



**August 2016**

**Patrons - CAROLINE QUENTIN, Paul O'Grady, Felicity Kendal**



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## Greetings to all our Friends and Supporters

Hello Everyone

We hope you are all well since we last 'spoke' in April (actually May, sorry the newsletter was late - so much happening all the time there are just not enough hours in any day, or days in the week, what a cliché, but oh so true)!!

This newsletter is very donkey dominated, but please be assured all the horses and ponies at Flicka are doing very well, we will write some updates in December.

As we sit down to start this newsletter (18th July) we are in the middle of some scorching hot weather, unbelievable when only a week or so ago we were wearing our waterproofs, now we are all flaking about trying to get cool! The plus side is that donkeys generally originated from East Africa, 'most' of them are loving it, just a few of the older and more frail ones like Jasper and Beethoven cannot stay out too long.

We have some sad news too, our dear beautiful Tabitha left us heartbroken when we had to say goodbye in June. As a sanctuary, very often we have these wonderful animals for only a short time, we give them twilight years, sometimes only months, of hospice care. We ensure they live out their remaining time on this earth with love, respect and dignity. It crushes us when they leave, but their memory will be cherished forever.

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### Tea Bray'k

Don't forget to visit our lovely Tea Cabin (all vegetarian), offering home-made sandwiches, cakes, scones, veggie sausage rolls, tea-cakes and crumpets. If you're ever passing and feel a bit peckish come and say hello to the donkeys and have a bite to eat.



## Tabitha

When Tabitha arrived at Flicka in 2011 she was exhausted, thin, crippled with lameness and a multitude of neglect health issues like rain scald, sores on her back and mites in her patchy coat; she was broken.

Tabitha as you may remember was in foal and gave birth to the beautiful Pixie, but Tabitha's feet problems

would not go away. Over the following five years she had x-rays and remedial treatment for her poor neglected feet, we, and she, managed her condition; there were so many good times when she was 'normal' would trot and canter round the paddock at these times we thought the issues had been resolved, but then we would have another bout of lameness and or abscesses.

Over these last four months Tabitha's condition deteriorated, she was kept in a special stable with deep shavings – with her friend Tammy – and the option of walking out onto a soft rubber surface, we kept up the remedial treatment in the desperate hope she would improve, it was not to be, her previous life took its toll; the chronic foot abscesses and an internal bone structure collapse meant Tabitha's life quality was severely compromised – we explored every conceivable avenue to save her. Sometimes we have to accept the inevitable, we were, as you can imagine, heartbroken.

Tabitha is buried in the paddock; we took some beautiful flowers for her...

Tabitha left behind her grieving soul mate Tammy, who is also not without her own feet issues. Tammy went off her food and was looking for Tabitha. We decided to bring Tammy's daughter Willow in to be with her, this seemed to help and the girls were pleased to be together again. We kept a close eye on Tammy in the following days, donkeys can die from grief. At the time of writing this she is doing well emotionally, but she too has had to vet for her poor feet (more later).

It was a privilege to share these few short years with Tabitha, she was an incredibly special lady and we are so very very sorry for what people did to her.

God Bless you sweetheart – rest in peace on the Rainbow Bridge.

## Kitty

When we were alerted to a donkey who we were told looked a little thin in a paddock we were totally unprepared for what we would find. Probably the worst case of neglect we had ever seen, this was without doubt a case for prosecution, but due to the complexity of the situation, which we cannot disclose, it was not going to be. Kitty – emaciated, with lice and severe rain scald bacterial infection, could hardly walk due to her overgrown feet, not only overgrown, but years of neglect had completely misshapen them, poor dear little donkey was crippled.

There was even worse news to come when the vet arrived with the mobile x-ray machine. Kitty was so good during the process despite hardly being able to stand she quietly allowed us to manoeuvre her feet into position. The x-rays were without doubt the worst we, and the vets, had ever seen; the bone inside the foot (pedal bone) had crumbled away, this was prolonged neglect resulting in catastrophic consequences for Kitty. After reading the x-rays the vet thought that euthanasia was the only option, we were so sad by the outcome, accepting this was inevitable we decided to give her a few days of 'normal' feet, a comfortable bed and plenty of good food. The following day our remedial farrier very carefully took Kitty's feet back to where they should have been.



*Kitty on arrival.*



*Kitty's feet.*



*Kitty, after a week at Flicka.*

Kitty, for a short time improved, with her new found feet in the position they should have been and with pain management she seemed very happy, she ate plenty, put on weight and went out in the sunny paddock with another older donkey. Kitty enjoyed three weeks of a normal life, but it was becoming necessary to increase her pain meds, finally even with maximum dose her heart rate was almost double what it should have been, the biggest indicator of pain in any animal. Donkeys are so stoic and because they are predatory animals they hide illness and pain till it is well advanced. If a horse suffered the same condition it would be dripping in sweat and displaying very obvious outward signs of distress.

