

# Redwings

## Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2018

### *Amersham rescue special*

Commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the Spindle Farm rescue

### *New Adoption Stars announced*

Meet Cookie and Dayzee

### *The Animal Welfare Act explained*

Find out why this law is fundamental to our welfare work

### *Help us care for our survivors*

You can give them another 10 years of health and happiness

*Plus much more...*



**They gave us hope. You gave them a home.**



**Ten years ago we witnessed the worst case of equine neglect the UK had ever seen. But despite the suffering and sickness, there was hope.**

**Will you help to give the survivors of Amersham another 10 years of health and happiness?**

**Turn to pages 18 and 19 to find out how.**

**Call  
01508 481000**

**Visit  
www.redwings.org.uk**

Lynn and Amersham survivor Dotty



## Welcome to the spring newsletter from Redwings!

In 2018 we are looking back a whole decade as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the rescue of almost 100 horses, ponies and donkeys from Spindle Farm in Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

I know many of you will remember this momentous rescue as we received so many wonderful words of encouragement and generous donations. From one telephone call in January 2008 from the RSPCA asking for help, to a team of 32 Redwings staff removing 97 equines in less than 24 hours, this was one of the most challenging rescues we had been involved in. To read the full Amersham story, head to page 10.

The Amersham rescue saw us offer a lifelong home to dozens of horses and donkeys who, thanks to you, are still enjoying fulfilling lives, whether at a Redwings centre or outside the Sanctuary in Guardian homes. My heartfelt thanks goes to you, our supporters. Whether offering an Amersham rescue a home, making a donation or adopting a survivor like Esther pictured on the front cover of this issue, your unwavering support has meant we have been able to give the Amersham horses and donkeys a second chance at life. Head to pages 12 to 16 to read some of our survivors' stories.

I'm incredibly proud of everyone involved in both the rescue and the ongoing care of our survivors – those involved on the day 10 years ago, those who provided emergency (and ongoing) treatment in our veterinary team, those who have provided day-to-day care of the survivors, and those who have trained them to be rehomed.

The arrival of spring also heralds new beginnings. We have been in discussions with the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies (SWHP) in Monmouthshire for many years, and are pleased to announce that we have resumed merger talks. We therefore look forward to expanding our operations even further in 2018 to help horses and donkeys in need in the west of the country and Wales. Find out more about our plans on page 3 (opposite).

Lastly, I must highlight a tribute to dear Shetland pony Paddy on page 14. Paddy holds a special place in my heart having chosen him to be one of our first education ponies to help spread the word of our work. And his legacy lives on as we still have education ponies supporting our teams at events today. Paddy enjoyed a wonderful 17 years at Redwings and will be dearly missed by all.

Thank you so much for all your support and for helping us to continue to give a safe and loving home to so many rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

Lynn Cutress  
Chief Executive

## News update...

### Pastures new: Redwings SWHP

For the past 15 years Redwings has been committed to the horse welfare challenges faced on the Welsh commons. From the early days of our work in South Wales we have informally teamed up with local charity the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies (SWHP), and over the years our collaboration has grown; we've made a great team. Indeed, Adoption Star Dylan's rescue in 2003 was one of many over the years and our work there continues at a pace.

As mentioned in our autumn 2014 newsletter, we had been looking to merge with SWHP. In late 2014, the Founder of SWHP felt the time was not right to merge and discussions were put on hold. However, in 2016 talks resumed, with Redwings needing to find a suitable site with more capacity than the current rented SWHP site, and we knew that the search for a property would take some time.

After 18 months, we have found and purchased a farm and neighbouring land in Monmouthshire. Our next step is to turn the pasture into grazing, and develop the buildings to be suitable for keeping horses and rehoming. Once the first phase of this project is complete we can move the SWHP herd and team, and create Redwings SWHP in Monmouthshire.

It is a tremendously exciting time for Redwings and the SWHP team. It is, however, tinged with much sadness as Jenny MacGregor MBE, Founder of SWHP, passed away in November 2017 so she will not see the merger through. She did know of the proposed site and our plans, and remained excited for her team and pleased to know that the merger will enable both charities to continue to make a difference for the welfare of horses in South Wales.

News of our plans for the new farm will be announced on our website, alternatively you can contact us to ensure we keep you appraised in person. We have much work to do and hope to open Redwings SWHP as our sixth visitor centre as soon as we can.



### Black Beauty auction raises vital funds

Thank you to everyone who took part in our silent auction for the chance to own a beautiful copy of Black Beauty.

The limited 1915 edition was donated to us by a supporter to raise money for horses in need, and was proudly displayed at the

Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell as part of their exhibition to mark the 140th anniversary of the publication of Black Beauty.

Successful bidder Sue Day collected the book from our headquarters just before Christmas and her wonderful bid will help us continue to provide vital care for our residents. Sue set up a society in honour of author Anna Sewell's life and passion for animal welfare, and hopes to share the book with others who have a similar interest. Black cob cross Callisto was certainly eager to read a few chapters!

Hi, I'm Cookie and I'm joining the Adoption Scheme this Easter to commemorate 10 years since I was rescued from Spindle Farm in Amersham. Turn to page 13 to read more about me.



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## Prize Draw Winners

### Winter 2017 Prize Draw Winners

- 1st Prize, £5,000  
Mrs E Howell, Bristol
- 2nd Prize, £1,000  
Mrs P Sanford, Melbourn
- 3rd Prize, £500  
Mrs P Brown, Chigwell

Congratulations to all our winners!

Results from our Autumn Prize Draw are available on our website or upon request by contacting us on 01508 481000 or emailing [info@redwings.co.uk](mailto:info@redwings.co.uk)

*Our cover star is Amersham survivor and Adoption Star Esther.*





# Redwings to the rescue!

News of our work from around the UK...

## A 'big' rescue for Redwings!



The Shires offered a home at Redwings were named after types of butterfly, such as Peacock, Swallowtail and Painted Lady



Redwings rescues and cares for horses of all shapes and sizes, but it isn't often we find groups of heavy horses in need of our help. However, a call to our Welfare Helpline this autumn led to the rescue of 19 Shires who had been illegally grazing – otherwise known as “fly-grazing” – on a property near Kidderminster in Worcestershire.

