

# Redwings

## Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2025

### ***Ready to Rescue: What Happens Next***

We bring you updates on recently rescued cases and life-changing rehabilitation work

### ***We need your help this winter***

From donating to our appeal to signing our fireworks petition – we need your help

### ***PLUS***

### ***Radcliffe's rehoming journey***

How one pony has become a beloved best friend

### ***New faces***

Introducing our two new Adoption Stars

*And much more inside...*



Ensuring resident Shetland Gizmo leads a healthy, happy life as we move towards winter will require changes in his healthcare, diet and living space. Many residents require similar changes in their care; this year they bring more challenges than we have faced in recent years.

**Turn to page 8 to find out more about the challenges we face this winter and how you can help support our resident horses, ponies and donkeys.**

Please donate\* today:

- **01508 505246**
- **www.redwings.org.uk**
- Text **GIZMO 10** to **70085** 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 GIZMONOINFO instead.

Lynn with Horse Hospital patient Fluff



## Introduction

**A**nother summer is flying by, and it's certainly been a hot one! So much has happened here at Redwings, and I do hope you'll enjoy reading the updates of what's being going on, from welcoming brand-new rescued arrivals like Patch and Tom, to our updates on the rather glorious cover-star Glorious and a very special rehomed pony, Radcliffe.

The last 10 years have been significant ones in the world of campaigning, and you can read more about the work we've been doing to influence horse care outside our paddock fences on pages 10 and 11.

We've also had a very exciting time thanks to the efforts of some amazing fundraisers taking on the ultimate challenge for us and the addition of some brand-new celebrity supporters too, all giving up their time to help support our rescued residents (see page 18 and 19).

**Although it's been exciting in so many ways, this year has been one of the toughest we've faced here at Redwings. Despite the unwavering generosity of our supporters, expenses are outpacing income. Feed and hay prices have soared, and essential staffing costs have risen significantly due to increases in the national living wage and employers' national insurance contributions. To maintain critical levels of our special sanctuary care we have had to use some of our savings.**

We have always been careful stewards of your donations, keeping admin costs low and stretching every pound. But this year, we have had to make some very difficult decisions as it has become clear that we must make some long-term operational changes in order to continue giving a high standard of care to our residents. Following a financial review, we have closed our Chepstow site and will soon close our Reception Centre in Norfolk – a site we've operated for over 20 years. While this is a painful step, it allows us to reassess and plan for a more sustainable future.

### 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



Our very experienced quarantine centre staff will all be retained as their expertise is invaluable, and this doesn't mean we won't be rescuing horses of course! But the site itself costs a great deal to run and in its current form it was never entirely fit for purpose. This change means we can now take stock of what we might need for the future. For now, we continue to take in the most desperate of rescue cases via a smaller quarantine centre set up at one of our existing closed sites nearby.

I've been so proud to see how the staff have adapted to this change. In fact, all across the charity staff at all levels are working incredibly hard to make changes to ensure we are as efficient as possible and ready and fit for the future, and we're proud to tell you about them in this newsletter.

As Chief Executive of this amazing charity, if I didn't tell you, our valued supporters, that we were facing difficult times then I simply would not be doing my job. And we know it's not just us. Charities, families and individuals all over the UK are struggling to make ends meet.

**We know it's really not an easy time, but without generous and loyal donors like you, the future for horses and ponies in need is uncertain, so we are asking for your help once again. If you can, please consider supporting our urgent winter appeal (page 8 and 9).**

**We need your help this winter – please donate what you can today.**

**With around 1,300 mouths to feed every day at the Sanctuary, every penny really will help, now and in the future.**

**Thank you for being part of Redwings and for your belief that every horse, pony and donkey deserves the chance to have a better life.**

Thank you.



Lynn Cutress  
Chief Executive

**We need your  
help this winter**  
**01508 505246**  
**www.redwings.org.uk**



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*Our cover photo features Glorious.*

*Glorious was rescued in 2024, as a young Thoroughbred mare who suffered crushing injuries on a grossly overstocked lorry on the way to the continent. The extent of her injuries, including a fractured skull and a deep wound on her face, shocked us all.*

*To see her now, as our cover star, she looks almost unrecognisable. Turn to page six to read more about her ongoing rehabilitation.*

### A note on how we stay in touch...

We're updating how we stay in touch with our supporters. From 01/01/2026, we'll rely on our legitimate interest to send you occasional updates and fundraising appeals by post, rather than asking for your ongoing consent. This helps us reduce admin and ensure your support has the greatest impact.

You can still opt out at any time by calling our Supporter Engagement team on **01508 505246**, emailing **info@redwings.co.uk**, or by writing to us at: **Supporter Engagement, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Hapton, Norfolk, NR15 1SP**

### Nicky is an inspiration!

In a surprise to no one here at Redwings, our brilliant Head of Veterinary and Care, Nicky Jarvis, has been awarded a prestigious Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Inspiration award. Nominated by fellow Redwings vet Dawn, this award recognises what we already knew – Nicky is the inspirational driving force behind our Horse Hospital and the team who make it happen!





## Redwings is Ready to Rescue

News of our frontline work from around the UK

### Helping Billy and Patch



Billy on arrival



Patch on arrival

In April, Redwings rescued two foals who were infested with maggots and suffering from liver disease, believed to have been caused by ragwort, a plant that is poisonous to horses.

