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5<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Hi everyone,

It's time again for another Underhill update. We hope you all had a good start to 2013 and have kept warm and safe during this white winter weather! Here at Underhill we are hoping we have seen the last of the snow and are ready and awaiting the spring sunshine.

It has been lovely to see lots of new faces joining us for weekend lessons and hacks. If weekends are difficult for you don't forget that we offer lessons after school at 4.30 or 5pm.

As always we receive regular expert support from our equine dentist who will be visiting Underhill on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**. Regular dentistry ensures a comfortable mouth for your pony/horse and may help to improve horses/ponies ridden behaviour, as well as ensuring it is getting the best possible nutrients from the food it is eating.

Speaking of experts, our saddlers will be visiting Underhill on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February** and are happy to look at your current saddles or help fit your horse with new/second hand tack. We wish to emphasise the importance of ensuring your pony/horse is as comfortable as possible in every way to get the best out of them.

We are proposing to run a FUN RIDE on **Easter Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> March)** in the Radnor forest. This is a fundraising event for The Welsh Air Ambulance Service and The Friends of Dolau School. More details available in the following weeks keep your eyes on our website for more information. We are looking for keen and responsible volunteers to steward and help out on the day, please let us know if you are able to do this.

Jasper, aka Laybalands Mischiefmaker, a very pretty and beautifully bred Chestnut Sec B pony of around 12.2hh is looking for a knowledgeable long term loan home, ideally to go out showing, but a good pony club home would also be an appropriate place to keep him busy. He is currently living at Underhill while he waits for his good fortune to come! Please contact Kath or Jess if you would like any further information, or would like to come and try Jasper.

### **Pony Club News**

The Pony Club rallies are continuing to run as normal each Sunday, allowing for children to join in for a whole or half a day. Every rally offers lots of opportunities to improve both in riding and pony care, pass tests, and earn achievements badges.

We are keen to run some training for BHS & PC Riding and Road Safety Exam, Pony Club C Test and Pony Club C+ test after February half term with exams running in the Easter Holidays. It is **NOW** that we need to you to speak up if this is something which you are interested in and remind us if you have already mentioned it!

A quick reminder that there is a new Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship (14<sup>th</sup> Edition) which will help guide young members whilst preparing for their tests and badges. This manual is available in our shop.

On **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013**, during the Easter school holidays we will be running an “Easter Bunny Surprise Morning” with lots of mounted and unmounted activities for all our Pony Club members. The fun will begin at **9.30am and run until 12.30** when children can be collected. Booking in advance is essential for this Pony Club activity to help us organise the fun with the helpers and adults. This will cost £15 (NB loan scheme members should ask Kath about the reduced cost of their booking).

## **CAMP**

This years camp dates are as follows:

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

Camp will be sticking to its usual organisation; all 3 weeks will be mixed age and mixed ability to help ensure all members can be accommodated. For the youngest members, odd day slots can be allocated.

Camp places will be booked on a first come first serve basis, however ponies will be allocated with preference to those who **regularly** attend Sunday Pony Club Rallies throughout the year and ride a particular horse/pony, over those who only want to come to summer camp and not attend the rallies throughout the year.

As always: The National Pony Club Rules state that in order to attend summer camp, members must have attended **3 rallies since 1<sup>st</sup> January** of the current year. It is important that members have attended these rallies so that we can ensure that they are placed correctly according to ability for both riding **and** Horse and Pony Care, to achieve the best possible results and keep the ability range within groups to a minimum; maximising all their opportunities to the best of our ability. At Underhill we do like to think that we listen and allow flexibility for those children who live far away or are away studying, so long as we have seen you in the months before camp.

However, visiting Pony Club members, who are only staying in the area over the summer, are welcome to book in and attend our camp as always. They can, if able, bring their own ponies/horses along to join in with our training and activities.

## **Adult Pony Club**

The Adult pony club still runs on every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, with a good group of people attending. This year adult camp will be on Weds 14<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August at a cost of £40 per day or £110 for the 3 days. Please get in touch for more information and to book your place.

## **Yard Closures**

The yard will be **closed on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August** for our annual visit to Llanddewi show.

It sounds like we have a busy summer ahead! We look forward to seeing lots of you over the coming weeks.

All at Underhill

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**Underhill Pony Club Camp 2013 – Deposit Slip**

I confirm that my child/children ..... will be attending PC camp for

1 / 2 / 3 / 4 days from ..... and that this has already been formally booked.

I include a non –refundable deposit of £40 per child to secure their place.

Signed .....

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**Photos**

If you do NOT wish for your child to be photographed during the summer camp 2013 activities please fill in and return the following form along with your deposit slip.

I DO NOT wish for my child, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) to be photographed during Pony Club activities.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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