

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2015

Strangles outbreak

Thanks for your help so far, but our fight goes on.

Redwings to the rescue

Meet our very brave new arrivals.

Digital update

Find us online on our brand-new website!

Rehoming success

How one Redwings pony is helping inner-city kids.

Mountain to climb

We have lots to do at our new Scottish centre.

Plus much more...

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





Strangles: The Aftermath

For the last six months, every day has been a battle against strangles. Thankfully you helped us contain the outbreak, and we are now nearing the end of the crisis.

But now we face the aftermath.

The effects will be felt for many months to come.

Turn to page 14 & 15 to learn more...

Call **01508 481000** or visit **redwings.org.uk** to donate

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

Thank you so much for your kind support for Redwings. You really have helped us make a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of horses over the last few months.

We have fitted as many as we could into these pages because we know you always love to meet our latest rescues. There have been some very special ones, like lovely Tilbury who I was privileged to meet during a day out with one of our field officers, plus Whitney and Maggie, all of whom you can read about on pages 4 and 5. We have seen justice done in the courts for horses and donkeys like Rio and Zeus and there were some great campaigning results too, with the Control of Horses Act becoming law, a fantastic new social media campaign at Appleby Horse Fair this year, and hope for the ponies of Bodmin Moor too. There have been even more success stories, like Crumpet who was originally part of the Breakfast Club rescue from Ireland back in 2011. Following a positive court outcome she has found the perfect loving family to start a new life with. I must admit this story is one that really moves me, as she is barely recognisable from the sorry-looking pony I remember first arriving at our Reception Centre all that time ago. Find out more on page 8.

Following the merger, Mountains Animal Sanctuary in Scotland is now officially part of Redwings and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their horsey residents, and their fantastic staff too, over the last few months. There's an update on page 13 on all the work that now needs to be done, and we'd like to thank everyone who has already written to offer support for the organisations as we move forwards together.

We've had some tougher news this year too, with a strangles outbreak coming out of the blue and bringing a lot of our work to a halt while we rallied round to contain it and prevent a potentially disastrous situation for our horses in the Sanctuary. Strangles is an incredibly contagious disease that can be fatal and I cannot praise highly enough our incredible vets and care staff here, who really did work so hard to stop its spread and contain it within just a few months, an astonishing feat. Thanks to all those of you who donated to help us with this mammoth task, we were overwhelmed at your kindness and wonderful messages of support. Read more about it on the opposite page.

I really hope you enjoy reading this update and thank you again for all your support from all of us here at Redwings.

Thank you,

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive

This is not something we are used to seeing at Redwings! This fab pic was taken at Redwings Mountains in Scotland by Helen from our comms team – red squirrels are a regular sight up there apparently, how lovely!



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

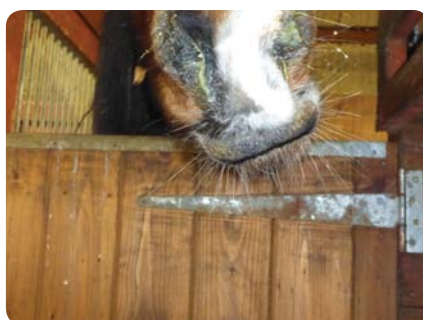
General Enquiries
01508 481000 info@redwings.co.uk

News update...

Strangles appeal:

Thank you for stopping the outbreak

Thanks to an unprecedented result from you we were able to face our strangles outbreak head-on and stop the spread of this terrible disease before it infected more of our beloved horses.



Strangles is a highly infectious respiratory disease. Following the outbreak in February this year, dozens of horses were put under strict quarantine as we raced against time to stop the potentially fatal disease spreading throughout our largest farms. At one stage our amazing teams were operating nine separate quarantine zones, we had tested over 50 horses for the disease and were spending over £4,000 a week on equipment, feed, test results and tools to contain the illness.

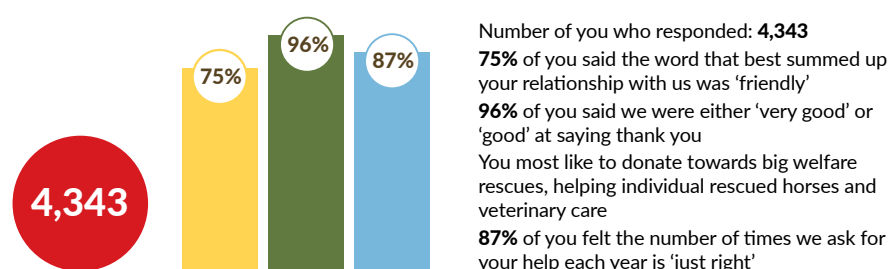
For several months the Sanctuary was in lock-down, which meant we could not bring in any new arrivals. Worst of all was witnessing our beloved residents who had been rescued from terrible situations and nurtured back to health, become sick and suffer. Thankfully they have all pulled through and because of your support we were able to respond quickly, buy in more hay, test and treat the sick, and buy all the equipment we needed to keep our quarantine areas up and running. By June we were even able to lift some of the quarantine zones. You donated a staggering £108,000 in the first few weeks alone to help us overcome it. Thank you so so much.

