



**Safe Haven
for Donkeys**

Autumn 2023

NEWSLETTER



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Find us on the internet:



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The Hon Lady Ogilvy KG GCVO

Patrons:

The Rt Hon the Earl of Stockton
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Desmond Lynam OBE
Kay Burley
Peter Egan
Anthony Head
Jan Leeming



Dear Friends.

What a year 2023 has been so far! Alongside the third mobile clinic unit that we have begun operating in the West Bank, as you know from the letter you will have received a few weeks ago, we have now begun helping the brick kiln donkeys of the El Saf region in Egypt. This is the first time we have been able to expand into a new country and we thank you all for your generosity which has enabled this to happen.

Here in the UK, we have been beavering away to raise the funds needed to keep the charity's vital work going. We have one of our popular quiz nights coming up in October – if you are in Sussex you might like to join us? See back page for more information.

If you would like to hold a stall at your local winter or Christmas fair in aid of Safe Haven, do let us know. These events not only raise funds but also spread the word about our work. We can supply collection boxes and Safe Haven newsletters and leaflets – please contact us on 01444 470136 if you would like to help.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading our updates in this newsletter.

Thank you all so very much for your generosity. We have exciting plans in Israel, the West Bank and Egypt for the months ahead and none of this would be happening without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

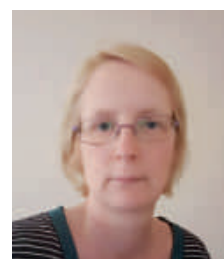
Warmest regards,



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.

We care for around 180 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: **Alby**
Age: **11 years**
Rescued: **September 2012**

Alby came to our sanctuary in Israel from the West Bank, where he was the subject of abuse due to having a damaged ear. The ear has since much improved in our care and you would never know there had been anything wrong.

Adopt me!



Name: **Dusty**
Age: **10 years**
Rescued: **October 2013**

Dusty was just 4 weeks old when he was found wandering the streets of the West Bank town of Qalqilya. He was brought to our sanctuary in Israel, where he had to be bottle-fed.

Adopt me!

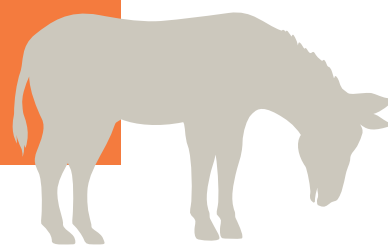


Name: **Mistletoe**
Age: **13 years**
Rescued: **December 2011**

Mistletoe was found abandoned at the donkey market in the West Bank city of Nablus, along with her foal and another orphan foal. The three were taken to our sanctuary in Israel and Mistletoe "adopted" the orphan, feeding him alongside her own foal.

Adopt a donkey today by visiting 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



What goes on during an average day at the sanctuary?

Housekeeping

As you can imagine, so many donkeys create a lot of mess. Every day starts with scraping the sanctuary clean and piling up the poop, which is taken away to be treated and re-used as fertiliser. Nothing is wasted!

The staff also fill the feeders up with straw, including specially chopped straw for the oldies who have trouble eating. We were spending about £2,000 a month on this “short chop straw” but thanks to the generosity of the Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust, we were able to purchase a shredding machine which does the chopping for us.

Moussa and Ali check the donkeys every day, cleaning out hooves, wiping eyes and giving special treatment to donkeys such as Burnie, who has to have cream applied daily.

Our vet, Dr Eliran, visits regularly to look after the donkeys – he checks a different group each week, looking at their teeth, hooves and general body condition. He is then able to carry out any treatment needed to make sure each donkey is in the best health they can possibly be.

How do you keep 180 donkeys entertained?

Donkeys are intelligent animals and enjoy stimulation. This is why our main paddock has piles of earth in it – our donkeys love climbing up and exploring these.

They are also regularly offered branches to chew on and have fun with and Moussa, Ali and the team also give tasty treats such as carrots and watermelon.



Goodbye Elijah

Sadly, we have lost a member of our donkey family since the last newsletter – Elijah, who we rescued last year. He had an old break in his leg from before he came to us which had healed but as time went by, it was obvious that Elijah was having more and more difficulty using the leg so the kindest thing to do was to put him peacefully to sleep. RIP Elijah, you will not be forgotten.

