

# Redwings

## Horse Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2023

### ***Anna Sewell House***

Read all about this special opportunity for Redwings

### ***10 years on***

Redwings remembers our biggest ever rescue

### ***PLUS***

### ***In it to win it***

Find out more about our online weekly lottery

### ***#RedwingsAngels***

Our supporters continue to be heroes helping horses in need

*And much more inside...*



It is 10 years since Redwings was instrumental in the rescue of hundreds of ponies from what was one of the most desperate situations we've ever encountered. The lives of those rescued over those days and nights have changed immeasurably. In this newsletter we share the stories of just a few of them.

*Turn to pages 4, 18 and 19 to read about this unique rescue and how you can support those rescued.\**

Please donate today:

- 01508 505246
- [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)
- Text **HOMES** to **70460** 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 into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text HOMESNOINFO instead.)

\*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.

## Welcome to your Spring Newsletter for 2023

In this Spring Newsletter we share some of the work we have been doing behind the scenes here at Redwings, and how you have helped us with some notable achievements.

Throughout the past year, and now into 2023, we appreciate that the rising cost of living has impacted everyone. The cost of caring for our rescued herds has risen, particularly bedding and feed and fuel, but we respect that our supporters are very much impacted by rising costs too.

Colleagues from all Redwings teams were delighted to be involved with Redwings' 'Thank you Thursday' and to speak with some of our wonderful supporters. We would not be able to deliver our work without you and we appreciate all you are able to give, including your frequent and very kind words of support, in these tough times.

Another recent highlight was the invitation to become stewards of Anna Sewell House in Great Yarmouth. This little property is now used to share the timeline of animal welfare including the most recent Sentience Act, in the context of the Black Beauty book. Some of supporter Pamela's vast collection of Black Beauty books are housed there so they can be appreciated by us all. Please do check our opening times and add a visit to your Redwings list.

Our Education & Campaigns work featured in this issue includes our work on understanding the challenges the rising cost of living may have for horse owners everywhere, plus working with equine professionals to ensure that they have the experience to promote good horse welfare and wellbeing across the UK. Our decades of caring for horses and experience of our veterinary, welfare and care teams, mean we can make an impact by feeding into legislative consultations and helping to raise awareness of what good welfare means and how it can be achieved. Black Beauty continues to inspire us all.

Rehoming our horses and donkeys that can live a life outside the Sanctuary is important, for by rehoming we can create space for new admissions. Our Guardians have supported us by taking part in our campaigns and those of our fellow welfare organisations and we have been able to introduce some special ponies such as Fig by attending Your Horse Live. We all adore little Fig, she is another Black Beauty (even if she is too small and has a white blaze on her face) and has come on very well since her 2019 rescue.

We hope you are able to continue to support us in whatever way you can, including donating time and quality preloved tack. Proceeds from our new online shop go towards the everyday care of the horses and donkeys in the Sanctuary and helping our work outside, it all makes a difference - thank you and please do read on.

Very best wishes,

Lynn Cutress  
Chief Executive



# News update...



## A special 'Thank You!'



In December, Redwings hosted our very first 'Thank you Thursday' – an event that was the idea of our Supporter Engagement Manager Heather, and hosted by her team, to thank our wonderful supporters.

Without you we simply couldn't do what we do, so colleagues from teams across the Sanctuary, including our vets and equine operations team, joined forces to phone supporters, selected at random, to deliver a

personal thank you! We also wrote and posted special Christmas cards to thank as many people as we could.

We enjoyed this special opportunity so much that we will look forward to hosting another 'Thank you' event – maybe you could be receiving a phone call next!

## Charity of the Year!

Redwings celebrated being named Charity of the Year at the second annual Equestrian Business Awards in October! We were nominated by the public and then a thorough process including interviews, references and mystery shoppers was conducted.

Redwings' CEO Lynn said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be the first winners of this category, which was introduced to the Equestrian Business Awards this year.

"Thank you so much to those who nominated us, to the organisers and a special mention to the runners-up, Munchkins Miniature Shetland Rescue.

"We're very grateful to our wonderful staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to care for the horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in our care 365 days a year and this award is dedicated to them."

The awards had almost 17,000 nominations across 19 categories – which included Event Venue of the Year, Farrier of the Year, Saddle Fitter of the Year and Horse Transporter of the Year.



## The big 5,000!

We're delighted that our Sounds of the Sanctuary podcast has now received over 5,000 downloads. The second series was released in September and is a true 'behind the scenes' look into life at Redwings, including catch-ups with rescued residents and hearing more from their carers.

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Plus, we produced a special, and very popular, Field Notes episode about fireworks. A powerful interview with Redwings vet Dawn recounted the night of 5th November 2016, where sadly two Redwings residents were put to sleep as a result of trauma due to a nearby firework display. Her interview, plus conversations about changes to fireworks regulations in Scotland, and the RSPCA's 'Bang Out of Order' campaign, draws attention to the dangers posed to horses, and how owners can use their experiences to call for change to their use and regulation. You can read more about our work on the issue of fireworks on page 7.

The podcast will be returning for a spring series so keep your ears peeled! Our podcast is available now to listen to on your preferred audio platform including Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

# Redwings to the rescue!



News of our frontline work from around the UK



were undernourished, sick or suffering from a lack of veterinary care, and transported them to safety, treatment and rehabilitation.

We worked with the local authority and welfare charities to find homes for as many as possible. The Blue Cross and British Horse Society both took large groups into their care. Despite the combined efforts of rescuing charities, finding homes for so many ponies proved almost impossible.

Redwings took in over 150 ponies - many of them pregnant mares.

Redwings' CEO Lynn said: "Redwings played a key role in leading the rescue of so many animals and supporting the local authorities in prosecuting the owners responsible. The lives of many of the horses rescued have been changed so much for the better thanks to the commitment and skill of our team. We have welcomed new life and some of those rescued have even gone on to start a new chapter in wonderful Guardian homes."

**Read more about Redwings' biggest ever rescue and how you can support our work on [pages 18 and 19](#).**

## 10 years since our biggest ever rescue

In 2023, we remember our single largest rescue and the impact it still has on us today - a decade after it happened.

Some now very familiar faces were amongst 400 ponies discovered in a remote location in south-east Wales over five days in 2013, including Redwings supporter favourite Mildred. Though Mildred is now in a Redwings Guardian home, her foal Phyllis and many of the other horses who came to

us, and the foals born to them, are still resident with us here at Redwings today.

The request for help came from Vale of Glamorgan Trading Standards after discovering the equines trying to survive in the most horrendous of conditions.

A team of Redwings vets and handlers, working alongside local authorities, RSPCA and local council staff, assessed hundreds of animals, many of whom



In October 2022 we welcomed three new donkeys to Redwings Oxhill.

