



**Safe Haven  
for Donkeys**

Summer 2022

# NEWSLETTER



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#### Find us on the internet:



[www.safehaven4donkeys.org](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org)  
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#### Royal Patron:

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The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG  
Desmond Lynam OBE  
Kay Burley  
Peter Egan  
Anthony Head



## Dear Friends,

The year is flying by and by the time you read this, we will already be almost halfway through 2022.

Now that life is becoming more "normal" again, we have once again been able to start attending fairs and other events to raise funds for the donkeys. Please visit our website for the latest information and if you would like to hold a stall at your local summer fair, please get in touch as we will be happy to supply collecting boxes and publicity materials and add details of the event to our website.

Our CEO Andy Foxcroft has been able to take items out to Israel and the lovely Jayne Snape has been posting parcels of nose chain covers but because no-one was able to go out to Israel for so long, we still have a lot of items in the office. We will let you know when we are able to take more.

In the meantime, thank you from the bottom of all our hearts for your continued support. As part of our Safe Haven family, you are helping to transform the lives of so many animals in desperate need.

Warmest regards,



Melanie



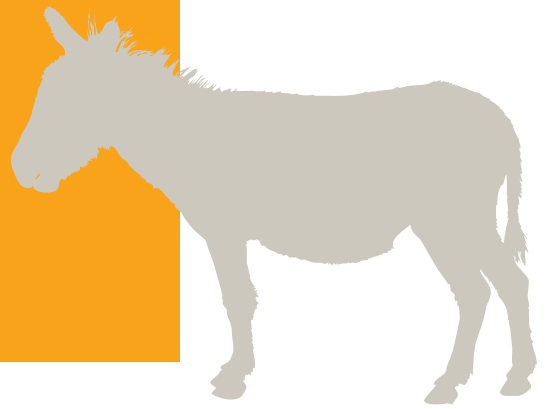
Fiona



Wendy



# Diary from Israel



## Sanctuary visit



We are delighted to say that our CEO Andy Foxcroft and veterinary advisor Anna Harrison have at long last been able to visit Israel. They were both pleased to spend time with the donkeys and to catch up with sanctuary staff Tarek, Ali, Moussa and Dusty. You can read a report from Anna on her visit over the page.

We also had a film crew visit the sanctuary in March – keep an eye on our social media and our website [www.safehaven4donkeys.org](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org) for the results.



## Elderly Ed

Ed the tractor is a vital member of our team, moving hay from one part of the site to the other and scooping up muck. Without Ed, we would probably need to double the number of workers at the sanctuary but he is now getting rather elderly and it is proving extremely difficult to find the parts he needs. We will soon need to retire him and replace him with a brand-new tractor which will be a very expensive but necessary purchase to ensure the donkeys can be well looked after.

## Donkey home

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we might be looking for a new and larger site for our sanctuary. Whilst the search continues, we have been presented with an alternative option – the owner of our existing farm has a large additional field which he would be willing to allow us to rent. We are looking into whether we could solve the winter flooding issues at the current site and if so, with the extra room, staying put would certainly be a possibility. We will keep you posted.

## Welcome Rafa

We were delighted to welcome a new member of our donkey family in March – three-year-old Rafa was found wandering in a field by a very kind lady who brought him to our sanctuary. He is healthy and has settled down well with the other donkeys.



**DID YOU KNOW?** It takes 320 tons of hay a year to feed the donkeys at our sanctuary and each ton is about £238. That's over £76,000 just to feed the donkeys. Your donations literally put food in our donkeys' mouths – thank you so much for your support.

# Visit to Israel and the West Bank

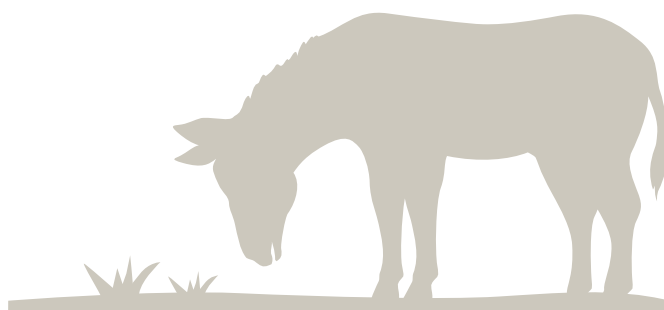
**Anna Harrison, our volunteer veterinary advisor writes...**



## **The best cure for covid!**

Well – almost two years to the day since my last visit to Safe Haven and the world has become a different place. The travel arrangements were planned meticulously- not by me I hasten to add - but, oh so much in the way of paperwork and health checks, I was wondering if it would all be worth it. And then I spotted the first of many donkeys and I knew it absolutely was! There are no words to explain the calmly tranquil aura that envelopes this very special sanctuary.

