



Putting our best foot forward...



It has been a difficult year for the Centre as the funding situation became critical last summer and the BTRC Vulnerable Horse Programme (VHP) had to be suspended for the first time in the Centre's history - more than 31 years! However, due to the hard work and dedication of Team BTRC and with the help from our loyal supporters, we were pleased to reopen the VHP again in January 2023 to support owners and horses in need.

If you would like to gift your horse to BTRC or you require some advice and would like to chat to our friendly team, please don't hesitate to contact us on the 24/7 helpline 01524 812649, we're here to help.

The main reason we were able to reopen the programme once again was due to a new strategy that focused on diversifying our work, which includes offering new services - some of which you can read more about in this newsletter.

Also don't forget to have a look at page 9 for diary dates if you would like to support our events. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to run your own event to raise funds for BTRC, we would be delighted to hear from you and would be so grateful. You may even feature in a future newsletter!

Email Lauren anytime on lauren@thetrc.co.uk or visit our website www.thebtrc.co.uk.

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Some of the Recent Arrivals to BTRC



BTRC Belle Voici



BTRC Francis Xavier



BTRC Our Young Un



BTRC Lakshmi Lola



BTRC Pepite Fleurie



BTRC Bee Crossing

BTRC Whitford

Written by Previous Owner Claire



Just before Christmas 2013 I walked into a yard and fell in love with the cheeky little 3 year old that was staring back at me and on Boxing Day he became mine. William (racing name Whitford) was a flat racer but had fallen out of love with it and the trainer just wanted a good home for him. I had recently lost a true heart horse BTRC XInth Stealth to a very rare condition, guttural pouch mycosis and had a massive horse shaped hole in my heart. Over the years, William (or Willy bobs to his friends!) and I formed a great partnership. We went to regular dressage events going up the ranks in BD and he even turned his hooves to Eventing, despite

being a flat racer. He didn't have the most stylish of jumps but he was bold and brave and competed up to BE90. Sadly, he developed a keratoma in his hoof and my farrier worked tirelessly over the years to keep him comfortable and sound. Unfortunately I got to the stage where a decision had to be made about what to do with this keratoma and therefore William. At the same time, life was very complicated and everything seemed to be quite overwhelming. That was when I contacted the BTRC.

It was simply THE best decision I made for William. From the initial enquiry and phone calls, Gillian and her team were kind, understanding, empathetic and logical. I had several long conversations with Gillian about the process, as despite having loaned before, I had never been in the position where I needed to gift a horse.

Since gifting William, they have given him the best possible veterinary care and attention and after two years from the initial keratoma removal, he was given the all clear and ready for loaning. I was able to go and visit him and give carrots and apples whenever I wanted and was kept up to date on his progress. The team always made time to speak to me and update me - nothing was too much trouble.

I am thrilled to learn that this beloved cheeky chap has now found a new home with the most experienced and wonderful couple and I wish them years of love and memories together. with Willybobs!

Gifting a horse is full of conflict and sadness. I felt I was giving up on him, that I had failed him. The BTRC don't just help the horses, they also help the owners through these difficult times and there was a lot of tears!

I simply cannot thank BTRC enough for what they did to support me and for their unwavering commitment to William. I know what I did was the right thing for William and I feel having both loaned and gifted from/to the BTRC, I have been able to experience the relentless and passionate work they do in all aspects. THANK YOU BTRC for never giving up and for all that you do... from all the horses, owners and loaners.



BTRC William & his new loaners

Some BTRC Horses Recently Rehomed



BTRC The Pinto Kid



BTRC Bomb Proof



BTRC Stragar



BTRC Peter Pan



BTRC Flash (Unraced)



BTRC Kodi Kub

I first met BTRC Don't Touch (AKA Donald) back in October 2019 when I got the chance to do some work experience at the BTRC, but back then owning my own horse was still only a wish that had no chance of becoming a reality or so I thought at the time. I then returned to BTRC in May 2020 after finishing college to work full time as a member of stable staff where working day in day out with Donald he soon became my favourite with his loveable but cheeky personality and charming good looks. After registering my interest to loan Donald as I had fallen in love with him and couldn't see him go elsewhere I finally got to take him home on 8th March 2021 and haven't looked back since. Choosing to rehome Donald was the best decision I've ever made and I don't regret it one bit.