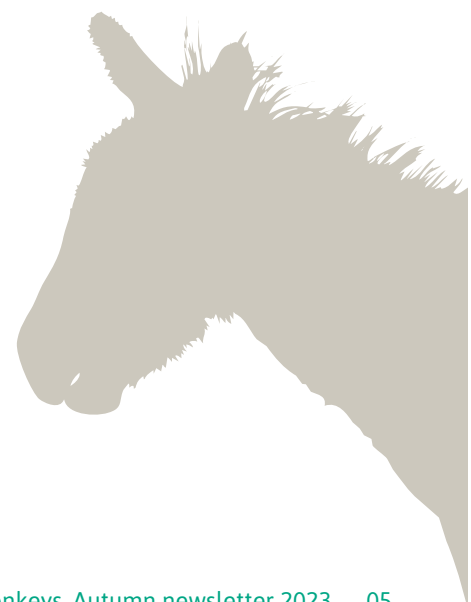


Nader is Growing

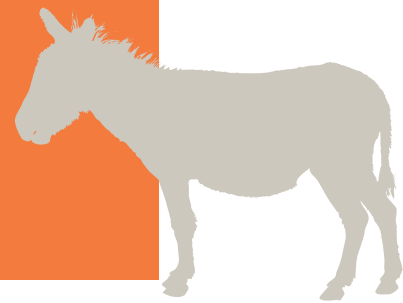
Our little Nader, born earlier this year, is growing fast – at the moment, he and his mother Hope are still in a separate enclosure so that he does not get overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of donkeys. However, every day they are taken into the main field and introduced to the herd so that they all get to know each other and will be comfortable when the time comes for Nader and Hope to go back with them.

Visitors

In addition to the local people who come to the sanctuary, often to see their adopted donkey, our CEO, Andy Foxcroft, and volunteer Veterinary Advisor Dr Anna Harrison will have made one of their regular visits to Israel to check on the donkeys by the time you read this newsletter. We will have a report on their visit in the next issue. They also took with them lots of your donated nose chain covers, Sudacrem and other goodies for the donkeys – thank you so much to all who donated.



News from Egypt



Welcome To Our New Egypt Team

Firstly, a huge thank you to our supporters. In our last mailing, we asked you to help us fund the first year of our new project in Egypt, the first time we had expanded into another country and you responded magnificently! At the time of writing, we have raised over £65,000. Thanks to you, we have already been able to begin helping brick kiln donkeys in desperate need.

L-R: Hamed, Moharram & Dr Shaaban???



We would now like to introduce you to the members of our team and show you how your donations are already making a real difference to donkeys' lives.

Dr Shaaban graduated from the University of Cairo in 2001. In 2018 he received a Masters in Equine Surgery and in 2020, he undertook an internship at the Equine Performance Innovative Centre in Ocala, Florida.

He is helped by Hamed and Moharram, both farriers (Moharram is also a former brick kiln owner). The team work in the brick kilns 6 days a week, dealing with immediate, fixable problems, bringing instant relief to animals that have been in pain. However, we know that is not enough and the team will also bring long-term benefits through education, thereby avoiding further injuries and hoof issues.

