



# Newsletter

**No 84**

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[www.pitponies.co.uk](http://www.pitponies.co.uk)

**Open to visitors = by appointment,**

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 need to telephone 01443 480327 or 07798584735 before you visit.**

**PROVIDING TENDER LOVING CARE TO NEEDY HORSES & PONIES**

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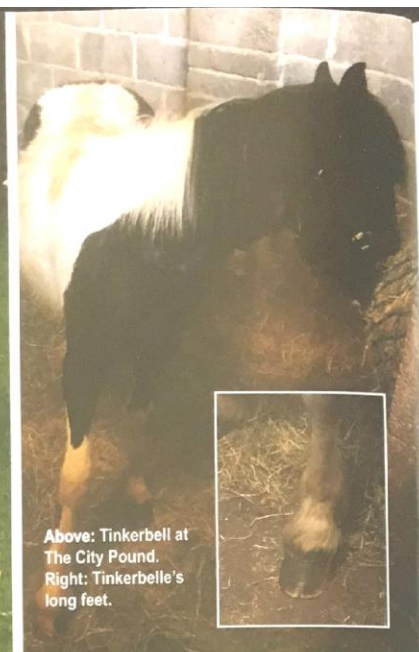
**Iggy & Lady** enjoying the summer breeze and their freedom. Don't you wonder what they are thinking?

On page 2 overleaf is a copy of an ad we ran recently in a Magazine (that's new for us) Called Rescue and Animal Care. It's a free Magazine that is distributed through Vets, Pet Shops etc. The Green ad in the bottom left is our usual ad surrounded by editorial about Tink. PTO

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



# Meet Tinkerbelle AKA 'Tink'



Above: Tinkerbelle at The City Pound.  
Right: Tinkerbelle's long feet.

## From Prison to Fresh Fields- Seeking her Forever Home!

Not long ago, one of the founders of Pit Ponies Roy Peckham, received a call from The City pound. They had a beautiful little girl in and she had done her 7 days and no-one had come for her. They told Roy that she was too young and too good to let go.

Roy instantly agreed to take her. He told them - 'When I turned 70 they took my licence away and gave me a Micky Mouse one! I can no longer tow the horse trailer as I am now only allowed 750KG maximum. Not sure when I can come for her. We need a 3.5 ton horse lorry I can drive. Have to get another piggy bank! Can you bring her? Yes but it will take a while as the lorries and drivers here are very busy. OK we and Tink will have to wait.

### The Pit Pony Sanctuary

Help us turn Horses and Ponies Like this – Into This!



Lady a few days after rescue



Lady several weeks after rescue

After a while we went to see her and take her some carrots. She would not come close so she had them on the floor. Tink was very much all alone at the end of death row. Four grey, easy clean, boring walls surrounded her and she stood in silence all alone with no stimulation at all. I guess we can all imagine the heartbreak she suffered away from her mum and no-other horse to be seen or heard.

When she came she was very nervous for a long time. The other residents here soon told her it was OK here and she has settled very well. Now she spends her days with the herd and just waits for her forever home. At 13.2hh and four years old unbroken it will need to be special home and she deserves it.'

They are a small group in Wales who care for all the Needy Horses & Ponies they can with their meagre resources. They would be so grateful for your help. Sponsor a Pony at [www.sponsorapony.co.uk](http://www.sponsorapony.co.uk)

Online shoppers please use [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pitpony](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pitpony) to help the Ponies whilst shopping on line at no cost to you.

Registered Charity No. 1002933

Visit [www.pitponies.co.uk](http://www.pitponies.co.uk)  
or call 01443 480327/  
Emergency 07798584735



The Pit Pony Sanctuary is a Registered Charity- No. 1002933 providing a safe haven for abandoned and unwanted ponies who have suffered a lifetime of neglect.

Home to a small herd of long-term residents, the Charity's ponies all have sad past life stories and each one is as heart-breaking as the next.

