masonic Grant Petition.

Provincial Grand Charity was pleased to respond and awarded a grant of £1,650 in addition to the Lodge's donation of £100, which enabled the R.D.A. to purchase pony -"Molly". She is settling down in her role and becoming a favourite with the riders.

York RDA has 26 regular riders all of whom have learning disabilities, with most also having physical and sensory disabilities. The needs of the riders, means that the group require the services of around 50 volunteers including the catchers and groomers who are at the farm at least 3 hours before the riders arrive.

The group is very grateful for the donation which has enabled them to provide a normal service across the summer.

The Group meet at Sandfield Farm, Shipton-by-Beningbrough, and owner Mrs Margaret Dibb, founder member and organiser of York Group R.D.A., held a 40 year celebration at the farm on Sunday 8 August when Molly was formally handed over to the group.

A fixed, framed and captioned photograph will be on permanent display in the RDA area HQ at Sandfield Farm.



*Ken Lippett, Jennifer Cookson (Side Walker), Pony "Molly",
Jeremy Mowforth (Rider), Alice Tollan (Leader).*