

Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation

Supporting the Rescue & Care of Donkeys in the Holy Land

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UK registered charity No. 1174959
facebook.com/LucysDonkeys
instagram.com/lucysdonkeyfoundation

Dear Valued Supporters

During the summer, as trustees, we had to accept that our finances were at a dangerously low level. We decided that we had no choice but to send out an emergency appeal, which we do not like to do, but there was no other way. Remarkably we had SUCH a wonderful response. We simply want to thank one and all for every large or small donation that we have received. We have also now had some legacies, so we are now safe to continue until early 2027. Lucy in her own special way is very good at expressing what many of us are thinking, so please read her article.

In our ever-changing world it is good to be reminded of what really matters. One Christmas card we have says "The greatest gift ever given was not placed beneath a tree but upon a tree." True humility goes a very long way in life and having spoken to several supporters, it is that humility and a determination to do the very best for the animals that has endeared Lucy and Adi to them. This has particularly come to light as we have had contact with several people whose friends have left us a legacy. We have asked one of these friends to write a bit about her friend in this newsletter and to explain more of the importance of legacies – you will find this on page 7.



As far as the sanctuary is concerned, we are sad to report the death of Gideon who was a lovely old donkey – you can read more on page 6. There have been a number of changes with Issa, a long-term volunteer, going back to Africa for a short while. He will be coming back, but in the meantime his place has been taken by Elli. We would like to thank Lucy, Adi and all the volunteers for their continued hard work under very difficult circumstances. It is just good to know that the animals are happy and well cared for.

We are very grateful to Lyndon Pugh who had stepped down as our treasurer for coming back, because Colin Duck has had to step down due to personal circumstances. The account for the period 2025-26 has now gone to the auditors along with the annual report, so we are in good time, well before the deadline.

" Not a silver spoon, nor a golden crown
Just a quiet star over Bethlehem town.
No silver spoon, no Royal bed,
Only straw for the Saviour's head."

As we approach Christmas, we would simply like to thank you for all your continued support and encouragement and to wish you all a meaningful and peaceful Christmas with those you love.

James, John, Stan and Rhona

NEW CHARITY PHONE NUMBER!

PLEASE NOTE WE NOW HAVE A NEW, DEDICATED PHONE NUMBER. IF YOU NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US, PLEASE CALL:

07867 048 325



'O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.'

Psalm 107:1

'He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.'

Job 5:9

A Season of Gratitude, Love and Thanksgiving…

Our heartfelt greetings and gratitude to all those, near and far, who continue to walk alongside us on this journey - our extended Sanctuary Family…

We are so incredibly and deeply thankful and grateful to be able to tell you that after our recent emergency appeal, God really answered our prayers. Our little sanctuary will have been provided with enough funds to see us through to early Spring 2027.

Not only did some precious people give extra donations, but by an absolute miracle we have had news that we have been left two legacies by two wonderful English ladies, the late Joy Wright and the late Margaret Williams, may their memories always be a blessing.

We are extremely grateful to 'Angel' Ann, the very caring and supportive lady who is the executor of Joy's will and was also a great friend of Margaret's and you can read her moving tribute to Margaret on page 7.

I had been in contact with Margaret over the years too and she truly was a special soul, a strong character and a warrior for animals. The news of her very recent passing really upset me and I feel deeply grateful to her for having left a legacy to our beloved sanctuary.

These two legacies will help our sanctuary to survive and be able to provide for our precious animals for another few months.

There is also a very dear supporter who has been extremely generous to us during a time of utter desperation and we have felt so deeply grateful for such outstanding kindness.

Indeed, we want to say the biggest thank you to all those who have made the miracle of our sanctuary's continued existence possible.

Thank you for your love, your compassion, your unwavering support and for believing in what we do.

You came forward at a time when we were facing the very real probability of closure, and in doing so, you gave us not only crucial financial assistance but also breathing space, renewed strength and the courage to keep going for as long as we are able.

You may not realise just how much of an impact your contributions have, but your acts of kindness are lived out quietly, every single day, in the lives of all the gentle souls entrusted to our care.

Our donkeys and other little animals are not aware of the challenges, worries and uncertainties we go through, or of the immense, continuous generosity that is vital to keep them safely in their home. Yet we often sense that possibly because of the terrible suffering they endured in their lives previously, they do possess some sort of almost angelic wisdom. They know and understand that they have been rescued, that they are deeply loved and cherished, and we feel how grateful they are for that.

