

# Harmony Equitation & Natural Livery

Some good news, after a very very long wait. Two and a half years ago we sold the house in order to be able to reorganise the business finances. This has been an incredibly difficult and slow process hampered by Covid and the disastrous mini-budget last autumn. Now finally we have a mortgage and a clear path forward..

## Updates on everything from building works to events and clinics

## Winter Track Facilities



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### All Events

- 1/10 - Dancing with Your Horse Demo
- 12/10- Smart Saddle training
- 22/10 - Dancing with Your Horse Clinic
- 28/10 Liberty or Bridle-less Riding Clinic
- 29/10 and 30/10 - Alexander Technique Workshop day 1 and 2. (Day 1 unmounted and day 2 ridden private lessons).
- 19/11 - Trec or Agility Clinic.

### Jennie teaching/working Saturdays:

- 30/09
- 14/10
- 21/10
- 28/10 (liberty)
- 4/11
- 11/11
- 18/11

After what appears to have been the wettest summer on record it has shown us that more and more we need all-weather track facilities not just for the winter. Our first priority is the Small Boys Track which currently has no hardstanding areas. We have huge piles of hardcore material which we are waiting to have crushed – the guy is on holiday. Rose and Nick will be getting this done as soon as possible. In the meantime we will need to divert the horses onto a temporary track. The grass tolerate small-boys will be able to graze down the rough grass and then everyone can use the grazed-down path as a track will we work on the hard-standing area.

Other tracks that need maintenance and topping up will also have a gradual program of new stone, drainage and fencing bit by bit through the autumn and early winter.

Pound Farm, Swan Lane, Leigh, SN6 6RD  
New Yard Facilities



**New facilities we will be working on in the short term are:**

1) Completing the new feed room and rug room. This will enable us to be able to store all of the rugs for Full-Livery and Part-Livery horses in this new space. In addition to this the left-hand side of the new feed room will be organised with hooks for all horses, so we have a place to store and dry rugs that is easily accessible for the team and horse owners. This will mean you will no longer need to keep rugs in the storage area which will free up a lot of space. This maybe a good opportunity for a "spring clean" to reduce some of the unused items and general clutter.

## Yard Facilities

Completing the new feed room and rug room

New tackroom, store room and five stables in the main barn.

Improved Washdown area

Livery Toilets, Kitchen and sitting area

Classroom

2) New tackroom, store room and five stables in the main barn. The new tack room will be located in the corner where the current "store shed is". This will be slightly bigger and everyone will have space for saddles, bridles and items that need to be kept locked away. There will also be a sink for tack cleaning. The new storeroom will be adjacent and have space for the existing shed items and the quad. The five stables will fill the area from the tackroom on the left-hand side of the barn. The 3 old wooden stables will be removed and the new ones similar in style to the stables on side of the indoor school.

3) Improved Washdown area

We will be putting in a new drain and re-concreting the area to make it safer and easier to use. We have the gas powered hot wash which is available for anyone to use. Please ask either myself or one of the team for a short tutorial on how to use it. Its very simple and safe to use.

**Longer term:**

4) Livery Toilets, Kitchen and sitting area

The "Atcost Barn", formerly our hay shed and feed room, currently a storage area will be having a bit of a change. We will be installing new toilets and a kitchen area for everyone to use.

5) Classroom

The classroom will be set up in the other part of the atcost barn, this space will be large enough to use as a classroom and in future potentially a space of yoga/pilates and other activities that support horse riders.

Work will commence on the concrete block work for the tackroom and store shed at the begining of October, so, there may be some disruption as builders come and go on various jobs. Some jobs will run concurrently.

# Indoor School & Other Lights

In August we went completely off grid. This was originally supposed to happen earlier in the year, but due to a delinquent electrician and a technical problem it didn't happen. Now we have been successfully powering the farm with Solar electricity since mid-August. However, we cannot power the lights in the indoor school. These would basically overload the system and everything would go bang.

