

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2026

Impact edition

Discover how your support is helping us to help horses, far beyond our Sanctuary fences

Special care for our senior residents

Find out how, thanks to you, we are giving our veterans the very best care

PLUS

Horses helping people

Inspiring stories from our rehomed horses and their Guardians

Redwings in Parliament

Our Keep Horses in Mind campaign heads to Westminster

And much more inside...



Over 700 of our residents are veterans, meaning they are aged 15 or over. As they get older their needs may change, and our teams come together to provide the lifelong specialist care they need.

Turn to page 10 to find out more about the special care our special senior residents receive and how, thanks to your support, we love them for a lifetime.

Please donate today:

- 01508 505246
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **LIFETIME 10** to **70085** to donate £10*

(*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 LIFETIMENOINFO instead.)

Welcome to your spring newsletter for 2026!

It's always a pleasure to introduce this publication. It's a welcome chance to take a moment to breathe and take stock of everything we've been up to over the last six months and of course to show just how your kind donations have been used.

As I have mentioned in past updates, despite your incredible ongoing support, rising costs of essentials such as feed, hay, and staffing are still outpacing our income each year and this means we will be having to make some further changes to how we operate over the coming months. I will update you all on that as soon as I can and would like to assure you that any decisions made will be made with the interests and wellbeing of our rescued horses and donkeys at the centre, as always.

And I hope you will see from this publication that despite these continuing financial pressures, we are committed to using your donations to help as many horses as we can. I firmly believe we are having more impact than ever for horses and donkeys beyond our paddock fences.

Find out how we helped little Bruno with a severe headcollar wound, and lovely Will who has a malformed jaw on page 4–5, as well as the incredible way our team is leading the way in the welfare work being done on Gelligaer common, cementing and building on the work we've been doing in Wales for over 20 years.

Then on pages 6–7 you'll see the phenomenal impact that our work on fireworks has been having in the political space, securing incredible media coverage, an extraordinary petition response and a parliamentary debate. Huge thanks to all those of you who have stood alongside us and continue to do so, encouraging everyone to Keep Horses in Mind during fireworks season and throughout the year.

Pages 8–9 are dedicated to our work with partners, including sharing our expertise with international charity Brooke and hosting talks and workshops on everything from strangles and biosecurity to the care of our beloved golden oldies. And speaking of golden oldies, we are asking for your help to ensure our own residents have the best possible care in their twilight years with our special appeal on the centre pages. Please donate today. You can find out how on pages 10–11.

There are plenty of other ways you can help us outlined in these pages too, from sponsoring a horse through our legendary adoption scheme, to buying gifts from our lovely retail team, to encouraging the little ones in your life to take the brand-new Black Beauty pledge for animal welfare. There's a free keyring in it too, apparently! I need to find out how I can get my hands on one...

However you choose to support us, we are so grateful. We know times are tough for everyone but please can I ask you to give what you can and help us continue to safeguard our incredible rescued residents and champion horses and donkeys of all kinds. Together we can make a real difference for the animals we all love so much. Thank you for your wonderful support

Yours

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive



Lynn with Caesar.
Aged 30, he is one of our special senior residents!

News update...

HARRY HALL oneclub

and donkeys at Redwings! Equestrian retailer Harry Hall announced that we would be their Charity Partner for 2026. Voted for by their customers and our supporters, we were bowled over to find out we had received 48% of the vote – so thank you from the bottom of our hooves if you voted for us!! For the whole year, Harry Hall will donate to Redwings every time someone shops with them, or joins their One Club. And they'll be donating unsold clothing and horse equipment to us too!

...and WeatherBeeta!

And the pressies didn't stop there! Rug brand WeatherBeeta sent us a donation of 26 of their rugs in all shapes and sizes for our residents. Not every horse at Redwings needs a rug, but they are invaluable for our older or more vulnerable residents to help keep them as snug as a bug in a (WeatherBeeta) rug! Their arrival was perfectly timed to make sure we were prepared for the snowy spell in early January. Thank you WeatherBeeta.



A special donation from Arsenal 'sock-er' team

Arsenal FC got in touch to offer us some footless football socks. You'd be forgiven for thinking they are more suited to shinpads than Shetlands, but the reality is that they can be incredibly useful for Redwings.

The socks have already been put to good use keeping bandages clean, protecting donkeys' legs from pesky flies, preventing headcollar rubs and even taming hairy legs to help out our lovely farriers!

Thank you Arsenal!

Thank you Harry Hall

On Christmas Eve we were treated to a Christmas present for all our horses



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Our cover photo is dashing Dennie from Redwings Ada Cole.

Turn to page 10 to find out more about the special sanctuary care he receives as one of our over 700 veteran residents.

You may notice that your next newsletter looks a little different. We're going to trial sending our newsletter to you folded, to help us save on postage costs. Don't worry, it will still include all the content you love, and updates from across Redwings. Simply fold out and enjoy!



Redwings is Ready to Rescue

News of our frontline work from around the UK



Helping Bruno



Bruno's wound

Redwings staff recently worked with a desperate owner to come to the aid of a pony called Bruno who had suffered an injury.

Misled by a dealer, Bruno's owner had purchased three totally unhandled ponies. Run straight from the lorry into a field with their headcollars and lead ropes still attached, she couldn't get near the unsettled animals to remove them. After some days working with the ponies, their owner was able to remove one of the colts' headcollars and all the lead ropes but couldn't get the headcollars off

the other two, one of which was becoming embedded.

