

REDWINGS HORSE SANCTUARY

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Annual Review 2013



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WELCOME

Welcome to our 2013 Annual Review

2013 was a very busy year at Redwings Horse Sanctuary, with over 200 neglected horses, ponies and donkeys coming into our care and more than 1,300 rescue cases now in residence at our sanctuary sites around the UK.

Working in the field of animal welfare can be an emotional rollercoaster. There are tough times and there are happy stories too, and we are fortunate that we still see almost as many of the latter as the former. However, despite our best efforts to educate and raise awareness of the plight of horses in the UK, we continue to see horses in desperate need. Very sadly, 2013 was the year of our biggest rescue operation to date, involving more than 400 horses. It was particularly harrowing for all the staff involved but I am incredibly proud of each and every one. Without their dedication and commitment, those horses would almost certainly have died in the worst circumstances imaginable.

On a happier note, one of the highlights of the year was the official opening of our brand new centre at Aylsham in North Norfolk. This really has been a flagship project for me personally and to see the site all complete and full of visitors – plus celebrity guest – really did make all the hard work worthwhile! This centre will not only allow us to house more horses and reach more visitors; it will also be a key centre for our expanding educational work, with dedicated facilities planned for the coming years.

We couldn't do any of our work without our incredible supporters who never cease to amaze us with their kindness and generosity – thank you for making all this possible!

We hope you enjoy reading our Annual Review 2013.

Lynn Cutress, Chief Executive & Secretary



Lynn is pictured with Maya the Friesian horse, a resident of the new Redwings visitor centre at Aylsham in Norfolk.



A word from our Chairman

As always I am extremely proud to be part of this organisation.

This year in particular there has been our most significant rescue operation to date, when we intervened in the lives of hundreds of horses found in terrible conditions at a site in South Wales. I must also commend the work of the equine crisis coalition, involving Redwings and a number of other welfare charities, who have been working incredibly hard to raise awareness of fly grazing and equine abandonments.

Throughout it all I am most proud of the fact that no matter what the circumstances, the horses are always the main focus. Our staff are incredibly committed to giving them the best care possible and this year they really have gone far above and beyond the call of duty, rescuing so many horses in need and accommodating them at our centres while ensuring that each one is treated as an individual and given all the special care and attention that he or she requires.

I do hope you enjoy reading these wonderful stories and meeting some of our incredibly special residents.

Thank you for your kind support.

Steve Clark, Chairman of the Redwings Board of Trustees



Steve is pictured with adoption star Gulliver at the opening of the new Aylsham centre.



IMPACT MAP

Key

-  Rescues
-  Rehoming (by county)
-  Volunteer network
-  Sanctuary sites
-  Redwings Show
-  Attended events
-  Supporting other charities
-  Passporting and microchipping days





RESCUE

In 2013, and despite already operating at the very limits of our capacity, we took 210 rescued horses and donkeys into our centres, a rise of over 50 from the previous year. We also pledged homes to a further 150 rescued as part of what turned out to be our largest and most harrowing rescue operation when we went to the aid of over 400 cobs in South Wales. These horses are still part of an ongoing investigation and finished the year living in private boarding yards under the ownership of the local council but they will be transferred to Redwings' care in 2014 and will be brought into the safety of the Sanctuary as soon as we are able to make space for them.

This year we have seen the results of the recession even more clearly. It has had a huge impact on animal welfare throughout the UK and as well as all this incredibly hard work in Wales, in 2013 our team was called on to carry out rescue work across England, from Surrey and Hampshire in the South, to Norfolk and Essex in the East, all the way to Cumbria in the North.

We have also increased our efforts to try and reach owners before their horses get into a state of neglect. As well as our educational work to produce more information and advice, we have been meeting with owners at events like Appleby Horse Fair and carrying out practical activities such as passporting and microchipping days across the country to encourage responsible horse ownership and build relationships with horse owners and keepers who may otherwise be marginalised.





Crisis in South Wales

Although it has become a national problem, South Wales in particular has had an ongoing problem with abandoned and illegally ('fly') grazed horses and in 2012 we helped round up over 220 at the request of the local authorities in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. So we were very pleased when in 2013, one of the breeders and dealers thought to be responsible for some of the horses we had helped was successfully prosecuted by the RSPCA.

Thomas Price, a director of Glamorgan Horse Traders, was found guilty of 57 animal welfare charges on 14th June at Cardiff Magistrates' Court. These charges related to 27 horses found in different locations across South Wales including 12 left in a barn with no food or water. Our Head of Welfare Nic de Brauwere was a professional witness in the case and the evidence we collected was instrumental in securing the prosecution.

On 5th July Mr Price was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison and banned from keeping equines for five years. He was also ordered to pay £43,483 in costs to the RSPCA. His eldest son was also given a prison sentence and both he and a younger son were banned from keeping horses. The bans were suspended for six months to allow them time to rehome their horses, of which there are thought to be over 2,000 in their care across England and Wales.