They wake each day knowing they are in their lovely home, trusting that their food will be provided and that the people who care for them will continue to be at their side. That trust that they have in us means we have to do all we can to honour it, every single day, for all the days to come.

It is imperative that we establish a secure and sustainable future for our sanctuary.

Obviously the task ahead of us now is to ensure that we can find a way to sustain this support otherwise the future of the sanctuary will remain in jeopardy. While we can breathe a little easier today, **we must also look honestly towards tomorrow**. This challenge is perhaps our greatest one; guaranteeing that the funds necessary to keep our sanctuary going, can continue to be raised, not just for months ahead, but for the foreseeable future and beyond.

Emergency appeals each time we face a major crisis are not a solution, we know that.

We cannot do this alone, we need supporters beside us, not just in emergencies, but as part of a lasting community of compassion and generosity, whose kindness will help carry our sanctuary forward; allow us to plan ahead and make it possible for us to continue giving every precious animal in our care the safe and loving home, security and future they deserve.

With all our hearts we ask you; please continue to support us with a donation, however large or small. **Remember that every contribution matters and every single act of generosity brings us a little closer to the future we so desperately want for our donkeys.**

If you can, please also help by sharing our appeal, tell others about our sanctuary, help us reach new people who might be willing to stand beside us. Please help us spread the word, bring more kind hearts into our circle of supporters to give our sanctuary the chance to build a future that is not constantly overshadowed by so much financial uncertainty.

We are deeply grateful for anything you can do to help and we truly thank you.

Very sadly, we have recently had to let our beautiful boy, **Gideon,** go peacefully to donkey Heaven. He was always such a wonderful, robust donkey but his health had been deteriorating and eventually we reached the point where all that we had tried to do to help him was no longer working. I've written a little tribute to him which you can read on page 6.

Our **wonderful team of volunteers** still come almost every Saturday and have worked hard helping Adi prepare for winter, as well as helping to improve the staff/volunteer kitchen area, shower and toilet. We are so grateful to them for all their help, as we are to our dear **Elli and Eliav**, who live at the sanctuary.

As the trustees mentioned, our Issa has had to leave for a while to return to his family in Sudan and **Elli has agreed to take on Issa's role** which is such a blessing for us, he's a wonderful young man with such a good heart and we feel so thankful that we all found each other.

For this newsletter I've chosen to talk about our beauty, **Bella**, you'll find this on page 7.

There's also a little feature on 'funny faces', as well as an array of lovely images from around the sanctuary.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful festive season and may the coming year bring you good health and happiness, and may the spirit of Christmas with all its love and goodness remain with you…

Please know that we thank you all more than words can ever say…

With our love, gratitude and God bless,

Lucy, the Donkeys and All at the Sanctuary

From Lucy...

May our sanctuary always be a place where weary souls find rest, where frightened hearts learn to trust, and where every animal is reminded, in the gentlest of ways, that their life matters.

Where every meal, every touch, every safe night and every morning free from fear are an everlasting promise to each dear soul in our care...

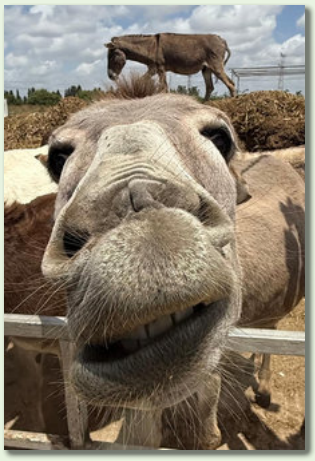
Our thoughts and prayers are also with all those poor souls who are still being made to work beyond their strength, endure suffering, neglect and abuse, and have yet to find a place of refuge, comfort and love. May they too be comforted and loved.

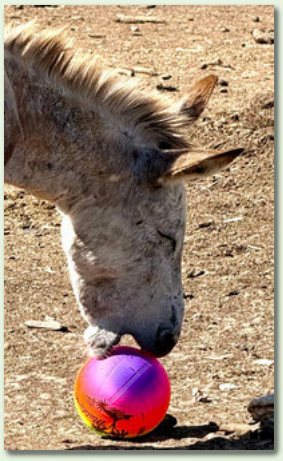
May they know the gentleness and peace that every living soul deserves.