Equally we are no longer able to use a conventional kettle, and definitely no heaters or electric cookers. Microwaves are fine. We have the gas powered hot wash which is available for anyone wanting to wash their horse. New lights that are lower power but still bright enough to be useful will be installed very soon. We are aware that the nights are being to draw in and then the mornings will be getting dark soon too. We will also be installing more lights around the yard, these will be individual solar powered flood lights.



Alyce has been an amazingly successful addition to the team. Her organisation skills have enabled me to be far more productive and allowed me to prioritise rehab work, teaching and trimming. Spending more time with you guys and less time in front of a computer or glued to my phone. Please continue to book my time via Alyce – teaching, trimming and clinics are all booked with her.



From September I'm back at Uni finishing my Part-time Masters which I started in 2020 when I thought I was going to be unable to continue doing the riding and hoof trimming due to my injury. Happily I have made a 99% recovery but I still have to be careful not to overstress my right leg. The final module for my Masters is due 10<sup>th</sup> January, which terrifyingly is only 15 and bit weeks!!

I will be in Cheltenham on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Then working – rehab work, teaching and trimming – Thursday, Friday, Saturday and selected Sundays until the end of November. In December and early January I will only be trimming.

Sarah Lynch, our superbly capable Yard Manager, has the day-to-day running of the yard down to an art. The team we have now is the best we have ever had and I am completely confident that the team are able to carry-on with all the daily tasks and continue to provide the excellent care of every horse here with out me being here all the time. The team will of course have back-up from me, Rose and Nick, and occasionally Sarah Blake.

## Bookings & workdays

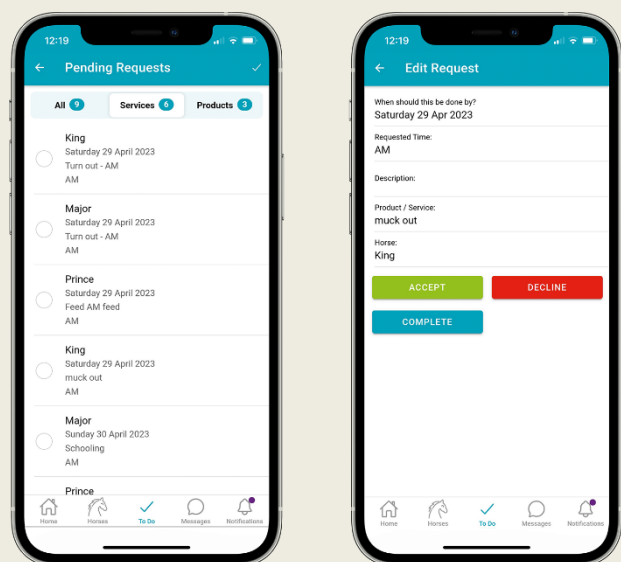
# Livery Packages & Extra Services

Another revolution this year has been the introduction of the LiveryLive app. This has helped the team know who needs what and when, allowed you to book extra livery services and generally keep health and welfare records up to date.

Things that have been successful are livery extras including exercise – lunging, in-hand or ridden work, performed either by the team, or by myself. This has been great and gives us a super organised system.

Things that have been less successful or potential confusing have been hoof trimming and lessons. It just doesn't work via the app. Even the subscription system for the hoof trimming is easier to deal with via the website and Alyce as it automatically knows how many appointments are allocated to each subscription. Hoof trimming and lessons are no longer available via the app. We will be doing those only via Alyce and organised on the Wix Booking system.

At this time of year as it starts to be cold and the weather less predictable some people may find it easier to put their horses on Full or Part Livery for a bit of extra help through the colder months. Please let me or Sarah Lynch know if you would like to change your livery package, you can always amend this again in the spring when the days are longer and less rugs are needed.



## An exciting future

I am excited to see where the next chapter will take us for yard. The new facilities have been a long time coming and there is always more to do. We have plans, and undoubtedly these will need to be adjusted along the way. As always, my aim will be a mud free winter! One day I will get my wish.

All the best for now

*Jennie & the Team*