

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2020

Five years on...

And we can finally tell you about the amazing progress of our rescued 'Dickens' ponies

Making great strides

Meet our 1,000th Stamp Out Strangles pledger!

Well hello again

We welcome back a much-loved favourite to Caldecott

Golden Oldies

Older and definitely wiser! Introducing Red, Willow and their friends...

Plus much more inside...!



Redwings is a special place for older horses. We offer a lifelong home to every one of our residents, providing a calm and caring place of sanctuary for rescued horses and ponies to live out their days with us.

Please support us today to help give older horses and ponies like Willow (our oldest resident!) the extra care they need this year.

Turn to pages 18 and 19 to find out how.

Please donate today:

- 01508 481000
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **WILLOW 10** to **70085** to donate **£10**

(You can also opt to give any whole amount up to £20. All texts cost the donation amount plus a standard rate message.)

Welcome to your spring newsletter for 2020!

It seems like seconds since I was writing the introduction to our last newsletter in the autumn, where has the time gone?!

However much time flies it is always wonderful to be writing to you again and to be able to personally thank you for all your kind support for Redwings. I hope you will enjoy reading all about how your support has made such a positive difference in the lives of our horses and donkeys over the last few months.

In this issue you will find details of our recent rescue work, and the not so recent too, including a case we haven't been allowed to talk to you about for five years (pages 4 and 5). You will find out about our latest education and campaigns work to help make the world a better place for equines on pages 6 and 7, and then on page 8 you can meet a very special sanctuary star called Mr Red Puff, who arrived at Redwings in rather an unusual way!

On page 9 there are even more of our special stars, this time those out making a splash in their Guardian homes. A big thank you must go to one of our super Guardians, Fiona, who has been rehoming horses from Redwings SWHP for over 15 years and I know you are going to love meeting adorable ponies Mrs Tiggywinkle, Denman, Stitch, Lupin and Bobbykins who are bringing happiness wherever they go! I remember many of these lovely girls and boys coming in to the Sanctuary in the first place at not such a pleasant time in their lives, so it's such a joy to see them so happy in their new homes.

We honour a dear friend on page 10, who had another unconventional arrival at Redwings, and there's some exciting news from our visitor centres on the following pages. In particular do look out for some very fancy Father Christmases! Speaking of Santa, on page 17 you'll meet some of the amazing supporters who have literally been going the extra mile to support the charity, and on pages 18 and 19 you'll find out why they do it, as we meet Willow and some of our other dear Golden Oldies and the carers who look after them every day.

I'm so proud of the work every single member of staff and volunteer does here at Redwings and we are all so honoured to have wonderful supporters like you helping us to continue changing the lives of horses across the UK.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy reading all our latest news.

With very best wishes

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive and Secretary

Lynn meets Wiggins the Adoption Star donkey on a recent visit to Hapton



News update...

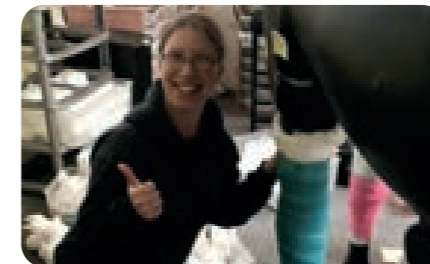
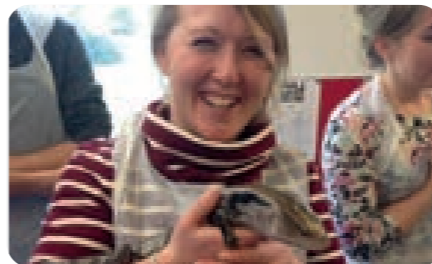
Big news!

Our very successful Redwings Show is on the move! Due to the sheer number of entries we now get every year, we are moving to a larger venue. We are delighted to announce that the 2020 Redwings Show will be held at Trinity Park in Ipswich (home of the Suffolk Show) and that the new date will be 12th July instead of May. You will soon be able to find entry details and a full schedule on our website but in the meantime if you have any questions please do get in touch via info@redwings.co.uk. Spectators welcome! We can't wait to see you all!



Redwings Angels!

Two of our Vet Nursing Assistants have just become qualified EVNs (Equine Veterinary Nurses) registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which means they will be able to help our horses even more by performing essential clinical activities like taking blood samples, administering intravenous medicine, placing catheters and assisting with surgery. Congratulations to Abi and Sarah on their fantastic achievement! Thanks to a contribution from the Audrey Emma Lamb Charitable Trust, two more of our Nursing Assistants are now embarking on the same training; we wish them the best of luck too!



And more #RedwingsAngels

Redwings has been placed 93rd in the 2019 Charity Brand Index! The index is an annual measure of the public's perception of the UK's largest charities. According to the research, Redwings has one of the highest scores (70%) for trustworthiness across the sector and we're in the top 10 for charities that deliver on their promises. Thanks for helping spread the word!



Thank you SRUC Veterinary Services!

SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) has awarded Silver Status to Redwings as part of their Premium Assured Strangles Scheme (PASS). They loved our online hub full of resources to tackle strangles and acknowledged our Stamp Out Strangles campaign for instigating more open and honest discussions around the disease and for encouraging all sectors of the equine community to help treat and prevent it. Read more about our Strangles campaign on pages 6 and 7.

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Write to us!

We'd love to hear your thoughts on our newsletter and find out which features you'd like to see in forthcoming issues.

Write to us at **Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norwich, NR15 1SP** or email info@redwings.co.uk.

Our cover star is gorgeous Taz from Redwings Aylsham, a real Golden Oldie at 29 years old!

And finally... thank you Althorp and CVS!

We received a generous donation of £700 from Althorp House, home of Earl and Lady Spencer, who supported Redwings during their Animals of Althorp Exhibition last Summer. And we were chosen to be the Charity of the Year for CVS (Central Veterinary Services) in 2019 and they raised over £3,000 for us through their vet practices over the year!



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 frontline work from around the UK

Rescuing the unhandled ponies



Round-up of the unhandled ponies

Five years after their rescue, a group of the most fearful ponies Redwings has ever cared for are slowly starting to trust humans again thanks to the perseverance of our Behaviour team.

While two of the 13 ponies - all named after famous Dickens characters - have been successfully rehomed, the extremely complex care needs of the remainder mean they continue to live at our specialist Behaviour Centre in Norfolk.

The group were rescued as part of a multi-agency operation in August 2015 which involved more than 60 feral horses being removed from Ingst Manor Farm near Bristol, after they were found living in unsuitable conditions lacking any basic care. Alongside the unhandled horses, cattle, pigs, sheep and goats were living knee-deep in faeces with no food or water in a yard littered with hazardous old farm machinery.

Following a lengthy court case, the owner of the farm was jailed for 18 months in November 2019 for 27 offences relating to the animals' neglect, meaning we can now reveal the stories of the horses in our care for the first time.