Treating an injured donkey

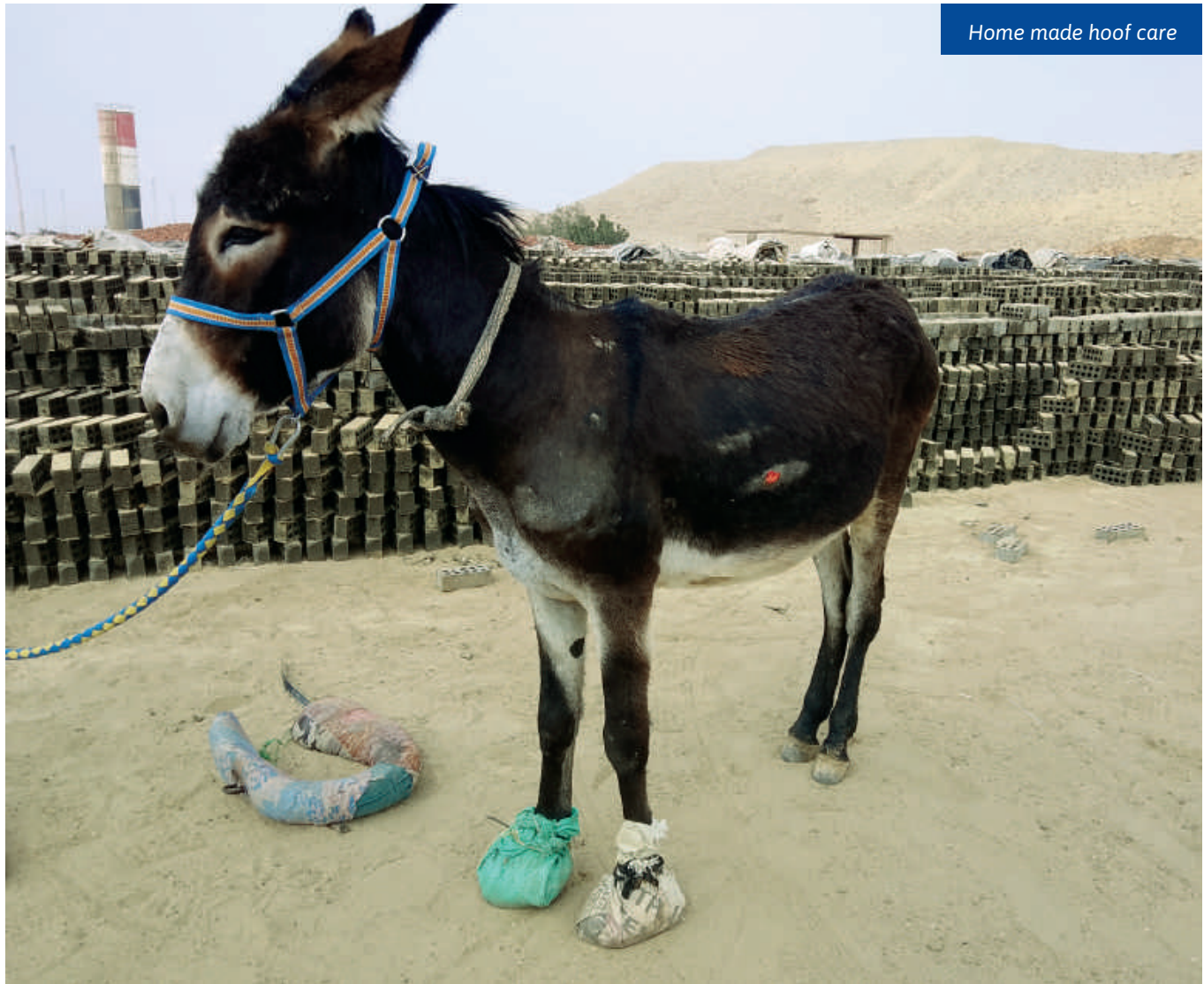


An example of the animals the team have already helped is this poor donkey which was in a cart accident and had a severe lacerated wound in his hind leg. He was new to the kiln and was about 6 years old. His owner called him "the little one" as he is smaller than the other donkeys in the kiln. Cart accidents are common in the brick kilns so we are working with the donkey owners and others in the brick kiln to reduce the frequency of accidents by training on their correct and safe use.

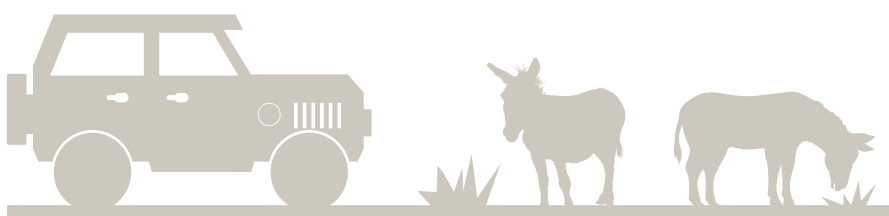
This donkey had been working in the brick kilns for about 4 years and had gone lame due to a hoof abscess. His owner had tried to help him by making a bandage out of old clothes and plastic bags but it did not work. The team treated the donkey by hoof trimming, draining the abscess, bandaging, keeping the hoof clean,

giving him antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, most importantly encouraging the owner to regularly clean the stable. If stables are dirty/muddy, donkeys are more prone to hoof abscesses and thrush so we plan to assess the stables in the kilns and establish cleaning routines as part of an action plan to improve the quality of life for the donkeys.