Bruno, Martha and Choco came to Redwings as part of an 'exceptional circumstances' intake. Their owner approached Redwings for help as they

## Keeping friends together

could no longer keep the donkeys and wanted to make sure they had a secure future.

Their owner had originally rehomed them from Sussex Horse Rescue Trust - a smaller charity which sadly had to close in 2019. At the time Redwings supported the charity by helping to rehome their equines and offering a home to 30 horses who needed to stay in sanctuary care.

Bruno is 23 years old, Martha, 20 years old, and Choco, who is also Martha's

daughter, is 13. Donkeys are sensitive souls, who form especially strong bonds with their companions, so we knew how important it was for their welfare to keep this trio of friends together.

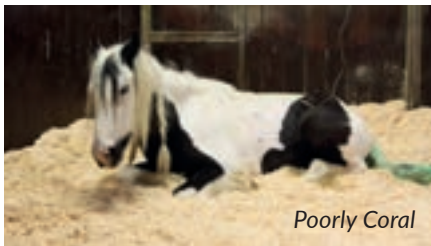
They have settled well at Redwings Oxhill, and the team are delighted to have them!

They join our Adoption Stars Timothy and Cain and Arya and we're sure there will be lots of donkey antics to come!



Rourke giving blood

## Horse hero saved friend's life – with a little help from Redwings' vets



Poorly Coral

One of our residents came to the rescue himself, when he was called up to help save the life of one of his Sanctuary friends. As a healthy, large horse on no medication, Rourke – a 17hh, Irish Draught cross gelding – was the perfect plasma donor when Coral, another Redwings resident, fell ill.

Coral, who came in as part of a welfare case, was flagged as losing weight and, after staff noticed some redworm larvae in her faeces, she went downhill quickly and needed urgent care.

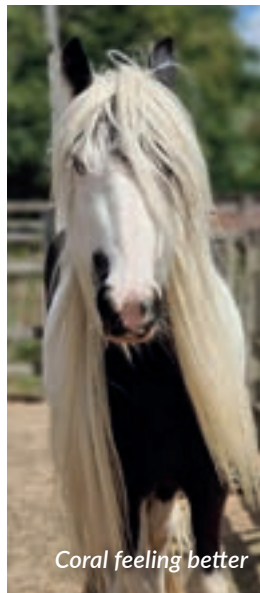
Redwings Veterinary Surgeon Dawn oversaw Coral's care. She said: "Coral was losing protein from her intestines. It

was a critical situation, and we could have lost her.

"She wouldn't have survived without the intensive care she was given, and the plasma from Rourke was vital in getting her to turn the corner.

"Coral is now doing great and hopefully can be rehomed at some point in the future.

"Rourke did really well during the procedure and had lots of TLC and yummy dinners afterwards. He's a real hero."



Coral feeling better

## Meet our new arrival



Barney when found

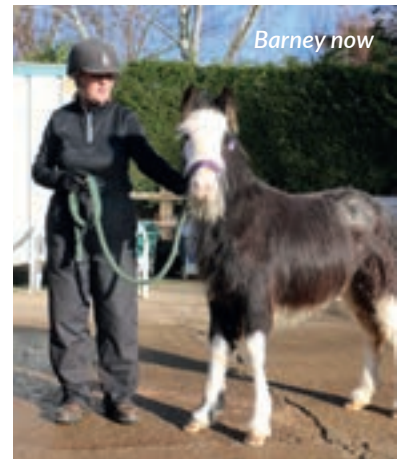
Redwings is caring for a foal found upside down in some

rubble at a location in Essex.

Barney, as he's been named, was discovered abandoned in December. We transported him to House & Jackson Equine Veterinary Hospital for emergency treatment before bringing him to our Reception Centre.

This poor little boy was emaciated underneath his thick coat and had sores all over his body but look at him now!

Despite an RSPCA investigation, no owner could be identified.



Barney now



A Redwings Field Officer completing an equine passport

The work of our Welfare team and our Field Officers extends far beyond taking horses into our care. **In 2022, they identified and intervened with 175 cases, improving the conditions of 622 equines.** This might have been through removal of the equine into our care, but is much more commonly by working with their owners and offering advice – **making an immediate positive impact on individual horses' and donkeys' lives.**



# The rising cost of horse care

charities who are part of the National Equine Welfare Council launched a special survey for horse owners at the end of last year, which ran until 31st January.

Caring for horses is never cheap, and the Cost of Living Survey for Horse Owners wanted to find out where people were experiencing the biggest cost increases in relation to horse care, the impact it was having on them and how they were finding ways to cope if needed.

More than 8,000 people completed the survey and we are currently in the process of analysing the results. The survey findings will be summarised in a public report and shared where appropriate with local and national government bodies.

**A**s rising costs continue to affect people across all parts of society, we have been keenly aware of the potential impact on horse owners' ability to provide for their equines. To help us find out more, Redwings and a small group of

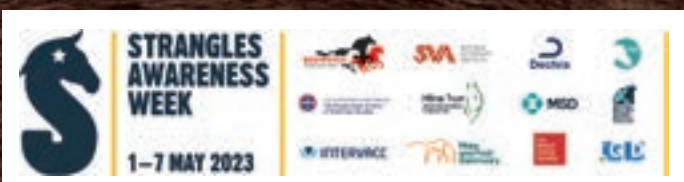
## Five-star support for Strangles Awareness Week

**W**ith this year's Strangles Awareness Week (SAW) fast approaching, we're delighted to announce that top international event rider Piggy March has offered her ongoing support for this important campaign.

After fronting our special SAW Temperature Checking film last year, for SAW 2023 Piggy is giving a personal welcome for our special webinar on 3rd May, and providing a guided tour of her fabulous event yard and horses to the winner of this year's Temp Check Challenge prize draw. As SAW continues to do more than ever to help protect horses from the dangers of infectious disease, we're delighted to have such strong endorsement from one of the UK's best known and best loved equestrians!

To find out more about Strangles Awareness Week, the Temp Check Challenge and how you can get involved, simply go to [www.redwings.org.uk/strangles](http://www.redwings.org.uk/strangles)

SCAN ME



# Back in the saddle!

Following the success of our online equine welfare CPD (continuous professional development) course for farriers, we were approached by the Society of Master Saddlers to create a parallel course for their members.

Saddlery fitters play an essential role in equine welfare by applying their specialist knowledge and training to ensure an individual horse's saddle, bridle and other tack are chosen and fitted for the safety, comfort and suitability of both horse and rider. Working in partnership again with our friends at The Horse Trust, the equine welfare CPD course for saddlery fitters



was launched in July 2022. At the time of writing more than 30 qualified saddlery fitters have taken the course, updated their understanding of how they can work with charities to support equine wellbeing, and earned themselves 8 CPD points into the bargain!

