



**Safe Haven  
for Donkeys**

Winter 2023

# NEWSLETTER



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Diary from Israel

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Visit to Israel

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Donkey Stories

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## Find us on the internet:



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The Hon Lady Ogilvy KG GCVO

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Anthony Head



## Dear Friends.

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023 and we hope you like the beautiful photo of our Nablus farrier Wael on the front cover.

We would firstly like to thank everyone who donated their precious time, money or goodies for the donkeys in 2022. We know these are difficult times for everyone and your generosity really has touched our hearts.

There is so much to tell you about, both in Israel and the West Bank and we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Here in the UK, we are looking forward to the warmer weather and planning a programme of fundraising events for the year. Would you be interested in running a stall at your local spring fete or similar? If so, we can provide leaflets, collection boxes etc – please do get in touch.

In the meantime, thank you all once again for your support. Together, we have been able to change the lives of so many donkeys and we plan to do even more in the months ahead.

Warmest regards,



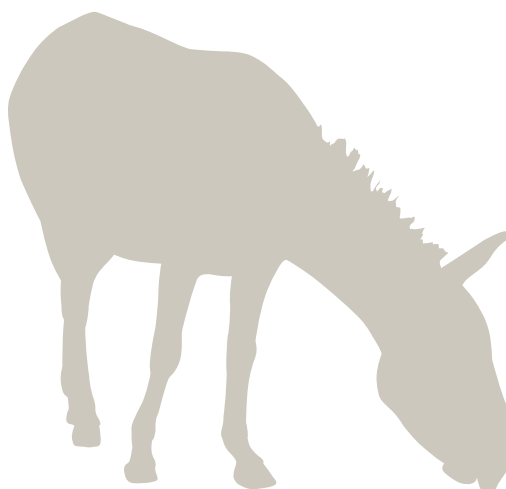
Melanie



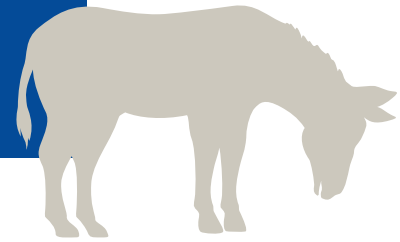
Fiona



Wendy



# Diary from Israel

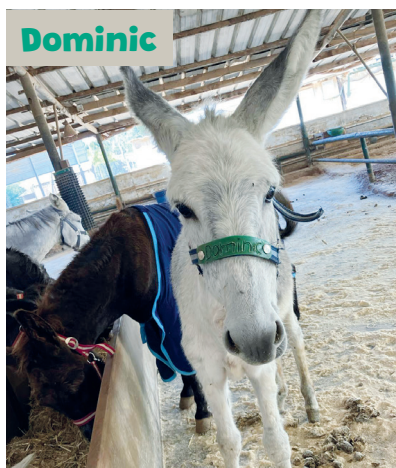


## Visiting Vet

Our CEO Andy Foxcroft and volunteer veterinary advisor Dr Anna Harrison have just returned from a visit to the sanctuary. They took lots of your donations of nose chain covers and other goodies for the donkeys with them and these have been taken on to Dr Rakan in the West Bank. You can read Anna's report on her visit over the page.

## Settling In

We have not had any arrivals at the sanctuary since our last newsletter but we can update you on the two new members of our donkey family we mentioned last time – Dominic and Elijah. Both have settled in well at the sanctuary. Elijah is a very vocal donkey and his braying has caused one or two complaints from the neighbouring properties as once he starts, the others tend to join in the chorus. We hope that he may eventually calm down. Dominic is still in a small area of his own as he has only just been castrated due to his age. In a few weeks, he will be able to go out in the main field with the herd. In the meantime he is enjoying lots of extra cuddles from the staff and visitors – he really is such a friendly and loving donkey.



**Dominic**



**Elijah**



## Staying Snug

The weather in Israel is currently quite wet and cold as it usually is in the winter – the donkeys don't like these conditions so Tarek, Moussa and Ali have put a lot of work into making sure the sanctuary stays as dry and snug as possible. Thanks to your donations to our refurbishment appeal in the summer, they have upgraded the poly tunnels, dug drainage ditches and Tarek has even made new, shallower, feeders for the donkeys to make it easier for them to eat. We are so grateful to them all for their hard work.

