



VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

After the last three years the sanctuary has undergone a complete rebuild and the management team have been thinking about the need to keep all our volunteers informed about sanctuary news. So, we are writing this newsletter to try and keep everyone in touch.

We now have three groups of volunteers working at the sanctuary, those in the yard, those who do the fund raising and a new group who will be working in the office with Wendy and Stuart. Both Anne and Catherine [Trustees] will also be working in the office from time to time. Each group is a very important link within the work of the sanctuary and we could not manage without you all.

So the first thing we would want to do is to thank you all most sincerely for your hard work. You give your time so willingly and we would not be where we are without you. At the moment there are times when we find it really very hard to make ends meet, as you know it costs £9000 a month to run the sanctuary. However, all this has been cushioned by your hard work, good ideas and talents, so thank you. We are living in difficult times and we are looking to see if and where economies can be made.

TRUSTEE NEWS

In April Judy Gibbons, Catherine Keogh and Bee Wilson had completed three years as trustees. This meant that by the guidelines of the charity commission we should decide whether to carry on and in what capacity we should continue. Judy and Catherine decided that they would like to continue, but Bee Wilson has decided to stand down. We therefore would like to thank Bee for all her support and she will, if they are needed, be designing any new Christmas cards for us. We are very pleased that Ann Ebsworth has agreed to become a trustee and is now listed with the Charity Commission and Companies House.

Each Trustee has an area of responsibility as follows Judy Gibbons, Office; Catherine Keogh, Yard and Volunteers and Anne Ebsworth, Health and Safety and Office.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We would like to welcome back Frances and with her Margaret and Pat. We have missed you all and are pleased to have you back in our midst. We are glad that your operation was successful Frances and now you must be self disciplined and not do too much so you stay fit!

We hope our volunteers will be able to have a break with their families during the summer. We are pleased to see Barbara is back with us after a holiday to see her son and grandson in the USA.

For those of you on email it would be a real help if you could let Catherine and Wendy have your email addresses. For special and other events Wendy will continue to ring as usual.

HEALTH and SAFETY NEWS

Signing in is part of the Health and Safety requirements because John McLaren, our Sanctuary Manager, must know, in the event of a fire, who is working on the site.

We would like to remind new volunteers to call into their local doctor's surgery and have a Tetanus check. Usually most of us are covered but if you have not had a Tetanus injection then you need to talk to your GP. This is precautionary advice.

OFFICE NEWS

We have now moved into the new office. When the office is up and running there will be a signing in book in the office and we would ask all volunteers to sign in and out whenever they are working for us on site.

We have been very fortunate in being able to reuse a redundant classroom. The building has been repainted and Anne and Dave Ebsworth with a team from the Reading Lions, painted the outside of the building too. Dave put up the curtain tracking, Francis made the curtains from material that had been given to us and the carpet we had from Crufts has been laid.

We have two new volunteers who will be working in the office or at home. Firstly, Anne Honeyball, who lives in Brightwell has been helping with the newsletter adverts and setting up our spreadsheets. Secondly, we think most people have met Kwok Lee who has been helping with the fund raising too. Kwok will be helping us to sort the copy dates for all local papers, and both he and his wife, Julie are hoping to help us with our website. As you will have seen we are working on a new logo which will be on the new issue of summer wear for volunteers and staff when the final form has been agreed.

DONKEY NEWS

We have one new donkey, a yearling called Jack of Diamonds. He was presented to Linda Chilton for the Sanctuary. Sadly male donkeys are not in high demand at present and so we are glad to offer him a safe home and he will hopefully bring us some publicity in the show ring.

We have had a short term donkey guest, who has joined us while waiting for already arranged permanent home. We have this donkey as his owner is ill and is unable to look after him. We have also agreed to take Briony who is the mother of Orinocco, who is already at Island Farm. We have four other donkeys who have come in from Oxfordshire and need our care as well as two from the Henley area and one, kept on her own in a field in Shropshire is now safely with us.

Many thanks to you all

Judy Gibbons, Chair, Catherine Keogh, Vice Chair, Anne Ebsworth, Trustee