Sarah Hallsworth, Equine Behaviour Manager, said: "They are some of the most fearful ponies we have ever cared for. It was very important for their wellbeing, and our safety, that they became more comfortable around humans as this meant interventions, such as farriery visits and routine veterinary checks, were not as daunting

for them and they could enjoy a happy new life at the Sanctuary."

Thanks to patient and consistent handling training, the ponies have slowly been getting used to being approached in their paddock, wearing headcollars and being led, having their hooves picked out and standing calmly for vaccinations.

Unfortunately it's unlikely that any more of the group will be suitable for rehoming in the future, but they have all been pledged a forever home with us and are making great progress after their ordeal.



Flite, Maylie and Peggoty at Redwings today

Sussex Horse Rescue Trust

Just before Christmas, we offered a new home to 19 rescued horses, ponies and donkeys from Sussex Horse Rescue Trust (SHRT); a charity that has sadly decided to close due to financial difficulties. Closure is an

option no charity ever wishes to take and our thoughts are with the staff who worked tirelessly for many years to help horses in need. As Redwings specialises in sanctuary care, we have offered a home to the equines who have high-dependency needs, long-term veterinary conditions or require expert handling due to behavioural issues. They are all now being cared

for near our Horse Hospital in Norfolk and will eventually be integrated into our herds at the Sanctuary. We'd like to say a big thank you to the staff at SHRT who helped the collection go as smoothly as possible during what must be a very difficult time.

In 2019 we took in more than 100 horses and ponies from other sanctuaries and rescue centres.

New home for rescued Arabs

You may remember the sad story of 31 Arabian horses rescued from desperate squalor from a site in Blackpool in September 2018.

Many of the horses were suffering from crippling lameness caused by severely overgrown hooves and had to be broken out of their stables due to the piles of dirty bedding stacked up against the doors.

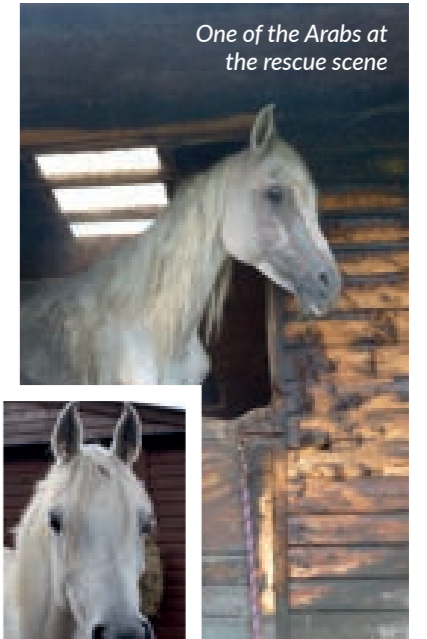
Redwings Vet Roxane Kirton, who attended the rescue, said: "I have never seen horses in so much pain before. I was shocked and horrified at the conditions they were living in and I've seen some terrible cases of neglect over the years."

After their former owner was successfully prosecuted in July

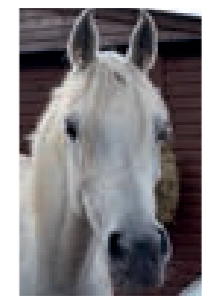
2019, the RSPCA began looking for loving new homes for the surviving horses, and in September 2019 we welcomed five in need of specialist care into the Sanctuary.

Sadly since their arrival, and following thorough veterinary assessments, the heart-breaking decision was made to put two of the horses to sleep when it became clear their quality of life was being seriously impacted by ongoing health issues as a result of their past neglect, including lameness, liver disease and problems with their teeth.

The remaining three Arabs currently live close to our Horse Hospital in Norfolk where our vet team continues to aid them in their recovery.



One of the Arabs at the rescue scene



Mademoiselle now

A second chance for Tasha



Tasha on arrival

When Tasha came to Redwings in May 2019 she was underweight and had been suffering from the infectious disease strangles. She was also in foal!

Having been originally rescued by the RSPCA and treated by House & Jackson vets, we were approached to give Tasha a new home due to our expertise with the disease.

Luckily, Tasha was already on the mend and after her arrival she gave birth to a healthy foal in June, named Jackson in honour of the vets who had helped her.

Her former owner pleaded guilty in November 2019 to her neglect and was given a community sentence.

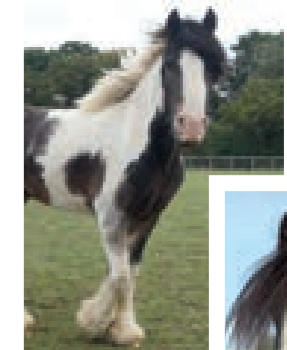
Today, Tasha and Jackson live in a herd of other young ponies near our Horse Hospital in Norfolk. Turn to pages 6 and 7 to find out more about our efforts to help horses with strangles like Tasha.



Tasha and Jackson

And finally...

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated towards the care of Fig and Clarence, who featured in our New Year and Christmas appeals. We have been overwhelmed at the response to their stories. Both ponies were callously left without the care they needed and it's thanks to you that we were able to turn their lives around.



Clarence today



Fig today

Meet our 1,000th Stamp Out Strangles pledger!

In November 2019, a year after we launched the Stamp Out Strangles campaign, we were delighted to welcome our 1,000th pledger! Meet horse owner Sofia from Norwich who showed her commitment to helping protect horses from infectious disease by signing up at our stand at the London Vet Show.

Like all our pledgers, Sofia has joined a fast-growing network of people who want to do more to look after their horse's health. To help everyone put their pledge into practice, our regular campaign emails share practical tips and advice drawn from Redwings' own expertise and experience.

Sign up or find out more at www.redwings.org.uk/strangles



Save the date and spread the word!

After a great year in 2019, we want to make even more impact on strangles in 2020! One key date for your diary is **Monday 4th May**, which will be the start of the first Strangles Awareness Week.

Strangles has thrived on the stigma that has traditionally surrounded it, and to help Stamp Out Strangles, we need to Stamp Out Stigma! The week will get as many people as possible who own, care for, ride or just love horses raising awareness of strangles, remembering it can happen to anyone and showing support for anyone who is unlucky enough to be affected by an outbreak.

To help make a real splash, Redwings is joining forces with other organisations across the UK who are as passionate about protecting horses from strangles as we are. There will be a whole host of information, activities and ways to get involved throughout the week, at events and online.

Whether or not you own a horse, help us make even more of a difference by looking out for Strangles Awareness Week updates on our website and social media – it's going to be quite an event!

www.redwings.org.uk/strangles



Is the Stamp Out Strangles campaign making a difference?