There were real concerns for the horses' welfare as winter approached, especially

as many of the group were completely unhandled. Despite efforts to find an owner, no-one came forward to claim the horses so we were able to use the Control of Horses Act (fly-grazing legislation introduced in 2015) to secure the future of the group.

Rescuing and rehoming so many Shires is a sizeable challenge so we worked with other welfare charities to round-up the group and transport them to their new homes.

We are delighted to have brought four mares and two foals into Redwings' care, all named after types of butterfly. The six Shires have settled in well and are a real favourite with everyone who meets them!



## Raggy's tragic tale

Young cob Raggy was found abandoned on derelict land in Essex last August. She was extremely thin and unable to move because of pain in her feet caused by a hoof illness called laminitis. Even more upsetting was the fact that Raggy had milk in her udder, showing she must have recently had a foal. Redwings' Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin, who was attending with an RSPCA officer, called a vet to give Raggy immediate pain relief before she was taken for emergency treatment, funded by the two charities.

Vets at House and Jackson Horse Clinic worked tirelessly to help Raggy, reducing the pain of her laminitis while they tried to minimise the damage the disease had caused inside her hooves. Very sadly, despite everyone's determination to save this sweet young mare, Raggy's condition worsened and the decision was made to put her to sleep to protect her from further suffering.

Our CEO Lynn expressed the sorrow felt by everyone at Redwings: “We're terribly sad to have lost Raggy but can take comfort that she spent her last days in a calm and caring environment and not alone in a field where she had been so cruelly abandoned.”

## A group of Black Beauties!

Seventeen stunning horses were rescued from a site in Norfolk last summer following a call from a concerned member of the public.

Our Senior Field Officer Julie Harding found many of the group were very overweight and had badly neglected hooves. The horses were also very nervous of people and it was clear that they would require specialist handling facilities and training.

The owner admitted he had been struggling to care for what had been



Meet Black Beauty, Duchess, Merrylegs and friends

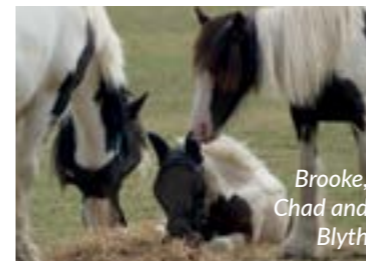
his wife's horses before she passed away. Redwings worked in partnership with World Horse Welfare to rescue and offer homes to the group.

At Redwings, the group were named after characters from Black Beauty to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the book's publication.

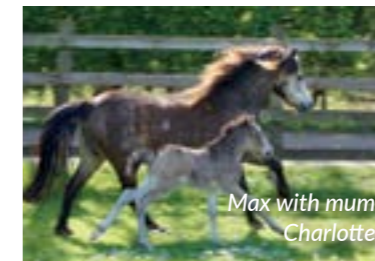
## A pitter patter of tiny hooves



Big Star with mum Helen



Brooke, Chad and Blyth



Max with mum Charlotte

Last year was hailed a baby boom year! Not only did we bring you news of new Bodmin babies – Peaches, Sophie and Roald – in our autumn newsletter, but a further three foals were born to mares rescued by Redwings.

Teeny tiny Max and Big Star were born at the Sanctuary following the rescue of their mothers Charlotte and Helen from tough conditions on Llangynidr Common in South Wales. The herd, now totaling 14 ponies,

were named after GB gold medal winners at the Rio Olympics – Max being named after gymnast Max Whitlock and Big Star after Nick Skelton's award-winning horse.

Meanwhile little Chad was born to mare Brook, who was one of a group of six ponies rescued in January 2017 having been found very thin and suffering from high worm burdens and overgrown feet at a site near Ipswich. The group were named after Suffolk rivers.

## Abandoned horses rescued from Hampshire

Four Redwings staff took part in the round-up and rescue of 26 abandoned ponies in Hampshire last October, following a request for help from the RSPCA.

The ponies were found without food or water, meaning they were in very poor condition and many required urgent veterinary treatment and care. The group were rescued in a joint operation between Redwings, Hampshire Police and fellow welfare organisations. The RSPCA made a public appeal for information, but unfortunately no owner was found.

# Amersham and the Animal Welfare Act

On 9th January 2008, Redwings Head of Welfare Nic de Brauwere was shocked by what he saw as he walked into Spindle Farm with an RSPCA Inspector.

As highlighted in our welcome letter, 2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of one of the most notorious rescues in our charity's history (turn to page 10 for the full Amersham 10 story). As well as being remarkable in scale, effort and cost, the rescue at the Amersham farm was also notable for the successful use of a new law, the Animal Welfare Act. This law was finalised in 2006 and came into force in April 2007, and enabled us to remove all 97 horses, ponies and donkeys in just one day.

## Introducing the Animal Welfare Act

Before the Animal Welfare Act, horses could only be removed from an owner if a vet said they were 'suffering unnecessarily' – such as due to being dangerously thin or having an untreated injury or illness. There were many thin, sick and injured horses at Spindle Farm that could have been rescued under the old law, but more than half were not poorly enough to be deemed as 'suffering unnecessarily' and would have had to be left behind.

But the new Animal Welfare Act created additional powers to help prevent suffering by enabling animals to be rescued sooner. Under the Act, a vet can certify that a horse is either 'suffering' or is 'likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change'. Using the new 'Duty of Care' clause as a guideline, it was clear that every horse at Spindle Farm would suffer if they stayed. So, thanks to Nic's brave use of the Act, the police authorised us to remove all 97.

## The 5 needs

The Animal Welfare Act's 'Duty of Care' clause says all animals have five basic needs. An owner must make sure all these needs are met:

- 1 The need for a suitable environment**
- 2 The need for a suitable diet**
- 3 The need to express normal behaviour**
- 4 The need to be housed with or apart from other animals as appropriate**
- 5 The need to be protected from pain, injury and disease**

When a Redwings Field Officer finds that someone is not meeting their 'Duty of Care', they can give advice on how to improve the horse's welfare. We help hundreds of horses every year by educating and encouraging owners to help them meet the needs of their horses. This in turn means the horse can remain in the care of their owner and precious space at the Sanctuary is saved for those most in need of rescue.