Whilst it's easy to dismiss pit ponies as a feature of Britain's ancient past, the shocking reality is that pit ponies were still being overworked, neglected and mistreated right up until the end of the 1990's. Roy Peckham one of the founders of The Sanctuary, is convinced the practice could still make a comeback, as no legislation has been passed to make it illegal to use working horses underground.

Whilst many of the Pit Ponies they rescued have since passed away Pit Pony Spike survives them all. The Sanctuary continue their work with a real mixture of other types of horses and ponies from an ex Race-horse to tiny ponies.

## *Letters from friends.*

**Miss Ann Davies** wrote; Thank you for the recent Newsletter it's always welcome. Sad news about Dylan, but he is now at peace from suffering. After a hard working life you gave him many years of love and care. I recently celebrated my 75<sup>th</sup> year with many generous gifts I want to share with the ponies. Thank you Ann and we wish you good health and happiness in your 75<sup>th</sup> year.

**Phil Yates** wrote; I was sorry to hear of Dylan's passing. His last years at the sanctuary must have been a joy compared with his life as a Pit Pony. Reading the accounts of a Pit Ponies down the pit and having personal knowledge and memories of that experience as I was a Bevin Boy from April 1945 to March 1948 I was among the last to be conscripted down the mines. I was working in the west Yorkshire coalfields of Pontefract and Featherstone-very different from being a junior clerk in a solicitor's office in Winchester.

One of my jobs at The Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract was pony driving from the coal face to the haulage road. Bob the pony had to haul 6 full drams (tubs in Yorkshire) from the end of the conveyor belt and bring 6 empty tubs back. I lost count of how many journeys we did in a 6 hour shift. I know that when we had a break Bob would immediately go to my jacket pocket to try to get out my snap tin. He knew there was something in there for him. After one year I was transferred to Ackton Hall colliery at Featherstone. There I teamed up with Tiny ( a small but strong pony ) There we had to take empty tubs from the cage along a narrow access road to the main haulage. The narrow road ended on a steep gradient which meant pushing "sprags" ( lockers in Yorkshire ) into the wheels of the first two tubs to jam them otherwise tiny and the tubs would go careering back along the narrow road possibly knocking against the pillars and walls which support the roof causing a roof fall and all that that might entail. After Demob I went back to the solicitors office and eventually became a legal executive! At re-unions of the Bevin Boys we often speak about our experiences down pit!

**Mrs Brenda David** wrote; I always pass on my Newsletter after I have read it in the hope that others will read of the love you have for the ponies and help you also.

**Prue Forbes Buck** wrote; Dear Pit Pony Pals. I was very interested on the mention of the celebrations and welcoming of the Bevin Boys families. When I lived in Doncaster the Pit Ponies would be brought into the field opposite my house when the miners were on holiday. I as a child then used to scrounge around the local shops ( no supermarkets then ) and the allotment holders and ask if they had anything for the ponies? One shop was excellent and they would put a bag out for me with carrots apples cabbage etc. when they closed and I would drag it under the flood arches on Bentley Road. Um would know where I was. She would just look for the pony's bums and I'd be under that arch with treats and a jug of water and a sponge to clean the coal dust from their eyes. Most of the allotment holders were good too but one wouldn't give us even a carrot, so a pal and I went and helped ourselves. When we got home I remember my Dad shouting about dammed kids raiding this man's prize veg and yelling about bloody little footprints everywhere. Mum had seen my muddy shoes and gave me a look! You wouldn't know anything about this would you? She said. I just looked innocent and said no mam. Lucky for me she kept quiet. Then the horse waggon came after their holidays and take them back to the colliery. I know the colliers were very good with them but it wasn't like fresh air and green grass. I continued this until I grew up and married and moved away. The Ponies had a little break but I would often cry at night for them. They all knew me! I am 77 now, lost my husband in July and took on my last ( I think ) rescue dog a collie X who is always by my side.