## Health Checks

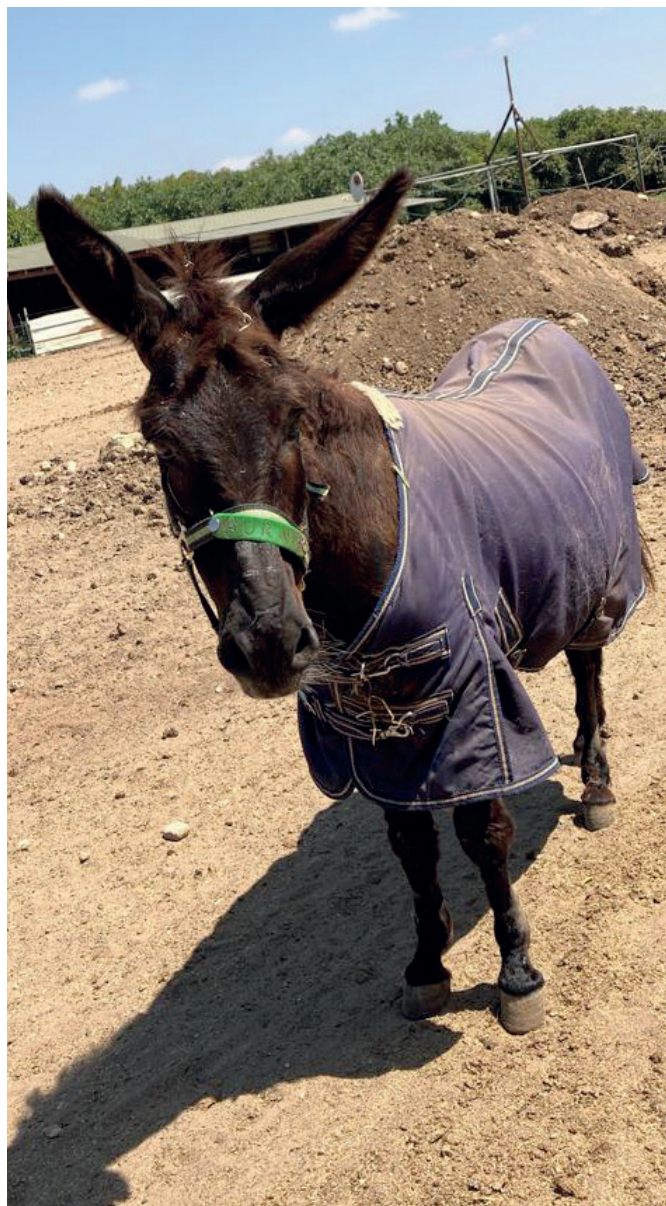
The vet has also been visiting regularly – checking the donkeys' teeth and hooves, treating any injuries and making sure they are all as healthy as possible.

**None of this could happen without your support – thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!**



# Visit to Israel

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

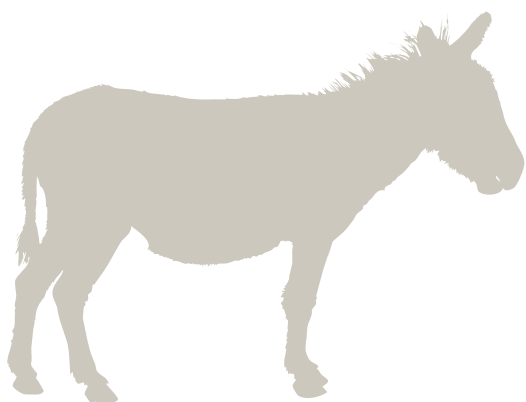


## What a day!

I usually give you an overview of my whole time spent at Safe Haven but this time I'd like to tell you about just four things on just one day – just one magical day.

I'm up at dawn and mesmerized by the scene outside the little wooden cabins we stay in. Groups of donkeys, some flat out and deeply asleep, some awake but yet to rise but always one guard donkey standing quietly alert, ready to warn his friends if he spots danger. Even though these donkeys live a very safe life the behavioural instincts remain strong and this scene perfectly mirrors what we would see in a wild herd. As the sun rises so do the donkeys, many having a morning roll to start the day.

