

A photograph of three pack horses standing on a narrow, rocky trail. The horses are light-colored with dark harnesses and saddles. The trail is surrounded by dense, dark green vegetation and trees. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

# Supporting The Brooke

**Jane Holderness Roddam** won Burghley 40 years ago this year. She explains why she's now putting her energies into supporting a charity that helps needy equines all around the world

**I**t is 40 years since Jane Holderness Roddam CBE, LVO Olympic champion eventer and now owner of West Kingston Stud near Badminton, won Burghley Horse Trials. She returns every year to the event, but 2016 will be a special one, not just because of the anniversary of her win, but also because she – and Land Rover Burghley – will be supporting The Brooke, a working horse and donkey charity, of which she is a trustee. Picnic goers attending Burghley are encouraged to join The Brooke's 'High Teas for Gee Gees' tea party initiative and raise much-needed funds for vulnerable working horses, donkeys and mules working hard in the developing world.

"Horses have been a part of my life since childhood, and caring for them properly is really important to me," says Jane. "People living in the communities The Brooke works in don't have the same access to veterinary healthcare and training that we have in the UK, and it's important that we help change that."

Jane Holderness Roddam was the first woman to represent Britain in Olympic three-day-eventing, winning team gold in Mexico, 1968. Among the many milestones in her remarkable career were two victories at Badminton in 1968 and 1978, and Burghley Horse Trials in 1976. In the lead up to Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials 2016, Jane shared some memories of her win.

#### **A potential winner**

One year before the 1976 Burghley, Jane was still trying to find the perfect eventer, but was saved by the late Suzie Howard,



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JANE HOLDERNESS RODDAM

an American owner, who bought Warrior, a young, cocky but confident horse that had the potential to win.

In their first three-day-event, however, not everything went to plan. As the first to go at Bramham Horse Trials, they were told at short notice about a late change in the course, and Jane fell.

"I flew over his ears on to the ground, and the next thing I saw was his front hooves come down each side of my head, pinning my hairnet to the ground. That was a close one!" remembers Jane.

"In those days, though, you could get up and carry on, so I did, and we finished somewhere near 15th place. It was a good learning experience for both of us. It pays to make a few mistakes when you're developing the partnership."

Completion was enough to qualify them for Burghley, so in September, the two took on the course despite having only competed together since the spring. Jane wasn't sure what to expect, but went in hoping for the best.

"The great thing about Burghley is the time of year – you've had the whole summer to train and it's less hot by this time. You've had a chance to get over the pre-season nerves too, but I didn't have much choice in that area anyway, my

BELOW: JANE HOLDERNESS RODDAM AT BURGHLEY





PHOTO: JANE HOLLAND

brother and sister just told me to get on with it!”

The long hot summer that year had made the ground hard, so the steeplechase that in those days was an important part of the ‘long-format’ three-day-event, moved from its original site to a stubble field. Then, just before the trials started, it rained, making the terrain very unpredictable. Jane was again first to go, and in those days the steeplechase was nearly three miles. She was shocked to clock up eight time faults, but as the competition went on and the ground grew muddier, it was clear that other competitors were struggling too, and the ground was steadily worsening as it was pummelled by more horses and riders. At the end of the second phase, Jane and Warrior were standing second.

As they started the show jumping it was the first year the contenders performed in reverse order, so Jane went second to last, producing a clear round. After that the first place rider took to the course. Jane recalls what happened next: “I couldn’t see what was happening, but then heard a fence come down and the crowd groan. We knew then that we had won. It was tremendously exciting and a really big moment because we weren’t expecting it, especially after the fall at Bramham. We were so unprepared that Suzie and I had to plug her Carmen rollers into the light socket in Warrior’s stable to get her hair sorted before the prize presentation!”

#### Success after success

Jane and Warrior went on to win at Burghley the following year, when the event hosted the European Championships. They won team gold for Britain, with team-mates Lucinda Prior Palmer, Chris Collins and Clarissa Strachan, and finished fifth individually. Then they won Badminton in 1978, making Warrior one of the few horses of his era to win both of Britain’s four-star events.