## Fireworks

It may seem unseasonal to be writing about fireworks in the spring, but as many of us are aware, these pyrotechnic products are now being used more commonly to mark other events throughout the year. We anticipate many displays being held in honour of the coronation of our new King in May and will be sharing information in the coming weeks to help people make the most of the celebrations while reducing possible negative consequences of fireworks on horses, other animals and humans.

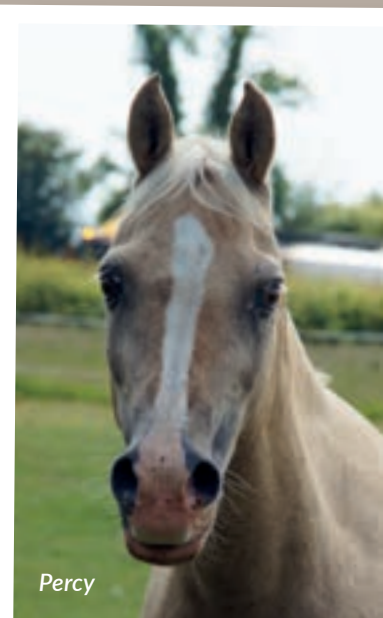
Having lost three much-loved residents including Sprite and Percy (pictured) to fireworks-related incidents in the past, no one knows better than Redwings the often tragic cost of fireworks to horses and their owners.

This is one of the reasons we have joined a group of both animal and human charities to ask the government to review current regulations around fireworks and consider introducing tighter restrictions to reduce the risks they present. The group members bring together evidence on the impact fireworks can have on dogs and cats as well as horses, alongside insights from military veterans, PTSD sufferers and burns victims. Working together builds a compelling picture of the wide range of people and animals who are caused very real distress and trauma by fireworks.



Last year, Redwings contributed to a public consultation on fireworks held by the Scottish government, and we warmly welcomed subsequent new legislation to better control the sale and use of fireworks in Scotland. With more than 80 residents being cared for by our fabulous team at Redwings Mountains, we are especially pleased these rescued equines will be benefitting from the new regulations as they come into force over the next couple of years.

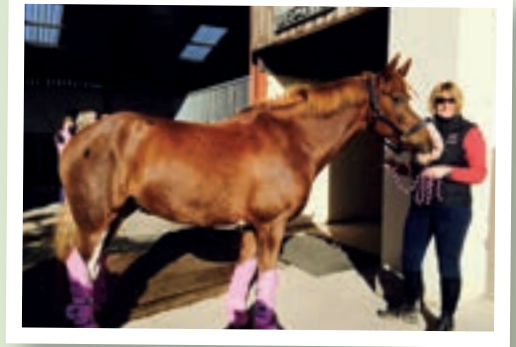
We would very much like to see Westminster follow the Scottish government in its efforts to reduce the negative impact of fireworks, and we know we're not alone in this ambition! Many MPs are already supporting calls for a review of current regulations and some retailers are opting to sell low-noise fireworks or not sell fireworks at all in response to consumer feedback.



### ***If you would like to support this issue further:***

- **Sign up online** to receive Redwings campaign emails
- **Write to your MP** to ask him or her to support calls for a review of regulations
- **Use customer feedback requests** to support more retailers rethinking how they display and sell fireworks
- **Consider supporting organised local firework events** (especially those using low-noise products) rather than organising or attending back garden displays
- **Encourage all horse owners to report any fireworks-related incident** affecting their equine to the British Horse Society via their website or the free Horse I app.

# Redwings Maddie is in great shape



**W**e were delighted to hear that Redwings Maddie, rehomed from Redwings Mountains, and her Guardian Irene have been the recipients of a very important accolade – the British Horse Society 'In Great Shape' Champion sash.

Much like Redwings, the British Horse Society works across the country educating horse owners on the importance of keeping their horses a healthy weight. When they visited Maddie's yard, Maddie scored a perfect 3 for her Body Condition Score and was awarded a rosette for her great shape.

Then, she was voted as Star of the Month and received her sash!

Irene was very proud (quite rightly!) and got in touch to let us know, and we asked her to share some of her tips for keeping Maddie in such great condition. She said: "Her food is weighed out, and in the summer I restrict her grazing if I need to. She gets ridden regularly to help keep her fit through exercise. We're very lucky to have great professionals who visit us - our farrier, vet, dentist, physio and instructor - and they give me their professional opinion and advice to keep her well. I also take every opportunity to get her weighed on a weighbridge to make sure I know exactly how much she weighs." Well done Maddie and Irene!

## Redwings Fig goes to Your Horse Live!



**F**ound as a young filly shut in a trailer in her own filth and unable to stand without help, Fig had an awful start in life, but in November she did Redwings proud, representing us at the Your Horse Live event in Warwickshire.

We rescued Fig in April 2019. She was seized by police, along with several dogs and some poultry, from a site in Suffolk. Fig was extremely emaciated. She had a Body Condition Score of just 0.5 out of 5 (a healthy BCS would be 3). Her feet were also very overgrown and misshapen. She had wounds across her body, which appeared to be pressure sores from the amount of time she had spent lying down.

Thankfully Fig made a full recovery, and her owner was successfully prosecuted by the RSPCA for the suffering caused to Fig and the other animals.

Now all grown up, Fig was one of three ponies chosen to come to Your Horse Live with us to help promote our rehoming scheme. Joined by Matilda and Libby, these three lovely little ponies took the event in their stride! They spent three days meeting the public and representing Redwings in the Rescue Parade. They even got to check out the sights and sounds of the main arena – a fantastic opportunity for some desensitisation training!

**All three of them will look forward to spending 2023 in their new Guardian homes.**



(Left to right: Fig, Matilda and Libby)





# Our very own Anna!

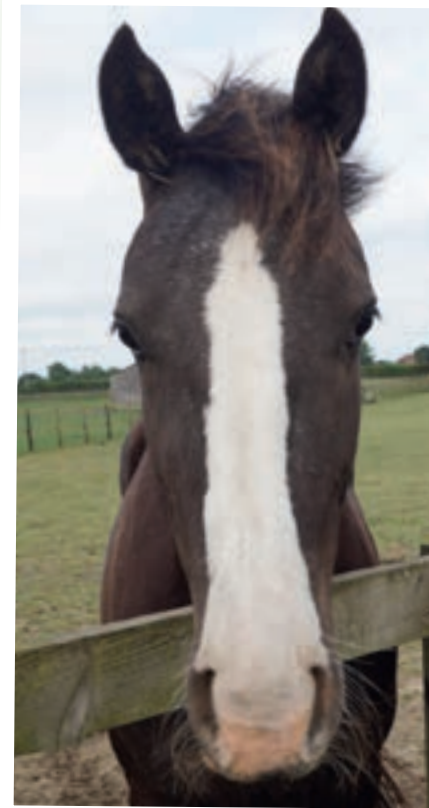
Throughout the newsletter, we are sharing stories about our connection to Anna Sewell House (turn to page 10 and 11 to find out more) so it only seemed right to introduce you to Redwings Anna. She was rescued in 2017 from a site in Norfolk. She was one of a number of horses who, inspired by the 140th anniversary of the publication of Black Beauty, were named after characters in the novel, or in Anna's case, the author herself.