You will all know our beautiful Burnie – deeply and forever scarred at the hands of humans yet so forgiving and so extraordinarily handsome despite the extensive legacy of pure, unadulterated cruelty. Everybody who cares for this donkey adores him and he is treated so gently even though he can be pretty assertive at times! His muzzle is eminently snuggable being made of pure, warm, black velvet. The fragility of his skin means he always wears a rug and the team have been reluctant to let him out in the main paddock for fear he will injure himself. So life is comfortable, even pampered, but just a little dull. On this special day, we decided that he should have a taste of the great outdoors just to see if he would enjoy it. And my goodness, did he enjoy it! We led him to the gate and his ears could not have been any further forward as he spotted the space, the donkeys, and the sunshine. Once through the gate we let him free and he literally galloped for all he was worth, braying and, I have to say, breaking wind in that wonderful way that donkeys do, a little, noisy puff with the landing of each joyous hoof! (thankfully this behaviour is considered socially acceptable amongst donkeys!). His rug was flapping in the wind and his mane and tail literally flying. If you haven't yet seen this black bundle of joy on his big run do find it on Facebook and I promise you will smile. Once he'd run out of steam he stopped briefly, looking around to see if anyone had witnessed this athletic spectacle, performed a magnificently dusty roll, then off he went to meet new friends and find the al fresco buffet. We were all concerned that being too vigorous may traumatize his paper thin skin under the rug but so far so good.







Most of the pictures you see are of a flat, dry, sandy paddock area but this can flood quite severely in the winter. The plan is to create a slope by the addition of substrate material along one side encouraging drainage to the other side. Lorry loads of soil/sand were delivered to the paddock resulting in several large heaps. As you can imagine the donkeys know every inch of their paddock so their first reaction was trepidation at the appearance of these monster molehills. What were they, did they bite, did they hide lions and hyenas? It was fascinating to watch them doing what donkeys do – exercising caution (which those who do not understand donkeys will interpret as stubbornness), weighing up the situation and making a plan. After a few minutes two donkeys decided to investigate further and made their way to the nearest mound, heads up, ears forward and

closely watched by their friends. They sniffed, pawed, snorted and then – completely wonderfully – climbed! Matthew got to the top first and I swear he had a triumphant look on his gorgeous grey face. Dusty gazed up and decided there was only room for one donkey at the top of the heap but he was very happy to find a stick poking out of the mound and had great fun pulling this out and trotting off with it. By this time around 20 donkeys broke cover and walked around the heaps, finding goodies in the soil, climbing and even trying to roll on the steeply sloping sides.

As if this wasn't enough excitement for one day Tarek, Mousa and Ali set about punching holes in huge watermelons that we had bought very cheaply from The West Bank the day before. The huge fruits were



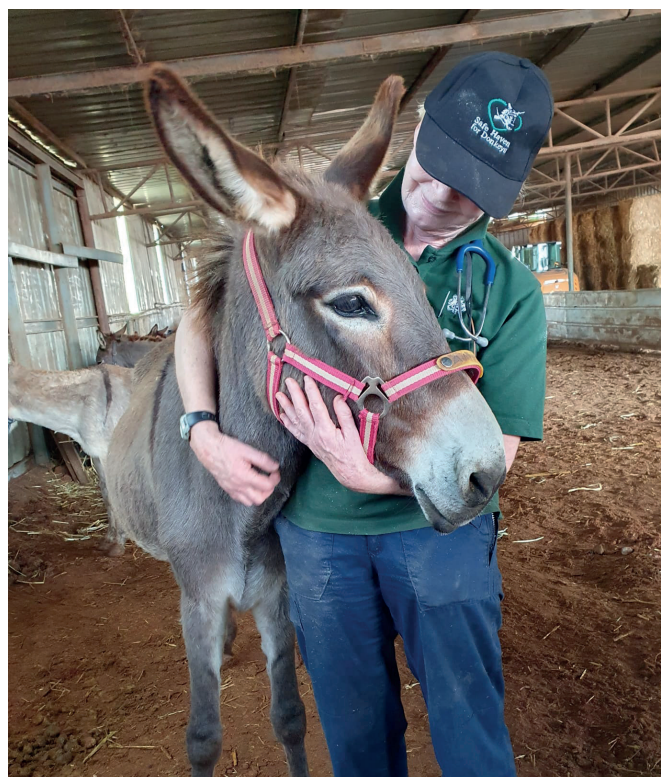


suspended from a tall shelter in the paddock and were gently swaying in the breeze while the donkeys looked on in amazement from behind the gate. When we opened the gate they all congregated around these giant football sized goodies and had to work out a plan of attack. Think apple bobbing on tip toe!. We had given them a head start by cutting a slice out of each watermelon so already some juice was escaping and dropping on the crowd of donkeys only to be licked off by a friend. There was pushing, pulling, slurping, and general excitement and the donkeys soon learned that the only way to stop the massive treats from swinging away from them was to push them against a buddy. This was precision teamwork with one donkey standing rock still, steadying a 3kg watermelon while a friend took a bite or two. Epic enrichment for the donkeys and epic entertainment for us.

