

## Horse Aware Week at FYHP

The Horse Aware Week at FYHP started with a series of presentations by representatives of the Education Task Group in four local primary schools and in two local Secondary Schools. The presentations provided information about horse care and responsible ownership. The Horse Aware Week culminated in an Open Day at the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project on Saturday 29th September.

## Open Day at FYHP during Horse Week

The Open Day was launched by the South Dublin Mayor Mark Ward on Saturday the 29th of September who spoke of the Dublin Region Horse Welfare Working Group and the role of FYHP in making the equine world an accessible community activity. The Mayor's speech was followed by informative talks from Paul Keane of RACE Academy about employment opportunities in the equine world and from Alan Ward of Saoirse Saddlery.

We were very fortunate in having lovely sunny weather on Saturday the 29th and we were able to have outdoor talks from the Garda Mounted Unit (Garda Laura Doolan) and the Army Equitation School (Lt Benson Byrne and Pte Mark McKenna). It was brilliant to hear how each of the speakers had been inspired to become involved with horses and their journeys into their current roles. Pte. Aoife Curran, also from the Army Equitation School, was displaying the famous award winning Ringwood Abbey in the arena.

There were also information stands provided by the DSPCA, Horse Racing Ireland Cherry Orchard Community Training Centre & SOLAS. There was lots of opportunity to get information in relation to equine training and about careers in the equine industry. Thanks to the Dublin Civil Defence (Maura and Mark) who provided Medical and Rescue Cover for the event.

We had a hugely successful day and we can't thank enough all the speakers, volunteers and staff of all of the organisations involved for their hard work on the day. Thanks also to City West Hotel and TRI Equestrian for their kind donations on the day. This event was generously supported by South Dublin County Council.

The Dublin Region Horse Welfare Working Group – Education Task Group includes the Dublin SPCA, Fettercairn Youth Horse Project, Clondalkin Equine Club, Irish Horse Welfare Trust, Cherry Orchard Equine Centre, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine & representatives from the Dublin Councils and Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine.

FYHP would like to thank all our sponsors for their support during the year particularly Roadstone for their funding of the Voucher Programme and we would also like to thank the volunteers from Deloitte who carried out valuable work during 2018 both in the stables and the grazing field.



## Pilot Programme

FYHP has been hosting an innovative programme with Occupational Therapist, Kelly Harrison from the HSE. This programme was designed for children who are currently receiving occupational therapy services in Dublin SW. Some of the children have a diagnosis of either Dyspraxia, Autism, ADHD or learning difficulties.

Many children do not have a formal diagnosis but have difficulties with motor, sensory processing or functional skills. The children learn skills including horse riding skills under the instruction of a qualified horse riding instructor and the OT. A continuous evaluation is taking place of the programme each week with the children's progression being recorded. This will be reported back to the HSE and published in one of our future newsletters. So far the results have well exceeded our expectations.



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

Welcome to the annual FYHP newsletter for 2018. We are delighted to share with you the news that we have had another good year – We have had great fund raising success for the Sensory Trail, we have organised well attended events for the Tallaght Horse Aware Week, we have a Pilot Occupational Therapist Programme in FYHP at present and much, much more!



## Fundraisers achieve huge success for FYHP proposed Sensory Trail

The dedication of two extraordinary women in achieving huge success in raising funding for FYHP proposed Sensory Trail has been outstanding. Over €25,000 has been raised, most of it this year, by Amanda Fox and Grainne Coyne, their families and friends. The support of over sixty participants in this year's Women's Mini Marathon and over twenty companies that sponsored Amanda and Grainne in aid of the Sensory Trail has been overwhelming and the staff and Board of FYHP are hugely grateful. See inside for more details!

# Merry Christmas



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From:

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## A Christmas Gift Certificate for You

# Newsletter

# 2018

## Another Great Year at FYHP!

### Fundraising success!

### Horse Aware Week and Open Day Triumph!

### BHS Trainees

### Plans for Sensory Trail unveiled!

### Another busy year – see inside for more details

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### Develop Your Equine Skills

One of the main objectives of FYHP is to provide young people with the opportunity to develop skills in relation to animal welfare, stable management and horse riding including accredited training (AIRE/BHS). Part of the way we do this is by engaging with the Education Training Board (ETB) for their BHSAI traineeship, Tús for a work placement initiative and our own Work Experience programme. For anyone interested, we would love to see you. See below for what has been happening in 2018.

### ETB

This year we had 3 ETB students on the BHSAI traineeship. Two of the students finished the course in August after completing their Stage 2 exam. The latest student started in September and is planning to complete her Stage two riding in the springtime. This student has progressed from being a leader here at the Project to starting out her career as an Equine instructor. The ETB course is for anyone interested in getting their exams and working in the equine industry, see the [www.fyhp.ie](http://www.fyhp.ie) website for information.