Protecting horses from strangles isn't just about knowing about the disease and how to prevent it, it's about turning that knowledge into action. To make sure that the Stamp Out Strangles campaign is making a real difference to individual horses across the UK, in November, we asked our pledgers to complete a short survey to tell us how their pledge had impacted them and their horse or yard. We were absolutely delighted with the results, which suggest the campaign is helping people to make real, practical changes in the ways they care for their horses:

- Three quarters of the horse owners said their biosecurity standards had improved since they pledged
- Almost half of the yard managers (49%) told us they had introduced or updated the checks they carry out on new horses to ensure a new arrival is not bringing disease onto the yard
- More than two-thirds of horse owners (70%) said they would be more likely to have their horse checked by a vet if they had strangles to make sure it did not become a carrier – a vital step to help prevent fresh disease outbreaks
- Almost three-quarters (73%) of everyone surveyed said they felt more knowledgeable and confident about preventing or managing strangles because of the campaign
- Nearly two-thirds of people said they were more comfortable talking about strangles having taken the pledge
- Everyone who responded said they would recommend the Stamp Out Strangles pledge to others – that's 100% support for what we are doing!

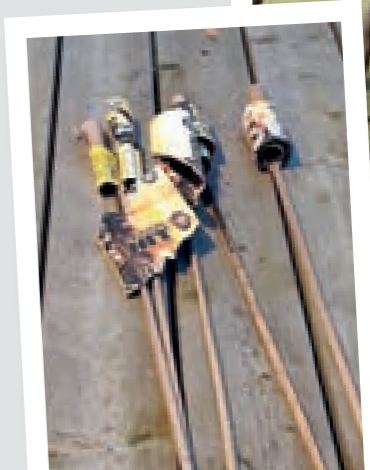


Getting fired up about fireworks

The huge response we had to our Facebook posts about fireworks last autumn made it clear that our supporters are passionate about the fear these explosive devices can cause in horses and other animals. More than 5,000 of you commented and shared Cinders' story in an effort to raise awareness over the fireworks season. Thank you!

In the light of this, we have reviewed the issue and have made a statement on our website so please do visit www.redwings.org.uk to find out more. Fireworks is a hot topic that goes beyond equine welfare and touches the hearts of people who are passionate about the wellbeing of small animals and wildlife as well as vulnerable people. We are pleased to say that all our residents got through fireworks season without any major events this year.

We'd like to say a personal thank you to any of our supporters who held or attended displays for notifying local equine premises including our own sites.



Cinders pictured above and (left) fireworks found at one of our sites



Mr Red Puff shows off his fancy new shoes!



Suits you Sir!

Mr Red Puff, or 'Red' for short, has lived at our Hapton centre for over 10 years, ever since his previous owner Vicky contacted us for help. Vicky loved Red dearly but due to a change in her personal circumstances she desperately needed to rehome him. Everything was in place for him to go to a new home, but as the lorry set off Red panicked and caused himself an injury to his leg. Red was previously involved in an incident in a horse trailer and because of this he was still extremely distressed about being transported.

Vicky realised it would be virtually impossible to rehome him unless she found him a home nearby, so she approached Redwings for our help as they didn't live far from our Hapton HQ. In these exceptional circumstances we were happy to help secure Red's future and so Red and Vicky rode over to Redwings together – the only horse ever to arrive with us this way!

Red is now 29 years old! He lives with one of our Golden Oldie groups at Hapton and is a bit of a VIP with the care team here who love him dearly - even though he has been known to

cause a bit of havoc in his old age! He requires a high level of care as he has various age-related issues, including respiratory problems and PPID (sometimes referred to as Cushing's Disease), which can also make him prone to laminitis, a painful condition of the feet. Because of this, Red has to have his weight monitored regularly, so the vet staff have ordered some special shoes for him so when he needs to walk up to the Horse Hospital to be weighed he can do so without it hurting his feet...yes really!

Vicky comes to visit him regularly. She said: "Although Red is now officially an OAP (old aged pony) he has continued to thrive under the care of the dedicated staff and veterinary team at Redwings and has recently been integrated into a new herd of similar OAPs that are more suited to his specific dietary needs. I am truly grateful to Redwings for everything they have done for myself and Red, in offering him a permanent home and safe and happy environment to live out the rest of his days peacefully. And I was over the moon to hear that Red was going to be featured in the newsletter!"

Read about more of our amazing Golden Oldies and the care they receive on pages 18 and 19.



Sara and Tiggy. Photo with thanks to Nicky Rhodes Photography

A lifelong commitment to rehoming

Following Redwings' merger with SWHP in Wales (Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies), we welcomed lots of new Guardians to the Redwings family. One of these Guardians, Fiona Williams, has offered a loving home to not one, but 12 rescued horses from SWHP since 2006, as well as supporting the charity by offering to check homes for other prospective Guardians.

Fiona said: "We rehomed our first SWHP ponies when my twins were five and a half years old. Two children meant we needed two ponies and SWHP had a constant supply of ponies needing homes!" As her children grew up, Fiona and her family have

played a key role in the ongoing training of these ponies, taking them on to give them valuable initial experience of life in a home that has enabled them to go on to find happy long-term homes as children's ponies. They are now the proud Guardians of Mrs Tiggywinkle (Tiggy) and Denman. Fiona explained: "When Tiggy was rescued by SWHP in 2010 she was so weak she had to be supported in a sling for many days. She came to us in 2014 and tried her hoof at several equestrian disciplines, but we soon found that endurance riding was her thing! So much so, that, with my daughter Sara, she represented Wales at the Endurance GB Home International (Wales) and Celtic Challenge ride in October 2019."



Go Stitch!

In 2019, Redwings Stitch and her Guardian Rebecca Needham competed at the Riding for the Disabled National Championships at Hartpury College. Poignantly, this marked a decade since Stitch's rescue, alongside 10 other ponies, who had been abandoned, were in poor condition and were suffering from worm burdens. Competing in the Intellectual Disability Dressage Championships, they came third out of 25 riders! Rebecca said: "Stitch is not just my competition pony, she is also my therapy pony. I have dyspraxia (a coordination disorder) and autism, and she is always there for me on the good or bad days with my balance or coordination problems. Over the last year she has built up my confidence and ability in riding as she is always so patient and understanding when I am struggling."

And finally...

We couldn't resist telling you about the super-cute home that Redwings Lupin and Redwings Bobbykins share with the Densham family in Suffolk. The ponies are adored by children Lola, Alfred and Liberty and the whole family go for rides around the woods complete with treasure hunts and hot chocolate stops – how wonderful!



Special Feature: Redwings Caldecott

We welcome an old friend...



amazing Norfolk artist Connie Adam, and has now taken up permanent residence at the centre of our brand-new Memory Garden. He is modelled on our beloved former Adoption Star Welbeck who many of you will remember retired to Redwings after serving for many years as a police horse. Heroic Welbeck was even on duty on the day of the tragic Hillsborough disaster and was retired to us shortly afterwards, where he enjoyed 13 years living in the peace and quiet of the Sanctuary.

