



**Safe Haven  
for Donkeys**

Spring 2021

# NEWSLETTER



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Adopt a donkey

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**Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land**  
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E-mail: [info@safehaven4donkeys.org](mailto:info@safehaven4donkeys.org)  
Registered charity: 1083468

#### Find us on the internet:



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Peter Egan  
Anthony Head



## Dear Friends,

At last spring is with us. The days are longer, the evenings are lighter and there is a feeling of optimism in the air.

At the time of writing, I am delighted to say that Israel is out of lockdown and so our sanctuary is once again open to visitors. The West Bank is sadly in a more difficult position but Dr Rakan and his team are holding as many clinics as they can to help the donkeys, mules and horses.

We are delighted to report that, subject to covid restrictions, we have an event scheduled for 2021, our first since the end of 2019! Our supporter and very talented artist Anton Ratnayake will be holding an art exhibition in London – please see the back page of this newsletter for more details. If you would like an invitation to the private viewing, to be opened by Peter Egan, please contact us for more information.

We may be able to hold stalls at events in the late summer or autumn; as yet we are unsure. Please keep an eye on our social media and events page on our website for more details.

As you know, we usually appeal for donations of items from our Amazon Wish List in our newsletter. These are taken out to Israel for us by very kind supporters but of course in the current climate, no-one has been able to travel. We have therefore got quite a backlog of items go to out. We hope that by the summer, travel might be possible so we will be able to begin accepting items for Israel again – we will let you know in the next newsletter.

We hope you are all keeping healthy and safe and that life will continue its gradual return to some form of normality. Thank you from the bottom of all our hearts for your support – your kindness has enabled us to transform the lives of donkeys in desperate need.

Warmest regards,



Melanie



Fiona



Wendy



# Adopt a donkey

**Adopt a donkey today and we will send you an adoption certificate, record card and photo of your chosen friend, complete with a small cuddly donkey to remind you of your new friend.**

Adoption is just £36 a year (or £3 a month) and you can adopt for yourself or a friend – donkey adoptions make the ideal gift for birthdays, anniversaries or any other special occasion.

Your gift will help pay for the food and medical care of your chosen donkey, as well as support all the donkeys we help at the sanctuary, Nablus clinic and our mobile clinic. Below are just three of

our donkeys – but you can choose from our wider donkey family by visiting our website at [www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt).

We care for around 250 donkeys at our Sanctuary in Israel and rescue centre in Nablus. We will update you with news about a selection of our donkeys in every newsletter but sadly we're not currently able to send individual updates.

*Thank you for your support.*

**Adopt me!**



Name: **Hope**

Age: **3 years old**

Born: **December 2017**

**Hope** was born at the sanctuary on 23 December 2017 to Rita, rescued from the side of a busy highway. Sadly, Rita has since passed away but Hope has formed a strong bond with another donkey of about her age, Yalon, and the two are inseparable.

**Adopt me!**



Name: **Murphy**

Age: **16 years old**

Rescued: **2007**

**Murphy** was rescued after being beaten mercilessly with electric cable. He was so badly injured that one eye had to be removed but went on to recover and has been living happily at the sanctuary ever since.

**Adopt me!**



Name: **Lily**

Age: **20 years old**

Rescued: **2002**

**Lily** was rescued 19 years ago from a rubbish dump where she was foraging for food. She had been the target of abuse by a gang of youths who had cruelly chopped her ears off.

**Adopt a donkey today by visiting [www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt) or give us a call on 01444 470136 or 01444 470132 and give a donkey the love and care they deserve.**

# Diary from Israel



## Open to the public – again!

As you may have seen on the news, Israel's vaccination programme is far advanced and so the country is almost back to normal. This of course means that the sanctuary has been able to re-open to the public and the donkeys are delighted to have their visitors (and treats) back once again.

We are also hoping that travel between the UK and Israel will once again be possible in the near future so that visitors can begin transporting all the lovely goodies that you have donated for the donkeys, including the nose chain covers which will be passed on to Dr Rakan in the West Bank. Thank you all for your generosity.

