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Tuesday 10th May 2016

Hi Everyone

Wow, it seems like ages ago that we wrote a full newsletter, we have been subjecting our literary skills by letter writing etc with regard to school closures; we are fighting to keep Llanfihangel Rhydithon primary school open and are yet to know a result.

We are now (fingers crossed) through the winter weather and with the horses happily enjoying the grass and sun, we have less mucking out to do and now have more time to plan future events on the yard and for pony club. Let's hope the weather continues to be kind to us and we can have an action packed summer.

The yard was closed from 1st May to the 6th of May, this was to give us a chance to catch up on paperwork, plan events, revamp the website and start to build our online shop (hoping to be online by November 2016) and finally to revise our pricelist which hasn't been amended for 4 years while we have all be struggling through the awful recession. It is with regret that we have had to increase the prices, due to the pressure of costs that are out of our control. Although we have changed our price structure a little (please see attached price list) we are now introducing a loyalty card scheme for Pony Club and Riding Club Members where each hourly riding lesson/hack will be rewarded with a stamp on the card. This can then be used against the cost of a pony club/ adult riding club rally. For every 10 stamps gained you will get the PC/RC rally discounted at 50% (only applicable for Sunday rallies).

Having looked at the format of the pony club rallies and the numbers attending we have decided to rearrange the pony club Sundays. Pony Club will now be on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. The day will be structured with a riding lesson and horse care/training towards badges and tests in the morning and testing/further training towards badges and certificates in the afternoons along with a ridden competition/mounted games/hack in the afternoon. The days will be set at the appropriate level for each group with the aim of enhancing and maximising the progression of each child at the same time as having fun with their friends. We are also keen to re-establish the important and almost forgotten discipline of being clean and tidy for the rallies. Our Mounted Games team took great pride in their appearance for the Area Finals, and please try to attend the same Sunday each month as it helps with the continuity both for the member and instructor. Also PLEASE can you make sure that your membership is up to date.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to anyone who can't attend either of these Sundays, so to compensate for this we are also running a pony fun afternoon on a Saturday in term time for all ages which will follow a similar trend, though these are not official pony club sessions at the minute and they are open to non – members as taster sessions.

By popular request we will be continuing to run clinics on the first Sunday of every month. (with the exception of the June date.) These clinics are open to adults and children of all ability. Horses are available to hire from us or bring your own. Each clinic will be with a professional of their own discipline, offering new ideas and advice. Specific requests for certain instructors can be taken as we plan ahead; please let Jess know if you have anyone you would particularly like to train with.

Adult riding club will now also take place on the first Sunday of the month (starting in July). Please speak to Jess regarding June dates. May is as planned on the 22nd.

Below are the dates already planned for clinics and Pony Club:

15th May - usual Pony Club all day rally 10.00 till 4.30

22nd May – Monthly Adult Riding Club day and usual Pony Club day 10.00 till 4.30

2nd June - **KAREN NICHOLLS** (this is not a Sunday but back by popular demand) Starting at 3.30, 1hr lessons in groups of up to 4. £20 each (not including hire of horse)

5th June - **YARD CLOSED** Show jumping and tractor run at Penybont racecourse. (Loan kids if you can get transport you are welcome to take your horse)

12th June - **SARAH CHAPMAN** starting at 12pm, 1hr clinics in groups of up to 4. £20 each (not including hire of horse). If all Riding club ladies are able – this will be your rally day too.

19th June - **PONY CLUB all day rally**

26th June - **PONY CLUB all day rally**

3rd July - **ADULT RIDING CLUB RALLY**

10th July - **SUMMER FUN DAY FOR ALL PONY CLUB MEMBERS. NO OTHER RALLIES IN JULY DUE TO CAMP. £20. 10AM TO 4PM**

17th July **NO PONY CLUB, 1ST WEEK OF CAMP STARTS TUESDAY 19th.**

CAMP DATES

SUNDAY 10TH JULY – WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY (Senior camp at Emma's for the school leavers and older)

TUESDAY 19 JULY – FRIDAY 22ND JULY

TUESDAY 26TH JULY – FRIDAY 29TH JULY

TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST – FRIDAY 5TH AUGUST

WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST – FRIDAY 12TH AUGUST *Adult riding club camp and non members pony club days.*

The cost for pony club camp this year will be £180 for 4 days, or £50 per day for less than 4 days. Adult riding club will be £135 for 3 days or £50 per day for less than 3 days. Please make sure that you have initially formally booked the dates that you require in the yard diary. A non – returnable deposit of £40 will need to be paid upon booking for camp to secure your place. Please find the deposit slip attached to this newsletter, along with a photo consent slip should you not wish your child to be photographed. We look forward to a series of action packed sessions as always! Any parents prepared to help with cooking, supervising through each day of Pony Club camp please get in touch with Jess.

