



ROYAL FESTIVAL *of* THE HORSE

STONELEIGH PARK, WARWICKSHIRE
9TH, 10TH & 11TH JULY 2010



LOCAL PONY CLUB YOUNGSTERS COMPETE AT STONELEIGH

A team of 10 youngsters from the North Warwickshire Branch, aged between 10 and 17 years old, will be competing in the Pony Club Musical Ride as part of the Royal Festival of the Horse, a new spectacular event to be held at Stoneleigh Park from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 July.

Mrs Judy Edwards, Chief Executive of The Pony Club is looking forward to seeing nearly 180 enthusiastic young riders converging on the showground: "This is the first time The Pony Club has organised a competition of this scale for a musical ride, so it's going to be quite a spectacle for the crowds. Dressage to Music is becoming increasingly popular in The Pony Club and the Royal Festival of the Horse is the perfect opportunity for us to showcase the skill and enthusiasm of our young riders."

The North Warwickshire contingent, who are keeping their chosen music track and costumes under wraps till they enter the ring on 10 July, will be battling it out against 14 other teams from around the country to win the judges' approval for their appearance, choreography and artistic impression as they manoeuvre their ponies to music. There will be a prize for every team that competes.

Pony Club Branch Secretary, Liz Grindal, says: "The children have been practising so hard and are very excited to be a part of such a prestigious new event. We hope lots of local people will come to cheer us on when we compete on 10th July."

If you would like to buy tickets to the Royal Festival of the Horse, log onto www.festivalofthehorse.co.uk or call 0844 581400.



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On each of the three days of the Festival, a different equestrian discipline will be showcased in the main stadium:

Dressage Friday

- Don't miss a masterclass with Edward Gal and Laura Bechtolsheimer performing in the Pro-Am competition

Showjumping Saturday

- Britain's top riders, including Ellen Whitaker, Geoff Billington, Robert Smith and David Quigley battle it out for a share of the £45k prizepot

Express Eventing Sunday

- Dressage to music, arena x-country and showjumping with a twist!

If that weren't enough, you can also watch experts demonstrate the craft of **horse-shoeing** - and compete for the title of National Farriery Champion - or get up close and personal with the finest of England's **heavy horses**.

Visitors will be able to sample an array of local produce and buy tasty treats in the **Farmers' Food Court** from stalls selling wine, beer, olives, cheeses, chutneys, chocolates and much, much more. Or indulge in season's latest fashions from stands including **Joules, Musto, Wolsey** and **Cousins of Cheltenham**. All this plus dozens more stands selling **gifts, gadgets, jewellery, photos and sculpture**.

There will be entertainment for children plus picturesque picnic and play areas. Easy to access from the M1, M4, M5, M42 and M6, there's free car parking on site.



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More than just a horse show, a great day out for all the family

Easy to get to and with ample free parking, if you love horses, horse sport or simply enjoy shopping or a day out in the country, the Royal Festival of the Horse is for you!

ENDS

24 June 2010

For further information on the Royal Festival of the Horse please contact:

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Captions: The North Warwickshire Pony Club which will be competing at the Royal Festival of the Horse on Saturday 10 July