



December 2021



Patrons – HARRY REDKNAPP,
PAUL O'GRADY, FELICITY KENDAL

Merry Christmas to all our Flickaholics



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*Here again already, unbelievable.
Does time go faster, or is it relative to age?!*

When our June newsletter went out, our sanctuary gates had been open for about five weeks, then in July we hit the summer holidays and we removed the booking system, due to lots of reasons and teething problems. In fact, in some ways it was not always helpful for visitors or Flicka at all – so our small site and car park was overwhelmed and bulging at the seams with our guests anxious to see the donkeys after so long, which was amazing. We had volunteers at the gate and car park to orchestrate cars in and out. It worked well and we cannot thank and praise those volunteers enough for their diligence and hard work.

It has been an extremely busy summer - not just with visitors, but all things donkeys too... So, please read on for all our donkey news since June 2021!



Sad Goodbyes...



Saying Goodbye to Bilbo...



Sadly, with all the souls that live at Flicka there will inevitably be losses, it is so hard to deal with and no matter how many times we say it breaks our hearts... it really does. Around the sanctuary are reminders of where they were or a favourite spot where they stood, slept or played. We carry their memory with us always. With heavy hearts we bring news we have always dreaded; our goodbye to our special beautiful Bilbo.

Early Friday morning on 2nd July, Bilbo had very

severe colic... This in itself is an emergency, but at Bilbo's age of around 27/28, with no previous colic's in his life, we feared the worst. After an initial vet visit, followed by another a couple of hours later, just for a moment, we had some hope, but then a third vet examination showed us a strangulated and misplaced bowel. This is an emergency, nothing we could do was going to save him. Our handsome, beautiful, gentle giant, with the most forgiving and kind nature, is now with Mary Berryman, our founder, who rescued him twenty-four years ago.

Bilbo has been the very essence of Flicka. In the early days he came through so much adversity, including major surgery when he had 'sinker syndrome' (when all four pedal bones in the feet detached) and was given 1% chance of survival, but he did survive, partly due to his stoic nature and love of people. Bilbo had to remain in a sterile stable for 12 months while he underwent treatment and surgery and everyone took it in turns to spend as much time with him as humanly possible. He made it, he came through and we will always remember his first day out in the rubber turnout area; he tried out his newly grown feet when he galloped around full of joy and Mary saw his successful recovery.

Bilbo, you have been an absolute joy, a privilege, a blessing. It has been truly an honour to share your life and your love of life. We are bereft, our hearts are aching and we will miss you every day. You are a Flicka icon forever. God Bless you always...

"You have left our lives... but you will never leave our hearts..."

"Sorrow is how we learn to love. Your heart isn't breaking, it hurts because it's getting larger. The larger it gets the more love it holds..."

~~ Rita Mae Brown ~~

New Arrivals and Rescues

Pedro & Pablo



Pedro & Pablo arrived in June and were unbelievably being ridden just prior to their arrival at Flicka. Pedro was severely underweight, he had long twisted feet and was visibly lame - the poor boy had a long matted coat hanging off him in clumps, full of dung and urine. When he arrived, his head was almost on the floor with misery. He and Pablo were clearly depressed and with utter dejection didn't seem to care what was to happen to them. With quiet resignation, they allowed us to lead them into a specially prepared barn with a deep bed and lots of tasty haylage.

The boys carried a heavy worm burden, their coats were full of lice and we soon discovered that Pedro was sore over his body - in some areas he flinched with visible pain. Both boys had long twisted feet, but there was no doubt Pedro

was the worst, perhaps due to being considerably older than Pablo. After a couple of days settling in, we had them both vet checked and our equine dentist had a look at their teeth. Poor Pedro, as well as sharp teeth and diastemas (space between the teeth) needing urgent attention, he had a very sore mouth with infected and ulcerated blisters around his gums - ill fitting bridle maybe? Can you imagine enduring that kind of pain in your mouth, we all know what a sore gum feels like, but to have so many ulcers and blisters, it must have been agony for him.

Unfortunately, the other distressing result of Pedro's sad life was his stereotypical swaying (a behaviour that comes with distress and anxiety), which was hard to watch. Once learned, it is a habitual behaviour that takes considerable time to 'unlearn'.