Pony club news

In April we took a senior team to the Area 10 mounted games competition consisting of Ellie Morris on Skittles, Daisy Stokes on Rosa, Hannah Symons on Oskar, Melita Powell on Lucky, Orla Probert on Rupert, with Carys wheeler and Euan Harwood as reserves. They had a fantastic day and did our centre proud being placed 3rd in the competition and qualifying for the zone finals for the second time in the clubs history! They were also placed 1st in the tack and turnout competition turning out the ponies and themselves immaculately. This also qualifies them to compete at the Royal Welsh Show again!! We wish them the best of luck both there and at the finals at Taunton on the 26th June. Each member of the team has a sponsorship form as they are fundraising their own money to get to the finals, if anyone wishes to sponsor them please speak to Kath or Jess.

There are also a few social events planned to help raise money the dates are as follows:

Friday May 27th – Driving and Endurance Demo here at Underhill. 6pm

Wednesday 1st June – Pudding, Cake and games Eve here at Underhill 5pm. Let the gymkhana team entertain the kids whilst enjoying some homemade puddings and cakes.

Friday 3rd June – Tack cleaning. 4.30 onwards (pay the kids to clean your tack)

PARENTS COMMITTEE

We are looking to set up a parents committee to help run pony club. We are hoping to organise more trips and exciting events for the children. We have had a few parents show an interest in joining the committee and feel it will be extremely beneficial for the pony club and the children's opportunities within the club. We are hoping to have a meeting at the Severn Arms pub Penybont on Wednesday the 25th of May, 7.30pm. Please come along if you wish to be a part of the committee. Please speak to Jess for more details or if you would like to join the committee but cannot make that date. Contact her on 07745 647225.

We are also looking to have a social for the parents on **Friday June 3rd**, this will include a bbq and pole painting ready for camp. Please come along and help get the jumps spruced up ready for the children to enjoy camp.

FUTURE DATES

SUNDAY 4TH SEPT –LADIES RIDING CLUB AND CLINIC. Instructor to be confirmed.

11TH SEPTEMBER – 16TH SEPTEMBER Yard Closed.

17TH SEPTEMBER – YARD OPEN AS NORMAL

18TH SEPTEMBER PONY CLUB

25TH SEPTEMBER PONY CLUB

2ND OCTOBER LADIES RIDING CLUB AND CLINIC (instructor tbc)

9th OCTOBER YARD CLOSED

16TH OCTOBER PONY CLUB

23RD OCTOBER PONY CLUB

30TH OCTOBER HALLOWEEN FUN DAY (During half term)

6TH NOVEMBER LADIES RIDING CLUB AND CLINIC (instructor tbc)

13th NOVEMBER YARD TRIP TO YOUR HORSE LIVE IF ENOUGH INTEREST. PLEASE LET JESS KNOW IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.

20TH NOVEMBER AND 27TH NOVEMBER PONY CLUB

4TH DECEMBER LADIES XMAS FUN RIDING CLUB.

11TH AND 18TH DECEMBER PONY CLUB Christmas party days!

LOST PROPERTY

We continue to gather spare items of clothing etc with no names on – if you have lost anything please come and look for it soon as we will be having a clear out before camp. If we find an item with a name on it we do our best to keep it to the rightful owner, if not and we don't recognise it – how can we??? **It will be recycled!!!**

We continue to find good quality horses and ponies for sale, and sometimes for loan – keep an eye on our website for new ones if you are looking, and please don't be afraid to ask if there's nothing there to suit – we might know of one in the pipe – line.....

Finally, please continue to support our shop, we strive to deliver a good deal, our prices are very competitive, and we will try to source whatever it is you are looking for. Also, the second hand always carries a load of bargains! Some of the goods have been donated to Pony Club, so the money goes straight back into the club's account!

THINK TACK - THINK UNDERHILL!!!!!!

Have a great Summer!

Yours truly

Kath and Jess

