

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2017

Our Hapton Open Day returns

A record-breaking crowd attended our Open Day for a sneak peek behind the scenes

Meet our new Adoption Star

Introducing our very own Fantastic Mr Fox

Amersham 10

Find out how we're marking the ten year anniversary of the notorious Spindle Farm rescue

Help us feed our herds

There's so much to say about hay

Plus much more...



Help us feed our horse herd! (and donkey)

Can you help us raise the funds we need to feed our horses and donkeys this autumn and winter?

Last year we purchased 1,598 tonnes of hay at a cost of £227,500. That's a huge sum, and every penny was donated by supporters like you.

Could you make a donation to keep all our rescued residents well fed?

Turn to pages 18 and 19 to find out how you can help today.

Call
01508 481000

Visit
www.redwings.org.uk

Welcome to the autumn newsletter from Redwings!

I can't quite believe how quickly this year is flying by and what an eventful year it has been for us so far at Redwings!

Most notably, this summer saw the return of our Open Day at our headquarters, located just south of Norwich. Having not been in a position to host an Open Day at Redwings Hapton for a few years, the number of visitors we welcomed and the positive feedback we received truly was overwhelming! Turn to page 10 to see our Open Day in pictures. As well as our Open Day and our visitor centres, I'm delighted that I am able to bring you a real insight into life at the Sanctuary, our work and how you make it all possible through our newsletter. And this issue is no different...

Find out about a unique service we offer all horse owners on page 9. Mark Hudson is our external horse handler who provides behavioural advice and support to any owner and horse – not just those rehomed through our Guardianship Scheme. Similarly, our outreach work to reward and encourage high standards of horse care among owners from marginalised communities continued this year with us returning to Appleby Horse Fair (read more on page 7).

As well as regular features of the newsletter, including recent rescues, news from our visitor centres and your Redwings questions answered, you'll find lots of exciting snippets of information dotted throughout this issue. Turn to page 14 to meet our brand-new Adoption Star Fox; a handsome Shire Cross who lives at Redwings Caldecott. Our Adoption Scheme itself is also having a bit of a makeover. One of the best and easiest ways to support Redwings is by sponsoring one of our special Adoption Stars, so head to page 17 to find out more.

Finally, we have a very special anniversary coming up. In January 2018 it will be 10 years since the Amersham rescue where over 100 horses, ponies and donkeys were found living in atrocious conditions at the notorious Spindle Farm. To mark this momentous anniversary and to celebrate the lives of the many horse and donkey survivors who are still in our care today, we have many exciting plans ahead so keep reading to find out what's in store.

With heartfelt thanks for your support as always from all of us here, horse and human,

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive

Lynn is pictured with Adoption Star Maya who was horsey guest of honour at our Open Day



News update...



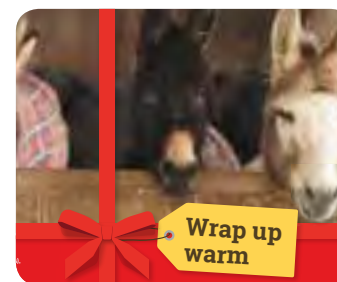
Remembering two stunning Shires

This spring we experienced one of our most devastating losses at the Sanctuary when Shire horses Poppy and Gemma passed away within a month of one another. Adoption Star Poppy came to Redwings in 2013 when she was struggling to cope without horsey company following the loss of her mum. And it was here that she met best friend Gemma! The pair

were truly inseparable and they even looked identical, the only way to tell them apart being Poppy's mismatching white socks. Early this year, Gemma developed painful and incurable lameness in her hind leg, and sadly no amount of medication could keep her comfortable. In April the heart-breaking decision was made to put her to sleep to ensure she did not suffer. Just one month later, Poppy experienced a sudden attack of colic and despite our best efforts to save her, the severity of her condition meant she was too ill to survive. Poppy and Gemma were both 15 years old. They touched so many people and their loss has been greatly felt. RIP beautiful girls, we will never forget you.

Stand out performances at the 2017 Redwings Show

On Sunday 14th May, over 100 competitors attended the 2017 Redwings Show at Topthorn Equestrian Centre in Suffolk. Supreme Champions seven-year-old Tia Wynne-Rogerson and her beautiful Welsh pony Carylmai Trade Secret (also aged seven) had a fantastic show having also won two novice ring classes, the Ring Two Championship and the Working Hunter Pony class. It was also the first time Tia had been showing on her own, and the first year Carylmai was shown as a ridden pony off the lead rein! Reserve Champions were Zoe Norton and her nine-year-old donkey Romanhill Dilly Daydream (pictured) – we love to see donkeys do so well! Rescue classes were also a highlight with our rehomed horses putting in fantastic performances, including Redwings Vincent and Redwings Elsey who made their showing debut.



Charity gifts – the gift that keeps on living!

We are excited to introduce a new way of supporting Redwings! Redwings Charity Gifts are a great way to show a loved one or friend how much you care, and the range offers something unique and memorable to suit every occasion. Even better, Redwings Charity Gifts

include a delightful keepsake to treasure and enjoy. The range will be available in our Christmas Gift Catalogue, visitor centres and online shop from 23rd October 2017.



Look out for... our new Christmas cards! And this year we have an extra special design by young supporter Charlotte Singleton who won our Young Redwings "Design a Christmas card" competition. Charlotte's design is now available for you to buy so visit our website – www.redwings.org.uk/shop – or browse your catalogue to get yours!

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Prize Draw Winners

Spring 2017 Prize Draw Winners

- 1st Prize, £5,000
Mrs S Barber, Ruislip
- 2nd Prize, £1,000
Ms V Burston, East Molesey
- 3rd Prize, £500
Mr P Branwhite
Wymondham

Congratulations to all our winners!