Prosecution of an owner may occur where the level of animal suffering is severe or advice has been offered but ignored.



## Caring for rescued horses

Rescued horses still belong to the owner until a court transfers ownership. The Amersham equines were 'boarded' at Redwings for nearly two years while the owner and his family were prosecuted.

The Animal Welfare Act also increased the number of offences the defendants were prosecuted for. As part of sentencing, the judge made the charities who had cared for the horses the new legal owners.

We keep careful records for all boarding horses; from feed and vet treatments, to their weight and behaviour. These records can be used as evidence in court as they were in the case of the Amersham rescue.



## Working together

Redwings has in-depth horse knowledge, field officers who can support owners and vets who can decide if a horse is suffering, or is likely to suffer. Redwings does not prosecute owners, rather we work closely with organisations who do, such as the RSPCA and Trading Standards, and provide vital evidence for cases. We can also offer boarding horses a caring home while investigations and court cases are underway.

Thanks to the Animal Welfare Act, all the neglected horses, ponies and donkeys from Spindle Farm were rescued and the Act has been helping to prevent and relieve the suffering of thousands more horses ever since.

## Did you know...?

The Animal Welfare Act applies in England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland have separate but very similar laws, meaning animals enjoy the same level of protection across all of the UK.

# Questions of life (at Redwings!)



## Q: How much does it cost to care for one horse at Redwings?

we spend between £3,000 and £5,000 on every individual, each year.

As well as feed and routine health and farriery treatment, the main cost of caring for our residents is our dedicated staff checking on them two to three times each and every day, and the maintenance of their environment to ensure they have safe, happy and healthy lives at the Sanctuary. Some residents, such as our Amersham survivors, require additional care such as:

- **Regular treatment for a donkey like Martha with sensitive eyes - £5.20**

- **Warm winter rug for a horse with fine hair like Zippy - £50**
- **Special summer rug for a pony like Fruska who is allergic to insect bites - £190**

It is all thanks to our fabulous supporters that Redwings can rescue horses and donkeys from terrible situations like Amersham, safe in the knowledge that we will be able to look after them for the rest of their lives. Caring for our 46 Amersham equines who live within the Sanctuary for the next 10 years could cost us up to £2.3 million! But they're definitely worth it, and we know you think so too.

Redwings rescues and cares for horses in need so they can have a secure future at the Sanctuary. The cost of caring for one of our residents varies from horse to horse and year to year. But on average

## Q: How does Redwings store and handle my personal information?

Our ability to care for so many horses and donkeys is only possible because of the generous support we receive from people like you! We therefore take the security of your information very seriously.

Whether you are making a donation, adopting a horse or contacting us by phone, email or post, we will usually need to collect some personal details from you to process your payment or deal with your request.

These details are stored securely on our supporter database in line with data protection regulations (The Data Protection Act 1998 and the upcoming General Data Protection Regulation).

**Redwings will never sell or share your details commercially with any other organisation.**

When you contact us or make a donation, we will ask if and how we can stay in touch. This is so we can send you news from the Sanctuary, keep you updated on our lovely residents and let you know about ways you can help us further.

If you are purchasing an adoption as a gift, we will also ask for the recipient's details so that we can personalise their adoption pack, as well as sending them our newsletters and a birthday party invite from their four-legged friend!

You can change your preferences at any time or request to stop receiving information from us, simply phone, email or write to us (see page 2 for our contact details). We also have a full privacy policy online if you need any more information: [www.redwings.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.redwings.org.uk/privacy-policy)



Thank you from Dozmary and Arthur for continuing to support us!

# Helping rescued horses find their *happy ever after!*

We love celebrating the successes of our rehomed rescued horses so thought we'd share some of our favourite stories from the past year.

As we mark the 10-year anniversary of the Amersham rescue, Redwings Bert showed just what our brave survivors are capable of when he was crowned Rescue Supreme Champion at the Royal Norfolk Show with his Guardian Nikki in June 2017. His success is a real credit to the love and dedication of his Guardian, but also that of our veterinary and care teams who helped him overcome his previous ordeal at Spindle Farm.

Last year also marked the beginning of our rehoming operations expanding to Warwickshire with the first ponies rehomed from Redwings Oxhill. Sydney and Hamish were rehomed together as companions for another horse, while Cream Cracker, also a companion pony, now lives at a manor house so she really has landed on her hooves!

Also rehomed last year was superstar cob Oakley who is now enjoying the happy ending he deserves with his new rider and best friend Leo, aged 11. Oakley was so incredibly weak when he arrived at Redwings due to suffering from a severe worm infestation that he had to be manually lifted by our vet



team day and night. Now, this new dynamic duo are getting along famously, and even entering charity rides and online shows too! We love hearing what our Guardians are getting up to with their Redwings rescued horses so please get in touch by emailing [communications@redwings.co.uk](mailto:communications@redwings.co.uk)

## Addison loves his new home – at the dinosaur park!



Just before Christmas, we were delighted to be able to rehome our first donkey, Addison, to be a new best friend for a little donkey craving companionship – at a dinosaur park!

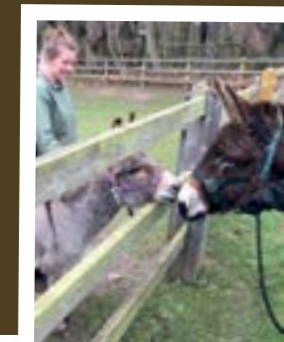
Adorable Arnie, a Miniature Mediterranean donkey, had been living alone at the Secret Animal Garden at the Dinosaur Adventure Park, near Norwich, following the sad

loss of his previous companion. Donkeys are sensitive souls who form strong bonds and Arnie's carers knew he needed a friend, so they approached us for help.

Redwings had never rehomed a rescue donkey before but – as luck would have it – the perfect candidate had just arrived at the Sanctuary! Handsome Addison had come to Redwings as part of a group of six donkeys from a fellow animal sanctuary in August last year but had yet to form any strong attachments within his herd.

