

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

Vouchers are Available
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FETTERCAIRN YOUTH HORSE PROJECT

At the heart of your community



Expansion of the Board

The Board has been strengthened in 2014 by recruitment of five additional Board members. The new members come from a variety of backgrounds including the private sector (Kerry Foods and PR Social Media Services), St Aidan's Primary School, South Dublin County Council and the Dublin Regional Authority. The Board are looking for additional members with an expertise in Governance. The number of people of the board stands at eleven. This has allowed for the setting up of internal committees which will oversee areas such as financing, staffing, training and education and fund raising and marketing.

Pobal News

Audit and Three Year Submission

The Horse Project successfully came through the Pobal Audit carried out during the first half of 2014. The audit is standard procedure for Community Service Programmes nearing completion of their three year funding programme. The audit process has been a welcome opportunity for FYHP to improve on various processes and procedures as advised by Pobal.

Following on from the audit, FYHP was subsequently asked to submit a comprehensive Recontracting Plan to Pobal with a view to seeking funding for a further three years. The Plan included defining key objectives and planned service improvements for the period 2015 to 2017.

Equine Assisted Learning

In February 2014 Caren Hession carried out a research programme with children with Dyspraxia. The programme was held at the Horse Project where equipment and staff were at hand. The research took place over 8 weeks, which included: horse riding, cognition, mood arousal and gait analysis. Around 20 children participated in the research. The overall results were extremely good and we are awaiting Caren Hession's final result presentation in November.

Come find us We're just around the corner

Luas Red Line - Fettercairn Stop
Dublin Bus - Route 56a and Route 27



The Val Kemp Cup

We were delighted to award the Val Kemp cup to Amy Preston for the most improved member of the FYHP this year. On receiving the award from Riding Instructor Paula McCabe, she said that she was 'very happy. I didn't think I'd get it'.

Amy has been riding in the horse project for the past 4 years. She was presented the cup for her hard work and dedication to FYHP. You will find her at the project day and night helping out and volunteering her time. She recently came first in the Calliaghstown Equestrian Centre show jumping and cross country league and, along with her six FYHP buddies, she plans to do the BHS stage 1 exam in a year's time.



The Kerry Group

Employees from The Kerry Group in Tallaght visited the Horse Project on one of the only grey days in September. Despite the damp weather, spirits were high and the volunteer staff carried out a phenomenal volume of work. They painted the entire arena post and rail fence, constructed a gate between the two grazing fields, cleared away rubbish and carried out substantial weeding; and this all took place on one day.

The FYHP cannot thank the Kerry Group enough for their hard work and we all agree that the place has been substantially improved by their efforts. We would welcome the Kerry Group back anytime.

www.fyhp.ie

We are delighted to announce that a new website has been developed. The website will keep you up to date with all the "Latest News" at the Horse Project. We invite you to log on and check out the great photographs in the Photo-Gallery.

Fettercairn Youth Horse Project

Hungry Horse Outside

Around a year ago the FYHP were looking for more suitable horses to join our team. We made contact with a lady called Hillary who runs an equine charity called Hungry Horse Outside (HHO) and she was able to match us with a cob called Elmo.

Elmo was very quiet but uneducated, and he needed to be schooled by our students. He has fitted in perfectly with the Project. He is working out so well, that we decided to look for another horse from HHO and this time we found a lovely mare called Swallow. Through correct training Swallow has turned into a wonderful horse. The Equine and Training Manager, Ann Keogan, says that 'She had the right temperament to work with. It's so important that all equine organisations help each other where they can. We will consider fostering a horse as an alternative to buying a new horse in the future'. So far the Horse Project has fostered four horses from HHO and all four are going great.



Annual Trip

This year the FYHP went to Anna Harvey Farm in Tullamore Co Ofally. Like our Kerry trip last year we stayed for two nights and had two hours riding a day which included showjumping, hacking and cross country. The scenery and country setting was a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Tallaght which we all loved! Everybody had a ball and behaved so well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Anna Harvey for a fantastic two days.



Exam Success

The FYHP has had great success since becoming a training centre for the BHS exams. We have had eight students passing their Stage 1 exams and we wish them well as they head towards their Stage 2 exams at the end of October. (Stop-press: we have just had four of our students take part in BHS exams. The exams included Riding and Road Safety, Stage 1, Stage 2 and PTT. The results take two weeks to come back but we are very confident that everyone passed!). These exams are a stepping-stone to become a qualified BHS instructor so well done to all involved.

