



Courtesy Sally Masson Photography

Gaddesden Estate

September Park & Ride

Join us for our Flagship Event on 30th September and Help Support the RDA

It is a truism that an organisation of any type – charity, business, club; you name it – is only as good as its people. In May of this year we said goodbye to a figure many of us considered an integral part of life at the Gaddesden Estate, and one who is almost single-handedly responsible for laying the foundations for the level of horsey-enterprises we boast today.

Derek Christopher, who died from cancer at the grand old age of 87, founded not only the Upperwood Stud – today a thriving business run by Greg and Lottie Parsons – and took

over the management of our DIY livery and paddock business, but also mapped out and developed the Ride and its 30 optional fences, which runs for 8 miles across our small corner of West Hertfordshire. 30 years on, this quiet and varied route boasts a regular membership and is popular with local riders keen to stay off the surrounding busy roads.

It was Derek who was also at the forefront of the development of the Park & Rides, held on the last Sunday of each month over the summer, and during which riders can come and enjoy a day here for just £20 per



Courtesy Sally Masson Photography

**PRIZES
TO BE
WON!**

GADDESSEN ESTATE SEPTEMBER PARK & RIDE

Sunday 30th September

- £25 per horse and rider
- All proceeds to the Riding for the Disabled Association and British Horse Society
- Optional fancy-dress; prizes for the best outfit and extra sponsorship money raised

Book your place via www.equoevents.co.uk

Full details at www.gaddesdenestate.co.uk/equine-parks-rides
Find us on Facebook @GaddesdenEstate

Find us on Facebook

participant. The first of these ran in 2014 and today are an integral part of the calendar, attracting over 100 riders to each event.

The final day, this year on 30th September, is held in aid of Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled Association; another organisation held together by a fantastic group of people and another equine enterprise which calls us home. This year we are adding some extra special things to the event: an optional fancy dress competition, with riders encouraged to obtain sponsorship from friends and family to do the ride in costume; and a prize in Derek's memory for the highest total sponsorship money raised (regardless of whether the sponsorship is for fancy dress or simply completing the Ride successfully).



Courtesy Sally Masson Photography

We would like to make 2018 a benchmark year for how much we can raise for the charity in Derek's memory and hope readers of GB Rider can help to make this happen.

To take part in the Park & Ride visit www.equoevents.co.uk and book your space asap (places must be booked in advance and this popular ride often fills up fast). Alternatively you can donate direct to the Charity via www.mydonate.bt.com/events/gaddesdencharityride/450513. Or you can simply help us to spread the word by visiting our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GaddesdenEstate and sharing the event far and wide.

We look forward to welcoming you here in September!



Credit: Brian Findlay



Credit: Brian Findlay