

Redwings

Horse Sanctuary

Est. 1984

REDWINGS
HORSE SANCTUARY



NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2024



Introducing Ruby

Redwings offers a home to an orphan foal in need

A home for Ducky

Young pony now has a future to look forward to thanks to your support

PLUS

Rescues to Champions

Read about our rehomed ponies and their well deserved triumphs!

Anniversary celebrations continue

Thank you for helping to celebrate our special year

And much more inside...



Welcome to your autumn newsletter 2024

It's been quite the year so far and I'm delighted to have the chance to take a moment to reflect on how far we've come, not just since January but also in the first 40 years of Redwings, all thanks to your incredibly kind support.

This year we've already had some majorly high moments, like welcoming guests to Redwings for special Ruby Anniversary events like the Great Big Ruby Tea Party and our first-ever Book Festival, running another very successful Strangles Awareness Week and an anniversary edition of the famous Redwings Online Show, and of course welcoming some super special new residents too, like little orphaned foal Ruby (what else could she be called?).

We've had some low points too of course. As a nation it's been a time of real turmoil in the UK with the election playing a huge part in that. And for us as an organisation, with our costs increasing exponentially and the public's finances being more and more stretched, we are having to be ever more cautious about how we spend our funds looking after what we already have, and where we are forced to make savings. Fellow charities are also struggling, and we know individuals are too, so this is compounded by the fact that it's more and more difficult to ask anyone to give more to help us.

We've had to make some tough decisions, including cancelling our beloved Hapton Open Day. We always love to show you behind the scenes at Redwings but since the pandemic even our veterinary hospital is in need of refurbishment, with some makeshift arrangements not viable for visitors. However, as always, you are most welcome to come and see us at any one of our visitor centres around the UK free of charge, and if you are not able to do that, it's our pleasure to keep you updated with all our news both through this publication and through emails and our Adoption Scheme updates as well as on our website and social media channels too.

However you keep in touch with Redwings, I would personally like to thank you most sincerely for your incredible, unflinching support, for which we are so thankful, and I do hope you enjoy finding out what we've been up to this year so far and – most importantly – what our horses and donkeys have been getting up to too!

With very best wishes

Lynn Cutress
Chief Executive



Lynn and
Redwings Anam,
who lives at home
with her.

Although part of a semi-feral herd, Ducky was facing the winter alone. She was underweight, affected by rainscald and having lost her mother, was becoming more vulnerable every day.

Turn to pages 10 & 11 to find out how your support helped to find Ducky safety in sanctuary care and a bright, healthy future.

Please donate today:

- 01508 505246
- www.redwings.org.uk
- Text **DUCKY 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 DUCKYNOINFO instead.)

News update...

Redwings' welfare officers recognised with special award

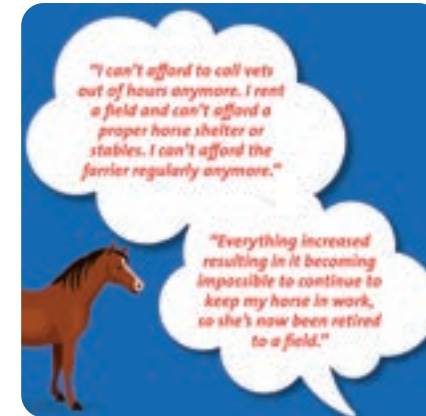
Redwings' Senior Field Officers Jo Franklin and Julie Harding have been given the Team Award by the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC), recognising over 50 years of service between them at the frontline of animal welfare.

Member organisation NEWC brings together equine charities and other organisations under one umbrella to work together on animal welfare. Every year they give out a small number of awards, the recipients of which are nominated by members.

Jo, who started her career in 1990, and Julie, who joined Redwings in 2002, have saved thousands of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules who otherwise would have faced a very uncertain future.



Horse owners are still feeling the pinch



Following the worrying findings of the first Cost-of-Living survey in 2023, which revealed many horse owners are sacrificing essentials such as food, heating and healthcare in order to provide for their horses, the National Equine Welfare Council ran a follow-up survey earlier this year. Once again, Redwings was part of the small survey team and more than 6,000 people took part in the research. The results showed that more than two thirds of owners are worried about caring for themselves

and/or their horses over the coming year because of high costs, with the biggest concerns being around the cost of routine veterinary care, emergency care and providing food for their horse(s).

A parallel survey showed that rescue centres like Redwings are also being significantly impacted by high costs, but we remain committed to rescuing those horses most in need and supporting struggling owners where we can.

We are considering changing the way we contact you

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a law which came into effect in 2018 that stipulates how Redwings may use your personal data. At that time, we chose 'consent' as the lawful basis on which to send you post. We asked you to express consent by opting in to receive communications from us through the post, such as the Redwings Newsletter.

In 2025, we are considering making the change to the lawful basis of our postal communications with you to 'legitimate interest'. This means you no longer need >

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Our cover photo is orphan foal Ruby, pictured during her first time in the paddock at Redwings. Turn to page 6 to read her story.

> cont.

to provide express consent to be contacted by us. If you have previously opted out of mailings this change will not affect you, your preferences will still be honoured.

This change applies to postal mailings. We will still ask you for consent to receive marketing emails and phone calls, these methods of communication are governed by separate regulations (the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations of 2003 (PECR)).

You do not need to do anything unless you no longer wish to be contacted by Redwings Horse Sanctuary.

If you don't want to be contacted by us, please email fundraising@redwings.co.uk or call our Supporter Engagement team on 01508 505246 (open 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday).



Our Ruby Anniversary

It's not every day you turn 40!

We kicked off this year's celebrations in April with the Great Big Ruby Tea Party!

We wanted as many people as possible to be able to take part so, as well as hosting delicious afternoon tea parties at our Norfolk and Warwickshire visitor centres, we also sold hampers and provided packs of bunting and posters so you could join in at home too!