The group came to Redwings after concerns were raised for a lame horse, who seemed unable to walk. A Redwings Field Officer and vet attended and found a mare suffering from severe laminitis. On inspection, many of the group were found overweight and with overgrown hooves. They were also unhandled, making any possible treatment difficult, so they were signed over to Redwings so our specialist Behaviour Team could help with their rehabilitation.



Anna was a youngster when she was rescued, but in 2021 she was rehomed, aged four, as an unbacked project. Her Guardian Nina said: "She is a sensitive soul, but very intelligent and she really wants to please. She is now starting to come on in her schooling work and she loves hacking and having a plod in the countryside.

"She is the sweetest, most lovable horse. She loves attention and a good bum scratch. I feel so lucky to have her in my life and I can't wait for what the future holds for her."



“ She is a sensitive soul, but very intelligent and she really wants to please. ”  
 Nina, Guardian

# A record for 2022!

Last year saw 154 rescued horses and ponies find a new home on our Guardianship rehoming scheme - another record number for Redwings!

These numbers only tell half the story of the work that teams from across the Sanctuary carry out to select suitable horses and prepare them for life in a home outside Redwings.

Teams from across our sites will highlight horses that they think would be suitable to rehome. Then our rehoming teams, at sites across Norfolk, Essex and Warwickshire, begin a very thorough training programme to prepare them for their new home. Meanwhile, our team of veterinary surgeons and nurses will make sure our rehoming candidates have health checks, plus routine dentals and vaccinations to get them ready for life out in the big wide world!

Our Field Officers carry out home checks to ensure that the new homes are suitable for the ponies, as well as visiting ponies already rehomed to ensure they are getting on ok. Back at HQ, there's admin to do! The team prepare all the documents needed - including the ponies' passports and signed loan agreements.

When all this is done, we wave a cheery goodbye to our ponies as they set off for a new life, but we're always at the end of the phone if their new Guardian needs any support.

**This is all vital work so we can make room at the Sanctuary for more horses in desperate need of our help, and none of it would be possible without your support. Thank you!**



Redwings Merlin and Redwings Jonesy both found a new home in 2022!



# Anna Sewell House opens its doors



Also in the house we are very honoured to have a collection of incredibly special copies of Black Beauty and memorabilia. Turn to page 17 to read more about this wonderful donation.

On 24th November, the anniversary of the publication of Black Beauty, we were delighted to hold an official opening ceremony for Redwings at Anna Sewell House, the birthplace of the author of this ground-breaking novel, in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

The house was opened by the Mayor of Great Yarmouth Graham Plant, who said: "Anna Sewell House is an iconic building in our town with a rich history and important heritage. We are absolutely delighted that Redwings is the new guardian of the building. With Redwings' vital role in animal welfare, we are sure this move will help ensure the building continues to be a key asset for both residents and visitors to Great Yarmouth."

The Mayor was also joined by Redwings residents Dhansak and Moses, from Redwings Caldecott, who were on hand (or should that be hoof?!) to welcome our visitors. They even featured in an ITV Anglia News bulletin about the house.

Inside the property we currently have an interactive timeline of the legacy of Black Beauty and developments in animal welfare across the UK, as well as the chance to discover more about Redwings, and chat to our friendly volunteers.

Currently, the house is open to visitors between 10am-2pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. To find out more visit [redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/anna-sewell-house-opens-to-public](https://redwings.org.uk/news-and-views/anna-sewell-house-opens-to-public)



## What Black Beauty means to me...

“ I read everything I could get my hands on from a very young age, and Black Beauty really was a stand-out part of my childhood. The characterisation of this handsome, gentle horse is absolutely unforgettable, and I'm sure it was Anna Sewell's amazing storytelling that taught me to view animals as living, breathing, feeling creatures who deserve our empathy and compassion. ”

“ For me it's all about Anna. Such a clever, brave and outspoken lady. Today we are familiar with terms such as 'positive reinforcement', 'desensitisation' and equine learning theory. Anna was promoting these same ideologies back in the 1870s. She was so far ahead of her time - for this she is my true hero. ”

Nicola Knight, Redwings' Head of Communications and Campaigns

Georgie O'Sullivan, Senior Equine Team Member (and Redwings' very own Anna expert!)

# Volunteer profile: Clarissa

Clarissa has been volunteering at Anna Sewell House since we opened in November. As a Volunteer Guide, she welcomes people to the property and shares the story of Anna Sewell, and Redwings too!

## Why did you want to be a volunteer?

"I have fond memories of reading Black Beauty, chapter by chapter, with my Grandma when I was young. She was also a long-term Redwings supporter, so volunteering at Anna Sewell House seemed like a perfect tribute to her.

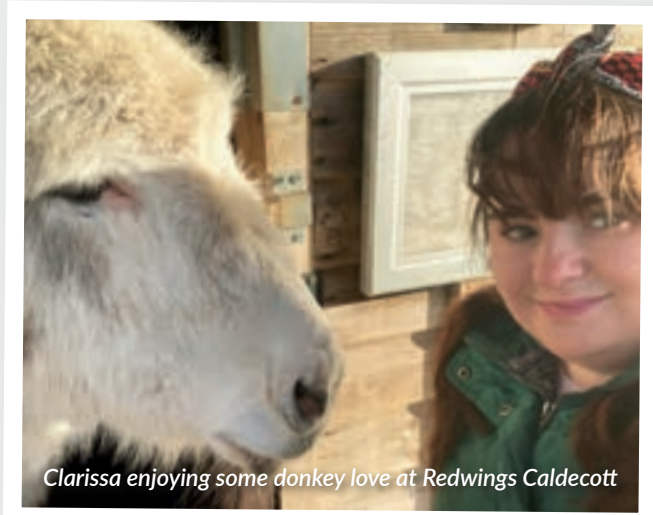
"Volunteering fits round my little girl being at school, and with my history degree, I am especially interested in such a lovely house and its history. I look forward to showing it off, especially in the summer during the busy season in Great Yarmouth!"

