



Safe Haven  
for Donkeys

Winter 2022

# NEWSLETTER



03

Diary from Israel

06

Donkey stories

09

Adopt a donkey

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# Contents

- 02 Welcome message
- 03 Diary from Israel
- 06 Dr Rakan's donkey stories
- 09 Adopt a donkey
- 10 Ways you can help
- 11 Legacies/Data Protection
- 12 Thank you's

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Kay Burley  
Peter Egan  
Anthony Head



## Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. We were hoping to be able to report that our CEO Andy Foxcroft had at last been able to visit the sanctuary in Israel and rescue centre in Nablus but sadly, Israel closed its doors to overseas visitors just a few days before his visit. Hopefully he will soon be able to make the trip as we have lots of exciting things planned for this year if Andy can get to Israel and the West Bank to kick them off.

We also have to let you know that very disappointingly, our bank have advised us that we are no longer able to accept cheques in non-UK currency into our bank account. Therefore we have to ask any of our supporters outside the UK who would like to donate to do so by credit/debit card – either online, over the phone or by post using the form enclosed with this newsletter. We apologise for the inconvenience but this is out of our control.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Jayne Snape who very kindly offered to send nose bands to Israel from the UK on our behalf. This has helped ease the backlog of items in the office but we do still have quite a lot of items waiting to go to Israel – we will let you know when we are able to accept more.

In the meantime, thank you all so very much for your support. Thanks to you, in spite of another very difficult year, we have been able to accomplish so much for the donkeys and with your help, we plan to do even more in 2022.

Warmest regards,



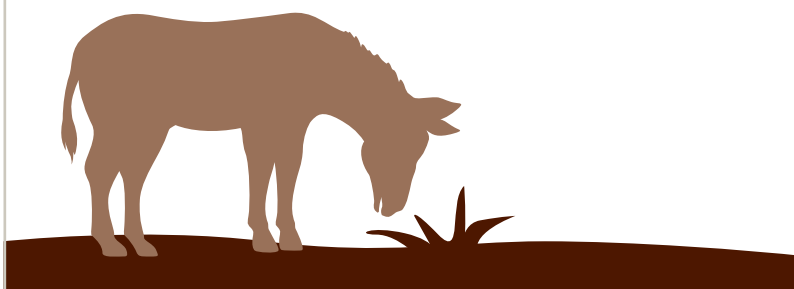
Melanie



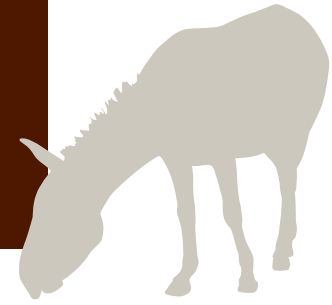
Fiona



Wendy



# Diary from Israel



## Visiting the Donkeys



At the time of writing, the Omicron variant of Covid is still prevalent in Israel, as it is in the rest of the world. Thankfully however, symptoms seem to be milder and so the sanctuary is still able to remain open, although visitors from overseas are still barred. We hope that by the time you read this, the situation will have improved so that our CEO Andy Foxcroft and veterinary advisor Anna Harrison can make their long-planned visit.



## Wet Winter

It is of course winter and although Israel is mostly a desert country, it still gets very cold and wet at this time of year. Every winter we make extensive preparations at the sanctuary, including renewing the poly tunnels which keep the donkeys warm and dry and many of you generously donated to our appeal for this at the end of last year. One problem that we never seem to be entirely able to overcome is flooding. The sanctuary is on very flat land and despite laying sand and digging drainage ditches and tunnels, torrential rain can see the land waterlogged and the donkeys tucked up under cover.

This, and the fact that we really need more room for our donkeys, has led us to re-visit the idea of moving the sanctuary to a new location. This has been considered several times over the years but for one reason or another has never come to fruition. We would love a bigger site which would not only give the donkeys more freedom but would also allow us to have a visitor centre and facilities for education programmes. As soon as our CEO is able to get to Israel, the hunt for a new site will begin in earnest and we will let you know in a future newsletter how we are getting on.

## Playing for the Donkeys

The donkeys have however received many visitors from within Israel and are always grateful for a stroke on the nose and a carrot or two. One visitor recently went even further by bringing his keyboard and playing for the donkeys. They certainly seemed very interested!