And join in you did! Copious cups of tea and coffee and glasses of 'Nosecco' (it's a thing) were quaffed, and multiple sausage rolls and many many jammy scones were consumed, before guests were taken on a walking tour of our centres with a chance to meet the stars of the show, the horses and donkeys of course! Thank you so much to everyone who came along. The Mayor of Great Yarmouth even came to join in the fun at Caldecott, and at our Aylsham centre someone made a speech about their love for Redwings, which made us all cry, in a great way.



Love Books, Love Horses, Love Redwings



Then in May we held the first-ever Redwings Book Festival! This slightly hare-brained scheme began when we realised how much crossover there was between those who read books and those who love animals. They say reading increases empathy, and now we've proved it!

More than 130 adults and children came along to Caldecott, where they were treated to sessions with queen of crime Elly Griffiths (a lifelong Redwings fan), TV personality and master saddle maker Suzie Fletcher, Anna Sewell experts Dr Celia Brayfield and Dr Hilary Emmett, historical romance writer Jenni Keer and memoirist Grace Olson. And in the children's tent they enjoyed fantastic talks by the legendary Joyce Dunbar as well as Sangu

Mandanna, Cressida Burton, P A Staff and Grace Olson (again – she's multi-talented!) as well as a brilliantly engaging creative writing workshop from Dr Daisy Henwood! We had snacks and cakes and signing sessions with the authors and the feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, to the point where we may just have to do it again.

We were kindly supported by local booksellers Diss Publishing and audio experts Simply Sound and Lighting and we are hugely grateful to everyone who came along and especially to our fantastic authors who gave up their time for free to help support us!



A Ruby Show!

In the spirit of celebration, in July we launched a very special anniversary edition of our popular Redwings Online Show! First launched during Covid, we knew how many of our supporters, from near and far, enjoyed the chance to show off their best pet photos in the Online Show, in the hope of winning a rosette! We welcomed entries from horses, dogs, cats and small furry (and not-so furry) friends! We even had a class for the Best Ruby – open to all pets (and their humans!) called Ruby.

Thanks to kind sponsorship from SPILLERS, Pooch's, The Garden Pantry and The Satchville Gift Company, all the costs of hosting the show were covered, meaning your entry fees went straight to where they were needed most – helping our rescued horses and ponies.

The Show raised a total of over £2,000! What a fantastic total, thank you so much to everyone who took part.

Our sponsors also kindly donated a bunch of fab prizes for our lucky winners – making it even more fitting for a Ruby celebration!

A sad cancellation

As Lynn touched on in her opening, we have had to make the very sad decision to cancel our Hapton Behind-the-Scenes event. This decision was not taken lightly but, with demands on our resources so high, we felt the most responsible thing to do was not to commit ourselves to the costs involved in hosting the event. We are in talks about how we could make the most of our Norfolk visitor centres (which are already kitted out for welcoming you to visit, and open for free Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday all year round!) and host a special event later in the year – so watch this space!

People and Ponies

Have you read our special series of Ruby Anniversary blogs yet? Throughout our Ruby year, Communications Officer Georgia has been compiling a series of blogs showcasing some of the special people and ponies who make up Redwings. In it, Nursing Manager Lou visited Audrey, who has been something of a newsletter stalwart, in her Guardian home. Audrey's story from long-term hospital patient to now treasured companion encapsulates why we do what we do, and her reunion with Lou was a special one!

You can read more here: www.redwings.org.uk/news-and-features/ponies-and-people-if-we-could-have-foreseen or by scanning the QR code. You can also read blogs featuring Sarah and our Behaviour Team, Talita and her memories of blind Clydesdale Boo, who we remember so fondly, and more of the inspirational folks who make up Redwings!



Guardian Lucy, Audrey and Nursing Manager Lou

Redwings to the rescue!

News of our frontline work from around the UK



Ruby's first turnout

Ruby's recovery



Ruby drinking her milk

In June we welcomed orphan foal Ruby, after she had sadly been found next to her mum who had passed away. It is thought she was

between two to four weeks old when she was found.

Teams across Redwings sprang into action, selecting Redwings resident Cilla as a suitable foster-mum and getting the Horse Hospital ready for Ruby's arrival. The pair spent time in the stables getting to know each other, and then the day Ruby got to stretch her gangly foal legs on one of our special care paddocks was truly a sight to behold!

Her initial feeding regime was a round-the-clock affair and colleagues from across Redwings stepped up to help. We charted her progress with our 'Ruby's Recovery' blogs, which you can read on our website.

Ruby was very nervous when she arrived, and raising an orphan foal to have the right associations with people can be a tricky job. Turn to page 13 to read more about Ruby's specialist handling programme and thanks to everyone who has already donated to support her ongoing care.



Daisy at Gelligaer



Ducky, Daisy and Della at Redwings

Our work continues on Gelligaer common

Three ponies, who were found in need of urgent veterinary care, have found their forever homes at Redwings.

Ducky, Daisy and Della were discovered during a special multi-charity project, as part of our ongoing work on Gelligaer working together with the Commoners Association and landowners to reduce unwanted breeding and ensure a better winter for the older ponies on the commons.

Four-month-old Ducky appeared to be a loner in her group, and it's thought may have been orphaned. She was struggling to keep a healthy weight and had bad rindscauld. Five-year-old Daisy had several lumps on her face and her four-month-old foal Della was lame.

You can read all about the specialist care the trio have received at Redwings on page 10-11.

A home for hero Harley



We have offered a specialist retirement home to Harley, a friendly cob, after he has helped hundreds of children and young people at a Brixton horse club learn about the wonders of horses.

Ebony Horse Club, a charity who work with youngsters in London, contacted Redwings about Harley after all their efforts to find an appropriate home for him failed.

The 13 year old has osteoarthritis in his hind fetlocks, meaning he can no longer be ridden and needs closely monitored care.