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



Winston enjoying  
A cool drink with  
Arnie thinking about it

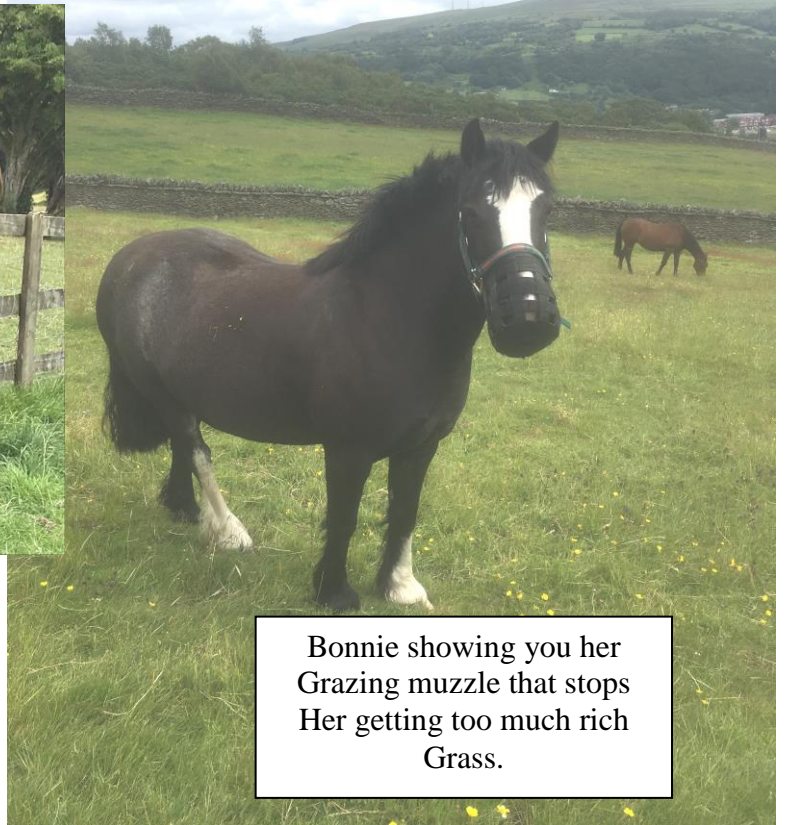


Spike pinching Duck bread with Star II in front and  
Winston, Tinkerbell and Star at the end



A summer visitor meeting some ponies  
Rocket, Geraldine and Rosie She was  
upset at seeing a one eyed pony she was  
only 8 but loved Horses & Ponies.

The grazing muzzles help prevent the  
ponies from getting lameness and abscess  
inside the hoof that is very painful for them. Bonny had one a while ago, it was so painful she  
let us help her without a struggle. The grazing muzzles help a lot but some keep getting them  
off. Don't they Geraldine!



Bonnie showing you her  
Grazing muzzle that stops  
Her getting too much rich  
Grass.

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

New babies for the summer visitors from Africa in their mud nest on a wooden beam in the barn. Every year I am eager for their safe return from all that way from Africa. We are all glad for the loss of flies, mosquitoes, bugs and gnats they eat. Hope you can see all 3 of them. We have 4 similar nests all full of babies.



Star two, Lady (in a new rug), Angel, Star (with her rug half off) Iggy & Tinkerbelle hiding behind, Spike, Winston and Arnie.

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**Eiry Battenbough** wrote; Dear Sanctuary, after reading your ad in Outrage magazine I felt I had to contribute in a small way. I hadn't heard about your Sanctuary before even though I live in Wales. I am so glad that some-one is helping these poor Pit Ponies. My late husband was a miner (although thank god they didn't use ponies where he worked. ) So the work you do is very close to my heart especially since he only recently passed away and was only 59. I think I was meant to see your ad in a way! I know he'd be pleased in a small way, I wish it could be more but at the moment I am still trying to sort out my finances, but hopefully later on when I am in a better situation and sorted out I can send you more.