We felt a tribute to Welbeck would be fitting as he was such a popular boy, but the sculpture also stands as a tribute to all our amazing rescued residents, past and present. Even more than that, 'Welbeck' and the Memory Garden will provide a welcoming and reflective space for our supporters to remember their own lost loved ones. Situated in a former paddock no longer suitable for grazing, the garden takes pride of place near our wonderful horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. They all seem to have accepted Welbeck with surprisingly little fuss!

You can see a video of the sculpture's unconventional arrival at Redwings Caldecott on our website www.redwings.org.uk or YouTube Channel. Find out more about Connie and see a step-by-step photo gallery of Welbeck's creation on her website www.casculpture.com.

There have been some very strange goings on at our Caldecott Visitor Centre.

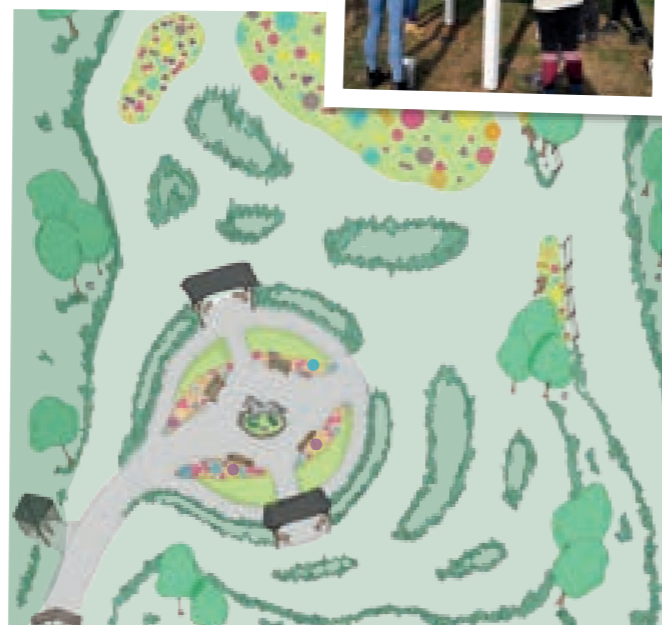
A couple of months ago a horse trailer arrived to unload a new resident, but this one was rather unusual to say the least! This life-size wire horse sculpture was created by

Remembering a loved one in *The Memory Garden*

The Memory Garden at Redwings Caldecott will soon open to the public, providing a beautiful place of reflection for all our visitors. With space to sit or walk, taking in the tranquil surroundings, the garden is also home to very special tributes to lost loved ones and pets. We offer a range of memorial options, including stainless steel plaques, engraved slate memorial stones and memorial benches, all available to purchase for placement in the garden. Contact our team on 01508 481000, visit our website or email info@redwings.co.uk.

We are extremely grateful to a number of local businesses and sponsors whose support has helped to make this project possible, including Peaceful Pets and MARS Horsecare UK Ltd. A special thanks also goes to the team at Aviva who gave up their time to help get work underway on the garden.

Thank you so much everyone!



Events, celebrations and holidays at Redwings Caldecott



We are pleased to announce that you will be able to spend even more time with our four-legged friends with the addition of corporate facilities and event space at Redwings Caldecott.

Both the meeting rooms and the Marquee will be available for private hire and weddings from spring 2020. They will also be home to Redwings' own events – keep an eye on our website for details!

Redwings Caldecott will also become the first Redwings centre to offer holiday accommodation. The holiday suite includes three double rooms, a lounge area and kitchenette, making it the perfect family retreat for a long weekend. All proceeds from the hire of these new facilities help to care for our rescued residents so you can enjoy your

time with us in the knowledge that you are helping horses and donkeys in need.

To enquire about any of the facilities at Caldecott visit www.redwings.org.uk, email info@redwings.co.uk or pop into the centre.



Traditional Christmas Fayre

Redwings hosted its first ever Christmas Fayre at The Marquee at Caldecott on Sunday 8th December – see page 14 to find out more!

If you are interested in joining us as a guest or supplier for more events like this in 2020, keep an eye on our social media pages and website for upcoming events.



Special thanks to:

Give It Some Beans Coffee



Local roasters who also supply their delicious coffee in our gift shops

Kirsty's Cakery



Redwings supporter and master baker Kirsty's tearooms are located in the house where *Black Beauty* author Anna Sewell was born

Wymondham Young Farmers



Selling Christmas trees to raise funds for fellow charity EACH

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



Happy birthday Dotty!

Last September, a year after her arrival at the Sanctuary, spotty Adoption Star Dotty celebrated her very first birthday as a Redwings Adoption Star. You may remember that Dotty arrived at Redwings Ada Cole in 2018 with incredibly

overgrown hooves that were causing her extreme pain. Since her arrival, Dotty has made a brilliant recovery from her ordeal and has been such a hit with her visitors that she just had to join the Adoption Scheme.

Having already been a VIP guest at fellow retired Adoption Star Del Boy's party, Dotty was familiar with the drill for her big day. Her fourth birthday

began with a lovely groom, to get her party ready for all her fans, before she got to say hello during the parade. But without a doubt, her favourite part of the day was her very own cake that spelt out "Dotty", which she got to share with each of her long-eared pals.

Dotty certainly enjoyed her day, and is already looking forward to her fifth birthday on Sunday 27th September.

Spot the Santa!

On Sunday 8th December, Redwings Ada Cole visitor centre team members Emily, Michelle and Ayse pulled on their running shoes and took part in a 5km Santa run around Victoria Park in London dressed up in their Santa costumes.

Emily told us why they chose to don their Santa suits and run for Redwings.

She said: "Redwings Horse Sanctuary is an incredible charity that we all love and are proud to be a part of. As team members of the visitor centre at Redwings Ada Cole, we get to see first-hand how kind and generous our

supporters are, as well as the hard work that goes into caring for these amazing animals, and the difference Redwings has made to their lives."

We want to say a big thank you to Emily, Michelle and Ayse, who raised an incredible £1,040! They were also crowned the winners of the Best Fancy Dressed Santa competition out of 3,000 runners and were featured in the Sun and on BBC News! You can see a very entertaining video of their trip on our YouTube channel!



If you are inspired to do some fundraising for Redwings, we would love to hear from you! If you would like a fundraising pack or just need a little encouragement along the way, do get in touch by emailing info@redwings.co.uk or by calling us on 01508 481000.

Hello, I'm Tinkerbell! I was born at Redwings after my mum was rescued from the horrifying conditions of Spindle Farm, Buckinghamshire. You can adopt me from just £15 a year.



REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



Well hello Long Ears!

Last year we welcomed two new long-eared arrivals to Redwing Aylsham bringing the total number of donkey residents to six!