So after a thorough medical and behavioural check, Addison travelled to the Dinosaur Adventure Park where he was eagerly welcomed by Arnie. Rachel Angell, Redwings Operations and Rehoming Manager, said: "Donkeys crave company, which is why we were delighted to help find Arnie a new friend and we hope he and Addison will be really happy together. We hope this will now pave the way for us to look at rehoming more donkeys in the future."

Nicole Douglass, Secret Animal Garden Manager, added: "Arnie's little face lit up when he saw Addison! They've settled in well together and share a stable. Addison is even coming over to meet visitors, which is lovely. All the team here love him already and we look forward to the boys becoming best buddies!"



## What is the Redwings Guardianship Scheme?

The Redwings Guardianship Scheme is our rehoming programme where we hope to find our rescued horses and ponies loving homes outside of the Sanctuary. Rehoming a Redwings horse is incredibly rewarding as not only will you be giving a rescued

horse or pony a second chance at a loving home, you'll also be freeing up space at the Sanctuary to help us rescue more horses in need. To find out more and to see which horses are currently looking for homes, visit [www.redwings.org.uk/rehoming](http://www.redwings.org.uk/rehoming)

# Remembering the Amersham rescue 10 years on

In January 2008 we joined forces with colleagues from fellow welfare organisations to rescue almost 100 horses and donkeys found living in horrific conditions at Spindle Farm in Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

**This was the worst case of neglect we had ever seen, and what followed was a lengthy court case to ensure the safety of the animals, here's what happened...**

## The Amersham rescue timeline...



4th January 2008

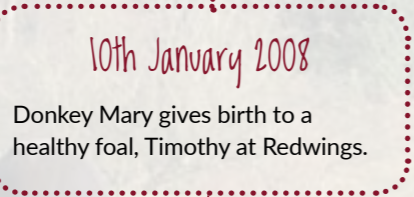
RSPCA inspectors first visit Spindle Farm, Amersham, following the report of a dead horse.

The site was littered with carcasses, including a trailer of bones. Eight horses were identified as in a state of severe suffering and four required euthanising on site. Fourteen horses are removed for urgent veterinary care.



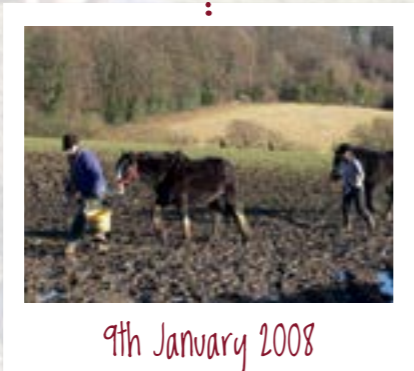
5th - 7th January 2008

Return RSPCA visits revealed almost 100 horses and donkeys living on the site as well as over 30 carcasses of equines who had starved to death.



10th January 2008

Donkey Mary gives birth to a healthy foal, Timothy at Redwings.



9th January 2008

Redwings staff arrive at Spindle Farm.

Redwings veterinary surgeon Nic de Brauwere finds the horses in such a severe state of neglect that he authorises their immediate removal on welfare grounds.

The multi-agency operation sees all 97 equines removed in less than 24 hours; 21 of those most in need, including pregnant mares and donkeys, are taken to Redwings' Norfolk headquarters for treatment.



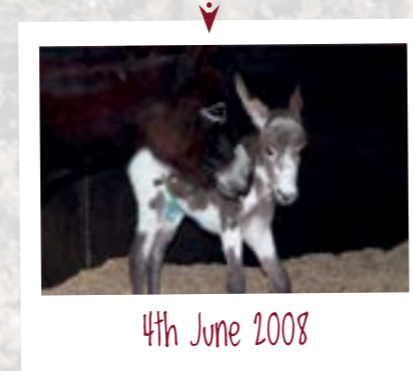
8th January 2008

RSPCA contact Redwings for urgent help.



**January - April 2008**  
Thousands of people contact Redwings to help by making a donation, and by sending messages of thanks and support.

**April 2008**  
After a formal application by the farm's owner James Gray to have the animals returned, the Deputy District Judge decides to return some of the animals - including the donkeys and Shetland ponies - to the family, and to send the rest to public auction.  
A petition organised by Redwings and the National Equine Welfare Council generates 19,764 signatures and the decision is overturned, with the judge granting a temporary 'stay' for the animals pending a High Court appeal from the owner.



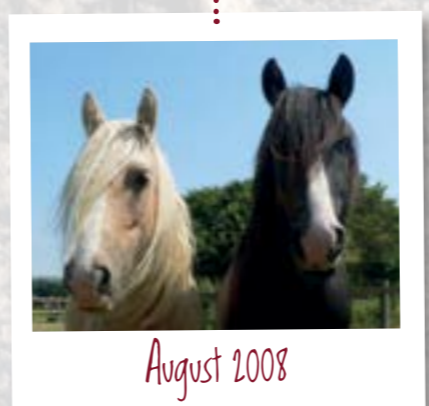
4th June 2008

Donkey Leah gives birth to Cain. There are now six foals born since the rescue, two donkeys (Timothy and Cain) and four Miniature Shetlands (Tinkerbell, Doc, Peter Pan and Belle).

**May 2010**  
The family appeal. James Gray, his wife and daughters all have their convictions upheld. James Junior is acquitted of two offences.  
James Gray absconds court during his sentencing appeal and goes on the run. He is later arrested during a random road check. He receives an extra two months on his sentence, which begins on 31st May.

**12th June 2009**  
James Gray and his family are sentenced.  
James Gray receives a six month prison sentence, ordered to pay costs of £400,000 and given a lifetime ban from keeping horses. His son, James Junior, was served an 18-month supervision order and a 10-year ban on keeping horses. His wife Julie and two young daughters Jodie and Cordelia also received 10-year bans and community service orders.

**December 2008 - May 2009**  
A tense and lengthy court case ensues.



August 2008

The first of 39 Amersham horses and ponies originally rehomed to other charities are brought into Redwings' care to help with their long-term needs, including Yogi and Marley who need specialist help with their handling.



November 2011

The first Amersham horses are rehomed through Redwings Guardianship Scheme, Aladdin and Ali Baba.