Results from our Summer Prize Draw and exclusive Mid-Summer Draw are available on our website or upon request by contacting us on 01508 481000 or emailing info@redwings.co.uk

Our cover star is our brand-new Adoption Star Fox!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Charity's purpose is to provide and promote the welfare, care and protection of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

Key Contact Numbers

General Enquiries
01508 481000 info@redwings.co.uk

Horse Care Advice and Welfare

01508 481008
welfare@redwings.co.uk

Visitor Helpline

0870 040 0033
www.redwings.org.uk

Address for all correspondence

Redwings Horse Sanctuary
Hapton, Norfolk NR15 1SP



Redwings to the rescue!

News of our work from around the UK...



Amos

Newborn donkey foal arrives at Redwings

In February, an irresistibly cute, two-week old donkey foal called Amos arrived at Redwings with mum Matilda and dad Jeremiah. Amos was so small he even had to be carried from the horse box to his stable.

Sadly, their owner was struggling with the care of this adorable donkey family due to ill health. As donkeys are

sensitive souls who have complex care needs, we were delighted to be able to offer the trio a home.

After a few months under the watchful eye of our vet and care teams at our Hapton headquarters, Amos, Jeremiah and Matilda were able to travel to Redwings Caldecott where they have been delighting visitors ever since!

Locked away as if they didn't exist



Bella and Charlie before they were rescued

Bella and Charlie were found shut in a barn, suffering from severely overgrown feet, riddled with lice and worms, and incredibly thin, surviving on poultry feed and scraps of forage.

"Bella had been shut in the barn for more than 18 months," explains our Senior Field Officer Julie Harding who responded to the welfare report for the pair. "After a month of being closed in the barn, Bella gave birth to Charlie, so for the first 17 months of his life before his rescue, Charlie had never felt the sun on his back. Bella was also terrified of us, which was really upsetting to see."

After a few months in our expert care, both horses have recovered well physically, but the emotional scars will

take much longer to heal. The pair are currently undergoing behaviour training with our expert team to help them to trust people, but Bella's fear in particular is deeply rooted meaning many more months of patient and sympathetic handling are required.

On Wednesday 1st March, Frederick Stannard received a lifetime ban on owning all animals having pleaded

guilty to four offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 relating to Bella and Charlie.

He also received a 12-week prison sentence for each offence (suspended for two years), and ordered to pay £150 in costs and a £115 victim surcharge.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our summer appeal to help care for Bella and Charlie.



Charlie and Bella now

Say hello to our Bodmin babies!



Peaches

How adorable are our three latest additions to the Sanctuary? Meet little Peaches, Sophie and Roald.

These gorgeous foals were born at Redwings over the summer to mothers



Sophie

who were among a group of 16 ponies rescued from the bleak conditions of Bodmin Moor in September 2016. And just like the rest of their friends, they've been named after Roald Dahl and his famous characters.



Roald enjoying a snooze with mum Beauregarde

The youngsters, known affectionately as our "Bodmin babies", are doing well and can often be found tearing around their paddock together. We can't wait to watch them grow up within the safety of the Sanctuary.

Helping the horses of Paper Mill Lane

The owner of the horses rescued in January from a site near Paper Mill Lane in Ipswich pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering and received a ban from keeping all animals and a suspended prison sentence.

Six horses were identified as suffering by our welfare vet Nicola Berryman and brought to Redwings. Another four horses were seized at the time of rescue due to concerns for those remaining in the owner's care and were taken in by the RSPCA.

All ten horses have now been signed over into the care of the welfare charities and are making great strides in their recovery.

Meet Arcadia, Glade and Flix

On the first day of Glastonbury Festival this June, three cob mares were rescued from Harlow Common. The trio were found running loose and posed a real threat to themselves and to the public with the possibility of straying onto the nearby motorway.

Once rounded-up, the horses were examined by our Head of Welfare & Behaviour and vet Nic de Brauwere. All three were found to be obese and two were in considerable discomfort with laminitis, requiring immediate pain relief. They were subsequently removed on welfare grounds and have been given a home for life at the Sanctuary, where our team named them Arcadia,



Glade and Flix after stages at Glastonbury! Reflecting on the operation, Nic said: "The ongoing challenge faced in Harlow is two-fold. Firstly, the lack of management of the land to determine who has a right to graze there, and secondly, the lack of formal identification of some of the animals and their owners."

"All horses need to be identified, which is why we're calling for a functioning national database and enforcement of passporting and microchipping legislation by the authorities so we can begin to hold irresponsible owners to account and to deter others from using common land as an opportunity to fly-graze or abandon unwanted horses."

Strangles Survey results revealed

Findings from our 2016 Strangles Survey were reported at the 25th National Equine Forum in March.



The prestigious event saw our Education and Campaigns Manager Andie Vilela (pictured) present a summary of the findings in the presence of HRH Princess Anne.

The survey has been recognised for being the first of its kind to gather data on horse owner knowledge, attitudes and practices around the prevention and control of the disease and revealed many useful findings to aid our campaign to "Stamp Out Strangles".

Key findings from the survey showed that although owners have good knowledge of strangles and its prevention, in practice they may delay taking action. Delayed precautionary quarantine is most likely fuelled by stigma around the disease; horse owners fear negative responses from other people, which may discourage open communications on yards (essential to prevent the spread of the disease).

We also found, perhaps unsurprisingly, that vets are the most important source of trusted advice in the event of a strangles outbreak. We will therefore be calling on vets to consider how they can help owners to protect their horses from infectious disease and combat the stigma that keeps strangles alive.

We are also asking vets to emphasise the importance to owners of having their horses screened for strangles so that those that have had the disease do not go on to become carriers, which can cause future infections. In keeping with this, we are calling on owners to ensure their horse has been tested for strangles before being introduced to other horses. Livery yards should also have a protocol in place to ensure new horses are quarantined and tested before mixing with resident horses to reduce the risk of an outbreak.

It is thanks to your continued support and those who completed the survey that we were able to find a silver lining to our strangles outbreak in 2015, and we feel we have made such great strides in encouraging others to speak out on strangles – as well as stamping out the disease, it is important to

stamp out the strangles stigma.

We continue to build on this campaign success to see horse owners confidently #SpeakOutOnStrangles and to see vets proactively encourage and support their clients to eradicate this damaging and unnecessary disease.



