

40th BIRTHDAY BARN DANCE & HOG ROAST at PEAR TREE FARM, WARNHAM: 11th August

REPORT BY DAPHNE POUPART

"What a crowd!", "What fabulous weather!" and "Weren't we lucky!" Yes, indeed we were as 225 members, family, friends and neighbours basked in the gloriously warm evening sunshine at Pear Tree Farm to mark our 40th Birthday.

Frank and Jane Warrender very kindly hosted a most enjoyable charity event with dancing to folk group *D'arcy Spice*, and we thank them very much indeed for the huge amount of work they did. The excellent food was provided by Warnham Butchers and Jane, Daphne, Carol, Ros, Marilyn, Caroline and Niki. The bar staff (Frank and Keith) were rushed off their feet the whole evening, as was Lucy who sold a large number of raffle tickets.

Pear Tree Farm has a flock of sheep, so the F&M outbreak the week before cast a cloud over the plans and our fingers stayed crossed for a week. But come the day the F&M mat went down, the coloured lights and balloons went up and a great evening was had by all.

Very many thanks to all of you who generously donated the numerous raffle prizes and to Tesco (through Lucy) who provided money-off vouchers to help our fund raising efforts. A very special accolade to Ro Jennings for making our delicious BIG 40th birthday cake, bursting with fruit and well laced with Brandy. As well as being a first class cook Ro is an artist too as she perfectly reproduced the British Riding Clubs logo in icing, including the nine stars - and all in the correct colours. A third of the cake has been kept to be enjoyed by all who come to our AGM at Colgate Village Hall on Wednesday 7th November.

Our thanks too to Richard and Simon Warrender for all their help and especially for their emergency 10pm dash to Tesco to re-stock the bar! Frank & Jane's fine old barn is usually home to their Irish Draught youngsters, who are destined to become carriage horses. They watched our noisy antics from their adjoining field - all good education no doubt for their future role.

40 years ago half a dozen horsey enthusiasts sat round a kitchen table at Lynn Hayden's farmhouse in Faygate and discussed starting a riding club. Jane became our first Secretary and later Treasurer and I became the Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer. One of our earliest social events - when our membership was no more than 20 - was a Barbecue hosted by Jane's parents in Rusper - so how fitting it is that we should celebrate 40 years in a similar (but much bigger) way.

All of you who came along and generously spent your money on raffle tickets and drinks will be pleased to learn that a wonderful profit in excess of £2,000 was made, which will be divided between Sussex Air Ambulance and Happy Landings Carriage Driving Group of RDA. Thankyou everyone for making it such a success. So here's to our GOLDEN Anniversary in 2017. Cheers!!

Daphne Poupart

Your Chairman and committee are delighted to inform you that Jane Warrender has accepted their invitation to become HDRCs Vice President. Jane looks forward to meeting you at our 40th AGM on 7th November at Colgate Village Hall.