And may God, in His infinite goodness, always bless our sanctuary with the plentiful resources it needs to continue... Amen

Life at the sanctuary isn't only about hard work, challenges, setbacks and caring responsibilities. There are moments that make us smile of course too and sometimes looking back at photographs of our donkeys, cats and dogs, we discover that we've captured the funniest expressions!

We thought we would share some of them with you, along with others of daily life at the sanctuary…

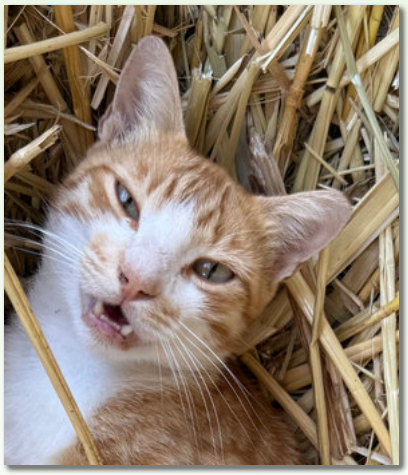


















Elli helping the farrier







Lucy and Adi's son Robert helping to cover the hay bales





RIP... Gideon

By Lucy



Since our last newsletter, we have had to say goodbye to our beautiful boy, Gideon.

Rescued at night back in January of 2020, soaked through from heavy rain, Gideon was strong and sturdy, although a little mal-nourished.

Since being in our care, he had always stayed on the thin side despite having a very good appetite, but over the past couple of months he seemed to be losing more weight and we started noticing that he was becoming increasingly thin despite still eating well.

Two different vets had been a number of times to check him and we had tried various medications and also supplements for him but nothing helped. Then came the awful morning that we found him lying down, not wanting to get up at all and we knew immediately that he must really be feeling poorly as it was so unlike him, he was usually so feisty.

We called for the vet to come to see him again and this time he said the kindest thing we could do for Gideon would be to let him go peacefully…. Through the stethoscope, he could hear that Gideon's heart had started failing to work properly. He thought the cause of the deterioration could possibly be congestive heart failure, but without having the funds to be able to do more extensive testing, such as an MRI etc, we just have no real way of knowing. It could even have been cancer that had slowly metastasised over time.

It was heartbreaking to have to let that dear boy go as he'd always been such a noble character, though we knew in our hearts that it was the right thing to do for him because he was suffering and there was nothing else we could have done to help him.

Rest in peace darling Gideon, your memory will always be a blessing and we are so grateful that we were so blessed to have been able to rescue you and bring you to our little peaceable donkey kingdom where you had the last six and half years of your life living safely, feeling deeply loved.

Gideon soaked through from the heavy rain



Gideon (left) and Shayne, when he was first rescued

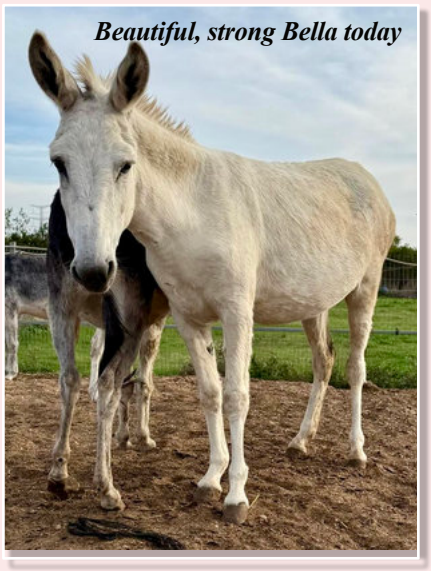


At the end…. Darling Gideon being loved, comforted and fed carrots by dear Elli



Then and now... Bella

Our beautiful Bella came to our sanctuary back in the Spring of 2016, just a young little donkey nestled closely by her mother Crystal's side. These two little souls were found wandering along a busy main road in a nearby Arab town. No one knew if they belonged to someone and had escaped, or if they had been deliberately set loose and abandoned. Crystal must have felt distraught not knowing where to go, with the worry of having to protect herself and her little girl in such a cruel and dangerous world. And Bella too must have been overwhelmed with panic as she was desperately trying to stay by her mama's side while endless cars and huge trucks were speeding by.



Beautiful, strong Bella today



Big sister Bella watching over newborn baby Bilbo, as he stands close to his mama Crystal

Poor Crystal was also pregnant at the time and she went on to give birth to Bilbo, just under a year later in 2017.