Rewarding the best in welfare at Appleby Horse Fair



Redwings welfare vet Roxane Kirton awarding "Best at Appleby" to Andrew and cob Darkie

Redwings has been supporting the RSPCA in their operation to protect horses at Appleby Horse Fair for over a decade.

Our welfare vets are on-hand to provide emergency veterinary treatment and health care advice, and in the last three years they have been engaging owners by presenting welfare awards to horses in outstanding condition.

Building on the success of previous years, this year the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association – who are the official breed association for the Gypsy Cob and who share our passion for welfare – sponsored the awards.

The rosettes made quite an impact on owners who were delighted to receive recognition for the high care standards of their horse.

As well as generating a great deal of discussion via social media, the real benefit of this year's campaign was the conversations we had with winners who shared their views on horse welfare and management at the Fair, and were pleased to see us encouraging owners to be proud to have high horse care standards.

Forging Welfare Partnerships

For some of the most vulnerable horses, farriers may be the only equine professional that they come into contact with on a regular basis. Farriers therefore play an important role in supporting struggling owners.

Meanwhile, for owners, farriers are often a trusted source of horse care advice. Recent research into the role that farriers play in owner education and the prevention of laminitis has identified that, while farriers do have sophisticated communication skills, they often do not recognise them.

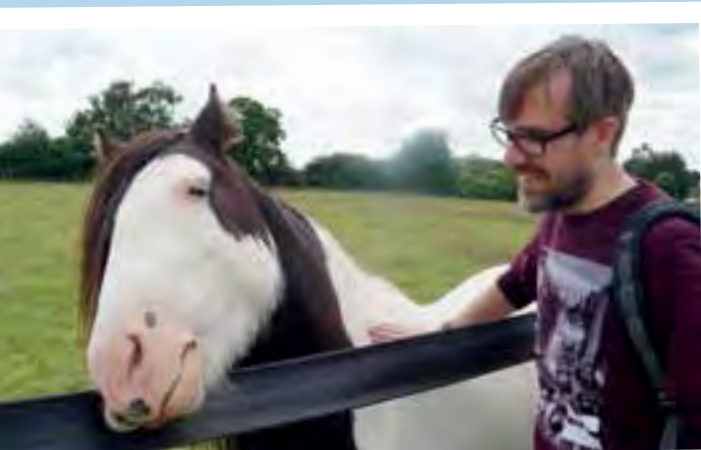
There is also limited training available to actively support the development of these skills, and none that tie in with training on equine welfare and the work of charities like Redwings.

Therefore, we have enlisted the help of farrier and education consultant Dean Bland of Well Equine Ltd to help us develop a training course for farriers. The project is supported by the

British Farrier and Blacksmith Association who exist to represent and be the voice of the professional farrier, and who have endorsed the training for its potential to support farriers in their role. The first course is due to take place in August.



Questions of life (at Redwings!)



Our horses love a wither scratch! Just ask our team how to find their sweet spot!

Q: Why can't I feed the ponies?

When at a Redwings visitor centre, we know it's tempting to offer a horse or donkey a treat to encourage them over to their fence and enjoy a cuddle, like a tasty carrot or a handful of grass. However, we have to urge our visitors not to feed our horses in any way because this could lead to serious health and behavioural problems – as well as placing your fingers in danger!

Due to their difficult starts in life, many of our horses are on special diets and we have to carefully monitor what each animal eats. The way a horse pulls at grass with its teeth and chews is also a very important part of how they digest their food. Taking this away by hand feeding a horse grass can lead to health issues, such as choke or colic, which could be fatal.

Ultimately, feeding over the fence teaches horses and donkeys to expect food whenever someone approaches their paddock, encouraging bad behaviour such as biting! In some cases, a horse may become so aggressive that we have to sadly move them from a visitor centre to one of our closed farms. Retraining our horses to remove these habits costs Redwings money and takes up the precious time of our specialist trainers who want to be helping our most vulnerable and traumatised rescued residents.

Most importantly, you don't have to give treats to show friendship to a horse or donkey. A lovely scratch on the withers – the shoulders – works even better and keeps your fingers safe from nibbling!

Q: Stamps - How do they help raise funds?

Many of you kindly collect your used postage stamps for Redwings, but how do they actually help raise funds?

We receive thousands of used postage stamps each year, saving them all up until we have enough to sell. We bag our hoard up by the kilo and sell them to collectors and dealers online, or through recognised traders. They will then rifle through and seek out the most desirable stamps to keep or trade on. Used stamps in good, clean condition can be particularly appealing to collectors.

We also take mint, presentation packs, first day covers and albums, which we sell on to collectors or at auction.

Our Gifts in Kind Manager Anne Galloway is a bit of an expert on stamps, antiques and collectibles, so she knows the best way to raise funds from each of your donations.

The office staff join in too, taking all the stamps off the envelopes that you send to us when you order from our gift shop, adopt a horse or make a donation.

Last year we raised £3,406 from your used postage stamps – enough to fund a field shelter or care for a small pony for a year – so please keep them coming!



Christmas is the prime time to collect your used postage stamps so please send them to us and help us raise another £3,000!

Introducing Redwings' expert horse handler: Mark Hudson

At Redwings, we are committed to helping owners as much as we are helping horses!

We offer a unique service available to all horse owners – not just to those who loan a horse from Redwings as part of our Guardianship Scheme – that could improve an owner's relationship with their horse or help rectify any challenging behaviours.

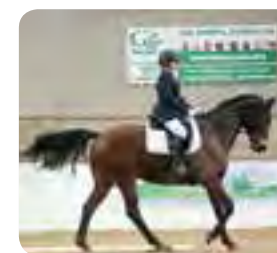


Meet Mark

Redwings' expert horse handler Mark Hudson has over 25 years' experience dealing with horses with behavioural problems. Using Equine Learning Theory, which draws upon how horses naturally behave and learn to help re-educate a horse, Mark has helped owners overcome a variety of issues from catching, leg handling and barging to farriery, loading and more.

