

SAFE HAVEN FOR DONKEYS
IN THE HOLY LAND



SUMMER 2002

Golden Jubilee-orr!

Lucy's letter from Israel

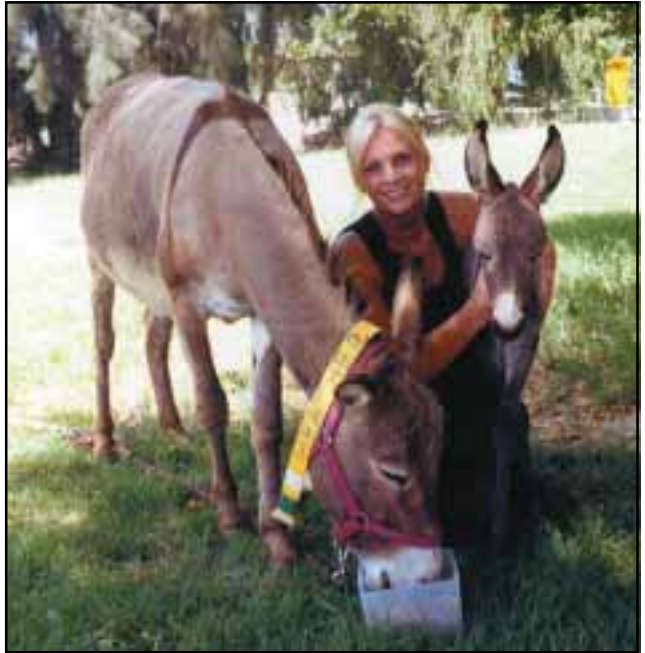
As I write this, I'm surrounded by 38 donkeys!! Recently they have been coming in at quite a rate - seven in about two weeks!

The most recent arrivals are Emma, Holly, Hannah, Celia, Simon and Heather from the village of Jaffa. Overnight, during the Queen's Jubilee weekend Heather gave birth all on her own to a dear little foal. What else could we call the little one except "Elizabeth" (though we shorten it to Lizzie)?

She is the sanctuary's first birth on site so she's quite special and her arrival helped lift our spirits after we had to deal with the appalling conditions of four of our other newest arrivals.

Hannah's, Holly's and Celia's situations were quite beyond belief - as was Simon's to a lesser extent. It was as if someone had taken barbed wire and tied it around Hannah and Holly's noses, under their chins and pulled it as hard as they could...

The result was lengths of wire embedded in their noses and mouths, penetrating their tongues leaving them disfigured and with breathing and eating difficulties.



JUBILEE GIRL! Lucy with Heather and 1 day old Elizabeth

They have also lost most of the muscle control in their lips and muzzles. Luckily our vet managed to remove all the wire from Holly so she now finds life much easier.

However, the wire in Hannah's mouth has somehow penetrated her jawbone and she requires an operation to break the bone, remove the wire and re-build the bone.

It brings me some joy to say that already her condition has improved so much and she and Holly have become really friendly donkeys.

I rescued Celia and Simon from a Palestinian

village - Simon's nose and chin were torn and had to be stitched but he's doing very well.

Celia was in a mess; not only did she have old ropes deeply embedded in two of her legs that necessitated (at 1am!) trying to pull the rope with pliers far enough away from the leg so that I could saw at it gently until it cut... but her left back leg had become so infected that it had swollen up to three times its normal size.

Like Chloe, Ewen and Cachou she has lost her hoof and the vet now needs to do an x-ray to see whether or not we can save the leg.

I have seen many terrible things happen to donkeys in my time, but these three cases truly sickened me.

This leads me to Ewen's situation. You will remember how we appealed specifically for funds to pay for a prosthesis to be made for Ewen, well, I have tried everything in my power to organise something, and have been given false promises - all to no avail.

Meanwhile, Ewen and Chloe continue to have their little stumps dressed and bandaged every day. For all those who so kindly sent a donation for the prosthesis - please bear with me as I'm still trying and I will keep you all updated. If any of you have any ideas as to how we may be able to arrange for someone in the UK to make a prosthetic donkey's lower, back leg please be sure to let us know!