- *We had such an amazing response to our strangles appeal that it took us longer than usual to process some of your cheques. We are very sorry if you were affected – we are so grateful for your support and could not have anticipated your generosity.*

**** Please turn to pages 14 and 15 to find out how much we still need your help.**

Your say... Supporter survey

Thank you so much for completing and returning your supporter survey. We are thrilled that so many of you responded and we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to participate and share your views. Redwings is funded 100% by donations from you, so your opinions really are important to us. Following the survey we are reviewing how we communicate with you to ensure that we do our very best to get in touch when, and how, you want. Here are some of the findings we thought you may find most interesting!



As a thank you for completing the survey seven lucky supporters were chosen at random to receive a gorgeous donkey cushion kindly donated by Addictive Art!

Contents

- 2-3 Welcome and news update
- 4-5 Recent rescues
- 6 Focus on welfare
- 7 Digital update
- 8 Rehoming success
- 9-13 'Your Redwings' – all the latest visitor centre news
- 14-15 How to help us
- 16 Remember Redwings

Prize Draw results

Here are the results of the New Year and Spring Prize Draws. Congratulations to our winners!

New Year Draw

- 1st Prize - £5,000 - Lady S Fleetham, Bridlington
- 2nd Prize - £1,000 - Mrs V Hargreaves, Huddersfield
- 3rd Prize - £500 - Mrs M Wheeler, Maidstone

Spring Draw

- 1st Prize - £5,000 - Mrs Chick, Devon
- 2nd Prize - £1,000 - Mrs Joslin, Shropshire
- 3rd Prize - £500 - Mrs Flett, Great Yarmouth

New! Autumn Draw prize fund

We know how much winning that prize could help in the lead up to Christmas, so we have introduced an EXTRA PRIZE FUND! That's right, we will now be drawing our Autumn Draw in October, giving you the chance to win £5,000 just in time for Christmas. Don't forget to buy your tickets to take part!

Our cover star is Blue the mule from Redwings Mountains.

Redwings to the rescue!

Justice for Rio and Zeus



This spring, justice was served for best friends Rio and Zeus who were rescued from a Norwich site in June 2014, having been found in a desperate state of neglect.

Skewbald donkey Rio was suffering from feet so overgrown he was unable to

stand and Zeus, a dark grey pony, had a nasty sarcoid (a benign tumour that grows on the skin) on his chest. Their suffering was a result of a lack of basic care and both ailments could have been easily treated through routine farriery and veterinary attention.

Consequently, their owner was banned from keeping all animals for five years and received a suspended prison sentence having been found guilty of offences under the Animal Welfare Act.

Both Rio and Zeus now live at Redwings Caldecott where you can visit them for free, and they absolutely love people!



The 'Poldark ponies' of Bodmin Moor



In April, we offered financial support to an amazing team of vets, farmers and the Bodmin Moor Shadow Commons Council with the rescue of three ponies from the very spot where scenes from the hit BBC television series *Poldark* were filmed.

A stallion and a mare and foal were found on the Moor in urgent need of veterinary intervention. The dark bay stallion, named Ross Poldark by his rescuers, was found in the Craddock Moor area and believed to be moments from death; he was in a dire state, extremely weak and painfully thin.

Meanwhile, the mare found with a foal at foot and since named Demelza after the wife of Poldark in the television series, was discovered in the Pensilva area. She had a body condition score of just 1. Sadly, no owner has come forward for any of them.

All three were taken in by a kind local family who offered to house the ponies and we are proud to have been able to support the horses through their rehabilitation.

We are delighted at the Government's announcement that they will be ordering the formation of a new Bodmin Moor Commons Council.

Having been involved in so much welfare work on Bodmin in the last few years, we were happy to take part in the consultation about creating a central council for the Moor, which ran in April. On 14th July the Government website Gov.uk was updated to say that a new council had been approved by an overwhelming margin, and that a new Bodmin Moor Commons Council will come into being on 1 March 2016. We believe this is a real step forwards for horse welfare on Bodmin as it will allow for proper centralised management of the horses and other livestock living there. Watch this space!



Love and care for abandoned Tilbury



Little Tilbury was rescued this summer by our very own CEO Lynn Cutress, while she was out working for a day with Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin.

The young cob colt – so named after the place in Essex where he was found – is estimated to be just 18 months old and had lost large amounts of hair from his face and body as a result of a painful skin condition that had left him covered in sores.

Despite his skin condition, which must have caused him considerable pain and discomfort, Tilbury is an incredibly friendly pony and he has now been signed over into our care and is currently being cared for at Redwings Hapton. Investigations into the cause of his skin condition are ongoing and no owner has been found.



Whitney's miraculous recovery



Three-year-old skewbald mare Whitney was found in a distressing

state by Senior Field Officer Julie Harding in Ipswich this January, following a call to our welfare team. Whitney was very thin and suffering from diarrhoea, and in desperate need of immediate veterinary attention.