No matter what the problem – whether difficulty loading that prevents a horse from being taken out, needle shyness preventing veterinary intervention or simply not standing still – Mark can help correct the unwanted behaviour while improving owner-horse relationships and understanding.

Case study: Max and Sharon



Nine-year old Trakehner Max had two very severe phobias – needles and clipping. Indeed, his fear of needles had sadly emerged as the direct result of his fear of clipping, as he had to be sedated every time he was clipped.

Mark tackled the clipping problem initially. No other trainer or behaviourist had managed to get anywhere near Max with the clippers – even when they were turned off – as he would react with dangerous behaviours such as rearing, biting and kicking.

"I was so impressed with how quickly Mark assessed Max's behaviour and how finely tuned he was to reading his reactions and anxiety levels," explained Max's owner Sharon. "The training was methodical and shaped carefully to what Max could cope with."

"On just the third training session, the first bit of hair came off with a pair of clippers! I was amazed!

It was incredible to see how, although still unsure, the training was teaching Max that there was an alternative to his aggressive behaviour and gradually he grew in confidence."

The next step was to tackle Max's aversion to needles. Using the same technique of desensitisation, Mark was able to train Max to accept someone working near his jugular vein. Soon after this second phase of training began, Max had a pre-booked dental appointment looming where he required sedating, but Mark was on hand to prepare Max, who stood quietly and was sedated without reacting.

Reflecting on Mark's work with Max, Sharon said: "As a result of the training, Max is overall a much calmer horse, more trusting and generally happier with life. I cannot praise or thank Mark enough!"

Can our expert horse handler help you?

This is a service that we are rolling out to all horse owners in East Anglia. To find out more and to discuss if Mark can help you, email welfare@redwings.co.uk or call 01508 481035.



Record-breaking crowd at our Hapton Open Day

This July saw the return of our Open Day – and what a fantastic day it was!

A record-breaking number of visitors enjoyed a day of exclusive tours, demonstrations and horsey cuddles during a special Open Day at our Hapton headquarters in south Norfolk on Sunday 23rd July.

We welcomed over 950 people and raised more than £4,600, which is a fantastic amount and will make a real difference in helping to care for our 1,500 rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules living at the Sanctuary nationwide.

If you weren't able to attend, fear not. Here is a selection of photos from the day and plans are already underway for our 2018 Hapton Open Day, so watch this space!



A special tour just for children allowed budding vets of the future to practise their bandaging skills on Redwings mascot Red!



Visitors enjoyed tours of our Horse Hospital taking in its operating theatre, intensive care stables and special care paddocks, as well as meeting all the adorable four-legged patients currently receiving some extra TLC from the veterinary team.



Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service provided a fascinating and dramatic demonstration of how they rescue animals in tricky situations using their training model horse Randy!



Our rehoming team showcased the handling and riding skills they had been teaching a number of rescued horses and ponies who will soon be looking for new homes.



Horsey guest of honour Maya and our very own real-life Black Beauty joined us for the day, enjoying lots of cuddles during a special meet and greet, while Chief Executive Lynn Cutress read a chapter from the beloved novel in honour of the 140th anniversary of its publication.



Mascot Red even made an appearance!

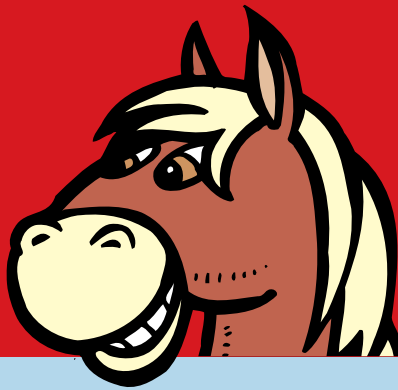
Did you know that October is Free Wills Month?

Legacy gifts fund more than 60% of what we do at Redwings, including funding the vital facilities and equipment at our headquarters as witnessed by visitors to our open day – indeed the flooring was recently replaced in our Horse Hospital thanks to the kind gifts supporters had left in their Wills.

Having a Will written or updated by a solicitor is really important as it gives you peace of mind that those causes, people and animals you love most in life will benefit in the way you want. So why not take advantage of Free Wills Month? Contact our Legacy Officer Katie for advice and information legacies@redwings.co.uk

News from around the Sanctuary –

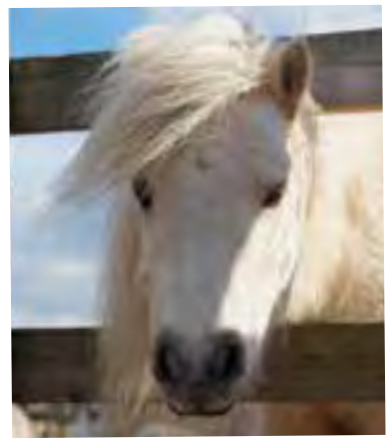
'Your Redwings'



All our visitor centres are open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 10am to 4pm (closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Ada Cole Essex, EN9 2DH

REDWINGS



Partnership working at its best

Children First Fostering Agency are an independent fostering agency based in Essex, but whose support and care covers a much wider area.

Following a visit to Redwings Ada Cole, and hearing how we offer loving homes to horses who have had a difficult start in life, the staff at Children First thought we would make a great partnership. We couldn't agree more and are delighted to welcome the staff to our Ada Cole Visitor Centre on a regular basis where they can raise the profile of the agency and speak to potential carers.

The agency also adopt our adorable Shetland Tinkerbelle, and encourages foster families to enjoy a free day out at our centres, which is fantastic support for our charity.

When Josh met Josh!

Miniature Shetland Josh was found abandoned in a skate park in Harlow in October last year – you may remember him from our spring newsletter! We named little Josh after the kind police officer who came to his rescue, and in March we were delighted to welcome Pc Josh Haase to be reunited with his pony counterpart at Redwings Ada Cole.

"It's fantastic to see that Josh has made a full recovery and is back to his normal self," said Pc Josh Haase. "He now has a spring in his step". We too are pleased with how far Josh has come in his recovery, especially as his journey has not been straight forward. He has needed to spend an extended period of time at our Horse Hospital to investigate his persistent diarrhoea and although not causing him any discomfort, our vets believe poor Josh will not regain full sight in his eye.