Donkey duo Iris and Mabel became best friends after arriving at the Sanctuary at the same time back in August 2018. Iris had sadly lost her companion, and her owner became concerned about her welfare. Meanwhile Mabel's owner was struggling with the care of Mabel and her cob companion. After Mabel was introduced as a new friend to Iris, the pair instantly bonded and have



been inseparable ever since – it was a match made in heaven! If you're visiting Redwings Aylsham, make sure you stop to say hello and welcome the two new arrivals to the centre! (But don't forget to give the other donkeys a tickle too!)

New wellbeing initiatives put Redwings Aylsham at the heart of the community

We're pleased to say that Redwings Aylsham is now the meeting place for two local community groups that are hoping to help improve wellbeing,

and tackle loneliness in Aylsham and the surrounding areas. One group, run by the mental health charity Mind, meets at Redwings Aylsham on the first

Friday of every month, and is a popular wellbeing group hoping to get local people together to socialize and make new friends. These friends could be of the four-legged variety as well of course, and the members of the group have already adopted 'Wiggins and Wacko the Wellbeing Donkeys'!

The other group is run by the charity Community Action Norfolk (CAN), which aims to provide support for people and communities affected by loneliness and isolation. Their sessions, which are held at Redwings Aylsham on the third Friday of every month, launched in January and we wish it every success! If you'd like to join in with either of these groups we know you'd be most welcome!



Hi! I'm Wacko – one half of donkey duo Wiggins and Wacko! We are best friends who just love to cause havoc! Adopt us from just £15 a year and we'll keep you updated with all our news!

Banishing the winter blues!

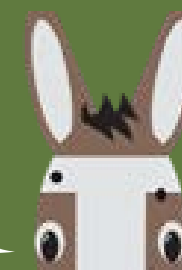
Our vets and equine carers shared their top tips for looking after your horse through the colder months during a free evening seminar held at Redwings Aylsham in October.

The event was additionally exciting as it was filmed by That's TV Norfolk – you can still watch a report from the evening on the channel's YouTube page!

Head of Veterinary Care, Nicky Jarvis, spoke on a wide range of seasonal topics, including winter weight management and supporting older equines or those with ongoing health issues.

Meanwhile Sam Allchurch, Norfolk Estates Manager, shared the latest research into when to rug and not to rug a horse, with recent findings suggesting that over-rugging can have a real impact on a horse's welfare.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for news of this year's upcoming veterinary seminars.



Caldecott Christmas Fayre



demonstrations and pick up tips to make your Christmas day dinner plans go perfectly!

Visitors were also able to enjoy a delicious hot chocolate or mulled wine whilst browsing the stands and popular Adoption Star donkey Esther

Caldecott played host to its first ever Traditional Christmas Fayre on Sunday 8th December.

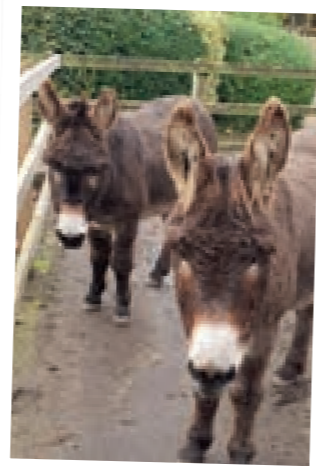
Christmas shoppers were able to enjoy and browse a wide variety of stalls that were showcasing unique goods including handmade jewellery, wreaths, children's toys and delicious artisan food. In fact, if food was your thing you could even enjoy some cookery

made a guest appearance and enjoyed much fuss from everyone!

We raised over £2,000 that day so huge thanks to everyone who attended, and big thanks to The Banqueting Hire Service who generously donated the tables used by our stallholders, saving us enough extra money to care for a horse or donkey for two whole weeks this winter!

Seeing double!

Last year we told you about one of our donkeys, Addison, who went to live at Roarr! Dinosaur Adventure in Norfolk to become a new best friend for the park's lonely donkey Arnie. After a wonderful year together, the park informed us last autumn that Arnie had sadly passed away, and they asked if they could take on another donkey to be a companion for Addison. We're delighted to say that Ryan, a donkey who had previously lived with Addison at Redwings Caldecott, has now gone to join him. The pair have reignited their former friendship and are both getting on well. The only trouble is it's not too easy to tell them apart!



Altogether now, aw!



We're delighted to tell you that the first horses have been rehomed from our brand new rehoming facilities at

Redwings Caldecott. One of them was Strawberry Shortcake who went to her new home in October 2019. Strawberry Shortcake was rescued just three years ago, severely underweight and suffering from Strangles at Appleby Horse Fair. She has made a full recovery and has found a new home with Guardian Kim, and her daughters Poppy and Millie, aged seven, and Ruby, aged four, after Kim spotted her during a trip to the centre.

Kim explained: "We saw her being tacked up for one of her training sessions. The

team told us that she would soon be looking for a home as a lead-rein pony and I instantly fell in love with her.

"She is doing really well and her little character is starting to shine. We are taking things slowly with her and hopefully next year we might be able to start thinking about gymkhanas and some shows. She is very much loved and the girls think the world of her."

Hello, I'm Lily! I'm a little dapple grey pony and you'll never find me far from my best friend Satin's side. You can adopt me from just £15 a year.

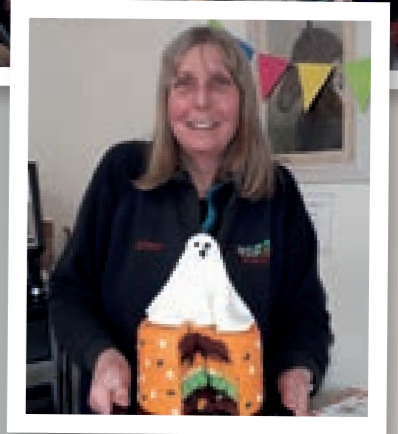


Mountains fun and festivities!

The team from Redwings Mountains excelled themselves in the creativity department during 2019, firstly with their cake creations in the Redwings Bake Off Challenge and then again for the Redwings Most Festive Team Competition!

Staff from across Redwings took part in the Autumn/Halloween themed Bake Off Challenge back in October and the Mountains Team conjured up bakes which included skulls, ghosts, chocolate fingers and even tombstone brownies!

In December they got their creative Santa hats on, as well as excessive amounts of tinsel, and produced a brilliant Christmas music video which involved cameos from many of Redwings Mountains' rescued residents, plus haynet filling, yard sweeping and other activities that are vital to caring for our residents over Christmas. They even customised the song lyrics (with apologies to Shakin' Stevens!). If you haven't enjoyed it already you can see the video over on our YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/user/RedwingsHS



Would like to meet...

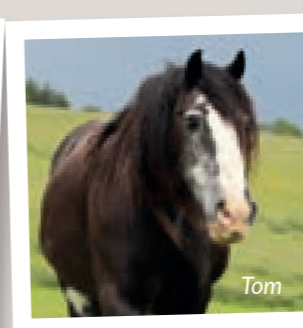
With over 80 horses, ponies, donkeys and mules living at Redwings Mountains, it's difficult deciding who to meet first! Here are a few of our most distinctive residents who you could come across on your visit.

