

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2023

A Royal Visit

Her Majesty Queen
Camilla visits Redwings
at Anna Sewell House

Alfie's Emergency Rescue

Shetland pony helped
after suspected dog bite

PLUS

A new Black Beauty

Special edition to be
launched to raise money
for Redwings

Meet Monarch

A dashing new Adoption
Star

And much more inside...

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



When we received a call from an owner concerned for their nervous pony after he suffered a nasty injury, our vets attended and began treatment early the following day. Alfie is now a Redwings resident, recovering from the physical injuries he suffered and about to take the next steps to a happier, more confident future.

Turn to pages 10 & 11 to read about the treatment and care Alfie has received and - thanks to your support - the life he has ahead of him in Redwings' care.*

Please donate today:

- 01508 505246
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text HEAL 10 to 70450 to donate £10**

*Your donation is used wherever it is needed most in the Sanctuary and will help to fund the ongoing care of all our residents, including those you read about here.

**You can give any amount - whole £s only - up to £20. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting in to hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear from us, please text HEALNOINFO instead.)



Welcome to your autumn newsletter 2023

Well what a few months it has been. After 39 and a half years of Redwings, we officially 'came of age' in July with our first-ever Royal visit.

I cannot tell you how proud I was to welcome Her Majesty the Queen to visit Anna Sewell House in Great Yarmouth, on what was her first official engagement in Norfolk since the coronation. You can imagine my reaction when I got that phone call! Rumour has it someone with connections to the Palace is a Redwings supporter and recommended that she might like to visit... our wonderful supporters get everywhere!

Queen Camilla, as she is now officially known, was extremely gracious, asking insightful questions, spending quality time with our staff and showing so much passion for our work in horse welfare and the issues we - and you - care so much about. We had a super turnout for the day from the local community and the star ponies Dhansak and Moses did us proud, behaving impeccably throughout. Find out more on page 9!

Her Majesty has not been the only special arrival to Redwings this year of course. You may remember we told you about poor little Barney Rubble in the last edition, who had been found abandoned in a pile of rubbish and left for dead. Well he's made a wonderful recovery and you can see the evidence on pages 4 and 5 where we will also introduce you to little Alfie, victim of a dog bite who required a high level of special care and attention from our teams to bring him back to health. He now needs help to overcome his understandable deep-rooted fears. Find out how you can help him on pages 10 and 11.

There are so many heart-warming updates in this newsletter showing just how your kind support has already made a real difference for horses, ponies and donkeys like Alfie, from the wonderful Audrey finding a new home at last to our very own 'Royal', Monarch, who has now joined our Adoption Scheme a year after he was born here at the Sanctuary.

As we approach our Ruby anniversary year and we reflect on all that 2023 has already brought and the ups and downs of life in this challenging decade, I wanted to say an extra special thank you to everyone who donates, fundraises, sponsors, shares, volunteers or otherwise helps to keep Redwings in a position where we can continue giving the best care to our rescued residents and reaching those outside our paddock fences for whom life would otherwise be very bleak.

Thank you all and very best wishes,

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive

News update...

Pickle's a star!

As we go to print we're putting the finishing touches to launching a very special star - an Adoption Star of course!

Pretty Pickle, who lives at Redwings Aylsham, is joining the scheme and we are sure that lots of you will soon be signing up to be her friend!

You may remember Pickle as the young filly who came to Redwings in 2022 with a severe injury to her eye, which subsequently saw our Welfare Vets carry out surgery to remove the eye as it was causing Pickle a lot of pain. She also had a serious worm burden and received treatment in the ICU at our Horse Hospital as she was very weak.

Happily, Pickle has made a full recovery and despite only having one eye she is a very cool cucumber, and loves meeting new people - the perfect attributes for an Adoption Star!

You can hear more about Pickle on our podcast - search for Sounds of the Sanctuary 'We Love Cobs' or scan the QR code.

Pickle is not the only new Star on the block, turn to page 12 to meet handsome Monarch!



Peter's bounced back

It's not just our horses who receive five-star care from the Redwings vet team - as our Hospital Cat Peter found out! Former stray cat Peter found a home at Redwings HQ in 2020, after he was discovered by a neighbour of our Chief Executive Lynn, very underweight and with nowhere to call home.

Earlier this year, poor Peter was found to be struggling to use his hind limbs and rushed to a nearby small animal practice for treatment. He was diagnosed with

a condition caused by a blood clot from his heart, this then lodged in a blood vessel restricting the blood supply to his hindlegs. Sadly, in most cases, cats do not recover the use of their hindlegs - but Peter made a truly remarkable recovery.

One of our RVNs (Registered Vet Nurse) Meg played a crucial role, taking him home with her to monitor him whilst on crate rest, give him his medication and rehabilitating her feline patient back to his usual mobile self. He is now on medication to try to manage the condition but happily, he is back home in the Horse Hospital and up to his 'ginger diva' ways - you'd think he owns the place!

A shiny new website

After nearly eight years of service, the Redwings website will soon be put out to pasture! Our site has served us well through what is an inordinate amount of time in website years, and has seen us through many adventures, but for so many reasons the time has come for something new. So, we will soon be launching a brand-new site, with up to >

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date imagery and accessible fonts and plenty to see and do for #RedwingsAngels everywhere. From now on you will no longer need a log in to use the site, although the retail-addicted amongst you will already have set up your Shopify account to make shopping in our beautiful new online shop super simple. Our adoption blogs are now being sent out by email to make it really easy to hear from your sponsored horse or donkey rather than having to log in, and you can easily renew your adoption and donate online using all manner of payment methods!

After your wonderful feedback, the site is now jam packed full of videos, podcast content and even more stunning photos from around the sanctuary and beyond. We'd love to know what you think! Access it on the same link as always, redwings.org.uk and do drop us a line once you've had a play.



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 505246 info@redwings.co.uk

Horse Care Advice and Welfare

01508 481008
welfare@redwings.co.uk

Visitor Information

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

Alfie's emergency rescue



Alfie on arrival

Senior Field Officer Julie received a call from a member of the public in June after

they had found their pony, Alfie, in his paddock with a nasty wound on his cheek – the result of an apparent dog bite. Alfie was a very nervous pony, and his owner asked us for our assistance to catch him and examine the wound.

