



# Newsletter

No 95

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'HoHoHo' Seasons Greetings to all ☺

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



## Retirement

### A message from Roy & Angela

...Sorry folks, our age has finally caught up with us. As you read through this newsletter you will hear the sad story of our cherished last Pit Pony, Spike, and how tragedy struck our beautiful Bess. Such loss, albeit in the surroundings our sanctuary, is profound. Just a few days later Roy suffered his first Stroke, fortunately a minor one. Unfortunately, just a month later Roy had another stroke, this time a major one. We both feel that we always 'did right' by all of the beloved horses that we have cared for at the centre throughout the 40 years that we have been able to. Keeping up with the day-to-day care demands of the ponies has proven to be no longer possible. Roy is recovering and is doing very well. However, we have had to make the difficult decision to begin to move retirement. Wendy Valentine, a long-term friend of ours and the ponies as the lead at Hillside Animal Sanctuary in Norfolk has the exact same animal welfare standards as ours. Our objective has always been to ensure the lifetime care of our ponies and so with the support of Wendy and our Trustees, the centres' ponies have now made a comfortable and safe journey to Norfolk. Here they will spend the rest of their days in the manner they are now accustomed to; without work, fear, or unkindness in the beautiful fields surrounding Wendy's home in the middle of Hillside Animal Sanctuary. We look forward to continuing to help them in our retirement.

**Spike. The last pit pony...** We are very sorry to have to report that this summer, Spike, sadly passed away in the surroundings that he loved at here at the centre. Spike had a very harsh life as a Pit Pony, though he thoroughly enjoyed good health in his retirement. He passed away peacefully here without fear, pain or distress with the Vet in attendance. Spike was taken unwell, suddenly, due to a cancerous tumour. If he could, we are sure that he would have thanked you all for your support and kindness into his old age. He had a wonderful retirement here filled with gentle love and kindness from human hands, his special pony friends and of course from his beloved friend Rocket.

### Polly & Megan....

Polly came to the centre this spring from Cardiff animal warden, she had been seized due to wandering around the city centre. A few months into her arrival, she was gaining weight a little too much,,,,, Yes you guessed it, She was expecting a baby. We put Polly in the safety of the front field, with Bess. Leaving both expectant mums to have plenty of space to relax in their pregnancies after both suffering such traumas. A few days after Bess gave birth to Honey, Polly then gave birth to Megan. Here they are



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

**Bess & Honey....** In April this year our darling Bess gave birth to a beautiful chestnut filly who we called Honey – as she is the colour of Honey! We were understandably worried about the foal in Bess’ tummy on arrival given the severe trauma that Bess had experienced in the road accident that had brought her to the centre. Honey arrived in beautiful sunshine and had a wonderful first four months at the centre with her mum. In July, due to ill health including internal damage caused by both neglect in early life and the impact of the car crash, her body gave up and Bess sadly passed away at the centre. We believe that Bess is now resting in peace. We promised her that we would take great care of Honey for the rest of her life and would ensure that she never has the life her mother had. Bess knew Honey was safe after she had given her the best start in life and trusted us to take it from here. A very sad time for us at the centre. Bess passed away on a Saturday so no pony feed shops were open and we needed to get foal milk replacement for Honey to ensure she had something to eat! We were lucky, Wendy Valentine at **HILLSIDE Animal Sanctuary** sent us an emergency parcel of foal milk nuts for Honey. Here Honey is, eating her first portion. We were so very grateful to Wendy and her team at Hillside – **THEY SAVED THE DAY.**



**Maternity Unit.....**Here are a few pictures of the maternity unit with mums and their foals – gorgeous!

Donations gratefully received in Loving memory of

The Late Susan Dawn Brown.  
The Late Mrs Norma McEwen.  
The Late Beryl Audrey Jones.  
The Late Christine Gertrude Howells.

The Late Cyril John Newton.  
The Late Jessie Carter.  
The late Tom Graham Caswell.  
The Late Hazel Evelyn Redgwell.

We and all the other Trustees remain dedicated to providing continuing TLC to all our ponies. Our charity, through your generosity, will continue to fund the long-term care, rest and safety of our ponies at Hillside Animal Sanctuary. Your donations will continue to enable this with every penny continuing to go to the care of our ponies and to all rescued animals at the Hillside Animal Sanctuary.

With the ponies now being safely nestled in Hillside, the existing **SPONSORSHIP SCHEME** will cease, due only to the Trustees being unable to share regular photos and updates. However, through our continuing yearly newsletter we will continue to keep all our existing sponsors up to date on their chosen pony and of their wonderful lives in the sanctuary.

**Jewellery & Stamp appeal** will also cease as with our retirement pending, we will have to stop receiving stamps and bric-a-brac. Please direct enquiries and donation of jewellery to [www.hillside.org.uk](http://www.hillside.org.uk) as the team at Hillside will turn into pennies for ponies!

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE HELP US!** We would like to ask our supporters for a little help 😊 – by providing an email address to us, we can share our updates on email. This means that you can help us to reduce our costs (postage and printing) and be a little ‘greener’ by reducing our printing volumes. If you do receive your newsletter by post/paper, please can you send us your email address so that we can switch you to receiving it on email. Please share your email address with us by emailing your supporter number and full name to [info@pitponies.co.uk](mailto:info@pitponies.co.uk). The printing and posting pennies can also become pony care pennies!

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Please do continue to help us to help them with your kind donations and legacies. [www.pitponies.co.uk](http://www.pitponies.co.uk)

Please join us in visiting the ponies at Hillside Animal Sanctuary in Norfolk, their new and beautiful home. The centres ponies will no longer be residing at Fforest Uchaf Farm so please note that visits here are now no longer possible. Visiting times and event details can all be found on their website [www.hillside.org.uk](http://www.hillside.org.uk).

Our beautiful ponies (and chickens 😊) will never work, be treated unkindly or be separated. They are in their forever home all together, financially supported by Fforest Uchaf Horse & Pony Rehabilitation centre, through your kindness. Our Trustees have set up a legally binding agreement with Hillside for the forever safety and care of all our horses and animals. Our Trustees will continue their work to ensure that this agreement is adhered too and that they will continue to keep all of our supporters up to date annually on the wonderful lives that our rescued ponies are now enjoying in Norfolk.

### The move to Pony Heaven at Hillside...Here are a few pics



Charlie – enjoying a shady stable, with full fly protection to keep him free of the flies as he is allergic to them!



Honey, in her new paddock with Polly & Megan. Together forever.



Polly & Megan - Together forever



King, Winston, Thunder 😊



We plan to one day **build a large barn at Hillside, funded by your kind donations**, to provide more shelter for the Ponies at Hillside, in memory of all the hard-working Pit Ponies that we have cared for during the 40 years of the charity so far. We have sent sending Pit Pony memorabilia from the centre here to be displayed in a part of a visitor centre at Hillside



Trustee Angela & Volunteer Ellie making sure their hair was perfect for their new home.



Trustee Caroline helping load Duke & Duchess

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