

NEWSLETTER

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AS SEEN ON TV

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DONKEY PARK

EEYORE News July 2007

Once again a big EEYORE hello from all the donkeys. This latest newsletter will bring you up to date with what is happening to us all. We want to thank you for adopting us, as it helps to keep us in the style we have become accustomed to! Our people send their very best wishes.
Love from all the Donkeys

Big Kiss from US



BRIDGET

Our oldest donkey is now the grand old age of 48 years. She is doing well considering this, her teeth (what she has left) are checked by the equine dentist every 6 months and with two special feeds a day we are managing to keep weight on her. Her main problem is arthritis in her hind legs, she currently has daily pain/anti-inflammatory medicine and we are currently saving up to buy her a made to measure magnetic rug at a cost of around £300.



Bridget Copper (lying) & Kit



Bridget

KIT

You will all have met her on your visits to the Park, she was rescued after being found tethered with wire. Due to the injuries caused she has ongoing problems with her feet.

We now have a new farrier who is able to put special glue on shoes on her, this makes walking much more comfortable and we hope it will improve the condition of her hoof wall. The shoes have to be changed every 5 weeks at a cost of £50, but they are worth every penny as **Kit's** quality of life has improved so much.

BATTLE AGAINST SWEET ITCH

Sweet Itch is an allergic reaction and therefore an immune system problem. The disease is a hypersensitivity to insect bites and an over-vigorous response by the animal's immune system. In the process of repelling invading insect saliva (which actually contains harmless protein) the equine attacks some of its own skin cells 'by mistake' and the resulting cell damage causes the symptoms described as Sweet Itch.

Symptoms include severe itching, hair loss, skin thickening and flaky dandruff. Exudative dermatitis (weeping sores, sometimes with a yellow crust of dried serum) may occur. Without attention sores can become infected.

Unfortunately we have 3 donkeys (**Copper, Roy** and **Beamish**) and 1 pony (**Bracken**) who all suffer from this horrendous allergy.

Copper, Roy and **Beamish** all have special rugs, which they wear from dusk until dawn (when the midges/insect are at their worst). They are also dosed daily with a topical solution called benzyl benzoate. **Bracken** has the same treatment, but does not have a rug as he ripped his to bits in one night and when each rug cost over £120 it was decided try something different, so he has a special feed supplement which had excellent result last year.



Copper in her Snugglyhood



Beamish & Roy

AS SEEN ON TV

A CBBC Best of Friends programme was recorded at the Donkey Park in spring 2006 And has already been broadcast several times



Children of Chernobyl

Once again the children of Chernobyl visited the Donkey Park as our guests. They had a great time and more will be coming in 2007.



JOYCE AND TREACLE

Joyce kept us hanging on and on and on and on. But eventually she gave birth to a lovely little boy on Tuesday 27th June 2006, who has been called **Treacle** after the donkey in the book "The Magic Flying Donkey". **Jacko** is a very proud father again.



YEALMPTON SHOW

Every year we take a donkey to promote the park and raise much needed funds. **Colleen** has been entered in the Versatile Donkey Class for the last 2 years and has come 1st and then 2nd after putting in a near faultless performance.

In 2006 we decided to take **Poppy** as well, she was entered in to the Pet Donkey Class and after a very slow but totally faultless round she was pulled out to take first place. She received a red rosette and cup presented to her in the main arena.



Colleen is saying to Caroline
*"Donkeys like chocolate crepes
They do they do"*



Poppy with Helen & young Bethany



See I told you they do !

DEPARTED FRIENDS

It is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to **Molly** and **Girty** (pigs), **Polvier Bobby & Buster**(donkeys), **Betsy** (goat) and **Po** our lovely Collie Cross who was only 6 years old and spent many hours with old David in the kiosk.

They are all greatly missed at the Park.

NICK CAPEL

Nick has been volunteering with his Mum at the Park since July 2005. He has cerebral palsy and epilepsy and came to us to complete his Duke of Edinburgh GOLD Award. We are very proud of his achievements and he is currently waiting for a letter from The Palace with a date for collecting his award from the Duke himself.

Nick has become an indispensable part of our team and currently helps at the park two days a week.



Nick being presented his certificate by BBC Spotlight presenter Victoria Graham

THE DONKEY SANCTUARY BEACH & WORKING DONKEY COMPETITION

After our success in 2004 we decided to enter again in 2005 and 2006.

The winning team from 2004 (**Roy, Pebbles, Connie** and **Punda**) won again and took the Best Working Team in the South West Title 2005.

A different team of **Arkle, Snubs, Poppy** and **Kiltie** were entered last year (2006) and kept up the standard by winning the Best Working Team Title again.

Also in 2006 **Punda** was chosen as our individual donkey and he **WON** the Best Beach & Working Donkey in the South West and came runner-up in the National Competition.

This competition is run to increase the standards of welfare for all beach and working donkeys, there are currently thought to be over 900 working donkeys in the UK.



REGIONAL WINNER: Punda, with handler Terri



Winning team and how the Western Morning News always get their picture



PIPPA THE FJORD HORSE

We had just taken her in when our last newsletter was sent out and we were having a few problems with her (I saw her front hoofs in the air far too many times!), her behaviour was due to boredom as we had no rider suitable for her and as she is only young needed daily work to keep her occupied. Due to this it was decided to look for an adoption home for her. **Pippa** has been taken in by a lovely local lady who has completely transformed her, she is being ridden by a young girl who takes her to the local pony club and is having lots of fun. Her owner now describes her as a big soft cuddly teddy bear!!!