Cobs Billy and Patch were signed over to us on behalf of their elderly owner, who had also recently become ill, after a member of the



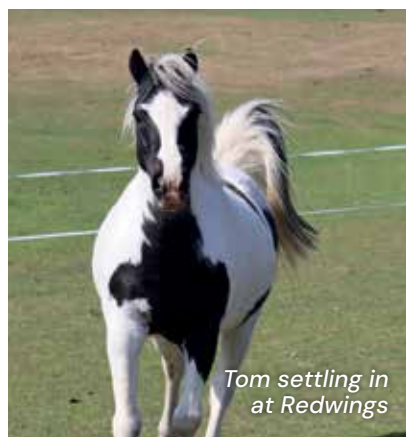
Patch recovering

public raised concerns for their welfare. They were living with other healthy horses at an idyllic location in Norfolk, but had been bought recently online, unseen and with an unknown history.

Redwings' Senior Welfare Vet Nicola Berryman said: "Billy's neck and shoulders had skin damage, which on closer inspection were infested with maggots, along with his feet. The full severity of his condition became apparent once his long coat was clipped, revealing further sores across his body and the extent of his emaciation. He also had worms, which was likely to be the cause of his weight loss, and lice."

Despite our best efforts, Billy, who was aged just four months, struggled with so many significant health issues that when his condition worsened, our vets decided that it was kindest to put him to sleep.

Seven-month-old Patch also had maggots in his feet, a high worm burden and evidence of liver disease but, happily, has responded well to treatment so far, and is bright and cheeky. We'll keep you updated on his progress!



Tom settling in at Redwings

### Teaching pony becomes special Redwings resident

A teaching pony, who had a seizure which meant he could no longer continue his role, has become a new Redwings sanctuary resident. Eleven-year-old Tom arrived in April from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), London where he was helping to educate the next generation of vets and vet nurses. Unsure where else to turn, the RVC got in touch with Redwings and asked if we would consider taking Tom, as he now needs very special care and management for the safety of himself and those around him.

Anne Whitehorn, Redwings' Welfare Operations Manager, said: "Tom's story shows that sometimes our rescue work is about being a home for a pony who can't go anywhere else. If we hadn't agreed to take him his future would have been very uncertain."

We need your help this winter

01508 505246  
www.redwings.org.uk



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# Smokey helps spread the word



A 22-year-old stallion, given a forever home at Redwings last November after his owner realised they couldn't provide the care he needed to keep him happy and healthy in his twilight years, has helped us share more about our vital rescue work.

Smokey came into the Sanctuary after concerns were raised for his body condition. His teeth were very worn, and he had a chronic eye condition that needed ongoing veterinary care, not easily managed in a private home.

Fame came calling when Smokey was featured as part of Redwings' Ready to Rescue appeal. His story was covered in national and local news, and he appeared on BBC

Radio Norfolk and That's TV Norfolk where he and carer Maxine captured hearts by showing how, with the help of a ginger biscuit incentive, we could now gently care for his eyes.



*Smokey the TV star*

## Four ponies settle into secure future at Redwings



*Ponies on arrival*

The future is secure for four ponies who are living together at Redwings after being removed from Gelligaer Common in South Wales.

Bonnie, Tyler, Tom and Jones are settling into life as sanctuary residents. Concerns were raised about

their welfare when a group of charities including Redwings, in partnership with the Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners' Association, identified the vulnerable ponies as part of an ongoing project to improve the welfare of the herds of horses on Gelligaer.

Three-year-old mare Bonnie was in poor body condition and had separated from the rest of the herd along with her foal at foot Tyler. Jones and his mother, who was very underweight, was with them. Very sadly, after their arrival at Redwings, she had to be put to sleep after her condition severely deteriorated. Lone foal Tom, who had been rescued at the same time, is a very similar age, and thankfully the two have become very firm friends. Nic de Brauwere, Head of Welfare and Behaviour, said: "We have over 20 years of experience working with ponies like Bonnie, Tyler, Tom and Jones, and are so grateful to our supporters whose generosity allows us to be Ready to Rescue them."



*Bonnie, Tyler and Jones now*



*Tyler and Tom now*

## RIP Elsa



In our last edition we told you that we'd rescued a severely emaciated mare, found abandoned in Norfolk, suffering from life-threatening diarrhoea.

Named Elsa by her rescuers, she was Redwings' first intake of the year, coming into our care on 15th January. She became the face of our Ready to Rescue appeal, shining a light on our efforts to give horses, ponies, donkeys and mules a future they could not enjoy anywhere else.

Very sadly in early May, Elsa was suddenly taken very ill, and the difficult decision was made to put her to sleep to prevent her from suffering. Rest in peace Elsa.

Our Senior Field Officer Julie Harding, said: "We tried so hard to help Elsa to overcome what had happened to her, but sometimes we have to accept that sadly we can't undo the damage that's already been done."





# Ready to Rescue: What comes next...

In our Spring Newsletter vet Nic, our Head of Welfare and Behaviour, shared his insight into how his team are always Ready to Rescue horses who need our help. In this edition, we wanted to follow the journey of two horses we introduced you to then, and show you the work that happens after rescue, when their ongoing rehabilitation begins...