While with Whitney, Julie also found another mare – six-year-old piebald cob Maggie – who too was very thin and showing signs of diarrhoea. Subsequently, the two horses were seized and brought to the Sanctuary to receive emergency veterinary treatment.

As well as being woefully neglected and suffering from worms, lice and the skin condition rainscald, Whitney also had salmonella. She was so weak as a result of her suffering that for the first month in our care she required the aid of an Anderson Sling to stand as she was at constant risk of collapse.

Six months on and after an extended period of intensive treatment, Whitney has battled against all the odds and has made a miraculous recovery, as you can see! In May Whitney and Maggie's owner was served a caution for the neglect of the two mares.



Sonny and his new best Buddy

Just look at this handsome pair! Sonny and Buddy arrived at Redwings separately in spring this year, but since being introduced they have struck up a wonderful friendship.

First to arrive was 12-year-old roan-coloured Clydesdale Buddy. Buddy's owner worked for The Irish Horse Welfare Trust (IWHF) and had offered this 16hh chap a home when the Trust was sadly not in a position to do so. As time went by, it became increasingly difficult for Buddy's owner to provide for his specialist needs and so they approached us for assistance.

Similarly, impressive Sonny arrived in May after the elderly owners of a small animal sanctuary were no longer able to provide the specialist care a 17.2hh

sport horse needs, especially as 15-year-old Sonny is blind in one eye. They decided rehoming privately was not a suitable option and approached Redwings to take him on. We are very used to dealing with partially sighted and even blind horses, so we were happy to secure his future here at the Sanctuary, where he met fellow gentle giant Buddy!



Spreading the word on welfare - *what we've been up to!*

A new weapon in the fight against fly-grazing



On 26th May 2015, the Control of Horses Act to tackle fly-grazing in England became law – a momentous day, marking three years of campaigning by Redwings and a coalition of animal welfare charities and rural organisations!

The Private Member's Bill, which was introduced by MP for York Outer Julian Sturdy, completed its journey through the House of Lords in March and gives greater powers to local authorities to seize illegally grazed horses, who are often the victim of low-level neglect or even abandonment.

Under the new legislation the lengthy and expensive process of removing fly-grazed horses is significantly reduced; authorities will be able to take action after four days rather than the previous two-week minimum. They will also have a wider choice of options to secure the future of the horses; after the

four-day period, if an owner doesn't come forward landowners and local authorities can rehome the horse(s) to charities, instead of simply selling them at public auction as was the case previously.

Redwings first flagged the issue of fly-grazing in 2012 and since then we have campaigned to raise awareness of the illegal practice and its impact on horse welfare and initiated the coalition that helped bring this new law into being. Thank you to everyone who wrote to their MPs for the significant part you have played in this success for horses everywhere.

Social media campaign a hit at Appleby

The increased presence of the RSPCA and other agencies over the last ten years at Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria, including the Redwings team of welfare vets, field officers and our education officer, has played a part in seeing the number of welfare concerns drop. This year just ten warnings were handed out to owners by RSPCA inspectors, in contrast to 38 in 2012 for example.

Education has become an increasingly important element as emergency welfare issues feature less and less and traveller and gypsy horse owners actively seek advice more and more. And this year our Education Officer Andie brought a fresh education approach, launching a Facebook campaign designed to get fairgoers talking about what constitutes good welfare.

Our vets on duty gave out special rosettes to owners who were demonstrating good welfare standards and the campaign generated some great interactions with owners who were keen to share their pictures and discuss healthy and happy horses!



Evening seminars a success!

We couldn't be luckier to have our own veterinary surgeons, equine veterinary nurses and nursing technicians within Redwings. Not wanting to keep this wealth of knowledge to ourselves we are finding ways to make them accessible to any interested horse owner and in particular our own Redwings Guardians. Our free veterinary seminar series has been running almost a year and has been attended by almost 250 people in Norfolk and Essex.

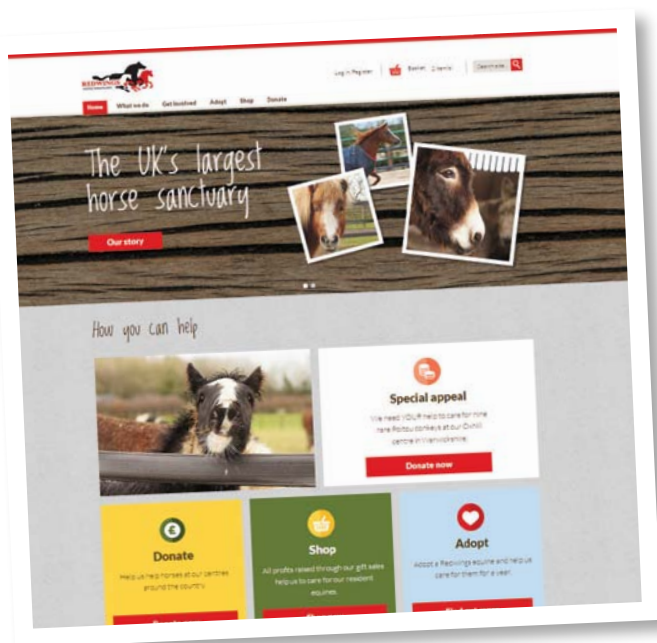
The evenings aim to be as informative and interactive as possible and topics so far have included wound care, modern dentistry, colic and weight management. Feedback has been fantastic with lots of seminar attendees remarking how they can apply the advice in their own horse care at home. Our Redwings vets and nurses enjoy them too – they are a great opportunity to feel that they can help horses that they would never normally reach.