Sadly, this did not put an end to the problems and in November 2013 we had to intervene again. Redwings, the RSPCA and the Vale of Glamorgan Council stepped in to remove 400 horses from a farm in Wick, with the assistance of the South Wales Police, such was the scale of the situation. Sadly, over 100 horses had to be euthanased on veterinary grounds, but 300 more were removed to a place of safety. It was an extremely harrowing operation for all the staff involved, not just because of the loss of so many horses but also because conditions on the site were so dire, but we were so pleased we could assist and we have pledged a home to over 150 of the horses at Redwings once the legal proceedings have been concluded.



Rescue Fact

In 2013, we gave advice to horse owners over 1,950 times and investigated 300 welfare concerns.



Fly grazing continues to cause misery

In September, Redwings joined forces with the RSPCA to help rescue 46 very hungry and poorly horses from a field in Hampshire. Eight of the most needy – five of them foals – were brought to our horse hospital in Norfolk for urgent veterinary treatment, while the rest were found homes at private yards under the care of the RSPCA.

The horses were being fly grazed on private land near a main road and had begun breaking through fences and hedges in an attempt to find food, causing a potentially hazardous situation for the horses and nearby road-users. When no owner could be located, and with concerns for their welfare increasing, the police and welfare authorities stepped in.

Owing to the Hampshire connection, the group we brought in to Redwings was named after characters from the Jane Austen novel *Pride and Prejudice* – including Georgiana, Lydia, Mrs Bennet, Louisa, Jane, Elizabeth, Mr Darcy (the only boy in the group) and Kitty.

Action is ongoing involving the alleged owner of the horses but the good news is that with the sad exception of Georgiana who passed away two weeks after her arrival from a serious worm burden, the remaining horses have made a fantastic recovery in the care of the charities and one in particular – Kitty – is virtually unrecognisable from the sorry pony who originally arrived with us.



Kitty when she was found at the site (above), and a few weeks later (below).



“We were very proud when the rescue from Hampshire was referred to in Westminster Hall as part of an MPs debate held in November on the issue of fly grazing. Redwings’ welfare team had first highlighted the issue of the rise in illegal grazing and horse abandonments two years before and we have been tirelessly campaigning alongside other welfare organisations to try to give the authorities more ability to take action in cases like Kitty’s. To hear the issue being debated so vehemently by so many MPs really was a significant moment in the campaign. The campaign also contributed to the introduction of a Control of Horses (Wales) Bill in 2013 to tackle the issue across the border, which became law at the end of January 2014.”

Nicola Markwell
Head of External Relations

Jessica Fletcher, before and after.



Heroes and villains

Our core work never ends and it was a bleak start to the year when we were called to a farm in Caerphilly, South Wales. What we found there was extremely distressing, with over 50 horses and ponies that were starving hungry and very weak. They were in such a terrible state that our Head of Welfare Nic de Brauwere, who was first on the scene, described them as literally 'queuing to die'. We removed the most poorly on the first visit but so severe were the conditions that we decided that we simply could not leave the rest behind to meet the same fate. We returned a few days later and collected the remainder of the ponies and brought them back to one of our centres in Norfolk. The son of the breeder, who was supposed to be caring for the ponies, was banned from keeping horses and other livestock after pleading guilty to 30 animal welfare offences at Newport Magistrates' Court. He was also given a 12-month community order for 200 hours' unpaid work and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

Despite some of the horses being very weak, they all travelled back to Norfolk successfully and all 53 have made a full recovery in our care. There was even a bonus in the following weeks as several of the mares turned out to be pregnant and so we had 11 new arrivals too! The two groups were named after detectives and comic villains respectively, so it includes Jessica Fletcher, Agatha, Sherlock and Dr Watson plus Angelica Pickles, Dastardly and Muttley!



Rescue Fact

In October the welfare team were asked to help Swansea local authority carry out passport and health checks on a farm near Swansea on the Gower Peninsula. There were estimated to be in the region of 200 equines, some had already been removed by the RSPCA and taken to boarding establishments but sadly many had died due to salmonella and a severe worm burden. The team spent two days rounding up the groups, examining them and checking for microchips. Around 40 horses, including a number of mares and foals, that were in need of immediate vet care were removed and taken to RSPCA boarding establishments.



Redwings In Action

We continued our work with other charities and agencies to provide reduced-fee passporting and microchipping to horses in deprived areas – this included sites across the country such as Stockport, Dudley, Tilbury and Norwich.

In total we helped to passport and microchip over **300 horses in 2013**



REHABILITATION

While every rescued horse who comes in to Redwings has to go through some degree of rehabilitation, some of our new arrivals have been through such trauma that they have been left with severe psychological issues or particular behavioural problems that need special attention.

At the Sanctuary we have a dedicated team who take the lead on our rehabilitation and equine behaviour work, working with these particularly difficult cases but also leading on how all our staff work with the horses across all our centres to ensure they get consistent training and handling no matter which Redwings site they live at.