Redwings' Senior Field Officer Jo Franklin said: "Everyone she contacted told her they couldn't help. Realising that Bruno was suffering, and desperate to try and help him, his owner reached out to the Redwings welfare support line.

"We always try to do what we can to help horses in need, and knew we could help these horses and their owner, and end Bruno's painful suffering.

"A small team of us, who are experienced at handling feral horses, attended and managed to successfully sedate the ponies and remove the headcollars. Bruno had a significant wound so it was decided that he should be temporarily admitted to Redwings, where our vets are always on hand and our Reception Centre staff could ensure it would heal safely.

"Thanks to the compassion of our teams and close collaboration with his owner, who made a donation to us, I'm happy to say that Bruno is recovered and fantastic progress has been made with all three of these ponies."



Bruno healing at Redwings



Redwings helps mules and ponies left on wintry hillside to safety

With just a few days to go until Christmas, our vet and Head of Welfare and Behaviour Nic assisted with the rescue of six mules and two ponies living on an exposed hillside in rural south Wales.

Led by The Donkey Sanctuary, with support from Mare and Foal Sanctuary and using equipment from World Horse Welfare, Nic received a call for assistance from Lluest Horse and Pony Trust in Carmarthenshire after they'd been made aware of the plight of the equines whose owner had recently passed away.

The six unhandled mules, Shetland and pony had very little shelter from the wintry conditions on the hillside and one mule had severely overgrown hooves and needed urgent veterinary assessment and specialist farriery.

Nic provided key veterinary support, and thankfully all were able to be safely transported to the Lluest Horse and Pony Trust, where they are now receiving the care and attention they so desperately needed, thanks to the combined efforts of the charities involved.

Pony neglected alongside over 450 animals starts new life at Redwings



Horses in a barn at Nottinghamshire farm before rescue

A pony rescued from a Nottinghamshire farm where hundreds of animals were trapped in horrible living conditions has been given a forever home at Redwings.

Will, who has a problem with his jaw, arrived at Redwings Caldecott in December.

Redwings' Head of Welfare Nic lent his veterinary expertise during the

original RSPCA-led rescue where 455 animals of 19 different species were seized on vet advice, including Will and around other 70 horses and donkeys, in November 2023. Their owners were prosecuted.

Nic said: "It was heartbreaking to see just how poor these equines' quality of life was but being able to help them, knowing they were heading to a much brighter future, was very rewarding.

"I'm pleased that one of the ponies I got to work with has his forever home with us here at Redwings.

"One part of Will's jaw is shorter than the other so his teeth do not meet as they should. He will therefore need

close monitoring, regular dental check-ups and dental maintenance to live a happy and healthy life, all things which we are able to provide for him at Redwings thanks to our wonderful supporters."



Will at Redwings Caldecott

Preventative welfare work on Gelligaer Common

For the third consecutive year, we have been working with the RSPCA, World Horse Welfare and the Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners Association to lead on a project to safeguard the welfare of ponies on the common. In October 2025, the group coordinated a two-day welfare operation, where 38 young ponies were removed from the common by National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) member charities to enter their rehoming programmes and go on to find loving homes.



Redwings Welfare vets Nic and Chloe attended, along with other members of our Welfare and Maintenance teams with our rescue pen sections - using their expertise to safely corral the ponies.

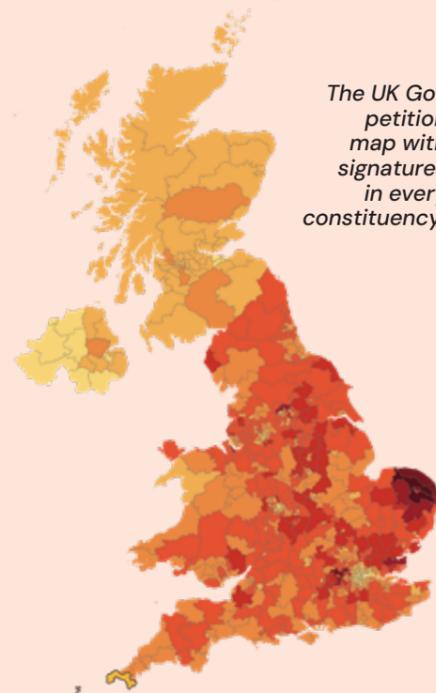
Redwings' Head of Welfare Nic, who has led our work on Gelligaer common for over 20 years, said: "The impact of this project cannot be underestimated. By rehoming younger ponies, we are working towards a long-term goal of appropriate numbers of the pony population that can be supported by the resources on the common. Already, since our proactive approach to rehome young ponies, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of welfare reports received about the condition of the ponies."



Making a noise about quieter fireworks

You may remember in last year's autumn newsletter we announced that Redwings were launching a petition which asked the government to reduce the maximum noise level of fireworks from 120 decibels to 90 decibels. It turned out to be quite a momentous step!

We were hopeful of achieving the 100,000 petition signatures needed for the topic to be considered for parliamentary debate but were absolutely blown away when we reached that milestone in less than two months! A huge THANK YOU to every one of you who has signed, shared and helped us smash our target and take the issue right to the heart of Westminster on your behalf. At the time of writing, the petition has been signed by over 180,000 people from literally every part of the UK.



Packed-out debate



Helen and Robert Branch. His petition was also considered in the debate

On 19th January, Redwings Campaigns Manager Helen attended the Parliamentary debate in Westminster. In a full-to-bursting chamber, 58 MPs spoke and shared incredibly powerful experiences of their constituents, and their animals, who had been injured or traumatised by fireworks.

