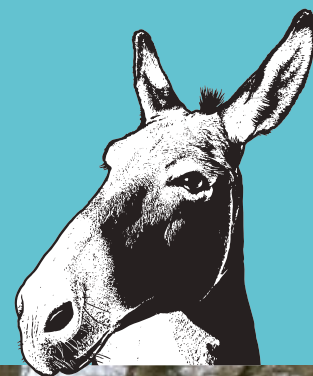


Spring 2022

DONKEY HEAVEN



George and Lilly

ARRIVALS

We were called before Christmas to collect two very healthy and well cared for Donkeys. Romeo and Harry are young and very friendly with quite distinctive personalities. Romeo is nearly completely Brown with the exception of his nose which is white. He was born in February on Valentines Day 2015 hence his name! Harry is small and is slightly shy than Romeo. He is quieter and not as vocal but loves to be petted and spoiled. Harry is a little younger being born in September 2015.



Romeo



Harry

DEPARTURES



Del Boy

Late last year we were very sad to lose Del Boy who was a firm favourite with everyone and was a healthy old lad until the last week of his life when his breathing became very uneven. Unfortunately this led to his loss of appetite and ultimately to his being put to sleep for his own comfort. Del Boy was Skewbald (Brown and White) and was born in 1995 which made him 22 when he passed away. Del Boy was always a good eater and was friendly with Dougal but fitted in well with all the other donkeys in his field group. Dougal has recovered and happy in his group of friends. Del Boy was prone to recurring foot problems and it was a fairly regular occurrence for him to have a poultice to help remedy the problem. We all miss him very much but know that he had a very good life here at the Sanctuary.

Patch

After a very difficult heart wrenching few weeks we decided along with our vets to have Patch put to sleep. He had a large tumour in his stomach and lately was becoming noticeably uncomfortable when moving around.

Patch was here for many years – at least 16 with his lifelong companion Francis who spent all their time together going around doing what Donkeys do! They were the 'Oldies' bunch and now that Patch has gone Francis still has his companions with him who he gets on with and is not lonely. Patch was a greedy donkey and always met you at the field with a wide gaping mouth that would swallow your hand! He was very friendly and kind and we all miss him a lot.



FARRIER VISIT.

Part of our routine work at the Sanctuary is having the Farrier visit every 3 months to trim and tend to all the Donkeys feet.

Donkeys feet are very upright unlike most horses and ponies which are more sloping. There is a particular way of trimming Donkeys feet which helps to keep them upright and their stance vertical therefore displacing the weight evenly through their legs.

Donkeys have always traditionally carried very heavy loads and having these upright hooves helps balance and evenly distribute the loads whilst walking. Although none of our Donkeys carry any loads it is very important to maintain their feet for their overall health and comfort.

Our farrier usually manages around 20 donkeys per day, although when we need veterinary assistance to help keep some Donkeys calm or if they have aches and pains we get less done in a day.

PLANS FOR 2022.

During the last two years The Sanctuary has continued to care for the many Donkeys here at the Holmes. The continued support we have received has been exceptional and without it who knows where we would be??

The decision of the Trustees to remain closed was done to safeguard the Staff and Volunteers who look after the Donkeys.

We are opening to the Public on Saturdays between 1pm and 4pm from the 19th March. There will be a booking system online. Anyone with an adoption will enter free but will still have to 'book in'. Visitors without adoptions will be asked to pay an entrance fee of £5 per adult but all children under 16 enter free.