

# LEARNER IN FOCUS



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK



## In This Issue

INTERVIEW:  
JOLIE MANN  
AT  
OLD TIGER STABLES

Jolie Mann has worked full time at Old Tiger Stables in Soham, Cambridgeshire for just over three years. Like many young girls, Jolie began her journey as a helper at the yard and then working part time and she soon realised her dream career would be with horses. Jolie is now a qualified and valued member of the business.

Jolie began her Level 2 Equine Groom Apprenticeship in July 2019 and completed in August 2020 with a Distinction grade.

We caught up with Jolie for brief chat at Old Tiger Stables.

### Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I did not get on well at school and wanted to do something I liked. I can't sit still all day, I like to be outside and active. I struggled with formal education and prefer to learn hands on.

### How did you find out about it?

At that time there were two other apprentices on the yard. I chatted with them. Then Lorraine, the owner of Old Tiger Stables then discussed it with me and I felt this could be the route for me.

### How long have you been in the industry?

I started riding seven and a half years ago and have not looked back.

### How do you feel you have benefited from doing an apprenticeship?

It has boosted my confidence a lot. Not just by expanding my knowledge but I have developed skills working within a team and with clients. I have learnt to believe in myself and the fact that everything is achievable if given effort and commitment.

Part of my course was to complete Functional skills in English and Maths, this was hard, but with support I even managed to pass these.

### What advice would you give to someone looking to come into the industry or looking to start an apprenticeship?

Don't give up, follow your dreams, it's hard work. Not just the physical work on the yard, but also the course work, but worth it in the end. Everyone deals with things differently. I found some of the theory bits hard but if I revised and asked for help it was better. You will get through it, I did.

### What next for you and your future?

I am going to give myself a couple of years just gaining more work skills, then consider my next option. Who knows, I might even go on to do the Level Three?!

### What would you say to someone who is thinking of doing an apprenticeship?

If you like to work and want to get a qualification, this is the way to go. You get to do the things that make you happy, work with great people and learn.



*Pictured: Jolie Mann*

"My assessor Claire was a bit scary to begin with because she believed in me and always expected a bit more. This really helped because at the end, I showed what I could do by passing and getting a Distinction. Claire was very supportive, a bit demanding/pushy but in a nice way. She never gave up on me. She always helped me through the difficult times."

Lorraine Webster-Ward Proprietor of Old Tiger Stables has been delighted to have Jolie as an Apprentice and said:

"As a direct result of doing an apprenticeship Jolie is going from strength to strength with her confidence and attitude to her work etc."

"Jolie struggled with school life and came to us with little self-confidence. She always put herself down and had no belief in herself. Her apprenticeship was tough for her but also brought her out of her shell. It has made a dramatic change in many ways to how Jolie works and even how she is now going through life. We all know life can be very tough at times, but if you have self-confidence and help and support along the way it can help immensely. The KEITS team have been amazing."

Well done to Jolie from all at KEITS for her hard work and her fantastic result. We wish you all the luck in the future.



*Pictured left to right: April Cox, Sian Hodges, Jolie Mann, Lorraine Webster-Ward*