Molly is a favourite amongst visitors – and it's not difficult to see why! She is a hinny (a rare cross between a female donkey and a male pony). Molly loves a fuss and often lends a helping hoof with our activities during the school holidays.

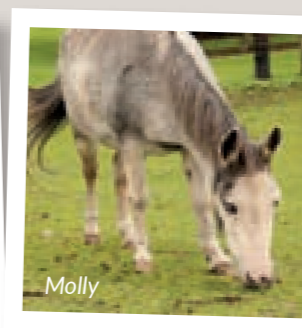
Stunning Laddie is a 22-year-old Highland x Thoroughbred. He came to Mountains in 2002 with behavioural issues and great time and effort has gone into helping him overcome these. He is a beautiful boy who continues to impress visitors with his handsome looks and lovely nature. At the grand age of 30, Tom is our oldest Mountains resident! Redwings Mountains Centre Manager Catherine said: "Tom is enjoying his retirement here and he is a lovely mannered gentleman."



Laddie



Tom



Molly

Psst... did you know?

This summer, you'll have the chance to spend your birthday at Redwings Mountains, with a jam-packed schedule of activities, including meet and greets, a mini vet session, pony or donkey grooming and a free adoption for the birthday girl or boy! Parties will run on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** from **30th June** until **11th August** and prices including catering are £20 per person. Contact us to find out more.

Hi there! I'm Gibson! I arrived at Mountains when I was a two-day-old orphaned foal and needed round-the-clock care. You can adopt me from just £15 a year.



Helping to protect wildlife

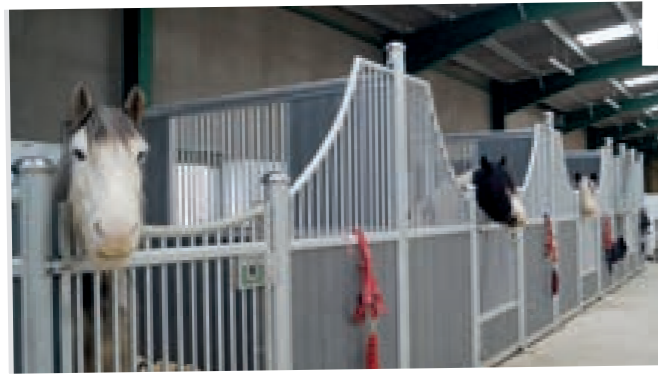
At Redwings, we are committed to providing a safe and caring lifelong home for our rescued residents, but as landowners, we want to ensure we provide a suitable habitat for local wildlife too! Here at Redwings Mountains, we're incredibly lucky to see an abundance of wildlife, from red squirrels and pine martens to hares and hawks. To make sure they continue to have a safe and sustainable home, over the last year we have been carrying out essential forestry works to help regenerate an area of woodland needing attention. With careful replanting, we will be able to provide a great habitat for local wildlife for many years to come.



Oxhill Warwickshire, CV35 0RP

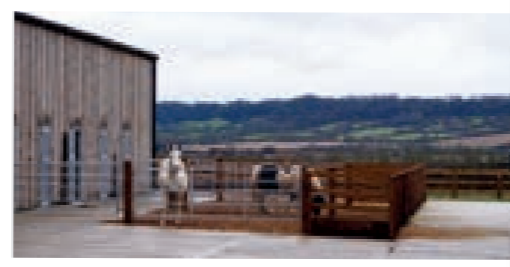
REDWINGS

Time for school!



Our rehoming centre at Oxhill is now in operation! It has been a long road but we are so thrilled to see the place starting to fill up with horses and ponies in training ready to find some lovely new Guardian homes.

Residents Robin and Estelle plus Mocha, Kellogg and Kedgerree (all from our Breakfast Club rescue) have already

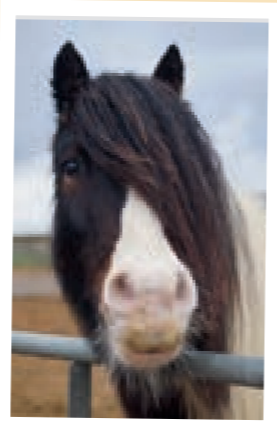


started to train as ridden ponies and Little My, Olivia and Bagel are having handling training to prepare them to be rehomed as non-ridden companions. Keep an eye on our website as,

providing they complete their training, they will be listed on there once they are ready to be rehomed.

The next stage of this project is to do some work to the 'special care end' at Oxhill, where the visitor centre is located, as the stable blocks, fencing and donkey area are very tired and need some refreshing... and in some

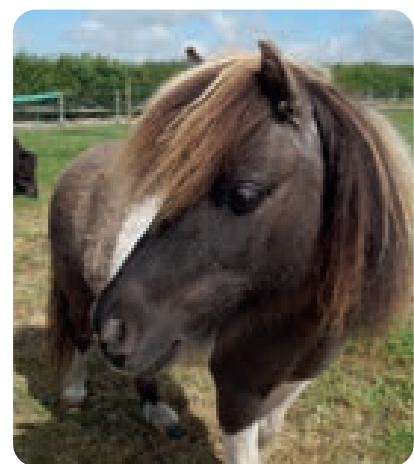
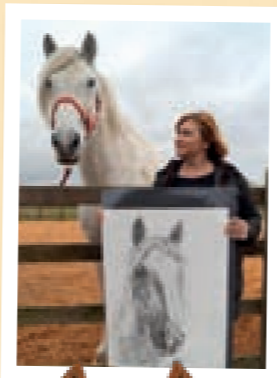
cases completely rebuilding! So please bear with us in 2020 as we carry out a programme of works to improve things. The centre will still be open to visitors and we would absolutely love to see you, but we apologise in advance for any inconvenience. As you will appreciate, our priority has to be keeping our horses, visitors and contractors safe!



Oxhill's Jay is a supermodel!

After spotting a photo of handsome Redwings Oxhill resident Jay on our Instagram page, local equine artist Rebecca Judge set out to draw our lovely boy. In order to create the beautiful piece, Rebecca starts by drawing a grid on the original photo and then draws the same grid onto her paper. She then begins to add as much shading as possible, before drawing even smaller grids onto her image to help her add the finer details. The finished piece takes about 40 hours to complete!

Rebecca also donated one of her equine prints which will go towards raising funds for the horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in our care nationwide. Thank you so much Rebecca!