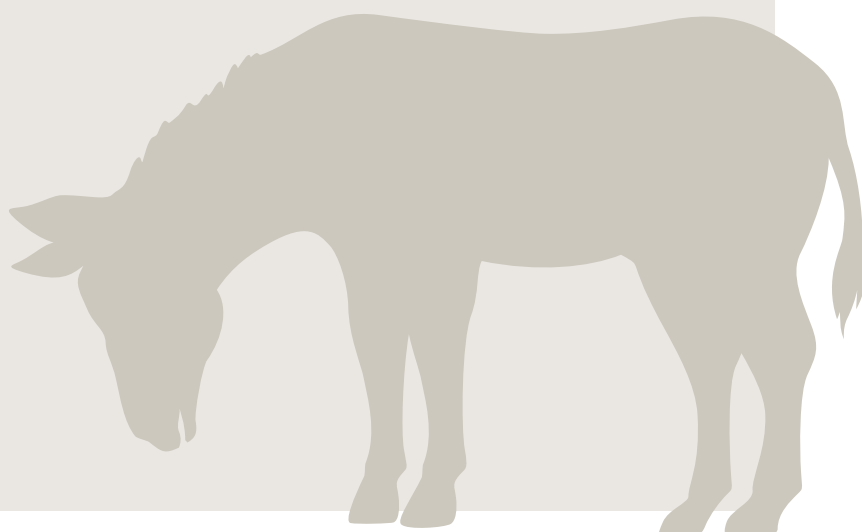


## Donkeys on film



Members of the public are not the only ones who have been visiting the sanctuary – recently, we were contacted by journalist and broadcaster Menachem Horowitz asking if he and his crew could come along and film a piece on our work for Israel's Channel 12. The piece was broadcast in mid-March and generated a great deal of interest in our work.

Menachem enjoyed his visit so much that he adopted a donkey and has promised to come back and see us again soon.





## Weighing scales

Like many of us, some of our donkeys have put on a bit of weight over the last year during lockdown. Equally, if a donkey loses weight, it may be a sign of illness. We have now got our very own weighing scales at the sanctuary so that each donkey can be checked regularly to ensure the herd remains in tip-top condition.



## Carrots for all

Although as mentioned above, the donkeys' weight is carefully monitored, everyone likes a treat now and then and the donkeys are no different. Earlier in the spring, a lovely lady called Gali from nearby Moshav Chavar Lat (a moshav is an agricultural village) visited the sanctuary to donate a large quantity of carrots that were left over after picking them for sale. Thank you to everyone at the Moshav for their generosity.



## Goodbye to Stevenson...



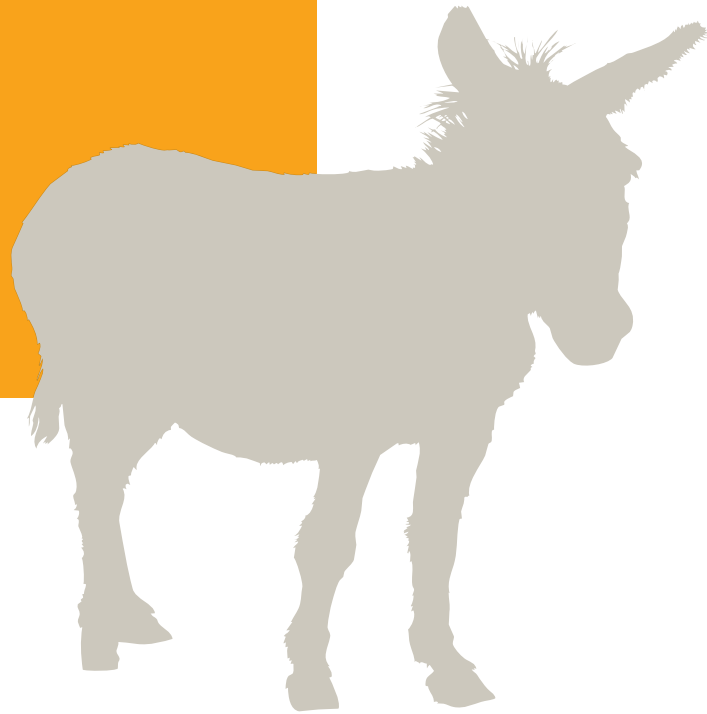
Stevenson had been at the sanctuary since 2002, when he was rescued from being sent to be made into sausages. Sadly, his health failed him recently and the vet decided that the kindest thing to do would be to put him to sleep. Stevenson passed away peacefully after nearly 20 years of love and care, surrounded by his donkey and human friends. RIP Stevenson, you will not be forgotten.