This means that as well as making a huge difference to those special individual cases like Seatbelt and Norman, for whom we really are the last resort, we are also having an impact on the horses and ponies across all our herds. In this latter category for example we have been drastically reducing the number of horses in our care who find it difficult or stressful when we need to do routine work with them or that require sedation for veterinary intervention. That means happier horses and happier staff too!

However, it is of course the specialist cases that we have become known for; in particular how we work with semi-feral herds as well as the most extreme individual cases where there seems to be little hope of recovery. We have taken a number of referral cases from other charities and have visited sanctuaries around the UK to help them develop their behaviour work. We are also always happy to welcome visitors to our Training Yard in Norfolk where they can observe our work first hand.





Norman (left) and Rascal when they first arrived at Redwings.

Stormin' Norman

Norman was part of a group of five stallions rescued from Wales in 2011. They were all incredibly nervous and have taken a lot of retraining just to get them to the point where they can be handled safely. Norman was arguably the worst of the whole group and while the rest of his friends have progressed through our rehabilitation programme, Norman was the most reluctant to be our friend! He was so unbelievably nervous, in fact, that he needed to be put under general anaesthetic in order for us to be able to carry out any kind of treatment with him, which is simply not sustainable not to mention highly stressful for him. Obviously this was of great concern to us as a welfare charity as if he needed treatment in an emergency it would have been extremely difficult to treat.

We have no idea what happened to him and his friends in the past but when they first arrived they wouldn't even dare to eat from their feed bowls for two weeks because they had never seen feed bowls before and didn't know what they were (except for something very scary!). Norman and his group were allocated a dedicated handler each and once they were finally used to the environment of our training barn (which took months in itself), they began having daily sessions in our 'round pens' of just a few minutes at a time so that they did not get overwhelmed. Horses learn in short bursts so we like to teach them a little bit each day to help them remember.

Norman was one of the last to finish his training but although he will never be rehomed, he is now at a point where he can begin to live a normal life in our care and hopefully understand that humans are not always something to be feared.



Rehabilitation Fact

In October Equitation Science trainer Lisa Ashton attended to provide a clinic on Learning Theory for Redwings staff. Members of staff from the Welfare, Rehabilitation, External Handling and Rehoming teams all attended the day, which included the theory of how horses learn, and then practical demonstrations on how this can be applied, starring some of our own residents!



Seatbelt

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Seatbelt originally came from an area known as Dunsink in Ireland, a former rubbish tip and an area known for ongoing welfare issues with the horses and ponies that end up there, often abandoned or with no link to an owner. In 2012, the Irish Horse Welfare Trust (IHWT) and local authority created a flagship community project known as the 'Dunsink Club' for the people who legitimately keep their horses and ponies on the site. This has helped improve the welfare standards for the horses and encouraged owners to be more responsible.

In 2011 Seatbelt was rescued from Dunsink by the IHWT, where it is believed she lived for around 12 years, and she was so named as she had been living with a seatbelt around her neck, which had presumably been used at some point to restrain or control her. She had obviously had some very bad experiences around people, and had some very serious handling and behavioural issues so the IHWT asked if we could take her in and offer her the care she so desperately needed.

Even before she arrived we knew she would need the intervention of our specialist rehabilitation team and so after a few weeks in our Reception Centre she was sent straight to their dedicated centre so they could begin her training.

It is testament to how extreme she was that the first step with Seatbelt was to find a way to catch her. If you approached her she would demonstrate aggressive behaviours, including threatening to bite and kick, very sadly because she anticipated that something bad was going to happen to her as soon as we got near.

The first few sessions with her were therefore spent very simply approaching her and then moving away, touching her briefly then moving away. Moving away and doing nothing was the biggest reward that we could give her, we continued this process until she started to show some signs of relaxation, and it was only then that the team thought about physically catching her.

The first step was to place a loop of rope around her neck so that they could begin to train her basic responses – ‘go’ and ‘stop’ – so that they could have an element of control over her movement. Once she was working lightly off the rope they then introduced the headcollar. This was a very big challenge as Seatbelt was very shy around her head so the team had to be very imaginative in how to put the headcollar on!

Even this was a very slow process, which had to be broken down into very small stages and we had to make sure that she was coping with each stage before we moved onto the next. Seatbelt was very nervous and it took a great deal of courage from her to trust us at this stage and some very good, well-timed training practices.

Once we were able to fit the headcollar we started to desensitise her legs ready for leg handling, this was done one on one in the early stages as she was unable to cope with two people being near her at once.

Today Seatbelt is caught ‘normally’, albeit in a small controlled area. She has been through several farrier visits, which is a massive achievement as not only did she have to overcome her fear of one person, then two people, but also of men. She has also now been vaccinated for the first time as she was very difficult to inject but after lots of preparatory work she stood stock still. Bless her; well done Seatbelt!