We are delighted to have been able to offer Josh a home for life at Redwings Ada Cole, where his playful nature has already made him a huge hit among visitors and the team alike.



We love long ears!

We've welcomed a small group of new donkeys to our Ada Cole Visitor Centre! Our gorgeous arrivals came to the Sanctuary from France after their owner was no longer able to care for them and struggled to find a place where they could find a new forever home together. Due to the complex care requirements of donkeys, we always do our best to offer places at Redwings for these lovable creatures in need.

Our latest long-eared additions are enjoying all the extra fuss from their visitors and have settled well into Redwings Ada Cole's existing donkey herd, including Adoption Star Del Boy who's been impressing them with his French speaking skills. Mange tout, mange tout!



REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



International Carrot Day!

Thank you to everyone who helped us mark this year's International Carrot Day!

To celebrate the special day, held on 4th April every year, we asked supporters to give a gift of tasty carrots or donate £1 to fund nutritious snacks for our horses, ponies and donkeys. Our visitor centres also hosted a series of carrot-themed activities – and Adoption Star donkeys Wiggins and Wacko were only too pleased to help at Redwings Aylsham!

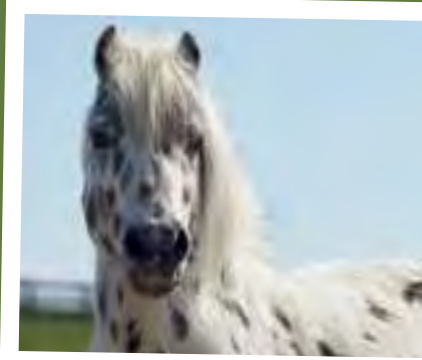
Calling all artists!

This April, we hosted our annual Art Sale at Redwings Aylsham, which raised a fantastic £565 towards caring for our rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. Thank you to everyone who came along or donated a piece of artwork.

We received a wonderful selection of paintings, sketches, photographs and

sculptures, and we hope you'll be just as generous for next year's sale, which will be held on a very special theme. 2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Amersham rescue, which saw over 100 horses, ponies and donkeys saved from horrific conditions at Spindle Farm. Of the 66 equines we took into the Sanctuary from that rescue, an incredible 58 are still with us today and we want to celebrate their recoveries by asking our supporters to create artwork inspired by these amazing survivors, just like gorgeous Cookie (pictured) who lives here at Redwings Aylsham.

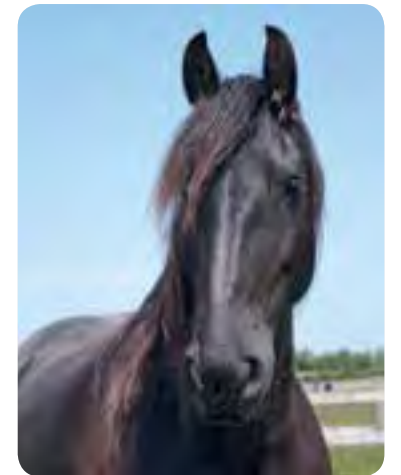
Contact our Gifts in Kind Manager, Anne Galloway, on agalloway@redwings.co.uk for more information about how to donate your artwork and for images of our Amersham survivors.



Red's Shed: Open for business

We are excited to announce the opening of Red's Shed, our brand-new education facility at Redwings Aylsham. With four separate areas for you to explore, you can gain a behind the scenes insight into the special work we do. With games, activities and fun facts aimed to engage toddlers, children and adults alike, visitors will be challenged to organise the rescue of a group of feral ponies, read horse

body language or even create their own safe and peaceful home for life. Children can even dress up as farm team members and see if they can maintain quarantine for a newly arrived horse. When we are not open to the public, the area will also be a fantastic facility for school and college groups to use as well as providing an exciting new venue for our evening veterinary seminars.



Celebrating 140 years of Black Beauty

Our beautiful Adoption Star Maya – known as our Black Beauty because of her striking looks and story of triumph over adversity – has been helping to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the publication of the beloved book.

Fans of the classic novel, written by Anna Sewell, were invited to honour the anniversary at Maya's birthday party in May and Kirsty Fielder, whose bakery Kirsty's Cakery is based in the author's former home in Great Yarmouth, even donated delicious cupcakes for the event! Redwings has also been kindly donated a rare copy of Black Beauty, printed in 1915 and including lovely colour illustrations by Lucy Kemp Welch. The book is currently on display at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell until 25th November. Up until this date, you have the chance to place a bid as part of a silent auction with the book going to the highest bidder. All proceeds will go towards helping our rescued horses, some of which have endured hardships just like Black Beauty. Visit our website for more information.

Fantastic Mr Fox



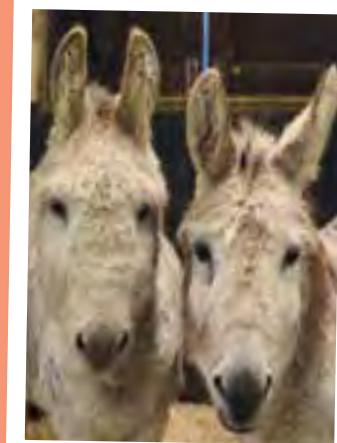
Fox and Bungle

We're delighted to introduce our new Adoption Star, handsome black Shire Cross Fox! Fox was chosen to be our latest addition to our Adoption Scheme during the summer and following the heart-breaking loss of beautiful Shire horse Adoption Star Poppy (see page 3).

This friendly gent, who stands at an impressive 17.1 hands high (that's about

174cm just to his shoulder), arrived at Redwings in 2010 as part of a large group of horses when he was just a few months old. Their owner had sadly passed away and no one was able to look after them. While some of his friends were rehomed through our Guardianship scheme, unfortunately Fox has a condition that means he experiences stiffness in his legs from time-to-time and so he needs to stay at the Sanctuary where he can be kept a close eye on. But, this doesn't stop him enjoying a game of chase with his best friend Bungle or running to the fence whenever the offer of a scratch arises!

