

Spring 2023

# DONKEY HEAVEN



With Winter hopefully past and Spring heading into Summer, we look forward to some good weather and enjoyable days ahead. It has been a difficult six months with the weather playing all sorts of temperature tricks, some days in the mid-teens and others well below freezing. This has taken a toll on some of our older donkey residents at the Sanctuary.

We have had new arrivals with 6 Jenny donkeys arriving in January, 5 of whom were pregnant.

The sanctuary's general running costs have increased significantly over the past year, feed and fuel being the biggest culprits.

We have had some very kind and heart-warming donations, which has been very generous indeed in these difficult times. The support from the public and visitors has been exceptional, and our Donkeys have had their usual standard of life maintained and improved.

## VOLUNTEERS

Our brilliant, hardworking volunteer team allow us to open to the public and help with providing a good living environment for the donkeys. They build and develop strong relationships with the donkeys becoming close friends. The volunteer group comes in every Saturday and spends the morning doing general jobs around the site including cleaning the barns and hoof picking the donkeys. From here they get the site ready for all the visitors by putting up signs and preparing food. There is then a team lunch where everyone shares stories and talks about the animal. Once visitors arrive, they get to work ensuring everyone is happy and all the adoptees can find their special donkeys. All the volunteers work extremely hard to provide the best day out for the visitors as possible. We frequently get reviews mentioning how the team goes above and beyond to accommodate guests. If you would like to get first-hand experience working with the donkeys in our amazing team, please email [hq@donkeyheaven.org](mailto:hq@donkeyheaven.org) to apply for a volunteering role.





Blossom



Ailsa and her colt foal

## NEW FACES

We have been taking in as many rescues as we can by rehoming the fit and young donkeys to approved and thoroughly vetted homes who are situated within an easy travelling distance from the sanctuary. This way we are making room for the rescues that need help. We were asked to give homes to 6 Jenny donkeys. Five of them were in foal. They have needed a lot of extra work and attention to restore them to health. Due to there being no appropriate stabling for in foal mares at the Donkey Sanctuary they have been staying with a member of staff until they foal, and the weather improves. They are called Rhona, Ailsa, May, June, Zandra and Jemima. Jemima gave birth to a little jenny foal on 31st January on a dreadful wet stormy night. The foal appeared well initially but over the following week we noticed she was sleeping more and was become laboured in her breathing. The vet was called and after various tests confirmed that she was very sick. Her heart was very fast, and she had poor liver and kidney function. We were all expecting the worst as these were very serious and dangerous issues for a small foal. Much to everyone's delight, after 3 weeks she has made a significant improvement. Now that her health is improving slightly, we have followed the requests of the late Mrs Rosemary Dale, who asked that the next female foal was to be called Blossom, so Blossom it is, and we hope that she will Blossom in time! At the date of printing this newsletter Blossom is continuing to need veterinary help due to an infection but hopefully the vets will find out what the problems are and that her health will improve. There has been a further foal born to Ailsa one of the rescue donkeys, a colt who is very small but full of life and vigour.

## SAD PASSINGS

### DAISY

Daisy, a small dark brown Jenny was found lying in the barn having passed away suddenly in early February. She had not been keeping the best of health and had been on a significant pain relief since the New Year. She came from Mull many years ago along with White Lilly and a yearling who was rehomed. She was a firm favourite and had many adoptees. We miss her every day.



Daisy

### FUDGE

Fudge was a large Jenny who suffering from laminitis. We struggled with her health and her bad feet for years. Our farrier worked very hard to maintain them and keep her mobile. She was very canny and was very popular with visitors. Always first to the feeders at mealtimes, she will leave a very large empty space along the fence in the Barn.



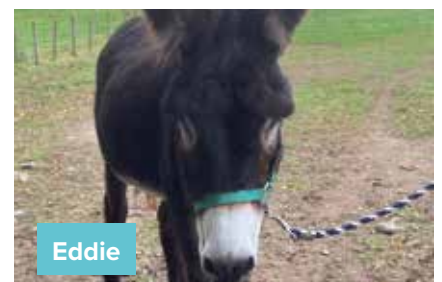
Fudge

### PINKY

Pinky, a small grey gelding who had only been with us for a year. He came from Denmark originally with his owners and four other donkeys. Pinky was very old and his life came to a natural end. We were very sad not to have had him longer, but nature determines life.

### EDDIE

Eddie was a very special donkey who fought with poor health for much of his short life. When he arrived at the Sanctuary, he was very thin and ill thriven. We got on top of his problems after a lot of time and effort and for four years he had a good life with only foot issues to hamper his well-being. In January he was not eating and very lame so the decision was taken along with veterinary advice that he should be put to sleep as there was no chance of him recovering. A real miss to us all is Big Eddie!



Eddie