Redwings on the web!

We are absolutely thrilled to say that we have a brand-new website!

The site, which launched in August, has been completely updated and streamlined, and we hope it better reflects the variety of our work... and is a bit easier to use too!

The last site served us well for several years but we knew it was time for a facelift as a lot of the text was quite small and the navigation system was a bit complicated to negotiate! We ran some focus groups where we picked some of your wonderful brains to make sure you really got what you wanted from us, and we hope we've done just that.



The new site has a completely new look, and we think it's much clearer to find your way around, with some beautiful photography and graphics so you feel a bit more like you are part of Redwings and all that goes on here. It also has a revamped gift shop, and we've streamlined the process for adopting a horse and for our rehoming scheme too so they are even easier to negotiate. Hopefully you'll agree they look great too!

Our brand-new website can be found at the same place, www.redwings.org.uk – we'd love to know what you think! Send us your thoughts to info@redwings.co.uk or call us on 01508 481000, thank you.

News, views... and really cute photos of our residents!

If you love our newsletters but would like an insight into what happens at Redwings day-to-day, follow us on social media!

Be inspired by beautiful photos from the Sanctuary by following us on Instagram! [@RedwingsUK](https://www.instagram.com/RedwingsUK)

For news and issues affecting the wider horse world, follow us on Twitter! [@RedwingsHS](https://twitter.com/RedwingsHS)

See our horses and donkeys in action by following our YouTube channel! Search "Redwings Horse Sanctuary"

For a teeny tiny pony's eye view of life at the Sanctuary, follow Teeny Tucker on Twitter [@RedwingsTucker](https://twitter.com/RedwingsTucker)

Join the community, make friends and share your photos, videos and

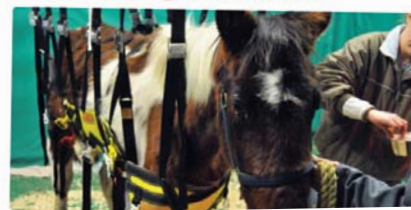
experiences of Redwings by liking our Facebook page! Over 58,000 of you already have! [Facebook.com/RedwingsHorseSanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/RedwingsHorseSanctuary)

Share your fundraising efforts for Redwings on JustGiving – it's a great way to find other like-minded fundraising heroes and heroines! www.justgiving.com/redwingshs/

Sign up for our email newsletters for regular updates from the Sanctuary each month – just pop your email address in on our home page at www.redwings.org.uk or email info@redwings.co.uk to get started!



Redwings [@RedwingsHS](https://twitter.com/RedwingsHS) · Jun 3
The amazing recovery of our rescue horses never fails to move and inspire us: [po.st/u6A1RW](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/461111111111111111/) @horseandhound



Redwings [@RedwingsHS](https://twitter.com/RedwingsHS) · May 26
Today the Control of Horses come into force to tackle England! redwings.org.uk h...



Rehoming to the big city!

Zig Zag helps disadvantaged children

Seven-year-old cob Zig Zag was rescued in 2009 from Hertfordshire where she and ten other mares were found in a terrible state of neglect. That same day, we helped the RSPCA to remove the horses and all of the mares were signed over into our care where they were named after a knitting and sewing theme!

With lots of love and care from our teams, Zig Zag and her companions all made fantastic recoveries, and their affectionate natures meant many of them were perfect for our rehoming programme. Ebony Horse Club uses access to horses and riding to transform the lives of children from some of the most deprived areas of London and when they approached us about the possibility of rehoming a rescued resident, Operations Manager Rachel Angell knew just the pony: "Zig Zag has the perfect calm and gentle manner to work with and inspire disadvantaged children, and it is wonderful to give this lovely pony a chance at a happy and fulfilling life outside the Sanctuary." Zig Zag has gone down a storm with youngsters at Ebony Horse Club and she even met Olympic gold medallist Ben Maher recently when he went along to do a showjumping masterclass, so proud! We're delighted to be able to support Ebony's fantastic work.



From *rescue* to rosettes!



You may remember that we helped rescue Crumpet and 65 other horses and donkeys from a farm in County Antrim, Northern Ireland back in 2011. The animals had been found in appalling conditions with no food, water or bedding and were literally starving to

death. Redwings took in 23 of the horses and we named them all after breakfast items, so they're now known as The Breakfast Club!

