

FETTERCAIRN YOUTH HORSE PROJECT NEWSLETTER 2019

FYHP announces successful recruitment of staff

FYHP are delighted to announce the successful recruitment of essential staff in the Horse Project. Aisling Twomey has been appointed as the new full-time Equitation and Training Service Manager and Ciara Greaney has been appointed as the part-time Riding Instructor. Both have substantial equine experience and skills, see brief biographies below, and they are hugely enthusiastic about the potential of the Horse Project for Fettercairn. FYHP are thrilled that they have joined the team in South Dublin's only community based horse riding centre.



Deloitte Staff volunteer at FYHP

Twenty five volunteers from the Deloitte Impact Day Initiative came to Fettercairn in September of this year to lend a hand and do some much needed work. They cleared a lot of rubbish and stones from the fields to help preparations for the Sensory Trail works to begin. They also pulled all the weeds from both the fields (de-weeded the grazing fields of ragwort and dock) and surrounding hard surface areas i.e. the car park and out the back of the stable building. The staff really created a lovely atmosphere as well as contributing so much to FYHP by their work. Both the Staff and Board of FYHP would like to thank all of those involved in the Deloitte Impact Day Initiative. The day was one of great fun and positive energy.



Brooke Kelly Wins the Val Kemp Cup 2019



The Val Kemp Cup is presented annually to the young volunteer that has excelled in their involvement with FYHP. We have been extremely lucky this year to have such a great group of young volunteers in the Horse Project; the yard kids are all amazing and are so much a part of the FYHP family.

It has been a very difficult decision to pick one volunteer out of 26 as each individual helper has added so much to the yard individually and as a team. We would be lost without each one and are so looking forward to going into the new year with a fantastic bunch of kids. So, firstly, we would like to take this time to thank all of the kids involved in helping us do what we do at FYHP.

We are delighted to announce that Brooke Kelly has received the Val Kemp Cup at FYHP this year. Brooke is extremely hard working and dedicated to ensuring all horses are loved and looked after. She is always a ray of sunshine in the yard and always carries out any tasks given with a smile.

We are very grateful to have Brooke as one of our leaders/volunteers and are delighted to have presented her with the famous Val Kemp Cup.

SDCC Community Infrastructure Fund Success for FYHP

There has been some good news! The Horse Project is delighted to have been informed by South Dublin County Council during July 2019 that we were successful in our application under the Community Infrastructure Fund 2019 and have been awarded the sum of €20,000. The funding has been awarded to facilitate the upgrade of the riding arena and the provision of emergency lighting in the Horse Project. The work on the emergency lighting has already been completed.

Progress on the Sensory Trail

The next phase in the development of the Sensory Trail is the installation of the Activity Stations. These will offer children the opportunity to see, hear, smell, touch and talk about the items that they encounter. They will also help develop their independence, increase their motivation, encourage communication, improve balance, coordination and core strength. The stations will be continually evolving so as not to lose their impact.

We wish to thank the Parks Department of South Dublin County Council for all the works carried out to date and also to Roadstone (Belgard) for providing the necessary materials. Their generosity has greatly reduced the overall cost of the installation of the Sensory Trail as they have offered their services free of charge. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Amanda Fox and Grainne Coyne whose fund raising efforts are making the Sensory Trail a reality. Their vision of a therapeutic Sensory Trail will enhance the overall equestrian experience of all children attending FYHP and in particular those children who have special needs or a physical disability. The vision of horses and riders ambling through the wild flower meadow of the Sensory Trail will soon be a reality.

FUNDING FOR NEW ARENA SURFACE NOW IN PLACE!

The combined funding from the Sport's Capital award of €52,000 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport awarded to South Dublin County Council (2017) on behalf of FYHP plus the successful application to the SDCC Community Infrastructure Fund means that the funding is now in place to allow us to replace the surface of our arena. This will allow us to hold more lessons than ever and will ensure we maintain the very high standard of lessons we provide well into the future.

SCOIL CHAITLIN MAUDE DONATION

Following a fundraising cake sale in Scoil Chaitlin Maude in Killinarden, the school has made a very generous donation of €500 to FYHP (a number of the pupils are currently attending the Horse Project).

VOLUNTEER FAIR

The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project was one of the twenty organisations that manned information booths at the South Dublin County Volunteer Fair in September in the Maldron Hotel in Tallaght. There were over 200 potential volunteers that visited the event. FYHP had a very positive response in relation to the Equine Leaders/Helpers volunteer role, with 17 signing up, four of whom are at present getting their Garda vetting. There are also volunteer opportunities on the Staffing and on the Finance Subcommittees. Details of all of the roles are available on the South Dublin County Volunteer Centre website. Thanks also to the South Dublin County Volunteer Centre that organised the fair.



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Date: details

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SOME OF THE GROUPS ATTENDING FYHP IN 2019

FYHP Pony Camp
St Aidan's Primary School
St Thomas Primary School
St Anne's Primary School
Scoil Chaitlin Maude Gaelscoil
St Mark's Junior School
Killinarden School
Tallaght Autism Support
Dyspraixa
Private Special Needs
Social Circle
Sensory Fun with Friends
Hope Montessori Autism Care Centre
Noah Health Care
HSE
St John of Gods
St Michael's House
St Finain's Primary School
Early School Leavers, Blanchardstown
Mulhuddart Community Youth Project
Web Project (Mulhuddart)
Fettercairn Foroige
Fettercairn Homework Club
Student Lessons
Work Experience - Tus
FYHP Saturday and Sunday Lessons
Solas Chroist
Tallaght Travellers
Web Project
S.D.C.C Summer Project
Foroige
Go For Life
Our Lady Of Good Council

Unsustainable Insurance premium threatens FYHP



Like many community based projects countrywide, FYHP has faced major increases in our insurance; our 2019 insurance premium of €42,000 is unsustainable. In 2018, the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project paid €8,500 for our public liability insurance. This cover was provided, through our broker, by a London based syndicate who since the start of 2019 has withdrawn from the Irish equine market. We had to close down the project for two weeks. We were very fortunate to obtain alternative cover through a new broker; however the downside was the cost of €42,000. This cost has been a major drain on our reserves. FYHP are currently seeking quotes for insurance for next year.

FYHP have been working with The Alliance for Insurance Reform in their media campaign as an example from the community sector where increased insurance premiums are threatening their operations. Links to the coverage on RTE News on television and RTE radio Today with Sean O'Rourke are provided on the FYHP website www.fyhp.ie. There was also good coverage locally on the Horse Project and the insurance premium in the article by Mary Dennehy of the Tallaght Echo on the 12th September 2019.

FYHP would like to thank all of our groups and clients for their support. We will continue to fight to ensure that this wonderful community initiative stays open.

NEW ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAMME KELLY HARRISON RESEARCH REPORT

FYHP are currently running an Animal Welfare Programme with the involvement of Tallaght Travellers CDP and Tallaght Traveller Youth Service. The programme involves 10 young persons (9-13 year olds), incorporating animal awareness, horse care and horse riding, attending for an 8 week period. Funding for the programme has been received from South Dublin County Council and the St Stephens Green Trust.

Kelly, a Senior Occupational Therapist with the HSE in Tallaght has carried out a 12 week Research Programme involving 24 children awaiting occupational therapy. Improvements were recorded in Physical, Emotional, Social & School functioning. Kelly recently presented her results at a seminar in Festina Lente in Bray. It is hoped to obtain funding to make the programme permanent in Fettercairn.