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Weds 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Hello Everyone,

As the nights draw in and Christmas is on its way, we felt it was time to update you all on the things happening at Underhill and the important dates for your diaries. After last years fun and games, all that we can say is, at least there's no shortage of water this year!

Our most exciting piece of news for this news update is that Becky is expecting a baby in early March! We would like to wish her and her hubby all the best for starting their new family.

Well done to all of you who are regularly attending your monthly Pony Club rallies, remember that there is always a lot going on, whatever time of year it is! Those children who are interested in training and competing next Spring in area competitions, such as the Quiz and Horse and Pony Care should register their interest as soon as possible. All next years' competitions require membership to have been up to date as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

This winter the Pony Club Christmas themed rallies will run on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. (Please note there will NOT be a rally on sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec). Each rally we will share a party lunch, please bring a contribution rather than your usual packed lunch. All children are welcome to bring tinsel and decorations to dress themselves and their ponies up. Be sure to book in to avoid missing the festivities, fun and games! Please note that should the weather be too poor to ride, we shall still hold an on foot party (with a reduction to the usual rally cost) so as not too miss out on the fun;- AS LONG AS THE ROADS ARE SAFE TO TRAVEL.

In the Spring we are aiming to run a C test, a C+ test and Riding and Road Safety Examinations (PC and BHS) and training for these tests. It is vital that those interested in these register their interest very soon to enable us to organise this.

The Pony Club have published a NEW Manual of Horsemanship (14<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2011), which is available to buy in the Underhill Shop. For those older and more serious members, this is a must have. A possible Christmas list addition?

Don't forget that our shop is open 6 days a week :- Tues – Sun, from 9am to 6pm; there are lots of great gifts available for both horsey children and adults. Lots of affordable stocking fillers now in stock as well! We regularly have lots of new and exciting stock for people and ponies. As an exception to the rule, for Christmas we have horse treats for sale in the shop, however as you know horses that are fed from the hand can learn to bite so on a health and safety basis please remember that it is our yard policy that ALL treats must be fed from a bucket.

We would also like to highlight that as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 our commission rate for sale of second hand items will increase to 15% + vat.

Here at Underhill we are always keen to help people in their search for the right horse or pony. We are currently looking for a VERY quiet 12.2-13hh pony on behalf of a loving family with a very keen but nervous child. If any one knows of such a pony please let her know. Remember there are always horses and ponies, young and old advertised on our website, if you or anyone you know is looking.

On that subject we have been schooling a very pretty beautifully bred Chesnut sec. B gelding who is looking for a knowledgeable long term loan home to go showing. He is 8 yrs old and called Jasper, if you want more info give us a ring.

The adult pony club has been great fun over the last 18 months and is proving to be very successful. The adults meet for a rally once a month, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. If you are interested in joining in with these activities, please feel free to ask.

Talking about adult riding, the Wednesday morning session is still going strong, offering the chance for a group lesson at a reduced cost, every week.

We continue to receive excellent support from our experts in the field with regard to saddle fitting and equine dentistry, with regular visits from both. These visits are open for anyone to take advantage of, so if you have a saddle that needs adjusting, or you want a new one; - or maybe your horse or pony needs to see the dentist, give us a ring and we can tell you the date of their next visit and arrange for your horse/pony to come over to see them. We can't over-estimate the importance of well - maintained teeth and the correct fitting of saddles. A comfortable horse is the one who will perform the best!!

In 2013 the URS gang will be supporting and encouraging the owners of Standard Bred horses to get out and about at the local shows and events. We hope to be working with local show committees to create new and specific classes, or awards within existing classes to make sure we see much more of this wonderful breed. The Standard Bred Association of GB and Ireland (STAGBI) are keen to promote the versatility of this breed and are prepared to supply rosettes and awards to local committees involved in organising horse shows. Anyone involved in these kinds of events can contact Kath for more information.

Our attention has also been drawn to the "Wales Road Safety Plan until 2020". In the plan, which was launched in September, the Welsh government have outlined targets to reduce road related accidents. Our concern is that this lengthy plan does not include horse riders in any way; there is NO target or discussion to reduce the level of horse related road accidents. Please help us to express our concern by e-mailing: [james.burgess@walesGSI.gov.uk](mailto:james.burgess@walesGSI.gov.uk) to express your worry at the lack of interest in our safety on the roads. Also in relation to this topic, there is a government petition running, to help gain road signs with "Slow down for Horses" in areas of high activity such as riding schools and livery yards. If you are interested in signing or learning more visit:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/32872>.

Dates for your Diary:

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 - Christmas Shopping and Social Evening 7pm – 9pm.

We are having a special late night opening of our tack shop, as well as additional stalls selling lots of cards and gifts, to hopefully include: " It's a Gift" trinkets and gifts, The body Shop, Phoenix Cards, Earthbound Organics Home Made Natural toiletries and possibly some hand crafted jewellery. Mince pies and mulled wine on tap – so Mums and Dads, come and have a social evening and a chat!

- Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December - Pony Club Christmas Party Rallies.
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> December – CLOSED FOR BUSINESS
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> December – OPEN FOR BUSINESS
- 30<sup>th</sup> December – Adults "Pony Club" Christmas/New Year Rally.
- 31<sup>st</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 – CLOSED FOR BUSINESS
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 – Back to Normal : Open as Usual!