Compared with some other equine charities it is a very humble place but it offers unrivalled care by the small, dedicated team and it's clear that funds are directed towards donkey care and welfare rather than plush buildings which is exactly as it should be. It was a real pleasure to meet Tarek and Ali who have both got a serious case of the donkey bug and join our wonderful Moussa in the daily care of the donkeys. They are masters of all trades, from mucking out, poo picking, grooming, building maintenance and so much more. And Dusty brings the sanctuary to life for the visitors who are now starting to return.





## I hope you may be interested in a catch up of a few of the donkeys:

### Anna

I've known Anna since before she was born – Gali was heavily pregnant when I first visited in early July 2019 and Anna was born later that month. She was a gorgeous foal when I first met her in February 2020 and has grown into a stunningly beautiful girl, every bit as good looking as her mum and older brother, Yalon. Never having known any fear or abuse she is a happy and confident donkey and adored by all the visitors who she plays to shamelessly. If you've got it, flaunt it is her strategy! She's never far away from Gali who still puts her in her place when she acts a bit too much like a diva!



### Yalon and Hope

Yalon and Hope are still close buddies and woe betide anyone who tries to come between them. They're a wonderful example of the close bonds that can form between donkeys.



### Litchi

And then there is Litchi (Lychee). Rescued in the Negev Desert, having been found with a horrendous neck wound caused by a tight rope that was deeply embedded, we can only guess at her history. Whether she was abandoned or escaped is not known but what I can be sure of is that she is in the very best place and, thanks to intensive care by the local vet and sanctuary staff, the wound is looking so much better. She is a sweet and gentle old donkey and is learning to trust and even enjoy her new life in the best of company (other donkeys) and with all the love she can handle. I suspect she has never had any dental care before and her teeth were found to be in a very poor state. Any of you who keep donkeys will know how vitally important it is to have their teeth professionally examined at least once a year.





A visit to see Dr Rakan at his Nablus clinic is always inspiring. He veers from being the complete professional – offering the best of treatment to desperately needy animals to being a serial donkey hugger when with his own ‘babies’! He only has to call and they come running. Kay is growing into a beautiful young lady and Pen is completely adorable and very cheeky.

While the donkeys Dr Rakan cares for are safe with plentiful food and affection, they really need more

space and the big dream for this year is to try and find a new site with more space where these wonderful young donkeys can run and play to their hearts’ content.

If you’re reading this, the chances are you are a supporter of this fabulous small charity. So, a big thank you from me and please know that your support is very much appreciated and we cannot do what we do without you.



*Postscript... Despite the very best of care dear Lychee was finding it more and more difficult to eat and maintain a healthy bodyweight because of her loss of multiple teeth. For us the loss of a tooth or two is no big deal for but equids it is life shortening - do have a look at the educational videos on the Safe Haven website (under publications) if you want to know more. When her quality of life started to fail, she was gently put to sleep surrounded by those who loved her. It is absolutely our responsibility to give these precious donkeys the best life for as long as we can but to recognise when the time is right to give them a peaceful end.*



# 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.

*\* If we are unable to supply a cuddly donkey, we will provide an alternative gift*

*Thank you for your support.*



Name:	<b>Hope</b>
Age:	<b>4.5 years</b>
Born:	<b>December 2017</b>

**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.



Name:	<b>Moshe</b>
Age:	<b>2.5 years</b>
Rescued:	<b>October 2019</b>

**Moshe** was only a few months old when he was found by the side of a busy highway, standing by the body of his mother who had tragically been knocked down and killed by a car. Moshe now lives at the Sanctuary and has made lots of new friends.



Name:	<b>Pen</b>
Age:	<b>10 months</b>
Born:	<b>August 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.

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.



# Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



**Firstly, a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who donated to our special appeal to equip my colleague Dr Eyed Nasser’s mobile clinic in the south of the West Bank.**

Dr Eyed started running this mobile clinic with his farrier Ahmad in the Bethlehem/Hebron area last year as it is difficult for Nour, Wael and I to cover the whole country on our own. He soon realised just how many animals desperately needing help there are in that region so the clinic increased from one to two days a week and we plan to increase still further.

