

## Kerry Trip

In August, the staff of the Horse Project brought over 20 children down to Eclipse Activity Centre in Kenmare, Co Kerry. We stayed in accommodation on site and each day the children took part in different activities such as horse riding and trekking, archery and an assault course. There was a big interest in the trip and we are hoping to organise one for 2014. It was very successful and the children had a great time.



## New Membership on Subcommittees

We are delighted to welcome Noel Whelan and Phyll Stubbs to the Funding Subcommittee and look forward to working with them.

The Board is at present attempting to strengthen the various sub-committees, Finance and Funding, Training and Education and Stable Management. Persons interested in volunteering work on the Subcommittees should contact Ann Keogan at 086-4674380.

**Christmas Vouchers**  
Now available

Great stocking fillers and always popular this time of year. Please phone the office on 01 -4627214 for more details.

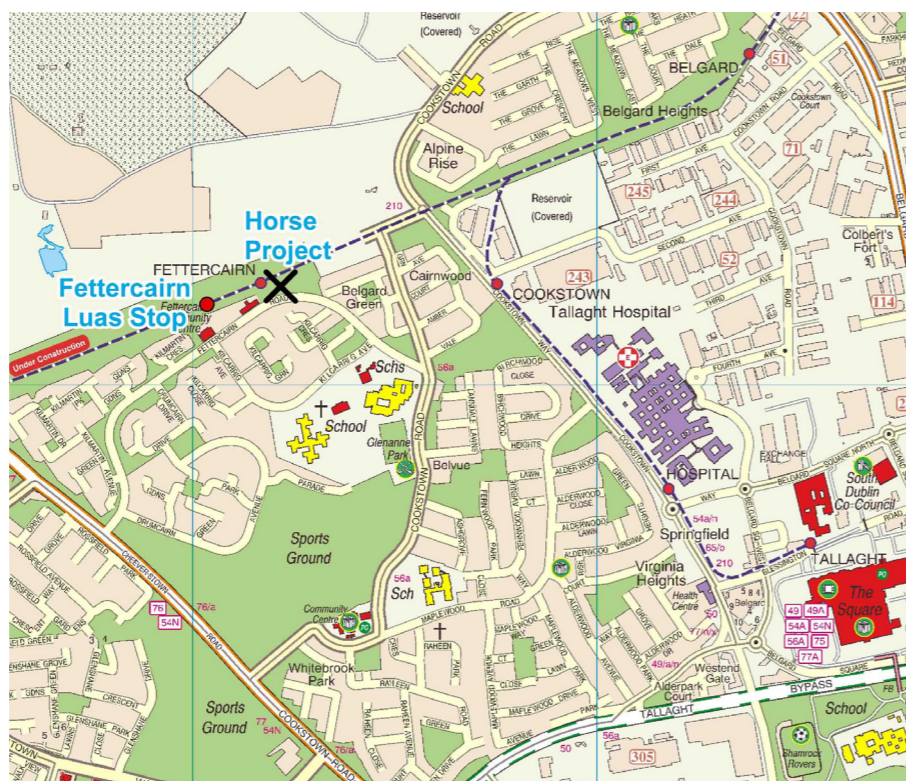
## Directions to the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project

By Luas:-  
Fettercairn Stop on the Red Line Luas

By Car:-  
From the M50, on the Tallaght Bypass (N81), continue west and turn right onto Cheeverstown Rd for approx. 1 km. Turn right onto Fettercairn Rd and continue until you reach the Horse Project on your left.

Car-parking is available in the Fettercairn Community Centre.

For general queries, booking lessons or enquiring about training programmes, contact Ann, Kathy or Colette.  
(Phone: 01 4627214 or email: fyhp@eircom.net)



# NEWSLETTER



**FETTERCAIRN  
YOUTH HORSE  
PROJECT**  
At the heart of your community

Winter  
2013

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## CSP Contract - Pobal

The Project continues to receive mainstream funding from Pobal under the Community Service Programme. This funding now covers most of the salaries of the four full-time and two part-time staff. Pobal has indicated that our contract is due to be extended by 12 months from the 31st December 2013, and that our contract "has been timetabled for review and renewal during 2014".



## The Challenge: Financial Sustainability 2013-2014

The financial situation during 2013 has continued to be challenging. Despite significant savings in the operation of the Project in 2012, savings in feed, bedding, disposal of the waste etc., the drop in corporate funding and the drop in funding available from various agencies in 2013 has resulted in the utilisation of the financial reserves in order to remain trading.

A restructuring of staffing and a reduction in salary levels in April 2013 has however improved the sustainability of the Project. The staff are continuing to deliver a professional service in financially challenging times.



## Retirement of Laurence McFerran

The FYHP Project Manager, Laurence McFerran retired at the end of May 2013 after three and a half years in Fettercairn. Laurence's fulfillment of the role of Project Manager was exemplary in developing the objectives of the Project, heading the FYHP team and profiling the Horse Project. In particular, his interest in Equine Assisted Learning meant that the highly successful EAL Research Programme was undertaken with Caren Hession and UCD. He brought a calm and experienced approach to all of his undertakings and performed all with the highest degree of professionalism and warmth. He is missed by all.

## Val Kemp Obituary

All involved in The Horse Project were greatly saddened to hear of the death of Val Kemp in February 2013. Val became involved with Fettercairn as the stables became operational in 2001. She brought equine knowledge and skills, depth of experience and indeed excellent contacts with the equine industry which were a tremendous resource to the Project. What Val enjoyed most was using her training skills for the Fettercairn youth and she established a great bond with many of them. Val was on the Board of the Project and she also chaired the Stable Management Committee for a few years and was instrumental in upgrading the arena surface.



