

# TURN OUT

*Newsletter of the Dial Wood Carriage Driving Group*

## AUTUMN - 2021

There is definitely a chill in the air for those early morning 'mucker outers!' The Summer might be growing old, but we've made the most of it and hope to fill the Autumn months with lots of fun with the help of our enthusiastic volunteers and participants and our versatile ponies...

## EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES WELL SUNFLOWERS....



It has certainly been a bumper year for the Dial Wood Garden creating a colourful welcome to all our visitors and providing lots of interest for the

bees. A giant Sunflower donated by Holly is currently watching over proceedings at the yard. Plenty of sunshine and water recycled from the trough and pony buckets has kept everything looking good.

## GOING FOR GOLD

As part of our themed pony therapy sessions, Dial Wood hosted a mini Olympics, with a fun obstacle course for participants, ponies and volunteers to enjoy.



Little Splash was very proud of his 'gold' medal.

In fact our Pony and Riding Therapy sessions are proving very popular and a special visit from the Dynamic Duo, Tonto and Ellie, was a great success.



We now have regular riding therapy participants who are enjoying their sessions and Riders Leon and Alvin are working towards their Grade 1 Riding. The challenges of recent times have made us all determined to create the best experience for everyone involved with Dial Wood.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Terri who received her Asdan certificate recently. Terri did an amazing job producing a fantastic project file on Horse Care. Terri



has had lots of practical experience during her weekly pony therapy sessions with Little Splash. Participants Grahame, Sammi, Craig, Erin & Daisy are also embarking on the Asdan scheme so watch this space!

## GRAND DRAW

Just a reminder that tickets for our Annual Grand Draw are still on sale. The Draw takes place in December so plenty of time to purchase tickets. There are some very exciting prizes to be had.

Other ways to help our group include our Adopt a Pony Scheme, check out our

website for more information.  
[www.dialwoodrda.co.uk](http://www.dialwoodrda.co.uk)

## **BEST FOOT FORWARD**

Our main driving pony Duncan has been demonstrating his versatility as a riding pony too over the last eighteen months. Volunteers are enjoying exercising him out on hacks and in the arena and participants are benefiting from riding therapy with him.



*Volunteer Andrew enjoys some riding therapy.*

## **AND FINALLY.....**

It is with great sadness that we must announce the loss of our much loved veteran pony Big Splash. Big Splash was in his third decade with our Group and over the years he has brought a tremendous amount of pleasure to a great deal of people, volunteers, participants and visitors.

With his trademark moustache and pleasant disposition he made friends with everyone he met. He was a real 'people pony' and helped those who were nervous or unsure gain equine confidence, a 'school master' in every sense of the word. His easy going temperament made him an ideal driving pony, well schooled and willing he was always a pleasure to work with. In recent years he had been retired from his driving duties and was used mainly for pony and riding therapy,

where he proved himself equally patient and sensible helping to build confidence in his young riders.

In the early years Big Splash was just Splash but the arrival of our Welsh pony, also called Splash necessitated a slight name change, Little and Big shared a friendship as well as a name and would often enjoy a mutual grooming session on the yard after their afternoon's work.

The loss of a pony, is always hard to bear, but we at Dial Wood have all drawn comfort from the many kind words, memories and tributes that we have received. A memorial board has been placed in the Volunteer cabin full of photos and tributes, if you'd like to add your own please feel free to do so.

Big Splash had a Big heart and made a Big impact on all the lives he touched.



*'Goodbye old friend!'*

NEXT NEWSLETTER: December 2021.

All articles to Chris.