## Glorious



*Glorious on arrival*

**G**lorious, a young Thoroughbred mare, arrived at Redwings having sustained awful injuries whilst being transported on a lorry destined for the continent. She had a fractured skull and wounds across her body from being trampled.

Once Glorious had physically recovered from her ordeal we knew she would need help to recover from her psychological trauma too. She moved to our specialist Behaviour Centre, and here her trainer Claire explains what happened next:

"Firstly, it was a case of ensuring that her basic needs as a horse were met. Glorious' intensive veterinary interventions had required her to be stabled but once recovered she could be introduced to a herd in a field, meaning she would have suitable companions and the freedom to be horse and express natural behaviours.



*Glorious and Claire working in protected contact*

"Glorious had clearly been handled prior to her trauma, as she had good basic handling skills. But it was apparent from the beginning that she had negative associations around people, especially around food, when she would pin her ears back and become aggressive. Behaviours we call resource guarding."

"We don't know what happened in Glorious' life before that trip in the lorry, but food aggression is not normal horse behaviour. Horses are not naturally aggressive, and if they have sufficient resources and space, they will not use unnecessary energy or risk injury by fighting over food.

"Once Glorious was settled in her herd, with plenty of resources and time to decompress from her experiences, we could begin to build positive associations around food and people. Firstly, and most importantly, she was checked by our vets to ensure that there was no pain that may be causing or contributing to her behaviour.

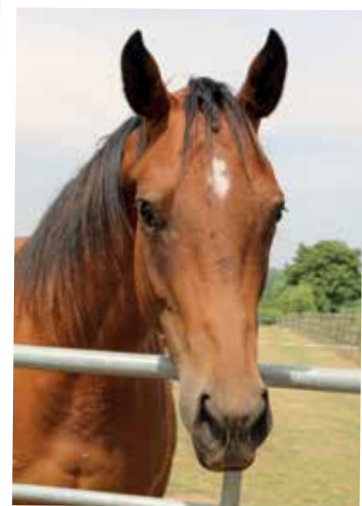
"We worked to select the right food for her training – something that was a rewarding incentive to work with us, but not too exciting that it could cause overexcitement or frustration. Throughout the training she always has access to grass, and we also hang a haylage net for her, as it is key that we never inadvertently withhold food from her.

"I work in protected contact, meaning the other side of a barrier – usually a gate. This is important to keep me safe and not reinforce Glorious' food aggression. At the minute all I am watching for is moments where she is relaxed around me and the food I have – her eyes and ears soft – then I will mark this moment with the clicker and deliver a food reward. Rewarding those moments will help Glorious realise she doesn't need to display the extreme behaviours and slowly we will build the positive association that she can be relaxed around me with food."

We filmed Claire training Glorious so you can see this work in action. Scan the QR code or head to our YouTube channel to find out more.



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*Glorious and her friend Bruni*

# Pansie



*Pansie and Sarah*

**P**ansie, a 17-year-old mare, was one of the group of 21 ponies and donkeys who came to Redwings from a site in Norwich. Many of the group were elderly, or from previous rescued backgrounds, and needed the specialist ongoing care Redwings could provide. Her trainer Sarah, our Equine Behaviour Manager, explained what came next for Pansie.

“We had heard that before coming to Redwings, Pansie required sedation, delivered by dart rifle, for any interventions such as the vet or farrier. It was clear to us straight away that Pansie found humans quite aversive and would avoid any interactions with us.

“When Pansie first arrived at the Behaviour Centre she was very stressed. She would pace along the fence and wouldn’t eat. We were very concerned about her and knew that we needed to immediately implement changes to help her cope, before we could begin work on any training.

“We identified a small herd of calm and sociable horses and began integrating Pansie and Rory, who was also from her rescue, with them. Almost overnight her behaviour changed. We observed her grazing peacefully, interacting with the other horses and even laying down to sleep.

“Pansie was much happier, so we could begin work on her training. We use food rewards to create positive associations with people and what we’re doing, in an approach known as counter conditioning – delivering tasty food when we’re doing

something they find aversive or difficult. By pairing the two, and with lots of repetitions, the thing they once found scary actually becomes the predictor of something nice.

“With Pansie, we did this to introduce a headcollar, which she picked up ever so quickly. Then, step-by-step, we introduced a second person coming in to touch and assess her legs, then pick out each hoof. Then we introduced the farrier, and him trimming her front hooves, and finally all four! At every step Pansie responded really well to her training, and now we can deliver all her routine care needs without her feeling stressed. She’s a real success story for our training, and it’s so lovely to see.”

Thanks to your support, behavioural rehabilitation like this is changing lives. Scan the QR code to see Pansie’s success story.



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*Pansie and Rory*



*Pansie's foot trim*

“Pansie responded really well to her training, and now we can deliver all her routine care needs without her feeling stressed or worried”



# Why this winter might be like no other...

**L**ittle Gizmo came into our care in early 2019 and today lives at Redwings Ada Cole as part of a small group alongside best friends Tilly and Dolly. Gizmo – or ‘Mo’ to his friends – turned 27 this year and because of the care he needs as an older pony, will have a home with us for the rest of his life.

Ensuring that Gizmo has a happy, comfortable winter will be a challenge for us this year. The price of basic but essential supplies has increased at the same time as running costs such as energy and fuel.