## Hospital Trip



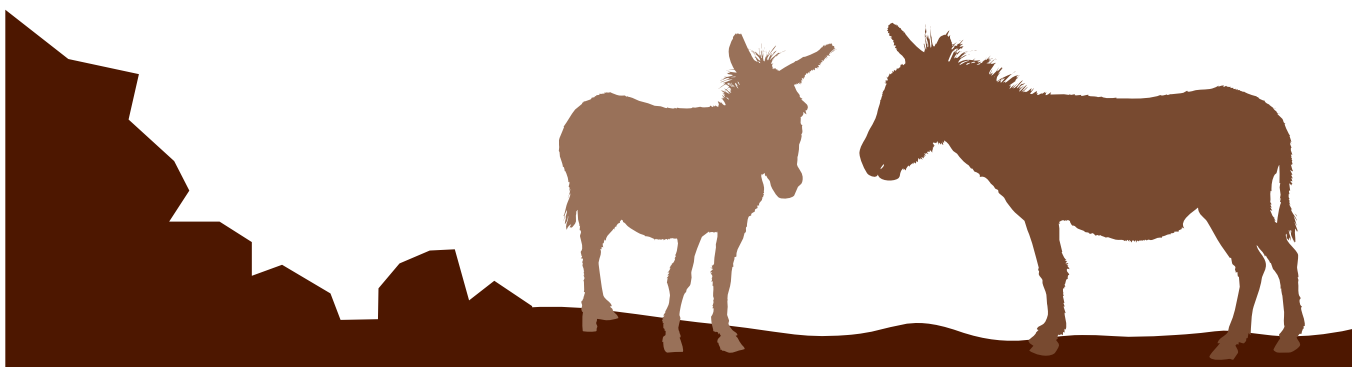
One of our donkeys, Tzvika, had to be rushed to hospital when our vet spotted a nasty abscess in his right eye. He spent a week in hospital receiving intensive treatment under sedation and was on an IV drip. His best friend Jordy the donkey went with him as “bonded” donkeys can experience severe stress if separated which can even kill them. Thankfully, after a return visit for a check-up, the specialists at the hospital gave Tzvika the all-clear and his eye is now fine. Thank you to all who donated to our emergency appeal to fund Tzvika’s treatment.

## New Home

In the meantime, we have been approached by a date farmer who would like to rehome 30 of our donkeys. Their only “work” would be to graze his land, keeping the scrub clear and naturally fertilising the soil. This would be ideal for the donkeys and would create more room at our sanctuary. Of course, we will check out the conditions the donkeys would be living in before we allow them to go, we will visit to check on them regularly and our vet and farrier will still attend as needed. If all goes according to plan, we hope that other local farmers might take up the idea.

## Army Help

Since our last newsletter, we have only rescued one donkey, a female of about 20 years of age. In early November, our sanctuary team received a phone call from a soldier at an army base in the Negev desert to say that a stray, wounded donkey had been wandering around the area. Our team immediately drove down to the base and with the help of some of the soldiers, managed to get the donkey into the horsebox. It was immediately obvious that the donkey, who the soldiers asked if we could name Lychee had a huge wound around her neck. Our vet met the team back at the sanctuary and straight away started treatment. Thankfully, Lychee’s wound was soon healed, although she will probably always bear the scar.





## Donkey update

### Burnie

Many of you have asked how Burnie is getting on as he is one of our most adopted donkeys. It is now over 14 years since Burnie came to us after being callously set alight when he strayed onto someone's land. Burnie, who was given his name so that no-one would ever forget the terrible trauma he'd been through, suffered terribly and it was touch and go whether he would have to be put to sleep. Fast forward 14 years and Burnie is one of the friendliest and happiest of our donkeys. Some of his fur never grew back and he has to have cream applied to his fragile skin every day but he is always first at the food trough and just adores his carers Moussa and Ali.



### Hope

Another of our popular donkeys is Hope. Hope was born just before Christmas 2017 to Rita, who was pregnant when rescued earlier in the year. Sadly, Rita has since had to be put to sleep but Hope has a new best friend in the shape of Yalon, a young donkey rescued at about the same time. The two are inseparable and both are healthy. Like all the donkeys however, they will be happier when the weather improves as donkeys love sunshine and warmth.

### Murphy

Murphy, another of our donkeys who has been with us for over 14 years and is loved by our supporters and visitors alike, continues to do very well. Before he arrived at the sanctuary, he had been so badly beaten with an electric cable that he had lost an eye. A few months ago, he suffered a bout of colic but thankfully, due to intensive treatment by our vet and team, he made a full recovery.



**Thank you to all who adopt Burnie, Murphy, Hope and our other donkeys – your support really does mean so much.**



# Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



**Like Israel, the weather here in the West Bank lately has been very cold and wet. Thankfully, the donkeys living at our clinic have been tucked up in the warm and dry.**

When the Nablus facility was set up some 11 years ago, it was only ever intended to be a clinic. Donkeys would come in for treatment and then return home to their owners. However, over the years, donkeys have come to be resident at the clinic for various reasons – sometimes their owners do not want them back, sometimes we have found strays or they have been brought to us. We currently have around 30 donkeys here and ideally, they really need more room. We are therefore hoping to find a new site later in the year; one which will not only provide space for our resident donkeys to run and play

but which will also allow us to hold regular training for owners and student vets and human/animal interaction sessions for children. We are very excited about this and will update you as soon as we have more news.

In the meantime, we have continued to rehome some of our donkeys as “shepherd donkeys” to local farmers wanting donkeys to roam freely with their flocks of sheep. Donkeys are very good at sounding the alarm if a flock is threatened and their bray, perhaps not surprisingly, seems to scare the predator away. Of







course, I visit all the rehomed donkeys regularly to check on their wellbeing and if their living conditions were not suitable, I would not hesitate to take them back. This arrangement works well – the donkeys have freedom to roam and graze and space is freed up at the Nablus clinic.