“Seatbelt does not enjoy human company, she would not choose to be with us but through our consistent training methods we have made her world predictable and we can now handle her safely and most importantly without causing her unacceptable levels of stress. I think over time she will learn to relax more and I look forward to seeing that happen as she will always have a home with us here at the training centre – it’s horses like Seatbelt that make it all so worthwhile!”

Sarah Hallsworth

Reception and Rehabilitation Manager



Rehabilitation Fact

In 2013 we introduced an equine behaviour training session for our new starter staff aimed at instilling our approach from day one, as well as ensuring our people are safe in their work.



REHOMING

We have purpose-built rehoming centres at our Norfolk (Hapton) and Essex (Ada Cole) sites, where the horses we have rescued that are healthy and of a suitable age can be trained to be ridden and found a suitable foster home. This means that not only can we make more space for the horses out there in desperate need of rescue, but our rehomed horses can have lots of TLC in a private home – happy endings all round!

In 2013, we embarked on a review of our entire rehoming scheme, from the way we take applications right through to the way we find homes and how we check the horses once they've gone out. It also includes some very exciting plans to expand our rehoming area to include our centre in Warwickshire and surrounding counties. That means we held back on making substantial investment into our rehoming scheme this year until we were certain exactly how we might want to use it.

Despite this, we still rehomed 82 horses and ponies into loving Guardian homes across East Anglia during the year. A total of 485 are now living happy lives with their new families, whilst always belonging to Redwings.



Rehoming Fact

In 2013 we sadly lost a pony called Fern at the age of 35. Fern was originally rehomed from our Ada Cole centre and had been with her Guardian for an incredible 23 years.



Stiltskin forever

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Gorgeous Stiltskin didn't always look this way. He was originally rescued from Spindle Farm in Amersham as part of a huge rescue case (above left) involving a number of welfare charities and over 100 horses. We found Stiltskin, Rumpel, Aladdin and Ali Baba (part of our fairytale group!) in a group of cobs, all in very poor condition, very weak, and extremely nervous. Stiltskin in particular was very wary of people, so much so that he would be aggressive towards anyone who came near him and he required extensive rehabilitation from our specialist team.

He was even featured in our 2011 Annual Review as one of their success stories and his next move was to begin his training as a rehoming horse. As he had been such an extreme case we were not sure that he would take to the work so our team took his training very slowly. We always knew he would be able to have a home with us if it didn't work out but he really did surprise us all! Not only had he realised that humans could be friends, he discovered that he absolutely loved it when we gave him a fuss. His favourite thing in the world was to have his mane and tail brushed; what a turnaround!

After several months of training Stiltskin was ready to be rehomed. He now lives with a lovely lady called Lyn – how we love a happy ending!





Poppy

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Poppy originally arrived at Redwings with her mum Fergie and dad Mannikin when their owner became ill and could no longer care for them. Poppy was just a few months old, and as she grew it was clear she was a friendly girl who would really benefit from being in a private home where she could get lots of love and attention.

In June 2013, she was rehomed as a riding pony. All was going well for a while until Poppy began showing some difficult behaviour, including rearing which can be potentially dangerous. Our specialist external horse handlers went to visit and did some work with Poppy to help improve her behaviour but also advised the Guardians to change her management, as it seemed to be contributing to the frustration she was displaying.

Poppy got on so well that her Guardian then decided to take her to some pony club events, but when they tried loading Poppy onto a lorry the same problem reared its head again – quite literally! Her Guardians asked us for a bit more help and our handlers went out again to do some more work with her. It really was a case of working together and with lots of patience and hard work the issues were resolved and Poppy's Guardians are now taking her on short trips out and having great fun at local shows and events. It's a great example of why rehoming from a rescue charity is such a fantastic alternative to buying a horse, as we can always offer that extra support if needed.

➔ *Redwings In Action*

In August we held our first ever Guardian Day to give our Guardians the opportunity to meet together and share their experiences and stories about their Redwings horses, as well as to learn more about the charity and increase their knowledge on a range of topics including equine first aid and geriatric care. Over 60 people came along to our new Aylsham visitor centre for the day and feedback was very positive!



Upsy Daisy

Upsy Daisy arrived at Redwings in 2010 with three other horses, Iggle Piggle, Deeli and Tomley Boo after a request from a council. The four mares were originally in a group of nine horses found illegally grazing ('fly grazing') on council land. The council and the police asked for our help to move them to safety while they appealed for an owner to come forwards. We found another mare, called Gertrude, who was in urgent need of veterinary assistance and so we brought her back to Redwings immediately and when no owner could be traced after 28 days we also took in four more mares from the group, most of which were in foal, including Upsy Daisy.

Upsy Daisy already had one daughter in the group, Deeli, and she gave birth to another healthy foal two months after her arrival, who the staff have named Daisy Doo! Once her baby was weaned successfully, it was felt that Upsy would make a lovely horse for someone because of her friendly nature and in 2013 she was rehomed to a super lady called Gillian. Gillian absolutely adores Upsy and the pair have even been out visiting a local care home for the elderly at their annual Open Day, where she was pronounced the star of the afternoon!