The Minister present, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Trade Kate Dearden, was unable to give a timeline of what will happen next but assured those present that she had heard their concerns and would be asking for better regulations and urgency of action. She said: "We will continue to gather evidence and continue to hear from organisations,

charities and campaigners to ensure that any changes to legislation are effective."

Reflecting on the debate Helen said: "The aim of a debate like this is to get this evidence in front of a Minister, which we achieved thanks to everyone who has supported us by signing our petition and contacting their representatives.

"As frustrating as it is for all of us who care about this issue, change takes time and the Minister has indicated her willingness to meet with us, which we'll of course be taking her up on."

Redwings is an active part of the Fireworks Impact Coalition of 19 charities, highlighting the impact of fireworks on people as well as horses and other animals and we will be continuing to contribute to research and data collection so that we can evidence the impact of fireworks.

From Helen, and all of us here at Redwings, thank you! Your support has got us this far, and we know you will help us keep up the pressure! So, please keep signing relevant petitions and writing to your MP and remind them to **Keep Horses in Mind** all year round.

High profile support

Our petition was signed by:

Sir Stephen Fry

Team GB Olympic showjumper Joe Stockdale

Sherlock actor Amanda Abbington

Reality TV star Olivia Bowen

Coronation Street actor Kate Ford

Event rider and equestrian influencer Megan Elphick

Premiership footballer Asmir Begovic



Megan Elphick

Why low-noise fireworks?



Simply reducing the noise levels of fireworks has the potential to alleviate much of the distress for horses, as well as to other animals, many people and wildlife. All fireworks make some noise and truly 'silent' fireworks aren't possible, but excluding the loudest explosions removes what the most startling factor for most horses, making it the one most closely associated with panic and potential injury, illness or even fatality. And because a frightened horse is a dangerous horse, it makes fireworks safer for people around horses too.

While a reduction in noise levels doesn't address all the issues fireworks present, we believe it is a practical solution at this time, because:

- **Low-noise fireworks are already widely available**
- **Businesses who rely on the manufacture and sale of fireworks can continue to trade**
- **People who enjoy fireworks can still use them**
- **There is no additional responsibility on local authorities**



Maizie and her herd!

Low noise fireworks in action

In November 2024, we were contacted by Maizie Brown, a horse owner who had had a terrible experience with fireworks which had been let off at a pub next door to her herd of eight horses.

Maizie said: "As soon as I knew about the display, I made every possible attempt to prepare. I moved my horses as far away as I could, kept everyone in their routine, provided extra food, played music and even gave them a calming supplement.

"The display itself felt like the longest ten minutes of my life. They were the loudest fireworks I had ever heard. My horses were in complete panic mode, one of them ended up with a nosebleed.

"In the aftermath I was desperate to talk to someone about my experience to try and prevent it happening again. I spoke to Helen at Redwings, and it was honestly such a relief that someone understood my concerns. I was so angry that my horses had been put in this situation and Helen kindly suggested ways we might look to find a compromise with the pub, including low-noise fireworks.

"I then met with the pub owner and they agreed to use low-noise fireworks going forwards. Thankfully this small change had such a positive impact on my horses. Last year they were not as panicked and were able to stand and process the fireworks without the huge bangs.

"After the display in 2024, it took 45 minutes for the horses to settle enough to even begin eating again. They were just too stressed to think about it. After the low-noise display, it was just five minutes before they were all behaving as normal again. I could go home knowing everyone was ok and safe, and it was honestly such an enormous relief."

The reality of fireworks

Have you seen our short film? Using videos and photos shared with us by owners with first-hand experience of the distressing effects fireworks can have on horses and kindly voiced by the wonderful actor and filmmaker Dan Richardson, it clearly demonstrates why tighter regulation is so desperately needed.



Vets from across the world visit Redwings



Staff from international working animal charity Brooke spent a week at Redwings, learning handling practices that put equines' experiences first.

Vets from Pakistan, Ethiopia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and three of their UK animal welfare experts, were hosted at our headquarters near Norwich. The delegates had a tour of Redwings including our Horse Hospital and Behaviour Centre, plus a whole programme of demos, workshops and theory sessions. Global Animal Welfare Advisor at Brooke, Jen Wathan, said: "We're so grateful to Redwings for allowing us to spend time with their in-house vets and behaviour experts, as well as their horses and donkeys.

"It was brilliant to see how they work with their equines, many of whom have had experiences that have significantly affected their behaviours, and learn how they manage these with compassion. It's an experience our staff will take back to our country programmes, influencing animal

health workers and owners and ultimately working animals across the world.

Redwings' Head of Welfare and Behaviour Nic de Brauwere said: "It was very much a two-way learning experience. By the end of day one it was apparent how similar some of the challenges are for equines who suffer from poor mental health wherever they are in the world.

"We have learnt so much by treating and training our rescued horses, and we're very happy to be sharing our experience to help more, in this case those who are working in some of the most challenging parts of the world."



Wising up on biosecurity at Yardwise

Last Autumn, Redwings Head of Welfare (and Strangles expert!) Nic and Campaigns Manager Helen attended Yardwise – a unique event designed especially for yard owners and managers. Nic headed up a roundtable discussion about biosecurity, sharing his unique experience and expertise to help yard owners to consider ways they can introduce simple and useful quarantine measures and help protect horses from infectious disease.

Meanwhile Helen was telling yard owners more about Strangles Awareness Week – encouraging yard owners to sign up as ambassadors and engage with the resources and information produced by the collaboration.

Events like this are a fantastic way to share our knowledge face-to-face with yard owners, who work directly with hundreds of horses and their owners across the country. There's no underselling the impact this could have to help protect horses from the potential misery of infectious diseases like Strangles.