Despite Crumpet's difficult start in life she is incredibly friendly, and once she had recovered it quickly became apparent she was an ideal candidate for our Guardianship scheme. Louise Bull, from Norwich, saw Crumpet on the Redwings website and thought she would be a perfect second pony for her adorable four-year-old daughter Daisy. She brought Daisy to meet Crumpet at Redwings, and it was love at first sight!

Louise said: "We were smitten with Crumpet as soon as we saw her, and we were so excited when we were told we could bring her home! We love having Crumpet, she feels like one of the family and we can't imagine life without her."

Crumpet had only been in her new Guardian home for a month when she and Daisy went to their first gymkhana, and won six rosettes! Well done Crumpet! (And we promise this is the same pony!)



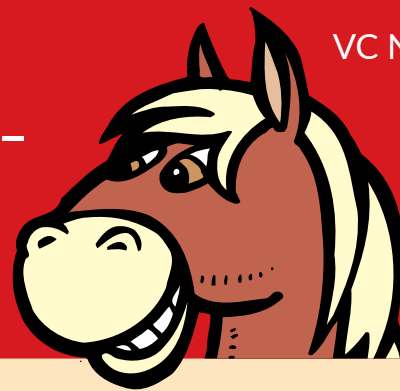
Redwings Show

This year's show took place on 17th May at Tophorn Equestrian Centre, Suffolk, and proved to be our best yet with over 120 competitors taking part. There really was something for everyone with classes for completely novice ponies and riders, to veterans competing at their 100th show, retired racehorses, Donkey Breed Society classes and of course classes for all our lovely rescued horses and ponies with their Guardians. We even had heavy horse classes this year too – watching them being ridden around the ring was quite spectacular!

A great day was had by all and we are already making plans for next year's show!



News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'



Oxhill
Warwickshire,
CV35 0RP

REDWINGS



Introducing Redwings Oxhill's newest Adoption Star!

Since her arrival at Redwings Oxhill, Poitou donkey foal Arya has delighted visitors with her lively character and cuddly nature, so we simply couldn't resist making her an Adoption Star. Irresistibly fluffy Arya has already attracted many fans (including *Game Of Thrones* enthusiasts, as she was named after the fantasy novels' character Arya Stark!) and a great deal of attention – indeed she has made front-page news in the *Stratford Herald* and appeared on local BBC radio!

In July, Arya celebrated her first birthday with a very special party, where she received lots of fuss from her new adopters. You too can adopt Arya for just £12.50 per year – a perfect gift for Christmas! Head to www.redwings.org.uk to find out more.

Summer Fun – Summer Club

Redwings Oxhill ran a series of Summer Club Wednesdays to engage and educate children in horse care and welfare. They covered important must-know information on The Five Freedoms (the five things that all animals need to ensure they have a good and happy life), the digestive system (by sampling poo, yes really!), feet and farriers, horse breeds, teeth and learning about donkeys and mules and what makes them different. Participation was free as the most important part was helping ensure all horses are cared for in the future by educating the children of today. Keep an eye on our NEW website for other activities for children coming up at Redwings Oxhill and all our other centres!



Over 30 dental checks in one day!

At Redwings we are fortunate to have some very talented friends and especially those who share our love of high standards of care for horses. The British Association of Equine Dental Technicians (BAEDT) is an organisation of qualified, professional horse dentists, which has rigorous examinations and codes of conduct that have set high standards within the industry. The BAEDT requires its students to do a pre-examination practical exercise under exam conditions and under the watchful eye of experienced BAEDT dentists and a vet. Our residents, from Shetlands to Shires, are the perfect patients and this year's dental day at Redwings Oxhill was as successful as the last. Thanks BAEDT!!

That's not a really tiny dentist, but a really enormous Adoption Star, Shire cross Major!

Star pupils!



Two students from The Helena Romanes School in Essex recently delivered an outstanding presentation to several parents and peers about our work and sanctuaries across the UK.

The event was part of an extra-curricular programme, Beyond the Curriculum, run by an education consultancy based in Essex. The programme is designed to meet the needs of gifted and talented students, offering applicants a chance to achieve a GCSE qualification in Citizenship Studies at the end of the course. As part of the GCSE, students are required to research a charity and deliver a presentation.

Elizabeth Moss and Naomi Grew spent weeks preparing for their presentation; sourcing photographs, creating posters and writing a script. The delivery was perfect and the girls left the audience extremely well-informed about the work and history of Redwings. Both girls also spent time fundraising and were awarded Redwings rosettes for their efforts, so we owe them a huge thank you and wish them the very best for their GCSE exam results!



Some very sad news...

We are very sad to say that our beloved Adoption Star Finnegan passed away on Monday 3rd August. He was 19 years old. Finnegan was rescued from London with two friends Henry and Splash. All three had been badly neglected, and they were in very poor condition. Despite his tough start in life, however, Finnegan was an incredibly sweet chap who won over all our hearts with his gentlemanly manners, as well as his very handsome feathers!