Turn to page 10 and 11 to read more about Alfie's rescue, and the care he will receive at Redwings, thanks to your support.

On Alfie's arrival at Redwings it was incredibly special to watch how our experience caring for Phoenix, the foal who came to the Sanctuary in 2021 with extensive burns from an arson attack, continues to help us care for injured ponies. Members of our veterinary nursing team, who so lovingly tended to Phoenix's bandages, were able to apply all their expertise to Alfie's dressings and bandages. Alfie also wore a special hood, which had been

donated by supporters for Phoenix, to keep his bandages securely in place. Alfie's care also included the expertise of veterinary wound expert Georgie Hollis, from Intelligent Wound Care, who also worked with us to treat Phoenix.



Alfie recovering



In April, we offered a home to a 12-year-old Welsh stallion, known as Champ.

Champ had been abandoned on a large piece of land. He was semi-feral, and not able to be handled – making his rescue especially challenging. Members of the local community kept a watchful eye on Champ and worked with the RSPCA and the landowners to coordinate his rescue.

The RSPCA then approached Redwings and asked if we could offer him a long-term home due to our specialist

A home for Champ

Behaviour team, and the experience we have working with semi-feral horses.

On arrival at Redwings he was also castrated, and he has healed well from this procedure. He is now happily in a herd at the Behaviour Centre and lives alongside Howell, another former semi-feral stallion who came to Redwings in 2020.

Howell was rescued in a joint operation between Redwings, the RSPCA, the British Horse Society and Caerphilly Council from Gelligaer Common in south Wales after he was discovered with an incredibly painful, untreated hoof abscess and was taken into the care of the RSPCA for immediate attention.

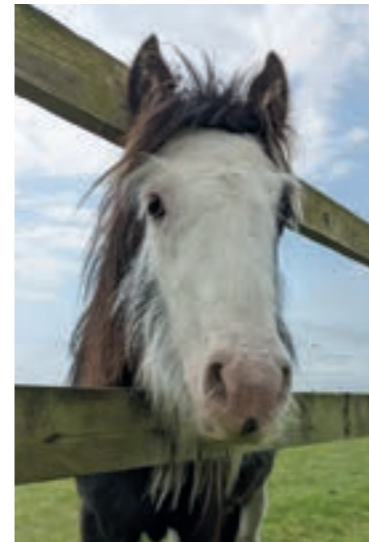
You may recognise Howell from our New Arrivals appeal in 2021, and now he is helping another new arrival begin his life

at Redwings. Thanks to your donations, Redwings is able to offer a lifelong home to horses like Champ and Howell who, without the security of our Behaviour Centre may have faced a very uncertain future.

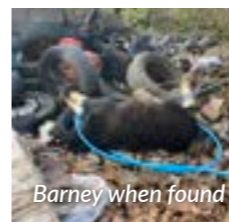
They will receive training in our handling programme so they can learn to trust people and be comfortable with horse care procedures - at whatever pace suits them.



Champ and Howell



Barney's next steps



Barney when found

We are grateful to everyone who responded to our May appeal for

funds in support of abandoned and vulnerable foals like Barney.

We introduced you to Barney in our last issue – a new arrival who had been found upside down in a pile of rubble. Happily, thanks to the care he has received from teams across Redwings, Barney is now flourishing.

He has moved from our Quarantine Centre to our Hapton HQ and enjoys turnout on a small paddock with fellow young pony Mason. In time, Barney will be introduced to other youngsters at our Hapton sanctuary site to help him learn how to socialise and gain confidence from being part of a group. Thank you once again for your generosity in supporting Barney's future with Redwings.

Owner found guilty of neglect



Bert when he was found

Bert is one of 30 horses from the rescue now in sanctuary care here at Redwings, including three foals who were born here.

Nic de Brauwere, Head of Welfare and Behaviour, attended the rescue and was also called upon to give evidence at the trial.

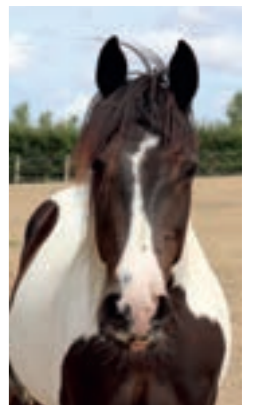
He said: "Bert has some quite severe lameness issues in his front legs which mean he is not suitable for riding or rehoming. However, with medication and careful management under the close eye of

In July, a woman from Ripley in Surrey who failed to care for 131 equines was given a suspended prison sentence and lifetime ban from keeping animals after she lost her appeal.

She was found guilty of 15 offences under the Animal Welfare Act following a trial last summer (2022).

An RSPCA-led rescue, which involved Redwings along with seven other charities and organisations, took place in January 2019 when 204 animals were removed from her property including horses, donkeys, dogs, goats, alpacas, chickens and a duck.

Redwings' vets he has been living a very quiet life with his new best friend Bellamy at one of our special care sites."



Bert now



2023 Vet's Choice Champion Lemon and Redwings Welfare Vet Nicola Berryman

Coming together to promote horse health and happiness at Appleby Horse Fair

It is estimated that the longstanding traditional gathering of Gypsies and Travellers at Appleby attracts tens of thousands of tourists, residents and horse owners every year.

This year the National Equine Welfare Council launched a project to work with Fair-goers to ensure happy, healthy horses are firmly established as part of the culture of the Fair. Coordinated by Redwings, with support from the RSPCA and other charities, conversations with Fair-goers helped to define welfare priorities over the next five years.

Redwings has supported the RSPCA-led presence for many years. As part of a team of experienced veterinary surgeons, our vets provide assessments of horse welfare where needed, as well as treatment and advice to owners.

This year Fair-goers even showed their appreciation for our vets' work helping horses by choosing Redwings as the recipient of funds raised from the sale of special bumper stickers.

Watch this year's winners on TikTok, scan the QR code to find out more.



Impact of living costs on horses and owners

A report into how horse owners are coping with the high cost of living showed that many people are going without basic resources themselves in order to care for their horse.