Before I worked at the BTRC I wasn't the most confident rider but after I started riding Thoroughbreds more, especially Donald it improved my riding and boosted my confidence so nothing phased me anymore and his quirks just made me love him even more.



Our dressage journey started back in June 2021 where we attended an RoR show at Aintree, our first show together and he made me proud, cool as a cucumber the whole time and got respectable first scores. We did another show in July but it was this year (2023) we started getting out competing regularly and only four months in we have achieved so much together already, he recently qualified for the ESUK Riders Grassroots Championships and British Riding Club Area Regionals both in July and we are also eligible for the RoR Northern Regional Dressage Championship at Myerscough in June at Intro level which we have entered. Donald and I have many plans for dressage shows this year including to keep working on doing our Prelim tests and qualifying for Trailblazers too but to keep it varied and show the versatility of Thoroughbreds we also want to get out

doing some local unaffiliated show jumping, fun rides, beach rides, farm rides and Arena XC. We have also done a bit of in-hand showing so this will continue and soon we hope to be doing some ridden showing and working hunter at our local riding club.

Until Donald came into my life I never thought I'd ever have my own horse let alone get the opportunity to go out and compete so for this I am forever grateful to the BTRC for letting me loan him, he really is one in a million!



Don't Touch winning the Ayr Gold Cup in 2015

Horses Helping the Community



In 2022 BTRC began the project, Horses Helping the Community with the aim of spreading positivity and happiness in the local community through the use of horses. The BTRC visit care homes/schools/community groups with retired racehorses and the BTRC Shetland mascot to improve the mental health and wellbeing of those people on the community who do not have access to spending time with horses.

Hartland House Care Home

The sun was shining for the residents of Hartland House Care Home as they welcomed retired racehorse, Bomb Proof and Shetland pony Washbear from The British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre on Friday 8th July.

The residents enjoyed a morning sat outside in the sunshine spending time with the horses, getting to stroke them and learn more about the work of BTRC. Resident Ron said, "We have had a brilliant morning, we are so grateful to BTRC for bringing these horses along to see us, it brings us such joy and makes us so happy." The BTRC arrange these visits as part of their Community Engagement work, spreading the word about their work caring for and rehoming retired racehorses. BTRC Communications & Engagement Manager, Lauren Lindsay said "It is so important to reach out to those people in the community who may not otherwise have a chance to spend time with horses and feel the mental and physical benefits of being around them. Our visit was full of smiles and laughter and the residents could not thank us enough for visiting."

This was the second care home visit for 5-year-old Bomb Proof who raced 9 times during his career on track trained by Group One trainer James Fanshawe. Hartland House Care Manager Leanne said "The BTRC visit gave us something special to give to our residents which meant meeting new friends on a glorious day. This is priceless and we want to thank them for giving us this wonderful opportunity of bringing sparkle to the residents at Hartland House in Cumbria."



New Thoroughbred Assessment Centre

BTRC are offering both owners of active racehorses considering the retirement options for their horse, and those with horses that are retired and in equestrian but are perhaps struggling with rideability or training issues; the opportunity of a full assessment just as we undertake on all of our own horses at admission.



The evaluation will be completed by BTRC's team of expert retrainers along with Consultant Vet, Gordon Sidlow BVMS MRCVS ([West Ridge Equine](#)) who is one of the most experienced vets in the world in assessing Thoroughbreds for suitability and sustainability in the equestrian sector, and the objective of the session is to provide a clearer understanding of the potential opportunities and challenges for your retired racehorse. Furthermore, it will permit the owner an opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have about their horse with a knowledgeable team that understand and appreciate the environmental, clinical and retraining difficulties that some racehorses may face in the transition from racing to equestrian.

[More info and to book click here](#)

BTRC Partners with Scottish Racing Academy

A new partnership between BTRC and the Scottish Racing Academy (SRA) will see the SRA delivering their education programme in England. The SRA already collaborates with multiple partners in Scotland to deliver qualifications and now, through the new partnership with BTRC, will be expanding to offer Scottish qualifications in England. The SRA was developed to assist with addressing the well-reported challenges associated with the attraction, recruitment and training of potential stable staff in the racing industry.

The BTRC will now assist with the expansion of SRA's Schools Academy through the delivery of their SQA approved short courses and qualifications such as the National Progression Award in Horse Care and Racehorse Care respectively.