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas visits us every year to take his annual holiday with the donkeys before his busy time on Christmas Eve, many children come to visit him in his grotto. He makes sure that each child knows why we celebrate Christmas with the Christmas story.



Its always fun getting the Grotto ready for Father Christmas and young Bethany now takes a very active part. Father Christmas always sends a special message to his American friends, to remind them that it is Happy Christmas and not Happy "Holiday"! because **its Christmas to remember the Christ Child.**



Annie joining the Rainbows , Annie 40 winks , young David & Bridget , the rains came! , smile please , waiting for the baby donkey to arrive , baby Treacle has arrived , Copper says “can I see the baby?” , come on Treacle please start suckling we want to go to bed! , how many bags of carrots did you want ? , come closer , Bridget and friends , Colleen on Palm Sunday

The story on the back page was e-mailed to our Granddaughter Mollie who lives in Santa Rosa . Our son Mark his wife LesleyAnn & Mollie all relocated to Northern California in 2001. We keep in contact on the telephone and Mollie had phoned on Saturday evening to wish Nanna a happy birthday for Sunday the 22nd April.

When you run a Sanctuary like the Donkey Park the unexpected always happens even when extensive plans have been made for Staff, Supplies, Carrots and so on.

Regarding the Isuzu in the tale it unfortunately failed its MOT during the winter and needed some extensive welding. We have not used it on public roads only on the Donkey Park until this emergency. As the winter months are our lean months we could not afford to get it repaired until now, we plan to get it repaired during the summer.

The Tale of Nanna's Birthday

It all started when the alarm went off at 7.30 am and Poppa shot out of bed to make Nanna a cup of tea and feed Tigger (the only day each year!). Poppa then went off to get the papers and go to the park to start feeding the animals. So far so good the girls all turned up and worked well, Poppa had cut up 2 sacks of carrots and we were ready to open for visitors at 10 am. Nanna after seeing staff in café were ok arrived at the entrance to have a cup of tea with Poppa (tea all day!). Nana phoned Great Nan who had changed her mind about coming to the park, as it had got a bit colder. Poppa felt a relief! Then the phone rang it was Julie at Todsworthy Farm where we keep our sheep who eat their grass down. She said one of your sheep has just had **THREE LAMBS**, no I said not possible but she insisted and said there were three! The visitors were all starting to arrive so said I would get down ASAP. I phoned Caroline (animal care young lady) who was at home who said she could go and have a look. Nanna looked after the entrance as Caroline said we should get the mum and 3 lambs back to the park. So off I go in the Isuzu (Taxed and Insured but no MOT) it's only half a mile from us to Todsworthy. When I get there I find not only Caroline but her mum and Linda & Nick our volunteers who were on the way to the park to give Nanna a birthday present, when they got a text from Caroline and diverted to Todsworthy. We man handled Debbie and lambs into back of vehicle and back to park. We thought that that was it but it wasn't we had noticed that some of our other sheep looked a little large! . Nanna & Poppa returned to looking after our customers and Caroline her mum Linda & Nick took charge of maternity wing. Poppa had phoned Tamsin & David in Dublin and David suggested we needed to get a bigger freezer! Tamsin immediately said we have been done again as the only way the sheep could have got pregnant was from one of the sheep with them. A few months ago a guy who had just sold his holiday park near Truro persuaded Tamsin to take in his two pet sheep called Minty & Basil. He confirmed that they had been neutered, as they were unloaded Tamsin shouts *that ones got all its bits* the guy said the sheep was too old to castrate and had therefore had a vasectomy! **We have been had again!!**

Well what could happen next!

At about 3.30 we decided to get the vet out to see Debbie as she was panting and not getting up. Just before the vet arrived someone rushed into the office to say she had just had a fourth lamb and they were trying to revive it, sorry to say we lost it. The vet checked them over and we decided that he should visit the rest to check them out. The next thing is we get a call from Caroline to say the vet thinks we have another three sheep in lamb! Caroline said we needed to get two of them back to the park for lambing. Off I go in the Isuzu as I get to the bottom of the road a jam sandwich (police car) comes around the corner, I had no seatbelt on so quickly went off around the corner and down the lanes to Todsworthy. We loaded up the two mums and headed back to park, as we turn up our road Caroline and I suddenly saw a police high visibility yellow top up the road. Had they seen me?

Caroline said quickly go into our car park and drive up through the park. As we get up to by the café we find Nanna talking to a lady police officer, us not knowing what she was visiting for we busy ourselves unloading the mums. The officer left and we found out that she was the new beat officer introducing herself to us. So Poppa did not get nicked!

All our visitors left and we then had to clean toilets, barn, feed the animals

We then went to visit the old (great Nan) at about 6.20 pm had a cup of tea while Nanna watched Antiques Road show on Great Nan's TV.

At 7.40 back at park checking all the animals and then home to feed Tigger our cat.

At 10 pm down to park for Nanna to feed the lambs some extra milk while I walked Millie (Tamsin's dog), I left Millie in the front garden while I checked if Nanna wanted anything when next Millie had climbed the fence and was out of the garden and thinking of chasing the roaming goats, luckily I managed to persuade her to return to her garden and indoors for a treat, all well and home to bed.

So that was Nanna's birthday (next year Nanna says she is going away!!)