

UPDATE

Hello everyone! It's been a while since the last newsletter! And, as you are all aware, Equine Influenza (EI) is to blame. An awful lot of innocent horses & their people have been affected by the EI situation, some more than others.

All horses at Ardis contracted EI mid Sept. Everything possible was done to minimise the effects of the disease on them & to keep them as comfortable as possible. Strict biosecurity measures had vets wrapped up & scrubbing down! Compared with other reports 'out there', we got it mildly. However, blood tests carried out on them all in the past week have shown that they are still not sufficiently recovered to return to work. We hope that by January we can begin to return to 'normal' ... whatever that might be!

While the horses have been enjoying their very long holiday others of us have not been so fortunate! I managed 45 consecutive days of doing the rounds before Amelia was dragged back from Europe to provide relief! Tamsin too has been a star.

I'm sure that some of you may have discovered there are cheaper & less time consuming things to do with your time but I am hoping we can persuade you back into the Ardis way of life in due course!

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

With no horses to work, nor lessons to teach, my time has been largely directed at improving the property & facilities. We now have a small cross country course built in the top two paddocks. This will ONLY be available under tuition, for insurance (& safety) purposes and I hope will serve to introduce 'green' horses & riders to the joys of jumping & riding out of the arena. A big thank you to Peter for his ditch digging & to Tiff for her assistance with the sunken road/bank complex.

All show jump equipment has been repainted – thank you to Tess for her repeated help with not only this but property maintenance in general.

CAMPS / LESSONS

Without a date at which all the horses will be guaranteed to be OK for work it is difficult to start planning. However, by January most (if not all) of them should be ready (I hope). Last year a lot of you were away through the long summer holidays & I'd imagine will be again this time around. Therefore I propose that through January you contact me (email or phone) to organise whatever you'd like to do ... whether it's a one-off lesson, regular lessons or a camp(s). Before then, if anyone would like to come up to groom their favourite horse &/or feed it carrots/apple/liquorice/etc again, please call to organise.

NEW FACES

We welcome new agisters Sir Galahad & Harry with their respective humans, Heidi & Rowena and hope you'll be very happy at Ardis.

MERRY XMAS

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas & safe holidays. Thank you for your support through what has been a shocker of a year for me. I hope 2008 will be a successful & positive year for you all.