Sidony Holdsworth, COO of Ebony Riding Club, said: "We are very grateful that Redwings agreed to take Harley, who is a favourite amongst us all here.

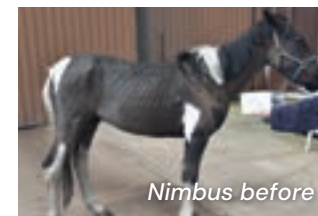
"He's been with us for four years, during which time he's helped teach hundreds of children and young people in Brixton, largely from low-income backgrounds, who otherwise may never have had an opportunity like this.

"He's a sweetheart of a horse, who has done so much for so many, and we know

that however much time he has, he'll have the very best of everything at Redwings."

Harley arrived at the Sanctuary in April and has now settled into life at Redwings Aylsham. He soon struck up a friendship with Adoption Star Maya and the team report that he loves a good scratch!

Suffering pony now doing well in care of Redwings



Nimbus before

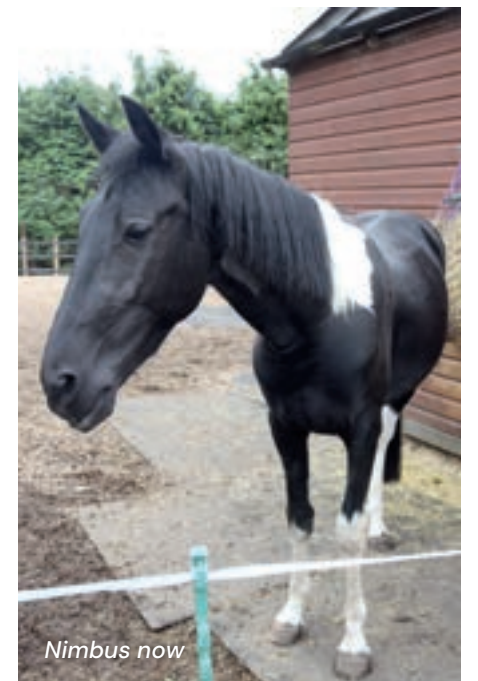
In March, we were contacted by Avon and Somerset Police, after a three-year-old tricolour trotter colt was found in Bristol, suffering from painful rindscauld, amongst other things.

Nic de Brauwere, our Head of Welfare and Behaviour, said: "Nimbus, as he has been named by our staff, was in terrible condition when he

was rescued. He'd been left with a painful skin condition, living outdoors in very cold and wet weather, wearing a poorly-fitting rug that didn't keep the rain out and was actually making his skin infection worse as his skin couldn't dry out properly. It is no surprise that he was also very thin. His weight loss left him weak and wobbly, and his head looked completely out of proportion to his scrawny body.

"When he got to Redwings, we could tell that his thin sensitive skin was very painful, for such a kind natured horse he really didn't want to be touched. Our vets discovered that he had two fractured teeth, which would certainly have been part of the reason he was so thin. After his teeth were treated his appetite completely changed. He also made an odd sound as he walked, having only one back shoe left on, and his hooves had become overgrown and misshapen.

"It's clear that Nimbus had not been treated with respect by his previous owner. He is such a gentle and cheeky young horse. Because we have been able to address his various health concerns, we are hopeful that he can look forward to a healthy and happy life and he's now doing well in our care."



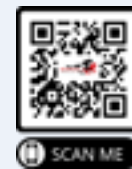
Nimbus now

Sobering statistics



This year, Redwings has been working harder than ever to raise awareness of the impact fireworks can have on horses and campaign for a government review of regulations around their use.

Fireworks continue to have a range of negative impacts, not only on horses, but on other species of animals, many humans, wildlife and the environment. Redwings is part of a coalition of human and animal charities working together to urge Westminster to review and update current fireworks regulations. To help, we created a new infographic on behalf of the group, showing just some of the many adverse outcomes fireworks cause. We believe these sobering statistics demonstrate how current regulations simply don't go far enough to protect people, pets or the natural world. The infographic can be easily downloaded and shared on social media or sent by email.



Strangles Awareness Week

The fifth Strangles Awareness Week (SAW) took social media by storm in May, and this year we secured support from the very highest reaches of the equestrian world.

Eventers Lucinda Green and William Fox-Pitt and dressage rider Richard Davison are among Britain's most successful riders, having all won multiple international titles and represented Great Britain at several Olympic Games. The three were joined by equestrian influencer Rhiannon Davis (Riding With Rhi) to create four videos to highlight our BEST actions – four key ways to help protect horses from infectious diseases like Strangles.

This year, we also shared two short films showing how Strangles badly affected a pair of young, healthy horses during an outbreak at a yard in County Durham. Owners Claire and Kath wanted to use their experience to help raise awareness of the disease and help other owners avoid having to deal with the disease. Their honest, touching accounts have already been watched more than 20,000 times!



William Fox-Pitt

Report pushes back at ministers

When the impact of fireworks on animals is raised in parliament, government ministers commonly refer to the Animal Welfare Act as legislation that can hold people to account where fireworks have caused the injury or death of an animal. Redwings vets, with experience in using the Act in welfare cases, were sceptical the legislation could be used in these circumstances, so we organised a discussion of experts to get to the bottom of the issue.

A group of barristers, vets, local authority inspectors and police officers all agreed unanimously that while the Animal Welfare Act is very good at dealing with cases of animal neglect or cruelty, it is not a suitable tool when fireworks have inadvertently caused suffering or fatality to an animal. We hope the report will help us refute claims by ministers that existing regulations are enough to protect animals. Now that we have a new government and a host of new MPs, Redwings will be sharing the report as part of efforts to secure the support of more parliamentarians as we continue to push for much-needed change on the issue.

