

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Ryders Farm Equestrian Centre



Welcome to the RFEC Newsletter!

Hi everyone! Autumn is underway at Ryders, and there's plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks, including our member Stable Talks, Halloween fun and new riding courses. Read on for the latest updates and dates for your diary...

Dates for your Diary

Dates	Event
Sunday 18th October	FREE MEMBERS TALK - Tack Fitting with Jasmine (1.30pm)
Monday 26th October	Halloween Pony Day
Thursday 29th October	Dressage Clinics with Sarah Fitton
Friday 30th Oct - Sunday 1st Nov	Halloweekend - <i>Fancy dress, games and fun!</i>
Sunday 22nd November	FREE MEMBERS TALK - Lunging with Sarah Fitton (2pm)
Saturday 28th November	Christmas Gift Event - <i>vouchers, discounts and more!</i>
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day!
Saturday 12th December	Members Christmas Dinner at The Golden Lion
From 14th December	12 Days of Christmas Countdown!
Monday 21st December	Christmas Pony Day
Thursday 24th December	Christmas Eve Musical Dressage
Thursday 31st December	New Year's Eve Showjumping

Events & Booking

We've got lots of exciting events and activities coming up! **Bookings for most activities listed above will open on 1st October**, and we'll send an email to let you know when they're live and ready to book!

October Riding Courses

Our riding courses continue this October, with two opportunities to build your skills and confidence in the saddle:

Positive Polework with Evie: Tuesdays, 4pm - 5pm

Improve your accuracy, learn more about your horse's way of going and have fun with this four-week polework course.

Improve Your Jumping with Becky: Saturdays, 1pm - 2pm

Build confidence, balance and technique through a progressive series of jumping sessions with Becky.

Both courses can be booked now as individual weekly sessions or as a full four-week course. **Book Now via ECPro under 'Courses'.**

Lesson Levels

We've recently introduced levels to our group lessons. You'll see these displayed when booking groups from **Tuesday 6 October onwards**.

This is part of making the RFEC rider pathway clearer, so you can see where you're riding now and what you're working towards.

If you'd like to talk about your current level, your regular lesson, moving groups or your next step, please have a chat with your coach. They know your riding best!

We'll share more about the levels over the next few weeks as they're introduced. In the meantime, you're welcome to ask any of the team. We're excited to make everyone's progress easier to see and celebrate!

17:00

60 Mins

Wednesday 5pm

Lesson Type: Level 3

Instructor Name: Jasmine Hilton



Pony Stars Plus: October Trial

From **10th to 31st October**, we're trialling Pony Stars Plus, combining horse care and stable management from 11am - 2pm with a riding lesson from 2pm - 3pm, all in one booking.

A number of Pony Stars-only places are still available for those who would like to attend without the riding lesson. Pony Stars has become really popular, so we're exploring the best way to run the sessions for everyone. We'll review the trial together as a team before confirming the format and releasing bookings for November onwards.

Thank you for your patience while we work through this. If you have any questions, please let us know!

More Teen Club Sessions!

Open to young people **aged 12 and over**, Teen Club is a chance to spend more time at Ryders, get involved in life on the yard, make friends and enjoy a **safe, positive and social environment** around the horses.

Sessions combine practical horse care and yard skills with opportunities to learn from our team, build confidence and enjoy being part of the Ryders community.

From 6th October, sessions will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 4pm-7pm. You're welcome to arrive from 4pm if coming straight from school is easier, or join us later at a time that suits you - there's no pressure to arrive for the start.

Teen Club is £8 per session and is open to RFEC members only (Age 12+). Not an RFEC member? Pop us an email to chat about membership or the possibility of a trial session - we'd love to hear from you!

We're continuing to develop the programme and look forward to sharing more with you. Watch this space!

Riding Boot Reminder

When you're first starting out, we understand that you won't want to buy all the gear straight away. Suitable wellies or other approved boots can help you get started while you decide whether riding is for you. As your riding progresses, we strongly recommend investing in properly fitting boots designed for riding to support your comfort and position in the saddle. Country boots and Yard boots are NOT designed for riding.

If you're unsure, please ask your coach or a member of the team. We're happy to help with suitable styles and options for different budgets, and we have useful equipment videos on our social media pages.



Festive Period Opening Times

A reminder of our open/close periods during Christmas and New Years!

- **Christmas Eve:** No regular lessons; Musical Dressage Competition
- **Christmas Day/Boxing Day:** Closed
- **New Year's Eve:** No regular lessons; Showjumping Event
- **New Year's Day:** Closed
- **Saturday 2 January:** Open as normal



Remembering Jill

We couldn't share this update without remembering our wonderful Jill, who was sadly put to sleep in September. She was 22 years old and had been part of the Ryders family for the past 12 years, teaching so many children and adults along the way.

It's hard to put into words what our horses mean to us. Each of us will have our own memories of Jill and the part she played in our riding journey, which shows just how special she was.

Saying goodbye has hit us all hard at Ryders. Alongside the sadness, we're remembering how lucky we were to share those years with her. Thank you to everyone who has shared kind words and memories of Jill; they've meant so much to all of us.



*"A horse doesn't care how much you know,
until he knows how much you care."*

- Pat Parelli

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