



Newsletter

No 86

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Open to visitors by appointment only,

Adults £4:00 OAP/Children £2:00 or £10:00 per car. Groups/Schools/Clubs by appointment. Special needs visitors please telephone to discuss your needs.

NB All visitors it is always advisable to telephone 01443 480327 or 07798584735 before you visit.

PROVIDING TENDER LOVING CARE TO NEEDY HORSES & PONIES



This is a picture of Angel galloping at full pelt. She has been so old and decrepit around the yard last winter we really didn't expect this! Here the ponies are going out to grass for the summer. We would have expected her to maybe trot out with the

others and follow up the rear, but instead she tore off and arrived in the middle of the bunch. They have been out a few weeks now and we already have to watch out for laminitis in the ponies. Inset picture left is of Iggy, Star2 rolling. Poppy and Spike. Right picture is Tinkerbelle, Megan, Rocket, Iggy rolling, Angel and Star. Last year if we let her up on the higher ground she took ages coming back down. They were confined to the yard quite a bit as it was such a wet winter. So we saw how Angel walked. We have moved several elderly ones into the front field as its nice and flat and close by. Angel has taken to sleeping by the water tank just by the garden fence. Trouble is she is a very noisy sleeper and often wakes the dogs up, then they start to bark and we are all woken up!

News, Views and thanks of how you help us help them.

News came that one of the ponies we have fostered out had become ill and shortly after passed away. Sparkie (right) had been with Jayne for a long time. It left her other fostered pony Judy on her own so we took Thunder (left) to keep her company. Sparkie was an unwanted foal and given to the Charity. He was fostered as a companion in 2001. Jayne is a lady Doctor and the ponies have wanted for nothing during their stay.



Whist Coronavirus was raging we had a call from a lady who in looking for a quiet place to walk her dog and found some poorly ponies and sent us some pictures. They were on Council land. The Council's paid staff were very reluctant to do anything. Like-wise the RSPCA who said they could only deal with emergencies due to the Virus. It took some time and several calls to get them to accept this was an emergency as some ponies had already died. In reality it was them knowing there were pictures of the dead and surviving ponies that got them moving. Some while later they did respond and gathered up all 13 of the ponies still alive and took them to a place of safety. All together sadly 5 ponies died. These horses below were some of the rescued who were taken after they did there seven days and were not claimed. They were then taken to permanent safety over 100 miles away from where they were found as it was feared the owners may try to steal them back. We hope to go and see them before winter/



Such awful people on this planet!

Angela clearly remembers seeing a really skinny horse when she was 10. Sixty years later and we still find them every winter. We wonder is some-one not doing their job?

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We have a problem with an invasive weed called Creeping Buttercup we have just bought this mower to try to control it. The plant produces flowers this time of year that will then produce seeds that many birds eat and pass it on through their droppings. It puts out runners like strawberry plants over a foot long that produce several plants along their length and if bits get broken off they will easily take root and grow. Hopefully mowing it and disposing of the clippings will help. Seeds can

spread on tyres, boots etc. The horses don't like the taste of it and tend to graze elsewhere but still pick it up on their feet and fur.

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Bonny after the duck's bread! We have to watch Bonnie and Iggy as they are both prone to Laminitis this year. Last year was a very bad year for it and this beautiful weather is likely to create the right conditions again this year.