**March 2013**  
James Gray loses an appeal to the High Court against the costs of his conviction.

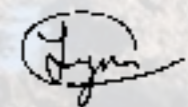
**January 2018**  
The 10-year anniversary of the Amersham rescue. Redwings took in 60 horses and donkeys with another six foals born at the Sanctuary, and today 58 of those still remain in our care - 46 of which are at the Sanctuary and 12 in Guardian homes.  
It is a testament to the dedication of our veterinary, rehabilitation and care teams that so many of these survivors are still enjoying happy lives 10 years on.

**Can you help us care for our survivors for the next 10 years?**

**Head to page 18 to find out how.**

“ Amersham was a momentous rescue that not only left a mark on Redwings, but the wider public too. Never before had people's eyes been so opened to the suffering of equines in this country.

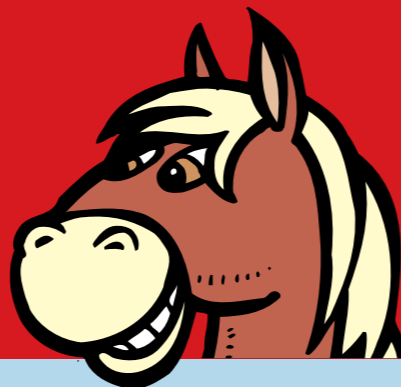
I remember meeting the horses and donkeys when they arrived at Redwings and it wasn't just their appalling physical state that shocked me, but their eerie quietness and sheer sadness. It wasn't until weeks later when we heard the donkeys sing for their breakfast for the first time that we knew we had turned a corner in their recovery and they finally felt safe. ”



Lynn Cutress, Redwings Chief Executive

## 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

## Sad goodbye to Sox

Staff and visitors said a sad farewell to a favourite Redwings Ada Cole resident in October last year. At 17.2 hands high, lovely Sox really did stand out from the crowd, but he was just as well-loved for his gentle and inquisitive nature.

Big horses carry a lot of weight on their joints and a previous injury to Sox's knee before he arrived at Redwings had also affected his mobility at times. But with the expert care of our team, Sox lived a comfortable and happy life, reaching the grand age of 22 before his



arthritis worsened and our vets made the very sad but necessary decision to put him to sleep.

## Amersham survivor story: Tinkerbelle and Elsie



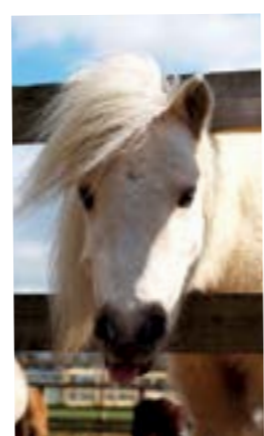
Tinkerbelle was born at Redwings shortly after her mum Elsie was rescued from Spindle Farm, Amersham.

Elsie was incredibly weak, her hooves were extremely overgrown and she was infested with lice.

When Tinkerbelle was born she was very poorly, most likely due to the suffering her mum endured while carrying her, and we didn't think that she'd pull through. But with round-the-clock care she made a full recovery.

While Tinkerbelle was poorly, she needed her stomach scanned daily and the vets would tickle her belly to comfort her. Even now, 10 years later, she will roll over to have her tummy tickled!

Elsie's past means she will always be a little shy around people, but Tinkerbelle loves to be the centre of attention, which is why she is a Redwings Adoption Star!



## Meet Trixie



Trotter Cross Trixie was found straying into a nearby residential area in Harlow. She was reported to our team with a suspected broken leg by a concerned member of the public. When found by our Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin, the skewbald mare did not have a broken leg but she was lame, so our Senior Welfare Vet Roxane Kirton was

called to help catch and examine her thoroughly.

On examination, Trixie – as she was named by our team – was suffering from a painful foot abscess. Attempts to find Trixie's owner were unsuccessful, so she was given a permanent home at our Essex centre where she has happily made a fantastic recovery and a best friend in bay cob Rocky!

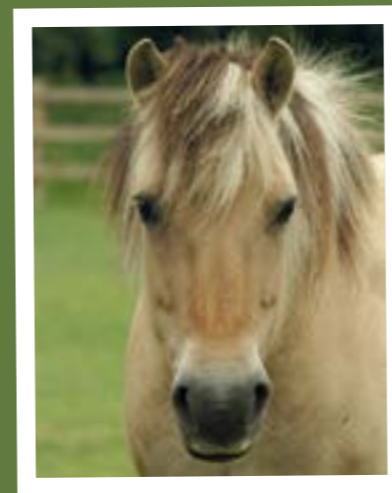
REDWINGS

# Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



## Art for Amersham!



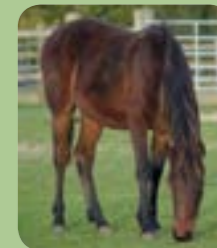
Calling all budding artists! How would you like your artwork to benefit the survivors of the Amersham rescue? If yes, then we'd love to hear from you! Each year, our Aylsham Visitor Centre hosts an art sale of donated artwork and all

the money raised goes towards caring for our rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. This year's sale will take place from Friday 25th May, and we want to take the opportunity to celebrate the happy lives the survivors now enjoy at Redwings and the hard work all of our teams have put into caring for them over the last 10 years.

We're asking our supporters to create artwork for the sale inspired by our amazing Amersham survivors, just like stunning Fruska (pictured) who lives here at Redwings Aylsham. The pieces could be paintings, sketches, photographs, textiles or even sculptures – the choice is yours!

Contact Gifts in Kind Manager, Anne Galloway, on [agalloway@redwings.co.uk](mailto:agalloway@redwings.co.uk) for images of our Amersham survivors and more information about how to donate your artwork. Thank you.

## A warm welcome to Lord Leap



Lord Leap, who was rescued from Rainbow Meadows in November 2015, has joined our Redwings Aylsham herd. Lord Leap was just eight months old when he was rescued from a site that had set itself up as a rescue centre. Of the 20 horses seized, we offered a home to 12 naming them after the "Twelve Days of Christmas" carol. As well as being painfully thin, it soon became clear on his arrival that, like many of the group, Lord Leap was infected with the highly contagious respiratory disease strangles. Over the past two years Lord Leap has overcome both his physical and psychological trauma, learning that humans can be kind and has settled in well to life at a visitor centre.