**Anni Keene** wrote; Hope you don't mind me copying the address sheet. I just had to keep the photo of the ponies knee nibbling! In fact I always hate having to send back the great pictures and little articles on the address page. Not at all Anni it's for you to enjoy. However please quote your supporter number as it speeds up the admin.

**Dr Maxwell** wrote please find enclosed cheque, this donation comes to you in the hope that Katrina will make a full return to good health soon! We hope so too!

**Easyfundraising** is great. Whilst we are mowing the pastures, digging up weeds, cleaning out water butts and caring for the ponies some of you are shopping on-line. Another cheque just arrived for £30.69 and then another for £105.98 for the ponies. And then another for £105.27 Brilliant

**Ingrid Fordred** wrote; I am very pleased to be able to send Picture Postcards

**Give a Car.** Mildred Griffiths wrote. I passed my old car to Give a Car and enclose a cheque for £46.90 the proceeds. I hope it helps! What a good girl!

**Lloyds Bank Shares** that were donated years ago and been dormant for years but now have produced dividends of £25.96 then £26.69 for the ponies.

**Recycle 4 Charity** deal with ink jet printer cartridges and our supporters have been sending them using our details ( C21874 = A Pit Pony Sanctuary ) and raised £22.00

**Gift Aid** Mrs Robson wrote to say as she had now retired and she could no longer use Gift Aid for her donations. **It's perhaps a timely reminder to all supporters to remember it's your legal responsibility to ensure you qualify to tick "Gift Aid" each financial year!**

**Del** has been busy around Cardiff again at this year Craft Fairs and quietly raises money for the ponies. Her most recent one totalled £76.

**Beryl Ungate** the widow of a Bevin boy who worked with pitponies during his National Service and remembers one saving him from a roof fall. The pony just stopped and wouldn't move on when suddenly a huge collapse of rock happened in front of him. The Pony obviously sensed or heard something. Beryl has just stood for 4 hours in a very windy Queen Mother Square, Poundbury selling Jewellery and Bric-a-Brac for the ponies. Well done girl.

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Spike our last surviving Pit Pony.

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*Donations have recently been received in memory of;*  
*Beryl Crawford. Mrs Barbara Masch. Mr Alan Vokes.*  
*Miss Joan Atkinson. Mr James Duncan Houston.*  
*Mrs Vivien Clayforth. Mr Bill Dumbelton. Mrs Bettie Mair.*  
*Mrs Eve Hamblin. Mr Warwick Taylor.*

oO-o-Oo

*Susan Bryants Cat Crystal Lefevre.*  
*Mrs G Jauffret=Lenzi in memory of Pit Pony Dylan*

*A little taste of Wales.*

ANGLESEY EGGS. WYAU YNYS MON.

*Ingredients*

450gram/1lb hot mashed potatoes

300ml/1/2 pint milk

115g/4oz hard cheese of choice grated.

75g/3oz butter.

8 eggs, hard boiled and peeled.

6 small leeks, washed, trimmed and sliced into small pieces.

1 tablespoon plain flour.

Half a teaspoon of made up mustard.

Pinch of grated nutmeg.

Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

*Method.*

Pre heat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas mark 6. Boil the sliced leeks in water for 8-10 mins, then drain well. Combine the leeks, with the mash and half the butter, season to taste with salt and pepper, and mix well until the mixture is fluffy. Turn the mixture into greased ovenproof baking dish. Melt 25g/1oz of the remaining butter in a saucepan, stir in the flour and cook gently over a low heat for 2 minutes, stirring continuously, gradually stir in the milk a little at a time so that no lumps form then increase the heat, add the mustard, grated nutmeg and most of the cheese, and bring to the boil, stirring continuously until the sauce thickens. Reduce the heat, season to taste, then simmer gently for 2 mins whilst stirring. Cut the hard boiled eggs in half and arrange them on top of the leeks and mash. Cover with the remaining cheese and dot with small nobs of butter. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 20 – 25 mins or until the topping is golden brown.

*Mwynhewch y pryd! (Enjoy your meal)*

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