While we were focused on Pedro and Pablo's care and rehabilitation, another donkey needed sanctuary - Trilby...

Trilby

You may remember our breaking news from June's newsletter about a new arrival Trilby.

Trilby was found 'by chance' when his elderly owner passed away, he had been living alone for many years on a tiny bit of scrubland behind his owners' house. We subsequently learned he did have a friend who died on the land and poor Trilby had been alone ever since, what trauma for him. He was very thin and severely neglected, of course not knowing how long his owner had been ill we just don't know how long his subsequent abandonment had lasted.

His feet had grown long and twisted, he had lice and his teeth had never been checked.

When Trilby arrived at Flicka he was desperate for company, so we tentatively introduced him to Pedro and Pablo. We thought it would be good for him and, because he arrived so soon after the two boys, it made quarantine easier. We needn't have worried, the boys were friends immediately and Trilby was so visibly happy to have some company of his own kind.

All three boys received their x-rays, dental treatment, blood screening and dung samples at the same time. We were able to treat them all accordingly and their story doesn't end there, because we found a perfect forever foster home with Jason, an extremely kind and caring gentleman in Northamptonshire. Pablo, Pedro and Trilby are such lucky boys... how we wish all donkeys (all animals) could live this life. We are delighted to report the boys are doing so well in their new home - it just shows what love and care can do...



A few words from Jason...

"In March 2021 I lost my lovely donkey named Sir William, he was 44 years old and he had been with us for 31 years. He was a rescue donkey. When Sir William passed away, I was heartbroken and left a big void in my life. After a few weeks I decided I wanted to give a loving home to some more rescue donkeys so I contacted Flicka.

In July I fostered Pedro, Pablo and little Trilby from Flicka.

When they arrived, they were as expected very wary of me and their new surroundings. After a few days they settled in really well with their new pony companion also called Trilby (what are the chances of that) and they love feed times and their stone hovel (shelter) especially when it's raining.

Over the weeks they have shown their individual characters. Pedro is very affectionate and loves cuddles and treats, Pedro is the wisest of the three and the leader of the herd. Pablo is also affectionate; he is the thinker out of the three and weighs everything up. Ed (the farrier) says he's never met a donkey with such big ears. Little Trilby is the smallest of the three but thinks he's twice the size of Pedro and Pablo. Don't be fooled by his size though, as little Trilby is the most mischievous out of the three, but lovely with it and also, he loves cuddles.

All three boys have fun playing together and are local celebrities in the village and get regular visitors passing by.

Flicka does an amazing job rescuing ill-treated and neglected donkeys and did a fantastic job rescuing and saving Pedro, Pablo and little Trilby from a miserable existence; the suffering and neglect they went through was appalling and heart breaking.

Now the boys are very happy and living the life all donkeys should have. I would encourage anyone thinking of adopting or, if circumstances allow, to foster donkeys. It is very rewarding to see them happy, healthy and enjoying life - they are my family, they are my world, I love them so much xxx"



Angus, Monica, Minnie, and Hope

When a concerned member of the public alerted us to four small donkeys at a temporary roadside petting site in July, we had to do something... long story... however...

The result was that four very small, dear little 'people' arrived at Flicka - three jennies and one gelding. Their feet were overgrown and twisted after years of neglect and hooves that had been 'cut' with chainsaws or hammer and chisels, quite a common practice with some donkey dealers.



We think 'Hope' and 'Monica' are certainly related due to similarities and bonding; in fact all four could be related. Angus was by the far the most frightened, he hid behind the girls, we could barely get near him. Monica, Minnie and Hope were much more trusting, especially Hope who is the oldest of the group.

A vet assessment of all four was carried out, which consisted of heart and lung checks, blood screening, x-rays to the feet and dung samples. They were clearly underweight and their blood results and samples showed a positive heavy worm burden, including liver fluke. Feet x-rays showed clear, long-term damage to the pedal bones for Monica and Minnie's front pedal bones were even worse, causing us great cause for concern. This happens following years of neglect and inappropriate hoof cutting. Our fabulous farrier, who specialises in remedial work, studied the x-rays and began his magic however. The girl's front feet will never be right, but with careful (ground) control and management, we are confident for their future.