It was such a hard and devastating decision to make, what a darling little soul, so gentle and we had to let her go. Kitty's neglect and short life had a huge impact on us, it was very upsetting and unnecessary, it shouldn't have happened, her agony was so unavoidable, she should still be here enjoying being with other donkeys in the paddocks.

## Polly & Heather



*Watching the trailer that will take them to their new life.*

Some of you may remember Polly & Heather who came to Flicka in 2012; two such thin girls, with wounds, appalling twisted and gnarled overgrown feet, one had a head collar embedded in her face and both of them were absolutely terrified. It took weeks of rehabilitation to improve their condition, and even longer for both girls to begin to trust people.

One of our donkey carers spent hours just sitting in a stable with them, even sleeping with them, to gain their trust, and trust they did eventually, becoming two of the most beautiful loving girls.

Polly and Heather were happy enough here at Flicka, but we were aware the two girls mostly kept their own counsel. When Teresa in Dorset took our three rescues, Tilly, Flo and Olive who were removed early last year from the same place as Polly and Heather, we always knew that all the girls could have been related. After much deliberation and soul searching we tentatively asked Teresa if she would like to foster Polly and Heather, knowing the two girls may be happier in a smaller group. Teresa didn't hesitate and was delighted to have our girls. On 8th April Teresa and her husband Alex came to collect Polly and Heather. Now there is no denying, we did cry... a lot... after they left, but so happy to tell you they settled in almost immediately and there was definite recognition from Tilly, Flo and Olive. We have regular updates and photos from Teresa, the girls are positively thriving.

**Now to follow on from this... Our BREAKING NEWS story:  
Diane, Pansy & Esmie – thank you so much for your wonderful help!**

...and here it is, the final happy ending of a family of donkeys who didn't know how it felt to be loved, all they knew was neglect. You will all have received our last minute appeal in the previous newsletter, as usual you all came up trumps for us again – a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who so kindly donated. Removal operations like these are very costly, but what a result!

Finally, with your help, we removed the last donkey after four years of trying to get them to safety; sadly it started with 16 donkeys, but with some dying in the field and some being shipped off to market the number was reduced to eight.



Last year we managed to get a further three, we were heartbroken when we drove away leaving a poor little donkey in a barren pen full of rubbish when her owner refused to relinquish her or the other two who were 'somewhere else'. We made a promise to the one we could get near that we would return.

...and we did, for some time it was very uncertain if we were having two or three relinquished, finally the news we had been waiting for – the three girls at last were collected and brought back to Flicka. Two of the girls were underweight, Pansy's and Esmie's feet were in bad shape, particularly Esmie she was quite lame. The vet, farrier and equine dentist visited the girls; teeth were in desperate need of attention. They had the works during their time here they became more and more friendly and so inquisitive it was a joy to watch them begin to blossom.

It was confirmed, Esmie was Heather's daughter, Diane was also Heather's daughter and Pansy was Polly's daughter. Poor Polly and Heather, just breeding machines discarded when they became too old.

Then Teresa and Alex travelled to Cornwall from Dorset, yes you guessed they were fostering Diane, Pansy and Esmie so all the family could be reunited, something that so rarely happens. How trusting the girls were when they walked aboard their transport off to meet their family and start their new life.

This story has a very happy ending, or should we say beginning, the eight girl family are all together again, separated for four years and one year, all wonderfully thriving in their fabulous home. This makes all the tears, hardship and setbacks worth it. Thank you to everyone who made this happen xxx

### **A note from Teresa:**

*Hi Flicka, time for an update. All's well here, Esmie, Pan and Diane all pretty well settled and continue to forge friendships with the others. Often see them playing, mutual grooming or just grazing alongside each other. Heather and*



*All the girls in their new home*

*Polly and the 'new' three have now all had their second tetanus, so they're OK for the year. The vet stayed for about an hour, she had to say hello to and cuddle each one, she really looks forward to coming out to see them, she says it doesn't feel like work but a social visit! The farrier has also been, they were very good (I think the ginger biscuits helped a lot!) and Esmie's hooves are looking much better, although the near fore still has a lot of improving to do.*

*I think I was most worried about Esmie when they came, she seemed so withdrawn and passive, but she is really coming out of her shell, each day a little more. Often see her with Heather and even playing a little with Tilly, which is lovely. She's such a sweet little soul, and quite feisty! Pan and Diane are doing well, Pan's gentle personality is shining through, she loves a groom and will stand for ages for a brush. Diane is very friendly and actively seeks affection! Heather and Polly keep them all in order, they command considerable respect from the others and are rarely far apart, although they love to get a game going with any one of them. Flo, Olive and Tilly are all fine as well; I think they have helped the others to settle as they are so laid back about everything.*

*They are such a lovely little herd, they are so friendly. Takes me ages to do the morning muck out as each one wants some 'me' time, they crowd around for their turn and won't be short-changed either!*

## **Susie**

Susie came in to our centre on the 15th June from the north of the UK.