And so to the evening when Andy and I could sit on the decking area outside the cabins. We look out on a calm sea of donkeys at the far end of the paddock, enjoying the coolness of the evening after a strenuous day. Earlier we had walked in the neighbouring plantation and gathered fallen branches. Now was the time to scatter these in the paddock and the donkeys literally ran towards them, eagerly grabbing the branches, sometimes two donkeys playing tug of war with one branch and others starting to gnaw at them. Donkeys are natural browsers rather than grazers and love nothing more than to pick leaves, twigs and berries off trees and shrubs they come across in their natural

habitat. This is a simple, free way to satisfy their behavioural need to browse and gnaw.

What a day! Our donkey family had had lots of excitement and it was wonderfully satisfying to bring something a little different to their day. Sanctuary life may be safe and secure but it should never be boring!





# 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.*

**Adopt me!**



Name: **Ben**  
Age: **6 years**  
Rescued: **October 2018**

**Ben** was found wandering a nearby town with a chain wrapped so tightly round his muzzle it had become embedded. Thank goodness our Moussa found him or Ben would have eventually starved as he couldn't open his mouth to eat.

**Adopt me!**



Name: **Dominic**  
Age: **2 years**  
Rescued: **July 2022**

**Dominic** was being beaten by a gang of youths – a kind man took him to a place of safety and then called us. When Dominic arrived, he had ulcers in his mouth and a wound at the base of his tail but he soon recovered.

**Adopt me!**



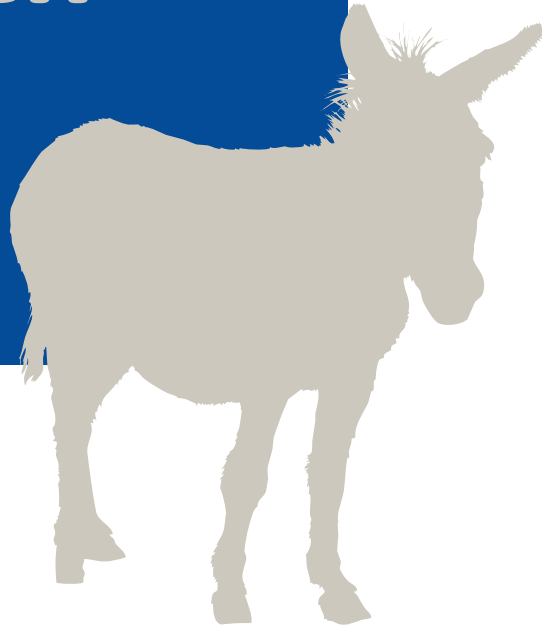
Name: **Jordy**  
Age: **23 years**  
Rescued: **March 2001**

**Jordy** is one of our earliest rescues – he came to us having had his ears and tail cut off in a political demonstration. As he has no tail to flick away the flies, the other donkeys often stand round him and use theirs!

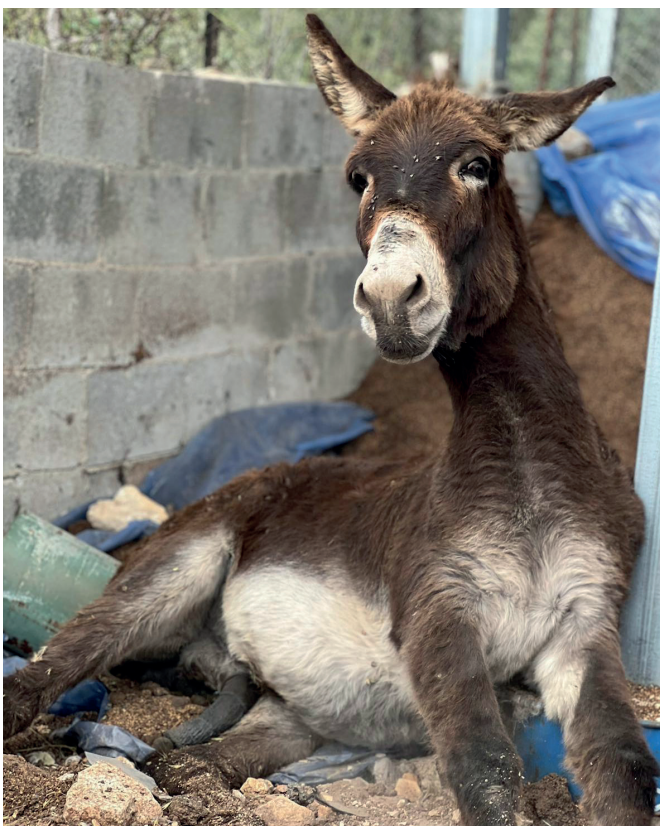
**Adopt a donkey today by visiting [www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org/adopt) or give us a call on 01444 470136 or 01444 470132 and give a donkey the love and care they deserve.**



# Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



**In this issue, we thought we would tell you a special story about one donkey whose life Dr Rakan battled to save. Here is what he told us...**



The story started five weeks ago , when a phone call was made by a stranger at midnight to our Nablus team.