Fox has been such a hit with our team already, and we know you will love him too! To sponsor Fox, visit www.redwings.org.uk/adopting or call 01508 481000.



We say a sad goodbye to oldest resident Pandora

This year, we sadly had to say goodbye to beloved donkey Pandora, who was our oldest Sanctuary resident. She was an incredible 44 years old.

Pandora came to Redwings in 1988 following a request from her elderly owners who were concerned for her future should anything happen to them.

Though she suffered from occasional stiffness, this old girl was pretty sprightly for her age and still enjoyed the odd run around with her donkey friends, including best friend, Adoption Star Denise (pictured above with Pandora).

However, Pandora developed a gastric impaction that was causing her a lot of discomfort, and due to her age surgery was not a possibility, so our vets had to make the heart-breaking decision to put her to sleep. We're sure all of her fans from over the years will join us in saying how incredibly missed this sweet little donkey will be.

RIP Pandora.



the land at Aylsham, so they made the move to Redwings Caldecott, which, with its large, flat paddocks, is well-equipped to care for our larger residents. Have you met them yet?

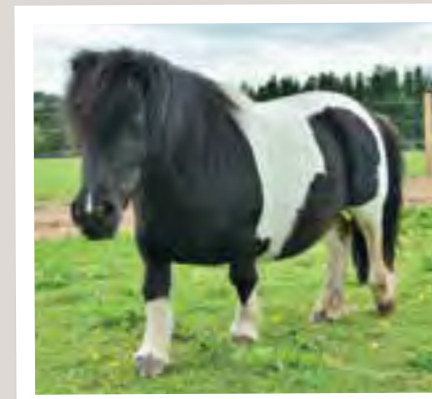
Big news!

Fox and his best friend Bungle aren't the only new big-footed residents to Redwings Caldecott – meet Wilf and Stanley. You may recognise these two gorgeous Suffolk Punches. Indeed they are well-practised at public duties having previously lived at Redwings Aylsham. Unfortunately, their giant feet and enormous stature were a little too much for



Don't forget

Redwings Caldecott is open all year round, so you can still visit your favourite horses, ponies, donkeys and mules during the winter months – they'd love to see you! Redwings Caldecott is open 10am to 4pm every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.



Meet Dayzee!

Meet super-cute Shetland pony Dayzee who has been chosen to become Redwings Mountains' latest Adoption Star!

To celebrate our visitor centre's second anniversary, lovable Dayzee will join our current roster of Adoption Stars in early 2018. Dayzee came to Mountains in 2010 as an orphaned foal and has been charming visitors ever since with her friendly nature. Wee Dayzee was born with an unusual body shape for her breed and receives special care at the Sanctuary to help her cope with her unique conformation. We hope you'll agree that her distinctive looks make her even more adorable! Look out for more information on how you can adopt Dayzee soon.

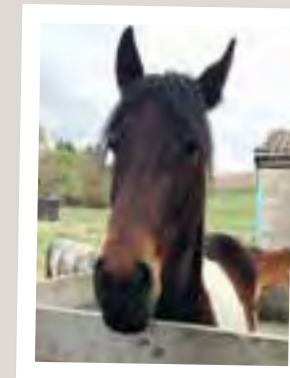
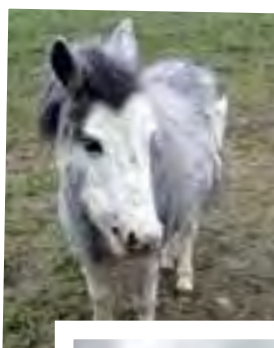
Molly and Romy find a home

Molly

Say hello to our two beautiful new additions at Redwings Mountains. Stunning palomino Hafflinger Romy and pretty hinny Molly (who is a cross between a female donkey and a male pony) both arrived at the visitor centre in spring.

The pair were taken into the Sanctuary following requests from owners who were no longer able to care for them due to difficult changes in their personal circumstances. Both have settled in well to life at Redwings, with Romy making friends with our handsome Thoroughbred Cross Ginger and Molly having bonded with our Adoption Star Gibson. In fact, Molly and Gibson have become so inseparable they've become the visitor centre's latest odd couple!

Romy waiting for Ginger



Gibson's adventure

Adoption Star Gibson has been on an adventure to the Royal School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh. No, he wasn't attending a class! He travelled to use the school's top scanning facilities to check his teeth.

Our vets were concerned that his mouth was not developing properly, which could cause problems for his teeth. They wanted to find out if some of Gibson's existing teeth might need extracting, but when our equipment couldn't give them the answers, we sent him on a trip to the school to be thoroughly examined. Following his scans, it was decided no action was required for now and Gibson returned to Redwings Mountains to rejoin his friends. We'll keep a close eye on his progress though.

Summer Club success

We were overwhelmed with the success of this year's Summer Club! Held across all five of our centres, the club gave children aged seven to 11 the opportunity to learn 'hands-on' about the importance of horse welfare with six themed sessions. And those who successfully completed four or more sessions were

awarded an extra-special 'Redwings Ambassador' rosette.

Children got stuck in helping our farm teams with hay net making and preparing stables. They also learnt how to use a weigh tape to weigh our mascot Red and the wriggly truth about horse worms – even their parents remarked on how much they learnt themselves!

Some may have already begun their Redwing's careers as vets or behaviour experts as they mastered skills such as monitoring heart rates and breathing and learning how to



think like a horse. Every session finished with the children learning about one of our very special residents and having the chance to give them a good wither scratch too!

The new rehoming centre at Redwings OXhill will help us rehome more healthy horses, so that we can make room for those in desperate need of rescue.

Heartfelt thanks

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our summer appeal asking for help to build a rehoming centre at Redwings OXhill. Your incredibly generous donations have helped us move forward with this enormous project and we hope to see the foundations laid this autumn, now that the drainage surveys and building control checks have all been completed.