Upsy Daisy on the road with Gillian!



Rehoming Fact

This year's Redwings Show at Tophorn Arena in Suffolk was a big success; with our highest ever number of competitors and classes for all types of horse and rider, from donkey classes to retrained racehorses and beyond!



Redwings ponies Archie, Whisper and Micra at the Redwings Show!



SANCTUARY



Our resident population has now reached over 1,300 horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. Of these, 20% are aged 15 to 20 (classed as ‘veterans’) and 24% are aged 21 and over. As a home to these veterans, as well as special care cases and horses in need of specialist handling, life is a constant challenge as it is often not until we admit a horse that we are able to establish their true needs. As with our rescue operation from Caerphilly at the start of the year, we never know when there may be a few extra surprises thrown in either!

This population may rise even further in future. Since late 2012, we have been in discussion with two other equine welfare charities in order to assess if their strategies for future welfare work matched ours, with a view to Redwings merging with both charities in order to create a more national spread across the UK. The Society for the Welfare and Protection of Horses & Ponies (SWHP) – based in Wales – and Mountains Animal Sanctuary – based in Scotland – have now both concluded they wish to join the Redwings family.

As a result we have had a very busy year with the mergers discussions ongoing. Any conclusion to these proceedings would see Redwings have 11 sites around the UK and our resident population increasing to over 1,500. This year, then, was all about preparing the way for this, ensuring our care protocols and practices could be easily rolled out to other sites.

In the meantime, however, our current residents still had to be cared for, and to our own very exacting standards!



Sanctuary Fact

We have introduced a new feeding protocol to ensure consistency of feeding across all our herds, in particular for our special care groups such as those with reduced or poor dentition that need extra dietary support.

Maverick

Maverick was born at Redwings in 2008 after his mum Splash was rescued as part of a large round-up operation from a site in London. As often happens with foals when their mums have a tough start in life, Maverick has had a number of difficulties with his health since he was born; in particular he has had issues with lameness and even had an operation on his back legs in 2011. But nothing could have prepared us for a fateful day in May 2013 when he began showing signs of colic.

An exploratory operation at our Horse Hospital revealed that Maverick had Idiopathic Focal Eosinophilic Enteritis (IFEE), an extremely rare condition that even our Senior Vet had never encountered before. The causes are not yet fully understood, but in essence it meant he had some inflamed sections of his small intestine (pictured right). This was not only extremely painful but was essentially preventing everything from working correctly. Poor Maverick was given steroids and the vet team manually cleared his digestive tract.

He recovered from the operation but needed constant care for several days afterwards as his system was in total ileus (ie completely shut down). It was looking very serious for Maverick and he needed to be reintroduced to tiny amounts of grass and then his feed very slowly and carefully and he had to be hand walked by our care team every day to help gently restart his system. It really did involve a huge amount of time and effort not only from our vets but also from our equine care team and nights staff. We are delighted that this lovely boy made a full recovery and he is now having handling training – we hope he will even be able to be rehomed one day in the not too distant future!

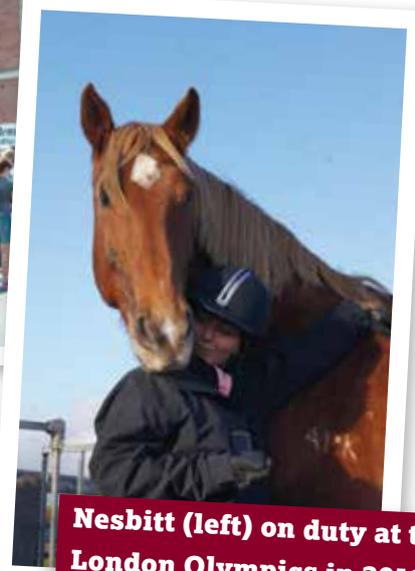


Redwings In Action

On Wednesday 8th May Redwings appeared on an episode of *Watchdog* – but don't worry, we weren't being investigated! We helped out their Rogue Traders team with an investigation into a dodgy horse trader.

The programme involved an undercover team going in and buying two horses, neither of whom turned out to be what they were advertised as. Lopyy was a lovely elderly mare who was being sold as a 16 year old, while Queenie was being sold as capable of jumping and suitable for a novice rider, despite having some serious behavioural problems and major injuries to her back legs.

Both will now have a permanent and safe retirement here at Redwings, just as they deserve. Big thanks to the Rogue Traders team for all their hard work on this, especially presenter Matt Allwright who came to visit the team in our office during his visit and even adopted two Redwings horses!



Nesbitt (left) on duty at the London Olympics in 2012, and (above) making new friends at the Sanctuary!

Nesbitt

In May, we welcomed Nesbitt into the Redwings family at our Oxhill centre in Warwickshire. He is a former police horse from South Wales police, who had even been on duty at the London 2012 Olympics. Although he was fantastic at his job, Nesbitt very sadly developed degenerative joint disease at far too young an age and they had no choice but to retire him early. The police approached us to ask if we would take him on and give him the retirement he deserved after all his hard work, and we were happy to help. This handsome chap arrived on a very posh police lorry and became friends almost instantly with our lovely Shire cross Major – now the two are inseparable. Two gentle giants!