On Christmas Eve, I was delighted to take part in a piece on Sky News in the UK. As well as chatting to our CEO Andy Foxcroft, the presenter Kay Burley (who of course is also one of Safe Haven's patrons), spoke to me at the Nablus clinic via Zoom. I was delighted to be able to tell her all about our work and introduce her to young Kay the donkey, her namesake. Of course, the other donkeys wanted to get in on the act as well and one of them ended the broadcast with a loud bray! The piece

introduced a number of new supporters to our work and I would like to welcome them to the Safe Haven family.

We have also had several new members of our donkey family since the last newsletter. You have probably already heard about Pen, born at the Nablus clinic and named after Pen Farthing, founder of Nowzad, the charity which rescued service dogs and other animals from Afghanistan. Little Pen has become quite a celebrity on social media – he seems to love playing up to the camera.

We also have two other little foals – Geoffrey and Katie, both a few months old. They are doing well and are already growing strong and healthy.

**Pen**



**Geoffrey**



**Katie**





As well as looking after our resident donkeys, Wael, Nour and I have also been busy travelling across the north of the West Bank, holding four clinics a week in different towns and villages across the region and treating hundreds of animals a month. I am delighted to report that in areas that we regularly visit, we are not only seeing healthier animals but are finding that many owners are beginning to take much more of an interest in the care of their donkeys. We have a long way to go to achieve our goal of healthy and well cared for animals across the West Bank but we will never stop trying.

Of course, there will always be emergencies and just recently, I was called out in the middle of the night to a horse which had suffered a deep wound. I was able to stitch the wound, gave the horse painkillers and antibiotics and will follow up with the owner to make sure the wound is healing as it should.



As you know, in 2021, we were finally able to realise our dream of expanding our mobile clinic work to the Hebron area of the West Bank. There is so much need in the area but as Nour, Wael and I are kept busy in the north, we just could not cover the south as well. We were delighted to be joined by vet Dr Eyad Nasser and farrier Saleh Jaber who are running clinics based at the Hebron animal market every Friday.

The wonderful news is that Dr Eyad and Saleh are seeing an improvement in the condition of the animals which visit regularly, however there are more animals needing help, not only in Hebron itself but also in the Bethlehem area and across the south of the West Bank. We have therefore decided to increase the clinics from 1 day a week to 2 and may possibly increase still further later in the year to enable the whole of the south to be covered. Thank you so much to the wonderful Jodi F and Pet Plan Charitable Trust whose support has made this project possible.



**We have many exciting plans for the year ahead and it is only thanks to you all that we are able to achieve our goals for the donkeys – to support our work, please fill in the form enclosed with this newsletter, call 01444 470136 or visit [www.safehaven4donkeys.org/donate](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/donate) – thank you so much.**



# 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.*



Name:	<b>Pen</b>
Age:	<b>5 months</b>
Born:	<b>2021</b>

**Pen** was born at our Nablus rescue centre at the end of August 2021 and named after Pen Farthing, the founder of Nowzad which rescued service dogs and other animals from Afghanistan.



Name:	<b>Jordy</b>
Age:	<b>23 years old</b>
Rescued:	<b>March 2001</b>

**Poor Jordy** was one of the first donkeys rescued by Safe Haven – his ears and tail were cut off in a political demonstration.



Name:	<b>Valentine</b>
Age:	<b>15 years old</b>
Born:	<b>2007</b>

**Valentine** was born at the sanctuary in Israel on 23 February 2007, just a few days after his heavily pregnant mother Carla was rescued on Valentine's Day.

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.

# 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 making your Will?

Gifts in Wills are vital in helping to secure the future of the donkeys at our sanctuary. If you are thinking of leaving Safe Haven a legacy after you have taken care of your loved ones, 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) or call 020 8191 0587.

### 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...

In spite of the uncertain times we all faced in 2021, more of our supporters than ever have been busy raising funds for us – thank you so much! Here are just some of our heroes but please know how grateful we are to each and every one of you...



**Eliza Percival** for raising £554 from a sky dive.



**Edward Duffy** for raising £6,411.69 from the London Marathon and our thanks to all who sponsored him.

**Ruby** for raising £272 from a sponsored silence.

**Sylvia Osborne and Myra Gunn** for raising £1,808.89 from car boot sales.

**Trella Dudley-Wallis** for raising £500 from stalls at local events.



**Diane Ward and Jenny Scantlebury** for raising £1,000 from the sale of craft items.



**Alex Aitken** for raising £345 from the sale of craft items.

**Mick and Jean Izzard** for raising £300 from the sale of plants.

**John Hobby** for raising £102 from busking.

**Margaret Jennings** for raising £600 from the sale of plants.



**Anton Ratnayake** for raising £3,000 towards our work from an art exhibition in London (the total raised was £6,000 which was split between ourselves and Animal SOS Sri Lanka).



**Members of our Mid Sussex Friends of the Donkeys Volunteer Fundraising Group** for raising £102.70 from a stall at Haywards Heath Town Day.

**Janet Parsons** for raising £500 from the sale of craft items.

**Jayne Snape** for sending out nose chain covers from the UK to Israel.