More than 8,000 owners responded to a survey developed by Redwings in partnership with five other members of the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC). The data was analysed by Redwings with the support of a research consultant.

The findings show that while not every owner is struggling, many are having to take on extra work, use credit cards and sell possessions to pay for horse care. While less than 20% of survey respondents were cutting horse care costs, almost 50% were cutting costs in other areas in order to fund their horse.

More than 60% of people were already concerned about the impact of rising costs on their horse's care in early 2023.



The report was published alongside the findings from a survey of equine rescue centres, including Redwings, who are also facing significant financial challenges. Almost 80% have seen an increase in calls from the public wanting to rehome their horses. However, almost half of centres say they have to minimise the number of horses they can

rescue because of costs. More than 80% of centres say they have still not fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic. Both reports have been shared with government and equine sector representatives and are available to read on the NEWC website.



Supporters show their passion for welfare!

Massive thanks to everyone who contacted their MP after we shared news that the government had dropped important animal welfare legislation this summer. The Kept Animals Bill contained several key steps to improve animal welfare, including a ban on the export of live animals (such as horses) for slaughter or fattening. This ban was a manifesto commitment made by the government ahead of the 2019 general election.

After a two-year delay since the Bill was introduced to parliament in June 2021, its withdrawal was announced through a ministerial statement saying that individual parts of the Bill would be brought forward as individual pieces of legislation, a process involving considerable further delay.

At the time of writing no Bill to reintroduce a ban on the export of live animals for slaughter or fattening has been brought forward.

If you would like to receive updates on this and other equine welfare issues, simply visit the campaigning pages on our website and sign up there.



Action on worms

Redwings is part of a major campaign to promote better management of parasitic worms in equines.

The CANTER campaign was launched in March to raise awareness of growing resistance among the most common worms to drugs that are used to control them. To slow the rate at which resistance is spreading among worm populations, it is vital that all owners use a routine test to check the worm level in individual horses and only use drugs when they are really needed.

Research suggests that taking this approach can reduce the use of deworming drugs by around 80%.

The CANTER campaign also promotes the importance of managing horses in ways that support effective worm control. Steps include clearing muck from paddocks at least twice a week and testing new horses for worms before they are turned out to graze with other equine companions.

Find out more at canterforhorses.org.uk or by downloading Redwings' 'Worm Wisdom' leaflet.



A perfect home for Audrey

In our Autumn 2020 newsletter we introduced you to Audrey, a true 'Sanctuary Star' who had been under the care of our veterinary team for five years for a hoof condition called canker.

We were all delighted when Audrey's hoof condition improved, and she was able to be discharged from vet care. Little did we know that Audrey would find her perfect match and leave us for a Guardian home!

Given her previous hoof issues, Audrey needed a very special home but when Guardian Lucy got in touch with the team looking for a companion for her horse Fleur – with an all-weather turnout area that would be perfect for Audrey's hooves, and happy to take on a pony with some extra care needs – we could not have asked for a more perfect home!



Zari and Harriet

The apple of her Guardian's eye!

Redwings Zari was a just young foal when she was rescued in April 2016 as one of eight ponies who came to Redwings from Gelligaer common in Wales. The group were in poor body condition,

and some had heavy worm burdens. Once at Redwings, the group were named after varieties of apple. Redwings has supported several rescues from Gelligaer, and the horses are often semi-feral meaning they are largely unhandled. At the Sanctuary they spend time under the guidance of our Behaviour team learning to be handled.

Happily, five of our apple group are now enjoying lives in Guardian homes. Zari lives with Guardian Lydia and her daughter Harriet and enjoys hacking, jumping and is now even learning to be a driving pony!

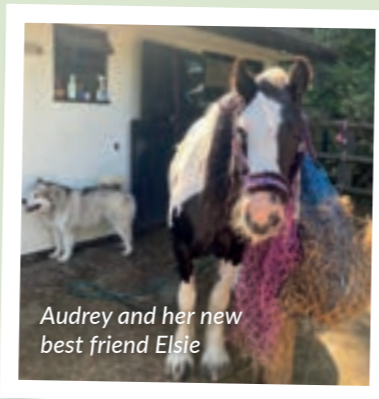
Lydia told us: "She really is such a sweet pony and looks after Harriet so well. She even has found a new horsey BFF (best friend forever) and when she is back from her rides she runs over to him and has a little nuzzle – it is the cutest thing to watch!"



Audrey's send-off!

Audrey was rehomed in March 2023, and staff from teams across Redwings came together to throw her a little 'good luck and goodbye' party. Nursing Manager Lou even packed a little suitcase of all of Audrey's favourite things!

Lucy said: "Audrey has been a great addition to our family and does an important job of keeping Fleur company. She has an extra special relationship with my Alaskan Malamute Elsie, and is exceptionally patient and gentle with her! We feel really lucky to have her, and she is worth her weight in gold."



Audrey and her new best friend Elsie

A donkey dreamhouse!

Rehomed donkeys Addison and Ryan have been enjoying the high-life in their new home in North Norfolk, including getting to know their new 'neigh'bour – resident horse Stuart Little II.

Describing their new routine, Guardian Mark said: "The donkeys like a couple of hours on the meadow in the mornings but are happy to come in for a piece of carrot."

"In the afternoon they often have some playtime with a ball, or tug of war with an old welly boot! Addison in particular loves to be brushed. Ryan takes a bit longer to make his mind up but enjoys it once he gets started."

"At bedtime they do enjoy a ginger snap biscuit!"

Sounds like the boys have landed in donkey heaven – when can we move in?!



Helen Whitelegg, Redwings' Research and Policy Manager, talked Her Majesty through the timeline of Anna's legacy in animal welfare



Her Majesty the Queen visits Redwings

On Monday 24th July we were delighted to welcome *Her Majesty the Queen* to Anna Sewell House in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

The birthplace and home of the author of *Black Beauty* is in the custodianship of Redwings, thanks to the kind actions of a Redwings supporter, and we were beside ourselves with excitement when we heard Her Majesty was interested in seeing the House for herself!

During her visit, the Queen toured the building where Anna was born in 1820 and met staff and Trustees who talked with her about Anna and her novel's influence on animal welfare, which was one of the first English novels to be written from the horse's perspective and one of a select few books that has sold over 50 million copies worldwide.