Gizmo

## The challenges this winter will bring



His carers help Gizmo maintain a healthy body condition throughout the year by giving him regular supplementary feeds. Due to his age Gizmo's teeth are quite worn and although he is still happy to eat grass, without these supplementary feeds he loses weight. Gizmo will spend more time on woodchip over this winter, when his diet will be made up entirely of forage like hay and supplements.

Over 50% of our residents are classed as veterans. Many of these senior residents rely on feeds throughout the year because they can no longer manage on a diet of just grass and forage. It is vital that we can support those horses who need supplementary feed this winter.



*Our golden oldies are fed multiple times a day*



**A gift of £18 could provide a resident with essential feed this winter**



## Prevention, not cure

Preventative healthcare plays a very important role to give sanctuary residents a good life. Part of that care for Gizmo is a programme of vaccinations that protect him from equine influenza and tetanus. Gizmo is quite relaxed about being vaccinated, neither being handled by the vet and vet nurse nor the injection itself seems to worry him. Some of the horses in our care come from a background where they've not been handled or handling has been a negative experience for them. Because of the vital role handling plays in the health of each horse, some members of our Behaviour team spend structured time with those most anxious residents to help them feel more at ease with human contact and handling.

Equine flu affects the respiratory tract and causes a dry, debilitating cough, raises the temperature and causes nasal discharge. The infection can transmit from an infected horse to another very easily, so scheduled regular vaccination is key to protecting all the members of our herd.



**A gift of £26 could vaccinate a horse in our care and protect them from illness**

## Comfort and rest



**A gift of £20 could help provide residents with the comfort of a bed this winter**

In a few weeks from now Gizmo and his friends will move to Ada Cole Centre's woodchip paddock, where he will spend most of the winter. The surface of woodchip drains more effectively than a paddock after rainfall, so ponies like Gizmo are less prone to mud fever and other risks associated with wet conditions. The woodchip paddocks are covered with a layer of straw, which provides some more comfort and insulation. Straw pads are also created for those horses and ponies who are living out on paddocks over the winter. The straw pads offer a dry place to relax and an opportunity to sleep deeply, something that helps horses feel more relaxed and is vital to a strong immune system.

For residents who are stabled overnight, the price of providing a bed of shavings has **increased by a third** in the past five years. Most of our residents live out year-round but some, including those who are unwell or recuperating, need the comfort of a stable and bed under cover.

A healthy diet, protection from infectious illness and a warm, dry bed are simple needs but will be critical to all our residents this winter.

**That care is made possible only through your kindness and support.**

# Please donate\* today



- **01508 505246 • [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)**
- **Text GIZMO 10 to 70085 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 GIZMONOINFO instead.



# Thank you!



# 10 years of helping horses outside our sanctuary fences

## Sharing our outbreak experience



The outbreak gave real impetus to our Stamp Out Strangles campaign, which was launched in 2018 and has seen well over 2,000 people pledging to protect horses from this potentially life-threatening disease.

In 2020, Redwings went a step further and brought together a collaboration of organisations for the first Strangles Awareness Week. In the past six years, the campaign has helped inform and inspire equestrians not just in the UK but around the world to help better protect more horses from Strangles.

This year, SAW2025 reached more than 5 million people with specially created graphics, images and videos, including

a short film made with Redwings' Guardian horse Indigo receiving his first Strangles vaccination. Indigo and his Guardian Ellen were perfect film stars, and their video has already been viewed more than 30,000 times on YouTube!

We made a short animation of how we managed our Strangles outbreak successfully to share our story with others. You can find the film and lots of other information about Strangles and our campaigns to protect horses from infectious disease here.



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This year marks the tenth anniversary of Redwings' Strangles outbreak, which saw us dealing with infectious disease not in newly rescued horses at our dedicated quarantine facility, but among some of our long-term sanctuary residents.

Thankfully the swift action of our horse care and veterinary teams limited the spread of this highly contagious illness to just 30 horses on a site that was home to over 300. Vital precautions included stopping all horse movements while we tracked and tested literally hundreds of horses to ensure the infection was contained and affected individuals given the treatment they needed.

## We need *YOUR* support this fireworks season!

At the head of this year's fireworks season, Redwings has launched a petition asking the government to reduce the maximum noise level of UK fireworks from 120 decibels to 90 decibels. Please scan the QR code or go [redwings.org.uk/fireworks](https://redwings.org.uk/fireworks) to sign and share the petition and help us achieve as much support as possible!



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# Best At Appleby

This year marked ten years of the Best at Appleby awards, given by vets and other experts for outstanding examples of horse health, happiness and horsemanship at Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria. Traditionally a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller gathering, where horses are bought and sold and families and friends come together, the annual event sees around 30,000 people from diverse communities visit the riverside town in the first week of June.

Animal welfare organisations have been working at the Fair for over 20 years. Ten years ago, Redwings developed the Best at Appleby awards to help create positive dialogue between horse owners and equine charities at the Fair. It is well-recognised that trust is built through positive interactions, and the awards offer the chance for conversations about horses and horse welfare that would otherwise be unlikely to happen. Redwings' Senior Welfare Vet Nicola Berryman, and this year's head judge said: "I've been working at Appleby since 2012 and have been helping to judge these awards since the very beginning.