Very sad news

It was a very sad start to the year for the Oxhill team when our beloved Adoption Star Wensley sadly passed away. Wensley was rescued from Lincolnshire in 2004 as part of our 'cheese group'

and was a very popular member of the Oxhill herd. He had been struggling with a few health issues over the past few months but it was a big shock when he came down with an attack of colic over Christmas. Colic is a very nasty condition affecting the digestive system, and it can affect any horse at any age. Wensley had several trips to the vets but they could not find the cause and no treatment seemed to help him. On Friday 3rd January his condition was clearly getting worse and in the end the vets had no choice but to put him to sleep to ensure he did not suffer any further. The team are very upset to lose such a special chap and we will never forget him.

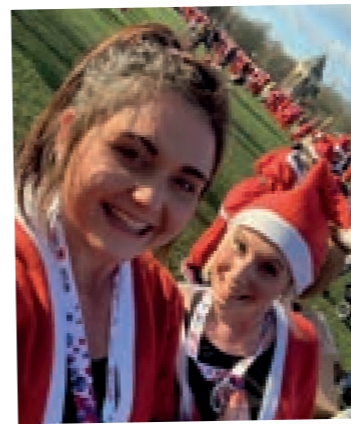
If you adopted Wensley you should have received a letter letting you know what will happen next. If you didn't receive this please do get in touch with us, thank you.

Hi, I'm Lady and I'm a three-year-old Shire horse. See if you can spot my special heart-shaped marking! You can be my friend from just £15 a year.



Super Supporters!

A run to remember



In early December, a group of five friends put on their Santa costumes to run the 5k Santa Run in London's Victoria Park for a very special cause. The group chose to fundraise for Redwings in memory of their best friend Jamie, who sadly passed away last year, aged 27. Georgia, one of the runners, said: "We chose Redwings because Jamie absolutely loved horses and was so passionate about looking after and protecting animals. Jamie had lived at various yards and worked very closely with horses both in the UK and in New Zealand. Although Jamie has been taken from us far too soon we can continue to support a cause close to his heart so his kindness and caring nature lives on through us." We were so touched to hear Georgia's story and we send our thanks to the group for their heartfelt support.



Thank you to all our volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role here at Redwings and we are fortunate to have had support from several company volunteer groups in 2019. Between them all, they donated a whopping 876 hours last year! These include:

- Teams from Arcadis and Stansted Airport visited Redwings Ada Cole in Essex to help with a variety of tasks, including painting paddock fences, cleaning stable windows and polishing the plaques in our memorial garden.
- A group from Aviva visited Redwings' HQ to help prepare some of our paddocks for the winter, including sprucing up field shelters and installing cosy winter bedding for our residents. Another Aviva team visited Redwings Caldecott to help get work underway on our new Memory Garden (see page 10).
- Coventry Building Society volunteers visited Redwings Oxhill to help design and create a donkey enrichment maze using ginger nut biscuits and carrots.

Turn to the back page for more information on how you can help Redwings by volunteering your time.



Rumpel the superstar!

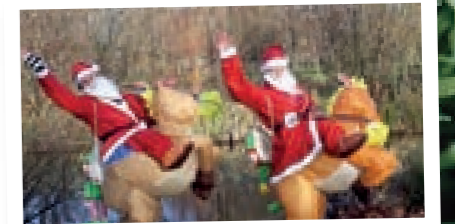
Huge thanks to everyone at Equilibrium Products who kindly supported Redwings at Christmas by donating the net profits from their 'Crunchits' Advent Calendar and Christmas cracker horse treats



to help us care for our residents. What's more, they made Adoption Star Rumpel the star of last year's Advent Calendar and caused a stir at the Your Horse Live event by hiding Rumpel (in his cuddly toy form!) around the event and driving show-goers into a frenzy trying to find him (and encouraging their customers to donate to Redwings at the same time!) Thanks Equilibrium for your kind support!

Galloping Santas!

Also taking part in the Santa Run London were three fabulously festive fundraisers from Redwings Ada Cole - see page 12 to find out how they got on!



And finally... a true Redwings Angel!

An extra special thank you to Betty Watkins who has been attending car boot sales to raise funds for Redwings for many years and has raised more than - wait for it - £42,000 for the charity!!! Betty you are an absolute superstar, thank you so much for your outstanding support from all of us at Redwings.

Feeling inspired? We always love hearing from anyone looking to fundraise through events in the community. Contact us at fundraising@redwings.co.uk or call 01508 481000.

A special wish for Willow

Help us keep our 'Golden Oldies' happy and healthy, all year round.

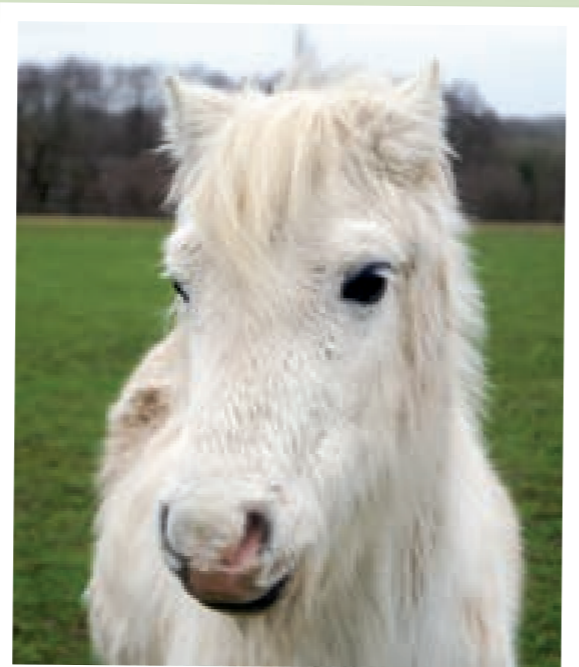
Redwings is a special place for older horses. We offer a lifelong home to every one of our residents, providing a calm and caring place of sanctuary for rescued horses and ponies to live out their days. With our extensive

experience of caring for horses of all ages and backgrounds, Redwings is able to offer the extra love, patience and understanding that many older horses need to cope with age-related ailments.

All this is thanks to you, our supporters. **With your help today we can continue providing the extra love and care our older residents need.**

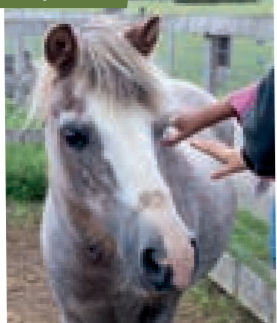
Happy Birthday Willow!

Pony Willow holds a special title at Redwings. Having just turned 42, she is our oldest Sanctuary resident! Like many of our older residents, Willow needs extra care for her diet, as her aged teeth mean she cannot grind harder food like hay. We soak her food for her and weigh her regularly to ensure she is always getting the right amount to eat. Sweet and gentle Willow continues to live happily alongside her friends at our HQ, where she is part of a group of older horses, all with special dietary needs – including Mr Red Puff, whose story you can read on page 8.



To celebrate Willow's birthday, we asked some of our teams to nominate their own 'Golden Oldie' stars...