Outside the House, Her Majesty met Dhansak and Moses, miniature Shetland ponies from Redwings Caldecott, and their handlers Jess and Hayley. Our education ponies Dhansak and Moses are professionals in public engagements but this was a first, even for them, as they hadn't met royalty before!

They posed for a photo with Her Majesty outside Anna Sewell House and then were presented with a special pony cake, in the shape of a horse head wearing a crown (pictured on the cover), whilst her Majesty watched on and commented how politely they shared! The Queen also met with members of teams from across Redwings to show her the breadth of our work, as well as a Redwings Guardian, volunteer and supporter. We would have loved to invite everyone along but the House (and the green outside) are especially small which, though part of their charm, does make hosting such a celebration more of a challenge!

Lynn Cutress, Chief Executive, said: "It was a huge honour that Her Majesty the Queen chose to visit Anna Sewell House, which Redwings has been the custodian of since last year. We had a wonderful day and it all went really smoothly - better than we could have ever expected!"

"Black Beauty played an important part in drawing attention to the welfare of horses and is therefore intertwined with Redwings' own story of rescuing, rehoming and giving a forever home to those who need it within our Sanctuaries.

"We understand that Black Beauty was the Queen's favourite book as a child, and she told us that she was very excited to be visiting the house where the author of the novel was born and lived. In fact, Black Beauty was recently one of the selected books being promoted by HM's own literacy charity - The Queen's Reading Room.

"How apt that it was in this very newsletter that a supporter read about our connection to Anna Sewell and suggested to someone in the Palace that her Majesty might like to visit. The rest, as they say, is history!"

Her Majesty also met Associate Professor Hilary Emmett from the University of East Anglia and Nicola Knight, Redwings' Head of Campaigns & Communications, and found out more about the special edition of Black Beauty which will be published in November to raise money for Redwings. Turn to page 20 to find out more.



Her Majesty met children from 1st Caister Scouts



Her Majesty meeting Dhansak and Moses outside Anna Sewell House



Her Majesty met with staff including Redwings' Head of Sanctuary and Care Nicky Jarvis



When Alfie needed our help

Little Alfie arrived at Redwings shortly after a phone call from his concerned owner asking for help for their injured and very frightened pony.

When a Redwings vet arrived at Alfie's home, it became clear that the injury to his cheek was far more serious than first thought. To treat Alfie would need a lot of skilled care and time, complicated further by the fact he was very nervous of people.

The injury to Alfie's cheek was likely to have been the result of a dog bite. While the Welfare team assessed the injury and immediate treatment, Senior Field Officer Julie discussed both those, and options for longer term care, with Alfie's owner.

"Alfie's owner did the very best thing for him, in really upsetting and unforeseen circumstances, and we're glad that we were able to help," said Julie.

Alfie was signed over to Redwings' care. He was then transported to our Quarantine Centre, where members of the veterinary team were waiting to treat his injury.



Alfie showing extent of improvement

Taking immediate action

The wound to Alfie's face was thoroughly cleaned, then carefully dressed and bandaged. Alfie was sedated throughout to minimise his distress, and he was given pain relief as soon as possible.

Despite wanting to help him as quickly as possible, those treating the injury had to be sure not to let the urgency of the situation dictate their work.

"When we were bandaging Alfie's injury we had to move slowly and quietly because he was very nervous. Because the wound was in a high-motion area, the pressure of the dressing had to be just right - for the wound to heal and to avoid restricting Alfie's movement when he was eating and drinking," explained Phoebe, a Redwings Vet Nurse.

A tie-over dressing was used to protect Alfie's cheek and help the wound to heal. The dressing was changed and the wound cleaned every two days. After six weeks, the injury to Alfie's cheek had healed well and his coat was beginning to regrow in the injured area.

Your support is crucial to the next part of Alfie's life

The next stage of Alfie's care at Redwings will begin when he joins our specialist Behaviour Centre team. **Everything that happens at this dedicated site is designed to help Alfie overcome the trauma of his injury and to be more comfortable interacting with people.**

The first step will be to find Alfie suitable companions as horses don't like living on their own. As herd animals, they take security and comfort from being part of a herd. The focus will then be on giving Alfie some time to settle into his new environment and have the chance to learn his new daily life and enjoy some routine and predictability.

The long term plan will be to help Alfie overcome his fear of people which, in turn, will make sure he receives the care he needs without it causing him fear and stress.

To do that, the team will implement a training plan which includes positive reinforcement, to help create positive associations and emotions with situations that he has found frightening in the past, such as being touched, accepting a head collar, and receiving routine vet care.

“ There is no timetable on Alfie meeting his training goals, we will always be led by how he is feeling about his training and proceed at a pace he is happy with. If he needs to stay at the Behaviour Centre long term then he will always have a home here. ”

Sarah, Equine Behaviour Manager



In time, the team at our Behaviour Centre will work with Alfie to gain his trust.

Please donate today
Your donation could help change the life of a pony like Alfie*

- 01508 505246 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text HEAL 10 to 70450 to donate £10**

*Your donation is used wherever it is needed most in the Sanctuary and will help to fund the ongoing care of all our residents, including those you read about here.

(**You can give any amount - whole £s only - up to £20. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting in to hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear from us, please text HEALNOINFO instead.)



Thank you!

Make a new friend!

A wonderful way to support our work and help us to care for our 1,500 residents is to sponsor a horse or donkey from Redwings.

For just £2 a month via direct debit you will receive:

- Your Adoption Star's photo and rescue story
- A keepsake certificate

- A useful bookmark
- A fact sheet all about our four-legged friends and how your support helps the work that we do to care for them.



Your friend will also be in touch via email four times a year, so you can keep up to date with all their latest news, photos and antics! You will receive three postal updates, including a special Christmas message and an invitation to their birthday party at the visitor centre where they live, which you can also visit throughout the year.

For more information, head to our website at redwings.org.uk/adopt. Alternatively, you can contact our Supporter Engagement team on 01508 505246 or fundraising@redwings.co.uk.



Victoria enjoyed meeting all her fans at her birthday party!



Introducing Monarch!