Jane loved competing in all the big three-day-events, but found Burghley particularly special.

“Eventing has evolved in many different ways, but Burghley has always been a front runner in innovation, and I think it’s everybody’s dream to compete there.”

Jane retired from eventing 14 years ago, but returned last year to ride in a BE100 class as a one off at West Wiltshire Equestrian Centre to raise £10,000 for The Brooke and World Horse Welfare.

#### Vital animals, facing huge hardship

The Brooke is working towards a world in which working horses, donkeys and mules are free from suffering. More than 100 million of these working equines are the construction and agricultural vehicles of the developing world. They also transport people, produce and materials. Working environments for these animals and their owners can be extreme, coping with up to 50 or 60°C temperatures in the brick kilns of India, and clouds of thick →



JANE AT WEST WILTS 2015

#### Jane Holderness Roddam – career highlights

- 1968 – As Jane Bullen, she became the first woman to compete in Olympic three day eventing, winning team gold in Mexico
- 1968 – Won Badminton Horse Trials on Our Nobby
- 1976 – Won Burghley Horse Trials on Suzie Howard’s Warrior
- 1978 – Won Badminton Horse Trials again on Warrior
- 2015 – Returned to eventing at BE100 level to raise £10,000 for Brooke and World Horse Welfare



FREYA DOWSON/THE BROOKE

**The Brooke – did you know?**

- The charity was founded in 1934 by Dorothy Brooke, who helped horses that had been abandoned in Egypt after World War Two
- There are over 100 million working horses, donkeys and mules all over the world
- 600 million people's lives are supported by working equines in developing countries
- The Brooke currently has a presence in 15 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Central America
- The Brooke reaches over 1.8 million working horses, donkeys and mules each year – more than any other organisation
- In 2016 The Brooke launched a new five year strategy to accompany a new brand and website [www.thebrooke.org](http://www.thebrooke.org)
- Dressage star Charlotte Dujardin OBE is a global ambassador for The Brooke

dust in the coal mines of Pakistan. Many of these animals are exhausted, injured, malnourished and dehydrated, and their owners often lack the knowledge or resources to properly look after them.

Horses, donkeys and mules are often vital members of people's families, working with their owners to earn an income. This income provides food, shelter, water, gets children in to school, and gives families status in their communities.

The Brooke began providing free veterinary treatment to these animals over 80 years ago, and although this still continues, the charity also focuses on sustainable projects. Today, they enable local people within equine-owning communities to care for their animals, offering training and tools to help them properly care for their animal. This community engagement also helps people to bond more closely with their animals, and shows them how important their health is to their livelihood. If a horse, donkey or mule is healthy and happy, he or she will live and work longer, earning money for their owner's family.

Beyond its on-the-ground work, The Brooke regularly conducts research to see both where new interventions would be most effective and whether current work is effective. Also, in the last few years, The Brooke has been focusing on advocacy – working with national and international policy makers to make overarching changes. Recently the charity celebrated the approval of new standards for

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working equine welfare set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). 180 countries will commit to embrace the recommendations, which The Brooke supported the OIE in developing over the past three years, providing expertise and technical input.

**How you can help The Brooke**

You can help hardworking horses, donkeys and mules overseas by hosting a tea party or picnic for The Brooke for friends and family at Burghley this year. Why not invite them to join you for lunch or tea time in return for a few pounds to help improve the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the families that depend on them for their livelihoods?

It doesn't matter whether you're a baking connoisseur or you stock up from your local supermarket, every penny you raise will go towards building a sustainable future for millions of working horses, donkeys and mules. ♀

Order your tea party picnic pack by visiting [www.thebrooke.org/high teas](http://www.thebrooke.org/high teas), emailing the Community and Events team at [community@thebrooke.org](mailto:community@thebrooke.org) or calling them on 0207 470 9393.