Originally from Bulgaria where she spent 10/11 years of her life pulling heavy carts, when she wasn't working she was hobbled (legs tied together) and has the scars around her pasterns (ankles) from the rope. Susie then spent umpteen years in a petting zoo giving rides.

On arrival her body shape and age (initially indicating around 30s) led us to believe she had borne many foals, however on inspection of her teeth, although sharp and requiring dental treatment, it would seem she is in her 20s.

Susie was due to go out to her 10\* new foster home imminently, but... then we discovered she is in foal!! So this beautiful, kind and gentle soul who has endured a very tough and hard life will not be going anywhere.

Once confirmed we knew the birth was imminent, no-one can predict when a donkey will give birth, the gestation is anything between 11 - 14 months and we don't know when she conceived, clinical signs were very prevalent, for nine consecutive nights we kept, initially a two hourly vigil, then one hour. Then on



Wednesday 4th August at 11.10 pm, the lovely Susie began giving birth, what a privilege to be there quietly observing.

Welcome to the world Thomas, a stunning little coloured donkey! Our next newsletter will bring you updates and some stunning photos of him. Susie is just the most wonderful Mum.

Of course we don't condone breeding, but this doesn't mean we don't get very excited, thrilled to bits, over the moon when a foal is born at Flicka!

The name Thomas – later in the newsletter is a note about our own and Flicka's, deep personal loss of Diane Brown. We decided if the foal had been a girl she would be called Diane, if a boy we would name him after Di's very special cat Thomas, quite remarkably Thomas the foal has the same colouring as Thomas the cat. So Thomas is Diane's special remembrance donkey.

## Dora



The a'dora'ble Dora came to us at the same time as Susie, at just 15 months old a very gorgeous and stunning looking girl. Dora came from a 'breeder', yes another one who unscrupulously shot Dora's mother as soon as she was born, because she suffered from a breathing problem, like COPD, a condition that can be managed. But as some breeders do - the mother was no longer of use and Dora was hand reared by a purchaser who took pity on her. Dora was originally called Bambi, a rather distasteful joke by the breeder because her mother was shot.

The very beautiful Dora arrived at Flicka along with Susie. After Dora had her veterinary MOT, vaccines, teeth and feet checked, after a couple of weeks she was ready to go to her wonderful foster home and meet her new companion 'Molly'. Dora was taken in the Flicka lorry to the borders of Cornwall in July, it has been a perfect match, Molly and Dora spend all their time together, playing, eating, and sleeping. Hopefully we will have some new photos for December.

## Lottie



*Does this look like a beach donkey that can be ridden?*

Poor Lottie, a very depressed, underweight donkey who was spending a miserable life doing beach rides all day.

Although generally donkeys who work on beaches are under the scrutiny of the public and local councils, some are unlicensed and their care is not monitored. If you see donkeys on any beach and feel unhappy with their condition or treatment, please always report your concerns to the local council.

Lottie was brought in to Flicka – her condition has given us huge cause for concern, as well as her emaciation there are other health issues that are currently being addressed. We will update you further in our next newsletter.

## Hamish, Darcey and Clover



The three babies saved at just ten weeks old from market are now donkeys, not very big, but adorable little donkeys. We have no favourites, but it has to be said Darcey is divine! Hamish and Clover are very playful, naughty and affectionate, Darcey is quite shy, but get her alone and she so adores being cuddled.

Thank goodness these three are safe, sadly this is not the case for so many more. The cruel unscrupulous breeding and appalling sale and transport conditions means these poor animals live in terror, deprived of food, water and any kind care till they meet their violent end... it is all so very wrong.



## Tammy

Dear beautiful Tammy, left bereft after losing her soul mate Tabitha is now suffering with similar foot issues, we are currently managing her condition, but it is worrying that it may develop into a situation like Tabitha's. We will be having further x-rays done in the next few weeks.

## Diane Brown



It is with overwhelming shock and deep sadness that we are writing this - many of you who are frequent visitors to 'Flicka' will know the lovely Diane and Mark who have stayed several times a year for ten years and always get very involved on the centre spreading their joie de vivre.