...and what future! Monica, Minnie, Hope and Angus have found their amazing forever foster home with Harriet and her wonderful family in Somerset. We receive regular updates about their progress - they are thriving, very happy and very spoilt. Angus, who was so nervous and afraid, is now one of the most cuddly! Another heart-lifting result for four donkeys whose future was heading down a different path. This is why we do what we do.

A note from Everley, Harriet's daughter...

"Hi, My name is Everley, I am 8 years old and I live in Somerset.



It has been an exciting year for my family as we moved back to England from Spain. We had to move 2 horses, 4 cats and 2 dogs during the pandemic, but in April they all arrived safely at our new farm. This wasn't the only exciting event this year, we adopted not one, not two, not three, but 4 gorgeous and beautiful donkeys. There are 3 girls and 1 boy.

The donkeys were first rescued by The Flicka Foundation in June and my mum travelled down to Cornwall to see them and fell in love with their sweet natures and huge ears! Mum said The Flicka Foundation is an amazing place, they do such good work, she was very impressed.

On the day they arrived I was at school so my mum and brother welcomed them to our farm. We had a special sand pen built for them with a play ball, wellies to play with and some willow logs to chew on. When I got home from school I was so so excited to meet them and fed them some ginger nut biscuits so they liked me straight away.

As we are a family of 4 too, we each adopted our own donkey. Mine is called Hope, she is grey with the biggest ears of them all. She has the loudest voice and runs the fastest if she sees we have her favourite cookies. My brother has Minnie. She is brown & the smallest of the group. She is like a giant pet Labrador. All she wants is to be loved and groomed. Unfortunately, Minnie has some problems with her feet so we have to be careful with her diet and how our farrier trims her hooves. My dad has Monica who we think is Minnie's daughter. Monica loves to zoom around the paddock and get kisses on her nose. Finally, my mum has Angus. We call him fluff head as he has the softest and fluffiest hair on his face.

Angus was the most nervous when he arrived and didn't want to be touched and stroked. He very quickly became the first to the gate every day and pushes the girls out of the way to get cuddles first. My mum is helping him to walk on the lead rope and he is becoming braver each day. They all have such different and special personalities. My favourite part of my day is just before bedtime when we go out and say goodnight to them and give them lots of love and affection.

We couldn't imagine life now without our 4 precious donkeys and we are so very grateful to the Flicka Foundation for letting us care for them and share our farm with us".



Bonnie & Bunty



When we received some worrying video footage of a poor donkey being ridden in August, we had to do something. Poor Bonnie, a white donkey, had severe sunburn all over her face, eyes, muzzle and ears and was clearly lame and underweight. She also had a friend, Bunty who was terrified and certainly not a donkey for 'riding'.

After a lengthy time, eventually these two donkeys arrived at Flicka. Bonnie was clearly not good and barely able to walk, her feet were in desperate need of attention.



Bonnie also has an unidentified lump the size of a plum just under her tummy towards her udder, which we have some concerns about. She has had an ultrasound scan, but it was inconclusive so we are still not sure what it is and it will need further investigation. She is underweight and needs to build condition, we are monitoring her closely. Despite the life she has had she is a very friendly girl and craves affection, we hope Bunty may follow her example, she is quite nervous and not trusting of us yet. It is very early days for these girls. We are sure we will have lots of positive progress to report about them in our next newsletter.



Maria

Maria, who had been alone for a long time, arrived a week later and is really helping bring Bonnie and Bunty out of their shells. She absolutely loves people and is showing the other girls they have nothing to fear. They have now bonded as a trio it has been so uplifting to see not only Maria find happiness with company, but Bonnie and Bunty beginning to trust people taking Marias's lead, who is so affectionate and cuddly!

Filming at Flicka



**WARNING:
upsetting content**

On Thursday 9th/10th September Flicka had a film crew on site from Palm Tree Films. Film Director Robbie Moffatt and his camera person Julita came to Flicka, whilst Mairi Sutherland, the Producer, orchestrated things from afar. Robbie and his team have created countless films and now direct their focus on animal welfare around the globe - one of Robbie's critically acclaimed films was 'Walking with Elephants'. Early indications are that this project will be called 'The Burden of the Little Donkey'.