Meet Monarch, a young horse who was named in honour of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We even wrote to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and told her all about her namesake and were delighted to receive a royal reply saying how touched she was.

Monarch's mother was injured whilst pregnant after being hit by a lorry at Tilbury Docks in Essex. No owner could be traced so Redwings offered her a forever home and Monarch was born soon after.

This special boy is still only young and is currently living at one of our private sanctuary sites whilst he has his youngster training. However, we hope he will one day live in the spotlight at one of our visitor centres. Monarch is one of the youngest horses ever to join the Adoption Scheme, so this will be a unique opportunity to follow his growth, new experiences, training, and triumphs!

As a sponsor of Monarch, you will receive regular printed updates, including a beautiful photo to treasure, and emails four times a year with news of his life at Redwings. Find out how to sponsor him here.



Let's honk for the donks!

Did you know Redwings has over 70 donkeys? Smart, social, and playful, it is very hard not to find a reason to love them. Of course, at Redwings, we're totally and unashamedly bi'ass'ed, and we'll happily shout about them until the 'donkeys come home'.

There are eight donkeys on the Redwings Adoption Scheme, from delightful Dotty to adorable double act Wiggins and Wacko!

Did you know that donkeys who live in a naturally loving and kind environment are much more likely to enjoy investigating new things? At Redwings, we're always striving to give these intelligent creatures enriching activities to fulfil their days. From old brush heads to door mats, logs, and wellies, donkeys can find fun (and treats) in different recycled objects from around the farms.



Wiggins waiting for his welly!

News from around the Sanctuary - 'Your Redwings'



Visit www.redwings.org.uk for our latest opening times and information to make the most of your visit!

Oxhill **Warwickshire, CV35 0RP** **REDWINGS**



The Oxhill donkeys have been keeping an eye on all the improvements

A 'Major' upgrade

For some time in the summer, Redwings Oxhill had to close its doors to allow for work to bring you our new and improved café - to be called Major's Café in honour of late Adoption Star Major, whose larger-than-life presence (quite literally in his 17.3hh case!) is still remembered at the centre.

The café now has seating for 60, including space on our new decking area - meaning you can look forward to enjoying a view of our rescued residents with your brew!

We've also upgraded our kitchen facilities, meaning we can offer pastries (of the sweet and savoury kind!) baked fresh on site daily and a menu of tasty rolls, soups and jacket potatoes all made fresh to order.

Plus, we've made the site even more accessible with the creation of six disabled parking spaces right next to the visitor centre and, more importantly, right next to the ponies!

Work on the site is still ongoing, as we also continue to upgrade facilities for our horses and donkeys too, including a new isolation area and replacing the old stable block. We appreciate you bearing with us whilst they are a work in progress and we can't wait to show you the (finally!) finished article.



Worcester Riding Club Donation

Worcester and District Riding Club paid a visit to Redwings Oxhill earlier in the year to deliver a cheque for £500 which they had raised via the raffle they held at their awards evening.

Speaking of their visit to Oxhill, Chairman Karen Richardson, said: "From Shetlands to Shires, the horses, ponies and donkeys were in amazing condition and we were shocked to hear the state some of them had been in on arrival. The TLC delivered at Redwings transforms their lives and it was wonderful to see how well spent the charity donations are."

'As sweet as a Fig!'

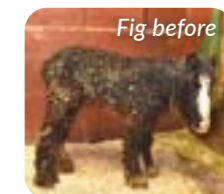


Fig before

You will likely remember Fig (although maybe not recognise her!) as the filly who we rescued in 2019 after she was found shut in a trailer, so weak she was unable to stand on her own. Fig was extremely emaciated, with misshapen hooves and pressure sores on her body from the time spent lying down unable to get herself on her feet.

She joined us in the Rescue Village at Your Horse Live in 2022, before being rehomed from Redwings Oxhill in March 2023 to Molly, and her grandma Lisa, as an unbacked project. Molly is now introducing Fig to the world of being a ridden pony. Describing the bond between Molly and Fig, Lisa said: "Fig runs through the field when she sees Molly coming - both so excited to see each other! When out hacking Molly never stops talking, always introducing her to everything new and telling her what it is. Fig is absolutely loved to pieces by all of us, and as Molly says she really is 'as sweet as a Fig!'"



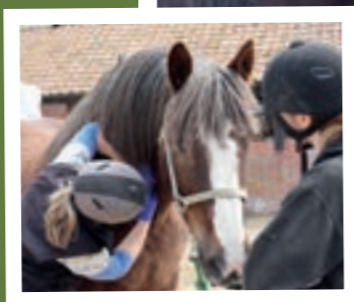
Fig now



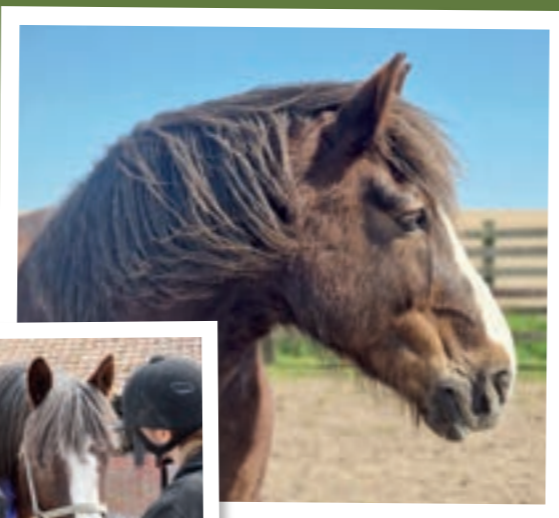
Bonjour Oscar!

Redwings Aylsham was pleased to welcome a new arrival in the form of Oscar – a Trait Breton! The Trait Breton is a draft horse originating from Brittany in the north-west of France. Known for being strong and muscular, 16hh Oscar certainly lives up to his breed's reputation! He has joined Adoption Star Maya and her herd, and his dashing good looks and sizeable stature make him easy to spot.

Not only that, but shortly after his arrival, Oscar was called upon to help fellow Redwings resident Betty by donating blood. Plasma from his blood donation was used in eye drops for Betty whilst she was in the care of our Horse Hospital team – we're sure that she would say a big 'Merci Oscar!'



