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Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

Hello Everyone,

What a fantastic summer we have had! All 3 weeks of summer camp at Underhill ran very smoothly, the seniors enjoyed their week away (big Thank you to Emma) and the remainder of the holidays have been busy for children and ponies alike.

Underhill has been heavily involved in showing this year. James and his horse Merlyn competed at Malvern Three Countries Show. A big well done to Cherie and Penny, Sarah and Flo, Georgina and Trigger and Cara riding Jack (for Jacqui and Andrew) for representing the yard at The Royal Welsh Show, you did us all proud!

As usual we took almost 20 horses and ponies to Llanddewi village show, with children collecting numerous rosettes from a range of classes. Milly and her new horse, Abbie claimed Champion of Show!

This year Kat, Hannah, Sarah and Lilly look on the challenge of Sarah Myhill's (and Don's!) Long distance ride across Wales and survived! The horses (Flo, Mai, Sunday and Mannie) all behaving brilliantly, gaining their achievement badges for bog snorkelling and mountain rescue!!!

Jess and Nige are expecting their second baby in early September; we wish them all the best and will keep everyone updated on the subject.

Throughout the Spring and Summer many of the young helpers have turned 16 years old and have begun working hard to earn their keep. Congratulations to Chloe, Lilly and Zoe on their GCSE results and well done for all your hard work so far this year. We are eagerly awaiting the September birthdays when James and Sarah will also turn 16!

Well done to Kat for finishing her degree and becoming a primary school teacher and a begrudged "Good Luck" to her in her hunt for a job! The best reference she can ever have is that we don't want her to leave us! (Don't worry she'll still be around for Pony Club...)

Now that the Autumn months are upon us it is time to say goodbye to some old favourites that have retired, will be retiring shortly or are resting for the winter. Such as Bambi, Pepper, Big Blue and Frosty.

We have heard fantastic news that Poppy who retired from us a couple of years ago have given birth to a beautiful filly, mum and foal doing very well. Fortune and Little Megan are extremely happy together in their new home. Sharky has also found a new loving home ☺

During August we ran our first adult's camp, with 10 ladies attending. This was a big hit, laughter could be heard throughout Dolau and so this is now planned to be an annual event.

Pony Club Rallies commence once again from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September although there is some changes being made.

The first, second and third Sunday of the month will still be dedicated to Pony Club Rallies, however the fourth Sunday has now been set aside for an adults club day modelled on their first camp mentioned earlier and any younger, half day PC children.

We would like to invite any Mum's to consider having a go and joining the adults club, to enjoy the riding and the knowledge sessions and obviously the social side of Pony Club. At current there are no men riding within the newly formed group, however if Dads are keen this could be arranged!

In order to keep the price of Pony Club activities to a minimum it may be that children are asked to double up and share a popular pony with another child on rally day. This would mean that the pony would be ridden by 2 riders in 2 separate groups at differing times on some occasions.

## **Autumn Activities**

### **Examination Training**

Once again we plan to run C test and C+ test training throughout September and October on a Wednesday evening at 5.30pm, for six weeks starting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. This needs to be booked by ringing Kath or emailing Kat ASAP. If you are unsure whether this applies to you, don't be afraid to ask. Training evenings will be charged at £5 per child per session and will include some riding.

**The examinations will take place as follows:**

**C plus Test : Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October and will cost £20.**

**C Test: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October (half day) and will cost £10.**

### **Children's Meet**

Teme Valley Hunt will be holding a children's meet at Underhill on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October and another on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. The Pony Club advice that children should hold at least their C test before being allowed to attend a hunt without full supervision of an adult. For further information please contact Kath.

### **One Day Event**

We will be running a One Day Event Competition at Underhill on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October. This will cost £10 entry fee for our centre members and £15 to use a pony to enter the competition, ponies may be shared with others throughout the day, so everyone has a go! In total it will cost £25 for the day for URS centre member children. Visiting PC members with their own ponies will be charged £15.

### **Trip**

We also hope to take a coach trip to Your Horse Live on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. This is an opportunity for parents and children to attend a fantastic equine event, with ample opportunity for horsey Christmas shopping. Please let us know if you are interested as we must book tickets very soon. To show interest or find out more contact Kat via email or speak to Kath or Kat in person!

### **Fundraising**

Finally, in order to raise vital funds for new equipment, staff training and competition entries, we have arranged for Bag2school to collect items of clothing, shoes, bags, teddies and other materials from the yard on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. We did this for the first time in February and raised £294 for our Pony Club. We hope to increase this with our next collection. To help us do so please collect and fill bags which will be available from 6<sup>th</sup> September. Any lost property which is left unclaimed on the 28<sup>th</sup> September will be bagged up and sent away so please ensure you've claimed any lost belongings before then!!!

**Thank you to all the parents and friends for their support throughout the summer months. Let's hope that the winter will be just as productive.**

Kath and Gang