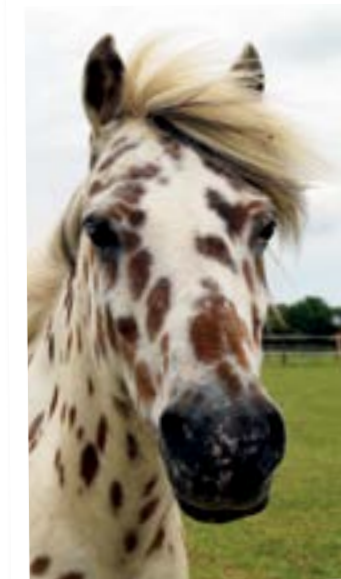
## Amersham survivor story: Cookie

With a special welcome party on Good Friday, Cookie will be announced as our newest Adoption Star and will be joining the scheme this Easter in commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the Amersham

rescue. Following Cookie's rescue from Spindle Farm, he initially lived at a RSPCA yard for just over a year where he was nursed back to health before being offered a home for life at Redwings.

Cookie is a content pony who loves a cuddle from his carers and visitors, and regularly takes part in our grooming sessions at Redwings Aylsham. He is also a cheeky and playful chap despite turning 21 this year! Cookie's friends Frieda and Fruska were also rescued from Spindle Farm and live just over the fence from him. His friendly nature coupled with his standout spots

make Cookie the perfect addition to our Adoption Scheme! You can sponsor Cookie for just £15 for a whole year, and don't miss the chance to meet this handsome chap at his birthday party on Sunday 24th June.



## Have you visited Red's Shed yet?

Our brand-new education facility opened its doors in October and it has been wonderful to watch visitors learning about the special work we do, testing their knowledge and trying to complete Red's challenges. A firm favourite has been the magnetic game 'Could you organise a rescue?' where visitors are given the chance to organise a team of Redwings staff and their equipment to help a group of poorly ponies – it is fantastic to watch children and their parents working together to get the job done! With further developments in the pipeline, we are expecting Red's Shed to be a huge hit as well as a fantastic resource for our education work with schools, colleges and community groups.



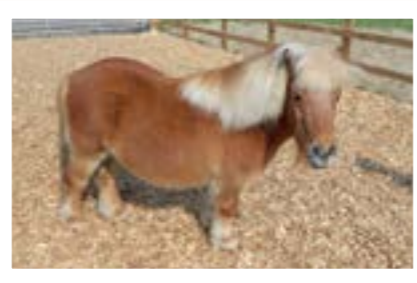


## Amersham survivor story: Jemima, Esther and Martha

Donkeys Jemima, Esther and Martha were among the horses and donkeys brought straight back to our Norfolk hospital for urgent care on the day of their rescue from Spindle Farm.

Esther was just two months old and her mum Martha was so thin she couldn't produce enough milk to feed her baby daughter. Martha and Jemima were both suffering from anaemia, had severe muscle wastage from being so underweight, overgrown hooves and were infested with lice. Esther was so weak she had to be carried off the lorry when she arrived.

But with the right care, all three made a full recovery and are a delightful trio of donkeys! As a result of her neglect as a foal, Esther will always be a little on the small side, but this dainty donkey has a huge heart and adores affection, which is why she is a Redwings Adoption Star!



## Paddy's passing

Last autumn, we sadly said goodbye to our dear Paddy. This cheeky little Shetland pony came to Redwings in 2000, very underweight and suffering from an irritating condition called sweet

itch. Happily, Paddy went on to make a full recovery and became Redwings' first ever education pony, travelling to local events to help spread the message about the importance of equine welfare... and enjoy plenty of fuss and cuddles in the process, of course! Did you meet him?

Since 2008, Paddy lived at Redwings Caldecott as part of our mischievous Shetland herd and was dearly loved by his carers and visitors. Sadly, poor Paddy began to suffer from colic and due to his age of 28 surgery was not a possibility, so our vets had to make the heart-breaking decision to put him to sleep. He will be sorely missed by everyone. RIP Paddy.

## Fox's starring role

Did you see Adoption Star Fox on local TV network That's Norfolk in the late autumn? He did a fantastic

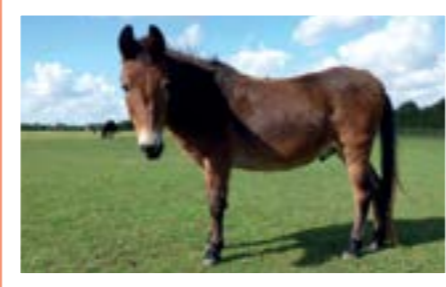


job in helping to promote our We Love Horses activities at the visitor centre and the camera certainly loved him!

## Muffin the Mule retires

Muffin, our longest serving Adoption Star, recently retired from the Adoption Scheme aged 30. Muffin was rescued in 1987 when he was just a few days old. Unfortunately his mum passed away from a stomach ulcer shortly after they arrived at the Sanctuary. However, Muffin made many two and four-legged friends to keep him company.

Over the years, Muffin has been involved in many meet and greets, lent a helping hoof for lots of demonstrations and talks, and of course received plenty



of cuddles during birthday parades. But after 30 years on the scheme, we decided it was time for this handsome mule to take a little step back from the limelight and enjoy some rest and relaxation during his retirement.

But don't worry, retirement simply means that Muffin will no longer be available to new adopters. He will still write to his existing adopters and you can still visit him every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Redwings Caldecott!



## Dayzee's debut!

We're delighted to announce that Dayzee will be joining the Redwings Adoption Scheme this Easter, and we'll be throwing her a special welcome party on Easter Monday.

As you may have read in our last newsletter, adorable Shetland pony Dayzee has been a popular resident at Mountains since her arrival in 2010

and is soon to join our existing duo of Adoption Stars - cheeky cob cross Gibson and lovable donkey Minnie.