The stranger told us that he had come across a stray donkey which had been hit by a car. The driver had driven off, leaving that poor donkey suffering in the middle of the road.

When we arrived, we checked the donkey's vital signs and searched for any severe injuries, broken bones or joints as these are the usual result of a car accident which mostly lead to us having to put the animal to sleep.

The donkey was not able to stand up – he tried and tried several times by using his front limbs but the rear part of his body looked to be paralysed. At that moment we felt that he would never stand up and he seemed to give up, laying his head on the concrete of the road, tears dropping from his eyes. It was as though he felt the end was coming.

We suspected severe damage to the nervous system from the trauma of the accident. Nerve injuries are hard to treat, even for humans, as it takes so much time and our poor farmers in Palestine don't have the ability to care for a sick animal which cannot work and bring money in for their family, or often the patience to wait for the animal to recover and get healthy again. A neighbour who was around wanted to help that donkey, even though he worked at a local company and didn't have any animals of his own or any knowledge





of donkeys or even animals in general. He insisted that he would take care of that donkey and promised to continue his treatment under our supervision until his last breath.

The donkey was alert and bright even in that darkness and it lightened our hearts and gave us hope that if we continued our treatment, he would live again. So yes, we took the decision to take that risk and help him, postponing any thought of euthanasia until we had exhausted all other options.

As veterinarians, we feel that we have been created to help those poor animals and that it's our talent and our special magic to play that melody. It's our noble touches that keep those spirits alive and healthy and it happens under our God's care and His power

So, we gave the donkey all the needed medications and we transported him to a warm, safe place near that man's house to protect him from the strong sunlight during the day and to keep his body warm in the cold Nablus nights.

The next day he didn't eat so we fixed up an intravenous drip to give him vital fluid therapy and electrolytes to encourage the muscles to contract, with more intravenous vitamins to refresh his nerves. And by working as chiropractors, we stimulated the blood flow through his legs while holding him up with our hands.

We trained the man who had taken the donkey in to help him stand up every day for a few hours.

We visited almost every day to evaluate his body condition, give him medication and estimate his recovery level but one day, his power seemed to be getting weak and he couldn't stand at all. We tried lifting him using ropes to take some weight from his legs for a few hours a day and he spent the rest of the time laying down and resting.

It was a slow recovery until the fourth week when he started to move his legs and walked several steps (that was the moment when all our dreams and prayers came true). He could stand up by himself with only a little help. That was the best improvement ever, especially with his skinny and shivering legs.

It took a long time but finally, he made it!

**Thank you Dr Rakan, Nour and Wael for all you do to help the donkeys. We will have more stories about the work in Nablus, and our other team in Hebron region under Dr Eyed, in the next issue.**



# 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, 32 Eastbury Avenue, Plymouth, PL5 2NB (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)

### 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.



# Thank you

We are grateful to each and every one of you for your support as without you there would be no Safe Haven. There is just not enough space to thank you all so our thanks to:

**Sylvia Osbourne and Dave and Myra Gunn** for raising £1,627.67 from car boot sales



**Janet Parsons, Barbara, Christine, Ros and Val** for raising £1,000 from the sale of craft items.

**Ray Ings** for joining us as a Trustee of the charity. Our existing Trustees Niall Duffy, Lady Stockton, Anton Ratnayake and George Russell are delighted to have him on board



**Margaret Jennings** for raising £500 by selling plants

**Father Terry Martin** and parishioners of St Mary of the Angels, Worthing for raising £1,000 from a fundraising morning

**Mick and Jean Izzard** for raising £400 from selling produce

**John Hobby** for raising £185 by busking

**Mid Sussex Vets** for raising £110 from a collection box

## And finally...

**Adam Durbaba** for agreeing to run the London Marathon 2023 to raise funds for the donkeys. Please sponsor him, either by cheque with "Marathon" on the reverse or online at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/adam-durbaba-safe-haven-for-donkeys](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/adam-durbaba-safe-haven-for-donkeys) – thank you so much!