As always - so much has happened. There's so much to tell you all but sadly I have such limited space. However, I will touch briefly on a few things:-

• **IFAW Award:** I am happy to tell you that I won the IFAW Animals Action Abroad Award that I had been nominated for. You can read more about this in our 'News' section over the page.

• **Visits to Arab Villages:** It's a definite uphill struggle but the work continues. With limited funds and not enough contacts it is hard.

I'm now making enquiries to find an Arab teacher to help plan a low cost, basic education programme. We are still visiting different villages, helping donkeys and generally maintaining contact with local people - but it does feel like one step forward, two back! I do need help but for this we need to pay someone.

Of course, it is made all the more difficult because we are here in Israel. Here, there are two sides in conflict with us very much in the middle. Overall, I would say that this area of work needs a great deal of improvement and funding but I am determined to make it work!

Incidentally, I had a recent request from Abdul Rahim (Head of Ecology in Gaza Municipality) asking me for help with the horrendous situation for donkeys there. Again, to do anything tangible there we need the funding but this is a vital step and - provided we will be permitted to enter - trustee Tony Shearer and myself have a meeting organised with him for 29th June in Gaza.

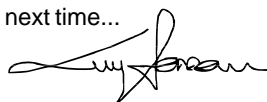
• **Funding:** I think I may have mentioned this enough already and I thank you all so much for your continued, vital support for SHADH. Please, *please* tell your friends, families, and write to everyone you can in an effort to create more awareness of the plight of the Holy Land Donks. This

will hopefully generate more urgently needed funds so that we may continue to REALLY make a difference.

• **Visitors:** Please, if any of you get the opportunity, do come on over to Israel and see us. The Sanctuary and the donkeys have to be seen to be believed - it's a small piece of Heaven in a difficult corner of the world but everyone is always welcome and I personally would love to see you, not to mention the Donks!

Last of all I would like, with all my heart, to thank each and every one of you. Not a day passes when I don't look at my donkeys on our land and feel so overwhelmed, so humbled and grateful to you for making my heartfelt mission a reality...

Until next time...



HIDE AND SEEK! Muffin and Ginger the cat watch each other with suspicion!

Lucy wins international award!

Some of you probably know already, but I am very pleased to tell you I did indeed win the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) "Animal Action Abroad" Award that I had been nominated for. The awards are run in the UK in partnership with the Sunday People Newspaper and are part of IFAW's Animal Action Week Campaign.



The award ceremony was held in the Attlee Room in the House of Lords, back on 16th May and was hosted by Baroness Gale. Among the guests of honour were Ian Cawsey MP, Chairman of the Associate Parliamentary Group on

Animal Welfare, actress Lesley Joseph from TV's *Birds of a Feather* and Lisa Barbuscia, from the film *Bridget Jones' Diary*.

I felt very proud and honoured to be nominated and to win the Abroad Award.

I was joined by my wonderful family and got to talk to both Lesley Joseph (who incidentally, rescued 2 donkeys herself a few years ago) and the other award winners. I received a beautiful etched glass presentation award and a super day was had by all. I would like to say a very



Lucy receiving her award from actress Lesley Joseph and MP Ian Cawsey

special 'thank you' to JANET KINGSMILL and IRIS POVER from Shoreham, West Sussex for nominating me for the award and for their continued commitment to SHADH. Many thanks to you both!

Lucy was interviewed after the awards ceremony by Meridian TV, where she talked about her work in Israel and what she still has to achieve. If you would like to see this interview, log onto the Safe Haven for Donkeys website (see new address below) and go to the 'News' section.

Running with donkeys

Some of our loyal supporters are taking part in this year's 'Great North Run' and hope to raise over £1500 each to help Lucy and her donkeys.

If you would like to help Geoff Lewis, Mark Cook, Julian Price and Andy Mitchell reach their target, please send your donations to SHADH - address on the

back page - or why not come along to the run itself (Newcastle, 6th October) and encourage these energetic supporters in person!