You can sponsor Dayzee for just £15 a year, which will help ensure she and her friends continue to enjoy a safe and happy home at Redwings.

You'll receive an adoption pack including a beautiful photograph, a certificate and Dayzee's story, plus access to her online diary featuring plenty of photos, videos and blogs about her life at the Sanctuary. You'll also receive a special invitation to her birthday party, which will take place on Sunday 22nd July, so make sure to put the date in your diary!



To adopt Dayzee, or Minnie and Gibson, speak to a member of staff at Redwings Mountains during your next visit, call 01508 481000 or visit [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk).

## Spreading Christmas cheer!



Four of our adorable residents helped to spread lots of festive cheer in the lead up to Christmas!

Super-fluffy Shetland ponies Dayzee and Kassie enjoyed plenty of cuddles with visitors at Forfar's Asda store, which had kindly chosen Redwings as a recipient of its Green Token scheme. Just down the road in Dundee, donkeys Minnie and Petra made three special appearances at

Pets at Home as part of the store's Santa Paws fundraising drive, which will see 50% of all money raised in store donated to Redwings Mountains. Last summer, the Dundee branch also sold scratch cards with 50% of the proceeds being donated to Redwings, which amounted to a wonderful £547.21!

Thank you to everyone who came along to meet our awesome foursome and their carers, and to the stores for their fantastic support!



## A heart-warming reunion

Isn't this a wonderful photo? Adoption Star Gibson (left) is sharing a special moment with foster dad Nico. Three years ago, Gibson arrived at Redwings Mountains as a two-day-old orphaned foal as his mother had passed away shortly after giving birth. Unfortunately his owners were unable to give him the round-the-clock care and attention that a newborn needs, and so contacted Mountains for help. At the sanctuary, Gibson was introduced to a caring foster mum, Maggie, who had a close companion named Nico, who soon became a loving foster dad to Gibson!

And here they are - Gibson, now three years old, still shares a lasting bond with kind Nico, aw!



## Collecting in the community

Redwings Mountains is thrilled to have the ongoing support of so many amazing local businesses. We'd also like to say a heartfelt "thank you!" to the fantastic businesses who continue to support us by keeping a collection box. We now have over 20 Redwings Mountains collection boxes in shops and other local businesses. Last year these boxes raised a fantastic £972.97 in spare change! Please get in touch if you would like a collection pot to collect loose change at your work. Every penny really does make a difference!





## Major and Dylan put up their hooves

Shire Cross Major and Welsh pony Dylan have both retired from their Adoption Star duties.

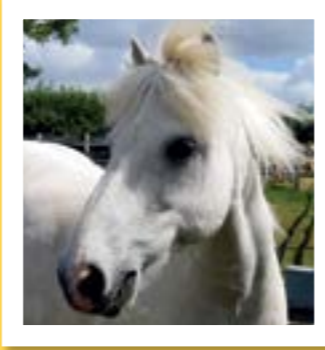
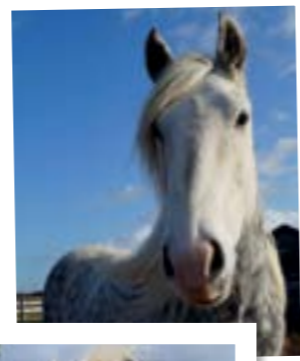
After visiting our Horse Hospital for lameness issues in the summer of last year, it was discovered that Major suffers from arthritis in one of his front legs. Major also has a condition called ataxia, which means his balance and coordination are affected. This, coupled with arthritis, means he needs close monitoring and extra care, so we thought it was time for Major to enjoy a slower pace of life and retire from the Adoption Scheme.

Dear Dylan also suffers from lameness issues, which have been worsening over recent years, so at the start of this year it was decided that he too would be retiring from the scheme.

Dylan has enjoyed a wonderful 14 years as an Adoption Star and Major a fantastic four years. Both have been involved in many activity days, demonstrations and meet-and-greets with their loyal adopters.

Although Major and Dylan are no longer available to new adopters, they will continue to write to existing adopters and they are of course still available to

visit – and cuddle! – at their home here at Redwings Oxhill, open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday!



## Amersham survivor story: Timothy and Cain

Adoption Stars Timothy and Cain were both born at Redwings, shortly after their mums were rescued from Spindle Farm. Cain's mum Leah and Timothy's mum Mary were both painfully thin when they arrived at Redwings in January 2008. But despite both mums carrying foals while suffering from a lack of food, water and basic care, Mary and Leah produced two happy and healthy chaps, who also happened to become the best of friends.

Ten years later and Timothy and Cain have grown up into a friendly pair, who love to be out and about, spreading joy and happiness to those who they visit. Most recently, Timothy and Cain visited Katherine House Hospice to meet the patients there. Over

the Christmas period, the boys also visited Charlecote Garden Store to help raise money for Redwings, greeting visitors throughout the day. What fantastic ambassadors!

## A generous donation

Last year, we received a generous donation of 20 bales of hay from Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground and Nature Reserve. This was the second donation made by owner David Orr in 2017.

Emma Restall Orr, from Sun Rising, said: "As an ethical organisation we are always looking for the most

environmentally and socially ethical option. Mowing our wildflower meadow in August leaves us with 20 – 30 bales of hay, rich in good nutrients.

"Redwings Oxhill is not far from our nature reserve burial ground, and families visiting loved ones laid to rest here will sometimes stop at the Sanctuary as part of their trip, so we knew they would be pleased with our decision."

Sun Rising's generous donation was very much appreciated by all the rescued residents at Redwings Oxhill, and certainly helped keep them fed over the festive period!



# Could you be a Redwings volunteer?

Volunteering is a fun and rewarding way to help Redwings.



From gardening at one of our visitor centres or working behind the scenes in our cafés, to providing essential admin support at our head office, there are so many ways to get involved. Each and every Redwings volunteer is a special part of our team.

Malcolm started volunteering at Redwings Caldecott in 2017, having been a regular visitor to the centre for over 18 years! Malcolm said: "After I retired, I decided I wanted to give something back and meet new people, which is something I missed from my old job."

## Did you know...?

Redwings' Board of Trustees are volunteers. Our trustees govern our operations and ensure Redwings adheres to its responsibilities as a registered charity.