### TUS

Tús is a community work placement initiative designed to provide work placement opportunities for people who are unemployed. This is another way people can start off their training if they have an interest in working with horses. FYHP provides training and support the workers to progress onto the exam scale. One person started in early November and a second person will start in the middle of December.

### Work experience

During 2018, there have been 12 Transition year students from schools in the Tallaght area doing work experience in FYHP. We do ask that student have an interest in horses or have been around them before. All students receive basic training including grooming, tacking up and general yard duties. Students also help out with the lessons in the arena.

*"I have learned so much from being up there and my riding has improved a lot over the years."*  
Niamh



Niamh Dempsey being presented with the Val Kemp Cup by FYHP's Kathy Heaney

### The Val Kemp Cup Winner 2018

Niamh Dempsey has been awarded the FYHP Val Kemp Cup for her hard work and dedication to helping out at the Project. Niamh has been a part of FYHP for seven years. Niamh was delighted to receive the award. "The Horse Project is full of great kind and friendly people. I have learned so much from being up there and my riding has improved a lot over the years. I have gained a lot of amazing people as friends since I started helping out. Anytime I need help, there is someone there to help. I felt very happy winning the cup because it shows that everyone there was appreciative of my dedication and my time up there".



### Sensory Trail

Approximately 30% of the children attending the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project are children with special needs. The Sensory Trail will be an amazing addition to the Horse Project and will facilitate a number of groups (Social Circle, Sensory Fun with Friends, Cheeverstown, Hope Montessori & Autism Care Center, St. John of Gods, Our Lady of Good Council, Dyspraxia Ireland), local schools, as well as local and countywide children attending our project. A sensory trail will add to the experience especially for those with special needs, with increased stimulation, balance, motivation, co-ordination, whilst also improving independence, and encouraging communication. Thank you again Amanda and Grainne for your continued efforts to ensure the construction of the Sensory Trail.

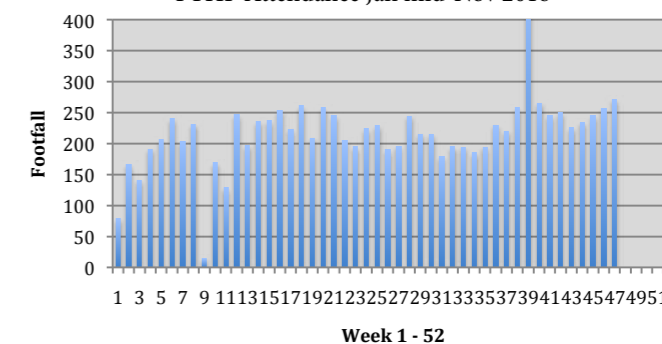
The trail will consist of slopes, turns, varied footing and natural sights and sounds and manmade activity stations. The activity stations will be themed to provide stopping points along the trail that offer children the opportunity to see, hear, smell, touch and talk about the items that they encounter. The pictures are from the sensory trail at Festina Lente who have kindly allowed us to use the photo to give people the sense of what our trail may include



### Another Record Year at FYHP!

2018 has been our busiest year yet since FYHP opened in December 2000. There have been over 10,000 visits to the Horse Project up to the end of November despite all the snow early in the New Year. This 18% increase has definitely been helped by our extended opening hours for lessons on Wednesday and Thursday until 7.00pm and of course our Open Day in September. Everyone here at the project is very grateful for the huge support we continue to receive from all our service users. We look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

FYHP Attendance Jan mid-Nov 2018



### FYHP Volunteer Features in Tallaght Echo

Fettercairn Youth Horse Project Volunteer Abbigail Williams featured in an article in the Tallaght Echo 'Local Faces' in June 2018. The piece provided a great description of what volunteering in FYHP means. Abbigail is fourteen and she lives locally. Finishing second year in St Mark's Community School she spent the summer at the Horse Project every day from 9am until evening. "I love volunteering in the Horse Project. It's a challenge but it teaches you independence and how to look after animals. I'm breaking in a rescue horse at the moment called Elise. She's a rescue horse from My Lovely Horse Rescue and I love spending time with her".

The staff and Board at FYHP would like to thank Abbigail for her work and enthusiasm in the Horse Project. She, and all of the other volunteers provide tremendous support and help make FYHP a successful community facility.

*"I love volunteering in the Horse Project. It's a challenge but it teaches you independence and how to look after animals."* Abbigail



Abbigail Williams, photograph courtesy of Aidan O'Neill, Tallaght Echo