Oscar giving blood



Remembering Gulliver

Sadly, back in June, we unexpectedly lost Adoption Star Gulliver to a rare pneumonia-type infection.

Gulliver's passing was very sudden, and the staff at Redwings Aylsham and all his adopters were incredibly upset by the news. Gulliver was a much-loved horse at the visitor centre; an affectionate and gentle character, he made an impression on everyone who met him. The café at Redwings Aylsham, named Gulliver's Café, is a testament to how much we all adored him, and we hope it will now be a place where we can continue to remember this special boy.

Volunteers, and a well-deserved thank you!

To mark Volunteers' Week 2023, we invited our volunteers across the Sanctuary to join us at our sites across the UK for a cup of tea, some cake, and a chance to say a huge thank you!

The volunteers pictured joined us at Redwings Aylsham – and even resident Victor was on-hoof to help with the thank yous!

Volunteer Gardener and Café Assistant Jean told us: "The best thing about volunteering is that I really enjoy meeting people and the satisfaction of getting jobs done! The team are friendly and welcoming, and the process to join as a volunteer was easy and helpful with in-person and paper applications."

Could you donate some of your precious time to Redwings? Perhaps you could help us with a spot of gardening or helping keep our visitor centres looking their best?

We have roles at our visitor centres and Anna Sewell House and would love to hear from you. Visit the volunteering section of our website, or scan the QR code.



Smiles a plenty at Redwings Caldecott

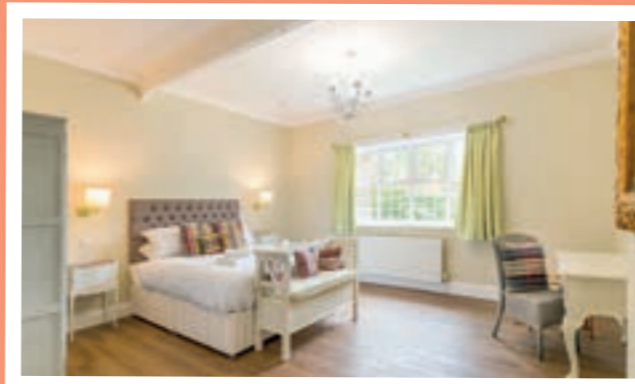


Flo and Suzie say cheese!

Redwings Caldecott has had lots of visitors so far this year, including some well-known faces – both locally and nationally!

Master saddle maker, TV personality and author Suzie Fletcher made lots of new friends at the site, including Adoption Stars Esther and Fox, although donkey Florence definitely looked the most excited to say hello to Suzie and smile for the camera!

Adoption Star Fox also played a starring role, along with his best friend Bungle, when the new Mayor of Great Yarmouth Penny Carpenter selected Redwings as one of her chosen charities for 2023/24 and paid the site a visit as part of her borough tour.



Stay at Redwings!

It's not just The Gangsters who can spend their holidays at Redwings Caldecott, did you know you can too? You can stay onsite in our Sanctuary Rooms, and by booking your holiday with us you are helping support us in caring for our horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

Our three beautiful rooms – each named after a rescue horse - are located within the stunning Caldecott estate, home to an 18-hole golf course, a spa and leisure centre, and of course our visitor centre.

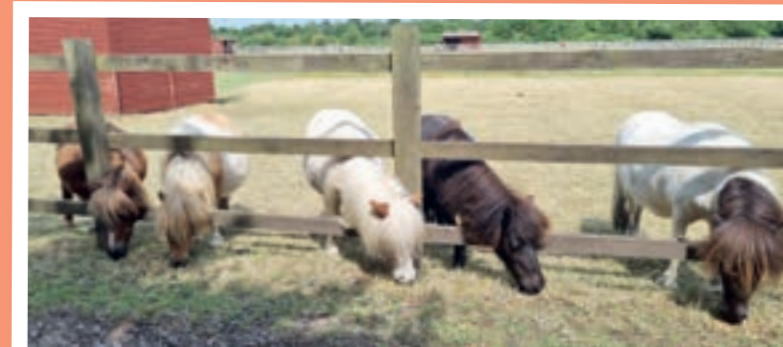
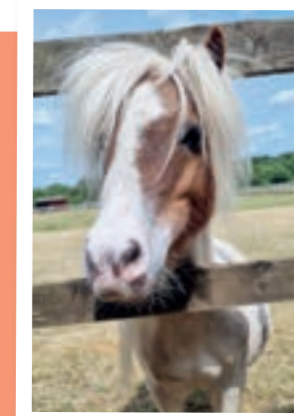
We have some availability for the autumn/winter this year, but occupancy has been so good this summer we have opened next year's dates already! We would recommend booking now to avoid disappointment. Just search for The Sanctuary Rooms on Norfolk Holiday Properties!

Gangsters on their holibobs!

Following the passing of Dusty, a beloved member of The Gangsters, the rest of the Miniature Shetland clan have been temporarily living at Redwings Caldecott.

Dusty sadly died from sand colic, a severe condition caused by the ingestion of sandy soil while grazing. Colic can happen to a horse at any time, but because ingesting sand contributed to Dusty's symptoms, the Redwings vets decided that, as a precautionary measure, they would prefer the rest of The Gangsters to reside temporarily at Redwings Caldecott, where woodchip paddocks are available, making it possible to closely monitor their access to grazing.

The Gangsters have proved to be a real hit at Redwings Caldecott, with many supporters enjoying meeting the gregarious group for the first time. But we understand that their presence is missed at Redwings Aylsham by both their adopters and the Aylsham care team, and so we hope to have them back home very soon!





24 wonderful years with beautiful Dolly

Earlier this year, we sadly lost retired Adoption Star Dolly, aged 27 years old. Dolly was one of our longest-

serving Adoption Stars having lived at the Sanctuary since 1998 after she was discovered in a ditch with serious wounds.

Sadly, at the beginning of March, Dolly came down with a sudden bout of colic, a severe type of abdominal pain that can be a sign of something very serious. Despite the quick actions of the Redwings vet

team, it soon became clear that Dolly was in pain, and at her age, surgery was not an option. With no further treatment options available, the decision was made that Dolly should be put to sleep to ensure she did not suffer.