Ruby (31)

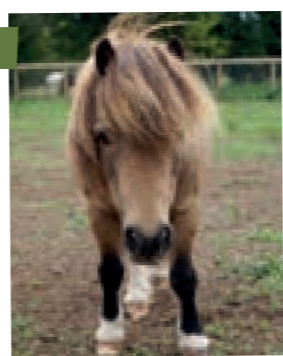


Lindy (27)

Redwings Ada Cole, Essex

"Ruby and Lindy are affectionately known as our 'grannies'. They both need daily medicine for their ailments, including arthritis, but Ruby really is the sweetest pony I've ever met. She loves a wither scratch so much that she will walk up and stop right in front of us until we scratch her!"
Hollie, Redwings Ada Cole

Joe (18)



Redwings SWHP, Chepstow

"When Joe arrived at SWHP (before the merger with Redwings), he had severely overgrown and curled feet which caused a rotational deformity in his front legs. To keep him comfortable, he needs regular trims from a farrier all year round and extra care and patience from the team when handling his feet. Joe is a super sweet lad; he is the oldest and smallest of his bunch of miniature buddies but he has plenty of personality to make up for it!"

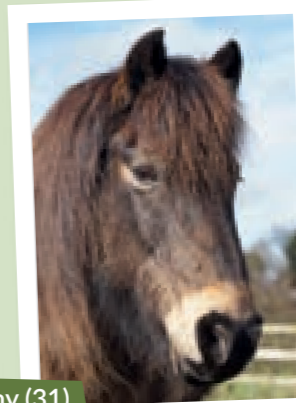
Vicky, Redwings SWHP

Did you know? A horse over 15 is called a 'veteran'; over 20 is considered 'geriatric'

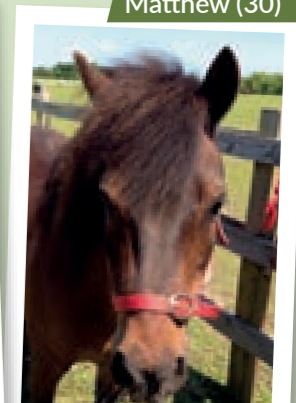
Redwings Caldecott, Norfolk

"Ponies Meeny and Matthew both suffer from arthritis, requiring pain relief twice a day. Being native ponies, they grow lovely thick coats, but now they are elderly they need a rug when it gets really cold. In the warmer months, they suffer from sweet itch, so from March to October we put a special lotion on them. And because both ponies suffer with discharge from their eyes, the team carefully clean around their eyes every day to prevent them getting sore."

Laura, Redwings Caldecott



Meeny (31)



Matthew (30)



Shamrock (26)

Redwings Mountains, Forfar

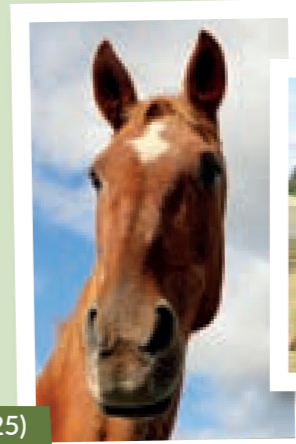
"As well as requiring daily pain medication for arthritis, Shamrock suffers with leg mites all year round. This can be difficult to manage but we keep him as comfortable as we can. In the summer, he has his legs clipped and we give him medicated leg washes, topical creams and antibiotics if he needs them, bless him!"

Catherine, Redwings Mountains

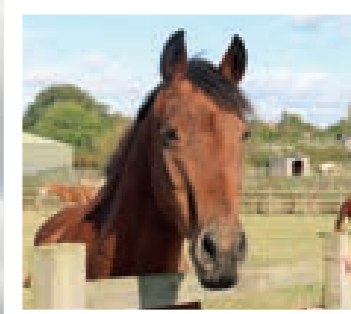
Redwings Aylsham, Norfolk

"Bob and Taz don't have very good teeth nowadays, with a few gaps here and there (which goes with being old). They receive feed but Taz often gets a build-up of grass in his front teeth, which his carers have to pick out very gently. Bob suffers from mud fever so he has a special treatment three times a week to prevent him getting sore cracked heels. Both Bob and Taz need regular medication for their arthritis too, but they are both such lovely and happy horses. Bob is really friendly with visitors and often stands at the fence as he loves a fuss."

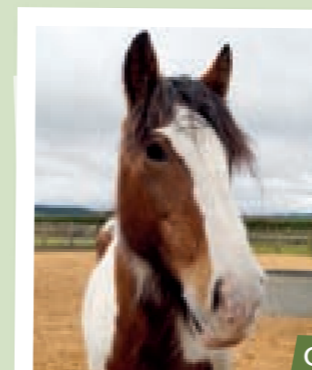
Charlotte, Redwings Aylsham



Bob (25)



Taz (29)



Oliver (27)

Redwings Oxhill, Warwickshire

"Our Golden Oldie star would have to be Oliver. He is a lovely gentleman with excellent manners. He has asthma but he will always stand perfectly still for us to give his inhaler."

Rachel, Redwings Oxhill

Please donate today:

Caring for our older residents requires a lot of time, patience and understanding, but we think they are worth it!

Please help us care for them by donating today*.

- 01508 481000 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **WILLOW 20** to **70085** to donate **£20**

(You can also opt to give any amount – whole £s only – up to £20. All texts cost the donation amount plus a standard rate message).

* Thank you for your gift. We will use your donation wherever it is needed the most and it could help to fund the ongoing care of all our residents, including our older horse and donkey herds.



Thank you!

A lasting gift for ponies like Willow: *remembering Redwings in your Will*

Redwings offers a lifelong home to each and every one of our residents, providing everything our rescued horses and ponies need to live out their days with us. This commitment is made possible thanks to some very special supporters...

Last year, more than 300 people helped provide for the future of our rescued residents by remembering Redwings in their Wills. Gifts in Wills touch the lives of all our rescued horses and donkeys, from helping to provide emergency care packages for our new arrivals, to funding the ongoing special care that older residents like Willow need.

Will you consider being part of our future too?

To learn more about leaving a gift to Redwings in your Will, please call our Legacy Officer Katie on 01508 481030 or email legacies@redwings.co.uk.

Thank you.



Give the gift of time: *volunteering for Redwings*



Giving up some of your precious time to our Sanctuary is a fantastic way to get involved with Redwings and in turn help the horses in our care. Whether it is gardening, maintenance, helping at events, administration, customer relations or even lending an extra pair of hands in our busy visitor centres, you will have the satisfaction that you are continually helping our very special rescued residents. We also welcome support from larger groups who wish to spend the day donating their time and hard work to help us.

For more information about volunteering with us and to see our current volunteer roles, visit www.redwings.org.uk/work-for-us/volunteering, call us on 01508 481000 or email volunteering@redwings.co.uk.