

# TURN OUT

*Newsletter of the Dial Wood Carriage Driving Group*

## **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020.**

As the last days of this rather strange Summer fade into Autumn it seems odd not to be reporting about shows, galas and social events. Instead I have to report that the skies over Dial Wood have never been bluer and the eerie calls of the circling buzzards overhead have reminded us how therapeutic nature can be in these troubling times.

The ponies too have been a real tonic for the small team of committed volunteers who have been instrumental in their care and exercise during these challenging months so to them a very Big THANK YOU; though of course Dial Wood feels very different without the presence of our wonderful clients and we can't wait for the opportunity to welcome them back.

### **FIRST AID**

After a long wait, our postponed First Aid course was finally able to go ahead on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The venue at Wakefield RDA Indoor School offered us plenty of space for social distancing and Sam from Medi K delivered an interesting and instructive course this time with an equestrian based theme. Team members enjoyed a full day refreshing their first aid knowledge with lots of practical exercises following Covid 19 guidelines to keep all

attendees safe It also provided a lovely opportunity to catch up with other volunteers who we haven't seen for a long time at a safe distance of course. Certificates were renewed and are valid for the next three years.



*Volunteers all smiling behind the masks*

### **MAKE A DATE**

In the absence of our NCS students, who normally join us over the Summer to produce the Dial Wood calendar, we have had to take matters into our own hands (and hooves). The theme for the 2021 calendar is 'Hats Off to Horses', with some fantastic photos. Volunteers, and friends of Dial Wood have helped produce the photos and star in them creating some classic shots...but you will have to wait to see the results. The Calendar will be available to buy soon and would make a great Christmas present.



*Tonto having a dress rehearsal for his photo shoot.*

### **BACK IN HARNESS.....**

We are unable to drive with passengers at the moment but Duncan and Little have

both been back in harness. The beauty of the Fenix Four Wheeler is that it has a back step allowing for a groom to travel too at a safe distance whereas Little Splash has had to be accompanied from the ground in his two wheeler.

Dial Wood's volunteers are having to be versatile and creative with their exercising routines to keep the boys interested and fit.



*'Three's a crowd' Little seems to be thinking as he joins his pony pals in a long reining session.*

## **WELCOME BACK**

Measures are now in place that will hopefully allow us to invite some of our clients back for pony therapy and quiet corner sessions. Spending time with ponies can offer a welcome respite and being out in the fresh air can create a sense of wellbeing. The ponies have certainly missed contact with their client friends. These sessions will mainly provide opportunities to groom or long rein and will be staggered allowing for sanitising equipment in between. Only one client plus a carer will be allowed at a time with a one way system in operation and hand washing facilities on arrival and leaving, a typical session will last no more than twenty minutes.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Big Congratulations to Volunteer Rachel who has achieved her RDA Coach in Training Certificate. Great Work.



*Rachel & Duncan*

## **FUND RAISING UPDATE**

Our fund raising opportunities have been few and far between this Summer, but our Grand Draw in July made a fantastic £900. We have also been able to raise some funds through the Global Giving scheme and we have been very grateful to those Clients, volunteers and friends of Dial Wood who have made donations too.

## **ADOPT A PONY**

Present Shopping is a very different experience at the moment so why not consider the Dial Wood Adopt a Pony Scheme as an original and worthwhile gift. At just £19.99 the adoptee will receive a lovely framed photograph of their chosen pony plus regular updates. Visit our website for more information [www.dialwood.btck.co.uk](http://www.dialwood.btck.co.uk)

## **NEXT NEWSLETTER:-**

Scheduled for December 2020.  
All articles to Chris.