"I have such fond memories over the many years since first meeting Dolly in September 1998; she loved being on the Adoption Scheme as it meant she was always the centre of attention. I have never known a more wilful and determined pony; I can honestly say the place won't be the same without her."

Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin

School visits

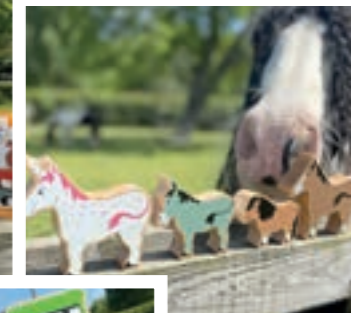
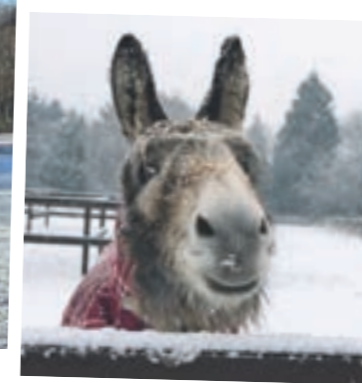
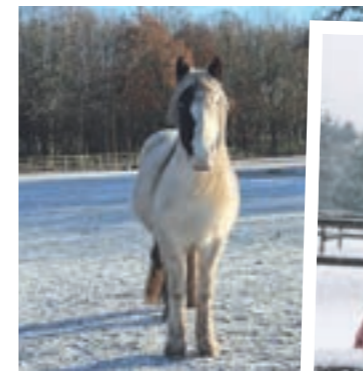
In light of Redwings taking guardianship of Anna Sewell's birth home in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, we were approached by some schools covering Black Beauty and War Horse topics in class. They came to Redwings Ada Cole earlier this year to help broaden their knowledge of horse care, horse welfare and the use of horses through history and today. With Redwings Ada Cole once being the safe home to many horses who fought in World War II - what a fitting place to visit!

If you're a teacher and would like help bringing your studies to life, then email education@redwings.co.uk.

Red(wings) continues to go green

At Redwings we are mindful that everything we do should have as little impact on the environment as possible. This is incredibly important to our gift shop and café operations too, and it is always a consideration whenever we look at new products and suppliers. We are very proud to work with some incredible suppliers to bring products to you that are good quality, fairly priced and have some eco credentials.

Some of our favourites are:



Lanka Kade wooden toys
Hand painted in a Fairtrade community in Sri Lanka, on sustainable rubber wood.

Redwings Christmas cards

Printed in Essex using vegetable-based ink on sustainable card, every element of every pack of cards can be recycled too!



Living Nature and SMOLS soft toys
made from recycled drinks bottles but still super soft!

It's not just the products that we sell; we also use recycled packaging wherever we can for our web and catalogue orders, our space chips (these look like white Wotsits!) are compostable or can simply be dissolved under running water and our brown tape is even plastic free! With every order you not only fund the care of our Sanctuary residents, but help us become more green. That really is **#guiltfreegiftng**

Pedal power raises money for Redwings

The Royal Bank of Scotland/Natwest group branch in Forfar have raised money for Redwings Mountains by pulling on their cycle gear and pedalling the equivalent of the NC 500 route in branch on a static bike! Red and Wings even trotted along to cheer them on!

Choosing to support Redwings as a local charity, RBS also topped up the fundraising with a local Community Grant payment, bringing the total amount raised to £2,104!



RIP Dayzee

Sadly, our beloved Dayzee, an Adoption Star pony from Redwings Mountains, passed away in March. She was just 12 years old.

Little Dayzee had suddenly become hesitant to walk and was clearly uncomfortable. She was already on regular pain medication for osteoarthritis, which she had developed because of her poor conformation.

When her condition deteriorated despite being given further medicine, the attending vet had no choice but to make the difficult but kind call to put poor Dayzee to sleep to ensure she didn't suffer any further.

We would like to thank you all for your wonderful support.

RIP Dayzee, you'll be sadly missed.

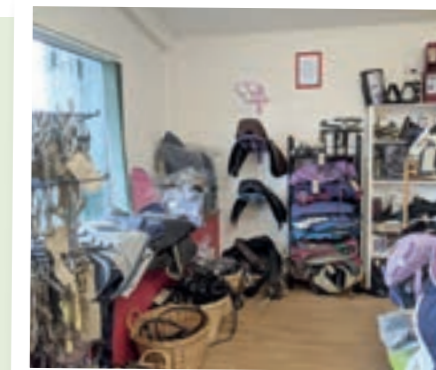
Recycling for Redwings

You may have noticed that, with the last few newsletters, you have also received a freepost envelope for our jewellery recycling scheme. This scheme takes any unwanted (even damaged) jewellery, old coins and foreign currency. The recycler sorts and sells these items on our behalf before sending us payment (minus a small commission, but this is more cost effective for Redwings than doing this ourselves!). **So far we have raised almost £66,000 from your kind donations in these envelopes.**

Do you have an old car that you have been meaning to send for scrap? Visit our website and contact our friends at Charity Car Takeback - they will take away your old car and pay us directly! Perhaps you have books, CDs or DVDs that you no longer need? Recycle these using Ziffit and you can choose to donate directly to charity, simply choose Redwings Horse Sanctuary.

eBay is hugely important to us as a means of raising funds and preloved horse tack has become our most popular department, so if you have any tack that you no longer need and it is in good condition, please contact us at preloved@redwings.co.uk.

Last but by no means least - trusty postage stamps! Simply post them to us at Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norfolk, NR15 1SP. Please mark STAMPS on the envelope.





Michaela makes a difference!

When five-year-old Michaela Brown saw an article about Barney in her Nanny's copy of our Spring newsletter she sprang into action to help raise funds for his

care at Redwings, and with her Nanny's help she completed a sponsored walk. She walked around three miles in total carrying signs telling passers-by about Barney's story and that she was collecting donations along the way. In total she raised £390! We are so inspired by Michaela's efforts to help Barney, and we are sure Barney is grateful for her support too!

(photo kindly submitted by Peter Brown Photographer)

Leonie is putting the Fun (Run) in Fundraising!