Introducing Sam!

We're delighted to welcome TikTok star and professional farrier Sam Dracott onto Team Redwings, as an ambassador for the charity!

Sam has already shown us the many ways our ambassadors are helping us have a positive impact on both our residents at Redwings, and horses across the UK. In October 2025, Sam hosted a charity polo match, with well-known riders from across the equestrian world, and raised £2,000 for Redwings. The riders, spectators, and everyone who enjoyed the day online, also got hear more about what we do – and meet Adoption Star Tinkerbelle and Majorie, who were VIP (Very Important Pony) guests!

In November, Sam joined the Redwings team at Your Horse Live to help us gather even more signatures for our fireworks

petition. In amongst his busy schedule of farrier demonstrations, Sam kindly spent a lot of his free time encouraging people across the event to support our calls for low-noise fireworks!

And, that's not even it! Just before Christmas,



Sam joined us at Redwings Ada Cole to help us promote the magic of our Adoption Scheme. He met each of the Adoption Stars, and we even put him to work helping us get them to pose for their photos, so their adopters could look forward to stunning pictures in their next update.

Our ambassadors, like Sam, give their time to us for free. With an online audience of over six million people, he is helping us spread our work to a huge audience, and that can only help us to help more horses and donkeys that need us.



Spotlight on our seniors!

We have been working with the team at My Senior Horse, and Mars Horsecare, to produce a series of videos and blogs all about providing the best care for senior horses. My Senior Horse, based in the United States, is an international hub of information to help the owners of veteran horses, donkeys and mules to improve their health and welfare. They brought a film crew to Redwings HQ to spend some time with members of our veterinary

and horse care teams – sharing their extensive know-how of looking after seniors at Redwings. With videos on topics such as dental care, feeding, daily checks and managing grazing, these videos make for excellent supportive resources.

We can't forget about sanctuary superstar pony Snow White! She was the star of her own film – showcasing the great care she receives from our team, from daily medication for PPIID and insulin dysregulation to extra eye care after the removal of a melanoma (skin cancer) near her right eye. She totally stole the show when it came to showing off her special pair of sparkly boots, that she wears to protect her sensitive hooves when walking on concrete – and when she decided to make a break for it across the yard during the filming!

It's no coincidence that we have become experts at providing the best care for our older residents. As a sanctuary, offering a lifelong home for our rescued residents if they need it, this means that we have our fair share of older residents. In fact, almost 60% of our residents are veterans (a horse is classed as a veteran when they are 15 or over). They may need extra support to ensure they have the very best welfare as they get older, and we are proud to have such expert and caring teams to provide it – and to share this knowledge with others. Turn to page 10 to read more about the extra lengths we go to for our special senior citizens!

Sanctuary care in action: Special care for our senior residents

When we rescue a horse or donkey, we pledge them a forever home – a lifelong commitment to provide them with whatever they need, for however long they need it. Over 700 of our residents at Redwings are aged 15 or over, classing them as veteran horses. Our oldest ever resident was Humphrey the donkey, who was 48 years old when he passed away, a great age thanks to great care, all made possible due to your support.

Meet Martha

At just over 9hh, Martha is one of the smallest of the Redwings Caldecott donkey herd, but what she lacks in size, she makes up for in personality! Martha was one of over 100 horses and donkeys rescued from the horrors of Spindle Farm in Amersham in 2008. She was underweight, with muscle wastage and overgrown hooves, and she was not alone. Martha was nursing her young foal, Esther, who grew up to become one of our beloved Adoption Stars. Martha, now 27-years-old, is one of our oldest donkeys.

"We give Martha three small high-fibre feeds, in the morning, at midday and in the afternoon. They are her favourite part of the day, and when she spots the team coming, she will excitedly wait next to the paddock corrals – she knows the drill! Usually we give our seniors a mash food, but Martha didn't seem keen to eat it, so she gets soaked high-fibre

feed instead. All our residents are individuals, and our oldies often let us know when something isn't to their liking – and we are always happy to oblige!" **Laura, Caldecott Equine Centre Manager**

Martha also has a condition which affects her eyes and wears a special visor to protect them, especially from the sun which could damage her pink skin. She can see perfectly through the visor – like wearing a pair of donkey sunglasses!



Many of our donkeys need visors to help protect their sensitive eyes. A gift of £15 could help buy a visor for an elderly donkey like Martha.

Dashing Dennie



Cover-star Dennie came to Redwings in 2013, as part of an RSPCA prosecution case. He was blind in his right eye, which was very abnormal in appearance. We don't know what caused this, but as a result Dennie has secondary glaucoma in this eye. This can cause a build-up of pressure in his eye and, if not managed well, intense pain. Dennie's glaucoma is managed by twice daily eye drops.

"Dennie is an absolute gentleman and a firm favourite. Due to his blindness, we always make sure to chat to Dennie whilst we work, so he knows we're there. He is extremely trusting of us." **Alysha, Ada Cole Team Leader.**

Dennie also requires medication for a condition called PPID, which is more common in older horses due to the degeneration of the pituitary gland (in the brain), leading to the dysregulation of hormone production. It's important that it is managed in our older residents as it can lead to an increased risk of infection, or painful conditions such as laminitis. Medication is required daily for long-term management of the condition. Usually, tablets are given in the middle a ball of soaked feed. Not for dear Dennie though... he won't eat it if it's delivered in ball form, so instead the team hollow out a piece of carrot and pop it inside instead. All part of the service for our seniors!