Unlike our 30 seconds on A Very Country Christmas, which was about the donkey at Christmas time, this film is more of Flicka and the grittier side of the plight of the donkey, so may not be for those of us who find it distressing to learn and see the darker side of animal welfare.

Laurie and Judy were interviewed at length about the sanctuary and talked in depth about where and how donkeys arrive. Many of the team were interviewed; Charlie, Fiona and Rachel mainly and one or two visitors who were at the centre. Of course, we don't know how it will all be edited, but there is no doubt this was all about 'the donkey' and the suffering inflicted upon them.

We talked about the donkey skin trade in China and the insatiable appetite for ejiao, which has made a huge comeback in the last few years. Now every year, China slaughters millions of donkeys to make ejiao; a traditional medicine hailed as a 'miracle elixir', which is used to treat various ailments. As China's donkey population plummets, Chinese firms are now forced to turn to African donkeys and some traders import donkeys illegally where the trade has been banned (in places such as Niger and Tanzania). Now, they are even being stolen to fill the need and they are at risk of being wiped out. China needs 10 million donkeys per year... 10 million! There are 44 million donkeys worldwide, which means the threat of near extinction is real. Then of course there is the very distressing aspect of their transport and slaughter methods, which is just too upsetting to mention.

Being able to talk uncensored, openly and honestly was liberating, but also gave us time to reflect about what we do and what difference we make and do we make a difference at all. Our main focus here are donkeys, but we care deeply about all animals globally and the atrocities inflicted upon them - how helpless this makes us feel. We talked to Robbie candidly - are we just a sticking plaster to heal a wound, but not the cause? In short, yes, we are; in a perfect world there would be no suffering, no need for sanctuaries or indeed charities. Sadly, the world is not perfect, but troubled with so many issues.

When a donkey's suffering is highlighted, if we can help, we bring them to sanctuary where they either live out their lives with us or in a superb foster home. We try hard to tell the world through our own small platform about the issues; we have to think singularly and hope that if we can educate one person not to take that donkey ride in Greece, or notice a sick donkey before it's too late, then it's a start. The saying we all try to live by is 'we can't change the world, but we change the world for one life'.

Health Updates

JEREMY



In early September, despite lots of veterinary appointments and aggressive treatment over the course of several years, we came to the decision that the sight in Jeremy's left eye could not be saved. Our vets noted it had begun to shrink, so the best option for his future welfare was to surgically remove the eye.

He travelled to the veterinary hospital with his best friend Toby where he received the best care from the excellent team at Penmellyn Equine Vets before arriving home, where we had a specially prepared small barn with an outside area waiting for them. He was a little subdued that evening, but by the very next morning, he had taken back his title of "Flicka's naughtiest donkey" and he and Toby were

enjoying being in their new space overlooking the main entrance and yard, where they could see everything going on and be the first to get attention from visitors!

After four days of isolation to allow the eye surgery some healing time, we moved the boys back with their friends in our TLC barn, but Jeremy promptly managed to remove some of his stitches and an infection developed in the surgical wound, despite his vet telling us that was very unlikely to happen (obviously nobody passed this message onto Jeremy!) The area was cleaned, treated and bandaged again and he had to return to the smaller barn so we could keep a close eye on him and he had his other best friend Rupert join him this time!

Jeremy's eye is still healing and currently being dressed every day. It is improving, but the complications with infection mean that progress is a little slower than we'd hoped. To curb his boredom and frustration at not being allowed out, he is now allowed back with our small TLC herd of donkeys during the day before coming in at night with Rupert. As he was already adapted to being blind in that eye, nothing much has changed for Jeremy after his surgery, so we are delighted to report that he continues to be his playful, cheeky, mischievous self!

