



*Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017*

## Development

### Now & the Future

We are forever grateful to CALA for their extremely generous gift of the 6 ½ acre site, which allowed us to pursue the dream of a much needed indoor school, which will allow riding to take place no matter what the weather.

Four years ago a sub group was established from Ravelrig Group Members with relevant skills to take the project forward; architects were appointed and a fundraiser identified to assist with grant applications. As we all agree, Ravelrig occupies a spectacular site, but not the easiest to develop. Ever positive, the design team capitalised on the lie of the land to create a structure, which will provide the accommodation required without detracting from and losing the spectacular view we know and love. The cost of the complete development was estimated at £1.6 million. Two years into the fundraising, with limited financial success, the decision was taken to phase the build, Phase 1 being the indoor school and stable block. Funders liked this decision, with the Robertson Trust, the Peoples

Postcode Lottery and Sportscotland pledging generous amounts and other small trusts also promising support. The target for Phase 1 is around £0.9 million of which we have already raised £0.7 million.

A conscious decision was made not to constantly ask the Group Members for financial contributions – their support was needed for the day-to-day running of the Group – but they would be asked to help with the final push. It has been a long, hard slog but we never thought it would be easy. We also did not realise how hard it would be, but the worry and disappointments have been worth it. Our riders deserve the best facilities possible.

It has been a steep hill to climb, and we are nearing the summit, which is proving to be the steepest part. We have explored every avenue of funding, pushed ourselves out-with our personal comfort zone and now need the support of everyone for the final push.

### How can you help?

Perhaps you know of a source of funds of which we do not, a private trust that might support us on your recommendation, or an employer with a social responsibility program that supports the charities that assist the families of staff members? On a smaller scale perhaps you have plans to run a sponsored 5k run this summer, or could organize a coffee morning or cake sale to help us in a more personal way.

With your help we will start to build our Indoor Riding Arena this year and ensure that the days of riding in the rain and cold are numbered.

Please let us know if you can help in anyway at [organiser@ravelrig-rda.org.uk](mailto:organiser@ravelrig-rda.org.uk)

## Volunteers' Corner

### Updating Personal Information

We are in the process of updating the volunteer database and to this end, you should all have received an **Update of Information** form to complete. If you have not already returned your form, please do so by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**. For those who have not received a form they are available from the Volunteer Noticeboard in the Club Room.

### Session Representatives – Your Opinions Matter

During April each session will be asked to nominate a volunteer to act as their Session Representative at meetings with the Volunteer Coordinator. These meetings will be held bi-monthly unless there is an issue that requires urgent attention. Topics, such as training needs, volunteer activities, fundraising ideas and involvement etc, will be discussed along with any topics raised by volunteers. The Session Representatives will then feed back to their individual sessions.

Further details will be sent to the Coaches in the next couple of weeks.

\*Elaine Jeffries – Volunteer Coordinator

\*email - Volunteering.ravelrigrda@talktalknet

## Fundraising

Thank you for your support at the **Jumble Sale** in January when we raised over **£2,000!**

### Upcoming events

#### Dinner Date

We are running a tasty fundraising night at **Al Borgo** in Juniper Green on the **19<sup>th</sup> April**. All you need to do is go out for a meal to raise money for us, can it be any easier?

For just **£20 pp** (excluding drinks) you can enjoy a three-course dinner with your friends and family. Pop your name on the booking form in the club room or ring **0131 449 7994** to book your table. Tables are available from 5.30pm.

### Book Worm

On the **29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April** we are joining forces with Currie and Balerno Rotary to run a **Book Sale** at the **Gyle Shopping Centre**.

If you have any books that you would like to donate please bring them to the office or Club Room. If you are able to help in person at the sale then please pop your name on the list on the noticeboard in the Club room.

### Spring cleaning?

Did you know **clearing out** your unwanted clothes and textiles can help raise money for us? Just **bag them** up and pop them into the **“Rag Bin”** behind the main gate to Ravelrig.

## Horses

We said goodbye to Jewel who retired from Ravelrig at the beginning of the year. He has settled into his new home and has made lots of new friends. We welcomed Oreo at the beginning of March who is settling in to Ravelrig well.

## Lockers

Thanks to the generous donation from **Scotmid** we now have more colourful lockers for volunteers and riders. Some lockers have items in them but we are unsure if they have an owner. We will be charging for the keys and it will be the riders responsibility to keep them safe. More information will follow from your coaches.

## Ravelrig Presentation

We would like to invite you along to a presentation we will be holding at the Currie Bowling Club on the 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm or if you can't make that the 29<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm.

The Trustees will be there to talk through their plans for the next year and beyond. The presentation will also cover Rider development, the Volunteers & Coaches and the Indoor Arena Development Funding.

There will be opportunities to ask questions at the end of the evening to the room or to the Trustees or Coaches present on a more informal basis.

We will be sending out a survey next week to establish which areas you would like the presentation to focus on and will be asking you to confirm your attendance.

We look forward to seeing you at the presentation.

## Welcome

We welcomed Katie the new Administrative Assistant in February to the Ravelrig family. Katie will be helping with the general running of the office and anything else that is flung in her direction.

Her email address is [office@ravelrig-rda.org.uk](mailto:office@ravelrig-rda.org.uk)

## Website

We are in the process of relaunching the website. It is in the very early stages of revamping, but keep an eye out for the launch.

[www.ravelrig-rda.org.uk](http://www.ravelrig-rda.org.uk)

**And finally**....did you know we're now on Twitter **@RDARavelrig** so please follow us. Remember we're also on Facebook so pop along and like our page to keep up to date with news and gossip.

## Remember our Upcoming Events

### Dinner date 19th April

Join us for dinner at Al Borgo  
in Juniper Green, £20 pp  
Tables available from 5.30pm



Pop your name on the booking form in the Club room  
or ring 0131 449 7994 to book your table

All profits going to Ravelrig RDA  
registered charity SC399130

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Currie & Balerno Rotary to run a  
book sale at the Gyle Shopping  
Centre on the 29th & 30th April

If you are able to donate any of  
your unwanted books to the sale  
please bring them to the office  
or club room.

Thank you

# Book Sale