



VOLUNTEERS

NEWSLETTER No 5

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MANY THANKS

Once again the trustees would like to thank all of our volunteers for their loyalty and hard work during 2013. It continues to amaze us that the industry and commitment of our volunteers result in saving us so much money, not only by volunteering in the yard but also raising so much money by manning stalls and producing goods which in turn, enables us to support the donkeys in the style to which they have become accustomed!

We will celebrate another successful year at our NEW YEAR Party which will be held on FRIDAY 31st JANUARY 2014 in the barn at Island Farm starting at 7.30pm and we hope that you and your family will all be able to join us. Pandemonium will be providing their own unique style of musical entertainment and Stuart will probably perplex us all with a quiz and Dave Ebsworth will undoubtedly have ideas of his own and hopefully a good time will be had by all. As usual we will have a buffet supper so if you would like to bring something to share we would be grateful. Please give your name to Wendy if you are coming. - it helps with catering.

DONKEY CARE COURSES

We are grateful to Clare Strang who is helping us to establish our own DONKEY CARE COURSE Stage 1. This is a great move forward and two successful courses have been held already with a further course on 18th January and others throughout the year. We will then be planning a Stage 2 Course. If you want to apply for a place on any of the courses please see Wendy.

A bit about Clare, who has 18 donkeys and lives near Reading she has had donkeys since 1971 and is the Berkshire Area Rep for the DBS. She is also a member of the DBS Judges Panel, and has been a member of the Shows and Judges, Stud Book and Driving Committees. We are grateful to Clare for her help, she gives us a lot of information in donkey care as well as expert advice on donkey handling.

EVENTS and other FUND RAISING

We have had so many events before Christmas at the Opera House too and we would like to **THANK YOU** all for your generous response to our need for handlers and tin shakers so that these events can be so worthwhile. In addition our thanks to those volunteers who kindly keep the Visitor Centre open as much as possible. It is much appreciated by our visitors. We are pleased to tell you that the Sinodun Inner Wheel, a small group in Wallingford has adopted us as their charity and have raised nearly £500. The raffle was drawn by the Mayor of Wallingford on the 1st December. There will be a presentation of the cheque in the Visitor Centre at 2.30pm on Friday 10th January. You are welcome to come along if you would like to. Volunteers are also working in the Office getting our records in good order and with our advertisers - these adverts pay for the cost of the Newsletter. Additionally, this year, we have had a lot of help from two volunteers who have redesigned our website which should be up and running soon. It will mean we have access to the site and will be able to keep it up to date. Thanks too to the volunteers who helped John with the YEKNOD Dinner, setting up, preparing veg, waiting table and a host of other jobs too!

TRUSTEES

Dave will be working with John and Stuart on the co-ordination of events and general site overview. Annie remains responsible for Health and Safety and signage and working with Wendy on the shop. Annie has introduced a very nice set of children's books which have sold well over Christmas. Cathie is dealing with Inductions for new volunteers and works with Linda and John on Yard matters. Judy works closely with John and has overview of the Sanctuary in all respects.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Once again, we are asking those of you on email to let Catherine and Wendy have your email addresses as we are setting up a group email so that we can keep everyone in touch electronically where possible. For special and other events Wendy will continue to ring as usual. .

Please turn over

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We sold all our Christmas cards this year by the beginning of December. The new designs were good sellers and we hope to have some new designs again later in the year. We will need to order more cards too!!!

VOLUNTEER NEWS - Well done to Flo' Galliford who was nominated for a Volunteer Award through a scheme run by OCVA [Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action]. Each year charities are invited to nominate a volunteer and this year we nominated Flo' who received her award, with two members of her family present at Oxford Town Hall in October. We were given a lot of publicity as Flo', along with others, appeared in the local paper and the Oxford Times.

We will be submitting more names this year to highlight the wonderful work our Volunteers do for us. We may not achieve a nomination again this year - but we will try.

VOLUNTEER TRAVEL- a reminder

We would like to remind you that, we recognise when our volunteers do long journeys on behalf of the sanctuary, or come to the sanctuary consistently in the school holidays and at weekends to run the visitor centre, and you can therefore claim your petrol costs. There is a form available in the office and we will pay 20p per mile. Please see Wendy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To have an extra pair of hands to help with the jumble and with selling ice creams and running the Visitors' Centre would lighten everybody's individual load. We rely on our present wonderful volunteers to train the new volunteers and make them feel welcome and included. If you know of anybody who would be willing to help, even if they could only commit to the 'big' events, it would be very helpful and reduce the workload for all of you who work so hard.

EQUINE HOSPITAL APPEAL

We are very grateful to the Lawrence family and particularly Keith for his inspiration to begin the Equine Hospital Appeal. The plans have been passed and we are now moving forward with the necessary building regulations. The appeal is now on and the hospital will have stables which will be able to be kept sterile and have washing facilities for staff and vets. This will be a great asset and will make caring for the sick animals a much easier task. There will be an update on fund raising for the EHA in the next Newsletter.

HEALTH and SAFETY NEWS

We are summarising the health and safety updates that were in the last newsletter because health and safety must be a standing item that we update and monitor regularly. Thank you for by helping us by remembering to sign in and out.

This is so important because it is mandatory for us to know who is on the premises at any one time in case of fire, so thank you and keep up the good work. Fortunately, we have very few accidents at Island Farm but would also remind you that any accident or injury irrespective of how minor should be recorded in the accident book. Finally we would ask you to take care walking around the site when it is icy. Please follow the advice and signs from staff and do take care to avoid injury.

RECYCLING

Always remember we are now signed up to recycle old inkjet cartridges, laser & toner cartridges & mobile phones with a company called Recycle4Charity and there are envelopes to collect from the office for people to send off themselves or a box that they can deposit cartridges etc. in the office reception. We get money credited to our account every time we send them cartridges.

We also collect USED STAMPS - always leave a border around the stamps and hand them in to Wendy. Neal sorts them for us and we sell them by the Kilo - so we want lots more stamps.

EASY FUNDRAISING online

Please remember to use EASYFUNDRAISING when ordering online. We need more people to register and the Sanctuary benefits a percentage on the items which you order. Since we signed up we have made over £200 please help us to make more.....at least get something in return for your order and help the Sanctuary too.

**Happy New Year
TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**



VOLUNTEERS and STAFF PARTY 7.30pm

Friday 31st January - see you there!

RSVP to Wendy as soon as you can.

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