BTRC Chief Executive, Gillian Carlisle added, "We are delighted to become a centre in England to deliver qualifications through this new partnership with the Scottish Racing Academy. Horse welfare and education is a priority for the Charity and we are excited about the future courses that will be available for both those who have some experience already with horses, but also those that have never had an opportunity to consider working with horses especially here in the North West".





The spelling station at The British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre is for active, injured or recently retired racehorses and can accommodate up to 12 horses at a time. This facility is intended to provide horses with a break from the normal training routine or can be used for rest and recovery purposes. Normally, the minimum length of stay is 4 weeks and maximum 6 months. BTRC is situated just outside Lancaster, 10 minutes off the M6 (exit 34 or 35) and is based on a 180-acre farm in the beautiful and tranquil Lancashire countryside. The Centre has excellent facilities and a dedicated team, all of whom have professional qualifications in either racing or equestrian; including our CEO who was responsible for managing the spelling stables for active racehorses at the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Spelling fee: £140 per week to include;

- Feed and Forage
- Bedding
- Daily turn out and horse walker available

There will be additional veterinary charges if a horse becomes sick or injured and for any additional supplements or procedures that the trainer may request. There will also be charges for alternative bedding or feed and miscellaneous items, unless provided by the trainer.

Transport to be arranged by trainer or owner and all horses require a negative strangles ELISA before arrival and proof of valid vaccinations.

Should you require more information please do not hesitate to contact the Centre on 01524 812649 or email enquiries@thetrc.co.uk or.

All profit from spelling stables will go directly to the BTRC's charitable vulnerable horse programme to help retired racehorses that may struggle in their second career.

Cartmel Racecourse: Saturday 22nd July 2023

BTRC are the chosen charity for Cartmel Races on this day. We will be there raising awareness of our work, selling our merchandise and raising funds. If you would like to volunteer to help bucket collect, please email Molly on office@thetrc.co.uk.

Open Day: Saturday 5th August 2023

Come along to BTRC to find out more about our work, meet the horses, take a tour of the facilities and indulge in some home-made sweet-treats! As well as watching some fantastic demos all about retraining retired racehorses. More info on the website soon!



THANK YOU

Owners Raise Funds for BTRC



In April we had the pleasure of welcoming members from the Facebook group 'Owners Group Horses and Community' who are all part of different racehorse syndicates. These responsible owners raise money through their group and donate the proceeds to Charity, this time choosing BTRC to receive a whopping £1,000!!!!

Organising member Sue said "What a fabulous and precious facility, an informative, honest and transparent tour by Lauren. THE most fabulous horses in their care, rehoming procedures are extensive and huge amounts of work go into finding the right loaner for the horse, not necessarily the right horse for the loaner... huge difference!"

Thank you to all in the group from everyone at BTRC for your support and donations, they will really help towards our work with vulnerable thoroughbreds.

If you would like to raise funds for BTRC we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Lauren on lauren@thetrc.co.uk.



How Can You Help?

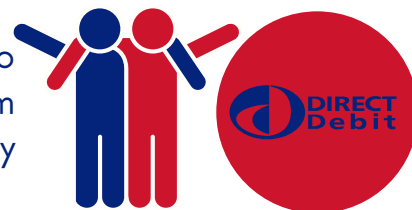


FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS...

You might see something AMAZING!!! Like this video of BTRC Captain Cavendish (Jack) and his feathered friend in his loan home (Recycled Racehorse Falconry Team) which has been seen by more than 200k people worldwide! BTRC are on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and have recently joined TikTok. We post a wide range of content from educational videos, tips & tricks, funny videos, stunning photos and run competitions. Don't miss out, give us a follow... [@thebtrc](#).

BECOME A FRIEND OF BTRC

Just a small monthly donation can make a huge difference to the horses in our care. The regular donations we receive from our friends and committed givers are what keep us going every single month. [Sign up today](#).



MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION

Donations are our most important source of income. Since 1991 your donations have enabled BTRC to assist hundreds of horses and to grow to today being able to provide a future and safe haven for up to 45 thoroughbreds at any one time. [Donate now](#).

JustGiving™

DONATE NOW!

DONATE FOR FREE!

[Register with easyfundraising.org.uk](#) and raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping! Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you!' It's completely free and over £31m has been raised for causes just like us!



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Get in touch as there are so many volunteering opportunities at BTRC. You could help out with yard work, farm and grounds maintenance, fundraising and events organisation etc. If interested call 01524 812649 or email enquiries@thebtrc.co.uk.



AND FINALLY...

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Registered Charity
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