In preparation for the centre, the OXhill team has been working with some of the residents – like Weetabix, Muesli and Marmite from the Breakfast Club – on the first stages of their training. During their training sessions they are taught to stand still while they are groomed and have their feet picked out, and Weetabix in particular enjoys the pampering aspect of his training as he loves a fuss and a cuddle!

Once the rehoming centre is complete, the ponies' learning experience will evolve. We will have the facilities to work with them on a lunge line and in a round-pen, and with a riding arena they will eventually learn how to wear a saddle and accept a rider. We cannot continue to this stage of training without a safe, secure and quiet area to work in, so we are very excited to have the new facility up and running soon! Thank you for helping us reach this important milestone.



Out and about with Timothy and Cain



Adoption Stars Timothy and Cain have been very busy boys this year and – dare we say it – with the festive season approaching, we're sure there will be even more opportunities for the cheeky pair to help spread the word of our work.

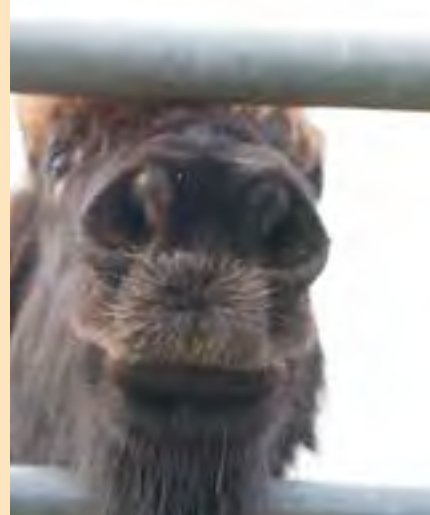
To celebrate International Carrot Day, Timothy and Cain were invited for a second year to delight shoppers at Wellesbourne Sainsbury's, where they were treated to a donkey-friendly carrot cake and lots of cuddles from visitors.

The boys then lead the Shuttery Palm Sunday procession ahead of Easter and our team were so proud of how beautifully they behaved. Where will Timothy and Cain's next adventure take them?

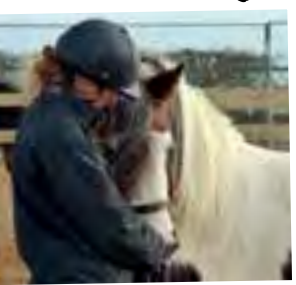
Countryfile Live

We had a great time attending our first Countryfile Live in August in the stunning grounds of Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. It was a new event for us and we loved meeting lots of new friendly faces. Thank you if you spotted us and came over to say hello!

We love getting out and about spreading the word about the work we do, and we were even lucky enough to be joined by some of our OXhill residents who were ready and waiting to meet and greet the public and lap up all the attention!



At the heart of college training



Redwings OXhill continues to be a magnet to colleges in the area. We have welcomed students from Equine Care courses at a

further education level all the way through to Veterinary Physiotherapy degree students, all of whom have enjoyed training on horse welfare and the role of Redwings in our rescue, behaviour, rehoming, sanctuary care and education work.

Meeting the residents brings workshops on welfare to life as Rumpel, Faith and Muesli all help us raise awareness of the professional effort that goes in to rehabilitating and then continuing to meet the needs of horses from the most traumatic of backgrounds.

Adoptions get a makeover!!!!

We are excited to announce that the beloved Redwings Adoption Scheme has had a bit of a make-over! But don't worry, all your favourite things remain, including the lovely certificate, photograph, letters from your chosen friend, and of course the all-important birthday invitation! However after nearly ten years since the scheme was last revamped, we felt it was time we offered you the chance to keep in touch with your horse or donkey more regularly. So, from 1st September, all new adoptions will include an exclusive friendship card, and access to your friend's brand-new online diary.

For those of you who already adopt, you too can enjoy these exciting

new features as soon as you renew your friendship. You do not need to do anything, we will simply include your friendship card and login information with your renewal photograph and story.

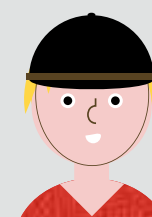
We know not everyone is able to visit their adopted equine, and that not everyone likes to use the internet, but we hope that these new additions give you the freedom to choose how and when to keep in touch with your friend. If you simply enjoy receiving your photos and letters, then do not fear, this will continue as usual. The photos, story updates and certificate have just had a bit of a visual make-over too; we hope you like them!

Here's a look at what's inside, and online...



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Adoption Scheme survey. You really helped us understand what you love about sponsoring a Redwings resident, and we are so grateful for your input and feedback. We hope you love the new-look as much as we do!

Please note that we are now asking for a minimum donation of £15 for a year's adoption. We have not increased the price of a Redwings adoption since 2008, and since then the cost of caring for a horse or donkey has risen; with feed prices, veterinary and care costs all increasing. We have therefore increased the cost of a year's sponsorship to ensure your gift goes as far as possible to help care for your friend. If you are an existing adopter, you can continue to adopt at £12.50 a year if you choose to.



Sponsoring a horse or donkey from Redwings is the best way to help horses in need. Without our wonderful adopters we really wouldn't be able to care for our rescued residents, so thank you for your support and friendship.

Help us feed our horse herd!

Can you help us raise the funds we need to feed our horses and donkeys this autumn and winter?

With over 1,500 mouths to feed, much of our autumn and winter days will be spent delivering hay and feed to the paddocks, stables and donkey barns.

Keeping our horses and donkeys well fed is one of the most vital things we must do to ensure they experience a good standard of care and welfare.

Sometimes 'the forage run' as it is known, can be a real challenge. At Redwings Mountains the team must scale icy, hilly tracks to reach the furthest paddocks, and at our Hapton HQ, which is home to over 300 special care residents, delivering hay can take between four and seven hours each and every day.

Last year we purchased 1,598 tonnes of hay at a cost of £227,500. That's a huge sum, and every penny was donated by supporters like you.

This autumn, can you help us prepare for the cold months to come, so that we can keep all our rescued residents well fed?

With the lack of rain this year, we had to feed hay to some of our horses right through the summer as there simply wasn't enough grass to go round. That makes your support even more vital this autumn and winter.