"The response to the awards has been fantastic. People want to win an award, and they show their rosettes off around the Fair with pride. We've presented more than 60 awards over the past decade and had even more invaluable conversations with opportunities to break down barriers on both sides. Best At Appleby has become an incredible way to form lasting relationships, as we always hoped they would over time, and each year we meet and present awards to more excellent owners and their horses."



*Best at Appleby 2025 People's Champion  
Pandora with owner Mark and Redwings  
vet Nicola Berryman*

# Celebrating a legal milestone

The practice of grazing horses on land without the landowner's permission is known as 'fly-grazing'. Before 2015, landowners finding horses on their property had no practical way to legally rehome the equines other than putting them into public auction after a 14-day notice period. Some ruthless horse owners exploited the system by routinely grazing their horses for free and sidestepping any responsibility or risk of losing their animals.

In 2014, the Welsh Parliament brought in new legislation to give local authorities powers to deal with fly-grazing horses more quickly and effectively, making it far more difficult for

owners to get away with grazing illegally. Redwings not only highlighted the issue and contributed to the development of this legislation but also supported the introduction of parallel regulations in England the following year.

The Control of Horses Act effectively halted the practice of illegal grazing among a small number of owners who had been a thorn in the side of charities and law enforcement agencies for many years. Redwings is incredibly proud of the part we played in this important law and the role it plays in promoting responsible horse ownership.



# Radcliffe's new home



Radcliffe when rescued

**R**adcliffe came to Redwings in 2020, one of 137 horses removed from the Whispering Willows 'sanctuary'. Far from being a

sanctuary, there

were in fact serious welfare concerns for the group, and their living conditions. Redwings offered a home to 23 of the horses, who arrived in varying states of poor health, and some were very fearful. They were named after NHS hospitals in honour of our frontline healthcare workers during the pandemic.

In 2023, Sammy got in touch with our Rehoming team looking for a companion for elderly horse Rocky, and came to meet two potential matches. The team explained that Radcliffe, who was available to rehome as an unbacked project, was the more nervous of the two ponies, needing lots of reassurance in new situations. Knowing she had the experience to help Radcliffe, Sammy chose to rehome him.

Sadly, last July Sammy had to say goodbye to Rocky. Sammy said: "If it wasn't for Radcliffe, losing Rocky would have been so much harder. There was no way I could send Radcliffe back to Redwings as I had fallen in love with him, so I found him another companion, and we decided to keep progressing his training." Sammy took Radcliffe for walks, and taught him the voice commands 'stand, walk on and trot on'. Then she started long-reining him, working up to wearing a full driving harness. Sammy said: "We did this for about eight months. Initially Radcliffe might spin and spook but slowly we kept progressing, walking miles together and showing him the world and all sorts of traffic. As long as I spoke reassuringly to him, Radcliffe would trust me, and I could see his future as a driving pony."

Now, with a custom, made-to-measure cart, Radcliffe and Sammy are a dynamic driving duo! Sammy said: "We are having the best time and having so much fun together. He still listens out for my 'good boy' voice if he needs a little reassurance, but he gets excited to go out! Quite simply, he is my best friend, and I couldn't imagine life without him." Guardians like Sammy are more than important than ever to Redwings. Rehoming horses will help us create vital capacity at Redwings. Due to their rescued backgrounds, many of our horses may, like Radcliffe, need a kind and experienced helping hand in their new home, as they learn more about life outside of Redwings. But with time, patience, and lots of love, they thrive.



Radcliffe now



## A Grand Debut

**R**edwings Jerome, and his Guardian Millie, have quite literally been flying the flag for rehomed Redwings ponies this summer with their Pony Club Mounted Games team.

In front of a sizable crowd in the Grand Ring at the Royal Norfolk Show, the pair galloped home with the Union Jack – look at them go!



# News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'

Visit [www.redwings.org.uk/visit](http://www.redwings.org.uk/visit) for our latest opening times and information to make the most of your visit!



Ada Cole Essex, EN9 2DH

REDWINGS



## Working together for animal rescue

Over the summer, the team at Redwings Ada Cole has been supporting Essex Fire and Rescue Service with practicing their animal rescue skills.

Spending time at the centre means that firefighters can refresh their training and gain practical experience around horses from various backgrounds, as well as learn from our expert veterinary, welfare and horse care teams. We also provide the space for them to train rescue scenarios with their horse model – refreshing vital skills to one day help a horse in need.

## Goodnight dear Del Boy

We were so sorry to share the sad news that our much-loved retired Adoption Star Del Boy passed away on 14th March 2025. He was 23 years old.

Del Boy came to Redwings back in 2010 with his buddy Rodney, after the animal education centre they called home sadly had to close during the recession. At Redwings Ada Cole they quickly became favourites thanks to their cheeky personalities and love of entertaining a crowd.

In 2019, we made the decision to retire Del Boy from the Adoption Scheme. He'd started to experience recurring lameness due to osteoarthritis and issues with his hooves. He enjoyed a beautiful bond with fellow Adoption donkey Dotty – a friendship based on gentle cuddles, as opposed to the rambunctious antics of Del Boy and Rodders!

Del Boy was much loved by the Redwings Ada Cole team and Jo and Hollie said: "Even though Del Boy could be a little rascal, he was an incredibly handsome donkey who commanded attention wherever he went. Del you were a legend, we will miss you."



