

London New Year's Day Parade 2016 – 30 Magical Years!

First of two reports from our FAB FOUR

Stacey Jury & Jenny Trotman once again took part in the London New Years Day Parade under the banner of 'All the Queen's Horses' The Parade theme was '30 Magical Years'. Stacey & Jenny's theme was Charlie & the Chocolate Factory.

Their preparations started back in October with the first task being discussions on who would do what. The fjords became 'Wonka Bars' and the riders and other members of the group would be characters from the book - and so the preparations began... Making the costumes, rehearsing the fjords and riders, reminding the two fjords that London New Year's Day Parade is noisy and colourful.

New Years Eve arrived & there was no going out & celebrating for the 'Chocolate Factory'. Final adjustments were made to the fjords appearance, manes checked over and final trim made, baths undertaken with a friend's hot horse shower which degenerated into a cold shower as the hot one decided not to work. Battling the fading light and the weather threatening to throw more water down was Tracey, Jenny and helpers New Years Eve! No partying for them. Loading the lorry with all the equipment and costumes was their task. No sneaky drinking either as they had to be off to London not many hours later.

New Year's Day brought with it a 4am alarm call They were out the door by 5.15am. They fed the horses, loaded up and were on the road by 6.30am with Willy Wonka & two more Oompa Loompas following in a car behind!

They arrived at Hyde Park Corner, London by 8.45am & parked on the pavement by the railings to the Park. At last some chill out time until the briefing at 10.15am when they met up with the rest of the team and received instructions for the day. From then on it was non-stop getting everybody (horses, riders and walkers) ready for the off. Costumes were adjusted (Willy Wonka's trousers kept falling down!) The fjords were glittered and face paints applied.

Whilst being tacked up the two fjords watched one of the London Borough's Bollywood dance troupe warm up . In true Fjord fashion they were more interested in trying to eat the bushes in the Park than about the loud music!

Then it was time to set off and they started their journey through the centre of London waving to spectators & where time permitted, letting the cheering crowds behind the railings stroke & pet the fjords. Many of the spectators had not been in contact with a horse before and how their faces lit up with the interaction. Stacey said it is something she will never forget and a wonderful start to the year. People were cheering and clapping and the wonderful fjord horses did not worry at all. They enjoyed the fuss and attention. Dora especially walked with her head turned to the crowds allowing them to have a good view of her. What a show off.

At the end of the parade the members of All The Queen's Horses joined the general public and continued their journey to Horse Guards Parade & along The Mall to the famous gates of Buckingham Palace where more photos were taken of the group. Even on the way back to the horsebox, people were stopping and chatting. Stacy said 'it really was surreal & a truly wonderful day spent with our friends, family and Foot Perfect Fjords'. She said afterwards 'The preparation is hard work but the feeling you get from taking part cannot be matched'.

Well, we are sure everyone will agree that Stacey, Jenny, Fjord Horses, Dora, Holly & helpers did an absolutely wonderful job and were a credit to the breed and to the Fjord Horse National Studbook Association of Great Britain & take away wonderful memories of a job well done and an enjoyable one at that.