(and donkey)

Did you know...

We take hay very seriously. After all, second to grass, it is the most vital food source for our residents. We think our horses and donkeys deserve the most nutritious and delicious hay, so we go to great lengths to ensure the hay we buy is good quality. Hay is sourced from all over the UK including Norfolk, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire and Angus. We even test our hay, looking at the level of sugars and nutrients it contains, to ensure we are giving the horses a healthy diet.

How much hay does a horse need?

To calculate the amount of hay each horse needs we check their body condition and weigh them using a weigh tape (which calculates the horse's weight based on their height and the circumference of their tummy). A healthy horse needs around 2% of his or her body weight in hay each day. A medium-sized horse weighing 500kg, will receive a 10kg meal!

There's more to hay than just hay!

To provide hay for our horses, we need somewhere to store it, a way to transport it, and dedicated care staff to fill haynets and deliver the hay to fields. With so many tonnes of hay, ten farms, and over 1,500 residents, this is a huge undertaking and requires hours of planning, and careful organisation. We are so grateful for the support you provide to achieve this, not only by funding hay, but by making donations which help us to buy and maintain the equipment and storage, and to provide the people-power that keeps the 'forage run' in operation.

How you can help...



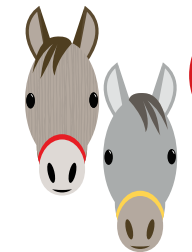
80p

Breakfast for a resident



£4.50

A small bale of hay



£12.50

Hay for a day for a herd of horses



£62.50

Half a tonne of hay!

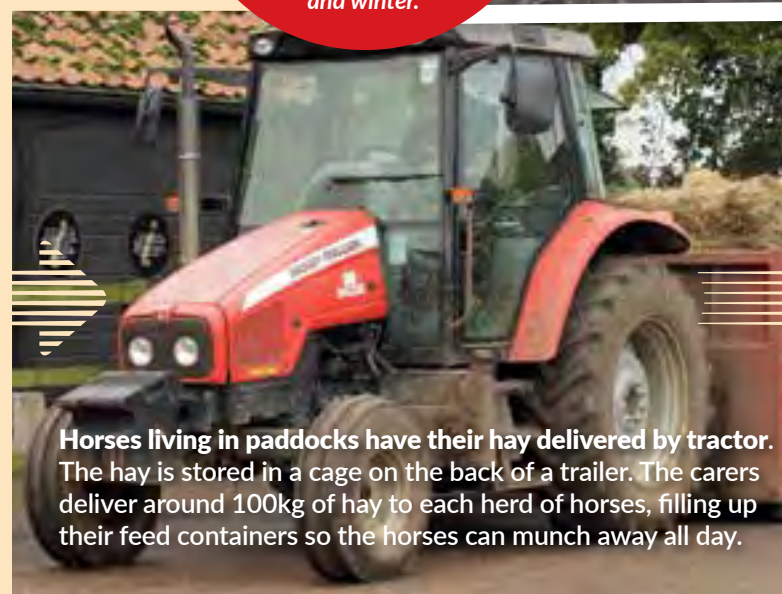


Don't forget to giftaid it

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration your donation is worth an extra 25p in every £1 you donate! So, we can turn your £100 gift into £125, which would fund a whole tonne of hay, enough to feed 100 horses!



The average haynet weighs 2.5 - 6.5kg. It takes two and a half hours each day to prepare the haynets for the horses receiving veterinary care in the Horse Hospital.



Horses living in paddocks have their hay delivered by tractor. The hay is stored in a cage on the back of a trailer. The carers deliver around 100kg of hay to each herd of horses, filling up their feed containers so the horses can munch away all day.



Most fields are equipped with hay rings or troughs. These keep the hay contained, preventing it from blowing away, and ensuring it does not become damp or trodden on.



The horses know that the sound of the tractor often means dinner is on its way! **Donate today to help feed them.**

Please donate today –
call 01508 481000 or visit redwings.org.uk



In January 2008 we received a call that would change all our lives. Spindle Farm in Amersham became synonymous with suffering; a farm with over 100 equines fighting to survive. They had no food, no care, and were riddled with disease.

The bodies of those who had already succumbed to the pitiful conditions lay all around them. Our rescue teams worked tirelessly to remove every horse and donkey, with many of the sickest coming into our care at Redwings to receive emergency veterinary treatment. What followed was two years of court cases as we and the authorities desperately fought to keep the animals so they did not have to return to the hell that was Spindle Farm. We became very attached to our patients, watching them recover and thrive. The most moving day was the morning we first heard the donkeys sing for their breakfast; a sign that they were happy and content, and that they knew food was coming. Until then, the animals had been eerily silent and sombre. Many of the survivors were pregnant and we soon saw the birth of donkey foals and Miniature Shetlands, a reminder that there was hope and happiness to come out of this awful time.

Ten years on, some of the survivors have been rehomed. Others will remain in our care for the rest of their days, enjoying the happiness, safety and dedicated care they deserve. At a cost of £3,000 - £5,000 to house each horse or donkey for a year, so far your donations have funded over £2,000,000 worth of daily care, veterinary treatment, food and love for each of the survivors of Amersham.

Thank you. We really couldn't have achieved this wonderful milestone without you. In 2018 please help us offer these brave animals another ten years of happiness and care.



Help us care for the survivors for another ten years by leaving a gift in your Will to Redwings...

Redwings is only able to offer a home for life to over 1,500 rescued horses and donkeys, such as those rescued from Spindle Farm, because people like you are kind enough to remember Redwings in your Will.

Ten years ago when we were called to Spindle Farm in Amersham, we could never have predicted the enormity of the task ahead; not just the rescue itself, but also the

commitment we would go on to make to over 60 horses and donkeys, many of whom would need a home for decades to come. Thanks to gifts in Wills from our supporters, we were confident that we could offer a home to so many needy equines.

If you choose to leave a gift to Redwings, thank you. We promise it will do much to help survivors like these.



Esther when she arrived at Redwings

Esther now



Rumpel when he arrived



Rumpel now