Del Boy (right) and his dear friend Dotty



As part of our commitment to using our resources as wisely as possible, our Maintenance team have been hard at work throughout the summer relocating the field shelters that were previously in use at our Chepstow site. In total, 16 field shelters have been relocated and reinstalled, as well as

## Shelters on the move

countless other tools and horse care items, all for the cost that would be equivalent to the purchase and installation of just three new shelters.

Several of them have been relocated to Redwings Aylsham to provide extra shade and shelter on our summer fields – much needed for the warm summer we have had in 2025.



## We're going digital!

We are so grateful to The Benefact Group for their wonderful gift of funding to invest in a brand-new interactive paddock board for our Aylsham Visitor Centre!

The screen uses a bespoke app specially designed for us to allow visitors to find their favourite resident at the touch of a button, see who's available for rehoming or back at our Horse Hospital, and most importantly of all, find out the name of the horse or donkey they've fallen in love with during their trip!

We're thankful for trust funding like this allowing us to improve our visitor experience, without taking money away from our frontline services. If the trial is successful, we hope to be able to roll out something similar at all our centres, funding permitting! In the meantime, we'd love to know what you think, so why not come along and test it for yourself?



## Flood hits Redwings Aylsham

In June, Redwings Aylsham was rather unexpectedly hit by flooding! A storm overnight saw the team come in to flash flooding, which had damaged the Visitor Centre floor. Thanks to a serious clean-up operation the team were still able to host Wiggins and Wacko's birthday party, but the centre was then closed so we could replace the flooring.

Thank you for your patience whilst we got things up and running again!





# The Redwings Book Festival Returns

This summer we held the second-ever Redwings Book Festival in the Caldecott marquee, and what a wonderful day we had! From headliner literary author Polly Crosby, to husband and wife team A J Wills and A J McDine, romance and historical authors Jenni Keer, Clare Marchant and Victoria Connelly, legend of the children's publishing world and pony book expert Jane Badger, to children's authors Cressida Burton and Amanda Wills, every single author had a connection to Redwings in some way and they all donated their time for free to help the event go with a swing! We had a very special session all about Black Beauty and Anna and Mary Sewell with Professor Tom Ruys Smith from the University of East Anglia, but of course the number one highlight of the day was the donkey reception featuring Adoption Star Esther and her mum Martha who greeted guests as they arrived. Sorry Tom!

Huge thanks to everyone who came along and made the day such a success, to all our wonderful authors of course, and very special thanks to Kirsty's Cakery and Halesworth Bookshop who kept us all supplied with cake and books!



Author Cressida meeting Esther and Martha

## Everyone's welcome

If you have visited Redwings Caldecott this summer you may have noticed we've had a bit of a switch-around! We have swapped the café and shop spaces – meaning there's more space to browse our shop looking for a souvenir of your day. There's also a new 'kids' corner' in our café – a space specifically designed to keep the little ones occupied whilst you have a well-deserved treat and rest your feet. The toys were all donated by the Redwings team, enjoying a second life after being outgrown by their original owners– we're all about rehoming here!

This is all part of our plan to make your visit as welcoming as possible. If you've seen the new changes, we'd love to know what you think!



## Mountains

Scotland,  
DD8 3SQ

REDWINGS

# Funding that's vital to our paddocks

Thanks to the Elizabeth C F McGregor-Dziniak Charitable Trust, we have been able to purchase a brand-new heavy-duty chain harrow for Redwings Mountains. This vital piece of equipment was much needed to replace our 15-year-old chain harrow that, after a long life working on the 220 acres of hilly Redwings Mountains, had succumbed to wear and tear.

Chain harrowing is a key part of paddock care. It improves soil aeration, helps water infiltration, and encourages healthy grass growth by removing dead grass. It also improves drainage, reducing the likelihood of mud and standing water, which can lead to conditions like pastern dermatitis and thrush. This all contributes to better grazing conditions, allowing us to rotate horses more efficiently and reduce veterinary costs related to mud and wet conditions.

Everyone at Redwings Mountains, with four legs and two, is very grateful for the new addition!



The new chain harrow will keep our grazing in tip-top shape



## Please don't feed our horses

We hope we say it enough, but we absolutely love our visitors! Your support helps make Redwings possible, and we love nothing more than welcoming you to get nose-to-nose with the horses you help save. However, we need your help please.

When visiting Redwings, please don't feed our horses. Many of our residents are on specialist diets – for example, some of our residents have problems with their teeth that mean that chewing stalky hay or chunky food is tricky for them, so their diet is made up of soft mashy foods instead. Or they may be on a weight management programme that is important for their overall health.

We have had instances of horses choking at our Visitor Centres, and whilst we don't know exactly what caused them – we need to be extra vigilant to keep our horses safe and help us avoid unexpected vet bills.

If a horse is keen to see you at the fence, we'd love you to try and find their favourite scratchy spot instead. You can try the withers (the point where their neck joins their body), their neck, or their chest. You'll know when you've found the right spot as you'll likely be rewarded for your efforts with some excellent 'scratchy faces' – lip twitching, happy horses galore! You might get grubby nails, but we promise it's worth it!! Thank you **#RedwingsAngels**



## Anna Sewell House

Gt. Yarmouth,  
NR30 1NE

REDWINGS

## From a Very Hungry Caterpillar to a very famous horse

Imagine our surprise and delight when we were contacted by a collections assistant from The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Massachusetts, USA. Eric Carle was the author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and many other wonderful children's books, and a few years ago the Museum ran an exhibition entitled 'Horse Tales: Galloping into Children's Books', with a collection consisting primarily of many different editions of Anna Sewell's Black Beauty dating back to at least the mid to late 1890s. As their collection storage spaces are relatively small, they got in contact after the exhibition to ask if we would like them to display in the Anna Sewell House. It was a fantastic day when we received this incredible collection of books all the way from America! We've also received a brilliant addition of some fantastic foreign language editions of the book from wonderful supporter Pamela Jordan, who came to visit us all the way from Wales earlier in the year, thank you Pamela.