Traveller Group

Thanks to funding from the Tallaght Travellers CDP a group of children and young teenagers aged between 4 and 15 were able to attend the Summer pony camp, in addition to a programme of riding and stable management for 10 weeks.

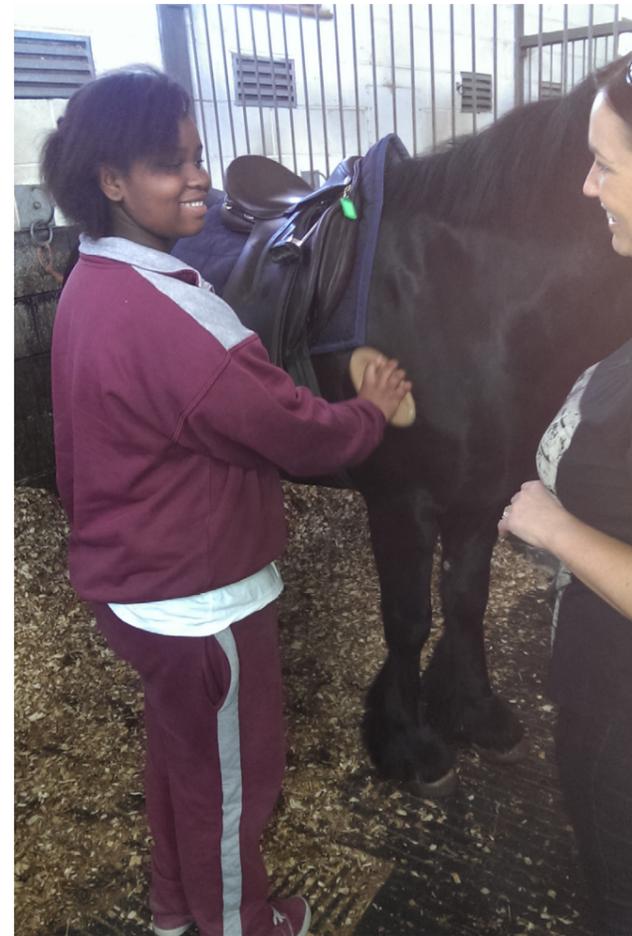
On the last day a pizza party was organised before the programme finished for the summer. All the children and parents got involved and a great day was had by all. Each child received a certificate of completion, a rosette and a goody bag for all their hard work and good behaviour.

FYHP Show Jumping

Once again our show jumping competition was a great success with over 50 entries. From children as young as 5 taking part right up to our experienced competitors. The weather held up great and everybody had a wonderful day with many winning trophies and rosettes.



St Aidan's National School, Brookfield



Horse Riding Written by a pupil from St Aidan's N.S.

The first day I went to horse riding I was pretty scared, but when you start realising that you can have lots of fun and stay safe then you won't feel scared anymore. The first horse I rode at horse riding was called Alfi. He is a medium sized horse. He was black and white in colour and also had a white mane. There was also all kinds of different horses. It was also funny when Ms O'Flaherty had to ride a horse.

My favourite horse I got to ride was called Jasper. He had brown skin and had a black mane. There was also one baby horse. A baby horse is called a foal. But when you aren't riding a horse you get to learn about the horses and get to clean them with brushes. There was a soft brush for the horse's skin and a hard brush for the horse's hair which is called a mane. On the last horse riding lesson you get a certificate for taking part in horse riding. You can also go there when you are not in school. I would love to go again.



Horse Riding Written by a pupil from St Aidan's N.S.

"Horse riding was great fun. All the horses were very nice. At first I was very nervous. But when I groomed the horse I wasn't afraid to go near them. Their hair was very soft. Their tails felt like hair extensions.

We groomed a horse called Bella. She was small. For the first 4 weeks I didn't ride the horse. Alfi was the name of the horse that I rode on the last lesson. It was very relaxing riding the horse and Ms Scullion my teacher and Ms O'Flaherty the SNA also had to ride a horse. At the end of the last lesson we got certificates.

I really liked horse riding and I would like to go again."