Many of our veterans receive individual care from our teams multiple times a day. A gift of £5 a month could help treat Dennie's glaucoma.

Caring for Sienna

Beautiful Sienna is 28 years old, so when she was rescued in 2018, she was actually already a veteran. Sienna was one of 20 underweight horses found living in unsuitable conditions. Working with other organisations to find homes for the horses, Redwings pledged our precious sanctuary spaces to those in most need, whether that be due to their age or their health.

Thanks to you, we have been able to offer her a home where her every need is met. She receives two feeds a day to help her maintain her weight, as well as medication for osteoarthritis that ensures her joints are comfortable.

Sienna is also one of our many senior horses who receive extra care for their teeth.

"As a horse ages their teeth are constantly emerging from their gums. The further they emerge, the narrower the teeth are, which can lead to the horses getting hay and food trapped in the gaps that form between their teeth. Known as diastema, they can be incredibly sore, even causing large ulcers, or the gums to bleed.

Maintaining a healthy mouth for our residents is crucial, so they can eat without pain, so we schedule regular dental exams, where we clean and pack the gaps with specialist putty if needed." **Veterinary Surgeon Dawn**



Special care for Sienna includes plenty of scratches too!

Older residents like Sienna and Martha have thorough dental examinations every 3-4 months, which is a huge commitment of veterinary resources. These dental checks require a vet plus one of our veterinary nurses or assistants. They use sedation medication, to keep the horses relaxed during the examination, as well as specialist dental equipment. Our vets perform a minimum of 40-50 dental exams a month on our residents with diastema.



A gift of £30 could help us buy specialist putty to help prevent painful diastema for patients like Sienna

A home for life, for all of their life

We hope that Martha, Dennie, Sienna and the rest of our special senior residents will continue to thrive in the care of our teams long into the future. **Thanks to your support, we will love them for a lifetime.**

We know that many of you already give a regular gift, and we are so thankful for your support. A monthly donation, of any amount, creates a big, steady impact for Redwings – allowing us to plan ahead and costing less for us to process – meaning more of your support goes straight to the residents you care about.

Thanks to you they can enjoy comfort and companionship for the rest of their lives.



Martha with Sian

Please donate* today



Scan Me

- 01508 505246 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text LIFETIME 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 LIFETIME10NAINFO instead.



Thank you!

Children and young people invited to make kindness pledge



Redwings and the University of East Anglia (UEA) have launched a brand-new animal welfare pledge that honours the legacy of Anna Sewell, the author of Black Beauty.

The Black Beauty Pledge is inspired by the Bands of Mercy, an organisation established during Anna's lifetime, to promote kindness to animals, especially amongst children, using education and direct action. Redwings and the UEA have been working together to honour Anna Sewell's legacy since the publication of our special fundraising edition of Black Beauty two years ago.



Band of Mercy. Photograph, c.1890. Collection of the National Museum of Animals & Society

Redwings' Head of Communications and Campaigns, Nicola Knight, said: "The idea is that the pledge, to promise to treat all animals as you would like to be treated if you were that animal, gets us thinking about what a particular animal needs to be happy and healthy."

"We hope that by signing up children and young people especially will be motivated to take action to be kind to animals."

Everyone who signs up will receive a certificate and keyring and additional prizes are available to those who go on to show what they have done for animals. They will also be featured on a special online gallery. Head to our website to find out more!

Did you know we do group visits?

From Brownies and Scouts to schools, colleges, universities, libraries and care homes, we are available to share our knowledge on horse care, animal welfare, and all things Redwings to you and your group, students, members or residents.

"We are especially committed to educating children and young people, as we hope they will become ambassadors for horses in the future," said Redwings' Education and Youth Publications Officer Charlotte McMorran.

"Education is one of our charitable objectives here at Redwings, and we work tirelessly to encourage empathy and inspire the next generation of animal advocates in as many ways as we can."

Charlotte, as well as some of our expert care teams, hosts the visits which focus on what Redwings does and why our work is so important – by sharing the remarkable stories of the residents in our care. But visits are tailored to the audience too.

"There's no age limit to a group visit! We can do virtual visits too if people prefer that, and if possible, can visit you for one of your sessions. Of course, we always love to welcome groups at our visitor centres so you can see first-hand (or hoof!) the life-changing work that happens at Redwings and meet our residents nose-to-nose!"

To arrange a group visit you can:

- email education@redwings.co.uk
- Fill in this form on our website www.redwings.org.uk/visit/group-visit
- Or speak to a team member at one of our visitor centres and they will take your details



The power of rehoming

Rehoming at Redwings is just one of the ways we can continue our work to have a positive impact on horses and donkeys in the UK. By rehoming residents who will thrive in a Guardian home, it helps release more precious spaces to rescue and care for horses and donkeys found in desperate need. Seeing our rehomed horses living wonderful, fulfilling lives in their Guardian homes is a source of huge pride for us – even more so when we hear stories of how they are having their own wonderful impact in their communities. Just like these two amazing stories...

Redwings Cookie



Cookie before

Redwings Cookie and her Guardian Angela are Mounted Support volunteers for Suffolk Police, and have been supporting Suffolk Police's Rural and Wildlife Crime Team and the British Horse Society with Operation Close Pass – which aims to educate drivers about the rules of the Highway Code and how to pass horses and riders safely, slowly at 10mph and with a 2m gap.

Cookie was rehomed in 2019 as an unbacked project, and she has simply thrived in her new home. She was severely emaciated when she was rescued, and nervous of people. To see the confident pony she is now, helping to protect other horses and vulnerable road users – we couldn't be more proud!