## A brand new sculpture

In June it was the official launch of the new permanent Great Yarmouth Sculpture Trail by the local council, featuring this incredible horse sculpture by the vastly talented speed painter Lois Cordelia, who painted it in just a week in Great Yarmouth marketplace last year. It has been installed on the green outside the House and is already attracting a huge amount of interest. We even have the original miniature version Lois used as a guide on display in the House.



# Making retail work for Redwings



**A**cross Redwings we are pulling out the stops to make sure your kind donations do as much as possible for our rescued horses and donkeys, and our preloved sales and Redwings shops and cafés have been no exception. Rosalie, who heads up everything retail here at Redwings, explains some of the changes you may notice, and how we're making sure to make the most of your money.

"Over the past few months, the team (Joanna and Michelle at Redwings HQ, with some support from our Visitor Centre colleagues) and I have been reviewing how we handle our preloved donations. We're really trying to improve our approach, and it might surprise you when I say we realised something – we're really good at selling tack!

"Now, that might sound a little odd, but over the past few years we had broadened what we accepted as preloved donations in an effort to raise more money for our horses. However, when we looked a little deeper, we noticed that we now spend more time figuring out how to sell unrelated items, as opposed to focussing on what we do best. When it



*Michelle and Jo selling donated rugs*

comes to things like saddles and rugs, we know exactly what we're doing! In fact, Michelle recently sold a Western saddle on eBay for over £1,000!

"So, as much as we have appreciated any preloved donation, we've made the decision to refocus Redwings preloved back to where it all started: horse tack, accessories, and related items. By doing this, we can concentrate on selling these items quickly, use our storage space more efficiently, and make the best use of our expertise. We've seen a real increase in demand for preloved horse tack and, thankfully, a rise in donations too."

But that's not the only change in Redwings Trading.

If you've visited any of our sanctuaries over the summer, you may have noticed some subtle changes in the shops and cafés. We spent time chatting with people who came to visit us, and gathering information about our centres and their communities. We see so many different people, all visiting for different reasons, and we wanted to make sure that no matter who you are, if you wanted to buy something, you could—and you'd know that your purchase was directly supporting our horses.

"With both new tasty treats in the café, and gorgeous new products, if you haven't shopped with us for a while it's worth dropping in to your nearest Sanctuary or visiting our online shop. I really hope you'll find something you love."

*Enjoy a delicious lunch in our cafés*



*The gift shop at Redwings Caldecott*

“When it comes to things like saddles and rugs, we know exactly what we're doing! In fact, Michelle recently sold a Western saddle on eBay for over £1,000!”



# Supporters become first to complete London Marathon

**P**lease give three cheers for two runners who became the first to complete the London Marathon for Redwings in our 40-year history, raising over £1,500! Supporters Stephen Kennard and Steph Callen hit the streets of the capital on Sunday 27th April to raise vital funds towards our work.

After the race, Stephen said: "I'm really pleased to say I completed the London Marathon with an official time of 4:15:56! I'm especially happy with the result given how hot it was out there. Thank you for all the support."

Steph, who worked at Redwings for almost ten years, said: "What with the hot weather and picking up a knee injury so close to the big day, it wasn't the fastest run, but I did it and was so happy (and relieved!) to reach that finish line. I feel incredibly proud and grateful to everyone who cheered me on."



Steph and her well-earned medal!



Stephen mid-marathon



# Redwings trustee battled elements to complete 100k walk

**A** Redwings trustee has proven age is just a number, after completing an ultra-walking challenge involving brutal hills, rain and wind to raise funds for the horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in our care.

Ian Scott, who is 70 years old, walked 100km (over 60 miles!) across the Lake District as part of the Ultra Challenge Series on 7th and 8th June, finishing 18th out of 38 competitors and raising over £1,700 for Redwings.

Ian said: "There was pain, laughs, tears – and pies at 2.15am! This challenge really had it all, but I finished in a time of 22:28:05 and probably the fastest of the old geezers. I'm a bit broken, but it was worth every step."

# Thanks for a Hippomous donation

**P**oppy and Nick from Hippo Horse Showers recently raised £1860.80 for us through sales of their very special pink horse shower! They trotted across to see us at Aylsham to hand-deliver the cheque and a huge box of shampoos and other shower goodies too. According to our teams they were 'the best donation ever' – look out for some extra sparkling ponies when you next visit!



## Stop press!

We have now our brand-new supporter T-shirts (as modelled by our fab fundraisers in this issue)

available to anyone fundraising for us. Made from a sweat-wicking fabric, with the Redwings logo on the front, the shirts are perfect for fundraising runs, walks, or any other physical activity! To find out more, and let us know about your fundraising endeavours, please email [fundraising@redwings.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@redwings.co.uk)



# More about our Redwings Ambassadors

**W**e're always looking for new ways to raise awareness of Redwings and the vital work we do to protect horses, ponies and donkeys in need. One of the ways we've been able to extend our reach in 2025 is through the support of our fantastic ambassadors.