## New Members of the Team

Ann Keogan has taken up the new position of Equine and Training Manager following the retirement of Laurence McFerran. Known to all the young people and a great favorite with them in her role as the principal riding instructor, Ann has filled the new post since June 2013. Ann has organized the Sunday opening of the Project which is going really well. The additional managerial responsibilities have necessitated the recruitment of a new part-time Riding Instructor, Paula McCabe.

## Val Kemp Cup



A Val Kemp Commemoration Cup has been donated by a good friend of the Horse Project and it is envisaged that the cup will be awarded to "the most improved local rider in the year" in each December.

## Equine Assisted Learning Update

Thirty children with Dyspraxia were given the opportunity to return to Fettercairn for eight sessions from mid September to early November 2013 as a continuation of the recently and so successfully completed Dyspraxia Research Project 2012. The research entitled 'To test the effects of the physical motion of a horse (riding therapy) on a group of children with Dyspraxia and to determine whether any further effects can be achieved by auditory and visual perception of that motion' was conducted by University of Limerick PhD Researcher, Caren Hession in association with Barbara Murphy from the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine. We look forward to the analysis of the results of the research programme.

## Noel Davern R.I.P

It is with great sadness that the members of the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project heard of the sudden death of Noel Davern R.I.P.

Noel in his capacity as Junior Minister for Agriculture was a true friend to the Project and was instrumental in assisting the Project secure funding at the initial stage of its development in 1995. Noel continued to support the Project beyond his role as Government Minister and was often heard to share fond stories about the young people he met in Fettercairn. Ar dheis Dé go raibh an am.

## Fettercairn Show Jumping Day

On the 1st of September, we held our annual show jumping competition. There was an increase of participants on last year which was great to see. Not only did we have competitors from Fettercairn but also from different stables from surrounding areas for example Hampton Lodge and Calliaghstown Equestrian Centre. The competition included rounds of mini, midi and maxi clear rounds with a rosette and trophy for the winners of each round. The day was well supported by local residents with all hands on deck. On the day we held a raffle to raise funds for the project and all prizes were kindly donated by local businesses.



## Training and Progression

One of our main objectives here at the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project, is to see our younger members progressing through a training programme. Earlier this year we had four local children, Lee Kennedy, Aoife Murphy, Adam Gahan and Sam Hooper complete their BHS Stage 1. All four successfully passed both riding and practical parts of the exam. Shane Kehoe our stable hand and Ciara Fitzpatrick one of our FAS students also passed their Stage 1 and Riding and Road Safety exam. Since then Ciara has passed her Stage 2 and Preliminary Teaching Test which now qualifies her to teach anywhere in the world. Ciara (pictured to the right) has secured a Riding Groom position in a competition yard in Germany.

This is the first time that the Horse Project has put children and students through the full BHS exam system. We are thoroughly delighted with all their success.

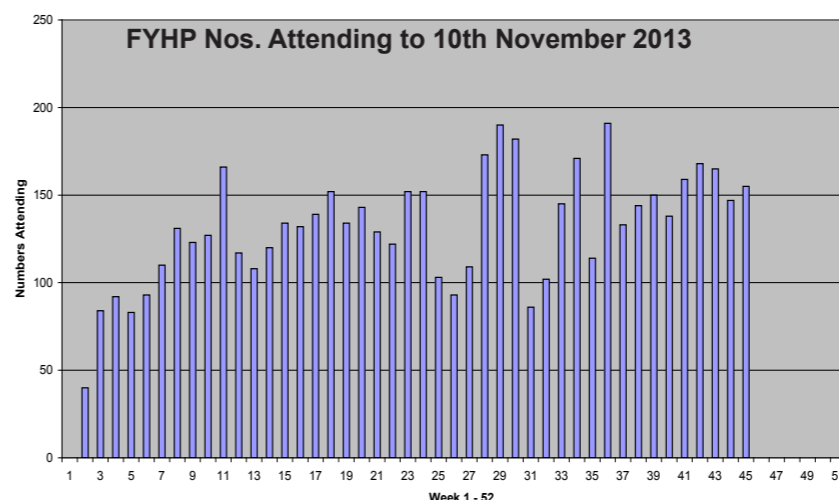
FYHP now has four FAS students: Jenny Conway and Sarah Aiken who started in August, and the two latest, Shauna Corcoran and Paul Howe, started their training in the first week in November.



## Numbers and Groups for 2013

This year has been one of the best for the numbers that are attending the Horse Project to engage in Horse Riding and Stable Management. The figures for the first 45 weeks of 2013 (up to the 10th November) are 5801 which reflects the recent opening of the Horse Project on Sundays.

The list shows the Groups who have attend the Project to date for 2013 during weekdays with Saturdays and Sundays being reserved for the general public (some of the public lessons are now being catered for during the evenings as the numbers build and with the availability of the floodlights).



- Stonybatter Youth Service
- Ringsend Youth Service
- St Josephs School
- St Bridgets School
- Donore Youth Service
- Ballybough Youth Service
- SDCC Summer Projects
- Dyspraxia Research Group
- Finglas Youth Service
- Dyspraxia Ireland
- Bru Youth Service
- St Thomas School
- St Annes School
- Strengthening Families Programme
- Tallaght Autism
- St Aidans School
- St Marks School