## How are you finding the experience so far?

"I'm really enjoying it, and everyone has been super lovely. I wanted to volunteer my time for an organisation I'd be proud to tell people about, and Redwings is certainly that! We have had lots of people visit and visitors are happy to chat and stay for a while discussing the timeline, and the work of Redwings.

"Everyone leaves having found out something new, which I really love!"

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering at Redwings please visit: [redwings.org.uk/work-for-us/volunteering](http://redwings.org.uk/work-for-us/volunteering)



Clarissa enjoying some donkey love at Redwings Caldecott

# Words inspiring art...

Before opening Anna Sewell House we held an art and poetry competition, asking for works inspired by the question 'What does Black Beauty mean to you?'



Our winner in the Over 18s category was Emma Jagger and her beautiful sketch 'Black Beauty and Ginger'. Sarah Hawkins was awarded Runner-Up for her painting which included pages from the novel itself. The judge in this category was so bowled over by the entrants he decided to award an additional 'Best Poem' prize to Lois Harrison.

In the Under 18s category, first place went to Emily Rysdale and her piece 'Gallop Wild and Free' and the Runners-Up were Imogen and Doris with 'It will be a dream to have a horse!'.



“ Black Beauty was my favourite book as a child. In fact, it was the book I learned to read with before I even went to school. I was word-perfect in the end, to the point where if someone was reading it to me and they missed a bit I'd know instantly. It's funny to think that I'd never been near a horse at that point, but I've always been an animal lover and I got introduced to Redwings many years later when a close friend invited me to go along to visit. Best thing she ever did! ”

Brigid Peel, long-term Redwings Supporter and Adopter

“ Black Beauty carries a powerful message shared by another of my favourites, To Kill a Mockingbird, looking as they do, at situations and life being in the shoes (hooves) of another. Our horse welfare work lives by this mantra and is one of the many aspects of our work I've been proud of at Redwings. ”

Lynn Cutress, Redwings' CEO

# News from around the Sanctuary – 'Your Redwings'



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



## Aylsham

North Norfolk,  
NR11 6UE



### Well-deserved rest for our spotted best

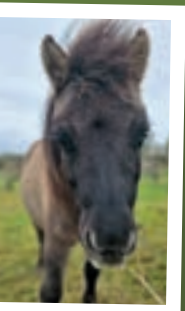


December 2022 saw the retirement of Adoption Star Cookie. Cookie is 26 years old this year and, although he remains in good health for his age, he now requires permanent medication for

Cushing's disease, a common condition affecting the pituitary gland in older equines. Plus, to meet the needs of his ageing teeth, Cookie's diet has also been permanently adjusted.

Cookie's retirement means he will no longer be available for new sponsorships; however, he will continue to stay in touch with his existing adopters and live at Redwings Aylsham where you can visit him for free.

## RIP Dusty



At the beginning of the year, we shared the very sad news that Adoption Star Dusty, part of our Gangsters group, had passed away. Dusty had suffered from a sudden bout of sand colic (stomach pain caused by ingestion of sandy soil while grazing). Dusty was taken to Rosssdales Veterinary

Surgeons, a large equine hospital in Newmarket, as he required the use of

## Redwings Aylsham welcomes you to Friends Café

Friends Café is an opportunity for those living with dementia, their families and carers to receive a warm welcome at our beautiful Aylsham site and have the opportunity to meet and talk to others with similar experiences in a safe, calm and relaxing environment. There is no timetable. We have jigsaws, a sensory table, colouring-in, paddock walks and, of course, great coffee and cake available.

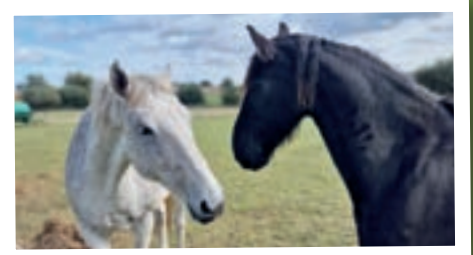


We don't dictate how people should spend their time. Just head to the big table and relax, or wander outside to meet some of our lovely rescued horses, ponies and donkeys.

The Friends Café will be held at Redwings every second Friday of the month, from 11am. For more information, email [nbond@redwings.co.uk](mailto:nbond@redwings.co.uk)

## Maya thinks highly of Reilly

Meet a chap who is 'Reilly' handsome and 'Reilly' nice – well, at least that's what Adoption Star Maya thinks anyway! Reilly is Redwings Aylsham's tallest resident and he's as friendly as he is tall – often waiting, 'neigh' insisting, on a cuddle from visitors! Reilly came to Redwings when his owner sadly passed away. Reilly's owner, a veterinarian, was a founder of an Essex-based vet practice with a long history of helping Ada Cole



Memorial Stables and then Redwings Ada Cole with their rescued horses. When his wife and co-founder of the practice asked Redwings for a place in the Sanctuary for Reilly, we were only too happy to assist someone who had helped us to help horses for so long. While Maya's Adoption Star status puts her firmly in the spotlight, Reilly the handsome giant cannot be overlooked. Thankfully, Maya and Reilly's budding friendship allows them to share all the attention and fuss together.

their specialist facilities and expertise for immediate surgery. After being under their intensive care for more than a week, he travelled back to the Redwings Horse Hospital. However, in the evening he had another very severe colic episode

which just wasn't responsive to pain relief and, with no further treatment options available, our Redwings veterinary team had no choice but to put poor Dusty to sleep to make sure he didn't suffer.

*Sleep tight little Dusty.*

## Visit England recognise Redwings Ada Cole!

The team at our Ada Cole Visitor Centre has received a Visit England Welcome Accolade with staff being praised for their knowledge, efficiency and customer care.

Following a Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme assessment, the centre was awarded the prestigious accolade.

The assessor said: "Redwings Ada Cole delivered a thoroughly enjoyable visitor experience providing a great opportunity to see close up the work of the UK's premier horse sanctuary. It was a delight to see so many families visiting their adopted animals, and despite this being a small site, and a very damp and cold

Sunday, it seemed very much an active and thriving visitor attraction. Highlights of this visit included the very friendly and welcoming staff. I was made to feel very welcome and valued."

Redwings Ada Cole is home to 80 horses, ponies and donkeys, including handsome Gelderlander Zippy, cheeky donkey Dotty, lovely Shetland pony Tinkerbelle and rock 'n' roll pony Elvis – not forgetting Redwings' tiniest resident, Teeny Tucker!

**Head to our website for the latest opening times.**



## Caldecott

Gt. Yarmouth,  
NR31 9EY



## Caldecott's flower!

Meet Lily – a wonderful pony from our popular Adoption Scheme, which has been running for over 30 years! The scheme allows supporters to sponsor an 'Adoption Star' horse or donkey for just £2 per month with every penny going towards their care and that of their fellow rescued residents at the Sanctuary.