Change of address

In order to reflect its status as a registered charity, Safe Haven for

Donkeys' website address has been changed to www.safehaven4donkeys.org

Please update your browser bookmarks and address books to this new address.

Lucy's donkeys: SILVY

This issue's donkey profile focuses on "Silvy"

You may remember that Silvy came to me as a rather skeletal creature - now, after almost a year in my care she's turned into a beautiful, lean, graceful madam!

She adores hanging out with the other donkeys and she and fellow madam, Tippy, recently started a bit of a girlie gang thing going!



THAT WAS THEN: Silvy when she first arrived



LOOK AT ME NOW! A happy and healthy-looking Silvy enjoying a beautiful Safe Haven sunset

Silvy and Tippy take turns leading the gang but more often than not it's Tippy so we call them the Tippy Gang!

Silvy originally belonged to people who abused her badly, and didn't feed her which is why she was so undernourished.

Somehow she found her way to a local municipality where they called me to the rescue... She's never looked back!

You can adopt Silvy using the adoption pack enclosed with this newsletter, or go to www.safehaven4donkeys.org

Summer Appeal

The cost of purchasing equipment such as lead reins, head collars etc is enormous, which is why we appreciate your generosity for donating so much equipment to SHADH. They are not luxuries, but are essential to the upkeep and maintenance of each donkey.

However, the heat and sun is immense in Israel and the donkeys desperately need 'Fly Repellent Gel'. The cost

of one pot of spray in Israel is approximately £10....that only just covers 2 or 3 donkeys. PLEASE, if anybody is able to help us by supplying or donating tubs, (tubs are better than sprays!) then please contact us at PO Box 2400, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4AL. Thank you for your help.

PC Computer & Printer:

Because of the amount of administration work that Lucy

is having to undertake in Israel, she desperately needs a Computer and Printer. Nothing hi-tech or new, something that works and will enable her to write appeal letters and adverts etc. to Israeli counterparts. If anybody has a computer that they don't use or can obtain one at a hugely reduced price.....please, please let us know at PO Box 2400, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4AL.



SAFE HAVEN FOR DONKEYS



IN THE HOLY LAND

www.safehaven4donkeys.org



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The Lost Souls of Jisr Alzarka

Lucy Fensom reports on her visit to the Arab Villages

LUCY writes: today I went to Jisr Alzarka (north from here) - its a small town quite away from everywhere else and is inhabited by quite poor, simple people.

I have been there before and wrote about it in the last newsletter. There I met a chocolate brown, male donkey with his ears half hanging off where they'd attempted to chop them. He was a lovely, healthy, lively-looking stallion when I last saw him in February, playing with his other little donkeys that together formed a small herd.

Today, the first sight that met me was absolutely sickening and even after a hot bath I can still smell the smell and see that sight....

It was that beautiful male donkey lying dead - he probably had

been for about a week, maybe less. But he had been partly mutilated and his eyes were bursting out of his head, it looked as though they'd tried to sever the head... There were pools of stale blood everywhere and horrific wounds to his stomach and mouth area. They had also tied a 3 metre-long piece of iron around his back leg, and maybe even dragged him there... I don't know.

We asked some local kids that watched us but they just laughed and pointed to a new, empty, two storey building nearby and said he'd "jumped" from the window. The urge to wipe the smile off those faces was SO strong!

Nearby his body was the remainder of his little herd including a little grey female who had also had her ears chopped.



A PICTURE OF LONELINESS: One of the sad, abused donkeys of Jisr Alzarka

At this point we decided to go to the municipality next to this area. I'd been told before (and was told again) by the municipality that this little herd did not belong to anyone and one of the municipal men even wrote us a document giving us permission to take the four remaining donkeys. I handed him my new Arabic business card and told him, in the future, to call me if they have any donkey that is wounded or needs help, whether it is owned or not.

