



# FETTERCAIRN YOUTH HORSE PROJECT

DECEMBER 2022



## 2022 was a year of challenge and triumph for the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project

The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project (FYHP) is a social enterprise which was established in 1995 to channel young people's interest in horses into a community activity, which would provide opportunities for training, education, recreation, community leadership and employment.

In 2000, we opened our 20 horse stabling facility and Olympic-sized arena, funded by the Department of Agriculture, South Dublin County Council. Equine training supports were provided by John Magnier and the Royal Dublin Society (RDS).

We provide horse riding, stable management, training and work placement opportunities to local schools and youth groups; children with physical disabilities and with special needs. We employ six people.

In March we were forced to close for four months because our insurer was leaving the Irish market and as a result, our public liability insurance was not renewed. Similar to many in the equine industry and many other sectors in Ireland, we experienced huge challenges in accessing insurance, but we persevered and re-opened in late July.

Since then, we have restarted all our programmes and started new ones.

We have worked with four local schools to deliver an integrated programme of education involving equine training; we have delivered our equine assisted learning programmes to over 177 young adults with special needs each week, and we delivered pony camps in the summer and autumn reaching over 66 local young people. We continued to offer work experience to local schools and groups and we had five participants this year.

Demand for our lessons and programmes continues to grow. We received huge support and encouragement when we were closed - from old friends and new, we would like to acknowledge this - it enabled us to re-open with an exciting programme of building works, summer camps and lessons, and a new training programme.



### UPGRADE OF OUR FACILITY

Amazon Web Services (AWS) came on board in 2022 and supported us in upgrading our facility. Over 30 volunteers from AWS deep-cleaned the interior of the stable building in July and repainted the whole interior of the stables. They also kindly donated much-needed equipment such as wheelbarrows, rugs, headcollars, grooming kits, to name just a few.



**Sheilann Monaghan**  
Chairperson  
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**Colette Needham**  
Acting Manager  
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## HALLOWE'EN FAMILY FUN DAY

Along with Sensory Fun with Friends we hosted a family fun day during the Hallowe'en weekend with the support of AWS. 200 families came to this free event, and enjoyed pony rides, face painting, ice cream vans, pumpkin patches and well as goodie bags for all.



### SENSORY GARDEN

Work on our Sensory Trail continues. This has been funded through a very active parent-led fundraising campaign raised over €26,000 towards its construction, and we thank the sensory trail group for continuing to work on this project. The Sensory Trail will boost the equine experience for our service users with special needs.

## Some of our groups

- Autism Initiative
- Childvision
- Citywest and Saggart National School
- Clondalkin Youth Advocate Programme
- Crosscare Clondalkin
- Dyspraxia Ireland
- Gladiators
- Make a Wish Foundation
- Ronanstown Youth Service
- Scoil Chaitlín Maude
- Sensory Fun with Friends
- South Dublin Co Council
- South Dublin Sports Partnership
- St Aidan's N.S.
- St Brigid's N.S.
- St Helen's Resource Centre
- St John of Gods
- St Michael's House
- WALK (Walkinstown Assoc. for People with an Intellectual Disability)
- Tus programme



### DONATION OF HORSES

We received a very generous donation of two beautiful horses this year. Dolly is a massive 17 Hands Clydesdale, donated by Brian Wynn of Pemberley Audio Visual Solutions. She is pictured above right with FYHP's Colette and with Brian.

Gerry (above right with FYHP's Hannah and Glen from Sensory Fun with Friends, and below) arrived in July and was donated by Hanley Energy and AWS. A huge thanks to our wonderful donors. Both horses will make a huge contribution to the project.



### TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR

We were delighted to be nominated in this year's 'Tallaght Person of the Year' awards in addition to two of our staff members (in the Special Needs and Carers Category).

## 2022 in numbers



## OUR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS



We received generous support from Tallaght West Credit Union, Roadstone and Nostra this year. This funding helped towards the cost of lessons for children, young people and groups in our area. We also thank all who have contributed to our online [i-donate](#) crowdfunding campaign which has raised over €1,000 already.

## TRAINING

We started a new training initiative this year so that all our young volunteers, staff and contracted instructors can gain equine qualifications accredited by Association of Irish Riding Establishments (AIRE) and the British Horse Society (BHS). This enhances their opportunities for employment in the equine sector.

