



UCRS Winter Report

Hello to our local community, riders, relatives, supporters and friends of the Uist Community Riding School. We have a variety of exciting winter warming events for you all over the festive period and throughout the cold, damp, stormy or even crisp sunny winter months, and hope there is something for everyone.

Firstly I start on a sad note for those who haven't been aware we tragically lost our beloved horse Donald two weeks ago to a very rare disorder of which we had no control over. His loss in the yard is immense and we all experience the huge space he has left behind. He was a community raised horse bought for the riding school only 2 years ago, so for us it's a double loss and now have the long task of fundraising to support a new horse or two in the yard. For those who generously contributed for him thank you, his short time with us was however a happy one and full of experiences for him and us, he leaves us with many happy memories and good times.

We have a substitute in the yard at the moment (Murphy) also a big piebald cob who is with us on trial, so if he plays a clever hand he will become part of our trusty team next year.

Our summer was a season of many tourists enjoying fun pony days and beach outings, and our regular riders taking part in bar-b-ques, summer camp, competitions, training sessions and just having fun on the UCRS ponies and their own. We have bookings already for next summer and one inquiry last week for 2015 date for summer camp! Excellent we do like folk booking their family holidays around the stables activities and also being able to promote other opportunities the local community have, including the stunning scenery.

We still have places for our Young Riders Horse Knowledge, Care and Competence Certificate. This runs all winter with Certificates given in June 2014.

National Certificate Courses in Horse Care are starting again this winter, this is delivered as a night class and runs every 2 weeks, and there is very little cost to attend this course, more information coming shortly. This is open to all secondary school children and adults; no previous horse experience is necessary.

A **BIG** thank you to all our volunteers young and old, and in the middle! Without all your valuable contributions we wouldn't exist. If you would like to get involved or have a family member or a friend who wants to ride or volunteer get in touch.

GIFT IDEA We can design individual riding vouchers as a suitable Christmas gifts.



For the month of December we will have a dustbin at our gate for anyone wishing to drop of a bag of carrots or apples for our ponies. Remember we take all shredded paper and also newspapers



. leave your Sad used Christmas tree with us in January we give them a loving home! And use them for a host of things.

Dates to remember for the festive break are.

- **Santa Dash** Saturday 14th December, leaving the stables at 12.30 (weather permitting) we will do a tour of Balivanich and return down airport road, look out for us and contribute your spare change, or take part.... Santa suits available to hire for £1, Meet at UCRS at 12 noon.
- UCRS **Christmas party** also 14th December will follow on after the Santa Dash 3-5pm
- **UCRS Christmas Musical Display** Saturday 21st December at 6pm come and see the galloping Santas in action to a variety of music and displays , festive refreshments and a chance for you to look round the yard and meet all the ponies and riders. This is a fundraising event so please support us, also this is a thank you to all who support us in any way, Please come along it will last for approximately 1 hour so plenty of time for you to go on to all those Christmas parties after! Bring the whole family, willies and a warm coat. Carrots also welcome!
- **Flodda ride Santa Dash** (experienced Santa's only) Sunday 22nd December, times to be confirmed. If you are a horse owner join us, it will take approximately 5 hours with soup & mince pies provided on Flodda.
- Christmas dressage competition Saturday 28th December at 1pm, test sheets available from the yard. For all ages and abilities.
- New Years Eve fancy dress competition and gymkhana Tuesday 31st December 11am
- Festive jumping competition Thursday 2nd January at 11am, this is for all ages and abilities.

UCRS Staff, Volunteers, Committee Members, Riders and the Horses wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014