I also asked him whether, once we have our "donk fact cards" we can give some to the schools in the village and he agreed, ensuring they would be distributed.

With his document in hand, authorising us to take the donkeys,

we set off immediately back home - half an hour's journey - to get our horse box. Once home we grabbed headcollars, lead ropes, more carrots and grain. We set off once more for Jisr Alzarka and eventually found the donks, and with a great deal of patience and determination, Yair and I managed to catch all four of them.

Inevitably by this time we had aroused some interest and I'd just managed to put the most timid and terrified of the little donks into the trailer when a boy came and grabbed the little grey female with no ears, insisting that she was his. Then a young man came over and said that the other three belonged to him.... My heart absolutely sank... By this time the municipality had



PEACE AT LAST: a victim of ignorance

closed and anyway it's my guess that with the amount of corruption there they would end up agreeing with their own people.

Sadly, there was nothing we could do except release the donkeys that were so close to

coming to "heaven", otherwise the situation could have become aggressive and I simply couldn't have that.

Also, in some strange way, looking back on it I can understand those terrible people.... If I was them I would also

probably refuse to cooperate with a Western group; simply because they have no proper idea of conduct and perhaps, if I was one of them, neither would I have...

Although it's against my principle, I did offer to buy the donkeys but even before any

amount had been suggested all people concerned refused to sell...

I plan to go back to the municipality on Sunday with Yair, tell them what happened and appeal for their help... All we can do is try and try again.

SHADH trustee Tony Shearer writes about his visit to Israel

After four days at Lucy's Sanctuary I came away with three thoughts:

First, what wonderful creatures donkeys are. I had never really known donkeys - my wife was the fanatic. However they do have their own personalities and characters, and after even a couple of days I could recognise who was who.

Second, how dedicated Lucy, Adi, Yair, Vishai and all the people who Lucy dragoons to help her are. That is real leadership.

Third, we really do need to find ways to secure future funding of the operation.

The Sanctuary itself seems to be in a residential area. But then many of the houses in the village (and in similar villages) have farms tucked away at the back. The

Sanctuary is no different.

The donkeys are marvellous animals to be with. My favourite has to be Cachou - but then who could resist a three year old with three legs? He seems to barely get around or



MUCKING IN: Tony Shearer at Safe Haven

even be able to stand up, until the carrots arrive. Then he literally canters down the paddock in a brown flash - a sight that raises a tear to the eye. When it is grooming time, he doesn't push himself forward (he couldn't, as he would fall over),

but he waits there in line for his turn. There are many other favourites, and nobody could really choose. But it is the less able such as Ewen, Chloe, Lucy and Molly that caught my attention, as well as the really elderly Sally and Rosa.

Do you have to be mad to work in that

the fencing, runs the tractor etc etc. Yair seems so quiet and unobtrusive, but he works from 8am till 8pm or later without a stop, seven days a week. He loves the donkeys and attends to their every needs.

You never really see Vishai, but he turns up for an hour every day, and 7 hours on Saturday. The "Thai Guy" paints, cleans and does all the jobs that need to be done. I have never before had any idea what 400 kilos of carrots looked like, nor any idea of how to offload and store them. But we did, and how the donkeys loved them!!!

At the end of all of this, it made me realise that the difficult part is having the vision to create the idea, and the energy to fulfill the dream. The humbling thought is that between us we have to make sure that funds are available to ensure that all this can continue.

A special 'thank you' to you all!

Felicity Moore, SHADH's charity Co-ordinator writes: I hope that you have enjoyed this edition of SHADH newsletter. It has certainly been a very busy time over the last few months. I was lucky enough to visit Lucy in April albeit for 48 hours, but it was an experience that I will truly never forget!

The phrase 'seeing is believing' is absolutely the exact feeling that I came away with after seeing what Lucy has achieved. It is amazing. If any of you have the opportunity to go out to visit... please go... it is so inspiring and so emotional that it is very difficult to put into words. You will see from some of the photographs in the newsletter that Lucy more than has her work cut out for her, however, I KNOW that she can do it. She is strong, courageous, dedicated and more than anything, completely committed to helping these poor creatures. We are all so proud of her and on behalf of all of us in the UK, I want to say well done... keep going!