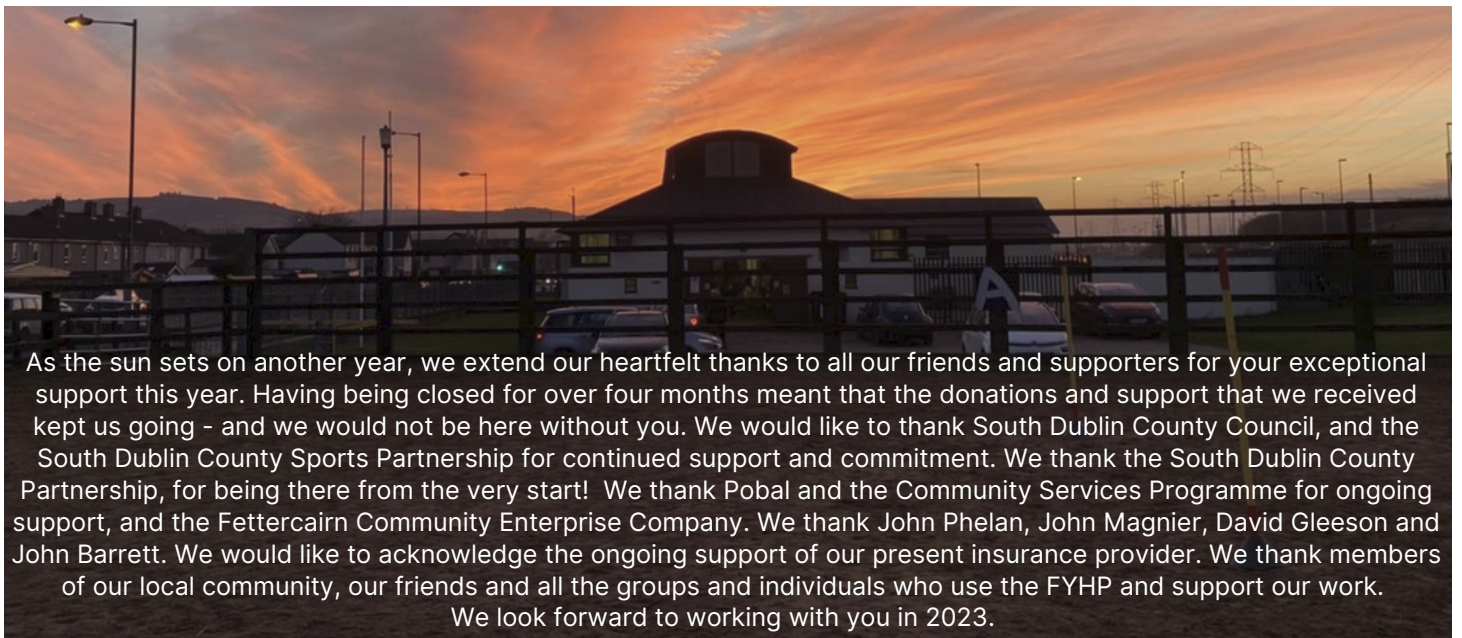
20 young people have already gained AIRE Level 1 qualification. We are also delighted that two of our graduates, both now working with us as instructors, are well on their way towards BHS Level 3 (A.I.). They are also taking part in therapeutic coaching training provided by Childvision. This initiative has been made possible by support from the South Dublin Sports Partnership, and it means that our proud tradition of supporting our young people to work in the industry in various roles can continue.



## Our staff and volunteers

None of the work we do would be possible without our fabulous team of staff, our instructors and our young volunteers.

They continue to work tirelessly to keep the show on the road, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to you, one and all.



As the sun sets on another year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our friends and supporters for your exceptional support this year. Having being closed for over four months meant that the donations and support that we received kept us going - and we would not be here without you. We would like to thank South Dublin County Council, and the South Dublin County Sports Partnership for continued support and commitment. We thank the South Dublin County Partnership, for being there from the very start! We thank Pobal and the Community Services Programme for ongoing support, and the Fettercairn Community Enterprise Company. We thank John Phelan, John Magnier, David Gleeson and John Barrett. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our present insurance provider. We thank members of our local community, our friends and all the groups and individuals who use the FYHP and support our work.

We look forward to working with you in 2023.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



South Dublin  
County Partnership  
Páirtíocht Chontae  
Átha Cliath Theas



sdscsp.ie  
South Dublin County  
Sports Partnership  
SPORT IRELAND

This project is supported by the Dept of Rural and Community Development and Pobal through the Community Services Programme



FYHP is an AIRE and BHS approved riding centre

**The Fettercairn Youth Horse Project Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) was incorporated in 1998 (CRO No. 292907) and is a registered charity (Charity No. 20041175)**

Directors: Sheilann Monaghan (Chair); Eugene Smartt; Tanya Lalor; Keith Young; Lynn Byrne; Thos McDermott

MERRY CHRISTMAS