Woolfie

Poor Woolfie was found in a very poor state at a private home in Norfolk. He was very thin and his feet were extremely overgrown and sore. Our Field Officer had been working with the owner to try to improve the situation but sadly, when it became clear that things were not going to get better for Woolfie, we offered him a permanent home at Redwings. He moved to our visitor centre at Caldecott near Great Yarmouth where he was able to join our donkey herd and make other donkey friends for the first time in a long time.



Woolfie (left) on arrival and (above) waiting for cuddles at Redwings!



Sanctuary Fact

In 2013, we ran our first full year of a targeted worming programme, following extensive trials in 2012. We are now operating worm egg counting as standard across a number of our sites which means we are only using wormers where they are needed, which cuts down on costs but also prevents resistance to 'blanket wormers' developing across our herds.

Here come the boys

As well as a rise in horses being illegally (fly) grazed, we have also seen an increasing trend in horses being dumped and abandoned when they are no longer wanted. In 2013, we had over 800 such cases reported to us. Sadly, we could only help with a certain number but we stepped in whenever we could. In particular, there was a noticeable heartbreaking trend for baby foals and youngsters to be discarded and over the year, we managed to gather quite a collection of these poor unfortunates.

Here are just a selection...

Stephen

Stephen's full name is 'Shaking Stephen'. He was so named by the fire brigade who were involved in his rescue as, when they found him, he was shaking and shivering from the cold. Poor Stephen was found in a river in Essex in April 2013, and we believe he was put there deliberately as no owner or mare could be found anywhere nearby. The river had steep concrete banks and it was almost certainly a way of getting rid of him when he was no longer wanted.



Matty

Matty was found in a field near Diss, Norfolk, completely emaciated and with a horrendous maggot-infested wound on his leg. He was reported by a member of the public, as it seemed he had been abandoned on some land in the town and our vets believe that he was just days from death. Poor Matty was covered in matts and burrs – hence his name – and was incredibly thirsty, so much so that despite his pain, when we produced a water container and he heard the water pouring into a bucket he immediately brightened up and tried to make it over to our rescue team. He drank five litres of water and rehydration powder in one go.



Moby

Moby was found abandoned at the Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria in June. He had been tied up and left and he was found looking very miserable and with a horrendous face wound, hence his name. He was immediately taken to the nearby vet station for treatment and when no owner came forward for him, we offered him a home at Redwings.

Moby's case is very unusual as the hole in his face, which will not heal by itself, actually leaves his sinus open to the air, making him extremely vulnerable to infection and other issues. Despite this, he soon became much brighter in our care and quickly became a firm favourite amongst the staff for his lovely gentle nature. Our vet team are now exploring options for what can be done for this chap to assist in his long-term prognosis.





EDUCATION

A vital part of what we do at Redwings is to promote good horse care wherever possible, to try and prevent welfare issues before they start. In 2013, we worked with 95 educational groups and schools, either by welcoming them to our visitor centres or by giving talks to them about the work of Redwings and the current welfare crisis in the UK. We also spoke to 14 groups from equine colleges and private practices, and hosted two farriery days and two dentistry days.

We launched two new education packs during the year, one focusing on laminitis and surrounding health issues, and one all about the contagious disease, strangles.

Our dedicated events team also went along to a series of events and shows around the UK, often with two of our special education ponies there who were ready to meet and greet the public; all to help spread the word.



Education Fact

In December our Oxhill centre kindly provided the venue for a dentistry CPD day. Thirteen Equine Dental Technicians attended the course and a total of 41 of our horses, ponies and donkeys were dentalled. The organisers are very keen to hold similar events with us in future.

Stamp out strangles

In 2013 we launched a special pack conceived by our Welfare team to help stamp out the contagious disease strangles. Strangles can spread amongst horses very quickly, and as we have a high population of horses here at Redwings and have very strict quarantine procedures in place to protect our residents, we are well placed to advise on it. It is a condition surrounded by mythology and is often deeply misunderstood so the aim of the pack was to produce something as clear and straightforward as possible, all based on our own practical experience.

The pack is designed for yard owners and managers and features information about the condition as well as the best ways to prevent it arriving on a yard and how to tackle an outbreak. It also includes wipe-clean posters and instructions on how to set up a quarantine yard as well as larger posters that can be used to spread the word amongst owners and other people who use the riding school or livery yard.

We offered the pack out via our social media and website and it proved so popular that we had to initiate a second print run. By the end of the year we had sent out 500 packs to yards and vet centres across the UK and even further afield.



Freedom!

