



# "EEYORE"

## News from the Tamar Valley Donkey Park June 2003

Hello from all the donkeys! Thank you for adopting one of us last year. We are pleased to be able to tell you that we had a much better year last year. Foot and Mouth went away and our visitors all came back, so we had plenty of carrots. The season started off very well with the busiest day we have ever had on Good Friday.

Our people had a very special year, because in July a new little person was born. Our person **Tamsin** had a baby girl called **Bethany**, so we now know we will have people to look after us for many years to come! Although only 11 months old now, she already likes to ride on our backs.

**Arkle, Colleen, Copper and Karina** have once more been out and about representing the Park. Arkle and Colleen went to Church on Palm Sunday. Arkle would not go into Church, he does not like gratings, so the congregation had to pat him on the way in and out. Colleen went to St. Cleer Church and behaved perfectly for the whole service and then walked down the aisle so that the people could take Palm Crosses out of the baskets she was carrying on her back. They went together to Callington Gala Day in July, to an open day at the Vets in Tavistock in May and to Trago Mills Store at Christmas. Arkle once more carried Mary in a nativity play at Mannamead church in Plymouth just before Christmas.

**Copper and Karina** went to St. Cleer summer fete, Yealmpton Agricultural Show in August, the PDSA fund raising event on Plymouth Hoe in August, Tavistock Dickensian Evening in December and to Trago Mills at Christmas. The new Donkey Box was very well used last year!

Unfortunately it is not all good news, we lost **Hugh** our youngest donkey a few months ago. Hugh was born in 1996 and his mother died soon after he was born, so he was hand reared by two ladies, who rather spoilt him! When his only animal companion, a sheep, died in 1998 he was very lonely and so came to live at the Park. He was a very pushy donkey who thought our people were there just to feed and pet him. He never seemed to put on weight however much grass and hay he ate, so the Vet did a blood test and found he had chronic liver disease, maybe from something he had eaten when he was very young. The Vet suggested he had special feed every day and he was allowed to wander the Park whenever there were no visitors. He was beginning to look really well, however one evening in late January this year when rain was expected over night, so we were all in the Donkey House, Hugh suddenly fell to the ground, so we all eeyored very loudly and Tamsin came running to see what was the matter. Our people sent for the Vet at once, but it was too late. The Vet said that this can happen very suddenly like this with liver disease. We all miss him and his cheeky ways very much.

**Connie and Punda** began giving rides last summer, Punda to very small children only as he is our littlest donkey. He took to giving rides very well; it was if he knew that was his job! Connie is a bit more temperamental, some days she is very happy others rather stubborn.

The Donkey Park took in a great many unwanted rabbits and guinea pigs last year, including a giant French Lop called Maddy, who had been eating her owner's wallpaper. Please make sure before you buy a rabbit or a guinea pig that you really want it and have the time to look after it.

Our people have very exciting plans for this year. They will soon start building a play barn to be called the "**Donkey Drop-In**". It will have indoor play and covered rides for wet weather days, so the children and us will stay dry when we give rides.

The Donkey Park Website ( [www.donkeypark.com](http://www.donkeypark.com) ) is being well used, with many of you choosing to adopt one of us from it, thank you.

Father Christmas came back yet again to visit us (he likes it so much here). This visit he set up his office and when he was not seeing children, he spent his time ordering his toys and gifts on his computer and keeping his eye on the elves in his workshop with his webcam, as they made toys right up till Christmas Eve! Lots of children had a donkey ride to the office and then went in to tell Santa what they would like for Christmas.

We all hope you will be able to visit us again this year. All the other animals and our people have asked us to say a big big thank you once more for all your support

Love and lots of eeyores

from

***Arkle Beamish Bridget Colleen Connie Copper Gemma Georgina Grizelda  
Happy Joyce Karina Kiltie Kit Mary Nelson Pebbles Poppy Polvier Punda Ringo  
Roy Sasha Snubs Teddy***

**PS The pictures on the front of this letter are of (from top to bottom)  
Nelson, Hugh(much missed), Georgina and Grizelda**