BIG MOLLY



You may remember Molly was not well at the time of our last newsletter back in June. She had just been diagnosed with Cushings and a suspected respiratory infection, so she needed a course of antibiotics to help clear it up. She was underweight and stressed from her journey to our sanctuary and also suffered quite badly with the heat over the summer months - we had to give her lovely coat a good trim to help keep her cool! We are relieved to tell you that she is much better

now. She is settled in the Main Herd and doing really well, having put lots of weight on (she never fails to come for her extra feed every day!) and generally enjoying sanctuary life.

We've also been keeping a close eye on various other eye issues amongst our resident equines...!

SHONA'S EYE

Shona the Shetland pony is an elderly lady (thought to be in her mid 40's!) who has had a lot happening with her eyes... She has had cataracts in both eyes and suffered from uveitis in both, but she developed an ulcer in her right eye in early October. Despite two vet visits and consequent treatment, the eye continued to experience chronic changes and deterioration. It was also causing her a lot of pain, which became difficult for us to manage, and there was a chance of glaucoma, so we made the difficult decision to remove the eye. The procedure was quite risky due to her age, but at the time of writing she has just had the eye removed at the equine hospital and the vet was happy with how the surgery went. She is now home and safe - we are all very worried about how she will recover, but will be keeping an extra close eye on her and keep you updated.



BUTTERCUP'S EYE

Poor Buttercup also developed a nasty ulcer in her eye, possibly after getting a foreign object in it. She saw the vet who prescribed antibiotics and a special lubricating ointment (called "Remend") to help repair the damage to her cornea and we are pleased to report all is well now! Buttercup is such a darling - she patiently allowed the eye drops to be administered daily, as she does with the nebuliser treatment for her asthma - what a good patient she is!

HAMISH AND NEMO



You may remember us reporting on Hamish and Nemo also having issues with their eyes in our last newsletter. Hamish had complications with uveitis in one eye and Nemo was diagnosed with a congenital issue causing impaired sight in one eye. They have both seen the eye specialist several

times now however and we are hopeful we can manage them both to avoid any long-term problems.

BIJOUX



Bijoux, Flicka's little French donkey who underwent surgery on both front tendons and is now being cared for by Tracey at 'Pour L'Amour des Anes' sanctuary in France, is unbelievably doing really well. We initially thought Tracey's care for Bijoux would be palliative, but he is positively thriving and now has new girlfriend called Ophelie. We're delighted with Bijoux's progress, our huge thanks to Tracey for her diligent love and care.



MILO'S FOOT TROUBLES

Our lovely little mini Milo needed x-rays of his left front foot in August after we had noticed him suffering with sporadic lameness for a couple of weeks. The x-rays showed pedal osteitis, which is an inflammation of the pedal bone in the foot, brought on by thinning of the bone. Considering his history of past neglect, this could be the result of a poor diet and constant concussion of the foot (maybe from working on hard ground in Romania). Our fabulous farrier, Arthur, has made him some special gel shoes, with a rubber sole to protect

and support his feet to give them time to heal. They simply glue on and make him feel so much more comfortable! Buttercup and Daisy also wear them for laminitis and rotation, where the sensitive soft tissue structure inside the hoof becomes inflamed and allows the pedal bone to rotate or move downwards within the hoof.



ON ANOTHER (FOOT!) NOTE...

Blue has also had some special shoes made! Poor boy doesn't have great feet and he tends to suffer from seedy toe, where the "white line" area of the hoof becomes weak and crumbly. The widened area can make them prone to infection, so his shoes help to hold the bottom of the hoof together, which also allows the top of the hoof to grow down properly without becoming distorted.

Update on our asthmatic donkeys!

As you know, a number of our donkeys have breathing issues - likely due to their past mis-treatment and exacerbated by the Cornish climate - a far cry from what a donkey is naturally adapted for, considering their desert ancestry! We are pleased to share, however, that all our asthmatics are doing really well thanks to careful management, dust free bedding and nebuliser treatment. Conker seems to have summer asthma (which may be allergy-based), but, at the time of writing, Rupert and Toby are still off their medication, which is great news!



Wellies...



We talked about enrichment in our last newsletter and how donkeys like new things, so here's Charlie to tell you all about the donkeys and their Wellington boots!

Did you know donkeys young and old just love to play?! It is wonderful to watch if you are lucky enough to witness.

