

SUSSEX HORSE RESCUE TRUST

Hempstead Farm
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HORSES NEED HELP

Registered Charity No. 297576

Newsletter— Summer 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Very many thanks to those of you who visited our Easter Open Day—Sunday April 16th. Trustee, Rodney, arranged for the Uckfield Mayor to attend and make an opening speech. Our thanks to Sheila, Helen and Vicki for all their work in our Barn Shop. Also Frankie and Bill who once again all day kept charge of our Easter Raffle. Some prizes still await collection!



Our Farrier—Grant Watt—interested many of you by trimming a rescued Donkey's hooves AND also a Pony. Grant then put shoes on horse, Elvis, who has had ongoing heel problems.

Some of you have noticed that Manager, Georgina, and staff member, Cindy, are both absent. The good news is that they both had babies during June. Vanessa has taken over the responsibilities of organising and running the Yard. Vanessa is married to Michael Grant and they have Isabelle—aged nearly 2 years—and live on site in Hempstead House.



With 92 rescued Horses, Ponies and Donkeys on site every day is busy and often hectic. Many of the equines here have ongoing, expensive, Veterinary treatment Some are very old Others, that have been used as Trotters whilst only aged 2 years, are not broken for riding—some of these Trotters have problems that have occurred on roads. So our Loaning System is hampered by folk wanting riding animals and our having so many unsuitable horses and ponies here that cannot be loaned.

However, we do have over 200 equines on Loan in Sussex that are regularly visited by our Team. For many years Pauline Brown and Charles voluntarily took on visiting duties. During the 22 years we have been in Uckfield Charles has lived in the house and been invaluable with his knowledge of equines. Many of you have enquired and missed Charles—however, he is no longer a young man and cannot *physically* assist with the horses anymore, but he remains in good spirits, doing some office tasks. Pauline also does invaluable weekly paperwork, PLUS maintaining and planting an amazing display of flowers in front of the house. She also organises and runs the Tea area during Open Sundays.

Our heartfelt THANKS to our Supporters who enable us to carry on with the ongoing, upsetting and expensive everyday occurrences. We offer our heartfelt THANKS PLEASE carry on.

No experience is required to become a horse owner, answer an advert, go to a sale, BUY A HORSE—on a mere whim of the moment Many do. This can be the beginning of a series of events we see or hear about daily. To suit the convenience of the owner it has become acceptable to graze a horse on a tiny patch of land with little shelter and no concern for the animals daily outlook and well being. Tack is often purchased for these unfortunate animals with no regard for correct fitting—metal Bits pinching the mouth—ill fitting saddles causing sores and scar tissue.

POLO, RACING LIVERY, RIDING SCHOOLS and the PRIVATE owner all have totally different expectations of the riding animal.

Without any compunction the horse is traded in, swapped, sold on, exchanged for all manner of reasons. It is considered 'up market' to own a horse—far superior to a cat, dog or budgie. A mature cat or dog has no comparison in value, or bargaining power to sell on. But a horse retains its meat value if nothing else and can be sold on and on and on. Some see this as an enhancement of ownership, giving them the added interest of an involvement in the 'Horse Industry'.

DEALERS, are known to load up horses for a sale the night before during the sale the horses are not fed or watered Often NOT SOLD so reloaded left on a lorry overnight again ... and so on and so on going days and nights left in vehicles and at sales without adequate food or water. All these mentioned factors filter through to us—in an appalling catalogue, often during a weekly intake of calls.

It is SHRT policy to RESCUE, REHABILITATE AND LOAN On arrival each animal is assessed and given time to unwind according to its needs. We wish we could do MORE for MORE.



WINTER FEST comes to Sussex Horse Rescue Trust on Saturday 25th November 2017.

On Saturday 25th November between 11am and 4pm Sussex Horse Rescue Trust will open the gates to the Walled Garden leading to the Great Hall and an event not to be missed or forgotten !

There will be freshly made hot waffles served with black cherries, kirsch and cream, the waffle lolly for those who wish a different delight. Tea and coffee with hand made cakes and pizzas for those who desire a savoury dish.

Hot chestnuts cooked over a real wood fired Roaster will be offered. Face painting and have a go Archery for the children and many other side shows, too many at the present to mention. There is planned a historical re-enactment. The event will be themed "Smugglers" from the past with the unexpected impromptu entertainment.

Naturally a few of our Friends will be present, our equines, with pony rides for the brave ones ! Ensure you book your ride when arriving

Please be aware there will be free entry, free parking and free toilets regardless of the weather. We have thought of everything to make this an Event not to be missed---in aid of our Equines who need help through another Winter.





