



Underhill Riding Stables
&
Pony Club Centre
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Hello everyone,

The time has just flown by and it's time again for another update! Our very own Charlie B is now almost 20 months and showing himself to be a keen horseman (when he's not in his Grandad's tractor!) The summer has been very busy, and our Pony Club camps proved, yet again to be a fantastic success, with members of all ages achieving a lot.

As you may have noticed we have many new faces on the yard, whether they are horsey, human and hound! We welcome Beth Perks and Becky Jones to our team, who you will be seeing plenty of over the coming months. Also Jess, Nige and Charlie have a gorgeous Beagle pup named Poppy who has already won many of your affections. We have sadly suffered the loss of old Jolly dog, who has been part of the Underhill family for around 15years, mothering many puppies including our fond friends Scooby and Dumbo. In our last newsletter we told you of Nash's foal, who we have called Pandora, affectionately known as Panda.

Our monthly rallies have had a little re-vamp but are hopefully settling, with everyone becoming comfortable on their regular week. This winter we will be holding our usual Christmas themed rallies starting on the **28th November** (as there will be no rally on 4th Sunday in December due to it being Boxing Day!) It would be brilliant if the children could bring a contribution of party food instead of their usual packed lunch! The mini's in afternoon session (**Sunday 28th Nov**) will have their party at a 'tea' rather than lunch. All are welcome to bring a little tinsel etc to decorate their ponies, and give the days a real festive feel.

As the winter draws in, the weather will undoubtedly turn cold and may leave us all with uncertainties about riding. We will endeavour to run all the planned Pony Club Rallies and lessons, although some may have to be cancelled if the yard is inaccessible or it is unsafe for you to travel. Our advice would be to take each rally as it comes, and give us a ring at the yard between the hours of 9am and 6.30pm Tuesday to Sunday if you have any doubts. Our instructors are keen to emphasise that although the children may not ride at ALL of the winter rallies, members will be working hard towards their next goal and huge amounts of stable management/pony care can be taught at unmounted rallies. These are a great opportunity for the members to gain more achievement badges for parents to sew on to their sleeves!!!

I have included an updated Pony Club Dress Code/Equipment list as Christmas lists will soon be written up, you never know Santa may wish to help out with some of this. However, I do stress that this list is a final aim, and you do not need to feel obliged to go out and get it all straight away! The important parts such as hats and boots can be borrowed as always.

Yesterday, 19 of our members successfully completed their C test. Well done to you all. A big Thank you to Jess, Becky and Kat for providing the evening training over the past few weeks.

It is now a pre-requisite for the members to hold their Riding and Road Safety achievement badge before gaining their C test. Therefore we will be running training and test for this on **Thursday 6th and Thursday 13th January 2011 at 4.30pm** (or as soon as you can get here). This is open to all the members that have already successfully achieved their D + test and are working towards C test. Please put your names forward for this ASAP, to enable us to book the correct number of instructors.

The spring brings lots of opportunities for competition, this year we hope to send a team to the Annual Quiz on **Sunday 17th April 2011** and the Horse and Pony Care Competition, date to be confirmed. Any members who are interested in either of these please put your names forward to Kath or Kat as we will need to meet entry deadlines and arrange training.

Throughout the autumn we ran a number of Gymkhana sessions with a view to putting forward one or 2 teams for the Prince Phillip Cup Competition in the Spring. The plan is to run a further 6 weeks of sessions starting on **Saturday 6th November 2010 at 4.30pm**. Each session will cost £10 and booking is required as with all activities. The training is open to all members aged 14 and under (on 1st Jan 2011). We will then select a number of these trainees to represent the centre at competition, and participate in further training in the new year.

On **Thursday 23rd December** Teme Valley Hunt will be holding a children's meet on the yard. The children with ponies on the loan scheme are keen to attend and any pony owning families are welcome to come along. It may be possible to open this opportunity further to other keen members, however this day is for the more experienced riders and involves a strict dress and behaviour code. For further information contact Kath.

Our shop is growing week by week, selling everything imaginable for the horse and rider. There is a great selection of stocking fillers and Christmas present ideas, as well as your everyday gear. We now stock BREYER horses and a range of hoodies, t-shirts, polo shirts and lots, lots more!!! Don't forget that we also deal in second hand items, and there are some real gems available in the white trailer on the car park. The tack shop and pony club stall will be represented at a charitable table top sale at Dolau School on **Sunday 19th December, 7.30pm**. So feel free to come along, support us and enjoy some cheese and wine!

As ever we continue to run our pony loan scheme, which is a long term commitment, offering children over 10 years the opportunity to train, help and ride with us. More detailed information of this is available in the office or by asking a member of staff. There is also a few horses and ponies for sale or loan so it's always worth a look at the notice board in the office.

As we all know VAT will increase in January and with this prices will have to be altered. The new price list will be circulated in the New Year. To reassure you we will try our hardest to keep all activities and merchandise realistic and affordable.

So although a little early, all of us at Underhill would like to send out our Season's Greetings and we hope to see you as much in the winter as we did in the summer.

Yours as ever,

The Underhill Gang.