Diane Brown, an exceptionally special lady, one of our most dedicated and passionate supporters and strong animal advocate - and personally one of our dearest and most cherished friends, lost her brave, but short battle to the cruelty of cancer on Thursday 21st July at just 48 years old. We have no words to express the depth of this loss to us and for Mark her devoted partner for 18 years. A lady whose laughter and fun was highly infectious, she had a huge heart, a huge personality and a vehement sense of justice.

It is thanks to Diane that Oliver the horse was saved from certain death when he was incarcerated in a cage at the side of a railway track, Diane fought unreservedly to ensure he was removed.

The loss is immeasurable, for Flicka and us personally...an empty void that can never be filled. Our most heartfelt condolences to Mark and all of Di's family and many friends. Good night Di, you're always with us xxxxxx

### Canopy at back of barn

Our barn canopy is now complete, it's looking really good, we are now having fencing and gates constructed so the donkeys can have 'free will'; they can access the barn or go out in the paddocks during the spring and summer. In the winter they can still go out onto an area of hard standing where they can get fresh air and play, a bit like the donkey playground.

Our huge thanks to a Support Adoption for Pets Grant which helped tremendously towards this project.

## The Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust

Following a successful application, the Flicka Foundation was lucky enough to receive a £10,000 donation from Max Mosley on behalf of the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust. These funds are going to help with the very costly improvements and repairs around the centre. Another big thank you to Max Mosley for his kind consideration.

## Open Day Saturday 18th June

Our open day was a great success, thank you to everyone who came along and supported Flicka. It poured with rain on the Friday, it poured with rain on the Sunday, but Saturday sandwiched between was glorious wall to wall sunshine, someone was smiling on us that day!! An amazing £2,200 was raised.

Thank you to all our invaluable volunteers and helpers, we just couldn't do these days without you.

Our annual Fun Dog Show and Open Day has come round again – already!!!



## Gifts and Online too

We have an onsite gift cabin that sells all kinds of donkey and horse lovers merchandise, mugs, aprons, tea towels, cuddly toys, pens, torches, note pads, pictures fridge magnets, Flicka clothing and so on.

It is still on our agenda to have an online gift store for the Flicka Foundation; all profits will, obviously, go to the charity.

## Calendars... We have Donkey Calendars!!



Our first ever professionally printed calendars are now on sale! They are £8.50, all proceeds go to Flicka. They really are beautiful, we

have a limited supply

as we just didn't know how many to order. If you are ordering from a distance, I am sorry, but the postage is £1.50. (1st class not tracked).

You can order yours by emailing your details, paying by BACS or simply send a cheque to:

The Flicka Foundation, Penty Noweth Farm, Trenoweth Lane, Mabe Burnthouse, PENRYN Cornwall TR10 9JB.

Could this be all your Christmas presents sorted? ;)



FEBRUARY 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## To Our Standing Order Adopters

We are aware that some of you have been supporting Flicka for many years with your standing orders. Standing orders are vital for the charity, it allows us to have some idea to predict funds coming in, helps us plan for the future and to some degree guarantee 'Flicka's' longevity as far as possible.

We are also aware you may feel neglected! We don't send out gifts (like some big charities) knowing there are some of you that don't want this, but if you would like a new adoption pack, a new photo or/and certificate, please do drop us an email [info@flicka.org.uk](mailto:info@flicka.org.uk) and we will get something sent out to you with pleasure.

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## A Note about Adoptions

The Flicka Foundation, unlike many animal charities, offers any of our residents for adoption, not just six or twelve, but any one of the dozens that reside here. For this reason it is impossible for us to update each adopter about their chosen donkey or horse. If you would like a recent picture or to know how they are getting on please do email us direct. Rule of thumb is – no news is good news!!

The Flicka adoptions make wonderful presents, presented in lovely glossy folders with a welcome letter, certificate, photo of your chosen horse or donkey and a brief history of them, the latest newsletter, a wristband, fridge magnet, pen, members card and car sticker – a super present that helps to make a difference.

### Our Special Thanks to...

**Esmie, Ken and Alison Richards** – thank you just isn't enough for the help you give Flicka, you are such wonderful, kind and caring people xxx

**The Alex Mosley Trust** – thank you for your wonderful grant – it will help us with vital repair and maintenance work.

**Penzance & District Canine Society** – for an amazing £600 raised for Flicka from their dog show held on 24th July.

**Jean and Roger Salter** – thank you for your hard work with regular table top sales and fantastic funds raised.

**Hayley Bates** for making such wonderful jewellery for our Gift Cabin

**Hamish Pettigrew** – for your generosity, thank you! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you, for supporting Flicka, for caring and for just being you. Flicka exists because of you. xxx

See you in December 2016. Flicka xxx

*Animal cruelty is one of the most unfortunate and barbaric demonstrations of human beings manipulating ill conceived notions of 'power' over other species... Ian Somerhalder*