We're delighted to be working with Rhiannon Davies (@RidingwithRhi), TV personality Olivia Bowen, showjumper Joe Stockdale, farrier-influencer Sam Wolfenden and saddle fitter and online educator Poppy Webber, all long-standing supporters of Redwings who share a genuine passion for equine welfare and have chosen to take on a more active role in helping us promote our work.



*Ambassador Olivia with Adoption Star Zippy*



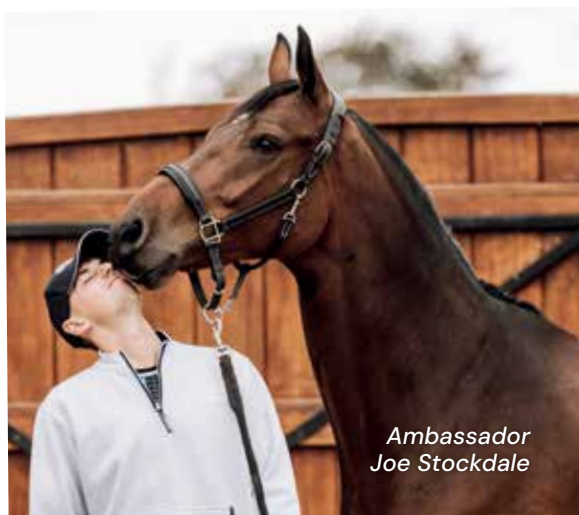
*Ambassador RidingwithRhi (left) spent some time with our rehoming team helping with novel object training*

They all lend their support in their own unique way. Whether it's through social media posts, attending events, or spending time getting to know our work first hand, our ambassadors help us share Redwings' messages with new audiences in an authentic and engaging way. Their support allows us to reach people who may not have heard of our charity before and highlight the importance of equine welfare and responsible horse ownership.

Crucially, they do all of this at no cost to the charity, giving their time and voice freely. In a climate where we need to make every penny count, this kind of support is most gratefully appreciated.

As a charity, we don't have a large marketing budget like big brands. So, when individuals with large audiences help us in this way, it enables us to raise awareness without diverting funds away from frontline care. It's a cost-effective and impactful way to showcase our work, and ultimately to help more horses in need.

Each ambassador has their own story and reason for supporting Redwings – from Olivia who used to visit Redwings Ada Cole as a child and now brings her own little one, to Poppy who has already fundraised for us with her other business (see page 18). Crucially, they all share a clear respect for our work, and a genuine interest in making a difference. We're very grateful for their support, and we look forward to telling you more about how they're getting involved.



*Ambassador Joe Stockdale*



*Ambassador Poppy Webber*



*Ambassador Sam Wolfenden*



# Meet Mac and Callisto!

It is our pleasure to introduce you to two new Adoption Stars. This adorable little and large duo joined the scheme this summer and are already proving to be popular chaps!

Callisto, a 15.3hh handsome horse, calls Redwings Aylsham home. Until recently this stunning chap was enjoying life in a Guardian home as a valued companion. He returned to Redwings when he had some trouble with his hooves and will now enjoy life in the Sanctuary. His rehoming training means he is a very friendly and sociable chap, so we knew he would shine in the role of Adoption Star – almost as much as his black coat shines on a sunny day!



Callisto

On the other end of the spectrum, we have mini but mighty Mac – all 9 hands of him! Although he is a miniature Shetland, he has a big personality and an even bigger mane! Originally from SWHP, where he was born after his mum Bella was rescued, his name is a tribute to the wonderful Jenny and Alasdair MacGregor, who were key to the foundation of SWHP and its legacy of saving horses across South Wales, before instigating the charity's merger with Redwings in 2019. We're sure you're going to love getting to know him at Redwings Oxhill.



Mac

To adopt Mac or Callisto, for yourself or as a lovely gift, please head to our website or call our Supporter Engagement team on 01508 505246.

Choosing new faces to join the ranks as an Adoption Star is always a tricky process. We look for friendly characters, who will enjoy the fuss and attention that Star status brings. We also endeavour to choose horses who are unlikely to need to spend too much time away from home receiving any veterinary care as we know how much it means to their adopters to be able to meet (and cuddle!) them when they come to visit. Both Callisto and Mac were suggested by the teams who know him best – their carers!



## Keeping up with rising costs

From 1st October, we are bringing the cost of paying for an adoption in a one-off payment in line with those who currently pay for their adoption monthly at £2 a month. This means an adoption will now cost £25 a year, if paid for as a one-off donation. If you currently adopt one of our residents by this method, you don't need to do anything, we will be in touch with more information when it is time for you to renew.

As you have read throughout this newsletter, now more than ever we appreciate your kind support. We know that everyone who adopts a horse, pony, donkey or mule Redwings does so as the ultimate act of friendship – both to that particular resident but also to us as a charity – and it is so important to us to keep the overall cost accessible to as many people as possible whilst ensuring it keeps up with rising costs. Thank you for your support #RedwingsAngels

We need your help this winter

01508 505246

[www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)



SCAN ME