Lily arrived in 2013 from a fellow animal rehoming organisation having previously been rescued by the RSPCA as part of a

welfare case. Sadly, due some ongoing problems with her hooves, Lily could not continue her rehoming training and so came to live permanently at Redwings.

Lily's friendly and calm nature make her a firm favourite with her carers and visitors to Redwings Caldecott alike.

**If you would like to find out more about adopting, visit [redwings.org.uk/adoption](http://redwings.org.uk/adoption) or call 01508 505246 to find out more.**



## Teaching the next generation

Redwings Oxhill is the prime spot for many local colleges and universities that offer specialty equine, animal and land-based courses, and with our fantastic, knowledgeable staff and super cute residents it's easy to see why many institutions choose to visit! We'd like to thank Redwings Oxhill (and all our centres for that matter!) for their continued role in teaching the next generation of horse owners and animal lovers. Recent visits to Oxhill have included tours of the site, training demonstrations and talks on animal welfare, our work at Redwings and our 'Stamp Out Strangles' campaign – with lots of pony cuddles squeezed in of course!

**We offer education visits at all our visitor centres and online too, so if you would like to enquire, email [education@redwings.co.uk](mailto:education@redwings.co.uk) today.**

(Please note opening days and times may vary by site and visits do depend on staff availability.)

## Supporting local vets and horse owners

Avonvale Equine Vets provide vital local veterinary support for our rescued residents at Redwings Oxhill, and the practice used our wonderful rehoming centre to hold a special evening for their clients in September. More than 60 clients were given a tour of the centre before the Avonvale team gave guests demonstrations on horse health topics including body condition scoring, dentistry, hoof balance, soundness and temperature checking – all with the help of some of our wonderfully well-behaved ponies!

The event attracted more attendees than to any previous Avonvale client evening and raised more than £400 to donate to Redwings. It's fantastic to see these lovely facilities being used to showcase Redwings' work as well as to support our horses as they get ready for life in a loving Guardian home.



## Mountains

Scotland,  
DD8 3SQ

## Mountains' Maintenance Team are marvellous makers!

Bad weather can often cause disruption at Redwings Mountains due to the remote location of the site, but in early 2022 a particularly violent storm destroyed some of the field shelters and sourcing contractors and suppliers to repair or replace them proved to be challenging too.

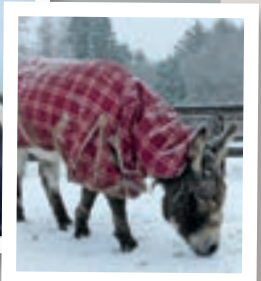
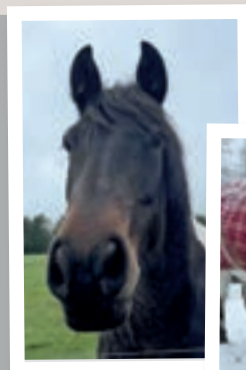
Maintenance Team member Tony thought he'd have a go at designing and building a new shelter and with support from colleague Allan he set about the task and, as you can see in the photos here, the residents are absolutely thrilled with the finished results! They did such a good job that more have been made over the course of the year too! Thank you so much Tony and Allan!



## Our Stars have been busy!

From welcoming new friends, to playing and braying, our Adoption Stars Dayzee, Gibson and Minnie have been keeping their carers busy! Over the winter, the Adoption Stars have been rugged up to protect them from the heavy snow, snuggled up with their friends in their new field shelters, playing in their fields and so much more. The spring and summer months ahead are busy for our Adoption Stars, who will be celebrating their birthdays and welcoming their fans during the visitor centre open days.

**You can adopt Dayzee, Gibson and Minnie from just £2 a month.**





**R**edwings' online weekly lottery scheme began in the summer of 2022. Working alongside fundraising service providers, Woods Valldata, Redwings has been able to set up this creative new method of giving.

Playing our lottery helps give even more rescued horses, donkeys and mules across the UK a second chance, one ticket at a time. Plus, you could win big with a top prize of £25,000! The lottery page can be found on our website at [redwings.org.uk/redwings-lottery](https://redwings.org.uk/redwings-lottery), or by searching 'Redwings lottery' in your browser. From signing up, it takes at least 16 working days before you will be entered into the next available draw. This gives us time to complete the necessary administrative processes including payment verification, and the funds being received ready for the draw.

To play, you will choose your unique six digits per line. Entries cost just £1 per play per week and you are able to play up to five lines per week. The results are drawn every Friday, with a chance to win one of these incredible prizes. Match six numbers to win £25,000 or match five numbers to win £1,000. There are

also 35 guaranteed runner-up prizes. The lucky winners are randomly selected from all eligible entries. By playing the lottery you are giving horses like Nickel and Sovereign a second chance.



Thank you for your kindness and good luck!

**We encourage our supporters to gamble responsibly. For more information on responsible gambling, please visit the gamble aware website.**

**BeGambleAware.org**

Freephone 24-7 National Gambling Helpline: **0808 8020 133**



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



Nickel



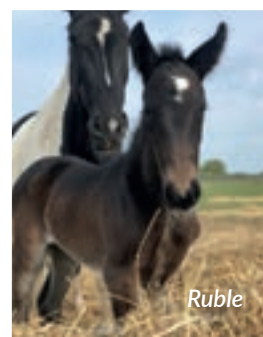
Sovereign

## From pounds to Nickels!

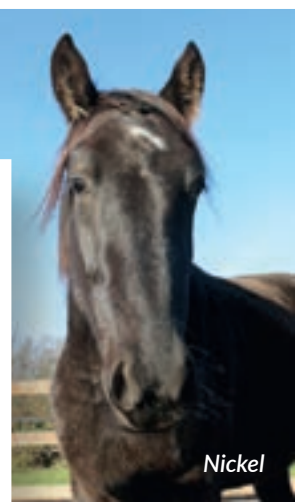
**S**overeign arrived at Redwings in May 2019 from a site near London. The group of horses were largely unhandled. Sovereign had a high worm burden which was causing poor condition and other medical issues. She had a foal at foot, who we called Nickel, but she was also pregnant. As you may have guessed, we named them after types of currency, and they became our 'Money Group'.

Sovereign safely gave birth to her second foal, Ruble, within our care. Today Sovereign is cared for at one of our sites in Norfolk, and foal Ruble has been under the expertise of our Behaviour Centre Team and their handling programme for foals – otherwise known as 'foal school'!

