

NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2015



West Tallaght Schools Initiative

The West Tallaght Schools Equestrian Initiative is a programme designed to firstly introduce a large number of children in a disadvantaged urban area to the possibility of enjoying the whole equine experience and secondly to provide a pathway for progression in the sport in an inclusive, supportive and developmental environment.

The Initiative will have two areas of focus:

Firstly, the delivery of Introductory / Taster sessions for 165 students from St Thomas', St Marks & St Maelruains Church of Ireland primary school (funded by The Ireland Fund) and from St Bridget's NS., St Anne's & St Aidans NS (funded by the Growing Community Roots programme)

Secondly the delivery of a Progressive Equitation Programme using AIRE basic levels for 20 participants selected from two schools with whom we have worked previously, St Anne's & St Aidan's (funded by The Ireland Fund).

The Taster sessions for all of the schools commenced in October 2015 will be completed by early December. The Aire programme commences early in the New Year.

Thank You to Funders

A huge "thank you" is due to the agencies and organisations that have supported FYHP with funding throughout 2015.

These are Pobal, South Dublin County Council, the Sports Capital Programme provided by The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Ireland Fund, the Growing Community Roots programme and a National Lottery Grant provided by the Department of Health.



FETTERCAIRN YOUTH HORSE PROJECT

At the heart of your community

Numbers and Groups 2015

This year has been good for the numbers that are attending the Horse Project to engage in Horse Riding and Stable Management. The figures for the first 46 weeks of 2015 (up to the 22nd November) are 6457. This figure is ahead of the 2013 figure but a 13% reduction on the 2014 numbers.

The list shows the Groups who have attend the Project to date for 2015 during weekdays with Saturdays and Sundays being reserved for the general public.

Dyspraxia Ireland
Quality Home Care
St Thomas School
St Aidan's School
St Anne's School
Peamount Hospital
St Micheal's House
Social Circle
Bru Youth Service
St Bridget's School
Barnardos

Rialto Spring Board
St Mark's School
S.D.C.C Summer Project
Harold's Cross Youth Service
Separated Children's service
Donore Youth Service
St Maelruain's
Stoneybatter Youth Service
EAL Research Dr Caren Hession
FYHP Pony Camps

Sabrina Layden Wins the Val Kemp Cup

The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project were delighted to award the Val Kemp Cup to Sabrina Layden for "The Most Improved Member of the FYHP" this year. The Yard Supervisor, Kathy Heaney presented Sabrina, who is from Clondalkin, with the Commemoration cup in October 2015.

The Val Kemp Cup is awarded each year to the most improved member of the project. We look forward each year to witness the enthusiasm of all our young riders and stable hands.



Three Year Pobal Support for Staffing

FYHP has been very fortunate to secure a further Pobal Community Services Programme contract for the employment aspects of the Horse Project. This will cover the majority of our employment costs for a manager and 4 full time equivalents from January 2015 until December 2017. This includes the employment of two full-time Traveller Stable Hands, the Project Manager, the Yard Supervisor and the part-time Equine Instructor and part-time Administrator.

Maintaining and Upgrading the Facility

The replacement of broken windows and the renovation of all windows of the stables has been completed at a cost of €36,000 by means of funding from the Sports Capital Fund and South Dublin County Council. The alarm system has been reviewed and updated as part of a security upgrade. Staff from the Deloitte Corporate Social Responsibility programme have undertaken two Intern Impact days that included the painting of the interior of the stables and offices and outside maintenance work. We are at present investigating the use of solar panels as a means of providing hot water in the stable kitchen and washrooms.

Come Find Us!

Address: Fettercairn Road, Tallaght D24
Tel: 01 462 7214
Email: fyhp@eircom.net

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



Run out of ideas for Christmas Presents?

Christmas Vouchers are Available to purchase from the Project



There's always something on, all year round, at the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project...

Bringing in the New Year

January

We celebrated 2015 by welcoming back all our horses from their Christmas holidays spent at the Calliaghstown Equestrian Centre. All the horses were well rested for the busy year that unfolded.

Valentine's Arrival

February

What a great day we all had in February. On St Valentine's Day, we welcomed the arrival of Angel's little foal.

The decision was made to call her "Valentine". The arrival of Valentine at the project has been a really great experience for the children of the area and those who attend the project to be a part of and they have watched her grow throughout the year. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for updates.



St Patrick's Day Festival

March

In March the project was present at the St Patrick's Day festival in Tallaght. Four ponies with staff and lots of volunteers provided free pony rides to the children. It was a big attraction and we hope to be involved again in 2016.