He was a star of the Adoption Club for over ten years, before being retired last year after he had been diagnosed with arthritis. He continued to enjoy having visits from his loyal supporters and was still well enough to have a little birthday party in the spring this year, where he was spoiled with loads of cuddles and treats from his carers and fans. Sadly, in July his carers noticed that Finnegan's condition was deteriorating. His hind legs were causing him a lot of discomfort and despite extra medication he continued to go downhill, so the heartbreaking decision was made to put him to sleep to ensure he did not suffer.

Thank you to everyone who adopted this stunning chap, we will miss him dreadfully and we know you will too.



Mrs Tucker meets Teeny Tucker!

Last year a very special supporter contacted us and asked if we would name a horse after her husband following his sad passing. We were delighted to do so – but we had to wait for one to come along! When a gorgeous and tiny miniature spotted foal was born to mum Beau we knew he was the perfect candidate. His mother had even been rescued from Essex where Mr and Mrs Tucker also lived. You can follow Teeny Tucker's adventures on Twitter @RedwingsTucker.

First Christmas Fair

We are planning our next big event at Redwings Aylsham – our first ever Christmas Fair! We hope to sell handmade crafts, cards and pre-loved gifts. Our very own Redwings collection will be available too along with some mince pies and proper coffee from our new coffee machine! So come and join us from 27th to 30th November. If you have anything you would like to donate, from crafts to unwanted items in good condition, please send them to us!

Quite Interesting celebrity voiceover

Here's a question for you, can you guess the new narrator of our radio adverts for Redwings Aylsham and its fellow visitor centres on Heart FM and Smooth Radio?

Well, it's none other than quiz master himself, Stephen Fry! We were over the moon at comedian and presenter Fry kindly agreeing to be the voice of Redwings' radio ads and hope he's inspired you to find out more about our work by visiting us!



Sprowston Junior School help Red with his duties

The entire Year Five from Sprowston Junior School took over Aylsham for a day in April. The visit was part of both their science and their citizenship curriculums. In line with their 'Habitats and Natural Environment' topic they learned all about horses and donkeys, how they are adapted to their environment and their social behaviours.

We are so proud of the 52 students who had planned a fundraising strategy as part of their citizenship curriculum that involved cake sales, a non-uniform day and a sponsored silence! They raised more than £300 and even better, got stuck in and helped us out! The farm team were over the moon as the pupils worked hard to fill haynets, muck out fields and clean water troughs. Thank you so much Sprowston Junior School!



Art sale success

Thank you to everyone who donated or painted a piece of art for our first ever art sale! The visitor centre was transformed into a gallery for two weeks in April to showcase over 100 pieces of art kindly donated to

sell to raise funds. With classic prints, professional originals, pastels, drawings and everything in between, there was something for every taste and budget.

All the pieces featured a horse, animal or countryside theme, with the central piece being a gorgeous original piece of artwork donated by Whistlefish Galleries and Milkwood Publishing, which was auctioned off in a silent auction.

Thanks also go to Mark at Greenfinches for the loan of easels which made the event so professional, and supporter Liz who created the labels for each piece of



art. A grand total of £1,025 was raised, and we can't wait to do it again so if you have artwork you would like to donate please get in touch!

Donate to participate

To donate a piece of art, craft or an unwanted item in good condition, please contact Anne Galloway on 01508 481070 or agalloway@redwings.co.uk – remember every penny raised from the sale of your donated goods helps care for horses! It's a great way to get involved no matter where you live!

Esther recovering after surgery



Our beloved adoption donkey Esther has been a bit poorly lately and had to spend some time at Redwings HQ in Hapton.

It all started when she was reported lame on the field at Caldecott by the staff, who had noticed she was looking quite uncomfortable on her front leg. After a few days of rest in a stable and lots of TLC she was feeling right as rain again, but while the vets were checking her they noticed a few problems with her hooves.

In fact, not just a few problems – poor Esther had some major defects to her hoof wall. Vet Sarah was quite worried so she decided to bring Esther back to Hapton where she could be X-rayed at our Horse (and donkey!) Hospital and checked out by our lovely farrier Bob! Mum Martha and her 'auntie' Jemima Donkey came with her to make sure she wasn't lonely, and of course the staff at Hapton were delighted to have the opportunity for cuddles!

The problem with her hooves may well be the result of her poor start in life as Esther was originally rescued from Spindle Farm in Amersham back in 2008, as many of you will remember. She came in when she was only a baby donkey, just a few months old, and even then it was noticeable that her and her mum were both smaller than the average donkey. In particular, her feet were tiny, and so the issues with her hooves may be due to poor nutrition when she was little, as her and mum Martha were very skinny and poorly when they first arrived with us.

Following all the investigations, our farrier and our team of vets did something rather fancy for our lovely donkey – they 'resected' (cut away) a large section of her hoof, which is quite significant surgery, but it hopefully means Esther's foot will grow back stronger. Even though Esther can be a bit nervous we are delighted to report she was a very brave girl and has already made a full recovery and is happily back at Caldecott with her mum and her friends.