Our teachers' resources are deliberately limited as we try not to produce educational material that does not have a real and applied use in a practical setting. We feel that the Five Freedoms, five principles of animal welfare that underpin the relevant legislation, are very practical and cross over very well into definite areas of learning. This year we launched a special *Five Freedoms Teachers' Resource* for ages 7–11 based around these principles.

The pack was sent out to 39 schools as an initial trial with good feedback. The aim is to provide it free to teachers and it includes posters, stickers and activity sheets all based around the principles of providing the five freedoms and how that can apply to different species in the animal kingdom. It enables to children to think about how they can properly care for their animals but also how the principles (such as freedom from fear and distress, or hunger) also relate in the human world too.



Education Fact

Our events team attended nine events including the Suffolk Show, the East Anglian Game and Country Fair, Your Horse Live, Houghton International Horse Show and the Horse of the Year Show. The list included four where we attended with our education ponies who absolutely love to meet their adoring fans.

➔ Redwings In Action

Following new research that showed that up to 90% of laminitis cases can be attributed to an underlying hormonal disorder, we launched a special pack all about laminitis, Cushing's disease and equine metabolic syndrome to explain how these conditions interlink and how owners can recognise the symptoms and manage their horses. We also worked with Boehringer Ingelheim on their Talk about Laminitis campaign to help raise awareness of the new research and the seriousness of this condition.



FUNDRAISING

Through the recession and as more and more families have been struggling to make ends meet we understand that it has been increasingly difficult for the public to donate money to charity. But at Redwings not only have we still seen steady support in terms of funds from our amazingly loyal supporters, we have also seen an incredible reaction in terms of people finding other ways to help us.

From recycling old mobile phones, to donating unwanted items of all kinds for us to sell, to jumping out of planes and even doing something as simple as clicking 'Like' on a social media page, every tiny bit really does make a difference.

Another fantastic way to help us is to pledge a legacy and this year we launched a new Legacy Pack giving our supporters help on making a Will and explaining how leaving a legacy to Redwings can help us fund our vital work. The pack includes a booklet showing supporters how their gift will help horses, a pledge card and presentation folder. The key themes of the pack are: 'Build a horse a home', 'Save a horse's life' and 'Give a horse a lifetime of happiness', with examples of how legacy gifts achieve these things.

Our wonderful supporters did continue to give despite the economic situation and our overall income from donations increased to £3,695k (2012: £2,278k) this year, although there were some notable exceptional donations, which we believe will not be repeated next year. Legacy income decreased to £5,296k (2012: £6,438k). Our total income in 2013 was £10,415k (£133k higher than 2012). Coverage of our large-scale Caerphilly rescue produced a lot of interest and helped generate nearly £50,000 in donations from both existing as well as new supporters.

Our own Coronation (Street!)

In April we held an official opening for our brand new visitor centre in Aylsham, North Norfolk. We were very privileged to have *Coronation Street* star Kate Ford with us to officially open the centre, and over 1,000 people came along to support the event, held on a beautiful sunny Spring day. This new visitor centre is set in the heart of the beautiful North Norfolk countryside and will have a dedicated education facility as well as a lovely café that looks out over fields of our resident horses.

Kate Ford (who plays Tracy Barlow in Coronation Street) meets Wacko the donkey at the Aylsham opening!



The Adoption Club

This year we very proudly introduced five new stars to the Redwings Adoption Scheme, our dedicated sponsorship scheme that has now been running almost as long as the charity itself! For the first time ever we have included several joint adoptions, to offer our supporters even more variety. We have introduced the opportunity to adopt two donkeys together, Wiggins and Wacko, at our new Aylsham centre, as well as a gang of teeny tiny and very adorable ponies, known as the Gangster Shetlands as they are all named after famous gangsters including Ronnie and Reggie Kray! At Oxhill we have introduced a veritable gaggle of donkeys, the whole herd in fact, and there is also the chance to adopt the beautiful Shire cross Major. Finally, at our Ada Cole centre in Essex we introduced Zippy the Gelderlander, a very unusual breed of horse, and a special chap who was originally rescued from the notorious Spindle Farm in Amersham.



Thank you Waitrose...

In 2013 Waitrose North Walsham donated £320 to Redwings after shoppers used their charity tokens to choose Redwings as the beneficiary of their Community Matters fund.

...and Petplan Equine

Horse insurance company Petplan Equine supported Redwings with a social media campaign on Facebook. They kindly agreed to donate 1kg (one scoop) of feed to our horses for every person who clicked 'Like' on their page. They ended up with an astonishing 14,721 people obliging and so we received 15 tonnes of free food for our horses, incredible!



Fundraising Fact

Our small team continued to be active on social media, with lots to tell their audiences about our case welfare work, our residents in sanctuary and those horses in rehoming – our 30,000th Facebook fan joined us in 2013.



And of course our Redwings Angels...

We are incredibly fortunate to have an amazing army of fundraisers raising funds for our horses and ponies. Here are just a few of the wacky ways they raised pennies for us in 2013!

Megyn Webb raised £325 by jumping out of a plane despite being terrified of heights!

