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25<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Hi again everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the few days of sunshine that we had, fingers crossed it will be back soon and we will have the sunny summer we are all waiting for.

We thought it was time we sent out a quick newsletter to inform you all that's been going on at Underhill and give out some more dates for your diary.

In April we had the bunny morning which saw a jumping competition for the older children and a handy pony competition for the younger children. This was followed by a bunny/egg hunt using camouflaged hats, lines from "we're going on a bear hunt" and following footprints over the farm for the younger children and a race to find the bunny and eggs for the older ones. It was a successful morning and was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who attended.

We have some exciting news to share, we have recently opened a shop with Karen Cadman's 'its a gift' on Broad Street in Presteigne. The shop has a mix of home ware, giftware, furniture, clothing and tack. Our opening hours are: 9am-5pm Tues, Wed, Friday and Saturday and 9am -1pm Thursday. So if you are in Presteigne anytime please call in, we would love to see you.

Natasha has also finally had her foal. She has a colt and is proving to be a very good mum with both foal and mare doing really well.

We are open for riding all over half term Tues to Sunday. We are closed on a Monday.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

On Thursday 30 May we are having a visit from Penny the rep for Sherwood Forest. She will be showing the items available from Sherwood Forest; they stock smart but reasonably priced clothing. Our visit from Penny will be followed by a free of charge BBQ lunch and a request for some willing volunteers. We are planning to build some new XC jumps and possibly paint some SJ poles if we have enough willing volunteers. So if you are able please come along to help, the more the merrier. All are welcome mums, dads, siblings (the kids can always play football if they like while we all make jumps). All help will be much appreciated to help make more exciting jumps for the children at camp this year.

**Camp this year** will be run over 3 weeks:

Tuesday 23- Friday 26 July

Tuesday 30 July – Friday 2 August

Tuesday 6 – Friday 9 August

The total cost for camp this year is £140 for 4 days or £40 per day.

Camp is open to all PC members; it is the highlight of the year for most Pony Club children. Camp runs over 4 days usually with the 4<sup>th</sup> day being a fun/competition day. Last year all rides had the theme of the Olympics and built their own musical ride with their instructors and displayed it to the parents at the end of the week. The children get to use the same horse all week and treat it as their own. There are usually 3 riding sessions throughout the day and 1 stable

management session, sometimes two if tests/badges need a bit more practise. Children are taught how to look after a horse throughout the week and the children's confidence and knowledge is really improved as a result of the continuous training and social engagement with the other children. Packed lunch is required for the children to bring from home except for the last day when we have a BBQ lunch. A break time snack and drink is supplied by Pony Club each day.

Any parents out there who would like to help with preparing and feeding instructors during camp lunchtimes, please let us know. We always welcome willing volunteers, even if it's just to wash up!

It is important that we have seen members at least once before camp, to assess their current riding ability and ensure they are placed in the correct groups for the week.

If you are interested in booking a pony for camp please send non refundable deposit of £40 with the slip by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013. Ponies will be booked on a first come first served basis with priority to those regularly attending monthly rallies. So for those of you that haven't already booked and secured your place, please book soon to avoid disappointment.

Some of our ponies are still available on the loan scheme that we have running on the yard. This allows children to 'adopt' a pony as their own on a long term basis and get the chance to go to local shows, get plenty of practical knowledge and riding practise as well as making lots of friends with the other children on the yard. If you are interested in the loan scheme please ask a member of staff for the loan scheme leaflet available from the office which details the format of the loan scheme, or chat to Kath or Jess.

So I think I have rattled on enough now and hopefully got you all up to speed with the up and coming events at Underhill.

Hope to see you all for our social day on Thursday 30 May and at camp this year.

Thank you for your continued support

Kath, Jess and gang

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PONY CLUB CAMP 2013 DEPOSIT SLIP

Name of child/children \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a £40 deposit for pony club camp 2013 the dates my child/children will be attending camp are:

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred horse \_\_\_\_\_

(Whilst we try to allocate the wanted horse to each child, if this horse is not available we will automatically transfer children onto another suitable horse/pony.)

Signed (parent/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_