Well done lovely girl and big thanks to our vet Sarah, farrier Bob and all the staff involved in her surgery and recovery care!



The super soft-toy sale!

Redwings Caldecott hosted a huge soft-toy sale to help find homes for the dozens (and dozens!) of soft toys that you had kindly donated over the last year. Visitor Centre Team Member Maria, who has worked at Caldecott for over five years, lovingly named each and every furry friend to help him find a home; and it was a great success! The sale generated an incredible £398.44! That's enough to care for a Caldecott resident for a month! Thank you everyone for donating, visiting and rehoming a toy!



Work begins! But we still have a mountain to climb

Thanks to your support this spring we have been able to care for our new family in Scotland – all 89 of them! But in addition to meeting their daily needs we need to fund much-needed new facilities to equip the centre with everything it needs to provide the best possible care for the existing residents, and to make room for more! The work we do will also help us open our doors again to visitors, so you can come and see for yourselves the difference we can make when we work together. We hope to be back open in the new year, all being well, but there a lot of work to do first...

How much will it cost and how long will it take?

Fencing

It takes three people one day to complete 70 metres of fencing. We have hundreds of metres of fencing to repair, replace or install to make existing paddocks safer and create new ones so we can offer homes to more horses. Each metre costs around £4.60 for materials, then there's labour...

Water tanks

We want to introduce self-filling water tanks to each paddock so that our staff do not have to spend time filling buckets and can concentrate on rehabilitating the horses instead. This will be a huge help in winter when the whole day can be taken up with getting water to the fields. A tank costs £75.73 and takes two people a full day to install, but first we need to install a water supply...

Shelter

You know how cold it can be in Scotland! Even with warm winter coats, horses need protection from the rain, snow, and even the sun. Putting a shelter in every paddock will ensure all our fields

can be used all year round. That means happy horses and the ability to offer more horses in need a home. A 9m x 3.6m shelter costs £3,380 and ideally needs to be erected on a solid base, which costs £25 per square metre.

Trackways

Scaling the fields in the wet mud or snow can be really tough. Each horse is checked at least twice every day, and once every night. Horses being horses, they often like to stand at the very top or very back of the field, so better access will mean we can check on them more easily and reach them more quickly if they need us straight away. It also means a sick horse can be collected from his field in a trailer rather than having to walk.

If you come to visit us, you will also be able to walk around the track ways to meet the horses and donkeys – we know you love to get close to our residents, so we look forward to welcoming you once the work is done! Laying trackways can cost anything from £26 to £35 per metre depending on the amount of preparation the land needs first. It's our biggest job.

Want to know more? If you want to learn more about the work we are doing at Redwings Mountains please visit our website www.redwings.org.uk or call us on **01508 481000**. Thank you.

Finally, if you would like to help fund any of these projects, thank you!



Resident update!

Remember Victor the 42 year-old Shetland pony, Annie the donkey and Harley the blind pony? Well they all want to say a HUGE THANK YOU for helping to fund their care since our appeal in our spring newsletter. We are pleased to report that thanks to all the TLC you helped provide they are doing really well!

Strangles: The A

For the last six months, every day has been a battle against strangles. **Thankfully you helped of the crisis.** We hope that by the time you read this, we will have lifted quarantine on our b

But now we face the aftermath.

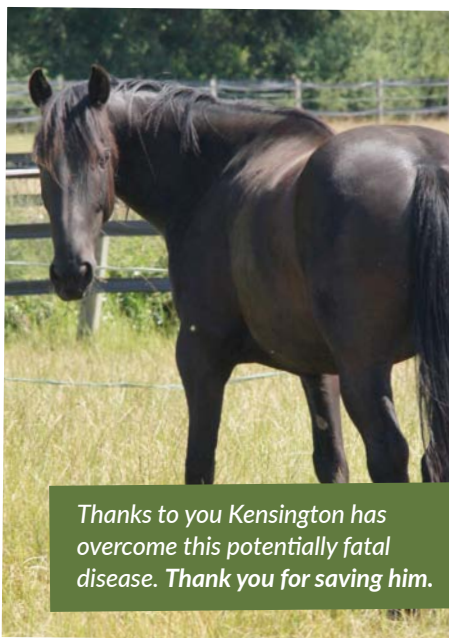
The impact on the sanctuary was devastating. Thanks to the quick action of our teams it was contained and managed beyond all expectations. **However the effects of the outbreak will still be felt for many months to come.**

Once quarantine is lifted on a paddock or barn, everything in it must be cleaned with disinfectant. All of this is done by hand by our dedicated team of horse carers. They have to scrub miles of fencing, disinfect every water tank, and wash down every gate and field shelter up to three times. Even when an area is declared safe again, the aftermath continues. Fields are barren, fences are dilapidated and our beloved horses have missed out on their extra special care.