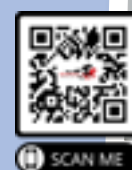


All change at No. 10

The formation of a new government has brought new opportunities to engage with policy makers on the issues we most want to see progress on. Redwings will be working hard to make the voice of horses heard on important topics including:

- An improved and better enforced system of Equine ID
- A comprehensive review of current fireworks regulations
- Licensing of animal rescue centres, rehoming centres and sanctuaries

As always, writing to your own MP on equine welfare issues can make a big difference and thank you to everyone who supports our campaigns in this way. To get involved, simply join our campaigns mailing list.



Best At Appleby

In June, our veterinary and communications team attended Appleby Horse Fair. Redwings attends the event every year as part of a National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) collaboration, providing veterinary support to horses in attendance.

Redwings also coordinates the Best At Appleby awards – championing and elevating examples of outstanding horse care and welfare. Eighteen awards were given out by vets, including Vet's Champion Grace and People's Champion Raven. The project is now a well-established part of the annual event and we're very much looking forward to celebrating 10 years of Best At Appleby in 2025!



Vet's Champion Grace



People's Champion Raven – owner Karl and family

How Ducky has a future to look forward to

Today Ducky has a secure home, people who care for her and the company of friends as part of a small group of ponies. She came into sanctuary care last winter and has recently moved to our specialist Behaviour Centre to begin handling training.

When we found Ducky she was leading a very different life.



Ducky at Behaviour Centre

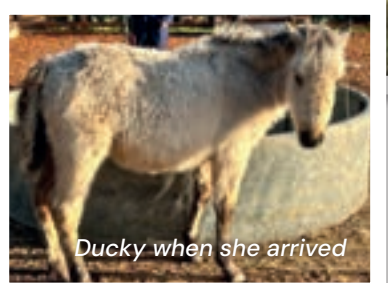
The prospects of a difficult winter

As part of a welfare project in November 2023, our welfare vets were assessing a herd of semi-feral ponies, living on an upland common in south-east Wales. Working together with commoners, fellow charities and the local council, the project aims to reduce unwanted breeding in the herd and ensure the older ponies can cope during the winter months.

A Redwings vet spotted one foal who appeared to be quite listless; she had laid down, separate from the rest of the group. By closely watching the little dun-coloured filly several times over the next two hours, it was clear that none of the mares in the group were taking care of her.

Ducky would not be able to face the approaching winter alone. She was only four months old, she was underweight, and rainscald ran the length of her back, from the top of her head to the base of her tail. The vets decided to remove the foal from the common that afternoon.

Ducky when she was found



Ducky when she arrived

Coming into our care

Meanwhile, an unhandled mare and her foal, both suffering with painful abscesses, had been loaded on to the horsebox using pen sections to keep the ponies safe. Welfare vet Chloe said: "While the little filly was wary of us, she was also quite weak. Several of us managed to gently guide her onto the horsebox, by forming a sort of 'human pen' and encouraging her to follow the ponies who were already on the vehicle."

After a brief stay at a nearby holding yard, where Ducky was given fluids to help rehydrate her, the ponies were brought into our quarantine yard. From there the welfare vet team took samples to begin testing for any infection or transmissible illness.



The Redwings team assess ponies on Gelligaer

The start of a new chapter

With dedicated care, Ducky has transformed from the weak and vulnerable foal who we first met last winter. She has made a good physical recovery and Chloe describes how she continues to change.

She said: "We've been lucky. Ducky is still a little nervous about being caught but loves a nice scratch, and is good for the vet and the farrier."

These small steps are encouraging signs that Ducky is adapting to a life where she will feel comfortable with regular contact with people.

Being part of a group of ponies has also been key to Ducky's wellbeing. In Della, she has a friend her own age and Daisy has been a surrogate mother, giving Ducky the guidance and reassurance that she did not have as an orphan foal, all alone on the common. In June the group was joined by one-year-old Ogden, a Shetland pony who came to Redwings from a rescue carried out earlier in 2023.

All four ponies have recently moved to our Behaviour Centre to begin the next part of their lives at the Sanctuary. There they will be cared for by a team that focuses on making every single interaction as positive as possible. Each resident is able to learn at their own pace and there is no pressure to reach any 'goals'. Our aim is solely to ensure every individual gets the level of care they need.

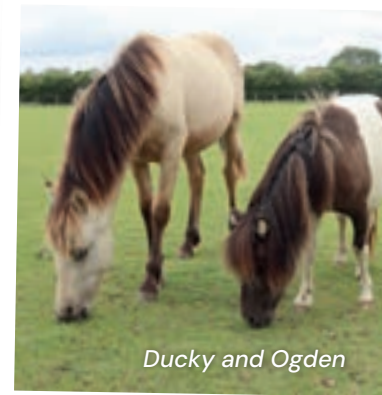


Ducky, Daisy and Della

Ducky's new companions

The mare and foal who were rescued on the same day as Ducky joined her at our quarantine yard. The mare, who we named Daisy, was suffering with a tooth infection which presented as an abscess on her face, and Della was lame. Treating them was difficult as both were very nervous of being handled.

Ducky was less nervous than her companions, but when treating her skin for rainscald her carers handled her as gently as possible. By making these interactions as positive as we could, the team hoped Ducky would grow in confidence.



Ducky and Ogden

 The Behaviour Centre team is responsible for the daily care of about 50 horses at any one time

As Ducky approaches a year in our care, she has the security and companionship that are key to a healthy future.

Your donation could help a vulnerable pony like Ducky find a new family in sanctuary care.

Please donate today



SCAN ME



- 01508 505246 • www.redwings.org.uk
- Text DUCKY 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 DUCKYNOINFO instead.)

Thank you!

 Your support led to 58 horses in need of help being brought into sanctuary care in 2023

Anniversaries galore

It's not just Redwings with an anniversary to celebrate this year! Redwings Guardians Shirley and Nicola are celebrating milestones with their Redwings ponies.

Shirley rehomed Blossom from SWHP (Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies) in 1996, originally on a short-term foster basis.

"At the time SWHP didn't have anyone able to back the ponies, so she came to live with us temporarily – but she then just stayed put!" she said.