I always feel such a profound sense of relief and gratitude that our sanctuary was there for Bella and her family, giving them a place of complete safety and refuge. The thought of what might otherwise have become of them on that road is just too heartbreaking to contemplate.

Bella was always like a second doting mother to her little brother Bilbo, and comforted him in January 2020, when our dear, elderly, worn out Crystal sadly passed away. As the years have passed, Bella has sort of moved on and tends to stay close by her all girl group of friends, and Bilbo, an extremely handsome donkey, tends to do the same with the boys.

Our Bella grew into a very striking figure of a donkey as you can see...

IN MEMORIAM: Margaret Williams

My name is Ann Boyce and I knew Margaret for a long time. She used to help me raise money for different animal charities when I had a stall in Banstead High Street, Surrey, and sometimes when I had a table with things for sale at various fetes. She tirelessly ran stalls herself and was often at fetes with a tombola table fundraising for her cherished charities. She loved her cats, fed the foxes and birds and used to speak all the time of Lucy and her donkey sanctuary.

She had many interests, was very independent, very well organised and had many friends.

She would be so happy that the legacies she left are going to be such an enormous help at a time when rescues are struggling to keep going.

For struggling charities, legacies can mean the difference between simply surviving, or sometimes even facing closure, and having the means to continue for years to come. They provide something precious: hope, stability and a future.

When we think about leaving a legacy, we sometimes imagine that it must require a substantial fortune, but that isn't the case as whatever the amount, however modest, a gift left to a charity close to your heart can make an extraordinary difference. By remembering a charity in your will you are giving something of yourself that will continue to make a difference long after your lifetime. You are protecting the causes you believe in, the lives you care about and the work you want to see continue.

So please consider leaving whatever you can to a charity that means something special to you. And remember, it doesn't have to be a large amount to leave an immeasurable impact. A legacy is ultimately a gift of love that keeps on giving and even the smallest amount can help give a vulnerable animal a future filled with love, safety and kindness.



The photo shows dear Margaret selling bric-a-brac at a stall, with one of Ann's rescued, deaf dogs beside her

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Will Drafters Ltd. Tel 0800 269 297 www.willdrafters.com/wills (for a fee)

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Our adoption certificates include the backstory to the adopted donkey and are the perfect gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself.

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Send us an email or a letter (details below) with the following information:

1) Chosen **Donkey** 2) Your **Name** 3) Name on Certificate (**Recipient**)
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4a) If by email - please specify **email address**
4b) If by post (UK only) - please provide **full postal address**
5) How and when you **paid** (bank transfer, cheque, PayPal etc)


Lucy's UK Donkey Foundation
Registered Charity (UK Reg. 1174959)
Supporting Lucy's Donkey Sanctuary in Burgata, Israel
www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk

ADOPTION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that
[NAME OF RECIPIENT]
have adopted
JOAN
rescued and now cared for at Lucy's donkey sanctuary in Israel.

One of Lucy's wonderful helpers saw Joan being brutally beaten again and again by some young boys. Because this little donkey was in a bad state and on the border between a settlement and the Palestinian West Bank, and the boys became very angry when she tried to reason with them to stop, she called for the army's help to confiscate her, and Lucy then took her in. With Lucy's care, Joan's many wounds have fully healed, and she is now a totally healthy and happy donkey living at the sanctuary.

This is a gift from: [YOUR NAME] Renewal date: December 2027

Luna



Paulo



Carrots



John



More donkeys on our website under Menu / Donkey Gallery

CUT OFF DATES 2026

By post (UK only):
Weds 16th Dec

By email:
Weds 23rd Dec



STAMPS APPEAL

Can you help us with stamps? We have run out of donated stamps for our newsletters. If you are able to send us 2nd Class stamps and/or international stamps (£3.60) to our address below, we would be ever so grateful!

Payment & Contact

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webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk

Tel: ***07867 048 325*** *(please leave a message in voicemail and we will call you back as soon as we can)*

The trustees reserve the right to use donations in the most effective way towards the charity's objectives.

Full details on www.lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk/donate

This Newsletter is compiled free of charge by a volunteer and the printing costs are privately paid by volunteers and trustees.

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. However, if you no longer wish to receive it, you can let us know at any time by writing to our address (see above), emailing Erika at webgirl@lucysdonkeyfoundation.org.uk or – if you receive it by email – by clicking 'unsubscribe' in the footer of the email you received with this newsletter.

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