Cookie now

Ponies helping people



Giddy & Harley

Redwings Giddy and Harlequin have celebrated their one-year anniversary in their new home with Guardian Loes, a chartered psychologist and qualified equine facilitated psychotherapist. The pair of them are now playing a unique role for the charity Equilore, which offers equine assisted facilitated psychotherapy, working with a cancer support charity, schools and other organisations.

Loes explained how this works: "Horses are very tuned into us, not relying on our verbal language, but rather responding to cues in our behaviour – that often we are not aware of! By working with horses, our clients learn a huge amount about their coping mechanisms and how they deal with the world."

"We were receiving increasing referrals about young people in need of our services, so we knew we needed to expand our equine team. It made sense that smaller clients might prefer smaller ponies, and to rehome from a rescue charity was the dream as those ponies need a home. Redwings were so helpful in ensuring we found ponies that were the perfect fit."

"Many of our clients can identify parts of themselves in Giddy and Harley's past as rescue ponies, or they recognise parts of their relationships with other people in the very strong attachment Giddy and Harley have to each other."

"Speaking of their bond, we are always careful to work within their comfort zone, especially making sure they are together. Harley absolutely adores her scratches, and they are both now showing a real curiosity and want to interact with our clients. From the very first day they arrived they have had such a positive impact on our therapy clients. One young person, who had been struggling with school and becoming increasingly disengaged with therapy, was encouraged to attend a session that day purely because of her curiosity to meet the new ponies – and they've been helping us make a huge difference ever since!"



Reggie from The Gangsters



Lily



Callisto

The Adoption Option

The Redwings Adoption scheme has been loved by many for, well, donkey's years! In fact, it's been cherished for so long, that it occurred to us it's been a while since we explained how it all works! So, if you're new here, or would welcome a refresher – here's a quick summary.

Choosing an Adoption Star (either for yourself or as a gift for someone else) can be tricky as they are all quite simply gorgeous! So to help you out – we've added some filters to the website – such as location, so you can work out which horse, pony or donkey lives closest to you. Of course, you could always visit one of our visitor centres and decide in person too! Once you have chosen, you will receive a

beautiful adoption pack which includes a stunning photo of your new friend, their rescue story, a fascinating factsheet, certificate and bookmark. Your Adoption Star will write two postal updates to you each year and they will send you an email each quarter too. You'll also receive a Christmas card from them AND an invitation to their birthday party – yes, really!

You will receive all this (plus a warm, fuzzy feeling from doing a good deed) from as little as £2 a month via Direct Debit or a one-off donation from £25. Sponsoring a horse, pony or donkey at Redwings is a fantastic way to support our charity and make a new friend in the process. Visit redwings.org.uk and select 'adopt' to find out more.



Aylsham – The Gangsters birthday party

Birthday fun!

There are often extra activities (sometimes involving our mascots Red and Wings!) and our team are always on hand to answer questions about the birthday star and help them meet their loyal supporters!

Plus, new for this year – we'll have birthday cake of the human variety too! As delicious as our Stars seem to find their cakes, we're not quite sure we fancy them ourselves, so we're proud to say that we will be serving special birthday cake in the cafes on party days – so you can join in the fun too!

"A party for a pony?!" we can hear you thinking... Well, that's just one of things that makes our Adoption Scheme so special – our teams are the pros at throwing

a pony party or a donkey do! Each Adoption Star celebrates their big day with a bash at their visitor centre. Featuring a special groom for the birthday girl or boy, you'll also get to watch them tuck into their own delicious birthday cake! The main aim of the day is to celebrate our Adoption Stars, and the wonderful people who support Redwings by sponsoring them!



Noah's birthday



Lily's birthday party

News from around 'Your Redwings' the Sanctuary –

Visit 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

No car? No problem! Visit Redwings by bus or train

Did you know you can still enjoy a day at Redwings without driving? Getting here by public transport is easier than you think!

For example, Redwings Ada Cole is perfectly placed for bus travellers as the drop-off stop for several services is right outside our gates. So, you can hop off and head on in to see our gorgeous residents without even having to park!

If you are planning to visit Redwings and would like to explore other transport methods, simply head to www.redwings.org.uk/visit and select your chosen centre. Click "More about" and voila – you'll discover details on bus and train routes for each of our visitor centres.



Anna Sewell House Gt. Yarmouth, NR30 1NE

REDWINGS

Celebrating our volunteers



In November 2022 we took on Anna Sewell House in Great Yarmouth, birthplace of the Black Beauty author. Shortly afterwards we began recruiting volunteers to help us open the House to visitors, not just to showcase Anna's incredible contribution to animal welfare but also how Redwings is continuing that legacy today. That meant any applicants not only had to be passionate about classic literature but also our charity too. Not to mention being able to navigate the notoriously tricky stairs!

We're delighted that three of those volunteers are still serving in the House three years later, and we'd love to say a special thank you to Clarissa McHardy, Maggie Baldry and Jane Claridge for their amazing service! And huge thanks to Hazel, Sue, Val, Jan, Pam and Sally too, we really couldn't do it without you.

This year we welcomed record numbers of visitors to the House, including over Norfolk Heritage Open Days, when we had 272 visitors in just four days – it was rather a squash and a squeeze but we did it! Anna Sewell House is open every week Wednesday and Friday 10am–2pm and entry is free, so do pop in and say hi to our brilliant team.



Redwings Aylsham - The perfect stop, whatever the weather!



Redwings Aylsham is more than just a home to our gorgeous horses and donkeys – it's the ideal spot for a cuppa and a bite to eat.