Blossom

In March 1999, Shirley took Blossom on as a permanent loan, and she has stayed with her ever since – a period of over 25 years!

She added: "SWHP rescued her from up on the commons. She had fallen in a ditch and got trapped, thank goodness someone spotted her. Fate found her that day, and then she found me!"

Also celebrating almost 25 years of life together are Nicola and Redwings Penny! Nicola rehomed Penny from Ada Cole Memorial Stables in 2000. "I knew someone who worked at Ada Cole Memorial Stables, and she mentioned a youngster that was coming into their care and would be in need of a home," she added.

"I went to view her, and she was a fiery girl. Being Welsh x Arab she always was, and is, on her toes, but I wouldn't want her any other way. She has been a massive part of my life and I'm committed for the long haul. She'll be here for the rest of her days."

Nicola and Penny



A champion effort

Redwings has been on the road this summer promoting all things rehoming! We had spots in the Rescue Villages at the Royal Norfolk Show and Equifest.

This meant we had a front row seat when Redwings Matty and his Guardian Sarah (who just happens to be one of our vets!) were crowned Rescue Champions at the Royal Norfolk Show! Rescue showing classes are judged on a combination of rescue information, which entrants submit in advance, and their transformation to the horse the judges see in the ring on the day.

Matty and Sarah's story also caught the eye of ITV Anglia and BBC Radio Norfolk! A special mention to Redwings Edward, and his Guardian Claire (who were Reserve Champions!), Redwings Jerome and Guardian Milly, and Redwings Honey and Guardian Elli-May who all did fantastically well (either first or second place in their classes!). What a fantastic showcase for our wonderful rehomed horses.



Redwings Matty and Sarah



Redwings Honey and Elli-May



Redwings Edward and Claire

Training fit for a king!

Monarch, our youngest Adoption Star, has been making great strides in his handling training! When Monarch was launched on the Adoption Scheme (in time for the King's Coronation no less!) he was a bit of a unique case in that he was only a youngster, and not living at one of our visitor centres.

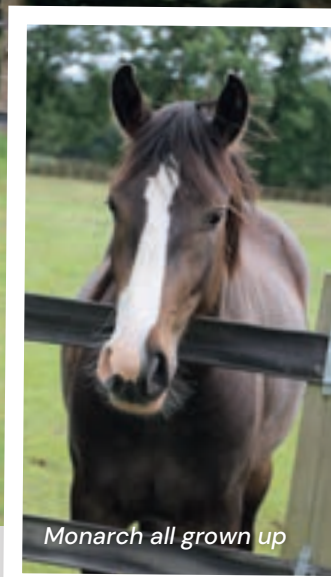
However, we knew our supporters were heavily invested in his story and wanted to keep in touch on his progress, after he was born at the Sanctuary to a rescued mare, Majesty, who came to us after she was injured in an accident with a lorry.

Working with his trainer Catherine, Monarch is progressing well with his youngster handling training. All young horses

at Redwings learn crucial things like wearing a headcollar, understanding pressure on the lead rope, leading, leg-handling (so the farrier can trim their hooves), and preparation for needles and worming.

As Monarch's adopters can't visit him in person, we produced a special video for them as part of our Ruby Anniversary celebrations where we tagged along to one of his training sessions. The sun shone, Monarch aced his training and farrier Callum even lent a hand as they worked on crucial farrier training.

All in all, a great success – well done Monarch!



Monarch all grown up



Raising an orphan foal

how we could get her comfortable with us for her ongoing care at Redwings.

Behaviour Manager Sarah and her team devised a plan. She explained: "Orphaned foals can grow up with a very different relationship with people than 'normal' foals. Too much of the wrong interactions can lead to them experiencing frustration and stress as they get older. The crucial thing we needed to do was separate food (which they would usually get from their mum) from human interaction, such as scratches and fuss."

The Behaviour team (with the help of their fake arm) soon won Ruby over and she was seeking us out for scratches! Once that positive association was made with people we could introduce a headcollar, plus objects like our portable weighbridge – so we could monitor her growth in line with her feeding plan – and give her the very best of care as she grew up at Redwings.

On page 6 we introduced you to young Ruby, the orphan foal. Ruby was very nervous when she arrived, understandably so for a little one who had had such a difficult start in life.

Of course, we wanted to make sure Ruby was fed and well, but we also had to give priority to her mental wellbeing and

News from around 'Your Redwings' the Sanctuary –

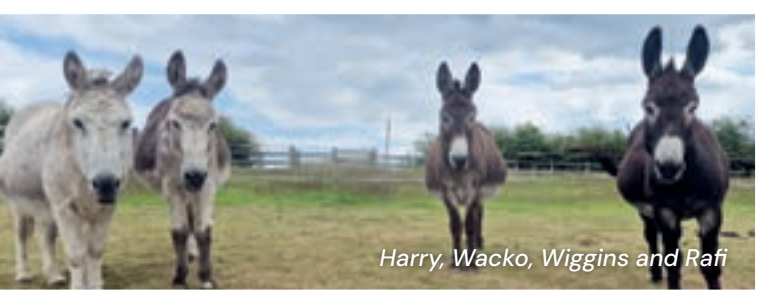


Visit redwings.org.uk/visit for our latest opening times and information to make the most of your visit!

REDWINGS

Aylsham

North Norfolk, NR11 6UE



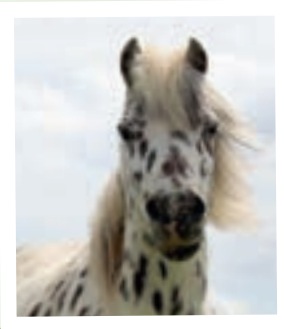
Harry, Wacko, Wiggins and Rafi

Thank you for not feeding our residents

In addition to a thousand thank yous for your support, we'd like to say how grateful we are to all our visitors to the Sanctuary who understand the importance of not feeding our residents. With hundreds of equines in our care, it's hard to imagine the vast array of dietary requirements that our teams accommodate! Weight, breed, age, health, and the seasons are just some factors that are considered. While not becoming overweight is incredibly important for all our horses, it is not the only reason diets must be strictly adhered to.