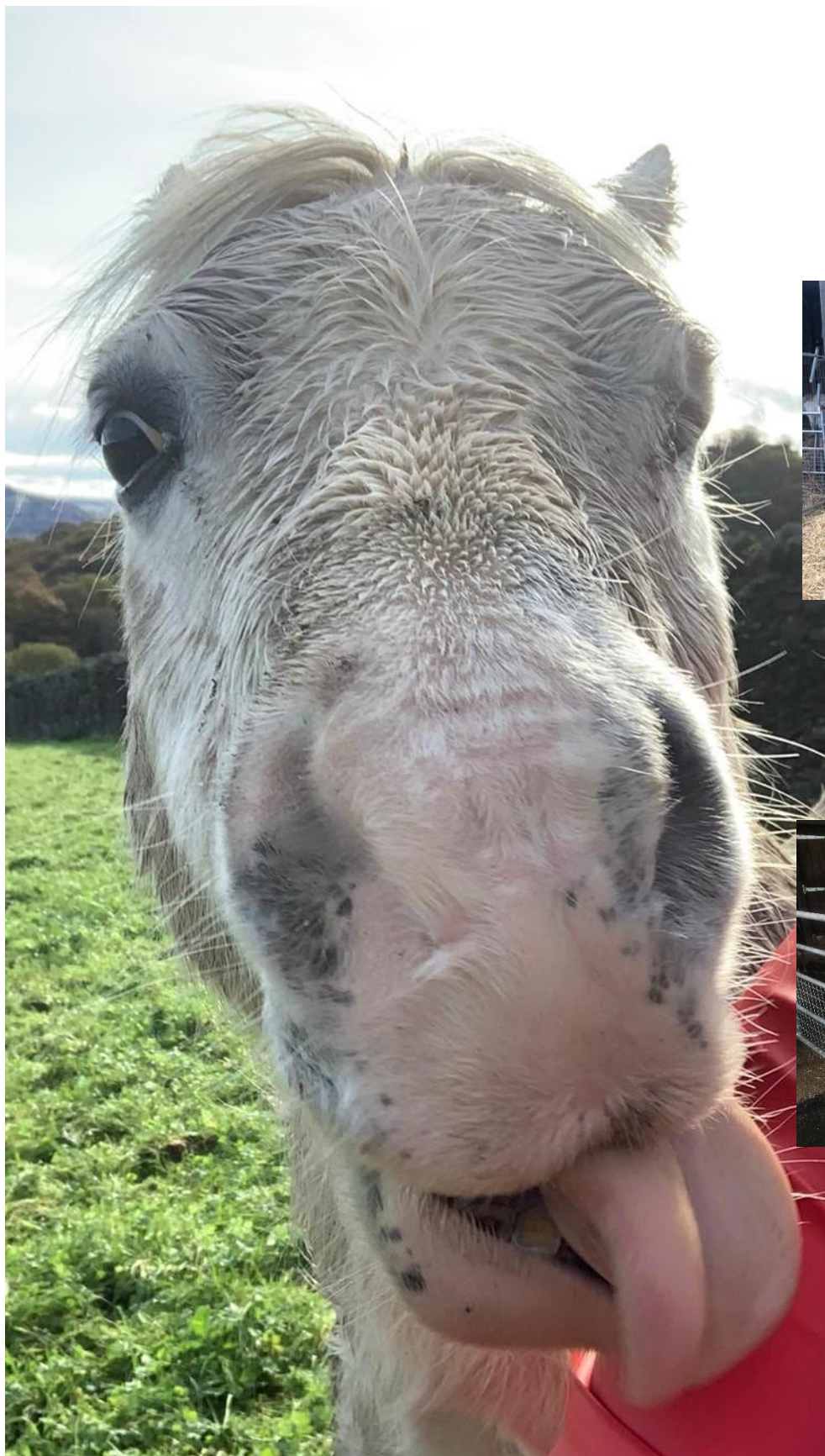
Poppy being friendly with a young visitor.



This is Ellie our granddaughter with Poppy the Shetland if you recall she was absolutely petrified when the farrier came. Of course two men smelling of horses in a van. She was so traumatised even the tough farrier said leave her. As you can see here she is loved by somebody. Even in the field she will go to Angela get a mint and let herself be touched and stroked. And hang around to get another mint if she can. She now has all the summer to forget her tormentors.

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A wet Rocket teaching a young visitor about making funny faces!



Rocket is out enjoying the spring grass. He had a hard time with his eye last winter as you know, his eye is now fine and he is doing very well and back with all his friends. He can spot mints dropped on the ground so we know his sight is ok!



We are awaiting the imminent arrival of a group of four ponies taken to safety from the Swansea stray animal pound. They are apparently strongly bonded together.



Angel making good use of the scratching brush. Its fixed on the gate at the top of the pony's exercise area, many of the ponies use it. You may recognise it as one well-worn front brush from a Council pavement sweeper. We have fixed several other old brush heads around the yard for the ponies to scratch their itches

on. Angel and little Megan use it quite a lot and the birds come and collect the rubbed off fur to line their nests with at this time of the year.

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Rocket picking the sweet grass by the stream.

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Letters from friends.

Mrs Lasseter wrote; Enclosed a small donation for £20 under separate cover is a parcel containing some gold and silver plus many stamps and foreign or no longer legal tender foreign currency etc. Maybe you can raise some money to go towards caring for our precious friends.