EASTER RAFFLE We have notified all Winners but are still awaiting some winners to collect their prizes. Young Charlie who helps run the Reception every Sunday has his eye on the **EASTER EGG** and I am keeping my eye on the **Bottle of BUCKS FIZZ!**

DEFIBRILLATOR—October 2015 SHRT understood from the Press—in particular The Argus ran “**SAVE A LIFE**” Campaign which encouraged organisations to ‘make a pledge’ supporting the Save a Life campaign. November 7th SHRT sent our pledge to install a defibrillator ... plus our contact details. 28th March 2016 SHRT was named in the Roll of Honour list in the Argus. However, we were due to have our Easter Open Day March 27th and still no sign of a defibrillator, despite having sent a £850 cheque to South East Coast Ambulance Service. Numerous letters from us followed until finally daughter-in-law, Vanessa Grant, in late September 2016 managed to resolve this lengthy problem and a Defibrillator arrived *after* our September Closing day!



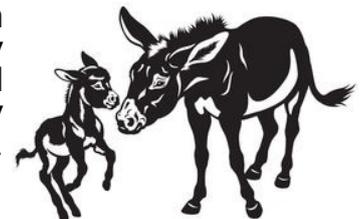
A group of SHRT staff have updated their St. John Ambulance Training First Aid Certificate so feel confident to Save a Life if needed.

Occasionally our Gates are found open and we find horses roaming loose in unsuitable pasture. June 23rd at 9.30 am a telephone call alerted us to a group of ‘escaped’ horses they were soon retrieved.

BUT one Grey pony Mare “**FORTUNE**” aged 26 years showed signs of lameness. Fortune came into Sanctuary as an unwanted pony in July 2006 ... un-rideable. A wonderful companion home was found for her in 2007 where she was loved and lived happily until the Loaner’s horse died. However, she has settled well back at SHRT. Fortune always has to be tranquilised for the Horse Dentist and occasionally shows signs of scouring which is concerning at her age and is always treated.

ROSIE, elderly piebald mare, abandoned on the outskirts of Uckfield with no water available. This was reported by local commercial business when they needed to access the land. Police were informed and we posted an Abandonment Notice. We sent Dan Grant to investigate and March 20th 2015 Dan managed to catch this nervous little mare. On arrival we found Rosie had an ear tag and 2 horseshoe brands below her withers. She was covered in lice and had a golf ball size lump on her windpipe. Recently the lump on Rosie’s windpipe became enlarged and Priors Farm horse vet performed surgery to reduce the lump. Our Vet has sent the lump away for analysis So we are awaiting results.

Donkey Marcia and her offspring, Chocolate, had to be returned from their 2008 long term loan home due to internal problems. When they arrived they were very apprehensive. Damien was most helpful assisting leading the two donkeys into our walled area where they stayed until we were ready to integrate them into our small herd of 21 Donkeys and Mules for our visitors to see on Open Sundays.





GALA CLOSING DAY **SUNDAY September 10th 2017** **11 AM—4 PM**

ADMISSION

Adults £2. Children £1. Car Parking FREE

In addition to our usual attractions there will be a Sand School Demonstration with our staff and volunteers leading the Sponsored Equines—a loudspeaker commentary will be given, to hopefully encourage some **NEW SPONSORS!!**



**ANNUAL TACK
SALE**
Saturday September
16th 2017—2pm
Walled Garden and
the Medieval Hall

Refreshments available

We are very grateful for the many rugs, saddles, bridles and various horsey items that have been generously donated. This enables our staff to decide which items need to be retained by the Trust and which can be sold. Each year this Tack Sale brings in much needed ££££s to help us through the following Winter.

THANK YOU to our Trustees—Tony Gavali, Tim Grant, Rodney Smith, Vanessa Grant and Jo Charlton who attend regular in house meetings to arrange events, discuss finance details, fundraising, etc.

THANK YOU also to our Supporters who visit and provide financial support towards the work of this charity. With fundraising at an **all time low**—mainly because of expenses (essential fencing and replacement stable block) we are ever grateful to those of you who commit to standing orders and direct debits as this helps us to budget on a monthly basis. Those of you who sponsor one of our 11 equines provides much needed income and show your support towards your chosen animal ... plus folk who sign a Gift Aid declaration to increase your donation.

Thank you all so much

We are much heartened by Visitors comments which give us encouragement for the future .. All this helps and enables SHRT to continue the ongoing work that is essential with so many animals relying on us. With all this in mind ... please find enclosed The Weather Lottery leaflet which has been an excellent fundraising idea.

WE CLOSE OUR SUMMER SEASON ON 10th SEPTEMBER 2017 AND REOPEN EASTER 2018
WE HOPE TO SEE SOME OF OUR VISITORS AT THE TACK SALE AND/OR WINTER FEST
Unfortunately we cannot allow any visits without appointment outside of these events

Chairperson Pauline Grant and Trustees