

Press release

New saddle helps riding centre for people with special needs

A local funeral director is helping a horse-riding centre for young people and adults with special needs by donating a specially fitted saddle for one of their horses.

Nick Dear, from Doves Funeral Directors in Bromley, Orpington and Swanley, wanted to do something different to support a local charity and approached a saddlery to see if they knew of a riding school who might benefit from a donation of a new saddle.

Nick said: “The saddlery put me in touch with the [Arrow Riding Centre in Dartford](#), a volunteer-based charity for young people and adults with special needs. The timing was ideal as they had a horse that was in desperate need of a new saddle so they could use her to carry disabled riders comfortably.”

The saddle, costing almost £1,200, was funded by Doves Funeral Directors based in Bromley, Orpington and Swanley which is part of the Funeral Partners network of high-quality funeral homes

Natalie Scott, head coach and yard manager at the Arrow Riding Centre, said: “The timing was perfect when Nick approached us. We had been training Dolly, an eight-year-old mare, for a while but she wasn't comfortable with her saddle which meant we couldn't use her with the riders.

“We are so grateful to Doves Funeral Directors for this donation; it means that Dolly has a saddle which fits her well and she is comfortable carrying the riders. We can continue her training now and she is doing really well. I know she will make a great Riding for the Disabled Association horse.”

Dolly has been with the riding school for three years after being brought over from Ireland. The funds for Dolly were provided by Councillor Rosanna Currans, outgoing Mayor of Dartford, who chose the Arrow Riding Centre as one of her special causes for her term in office.

Nick added: “I am delighted that Councillor Currans was able to join us to see Dolly fitted with her new saddle. The riding school does some amazing work, and I am pleased that we have been able to support them. I hope that many people will enjoy riding Dolly and the new saddle will mean that Dolly is comfortable and can enjoy the lessons too.”

Ends

Photo description:

From left to right: Natalie Scott, head coach and yard manager at the Arrow Riding School; Dolly with her new saddle; Councillor Rosanna Currans, outgoing Mayor of Dartford and Nick Dear from Doves Funeral Service

About Funeral Partners:

Funeral Partners is the UK's third largest funeral business, with more than 225 funeral homes staffed by over 700 dedicated funeral professionals serving communities across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Chief Executive Sam Kershaw has 40 years' experience in the funeral profession, joining the business back in 2016 as Chief Operating Officer. Funeral Partners, celebrating its 15-year anniversary in 2022, has grown rapidly, building a strong reputation as a well-run, high-quality funeral services business overseeing more than 20,000 funerals each year.

It now includes more than 125 family businesses, which have entrusted their reputation and heritage to Funeral Partners.

About the Arrow Riding School:

The Arrow Riding Centre in Dartford is a volunteer-based charity for young people and adults with special needs. The team of qualified coaches work with physiotherapists to develop tailor-made programmes for each of the riders, helping them to unlock their potential on and off the horse.

Contact:

For more information about Funeral Partners visit www.funeralpartners.co.uk or corporate.funeralpartners.co.uk

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