Give-a-car sent a cheque for £346.50 from proceeds of an unwanted car donated by Wendy Darlison

Easyfundraising sent a cheque for £55.98 for the ponies for the commission from those of you who use their system to shop on-line. If you would like to join the gang just go to

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pitpony

Mr Alec Morley wrote to share; The Pony with the silver shoes!

It was 1956. The National Coal Board mining exhibition was due to be staged in London. Collieries from around the country were invited to exhibit. The contributions ranged from a giant lump of coal from one colliery to welded sculptures and underground layout models. The management at Williamthorpe colliery where I was an apprentice at the time decided to send something quite novel. They agreed to send one of the underground haulage ponies. One was selected and the lucky pony was brought up blinking into the light of day, taken into the pit yard and given a good scrubbing down and hosing off. Then brushed and combed and trimmed before being passed to the Blacksmith for fitting a new set of shoes.

I happened to be spending some of my instruction in the Blacksmiths shop at that time so I was called upon to be the “striker” to the smith. He forged new pony shoes and fitted them carefully to the pony. Before doing the final nailing on he said that he thought he could do something different that would make the pony stand out. He cleaned the outside edge of the shoes with emery paper then fluxed and soft soldered them a final buffing brought them up like silver.

This animal was the centre of attraction in the pit yard and a source of much admiration and amusement. It was a luck creature, a week’s holiday being petted and feted in London. Unfortunately, then being returned to its underground working everyday existence. The silver shoes soon dulled in the dust and stumbling along the underground roadways pulling tubs of coal.

Mrs Treseder wrote; Please find enclosed a few items to start of the new year. Was born and lived in Port Tennant Swansea as my parents before me. So I know the horrors on mines and men more so my love of the ponies and wanting to save them! I am now 90 and left my beloved Wales to be with my Son and his family in Cornwall where my daughter in law and grandchildren ride on our own land. My son is a civil servant.

A little taste of Wales

Laverbread and bacon Welsh cakes.

Ingredients; 4 Rashers of streaky bacon rind removed and diced. 2 tablespoons of pulped laverbread, 225g self-raising flour, 100 g of Butter or a mixture of butter and lard, 1 medium free range egg beaten. Method;

Dry fry the diced bacon in a frying pan without any added fat until crispy then cool.

In a bowl, rub the butter into the flour until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the cooled bacon and laverbread. Add the beaten egg and mix to form a soft dough. On a floured board roll or pat out the mixture until about 1cm thick and cut into discs. Heat a griddle or large frying pan to a medium heat and cook gently until golden brown on both sides. Only grease the griddle if the Welsh cakes are sticking,

P.S. Laverbread is available on-line from E-bay etc.

Mwynhewch y pryd! (Enjoy your meal)

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Donations have recently been received in memory of;

Betty Hudson

Phyllis Barrass,

oO-o-Oo

Donations from "Give a car" their old car from Wendy Darlison.

<https://giveacar.co.uk/charities/the-pit-pony-sanctuary/>

Should you make a will be careful who you choose as executors? We have recently had papers from solicitors acting as executors of a deceased lady's estate saying they were charging £260 per hour and expected to book 30 to 40 hours and another one charging £190. Any-one can be appointed as an executor but they must be over the age of 18 and have mental capacity. An intended beneficiary can also act as the executor of your estate. You must name a minimum of one executor, most commonly this is a spouse, partner or child. You can appoint up to four executors in your Will but they must act jointly, this means they are all equally responsible in the administration and all have an equal right to participate. However having a lot of executors can sometimes cause complications and disagreements, the more people involved the more opinions there will be. It is most common and recommended that two executors be appointed. The advantages to this is that if one is not able to act there is still an executor who can take on the job, a 'back up' executor. It also means that the work can be split between them, making the process more manageable. This can help to reduce stress and pressure on the executors by sharing the responsibility. Who should you choose to be your executor? When choosing your executor, it's important to remember that your last wishes will be in their hands, you should pick someone you know will honour your instructions and make decisions that best benefit your estate and its beneficiaries. An executor can be a beneficiary and therefore it in their own interests to get the job done.



Some more pictures of ponies galloping out for summer. Top left Arnie. Right Spike, Bottom left Star probably 32 years old. Sorry about the fuzzy photos I am no photographer.

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