Many of our older residents, such as retired Adoption Star Cookie, cannot eat long fibres such as hay or long grass because their ageing teeth can no longer effectively chew them. These equines have a 'no long fibre diet' (NLF) and are given regular feeds to ensure that they have all the nutrition they need. We know that when supporters throw hay or long grass into paddocks, they do it out of kindness, but it could cause our residents to suffer from potentially fatal colic or choke.

If you wish to treat our horses, donations of carrots and apples can be left at the visitor centre to share amongst the residents who can enjoy them.



When Harry met Rafi

We all know that donkeys and horses are herd creatures, but unlike horses, donkeys often form lifelong friendships as a pair. The bond of which can be so strong that they can become unwell if separated from their companion.

In June, Redwings Aylsham was home to five happy donkeys; Adoption Stars Wiggins and Wacko, Iris, Mabel, and Harry. When Iris and Mabel needed to visit the Horse Hospital, life continued as usual for best friends Wiggins and Wacko, and, although Harry was never alone, Wiggins and Wacko's strong friendship inevitably left him outside of the loop! So, the Redwings Aylsham team set about finding him a pal. In no time at all, Rafi, who was living at Redwings Caldecott, was suggested as a potential match.

The besties-to-be were introduced slowly, spending time at first getting to know each other over a temporary fence within the same paddock. But Harry and Rafi clicked straightaway, the fence was removed and their bond has continued to blossom ever since.



Anna Sewell House

Gt. Yarmouth, NR30 1NE

REDWINGS

Anna Sewell House needs you!

Anna Sewell House, in Great Yarmouth, is the birthplace of Anna Sewell, the author of the

beloved novel Black Beauty. Since 2022, Redwings has been the custodian of the building, and we open our doors every Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 2pm, so that visitors can discover more about Anna and how we are continuing her legacy of championing equine welfare.

As well as inviting you to visit this special place, we are looking for Volunteer Guides to welcome visitors. We rely on volunteers to be able to open Anna Sewell House to the public, so please visit redwings.org.uk/support-us/join-us/volunteer-with-us/anna-sewell-house-guide if you can offer some of your time to join this unique project.

Volunteer photo by Luke Witcomb

beloved novel Black Beauty. Since 2022, Redwings has been the custodian of the building, and we open our doors every

Ada Cole

Essex, EN9 2DH

REDWINGS

Redwings Ada Cole suffers break-in



Sadly, in May, a break-in took place at Redwings Ada Cole.

Three people were caught on CCTV breaking into the site's feed shed just after 10.50pm on Tuesday 21st May.

They were seen leaving the site before returning at 11.30pm and breaking into the welcome centre. Till drawers were removed and later found on the counters and the staff lockers were opened.

We do not keep any money onsite overnight, sadly for this very reason, so no cash was taken, however some damage was caused which needed to be repaired at a cost to our funds.

All our horses and donkeys were unharmed and accounted for when staff arrived in the morning.

Jo Franklin, Ada Cole Centre Manager, said: "It's extremely upsetting that anyone would do something like this, particularly given that all of the work we do here at Ada Cole is paid for by generous donations from animal-lovers to help horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in need."

Anyone who may have information about the break-in is urged to contact Essex Police at www.essex.police.uk or by calling 101 and quoting the reference number 276/22/05.

Reports can also be made to Crimestoppers anonymously at www.crimestoppers-uk.org or by calling 0800 555 111.

New hours, new faces

Since Easter, Redwings Ada Cole has been open every weekend, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

This is the first time since the pandemic that we have been able to welcome visitors to the centre every weekend and we have loved seeing the increase of people enjoying time with our horses and learning more about Redwings.

Thank you to everyone who has popped by this summer.



REDWINGS

Caldecott

Gt. Yarmouth, NR31 9EY

WELCOME

Have you seen our new TV ad?



As you may well have spotted, as part of our Ruby Anniversary celebrations this year we've been trying a few new things!

Times are very difficult for charities at the moment, so you won't be surprised to hear that a lot of these new projects have been focused on helping us raise funds, and our latest venture is to trial some television advertising.

This is a very exciting development but it's only in limited areas to begin with as, although it's much more cost effective than it used to be, we are still being very prudent! If you live in Norfolk, you may have already spotted our brand-new advert. If not, you can follow us on social media to have a watch or scan this QR code to see it right now.

Shot at our Caldecott Visitor Centre, it encourages people to think of supporting Redwings through sponsoring one of our Adoption Stars

and showcases the wonderful day out families can enjoy at our centres.

The ad was also voiced by Dame Joanna Lumley who kindly provided her services for free. We'd like to say a big thank you to her and all involved.



Thank you to the Anthony and Elaine Bethell Charitable Foundation

We are lucky to be supported by many charitable foundations and trusts, who offer grants towards horse care projects we'd like to undertake.

The Anthony and Elaine Bethell Charitable Foundation donated £25,000 to help fund the fixtures and fittings in the new donkey barn, and the adjoining woodchip paddock, at Redwings Oxhill.

Donkeys are designed to live in hot, arid climates, meaning they are not best suited to the Great British winter weather! The barn and woodchips provide crucial shelter from the elements and somewhere they can keep their hooves dry.

Adoption Star Arya and her friend Merlin (pictured) were very happy to welcome Trustee Ian Phillips, from the Foundation, during a recent visit.



Birthday parties are back!

After a year of hard work, the renovations to our horse care and visitor facilities at Redwings Oxhill are nearing completion.

Thank you to everyone for your support and patience while we had to close the visitor centre and then limit access for a few months as the bulk of the works took place.