As you can imagine, it is a very volatile situation in Israel at the present time and Lucy is wonderfully stoical about her role there. The sanctuary, although not far from much of the troubles, is relatively

safe and Lucy herself feels settled and very protective towards her charges! It is very comforting for Lucy's mother, who opens all your letters and reads every one of them, to know that so many of you have Lucy's well-being in your thoughts as well as the donkeys. Thank you!

Five of our supporters deserve special thanks for their help, commitment and support to ensure Lucy succeeds. They all deserve merit, so on behalf of Lucy I would like to extend a really huge thank you to the following people:

• **Michael Lock** from Kent. Michael has been out to Israel recently and has managed to organise with a local tourist representative to look at including SHADH on the tourist itinerary when visiting Netanya. He has also recently bought the charity electric fencing to prevent the donkeys being stolen.

• **Nick Terry** from the Midlands. Nick's gift of a laptop has been Lucy's lifeline at times. Nick also had 100 baseball caps with the SHADH logo printed on them boxed and ready to go to Israel to give out to the children in the local villages!

• **Ruth Moreton** from Nuneaton. Ruth has organised everything from Table Top sales through to Canal Cruises. Recently, Ruth and her sister, Kathleen Spiers went to Israel on holiday and you can read about her trip on the opposite page!

• **Ruth Sanderson** from Gloucestershire. Ruth has recently volunteered to help SHADH with local publicity within the South West of the country. We are also hoping to provide her with a Fundraising pack shortly to enable her to take part in local fayres and county shows more prominently.

• **Jenny & Tony Shearer** from London. This is really a very personal thank you from Lucy and her parents. Tony is one of our Trustees and has been working tirelessly for the charity both here in the UK and with Lucy in Israel. We would like to say thank you to both Tony and Jenny for always being available to help us!

I would also like to thank other charities from whom we have received much needed donations. It is very encouraging to know that SHADH is considered deserving by fellow trusts and we thank you for following our progress!

• **The L & D Seccombe Charitable Trust** (£500)

• **Wyre Animal Welfare Trust** (£100)

• **The Robin Russell Charity** (£500)

Many, many thanks to all of you, companies and individuals who have so kindly donated equipment. In particular, we would like to thank;

• **Denise Simpson** from the Isle of Man for sending a large box of saddlery equipment, halters, brushes and hoof picks etc.

• **Pauline Holden** from Cheshire, for arranging Head Collars to be sent to us.

• **Jane Riva** from Somerset, for 2 Foal Collars and her readiness to send more..

• **Kath Towle** from Nottinghamshire, for Headcollars and Lead reins.

• **Derek Stavrou** from British Airways, Tel Aviv, Israel. A new found supporter, Derek has offered to help us to freight equipment to Israel with the least amount of problems and costs to SHADH.

Once again, a very big thank you to you all!

Our visit to SHADH

In March of this year my sister and I decided to visit Israel and go to see Lucy and the donkeys at Moshav Gan Yoshiya. It was a truly unforgettable experience for us.

To see and feel the peace and tranquility Lucy has created at

Safe Haven was really wonderful.

The donkeys looked so well cared for and happy - we are sure they had smiles on their faces! Special mention must be made of Muffin, the adorable donkey foal who at the time was only three weeks

old and accompanied by his mother Molly, and to know they are now in Lucy's care is a wonderful thing.

Also basking in this peace and tranquility were Lucy's two cats - Ginger and Priscilla, who must be the two luckiest cats in Israel.

We were very reluctant to say goodbye to Lucy and the donkeys and all at Safe Haven and return home, but our hearts and thoughts are still there.

Ruth Moreton &
Kathleen Spiers,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire



FAST FOOD: Lucy feeding her donks

Legacy Gifts

In response to enquiries, provisions have been made for legacy gifts. We know from other charities that, just one gift can make a huge difference.

