

# HORSE Rider

MAGAZINE

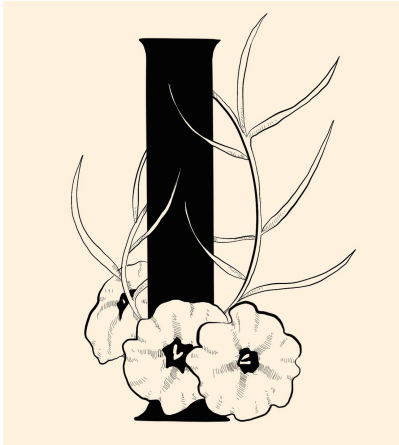
FASHION  
PREVIEW



Featuring  
*Sporting Life*  
Legend  
Suzanne Davis



HORSE RIDER MAGAZINE – featuring *Sporting Life* Legend,  
Suzanne Davis



It was something of a coup to catch up with the sporting legend that is Suzanne Davis. Since retiring from the horse-riding world some 18 months ago, following a tragic car accident, she has not been seen in the public eye - preferring anonymity whilst she regained her ability to walk. Those around her talk of her courage and perseverance with the demanding physiotherapy and rehabilitation which, despite extensive surgery and the metal pins and plates she needed in her legs, now has her walking short distances with minimal aid. She does not like to talk about it. Nor the fact that she has not been on a horse since.

We eventually caught up with her in a break-time within the drama group she attends not far from her home, now in Newport, on the outskirts of Barnstaple in North Devon. Dressed immaculately as ever, she makes her quiet entrance and you are immediately captured by those piercing blue eyes. Time to share a coffee and a brief glimpse into how life is treating her...

She arrived today in warm hat and gloves – the colours reflecting her ruddy complexion from the biting-cold wind outside. Of course, in the past, it would have been a riding hat she sported more often than not, (like the designer leopard print one she chose for the photo-shoot). But nowadays, it's more about keeping out the chill and encouraging her circulation which isn't so good. Yet still she looks the picture of elegance with her jewellery and hint of makeup.

Though she's not ridden a horse since the accident, horses do still inhabit

Suzanne's life - though in the form of china ornaments now, adorning a shelf in her bedroom along with her many books and magazines. (Moving to an upstairs room was quite an achievement and though it can require some assistance coming down, it's another step along the way.) She's interested in all animals and is known to pour over the photographs of ones from around the world whether in the comfort of her own room or when seated quietly in the community lounge at Lawrence House.

The simple pleasures in life keep a smile on Suzanne's face most days. Good food, shopping for clothes and accessories with her aide, Karen – the obligatory hats and gloves to keep her cosy; a trip to the hairdressers (it's important to keep that signature hair-do looking sleek and bouncy), maybe followed by a coffee at the local St. John's Garden Centre, or “*just going out*”! Of course, there's always Drama on a Tuesday, with Arts and Crafts on a Wednesday and enjoying the excitement of the regular visits from Mum who lives close by, perhaps her brother, or then again Dad, when he can make the journey down from Wales...

“She laughs a lot too!” we are reminded, as we watch Suzanne and her companion Sue, take their leave of us and return to the welcome of the group.

It's still looks chilly outside, though the sun is streaming in through the windows, dappling the wooden floor and warming our hearts – a reminder that spring is not so very far away. Could this be a metaphor for Suzanne's life nowadays, I wonder?

Times are still hard, but there is hope that someday in the not too distant future, she will get to visit with her beloved horses again, and who knows, maybe yet get to sit once more upon their backs and take a tentative ride out... With the strong spirit and quiet determination that shines out from her, together with the loving support she receives from all around, I have no doubt that she will.