"I am principally the gardener at the Caldecott Visitor Centre, in particular attending to the Memorial Garden. However, I like to help out where I can, so over the summer I can also be found painting picnic tables, hanging up plaques and even changing the bins! I really enjoy volunteering here because I am doing my bit for a fantastic charity, and I never tire of seeing the horses and donkeys each day. I'll carry on doing this for as long as my health holds out!"

Volunteering with us is a fantastic way to make a big difference and we are always looking for more help. So, if you have a few hours to spare, we'd love to hear from you!

To find out more about volunteering at Redwings, visit [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk) or call 01508 481000.

## New volunteering opportunity!

We're looking for volunteers to support our education and learning activities at our visitor centres and to help with our community engagement work. If you're interested in this exciting opportunity, visit our website [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk) or email [hr@redwings.co.uk](mailto:hr@redwings.co.uk)



# They gave us hope. You gave them a home.

**Now let's give the survivors of Amersham another 10 years of health and happiness.**

We will never forget the day we were called to Spindle Farm in Amersham. Memories of that time are filled with the horror of 97 horses and donkeys fighting to survive – and those for whom sadly it was already too late. But in the days after the rescue, a story of hope emerged.

Thanks to our supporters, Redwings has provided a place of safety, happiness and dedicated care for many of the Amersham survivors for the last 10 years. We will continue to do so for years to come. **We can only do this with your help.**

The suffering we witnessed at Spindle Farm was on a scale we had never seen before. Our staff worked tirelessly to help remove every horse and donkey, bringing some of the sickest into our care. And it didn't stop there. Over the coming days, weeks and months, our teams worked around the clock to help the survivors recover, providing emergency treatment and specialist care to 60 horses and donkeys.

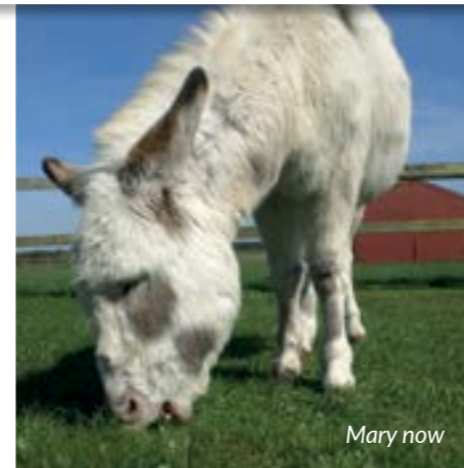
**But despite the terrible suffering and sickness, there was hope.**

Just one day after the rescue and in the care of Redwings, donkey Mary gave



Mary and her foal Timothy who was born just after the rescue

birth to a healthy baby foal, Timothy. **Our staff were moved to think that Mary had waited to be in a place of safety before giving birth.** Timothy's birth gave us hope of a brighter future for the Amersham survivors. We knew it wouldn't be easy. The sheer number of animals needing our attention and the extent of their suffering shocked even our most experienced vets and field officers. But Timothy and Mary were a daily reminder that there could be a happier future for the horses and donkeys taken into our care.



Mary now

And Timothy was only the beginning. In the months that followed, five more Amersham ponies and donkeys went on

to give birth. They are all now enjoying a happy and healthy life at the Sanctuary, along with many other survivors.

**This year we are celebrating the 10th birthdays of our Amersham foals, along with the survival of their brave mums and every horse, pony and donkey that came into our care from Spindle Farm.**

**Will you help us to give survivors like Timothy and Mary a happy and caring home for another 10 years?**

## Brave mums...



Cinders before...



Cinders now

Cinders gave birth to Peter Pan in the safety of a Redwings stable shortly after her rescue.



Elsie before...



Elsie now

Thankfully Elsie gave birth to Tinkerbell at the Sanctuary as her foal needed special veterinary care and would not have survived if left at Spindle Farm.

## A home for life...

Timothy now lives at Redwings Oxhill with best friend Cain, who was born to Amersham survivor Leah. Timothy still needs extra special care because he has a delicate tummy. **Thanks to your support, Redwings will provide a loving and caring home to Timothy, Cain and others like them for the rest of their lives.**

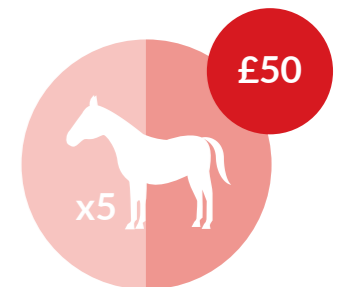


## How you can help...

Every day of care for an Amersham survivor is funded by you.



Helps care for a survivor for a day



Cares for five Amersham survivors for a day



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!



Peter Pan and Tinkerbell never knew the horrors of Amersham, and thanks to you have enjoyed 10 years of health and happiness at Redwings



**Celebrate their survival. Donate today to give the Amersham survivors another 10 years of happiness and care.**

**Call 01508 481000 Text AMSH10 £10 to 70070 or visit [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)**

# Amersham10: Will you remember them?

Many of the Amersham survivors, including those born after their mothers' rescue, will live out their days at our Sanctuary.

Thankfully, the Amersham foals will never know the suffering their mothers endured. We will provide them with a place of safety and specialist care for the rest of their lives.

We can only do this because of people like you.

**It costs between £3,000 and £5,000 to care for each horse or donkey at Redwings for a year.**

Thanks to gifts in Wills from our supporters, we were confident that we could offer a home to so many horses and donkeys rescued from Spindle Farm. And with your support we can help offer so many more rescued horses and donkeys a safe forever home.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a special way to remember Redwings and to help us care for all survivors like Esther and her mum Martha for years to come.

Visit [www.redwings.org.uk/legacies](http://www.redwings.org.uk/legacies) for more information.

## Free Wills Month

March 2018 is Free Wills Month. If you're aged 55 or over, you can make your Will for free. Simply head to [www.freewillsmoth.org.uk](http://www.freewillsmoth.org.uk) to find a participating solicitor or contact our Legacy Officer Katie for more advice and guidance – [legacies@redwings.co.uk](mailto:legacies@redwings.co.uk)