Just 12 miles from Norwich and conveniently close to the beautiful North Norfolk coast, our visitor centre offers something for everyone. The café is open from 10am to 3pm serving a tempting range of hot drinks, tasty lunches (including freshly baked pizzas from Brick) and a delicious array of sweet treats.

If you have little ones, why not head to Red's Shed for some interactive fun! Kids can organise a rescue operation, design the perfect paddock and even dress up in protective gear for a hands-on look at life at Redwings.

And if the weather isn't on your side, don't worry – you can keep away from the elements and still meet some of our lovely residents in the stable block. These special horses, ponies and donkeys are receiving veterinary care and will happily welcome your fuss and scratches.

Entry is free and every penny spent supports the animals in our care. So, whether it's ponies or pizza (or both!) that tempt you – we can't wait to see you soon!



Maya finds the sweetest retirement companion in Toffee

Our much-loved retired Adoption Star Maya has recently welcomed a new companion – Toffee, a beautiful 16.3hh Irish Draught cross grey mare.

Before joining us at Redwings, Toffee had quite an extraordinary life. She began her career training as a police horse, but sadly an incident involving a dog meant her time in the force was cut short.

Toffee then went on to live at Writtle College in Chelmsford. There she became a firm favourite among students and her calm and gentle nature made her an invaluable part of their education.

After many years at Writtle College, Toffee started to show some health issues and a vet check confirmed it was time for her to take things easy. We were delighted to offer this incredible mare – who had given so much throughout her life – a safe and peaceful home to enjoy a well-earned rest.

Since arriving at Redwings, Toffee has found the perfect paddock pal in Maya! The two share similar ages and dietary needs and happily they've formed a wonderful friendship – enjoying their golden years of retirement together.



Toffee and Maya



Toffee

Preloved Tack Sale Success!



Last year's tack sale at Redwings Caldecott were a huge success! Preloved rugs, bits and riding accessories were snapped up at bargain prices with all proceeds supporting our rescued residents.

If you have tack, rugs or other horsey paraphernalia gathering dust why not have a clear-out this spring? Any items that can't be used directly in the sanctuary will be sold to raise vital funds.

To donate, please contact preloved@redwings.co.uk to discuss your items and arrange a drop-off. You

can also keep an eye out on our social media pages for upcoming events where you can take your tack donations straight to one of our visitor centres.

And don't forget you can always pick up a bargain online via the Redwings Horse Sanctuary Preloved page on eBay!



Meet Laura Starkey - Caldecott's Equine Centre Manager

Laura Starkey has been part of Redwings for an incredible 17 years! She's a true fountain of knowledge when it comes to the Sanctuary and if you visit our Caldecott centre, there's a good chance you'll spot Laura and her team hard at work caring for our gorgeous residents. We asked Laura a few questions to find out more.

Tell us a bit about your role

"I'm the Equine Centre Manager at Redwings Caldecott. I work as part of a fantastic team to care for our residents – and we have lots! Over 100 horses, ponies, donkeys and mules live here and their care needs are as varied as their personalities – I love them all! I also maintain our 70-acre site so that there's plenty of grass all year round. My job is a wonderful mix of being hands-on with our equines and chatting with our visitors about the many characters we have here. I also have many office-based tasks (which are not as exciting as working with the horses) but are essential to keep everything running smoothly."



Laura and Dave

What are the best parts of your job?

"It's so rewarding to see new residents improve in health, physical condition and grow in confidence around people – that's the best job satisfaction I could wish for. Whether they're playing together or snoozing in the sunshine – seeing their moments of happiness and contentment makes all the hard work worthwhile."

Who is your favourite resident and why?

"I love them all and it's hard to choose! But Dave the donkey's playful nature and love of attention is quite something! He's also very smart and I'm sure he deliberately gets in our way when we are working so that he gets more fuss! He has the loudest bray too – just to make sure that everyone notices him."



SPILLERS get stuck in!

We were delighted when a team of SPILLERS nutrition advisors joined us at Redwings Oxhill. As well as using our facilities for their team planning day, the team well and truly mucked in and helped the Oxhill team with a variety of jobs, including filling haynets for our rescued residents. In the winter, when the grass is sparse, or we are using our woodchip paddocks for turnout to rest our fields and help manage the mud, the number of haynets we need to make sure our residents are happy and hay-fuelled is

really quite high! So, the SPILLERS team rolled up their sleeves and helped fill over 80 nets! And they didn't stop there as they got stuck in sweeping up after themselves too!

As our official Feed Partner, SPILLERS are long-term supporters of Redwings, fundraising for us, donating feed and supplies, and supporting our welfare work, especially around nutrition and weight management, helping us work with horse owners to positively impact horses across the UK. Thank you Team SPILLERS!



Presents with purpose



An edition of our newsletter showcasing all the impact we're having here at Redwings, on the horses and donkeys who need us most, wouldn't be complete without showing how you can help us have this impact – simply by choosing to give 'presents with purpose'!

When shopping for gifts for loved ones, if you choose to shop at Redwings then your gifts will not only delight their recipients, but they will also help change the lives of horses and donkeys in need. Pretty impressive right?!

We know that times are harder for everyone, but a swap from your usual shopping site could see you raise vital funds for Redwings, purchasing the gifts you may well be anyway!

We also stock a lovely variety of greetings cards and gift wrap, meaning we've got your gifting needs covered – quite literally!



A mountain of Christmas goodies for Redwings residents

Thanks to your incredible generosity, the residents of Redwings Mountains enjoyed a truly special Christmas in 2025. From brushes and overreach boots to treat balls, muck forks, buckets and more! Your kind donations really do make a difference to both our residents and their carers.