For further information about making a legacy gift as part of your will please tick the box on the donation form enclosed.

Thank you.

Events Diary

ARE you holding a fundraising event or doing a sponsored something-or-other in aid of SHADH? If so, we are planning to introduce an 'Events Diary' in future newsletters, covering the whole country (and for those of you living abroad, in your countries too!)

If you have any dates planned from September onwards, we would love to hear from you, so that we can include your details in our interim News Update in September. Please send details of the event that you are holding, the location of the venue, times and your name, to:

Sam Wallace C/O SHADH

e-mail: info@safehaven4donkeys.org

** And we will also ensure that you receive a Fundraising Pack including newsletters, car stickers, leaflets and balloons, to help you let everybody know who you are raising money for!*

A letter to Lucy

"I have been very lucky in that I have visited Lucy twice, once when she was on the kibbutz and also at her new home on the Moshav. It is a lovely place with a nice house at the front with pens behind and a huge area where the donkeys can roam and play freely. We were greeted by Harry Potter 'calling' us over. Gradually each donkey wanted to come and say hello and it was heartwarming to see how happy they seemed.

I think Lucy is doing such a wonderful job against such difficult odds. She is alone, unlike other charities who have teams of people working with them. As we stood in the setting sun watching the donkeys and talking, my heart once again went out to this remarkable young woman who has given up so much to help these beautiful animals, she surely must be one in a million. I am extremely lucky to be able to visit Lucy when I am in Israel. I have wonderful friends and family that are always willing to take me to see her and they all marvel at what she is doing. If any of you have thought to go to Israel, please do. I can assure you 95% of the country is safe to visit and - certainly where Lucy is - it is peaceful and beautiful.

Please take care of yourself Lucy and remember that I am always thinking of you. You are truly a wonderful young lady. I don't know about being one in a million, I think you must be one in a few million, at least. In the meantime, take care of yourself because without you, where would those beautiful donkeys be? "

MAUREEN SHBERO



Lucy replacing a rope harness with a new SHADH headcollar

Your letters

Dear SHADH,

Could I please ask you why it would cost me £48 to 'adopt' one of your donkeys (which I would dearly love to do), as I find £48 to be excessive. I realise you are only a small charity trying to do your utmost to help these wonderful creatures and it must be very difficult in the present climate, but I feel the amount is putting people off.

Yours faithfully,

MRS T. ANGER
Leicester

SHADH's Co-ordinator Felicity Moore replies: *Thank you for asking this question. Whilst we appreciate that the cost of the Adoption may seem excessive, we are totally reliant on your donations. It is an enormously high cost of living in Israel and nothing is done for goodwill. Because of these costs, we feel that £4.00 per month (you can now pay by monthly instalments) is a small amount to help Lucy's donkeys have a happy and safe environment to live out their days.*

Dear Lucy,

Please find enclosed my adoption form to adopt two donkeys for one year. I have requested Harry Potter and Juliet.

Prior to returning to Australia for a month holiday in March I had planned to sponsor one donkey. But I emailed my friends in Australia the SHADH website details and asked my friends to chip in for my birthday to sponsor the second donkey. I am pleased to report that they raised another AUD \$100 to go towards sponsoring the second donkey!

Kind Regards
MICHELLE KNOX
London

Dear SHADH Friends,

Lucy and the donkeys and all of you who are helping are in my prayers daily.

God Bless
MARCIA DAVIS, USA

Harborough Animal Concern has today held a bric-a-brac stall and raised £250 which we are pleased to send you for Lucy's wonderful work.

All good wishes
JANET GEE

Dear SHADH,

I do hope Lucy and her donkeys are safe, particularly in the current situation. If people there were unconcerned about donkeys beforehand, they certainly must be now. It must make Lucy's task so much harder. Please let her know our thoughts are with her.

Meanwhile, as ever, all our best wishes to Lucy and her donkeys.

Yours sincerely,
PAULINE HOLDEN
Cheshire



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