## ...hello to Edo

Five year old Edo came to us in March 2021. A kind lady named Jasmine found him in a town in the north of Israel where he was being abused by a gang of youths. Thankfully Jasmine knew of our work and called us to take the donkey in. She asked if we would call the donkey Edo in memory of her son who had sadly passed away and we were happy to agree. Welcome to our donkey family Edo.



# Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



**As I write, the West Bank is still on lockdown so Nour, Wael and I have not been able to carry out as many mobile clinics as we would like. However, we are still allowed to travel to some areas and are doing as much as we can, as well as helping owners by video call.**

Many of the owners are too poor to pay for a vet even if they could find one that would visit to offer treatment. This is where our team is a lifeline for the donkeys and their owners. Meet 'Beauty', a loyal and hardworking donkey whose job is to carry goods for her owner and act as shepherd for his sheep flock. This she could do in relative safety in the mountains but when her owner moved the sheep to a different area nearer a town, stray dogs attacked the flock despite her heroic efforts to defend them. The sheep ran, Beauty ran and she fell into a deep gulley sustaining painful injuries. The farmer contacted me and when I visited, I found the donkey suffering shock as well as the physical wounds. Thankfully I was able to save her and visited a month later to check on Beauty who was by now well enough to undergo much needed dental work and treatment for worms and talk to the farmer about the importance of this sort of routine care. One happy donkey, one happy and better informed owner. Nobody can ever evaluate the happiness of that farmer except us when we saw him wrap his arms around her neck with a big smile.





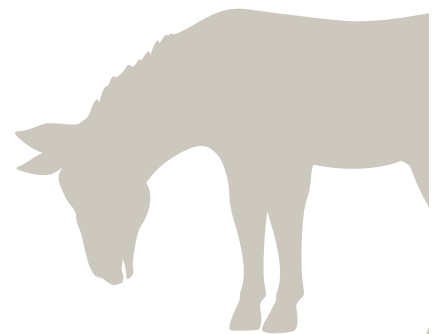


A few weeks ago, I was asked to look at a donkey which had been found wandering the streets of Nablus. In the past, a nylon rope had obviously been used as a head collar and this had become embedded into the donkey's muzzle, causing terrible wounds. It had cut all the way through the donkey's skin and flesh to the bone – the photos are so distressing that I cannot show you here. I checked the donkey over and apart from his wounds, he seemed healthy and in good condition so I decided to see what I could do to help. I gave the donkey anaesthetic and painkillers, tidied up the wounds and sutured them. Over the next few weeks, the donkey had several operations and is now well on the way to recovery. It is hoped that he will eventually be able to go back to the kind man who rescued him.

Whether by deliberate cruelty or terrifying accidents like these, the suffering for a donkey, mule or horse is the same – we treat all cases by bringing relief to the

animals and some timely education for their owners. This is what Safe Haven for Donkeys is all about – changing the country donkey by donkey.

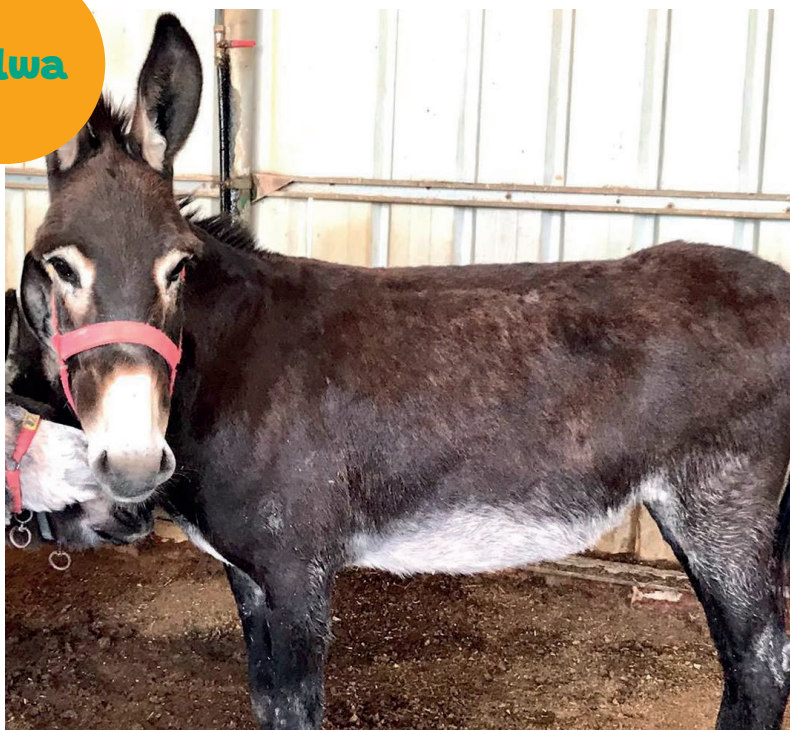
One example is this horse which was an undernourished foal when I encountered him on one of my visits to a town in the north of the West Bank. Recently, I went back to the same town and the proud owner brought the horse, now all grown up, to see me. The owner has been looking after his animals well, thanks to the advice and support I gave him.