Dr Shabaan tells us that, other than our team, the donkey owners have no other access to veterinary care for their donkeys as vets will not come to the brick kilns due to the harsh environment. The owners are so very grateful that Safe Haven's team are helping their animals and are very keen to learn and to improve animal welfare in the kilns.



There are no other charities working in the brick kilns of the El Saf region of Egypt and it is thanks to you that we are able to help these donkeys – thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Dr Rakan's Palestinian donkey stories



In the last newsletter, I mentioned to you that alongside my team with Wael and Nour in the northern part of the West Bank and Dr Eyed and Ahmad in the south, thanks to your generosity we had been able to set up a third mobile clinic in the centre of the country, run by Dr Omran and farrier Ali.

My team is on the road every day, travelling hundreds of miles across the West Bank, looking for more and more of those poor donkeys, mules and horses. We help them as much as we can and provide our best services in every single location we reach.

We do our best to meet our animal welfare goals as a humane organisation which treats and protects those poor working animals. With our services which we provide to the farmers and animals, we raise the standard of living for so many neglected animals.

However, Nour, Wael and I cannot cover all of the West Bank alone, especially as some areas are extremely isolated and we are so delighted to be working alongside our Hebron and Jordan Valley teams, caring for so many animals and providing advice and education for their owners.

A few weeks ago, we held one of our busiest ever clinics in the village of Kefl Harith. I had visited that village before and not many animals. This time, we had nearly 100! The owners told me they had heard from the



nearby villages about our work and how we replace head collars, provide dewormers and other medicines, about our hoof trimming and teeth rasping and that we have a new ultrasound machine. Word spread and the owners encouraged one another to bring their animals along, even staying off work that day so they could come. Each and every owner was so very grateful for our help and of course we will visit again.

Since our last newsletter, we have had a new arrival at the Nablus clinic, who we have named Jan after our newest Patron Jan Leeming.



I first met Jan the donkey in the Balata Refugee Camp on the outskirts of Nablus. She had a terrible wound on her rump where she had been pierced by a sharp piece of metal. I persuaded her owner to let me take her to our clinic for treatment. After draining the wound which had by this time formed an abscess, every day I gave Jan painkillers and antibiotics and applied ointments. The treatment took weeks and her owner eventually decided he didn't want Jan back. Jan is now living with the 30 or so donkeys at our Nablus clinic.

As you know, we have for some time been looking for a new site for the donkeys which currently call our Nablus clinic home. There is just not enough room in the clinic for so many animals and think we have finally found a site in the Jenin region of the West Bank. Many of you may have seen Jenin in the news but the site is far away from the city and the donkeys will be quite safe – they will also have someone to look after them and I will visit regularly. I hope to have more news on this soon.

Thank you for your generous support which allows all this work to happen.



Ways you can help...

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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.



Regular donations

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, please visit www.safehaven4donkeys.org/donate 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.



Recycling – please read

We are sad to say that due to the retirement of the owner, Stamps N All has now ceased trading. Please do not send any further items for recycling. Thank you so much to all who have sent stamps and other items over the years – if we find another company which will take these, we will let you know.



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



Ebay

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



Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations with Easy Fundraising? Simply go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to sign up, choose us as your favourite cause and get shopping!



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**

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**
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. We would especially like to thank:

Jan Leeming who has generously agreed to become a Patron of Safe Haven for Donkeys – thank you Jan for all you are doing for the charity!



Sheila and Adrian James who raised £100 from an open garden.

Trella Dudley-Wallis who raised £1,000 from various stalls.

Pat Yeo who raised £80 from the sale of hand-made greetings cards.

Mary, Sarah, Justine, Peter, Honor and Fran, our “Mid Sussex Friends of the Donkeys” volunteer fundraising group. This group has been running since 2005 and has raised thousands of pounds. Thank you all.


The group’s next event is a quiz night on October 5th – see poster below and do reserve your place if you would like to come along as the event often sells out!

Niall Duffy

who has just stepped down as our Chair of Trustees after 6 years on the Board. Thank you Niall for all your support and best wishes for the future.



**The Woolpack Public House
Burgess Hill presents...**


quiz night 

Thur 5 Oct—8pm

Entry £5 per person (includes light snack) - teams of up to 6

Pay on the night but reserve your space in advance - 01444 470136

All proceeds to

 **Safe Haven
for Donkeys**

(charity 1083468)