

Autumn 2024

DONKEY HEAVEN



This Summer has been very busy with the usual duties and work on improving and enlarging Shelters to house the ever-increasing number of Donkeys at the Sanctuary. We have also been laying stone and new drains to try to lessen the mud that they had to endure last winter. We have been busily sourcing good hay and straw, building it into the barn for use over the winter. It has been a very challenging year for farmers to make good hay for the Donkeys with the weather being so changeable. But at last, we seem to be filling the barn up.

Over the Summer, Saturdays have been sold out of tickets for visitors, which has been very encouraging. The volunteers have been doing a sterling job dealing with requests for information and manning the Shop and the Car Parks which have been full to overflowing. Adoptions are also steadily rising, and we are in the process of adding a few more donkeys to the website to increase the selection available to adopt.

To date we have 127 Donkeys, Mules and Ponies at the Sanctuary along with 2 pigs - Jim and Lola, 4 Llamas, a one horned Pygmy Goat and last, but not least Esmerelda the Sanctuary Cat.





RISING COSTS

During the past 18 months we still see that prices are rising for all sectors of the Donkey Sanctuary. Feed continues to increase, fuel and carriage costs mainly accounting for the increase.

Veterinary fees and medicines are still one of our main expenses and one we cannot do much about, with an ageing population at the Sanctuary, it naturally follows that they will need more veterinary attention.

With the weather making hay and straw making it a trial to harvest and with the number of animals we have rising steadily the increases just roll on.

NEW ARRIVALS

We had a lovely run into Central Scotland to the most beautiful area on the Shores of Loch Ard to collect 2 Donkeys Papi and Buca.

Arthur came from the hilly Borders village of Broughton and was quite a character when he arrived. We were very nervous about moving him because of his age of nearly 30 years. Then we were very surprised to find that he was entire (a stallion) and very active in his desire despite his age! This did not help with his settling in process. He had to be gelded (Castrated) which at his age had its risks however this 'Jack the Lad' took it all in his stride and has never looked back. After 4 months he still seems to be very keen on the 'girls' so we try to locate him next to 'boys' only.

We are still running our rehoming programme, but the trouble is getting pairs of donkeys, compatible with potential foster homes. You would imagine with so many here that would be an easy task when in fact it is proving to be very difficult. Age, temperament and medical history all seem to make getting a pairing very difficult to put together. However, despite this we have managed to rehome several donkeys to good homes within an easy distance of us travelling to check on their welfare.



Bacu & Papi

VOLUNTEERS.

We have a great team of Volunteers working at the Sanctuary on Saturdays. They have many varying jobs ranging from poo picking, which is essential to keep the grazing clean and in top-class condition, to cleaning water troughs and painting shelters. Brushing Donkeys is one of the favourite jobs and perhaps litter collecting less so! The volunteers also prepare for the visitors arriving on Saturday afternoons, helping park cars, collecting entry tickets and manning the shop. They also are very knowledgeable and can tell visitors who the donkeys are and some of their more amusing character traits. We would not be able to have the Sanctuary open to the public if it were not for these wonderful volunteers who give freely of their time and effort to help the visitors enjoy their afternoon visiting the Sanctuary.



Image: Phoenix Photography