Dr Eyed has been using his own vehicle and equipment since he began but he desperately needed a better vehicle and more up to date equipment such as an electric tooth rasper and a portable ultrasound machine.

Thanks to your generosity, we have started to buy some of the items Dr Eyed needs and I hope that in the next newsletter, I will be able to show you photos of a fully equipped Hebron team in action.

In the meantime, Dr Eyed will be visiting me at the Nablus clinic in the near future to receive some additional specialised training.







We have not had any new rescues since I last wrote but I have been busy looking after the 30 or so resident donkeys at the Nablus clinic. The youngsters, including Pen, Geoffrey and Katie, are growing and all the donkeys are thriving.

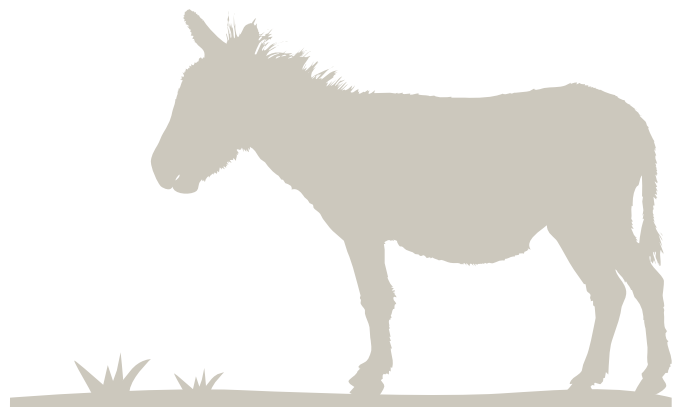
You may remember that in the last newsletter, I mentioned that we are looking for a new and bigger site for the donkeys as the Nablus facility was only ever intended to be a clinic/hospital, not a sanctuary. I have not yet found anywhere suitable – the search is continuing and I will update you when I have more news. It would be so lovely for the donkeys to have more room but it must be the right location and we will need someone to stay overnight with them to make sure they are secure.

Recently, a little horse was brought into the clinic by a man who had just bought her for his grandchild. It was obvious that the horse had been badly neglected by her previous owner and I immediately set up an IV drip to fix her severe dehydration. I also dewormed her and gave her oral vitamins and rasped her teeth – I am pleased to say that by the time she left the clinic, she was already looking and feeling so much better.



This young donkey was also brought to the clinic by his concerned owner – the foal had been grazing with a flock of sheep but had slipped and fallen onto some sharp rocks, resulting in a nasty wound. I cleaned and disinfected the wound, dressed it and covered it to protect from flies.

I am so pleased that word is spreading about our work and owners now know to bring their animals to me if they need help.



# 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 and enabling us to carry on looking after working animals in the West Bank. 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)

### Free Will

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.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome Anton Ratnayake as a new Trustee of the charity. Anton, who has an extensive business background, has been a supporter of the charity for many years and as a wildlife artist has organised several art exhibitions to raise funds for the donkeys. Our existing Trustees Niall Duffy, The Countess of Stockton, George Russell and Mike Steel are delighted that Anton has joined the Board.

## Thank you

We are grateful to each and every one of you for your support as without you there would be no Safe Haven. We would like to especially thank:



**Fiona Mackey** for all her hard work making and selling marmalade, raising the amazing sum of £412

**Katharina Streit** for donating a large quantity of head collars for the donkeys and taking them out to Israel

**Sue Lambeth** for raising £50 from the sale of chutneys

**Pat Clark** for raising £80 from a tabletop sale

**Jackie Wilson** for holding a fundraising event at Henfield Bowls Club

**Pat Yeo** for selling hand-made greetings cards to raise funds

**Gaspard and Friends** for their fundraising on Instagram

## Events

**Sunday 19th June** – RSPCA Open Day, Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex, 10.30am. Fun dog show, fairground, stalls and more. Safe Haven's "Mid Sussex Friends of the Donkeys" volunteer fundraising group to have a stall.

**Thursday 15th September** – Quiz Night, The Woolpack, Burgess Hill West Sussex, 8pm. Teams of 6 – entry £5 per person. To book, call **01444 470136** or e-mail **wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org**