Nickel also arrived with worrying health implications. He was in poor condition and had redworm and anaemia. Our vet team feared for Nickel's health when he first arrived with us, but with their hard work, medication and a correct worming programme, **Nickel made a full recovery. A happy and healthy Nickel was able to be rehomed in September 2022.**



Ruble



Nickel

# Shop til you drop... online!

**T**owards the end of 2022, we launched a brand-new web shop. Gareth Austin-Mills, our Retail Development Manager, said: "Our new web shop offers a much more user-friendly shopping experience, and helps us keep pace with orders – to the extent that orders placed before 11:30am are often dispatched on that same day. So, your favourite Redwings goodies will reach you even sooner!"

If you receive the Redwings catalogue

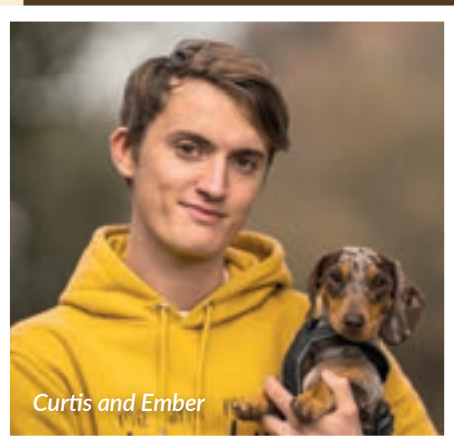
through the post, you may be interested to hear why ordering on the website could be of benefit to you, and Redwings! Gareth added: "Online orders can be dealt with much quicker than orders placed over the phone or post, as there is much less administration involved, which in turn is also a cost saving to the Sanctuary. The new web shop also allows us to stock a

much larger variety of products, including over 100 House of Puzzles jigsaw designs, a dedicated pet department, a new and growing equestrian goods department and - from spring - even a Schleich department. (Schleich toys are very popular with our younger supporters!)"

**Head online to [shop.redwings.org.uk](http://shop.redwings.org.uk) and happy shopping!**



## Discovered by Darcy



Curtis and Ember

Four-legged friends are the focus of these lovely products, and we are stocking a range of unisex, cosy slogan hoodies, sweatshirts and T-shirts which place our pets (quite rightly!) front and centre! They launched at Redwings Aylsham initially, before being added to the web shop and there are even some exclusive Redwings slogan designs in production too.

Curtis said: "My connection with Ada Cole began at a young age, with my love for animals (and specifically horses) already evident as a toddler, with an adoption always at the top of my birthday wish-list through to my teenage years, and I eagerly awaited updates on 'my' horses; Nina, Rhadlon, Dolly and Darcy! With frequent trips to our local centre, we watched Redwings transform the site



into the tranquil home for horses you see today - and it still remains one of my favourite days out!

"Having my products available via the Redwings website, to say is a 'pinch me' moment is an understatement! I feel proud and privileged to have such a unique avenue to support this incredible charity."

**W**e're excited to launch a brand-new range of products from a business run by a long-term Redwings supporter Curtis, and inspired by his dachshunds Darcy and Ember!

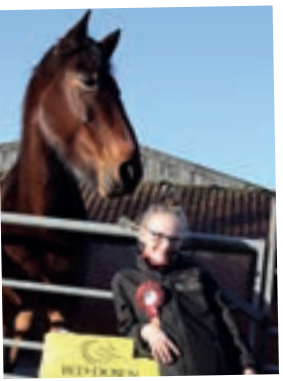
## Book about an anxious pony raises funds for Redwings

**A** beautiful children's book addressing the issue of anxiety is now being stocked in the Redwings shop. Ned Gets Worried was written by Suzi Lewis-Barned during lockdown and illustrated by her mother Ursula. It was based on Suzi's own little pony who was very nervous of everything but got a lot of confidence from his friend Valiant, an ex-police horse.

The book gives children some tools to manage their worries. You can buy Ned Gets Worried and Suzi's other book, Casper's Magic Wings, from the Redwings online shop, and profits from the sale come to Redwings.







# A special pre-Christmas present!

**W**e received a special delivery in December thanks to a special young man and his kindness! Nine-year-old Ally, who is the face of the Pony Piez account on social media, was recently awarded an ambassadorship with Bed-Down Horse Bedding and very kindly decided that he would like to donate a pallet of his prize to our rescued residents!

Bed-Down and Ally made a special visit to deliver the gift to our Horse Hospital yard just before Christmas! As luck would have it, Lord Leap, from our 12 Days of Christmas group, happened to be on hoof to help take delivery of this very kind donation and was even happy to pose for some photos as well!

## A 'novel' donation

**A**uthor, and Redwings supporter, Cressida Burton has been running for Redwings, and raising money along the way!

Cressida explained: "I have never liked running so I knew that pledging to complete the Couch to 5k programme in return for donations for Redwings would be a challenge.

"I've always been horse mad and so have supported Redwings in various ways for some time now: buying cards and gifts from the online shop, entering the online shows during lockdown and, of course, saving all my used stamps! But the reason I wanted to do something bigger, that would really challenge me and make a real difference, is Phoenix. What happened to that brave little foal broke my heart and I just had to do something in his memory."

At the time of going to print Cressida and her husband had raised almost £300 in their running efforts, with the total certain to climb when they complete their local Parkrun for their official 'finish'!

On top of this, Cressida also donated two signed copies of her junior fiction pony books 'First Term at Ravensbay' and 'The Starlight Pony' for a special giveaway on the Redwings Instagram page.



## Black Beauty novels come home

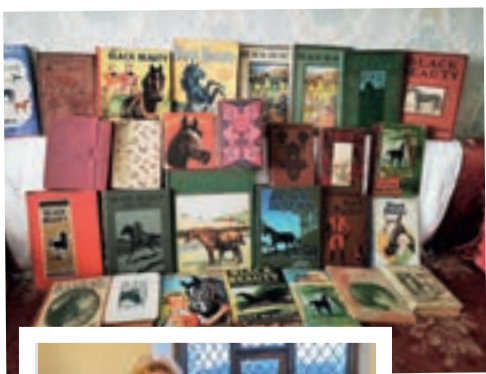
**W**hen we announced that Redwings had taken stewardship of Anna Sewell House, we heard from Redwings supporter Pamela about her incredible collection. Pamela currently owns over 400 copies of Black Beauty! After getting her first copy aged 10, Pamela and her dad Richard began seeking out and collecting antique and vintage copies whilst her mum went antique hunting.

Her collection now includes rare Jarrold editions (the first publisher of Black Beauty and based in Norfolk like us!) as well as stunning art deco copies, Black Beauty puzzles and memorabilia. Pamela very kindly offered to 'permanent loan' us part of her collection to display at Anna Sewell House.

Pamela said: "I have got all of these wonderful books, but in my house no one can see them. They're such beautiful books and have made such an impact, they deserve to be seen and enjoyed, and I can help Redwings at the same time too."

Pamela made the five and-a-half hour journey from her home in South Wales for the opening event, and her and her collection even appeared on ITV Anglia.

