

Top year at Uist Community Riding School and big plans for the future



Laura and Sheltie.

Sue MacDonald

A VERY successful year at Uist Community Riding School is just coming to an end with some extremely exciting developments on the horizon for next year.

UCRS development is now well under way with a full size floodlit outdoor riding arena being planned, along with ambitious plans to build a new front-of-house reception and training room.

In the fields, as part of an ongoing three-year plan, UCRS is aiming to eradicate ragwort from all fields grazed by horses. This is

a huge task and professional help has been sought for larger areas of infestation. Ragwort is deadly to all animals that eat it and every part of the plant is toxic.

With a grant from the Sports Council UCRS has started to put seven instructors through UKCC Teaching Exams. This involves a series of visits from an external coach and then a final assessment visit from an independent coach. Everyone at the riding school has enjoyed the expert coaching and we would like to thank the Sports Council for the opportunity.

On top of all this, UCRS works hard to accommodate all ages and abilities for riding lessons and hacks and is open all year. The summer season was again very

busy and we enjoy seeing visiting families returning year after year. We also work closely with the schools, the social work team, health visitors and mental health outreach workers to assist with clients and offer horse therapy sessions. The latter is a valuable and effective calming and care tool used with many people.

Our facilities can be hired and it is great to see other horse owners making use of the indoor school and its large selection of props and jumps.

The Uist Community Riding School, the staff, helpers, riders, members and horses would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful 2013.