Many of the existing facilities had served us well for nearly 20 years, but were becoming tired and in desperate need of a revamp to ensure they remained fit for purpose for the next 20 years!

We've had our fencing replaced and our woodchips replenished, which are essential for keeping our horses and donkeys safe and providing them with places to manage their diets and keep big hooves healthy, especially in the colder, wetter months.

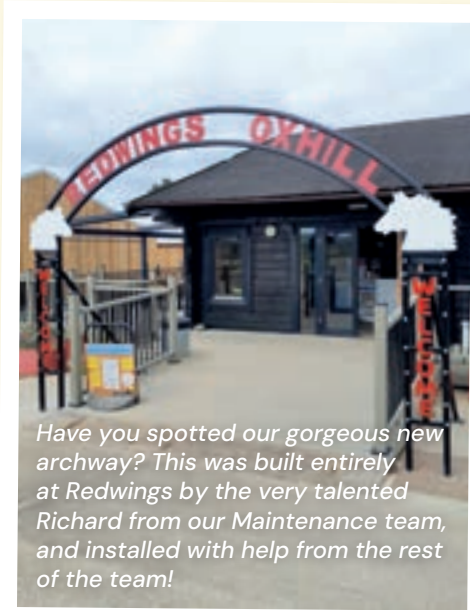
There are also two brand-new barns and stables on site offering our special care residents all-weather facilities to help them cope in challenging conditions.

On arrival, you will also spot that we have reconfigured the area around the visitor centre and given our welcome building a much-needed makeover, including doubling the size of our café kitchen to offer more menu choices and creating additional

seating on our outside decking (including a brand-new canopy to offer shade) so you'll be able to watch the horses as you enjoy your cuppa and cake!

Due to the renovations, we weren't able to host Adoption Star parties at Redwings Oxhill last summer, so we were delighted to welcome adopters to the first birthday party of the year in July to celebrate both our handsome Adoption Star Rumpel and all the improvements!

Redwings Oxhill is open every weekend, **Friday to Monday, 10am to 4pm.** Entry is free and dogs on leads are welcome.



Have you spotted our gorgeous new archway? This was built entirely at Redwings by the very talented Richard from our Maintenance team, and installed with help from the rest of the team!

Jaguar Land Rover lend a helping hand

Thank you to a group of employees from Jaguar Land Rover who recently enjoyed a corporate volunteering day at Redwings Oxhill.

The volunteers got stuck in, clearing and pressure washing our stables, preparing them for painting, and weeding and strimming.

This vital work not only helped provide a clean and safe environment for our rescued residents, but by offering their help they have given back time to our team to dedicate to the hands-on care of our horses and donkeys.

If your business is looking for volunteering opportunities, or you'd like to offer your time as an individual, you can find out more at redwings.org.uk/support-us/join-us/volunteer-with-us



Special care, it's what we do!

Did you know that Redwings Mountains is home to the highest percentage of 'special care' residents of all our sanctuary sites? Almost two-thirds (44 of the 70) horses and donkeys that call the visitor centre home are on long-term medication to manage various health conditions.

This includes medication for conditions like chronic arthritis, common in older equines. Scotland's unpredictable climate (and there was us thinking we made it through a copy of the newsletter without mentioning Mountains' weather woes!) can make finding the best maintenance dose a challenge, but not one that our team aren't up to!

Residents like Jake (pictured) receive daily inhaler treatment for Recurrent Airway Obstruction (R.A.O), and he also wears a Guardian mask to protect his eyes from UV rays, as he has a history of eye ulcers and uveitis.

Other residents, with allergies or skin conditions, can receive Piriton medication (between 16 and 32 tablets a day depending on their weight!). Plus, special baths, shampoos and routine clipping also play a role in keeping them comfy, with healthy skin.

The team at Mountains has a commitment to comprehensive care – tailoring treatments to individual health needs and adapting to seasonal changes. Thanks to your support, each horse receives the care and attention they deserve, allowing them to lead comfortable and healthy lives.

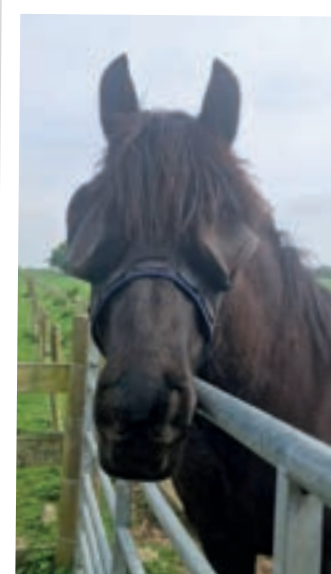


A viral singing sensation

The Redwings Mountains Donkey Choir has become an Internet sensation!

A clip of their beautiful braying (although their dulcet tones may be an acquired taste for some) has been viewed over 211,000 times on TikTok! The unexpected performance quickly captured the hearts of many with people across the world commenting on their vocal talents – although we are yet to receive an offer of a record deal!

For more fun, inspiring and educational content from Redwings, please check out our TikTok account and give us a follow.



The Show goes on!

After a few years away, Redwings returned with a trade stand at the Suffolk and Royal Norfolk Shows this summer. Both events provided a wonderful opportunity to meet our supporters and to raise valuable funds.

This time we took our very popular preloved tack to sell, and our second-hand rugs sold like the proverbial hotcakes! As well as buying, lots of people also discovered they could donate their preloved tack and other items, and we've been pledged lots more to sell! At the Royal Norfolk Show we were joined by Destiny, Skittles and Yarn who represented our rehoming scheme in the Rescue Village and enjoyed meeting everyone who came to say hello.

Having raised over £5,000 to support our residents and vulnerable horses outside our sanctuary fences, we came home weary, and with sore feet, but already looking forward to returning in 2025!

If you have tack or other items you would like to donate to Redwings, email preloved@redwings.co.uk



Sharing is caring

Did you know that you can adopt a Redwings resident as a gift for a friend or relative?