They play-fight with each other by chasing and trying to trip each other up (sometimes by biting knees!) and rearing up to bite each other's necks with amazing balance and control. They also love toys! If you have ever visited, you've probably noticed all the abandoned wellington boots spread across the fields, but you'll be glad to know our staff and volunteers aren't simply misplacing them! They are actually a favourite donkey toy and they will entice one another to a game of wellie tug-o-war! We do offer lots of different toys, like tug balls, yoga balls and apple branches, but their absolute favourite is a wellington boot... So much so that we must be careful when we are out in the paddocks, as they do try and take the wellies straight off our feet if they can't find any in the field! Thank you to everyone who has donated their old boots for the donkeys. We don't currently need anymore, but will let you know when we do!

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT! Oliver Denness...



We wanted to introduce you to Ollie in this newsletter. Ollie has autism - he loves the donkeys and they in turn offer him great therapy. It is Ollie's dream to one day have an animal sanctuary and this inspirational, wonderful young man saves all his pocket money to buy treats for the donkeys and donates to our charity whenever he can. He has also adopted 18 of Flicka's donkeys (yes, you read that right - 18!), including Silver, Jewel, Meg, Susie, Thomas, Doris, Olly, Bertie, Paphos, Conker, Bunny, Lottie and Paddington!

Ollie and his family come and visit the donkeys as often as they can and always turn up with lots of goodies for them including toys and special feed.

They have sometimes even had to leave some of their holiday luggage behind just to make space to fit things for the donkeys in their car - now that's love and dedication right there... Thank you so much from the donkeys Ollie - they love you!

THE LONELY & PRIMROSE HOSPITAL

Most of you will know all about our exciting plans for an onsite hospital, to be named after our much-loved and never forgotten donkeys, Lonely and Primrose. Sadly, the ongoing situation with Covid-19 forced us to cancel so many of our planned fundraising events to focus on getting our charity through these difficult times.

This meant the project has taken a back-seat, but we are still determined to make the vision a reality for our donkeys! Our donkeys have suffered unimaginable mistreatment before we rescued them and they deserve only the very best... Please help if you can - visit our web site to find out how: www.flickafoundation.org.uk/hospital-appeal.

Meanwhile, our veterinary care bills continue to be increasingly and worryingly high... So many of our new rescues have arrived with us in terribly poor condition, requiring expensive and ongoing specialised treatment. Please see the insert in your newsletter for more details...



OTHER NEWS...



Hermine and Dannette settle in...

Our two stunning French Poitou ladies, Hermine and Dannette, are so settled now. They are living in our Main Herd and get along with absolutely everyone - it just feels as if they have always been here! Hermine likes to hang out with the other youngsters, Paddington, Bunny, Silver, Archie and Angelina, whilst her Mum Dannette is more sedate and matriarchal. They are also popular with our visitors of course - what a privilege to have them at our sanctuary!

Herd of Hope Update...

Our amazing Herd of Hope members have come such a long way since you helped us rescue them back in February... For those of you who are new to our Flicka Family - our little "Herd of Hope" arrived filthy, frightened and in desperate need of veterinary care and attention; suffering from malnutrition, badly overgrown and twisted feet, dental issues and all the signs of sheer neglect. You wouldn't think it to see them now though - we are so pleased with how they are doing...

Arthur is looking absolutely wonderful having put on weight and condition and his feet are finally in good shape too. He is still a little wary of the farrier and having his feet done, but he is generally a happy, confident, chilled out chap, who just loves cuddles off people. He and Applejack are great friends who spend much of their days playing with one another! Applejack has transformed from a small, frightened, emaciated donkey (who arrived with feet so long he could hardly walk) into a healthy, strong young boy. He is a very friendly, cheeky donkey who also loves cuddles and stealing our work tools whenever he gets the chance!

The girls Strawberry, Snowdrop, Dorothy and Beatrix are also doing well. They have all put on weight and condition (time will tell if any of them are in foal!) and they have blossomed into beautiful, stunning girls. They still have a way to go to build their confidence and trust with us, but they are enjoying being around people more and more as time goes on.