She added: "At the opening event I thought 'Yes, this is exactly what was supposed to happen. They've come home.'"

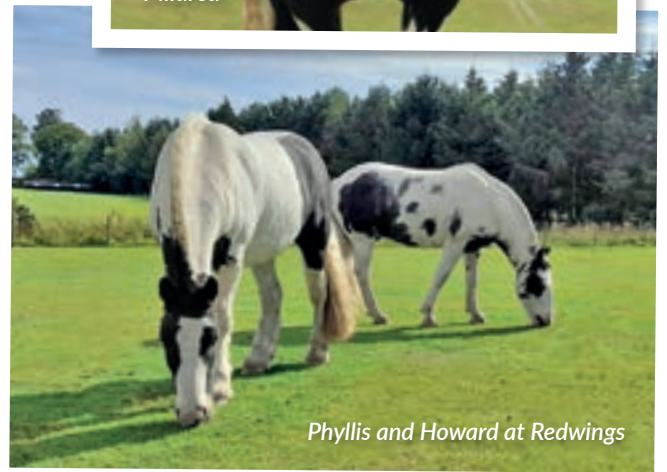
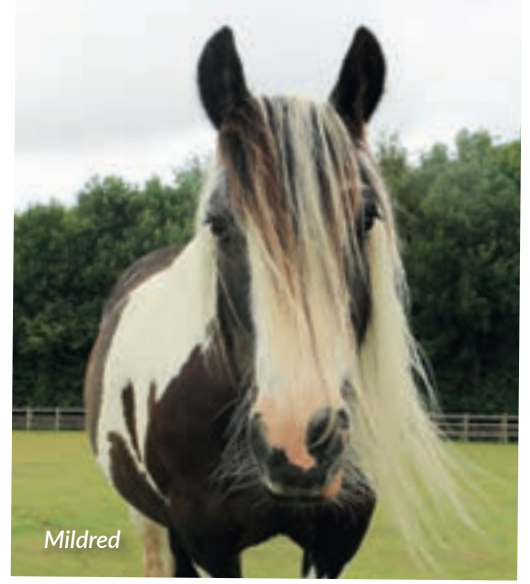


# Bringing hope, changing lives

Phyllis lives at Redwings and now spends her day sharing a field with her friends Howard (pictured), Rosco, Evelyn and Wallace. She came into our care as a foal, along with her mother, Mildred.

**S**he was born in a boarding yard, a special facility that we sometimes use to give rescued horses a secure home before we have the capacity to bring them to our Reception Centre. In this unique case it would take over a year before these mares and foals could begin their lives as part of our sanctuary herd.

**Mildred was among almost 400 ponies rescued from one site. It is the single largest rescue we have ever been a part of; the number of animals suffering in appalling conditions called for an enormous effort from our team.**



**Many of the ponies at the premises were undernourished, sick or suffering from a lack of veterinary care.**

All were affected by the awful conditions. Ponies were found standing in deep mud, there was a lack of clean fresh water, and most had no food at all.



Some showed clear signs of untreated injury and the site was strewn with hazards such as sharp metal and barbed wire. While they lived in desperate, filthy conditions they could see grass growing in neighbouring fields.

It took five days to remove all the ponies from the site. A team of Redwings vets and handlers, working alongside local authorities, RSPCA and local council staff, assessed hundreds of animals and made sure they were safely transported to the private boarding yard.

**We offered a home to over 150 ponies, many of them pregnant mares with foals. Over time we admitted all the ponies through our Reception Centre.**



Nancy was rescued as part of this case. She was in poor condition and suffering from a painful infestation of leg mites. Today Nancy is in much better physical health, but she is affected by ataxia, a neurological condition that causes her to tremor and affects her co-ordination.

Like many of the rescued mares in this group, she was in foal and later that year gave birth to Ingrid who lives at one of our closed sanctuary sites.



Ingrid (front) and her friend Etta

# Our Commitment



Please donate today  
to change the lives of horses who need urgent  
care and better protection\*

- 01508 505246 • [www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)
- Text HOMES to 70460 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 into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text HOMESNOINFO instead.)

Rescues on this scale are rare. Providing urgent care for so many horses at once has an enormous impact on each member of the team and the organisations involved as a whole. This is part of the commitment we make to our charity's mission, whatever the cost.

The change brought about in the lives of the ponies rescued as part of this case is almost beyond recognition. Last Christmas was the first in a new home for Mildred, with the companionship of a new friend in the care of one of our wonderful Redwings Guardians. Nancy and Phyllis will continue to lead their lives secure at the Sanctuary.

Through experience we have learned how to lead rescues involving hundreds of horses and give them the care they desperately need. With your support we can continue to back campaigns to be there for horses that need us, strive for improvements in the laws that protect horses and greater power for those enforcing them, be there at the forefront of emergency rescues to take horses to safety, and provide the commitment and care to give rescued animals a safe and happy future.

**A case of such scale can seem overwhelming but through leading collaborative efforts we will do everything possible to give the horses affected the life they deserve.**



Thank you!



# The gifts that meant so much to Gaelia

Last winter Gaelia was treated at our Horse Hospital when she was suffering from lameness. Without expert treatment, her condition could have had serious consequences for her but thankfully she has returned to her home and to her friends at Redwings Aylsham.

Both our Horse Hospital and the Aylsham Visitor Centre are part of the care we can give to residents today because a supporter kindly remembered horses who need our help – just like Gaelia – with a gift in their Will.

***Gifts in Wills account for two-thirds of our charitable income. Without them, we simply would not be the charity we are today.***

## Continuing a legacy...

Making your Will ensures that your wishes are carried out and that the people and animals you want to provide for benefit in the way that you want.

Once you have remembered your family and loved ones, there are a number of ways to give a lasting gift to Redwings. You could give a specific sum of money, a percentage of what is left when your other wishes have been carried out and expenses met, or a particular item or object.

By choosing a solicitor to help you write your Will, you can get advice on areas including inheritance tax and trust funds.

We have recently started inviting supporters to write a Will for free with Farewill, the largest Will writer in the UK. Farewill's online and telephone services enable you to write a Will in as little as 15 minutes, using a straightforward, professional service.

For more information visit [farewill.com/redwings](http://farewill.com/redwings).

## A secure future for Redwings residents

We promise to use your gift to help horses in the best way we can. We've been caring for rescued horses for almost 40 years, so whether your gift creates a new paddock, funds life-saving veterinary equipment or provides daily specialist care to a resident, you can be assured that your legacy will make a lasting difference to the horses you care about.

If you would like advice and information about how to leave a gift in your Will, visit [redwings.org.uk/legacies](http://redwings.org.uk/legacies) or call our Legacy Manager Katie on 01508 481030.