As usual, we have some new arrivals to our clinic in Nablus...

Salwa



Salwa was found as a stray wandering the streets of Bethlehem by Nariman Kiriaco. Nariman took her to her aunt Rose's property but Rose was unable to cope with looking after her and felt that Salwa's living conditions were not suitable. Salwa was also lonely without any other donkeys to keep her company. Rose contacted Safe Haven for Donkeys and we were able to transport Salwa to our Nablus clinic – she arrived on 21st February 2021 and has already settled in and made new friends. Thank you Nariman and Rose for caring for Salwa.

Donnie



Ten year old Donnie arrived at our Nablus clinic a few weeks ago. A man brought him to us – he had found an abandoned donkey in the streets of a village to the south of Jericho with a strange "twisted" leg. He had been told by local people that the donkey, which had no owner, had been hit but a car. He rescued him and tried to treat him with antibiotics and wound ointment. He took a photo with his phone and came to our Nablus clinic, trying to describe the donkey's condition. It turned out to be a broken part of the femur which meant that the donkey could survive but would not be able to work again. We convinced the man to bring the donkey to the shelter so that he could live the rest of his life in peace. The next week, the man brought the donkey and after a general check-up, he was vaccinated and castrated. He then joined the other donkeys at the clinic.



...as well as saying a couple of sad goodbyes.

**Frankie**



## Rest in peace Frankie and Clara

You may remember that in the last newsletter I told you about Frankie, a new arrival with a growth on his leg. Frankie was in his 40s which is incredibly old for a donkey and sadly, his general health deteriorated until I felt it would be best to put him painlessly to sleep.

Clara, who had been with us for some time, was also quite elderly and again, her general health deteriorated and she eventually passed away. It is always sad to lose one of the donkeys but we will never forget any of them and will carry on our vital work in memory of them all.

**Carla**



In our last newsletter, we told you all about our new project in the Hebron/Bethlehem area. Sadly, Dr Eyad Naser and farrier Saleh Jaber have not yet been able to start treating donkeys in the area – the area is one of the worst in the West Bank for covid cases and is still on full lockdown. However, they have both completed additional training with our team in Nablus and are ready to get started as soon as they are allowed. Thank you so much to the Petplan Charitable Trust for their donation of £4,500 towards this project and also Jodi who has made a substantial gift in memory of her uncle Bud. As soon as we can, we will be putting your money to good use.

**We can only treat donkeys and provide advice and support to the owners thanks to your donations – if you would like to help, please see the form enclosed with this newsletter or visit [www.safehaven4donkeys.org/donate](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/donate)**

# Ways you can help...

*giftaid it*

## Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme allows charities to reclaim tax on donations received from supporters who have paid sufficient income or capital gains tax during the year to cover the amount we would be reclaiming from HMRC. If you are a taxpayer and have not already completed a Gift Aid declaration, please complete the form with this newsletter so we can reclaim even more to help the donkeys!

If you would like more information on the Gift Aid scheme before signing up, just call Wendy on 01444 470136.

Remember, if you are no longer a tax payer, please let Wendy know.



## Standing orders/direct debits

We already have over 1,000 supporters who give to us regularly and these payments are vital in helping us to plan for the future of the charity. If you can spare a regular amount each month, quarter or even year, please visit [www.safehaven4donkeys.org/fundraising/how-you-can-help/](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/fundraising/how-you-can-help/) or call 01444 470136. You can now also set up a regular gift via your credit/debit card or Paypal by visiting the donate page on our website.



## Recycle

Donate your used postage stamps, stamp collections, postcards, first day covers, old or foreign coins/bank notes, pre 1940s maps, watches, medals or badges. Simply send direct to Stamps N All, Dept SHADH, PO Box 245, Plymouth, PL5 2WX (please do not send donations or items for the donkeys to this address and please note that the company is unable to acknowledge receipt of packages due to volume of work).