Strawberry and Snowdrop are still nervous (particularly when it comes to the farrier, whilst Dorothy is a superstar with this!), but Charlie and her team are carefully training them all to accept gentle touch and they are making progress. They love the freedom of being out in their paddocks, rolling in the mud and having dust baths, just as donkeys should...



Applejack



Strawberry



Arthur

Our Bachelor Boys...



You have probably heard their individual stories of rescue and rehabilitation by now, so we thought you'd like to hear that our "Bachelor Boys", Pierre, Rocky, Buttons and Walter, have formed a bonded group and are living a peaceful, happy life together... Pierre and Rocky were very frightened when they first arrived from France (Rocky had tragically just lost his bonded friend of fifteen years...), whilst Walter and Buttons had faced miserable, lonely lives of isolation in terrible conditions. They are all making up for lost time now however and they have the care, companionship, space and freedom they were previously denied. They have so much fun together - chasing one another around their paddock, play fighting and getting muddy! They also love sunning themselves on clear days, but we are also building a new shelter for them in Horace's Paddock to give them a hard-standing and cosier space for those colder days!

WILLOW'S BARN

We have now started work on our next big indoor area conversion - Willow's Barn! We often use this barn to safely quarantine new arrivals - it currently provides plenty of space in a quiet area of the sanctuary, but it is in need of an upgrade. We would like to make the barn more donkey friendly and have already ripped out the old stables - watch this space for progress.

MUCKY BUSINESS...!

We have also completed work on concreting and landscaping our muck-heap area, which has made a huge difference to our daily routines! Our trucks no longer get stuck in the mud, we can fit more manure in one place and it is built on a slant to allow water to drain, creating a much more efficient system, which can also be emptied throughout winter. Flicka's donkeys and horses produce around 600 tonnes of manure each year (an average of 6 tonnes per equine!), so it's a vitally important area of our sanctuary.

BREAKING NEWS!



At the time of writing we have just taken in 4 new donkeys who are in really bad shape... They are underweight, have had their hooves chain-sawed off and can currently only eat special feed due to their poor condition. It is likely they came via Ireland, but, as with so many of our rescues, we are not able to share too many details at the moment. We look forward to introducing them to you in time however. Pictured here is the biggest of the group, Topaz - you can see how thin she is.

Our Auction Ladies!



Our wonderful Auction Ladies hosted a table top sale at our Sanctuary back in August, along with an exciting raffle and raised an amazing £1,736.40. At the time of writing they are also hosting yet another online auction!

So, we have to say thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts, to Pauline, Julie, Angela, Lisa, Jo (and the younger family members - Jaydn, George, Noah and Henry!) for their continued, dedicated support for our precious donkeys, mules, ponies and horses.

WILL YOU BUY THE DONKEYS A GIFT FROM THEIR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST?!

We always have lots of items we desperately need for the donkeys on our Bailey's Wishlist and they would be so grateful if you would consider gifting them some special feed or health supplements this Christmas. We spend a massive £1000 per week on feeding the donkeys and funds are always stretched... Just visit this link at Bailey's Country Store to order and your gift will be delivered straight to our sanctuary: www.baileyscountrystore.co.uk Thank you for your wonderful support!



Your Next Newsletter

Just a quick note to let you know that your next newsletter will be due to arrive in June 2022! In the meantime, don't forget you can follow us on Facebook (The Flicka Foundation) or Instagram (@Flickadonkeys) and if you have any questions about your special donkey or pony email supporters@flicka.org.uk for an update!

Leaving a legacy to The Flicka Foundation – Make a Difference for Donkeys

Would you consider leaving a gift to the donkeys in your Will? Legacies mean we can continue to be here for the donkeys who live at our sanctuary and the others out there who desperately need our help - now and long into the future. You can find out more about making a Will and why it is so important on our website: www.flickafoundation.org.uk/a-gift-in-your-will

Flicka's 2022 Calendar

The Flicka Foundation 2022 Calendar is now on sale! Pages and pages full of gorgeous rescued donkeys! The calendars are priced at £9.50. They will be on sale in our online shop (here: www.flickafoundation.org.uk/shop), as well as Gift Cabin and Tea Room, but if you prefer to have one sent to you it is £1.50 p&p - £11.00 total. All proceeds this year will go towards the 'Lonely and Primrose Hospital' Appeal.

