



## Wyfold Riding for the disabled



Wyfold Riding for the Disabled is very slowly, but safely, opening its gates again: on Tuesday March 17th we very sadly had to close our gates and face an unknown future. The backbone of the RDA being to help those who need physical assistance to ride was impossible at a distance of two metres.

However, the horse racing world has led the way and shown us how sport can re-emerge in a safe way. We have seen the jockeys with their face masks on and

trainers social distancing while the grooms keep to their 'bubbles'. We can all learn from them.

So, on Wednesday 15th July, exactly 17 weeks since the beginning of lockdown, we opened our gates to our first rider with strict hygiene and social distancing rules in place. Tammy, our brave rider, mount-ed up on Benny completely by herself. This will have to be the case for now, as only riders that we know are able to get on a pony without physical assistance will be able to return. For us it was the first step and others will follow on from this as we slowly manage to build up our organisation and once again become the thriving, successful and popular charity we have always been.

The 17 weeks without income meant that we have had to use up the money that we had ear-marked for refurbishment projects and maintenance.

At the moment there are no traditional ways of raising money to help feed and look after our eight ponies so virtual events are going to be very important to us. Therefore, we have signed up to Prudential Ride London taking place over the weekend of 15th/16th August.

This is going to be a nationwide event in partnership with Virgin Money Giving of whom we are members. We need as many supporters as possible to join this event in groups of up to six people, wherever they live, to cycle locally and set their own distance. Wheelchair uses can join in and also those on static bikes. Supporters need to register at [www.myridelondon.co.uk](http://www.myridelondon.co.uk) and then set up their fundraising page at [www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com) and choose Wyfold as their charity.

We now have a Facebook page and are on Instagram. So, it's please, please get on your bikes for the Wyfold ponies! Events taking place either side of the weekend of the 15/16th are acceptable.

**Gill Rushworth**