Young supporter Leonie has raised a fantastic total of £627.50 for Redwings by completing an 8.5-mile fun-run – just days after she turned six-years-old!

Leonie is autistic and enjoys sessions with the Riding for the Disabled Association, which has nurtured her love for animals, and after enjoying a visit with her home-schooling group to Redwings Oxhill in 2021, Leonie wanted to help us look after our horses, ponies and donkeys.

Thank you Leonie, what an amazing achievement!



Fundraising ideas galore!

Inspired to fundraise by Michaela and Leonie, but perhaps not as athletically minded? (We include ourselves in that!)

To help get your fundraising off the ground, we've put together this handy pack full of ideas, advice and resources to help you on your way. There may even be some ideas you haven't already thought of! Without people like you we wouldn't be able to provide the care and support our horses need.

If you'd like to organise a fundraising event and would like a pack to get you started, simply contact us at fundraising@redwings.co.uk or go online to request a pack.

Friday Night Winner

It's been a whole year since we launched our weekly lottery and every Friday draw brings a new chance to win and more support for the horses, ponies and donkeys in Redwings care. In this first year, 26 Redwings supporters have won prizes – and we're getting close to recruiting our 500th player. To celebrate that landmark, we are offering our 500th player £50 to spend in our online shop, as a thank you. To find out more about the Redwings Weekly Lottery search 'lottery' on our website or use the QR code.



18+

BeGambleAware.org Freephone 24-7 National Gambling Helpline: 0808 8020 133

No under 18 allowed to enter. No prizes will be paid to anyone under 18 years of age. Redwings Horse Sanctuary is licenced and regulated in Great Britain to operate this lottery by the Gambling Commission under account number 4776. Responsible Person: Lynn Cutress, Chief Executive & Secretary, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Norwich Road, Hapton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 1SP.

A lifetime of support



Earlier this year we heard from supporter Angela, who wrote to us with a very special letter, including donations which had been given in memory of her friend Margaret Ellis, who passed away in March, aged 101.

Margaret featured in a Redwings newsletter in the 1990s, after she was reunited with retired police horse Welbeck, who came to Redwings after being traumatized in the Hillsborough disaster.

Margaret had known Welbeck as a serving police horse, and been a supporter of Redwings for many years, so when she found

out he had been offered a home here she travelled to meet him again at Redwings Caldecott and shared a special moment with him over the fence.

For the rest of her life, Margaret continued to support Redwings and always had Welbeck's photo on display on her wall. With the donations we received in her memory, she continues to help horses in need and we are so very grateful.

Welbeck himself is the centre-piece to our Memory Garden at Redwings Caldecott in tribute to this special boy.



In memory tributes are a unique way to remember someone who loved horses

Our memorial gardens at our visitor centres offer a place of peace and remembrance, so for those wishing to make an extra special gift, we can help you choose a fitting plaque, stone or bench. You can even fund a paddock in memory of your loved one.

For more information on how to pay tribute to a loved one, please contact us at fundraising@redwings.co.uk or call us on 01508 505246.

For the horses in our care, Gifts in Wills are life-changing

Today, two out of three horses in our care can look forward to a better life thanks to someone who thought of them when writing or updating their Will. Making or updating a Will can seem a complicated task. If you would like to remember Redwings, we can offer advice on our website or through our Gifts in Wills

information pack, which includes details of a free Will writing service from Farewill.

Once you have remembered family and friends, any gift you make, whatever its size, will support a horse that needs our dedication, expertise and compassion. Thank you.

To receive a posted copy of Redwings' Gifts in Wills information pack, please contact us on 01508 481030 or email us at legacies@redwings.co.uk

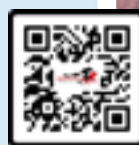
Special edition of *Black Beauty* launched

The University of East Anglia (UEA) is publishing a special edition of *Black Beauty* in collaboration with Redwings which will raise funds to help our rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

There have been countless editions of the novel but never before has its sale been used to directly benefit the animals Anna loved so much.

The special edition will be published in November and is available for pre-order now for the advance price of £8 (usual price £9.99). Half of all proceeds will come to us. Visit www.ueapublishingproject.com/shop or scan the QR code to find out more.

Excitingly, it has a foreword by eminent children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson, creator of Tracy Beaker and lifelong *Black Beauty* fan, who was delighted to help us, saying in her foreword: "Redwings helps so many ill-treated animals achieve their own happy ending too." There is also an afterword from Professor Thomas Ruys Smith of the UEA, a specialist in 19th century literature.



SCAN ME



Calling the budding young authors in your life

As well as the special edition of *Black Beauty*, Redwings - together with the UEA - have launched a creative writing competition for young people. With different age categories for 7-12 and 13-18 year olds, we are asking young writers (inspired by Anna Sewell) to give animals a voice and think about what they might like to say to humans if they could.

Winners will receive:

- a copy of the new edition of *Black Beauty*
- a year's sponsorship of a horse from Redwings
- the chance to see an extract of your writing published in *Young Reds* magazine
- plus, five runners-up in each category will also receive a copy of *Black Beauty*.

The closing date of the competition is **Friday 29th September 2023**, so not long to go! For more details about how to enter please visit our website. If you have any questions, you can email education@redwings.co.uk. Good luck!

A Ruby Anniversary for Redwings

Next year it will be 40 years since Redwings was first founded – inspired by the rescue of a single pony called Sheba, whose recovery led to the formation of the Sanctuary in 1984, with a mission to save horses from a life of fear and neglect.

Have you been a Redwings supporter since then? Do you have a special memory with one of our residents? Perhaps you grew up with an Adoption Star friend and now you're continuing the tradition for the children in your life? We'd love to hear from you as we look ahead to a special year to celebrate 40 years of Redwings! You can email communications@redwings.co.uk or call **01508 505246**.

Plans are afoot to celebrate our ruby milestone, and if you would like to be the first to hear about any plans or events then we would welcome you to sign up to receive our e-newsletter – the fortnightly e-mail from Redwings that delivers the latest news from across the Sanctuary straight to your inbox. You can sign up by visiting our website.

You can also keep up to date via our social channels and of course, we will continue to bring news of our special year to you via this newsletter too!