April 2015

April

We were delighted to feature Samantha Wynne, from Tallaght, on our web site in April. She started racing as an apprentice jockey in Ireland after graduating from RACE in 2005 and was interviewed on RTE about her success. In the interview, she recounted how she learnt how to ride with a saddle at the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project. Samantha is now making headlines in the national media of New Zealand as she has recorded over 100 wins. She remains an inspiration to all the youth in Tallaght and beyond who have a dream to succeed in the racing world.

Training in Festina Lente

May

Six staff members of the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project attended training at Festina Lente in May. This training included preparing to provide tuition to children with challenging behaviour, better understanding of children with special needs such as Dyspraxia and Autism. The importance of this training is paramount for FYHP staff to provide quality service in a fun environment.



New Windows

June

The 35,000 euro Window Renovation and Replacement Programme was completed in June 2015.

Business in the Community

Deloitte Staff Help out

July and September

The Deloitte Impact Days for Interns helped to transform the FYHP stables, the offices, kitchen and lecture room. The interns painted over 1,000 sq.m. of internal walls including all of the twenty stables, our offices, lecture room and outside maintenance work around the arena and grazing area. They were all hardworking and industrious and had two great days at the Project. The initiative was part of Deloitte's Corporate Social Responsibility programme. FYHP would like to say a big "Thank You" to Deloitte for choosing the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project.



Social Circle

Summer

Camp

August

We had a significant number of children attending the pony camp in August. Activities included tacking up, riding, mucking out, grooming and lots of fun and games.

All the children involved had a great day and all the staff really enjoyed the day with the children. Everyone received a certificate and rosette for all their hard work throughout the day. We also had ten children attend a lesson after the pony

camp was finished. Thank you again to all the children and parents. We look forward to seeing you all again in the summer of 2016.



Show Jumping Competition

September

The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project's annual Show-Jumping competition was held on Sunday the 13th of September 2015. Over 70 competitors entered the Lead rein class, Mini, Midi and Maxi. The results of the day were:

Mini: 1st Shauna Tigue, 2nd & 3rd Madison Clancy, 4th Jowita Palo

Midi: 1st Ciaran Darcy, 2nd Chloe Stanley, 3rd Aaron Boylan, 4th Leah Hackett and Niamh Dempsey

Maxi: 1st Shane Kehoe 2nd Shauna Corcoran



Featured on Winning Streak

October

FYHP were delighted that RTE chose the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project to feature in the Winning Streak programme on the 31st October 2015. Every week a two minute video on various projects, which benefit from the Lottery funding, feature on this TV programme. The project has been very fortunate to benefit from Lottery funding for an equine programme catering for Equine Assisted Learning research and for a Garda Youth Diversion Project in Tallaght. You can view the TV clip on our webpage.

Equine Assisted Learning

October

The 'Music on Horses' research project, undertaken by Dr Caren Hession, Spiritus Studios, was held at the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project from September to November 2015. Twenty children participated in this project, with syndromes ranging from Autism, Dyspraxia, Sensory Processing Disorder and Aspergers. The children attended the project, once a week, for 30 minutes, for a period of 8 weeks.

The sessions consisted of a series of games and exercises on the horse; with particular emphasis on Rhythm and Beat Perception, designed to promote rhythm skills, timing, memory, attention, sequencing ability and social interaction. Such games included: clapping sequencing rhythm patterns together and singing charades.

A simple qualitative questionnaire assessment was completed by parents pre and post the 8 week period, in order to determine any changes in the children over the course of the project. A significant increase in self-regulation was evident, with additional improvements in self-esteem, attention, memory, mood and school behaviour.

This programme has been funded by a National Lottery Grant provided by the Department of Health.



Exam Success!

November

There was great excitement in November with the news that five members of FYHP had passed their BHS exams. They include Amy Preston, Leah Hackett, Megan Doran and Chloe Stanley, all of whom passed Stage One. Shane Keogh, who is employed as a Stable Hand, passed his Stage 2. They had all trained extremely hard throughout the year and were well rewarded for all the hard work they put into the course. Shane will progress to his PTT in the spring and Chloe, Megan, Leah and Amy will all complete their Stage Two early 2017 when they turn 16 years old.

Social Inclusion Award

December

The FYHP were absolutely delighted to win South Dublin County Council's Social Inclusion Award at an award ceremony in the Red Cow Hotel on 11th December 2015. The award was based on the currently running equine programme, The West Tallaght Schools Equestrian Initiative.