As well as three postal updates per year, adopters also receive quarterly emails with details of how their Adoption Star is living their best life here at the Sanctuary. Plus, you'll receive an invite to your Adoption Star's birthday party – yes, really!



Adopting for a friend makes a great birthday or Christmas gift and we can send their adoption welcome pack straight away or on a date of your choice.

Visit redwings.org.uk/adopt or call us on 01508 505246 to find out more and give the gift of friendship today.

National award for our Legacy Manager Katie



Katie said: "I'm so honoured to have been given this award. It is a wonderful, independent validation not only of my work but the work being done here at Redwings."

"It is an incredible way to mark my 10 years with the charity, in what is also our 40th anniversary year."

Tough competition

The award entries were reviewed and assessed by a judging panel that includes some of the biggest names from across the charitable legacy community.

Redwings CEO Lynn Cutress said: "I am over the moon that Katie has been recognised in this way, I couldn't think of a better recipient of this prestigious award."

"Katie is a trained solicitor with previous experience in the charity sector, and she brings her vast knowledge and skills to her role every day."

"She takes her role incredibly seriously, understanding not just its importance for the charity, but also the poignant role she plays in helping people fulfil their final wishes – something which is always appreciated by the families of those who have sadly passed."

In April, our Legacy Manager, Katie Fulcher, won the Legacy Administrator of the Year Award in the 2024 Smee & Ford Legacy Giving Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement and skill in the legacy giving sector.

Katie is responsible for managing all gifts in Wills to Redwings, which make up over two-thirds of our income and play a crucial part in caring for the hundreds of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules we are responsible for, and allows us to keep helping more in need.

We couldn't function without gifts left to us by our supporters, for which we are forever grateful. If you would like help or advice on making or changing your Will, please contact us by email info@redwings.co.uk or contact Katie on 01508 481030.

Wish you were here?

Visiting one of our five visitor centres gives you the chance to meet some of our residents, and is the best way to get a close-up look at the work we do to care for them.

The teams who work at our visitor centres are a mine of information about our residents and you can find out more about the horses in their care or how the charity works than we'd ever have room to print in our newsletter!

Most of our sites have a café where you can enjoy locally-made produce and a hot drink. Each year the money spent in our cafés and gift shops raises valuable funds that support all areas of Redwings' work. Just by having a cup of tea, you could be helping to rescue the next horse, pony or donkey that needs our help.

The school holidays may be over for another year, but our centres are still open, and we'd love for you to come and see the difference your support means to our residents.

To find our latest opening hours, check www.redwings.org.uk/visit or call us on 01508 505246 (8.30am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday).



£s in to help with lbs off!

Our friends at SPILLERS, who are long term supporters of ours, have made a £5,000 donation towards strip grazing supplies – which allow us to manage our grazing and restrict how much grass our greedier ponies have access to!

The donation was part of the feed company's Battle the Bulge campaign, which is being run in partnership with Redwings. Members of the SPILLERS Slimmers Facebook group, designed to offer helpful advice about equine weight management, were asked to vote on what they would like to see funded here at Redwings.

Equine obesity is a huge welfare problem for equines across the UK, as excess weight can cause a host of health problems. Our new Norfolk Farms Weight Management Co-ordinator Amy has been excited to get involved with the SPILLERS Battle the Bulge campaign.

Amy started the brand-new role, on a one-year secondment, in January and said: "I spend my days weighing and body condition scoring our horses and speaking to our in-house vets, managers, and team leaders about grazing and how we can help larger equines become healthier through management.

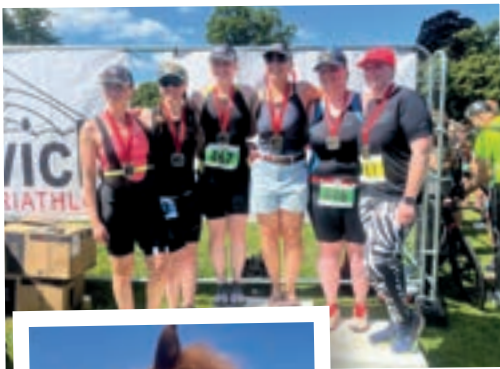
"Equine weight management is something which we take very seriously here at Redwings and we're very grateful to SPILLERS and everyone who has gotten involved. Let's work together to end equine obesity."

For more information about how you can get involved, search SPILLERS Slimmers Club on Facebook.



Amy and Pancake (one of her favourite horses at Redwings!)

Horse heroes take on a triathlon!



Belle the Shetland

A team of our very own vet staff completed the Tri-Anglia Norwich Triathlon, and raised over £700 for Redwings in the process!

Sarah, Emma, Rachel, Lou and Lizzie, who all work in our Horse Hospital, took part in the event in June, and they had a very special cheerleader – Belle the Shetland pony!

Vet nurse assistant Lizzie, who made up a three-person relay alongside Sarah and Lou, said: "We have the pleasure of making a difference every day to the lives of the horses and donkeys in the Sanctuary. We love our jobs, as well as keeping fit and training together outside of work, so we thought we would take the opportunity to try to raise a few pennies for our beloved charity."

Vet Sarah said: "We are very proud of our team! We were out of our comfort zones, but we all dug deep to cross that finish line. And we were the only team with a Shetland pony cheering us on!

"Belle isn't a Redwings Guardian pony herself but lives with three who are (if you turn to page 12 you can read about the winning ways of one of her Redwings fieldmates, Matty!). Having her as our chief cheerleader definitely gave us a little bit of extra motivation. We have raised an unbelievable amount for Redwings and are so grateful for all the support".

Paws for a cause

Thank you to the dogs (and owners) of Marbury Dog Club. They held a Charity Walk which was a great success. Many visitors enjoyed the walk and quiz that had been arranged and they raised £125 for all our rescued residents!

