

stick to it because I love embarrassing my children too much."

Her horse-related resolution is more of an appeal than a pledge: "I've been getting around to finishing my equestrian website for the past 15 years. I also need to get better with social media. Any help gratefully received..."

**Y**OUNG international dressage rider Annabella Pidgley declares simply: "Personally, I'd just like to survive school and then my job is to do everything I can to keep the horses healthy, happy and succeeding in their individual goals."

And what if she had a magic wand to help with that?

"I'm so grateful for where I am and what I have," she says. "To be honest, I feel as if the magic wand has already been waved."

Showjumper Joe Stockdale is not seeking so much a sprinkle of fairy dust as a time machine.

"I'm hoping Father Christmas might pop a teleporter into my stocking," he says. "Being able to whizz myself and the horses to and from international shows in an instant would make such a difference, especially to avoid all that Brexit has brought to international equine travel. Just think about all the extra hours a year I'd have."

Bumping back down to Earth, Joe's New Year resolutions involve keeping himself and his rides in tip-top condition.

"Number one on my list of aims is to set up my equine therapy area, starting with a water treadmill and building that into the horses' weekly programme," he says. "And I know it is rather clichéd, but my own challenge is to spend more time in the gym."

Eventer Greta Mason is less concerned about getting to the gym, but would like to banish spaghetti bolognese from her life.

"I always cook the same food," she admits.



*Annabella Pidgley resolves to "keep the horses healthy and happy"*

"After a long day, I don't have the energy to think about food, despite being ravenous, so we eat an awful lot of spag bol. I really need to increase my culinary repertoire of quick but delicious recipes. Failing that, I'll pray for hampers of home-cooked meals to be delivered to me daily."

Another area in which Greta would like to push herself out of her comfort zone in 2023 is communication.

"I'm always being told that I need to be more confident talking about myself," she says. "Mum is more blunt and says that I need to be less modest and network more in order to increase my string of horses and owners. This is something I seriously would like, so here's to being more assertive."

**S**HOWING producer Kelly Ward's list of good intentions will sound familiar to most. "Naturally, losing weight, drinking less and getting fit are among them, but I think the most important thing is for me to just keep on enjoying the sport for what it



*"Quick and delicious recipes for the end of a long day - or hampers of home cooking!" Greta Mason*

is," she says. "If I won the Lottery, I'd still be out buying young horses and ponies, getting up at 3am for shows then rushing back to watch my son James playing rugby in the rain - I'd just do it in a flashier car, bigger lorry and better wellies."

Eventer Dan Jocelyn's intention for 2023 is to be as fit as his horses.

"After turning 50 and breaking some bones over the past few summers, plus having had a five-year absence from Badminton, I'm hoping to head there in as good a shape as my two horses aiming for it," he pledges. "I'd also like to drop my current 22 golf handicap to a mid-teen before it's too late."

And if he could have one magic wish for the New Year?

"I'd whisk my lovely wife with me to a hot, tropical island for the rest of the winter while a team of fairies kept everything going at home!" he says.

That's something we'd all drink to. **H&H**