## Home Collection Boxes

Ask us for one of our home collection boxes. Collect up all your loose change for the donkeys! Just call Melanie on 01444 470132 or e-mail [melanie@safehaven4donkeys.org](mailto:melanie@safehaven4donkeys.org)



## Ebay

Sell an item via popular online bidding site Ebay and you can donate the profit (or a percentage) towards our work.



## Amazon Smile

Instead of going to the main Amazon website, just visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1083468-0> and shop as you would normally do. 0.5% of your spend will be donated towards our work.





# Thinking of writing or updating your Will?

Why not ask us for a copy of our Will writing worksheet to help you plan what to include before visiting your solicitor. Just call Wendy on 01444 470136 or e-mail [wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org](mailto:wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org)

If you are having difficulty getting out to see a solicitor, we are now partnered with Bequeathed, who offer free Wills and valuable advice. Their simple and convenient service allows you to make the right Will for you in the way that best suits you – online, face to face or over the phone. You will be asked if you would like to leave a legacy to Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land but there is absolutely no obligation to do so. To find out more, visit [www.bequeathed.org/p/safehaven4donkeys](http://www.bequeathed.org/p/safehaven4donkeys)

## DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

In carrying out our day to day activities Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land processes and stores personal information relating to our supporters and we are therefore required to adhere to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant Acts and Regulations. We take our responsibilities very seriously and we ensure the personal information we obtain is held, used, transferred and otherwise processed in accordance with that Regulation and all other applicable data protection laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Personal information we might collect includes your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date of birth, whether you are a tax payer (for Gift Aid purposes), bank account details if you set up a regular payment, donations you have made or events in which you have participated. On occasion, we may need to look up your telephone number in the phone book to contact you regarding a donation you have made - we would then store this data in our database in case it is needed for the same purpose in the future.

We collect this data for purposes including the processing of any donation made by you, to provide you with any products or information you have requested or for internal record keeping/accounting/administration. Having supported us, under the "legitimate interest" condition for processing data we believe that you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter and occasional additional appeals or updates on our work and so we will also use your details for this purpose.

If you use your credit or debit card to donate to us, buy something or pay online or over the phone, we will ensure that this is done securely and in accordance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. All card details and validation codes are securely destroyed once the payment or donation has been processed. Other information will be held as long as is reasonably necessary to allow us to continue to communicate with you or to comply with relevant legislation. For example, the HMRC require Gift Aid declarations to be retained indefinitely.

We will not sell, share or swap your information with any third parties unless required to do so for legal reasons (for example to the police). We do send the names and addresses of our supporters to the printers who produce our quarterly newsletter. They also comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and use your details solely for the purpose of mailing the newsletter. They do not retain the data or use it for any other purpose.

It is your choice on the type of communications and information you receive about our charity and the ways in which you can get involved. You can change your mind at any time by contacting us by post, e-mail or phone using the contact details on page two of this newsletter. If you have a complaint about how your data is processed, please contact us in the first instance. If we cannot resolve the situation, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. You also have the right to request copies of any data held about you and to request rectification of any inaccuracies.



# Thank you...

**St Nicholas Church**, Barton le Clay for their donation of £50 following Daisy the donkey and owner John Barton's visit to their Palm Sunday service.



**Mick and Jean Izzard** for raising £400 from the sale of plants and pickled onions.

**Fiona Mackey** for raising £445 from the sale of marmalade and donations.

**Margaret Erwin** for raising £345 from a quiz.

One of our wonderful USA supporters **Jodi** for her substantial gift towards our new Hebron project in memory of her Uncle Bud who loved horses and donkeys.

**Sue Lambeth** for raising £40 from the sale of chutney.

**The Petplan Charitable Trust** for their generous donation of £4,500 towards our Hebron project.



**'Birds, Beasts, Bipeds and Bandicoots'**  
an exhibition of original art works  
by the British Artists Anton Ratnayake and Tom Callis  
and the Australian Artist Shevaun Bernard.  
From August the 23rd to August 29th, 2021  
at the fashionable NOHO STUDIO'S in Fitzrovia,  
46 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 7QA,  
about 3 minutes walk from Oxford Circus.  
Admission is free.

100% of all sales of Art will be donated to the charities  
'Safe Haven for Donkeys' Reg Charity No 1083468  
'Animal S.O.S' Reg Charity No 1119902

[www.safehaven4donkeys.org](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org)



**Safe Haven  
for Donkeys**