Carol Butter – a supporter and Redwings Guardian – raffled off her London 2012 Olympics volunteer uniform to raise money for Redwings. How lovely is that?

Jack Taylor walked the 46-mile Norfolk Coast Path for Redwings and raised over £500, while Shaun Copeman raised £500 completing the Norwich 100-mile cycle ride.

Ms K Jones held a Christmas Shopping Evening at her saddlery and raised £190 for Redwings, while Mr and Mrs Gibson raised £16 through the Posse Western Dancers line-dancing group!

We even had a team from the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society who donated their time to help us get our new centre in North Norfolk ready for its grand opening!

And last but certainly not least, huge thanks to supporter Lynette Mathers who donated over £4,000, which helped us purchase nine special pen sections for our Oxhill centre for use in training our horses, and a flatbed trailer and some more pen sections that will be designated specifically for emergency welfare situations.

Aylsham Brownie Sleepover

On Friday 6th December to Saturday 7th December 2013, we welcomed a group of 37 Brownies to our new Aylsham centre for a sleepover. They enjoyed soup and a roll and trifle upon their arrival on Friday evening followed with craft activities and a DVD. After a breakfast of fruit and yoghurt the next morning, the Brownies, leaders and the Visitor Centre Manager took a walk around the site to see our horse care team at work. The Brownies absolutely loved their night on the tiles and they all donated £10 each for the privilege of sleeping at Redwings Aylsham!



Fundraising Fact

The Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Councillor Elizabeth Watson, selected Redwings as one of the charitable beneficiaries of fundraising events connected with her one-year term of office in 2013. The Mayor is very interested in the work of Redwings and was keen to spread our message.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income £9,963,178

This breaks down as follows:

Incoming resources

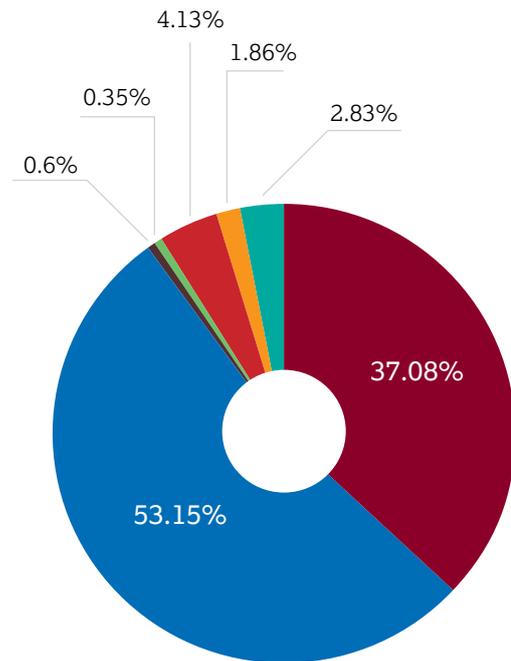
Voluntary Income

● Donations and gifts	£3,694,839
● Legacies	£5,295,685
● Redwings Enterprises	£59,771

Activities for generating funds

● Merchandising Income	£34,500
● Lottery Income	£411,754
● Rural Payments	£185,152
● Investments	£281,477

Total Income	£9,963,178
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Expenditure £8,197,342

This breaks down as follows:

Resources Expended

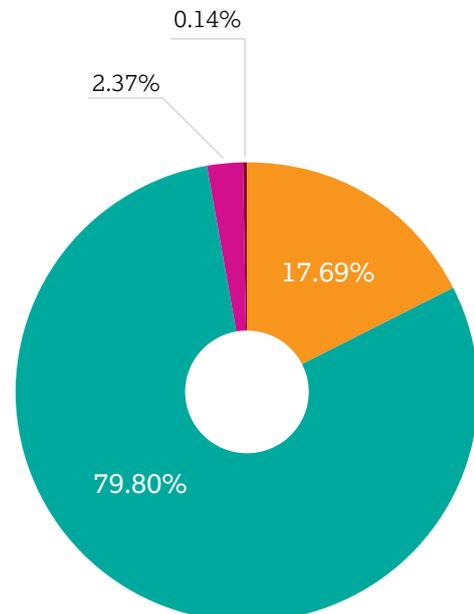
Cost of Generating Funds

● Fundraising and Publicity	£1,450,267
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Charitable Activities

● Sanctuary Operations	£6,541,080
● Education	£194,344
● Governance Costs	£11,650

Total Expenditure	£8,197,342
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SPECIAL THANKS

To the following individuals and organisations
for your kind support during 2013:

Chris Bartlett from Bartlett Signs

Safe4

Kate Ford

Lynette Mathers

Michelle Pink

House and Jackson vets

All of the Charitable Trusts who have generously supported us

South Essex Insurance Brokers

Milkwood Publishing

Mrs Betty Watkins (our community
fundraiser of the year)

The very special individuals who gave particularly
generous gifts in 2013

**And of course to all our wonderful supporters –
we couldn't do any of this without you, thank you to you all.**

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