If you would like to purchase one to be sent to you...

- Send a cheque made payable to The Flicka Foundation with your name and address - please mark the envelope with "Flicka 2022 Calendar"

- Pay online via BACS: Sort code 09-01-28 Acc No 63344234 and email your name, address and order details to info@flicka.org.uk



Winter Fayre!

We are excited to announce our very first winter fayre to raise funds for the donkeys will take place on the 11th December 11am - 4pm. The donkeys will (of course) be ready to welcome visitors and our Tea Room and Gift Cabin will be open, but there will also be lots of stalls for your Christmas shopping, family activities, crafts, cake sale, raffle and we would love to see you there if you can make it!

Don't Forget to sign up for Donk-E-News !

We would love the opportunity to share more updates on our wonderful residents with you, as well as news about our charitable work, special appeals, events and more - simply visit this website link to sign up to start receiving Donkey News in your inbox! www.flickafoundation.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-e-news



Adopt a Donkey

A Donkey Adoption makes a wonderful Christmas gift for all ages and also makes such a difference to our work caring for and rescuing donkeys in desperate need. Our Adoption packs are presented in a lovely glossy folder with a welcome letter, personalised certificate of adoption, donkey story and photograph, newsletter, Flicka car sticker, your unique Adopter card and other Flicka gifts! Just visit our website to choose who you would like to adopt for your loved one (or perhaps for yourself!) - a gift that really does make a difference... www.flickafoundation.org.uk/adopt-a-donkey



ONLINE SHOP

Our very own Online Shop is ready for Christmas with lots of lovely, festive donkey merchandise and donkey-themed gifts, stationary, homewares and sweet treats. The perfect place for some of your Christmas presents this year and it will help the donkeys too - it's a win win! www.flickafoundation.org.uk/shop



If you have any Queries or Questions

Please remember - if you would like to know anything about your adopted donkey/pony or have any questions about Flicka, just drop us an email us on supporters@flicka.org.uk. We try to respond to emails as quickly as possible, but please do allow us up to a week, as we are always so busy here! If you don't read anything about your special friend for some time, remember the rule of thumb - no news is good news!

Our Special Thanks to...

Just a few of our wonderful supporters.



Juliet, Peter, Suzie and Little Gladys Mansfield-Clark, Pax and Andy Vlietstra, Morfydd Godfrey, Pippa Walkley, Mick Wileman, Sylvia Fletcher, Julie Andrews, Gela Richards Our dedicated "Family Fundraisers for Flicka" team, Peter & Angela Scales and DBS Society, David & Diane Racher, Mrs Major, Isobel Bewley, Linda Beard, Jean & Roger Salter, Brian Jones – Simply CBD, Ollie Denness, Jen Feenan, Dawn Jones, Janette Hager, Bob Brown, Sho-Yin Wong

It goes without saying that there are always too many of you to list here... Your wonderful, ongoing support through your donkey adoptions, kind donations and gifts purchased from our Wishlist mean everything to the donkeys who live at our sanctuary, as well as the others out there in desperate trouble who we hear about all too often... On their behalf - thank you so very much. There aren't enough words to express our gratitude to you all - your support and caring means everything!

Have A truly Wonderful Christmas everyone and wishing you all good things for the New Year ahead

Lots of love, from all the donkeys, ponies, horses and Team at Flicka
See you in June 2022! x

*'The root word of animal is 'anima' which means 'soul'
~~ Dr Linda Bender ~~*

Data Protection Laws

You may be receiving our newsletters because you have shown an interest in our work by donating, adopting a donkey, becoming a 'Friend of Flicka' or you were bought a donkey adoption as a gift by someone else. We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletters and updates, but if you no longer want to receive them, you can opt out of receiving direct mail from us at any time by contacting us via email, post or phone. If you still want to receive our newsletters - don't worry, you don't have to do a thing!

If you would like to find out more about how we protect your personal details, you can view our Privacy Policy here: www.flickafoundation.org.uk/privacy-policy