

## “What we really need now is for the public to bring in their ideas”



Every day is a busy day for Sue MacDonald and everyone else at the Uist Community Riding School. But this year may be even busier than usual.

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studying for their SVQs in Horse Management and Riding, but we want to extend our training facilities even more so that we can make further horse industry training accessible.”

With the new business plan finalised, they hope to get to work within the near future. The first step is to get the funds to set the plans in motion.

“The plan is to get the ball rolling as soon as we can. We’re hoping that we’re going to be able to start ‘works’ this year.”

Sue MacDonald asks everyone who would like to help and give input to the project to get in touch with the riding school:

“What we really need now is for the public to bring in their ideas and suggestions on how they would like the school to progress and different things they would like to see or do at the

stables.”

Business plans and fundraising notwithstanding, the UCRS also has some just-for-fun activities in store. This year’s summer show will be held on Saturday 1 September. It will be the culmination of a busy summer programme, including all the usual activities: beach rides, own a pony days, lessons, rides out, as well as a dog show and the annual summer camp.

For more information on these and other activities, keep an eye on the UCRS website at [www.ridehebrides.org](http://www.ridehebrides.org).

“We’re also hoping to offer cart rides this summer. The Shetlands are on strict diets to fit between the shafts,” says Sue.

“We’re trying to teach some of the ponies more traditional activities like ploughing, harrowing and seaweed gathering. But it’s very low key at this stage, so there’s no need for crofters to worry about horses taking over the modern ways!”