Beautifully snug donkey rugs were also gifted and put to the test immediately as the rain came moments after they were fitted! The treat balls were a big hit with all the donkeys – especially Annie who benefited from her paddock pals' 'generosity' by cheekily helping herself to everyone else's treats before enjoying her own!

Your kindness brought Christmas joy to all the residents of Mountains. Thank you from us and all our four-legged friends!



...and a mountain of effort!

If you have received our newsletter for a while, you may recall that our wonderful Mountains team have had to triumph over adverse weather conditions before. They are the experts at tackling snow, rain, wind and ice – and making sure their residents are cared for and cosy, whatever Mother Nature throws their way!

This winter was especially tough, with extensive flooding across the site. Again, our wonderful team rose to the occasion – even moving horses to higher ground to get them out of any risk from the flood waters. Their number one priority is always keeping everyone safe and cared for – heroes don't just wear capes, they wear welly boots too!



Treat yourself (or others!)

Our Spring catalogue is brimming with tasty treats – from stem ginger biscuits (don't tell the donkeys, we know they'd be partial to those ones too!) to a gorgeous 'Fun on the Farm' fudge tin featuring some cheeky Shetlands that we're not entirely convinced they didn't model on our very own Gangsters!

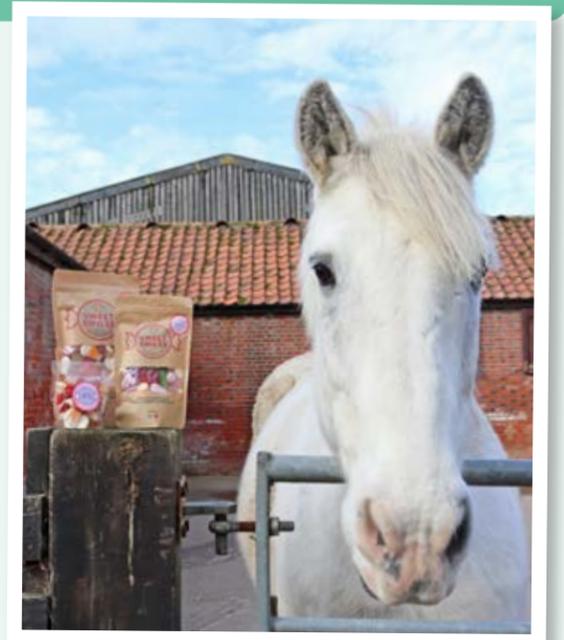
Pair these with one of our ever-popular mugs – featuring beautiful illustrations of horses or donkeys, and you've got yourself a gift that tastes good, and does good too!



Giving multiplied

We've been working with suppliers like Sweet Smiles, based in Norfolk, to make your purchases do even more for the residents of Redwings. Back in October 2025, we partnered with Sweet Smiles to launch our very own 'Redwings Mix' of their pick 'n' mix – with the sweets chosen by you, our supporters, on social media (Fun fact: you all love a strawberry pencil apparently!).

Since then, we've been selling these specially produced mixes online and in the Visitor Centres, and now in the catalogue too. All proceeds from these sales raise money for our horses and donkeys, but that's not all! For every Redwings Mix bag sold, Sweet Smiles will make their own donation too. So, you can indulge your sweet tooth knowing our ponies are benefitting – smiles all round!



We love our community!

We're delighted to introduce Sonny, who is now our Community Fundraiser at Redwings. Having worked in our Supporter Engagement team since 2022, there isn't much Sonny doesn't know about fundraising for Redwings! In his new role, his priority is to look after our fantastic fundraisers and provide them with the support they need to maximise their efforts!

Sonny will also focus on building strong relationships within our community, and inspiring more people to get involved. Every fundraiser not only supports our rescued residents but also helps spread awareness of the work we do, and we're forever grateful to folks who choose to fundraise for us.



Teamwork makes the dream work!

We want to say a special thank you to one group of intrepid young equestrians who raised over £500 for Redwings by carrying out a sponsored ride. Students from the Quinton House School Equestrian team came together to celebrate their love for horses and help horses in need too.

Over six weeks, they diligently recorded the distances they had ridden with their ponies, or in their riding lessons – making the most of enjoying time with their ponies, whilst showing their commitment to our work too. Coordinated by their teacher Miss Lewis, who organised for each of the young fundraisers and their ponies to receive a special rosette in recognition of their efforts, their fantastic total will make a real difference to the horses and donkeys in our care, and we couldn't be more grateful.



How can you help Redwings?

There are, quite simply, hundreds of ways you could support Redwings and raise money for our horses and donkeys! Although we have previously shone the spotlight on our marvellous marathon runners, and long-distance walkers and cyclists, fundraising doesn't have to involve large-scale sporting challenges – thank goodness! There are plenty of simple (and more stationary!) things you can do that will have a huge impact for Redwings. For example, selling items you don't need anymore, either in person or on sites like Vinted, and donating the funds to Redwings has proven to be an excellent way to raise money, and it promotes sustainability too. Similarly, bake sales remain a timeless hit, suitable for all age groups and ideal for schools, workplaces, universities, or local community gatherings. Who could say no to cake for a good cause?!

If you are interested in fundraising but are unsure where to begin, we offer a fundraising pack filled with creative ideas and practical guidance.

To request your pack or find out more about fundraising for Redwings you can get in touch with Sonny by emailing fundraising@redwings.co.uk or calling 01508 505246.

