

# TURN OUT

**Newsletter of the Dial Wood Carriage Driving Group- SPRING 2021.**

## **HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL...**

**It certainly does and this Spring feels full of hope as the vaccination programme continues apace and we draw ever closer to being able to welcome back our much missed clients.**

## **VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK**

What has become very clear over the last twelve months is just how valuable the power of ponies is in helping us cope through this challenging time. There has never been any doubt what a difference time spent with the ponies means to our clients, but during their absence it has been our committed volunteers who have really benefitted. Here are just a few comments from the Dial Wood Team.

I have been so lucky to look after the ponies during lockdown: someone to talk to, share fresh air with and to be able to walk the dog to the stables for exercise....when I think about people confined in high rise flats in town....its scary!

Audrey

Being part of the Dial Wood team is a honour and privilege for me at anytime but never more so than over the last year, being able to go to the stables has really helped maintain my mental health and well-being its given me a routine and focus along with physical exercise riding Duncan and mucking out the stables with my fellow volunteer Vicki, who always brings a smile to my face. It is rewarding knowing I am contributing to keeping the

ponies fit and healthy ready for when our friends can return. I am truly grateful for my little piece of tranquility.

Ailsa.

Although I have missed the comradship and banter with our volunteers and clients over the last few months, it has been very enjoyable to spend so much quality time with the ponies, especially Duncan. We have helped each other, as Duncan is a good listener and excellent multi-tasker (he can eat and listen at the same time) and he has enjoyed extra grooming and massaging, without having to be rushed and ready for the driving session.

Julie

*Covid has forced unknown situations, from working at home to not able to go about our daily lives - which has been at times a struggle to adapt for everyone. I've been very fortunate throughout the past twelve months to make furlough days meaningful - being able to come to the yard, meet a volunteer buddy for the daily jobs, fresh air and exercise (not just for the ponies but myself too) has given me a weekly "outing" to look forward to. I've also been able to progress my Riding Therapy Coach in Training as the world has used technology more for online training and has given me a great focus for what I thoroughly enjoy.*

*Rachel.*



*Rachel and Holly's Splendid Spring Clean in the Volunteer cabin.*

Being able to connect with nature, ponies and people while having fun and doing something worthwhile lifts my spirits and gives me the

energy to keep moving forward to when Covid will end!!  
Vicki

I have really enjoyed the RDA Webinars during Lockdown.  
Andrew

### ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

It was lovely to hear the kind and inspiring words of HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the RDA. Thanking volunteers and all those connected to the many Nationwide groups. View her motivational speech on the RDA.UK website.

### SIGN OF THE TIMES

New Volunteer Tom has been helping spruce up the yard and arena for the much anticipated return of our clients. Amongst his many jobs was putting up some lovely new arena letters. We think Duncan approves...



Check out our spruced up bird table and lovely upcycled bench too.

### NO FOOT NO HORSE!

Pandemic or no pandemic the ponies hooves continue to grow and they need attention roughly every six to eight weeks. Our Farrier, Ian was at the yard recently giving the boys a hoof trim and re-shoeing.



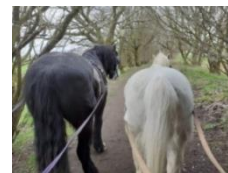
*Ian gets to work shaping a shoe.*

### ADOPT A PONY

Here's an eggcellent Easter gift idea. Adopting a Dial Wood Pony is very low calorie and lasts a whole year...now you can't say that about an Easter Egg. For just £19.99 you will receive a framed photograph of your adopted pony plus regular updates. Contact the Group for more details.

### DIAL WOOD WITH A DIFFERENCE

It goes without saying that we can't wait to welcome back our clients, it will be a while before we can carriage drive. However, we have the go ahead to start slowly reintroducing pony therapy and ground work sessions from the end of March. These will be limited in number with all necessary safety and social distancing regulations in place. **To all our Clients.....**



**Can't wait to have you back!**

**HAPPY EASTER & A BIG THANK YOU TO  
CLIENTS AND VOLUNTEERS.**

**Next newsletter Summer 2021.**