What **your** support provided to help contain the outbreak:

- ✓ Equipment to prevent the spread of disease
- ✓ Clinical tests to see if horses were infected or contagious
- ✓ Treatment for the sick

Thank you!



Thanks to you Kensington has overcome this potentially fatal disease. Thank you for saving him.

Fields

The strangles outbreak put many of our fields under strict quarantine. The horses could not be moved and some of the land was destroyed. Five fields were stripped completely bare of grass.

Could you help us rest and reseed the fields so the horses have grass again?

Fencing

The outbreak meant we were unable to repair fences in or around quarantine areas for six months. Many fence lines are now very old and falling down; they desperately need to be fixed or replaced.

Can you help repair or replace a fence to keep a horse safe and secure?

What can you do to help?

£30 could help to...

Reseed a field



Repair a fence



Aftermath

...d us contain the outbreak, and we are now nearing the end
...biggest farm and declared it free of this devastating disease.

*"You helped us fight the outbreak,
but it is not over yet."*

Lynn Cutress

Horses

During the outbreak we ensured all the horses received basic care to keep them healthy, like visits from the farrier and worming medication. But with all the additional work involved in managing quarantine zones and treating the sick, there was no time for all the extra special care our horses deserve. For months they could not enjoy a pampering groom – something they would have really benefitted from when they shed their winter coats. More worryingly, our specialist behaviour programme which helps young, nervous or unhandled horses build trusting relationships with people so they can be cared for safely and without fear, ground to a halt.

Can you give a rescued horse some much-needed TLC?

How you can help...

Please help, this work cannot wait...

Fences must be repaired or replaced to keep the horses safe. Fields must be rested and reseeded so there is grass for them to eat. And our horses deserve more love and special care – they have waited long enough.

Could you spare just £30 to help take us one step closer to repairing the damage caused by the strangles outbreak?

Will you help us repair the damage strangles has left behind?



Please help if you can, thank you

Call

01508 481000

or visit

redwings.org.uk



Give a rescued horse some much-needed TLC



A historic day

We made a little bit of history in June when a decision was made in the Court of Appeal that will have ramifications for anyone making a Will for years to come – we hope in a good way!

June Fairbrother was an animal lover and supporter of Redwings who sadly passed away in 2011. She had made a Will that left some of her money to family and friends, with the remainder from her estate set to be shared equally between Redwings and a number of other animal charities. However her nephew, who was not in the Will, came forward and claimed that some time in the six months before she died, June had made a statement pledging her property to him instead under a little-known doctrine called Donatio Mortis Causa (DMC), otherwise known as a 'deathbed gift'. In 2014 the High Court ruled in his favour, thereby completely undermining her Will and meaning her family and the charities she supported would receive nothing.

We felt so strongly that this was in complete contravention of June's wishes that Redwings and one of the other named charities decided to appeal the decision, and we are delighted to say that the Court of Appeal agreed with us and overturned the judgment, meaning June's original wishes stand.

In his judgment, Lord Justice Jackson said: "In my view, it cannot be said that June was contemplating her impending death at the relevant time. She was not suffering from a fatal illness. Nor was she about to undergo a dangerous operation or to undertake a dangerous journey. If June was dissatisfied with her existing Will and suddenly wished to leave everything to the claimant, the obvious thing for her to do was to go to her solicitors and make a new Will. June

was an intelligent retired police officer. There is not the slightest reason why she should not have taken that course.

"If the DMC claim is upheld, the effect will be that June's Will is largely superseded and the bulk of her estate will pass to the claimant, who is not even named as a beneficiary in the Will. This would bypass all of the safeguards provided by the Wills Act and the Law of Property Act."

We hope this will help give peace of mind to all our kind supporters considering making a Will, that if you do so you know your wishes will be upheld and cannot be overridden following death. We are so thankful to everyone who has sent us messages of support following this case. If you would like to read more about it please visit our website www.redwings.org.uk.



Legacies

Helping Redwings with an extra special gift

June Fairbrother was a long-term supporter of Redwings who chose to leave a kind legacy in her Will to help

us continue our work. You may find it hard thinking about such things, and we wish we didn't have to ask, so we thought it might be helpful if we explained why we do.

Redwings relies heavily on money left to us when people pass away. We do not know what we may receive, or when, but every time a legacy gift like June's arrives we feel so thankful, because we know we have secured the future of our Sanctuary for a little longer.

Leaving a legacy means leaving a future to the horses at Redwings, and to those who will need to be rescued and cared for in the coming

years. Without legacy gifts, we simply wouldn't be here as they fund over 60% of everything we do.

We therefore ask the difficult question, "Will you remember us?" because like you, we want Redwings to still be here helping horses in another 30 years' time.



So, if you would like to remember Redwings in your Will, or if you have already done so, thank you, you are doing something truly wonderful! If it is something you are considering, or would like to learn more about, then why not contact our Legacy Officer Katie on 01508 481030 or kfulcher@redwings.co.uk to request a Legacy Pack or simply have a chat?

