



# VOLUNTEERS

## NEWSLETTER No 7

December 2014

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### Thank you.

Thank you to you all for your continued support. It has been a busy summer and autumn, with the Newbury Show which has brought in many interested supporters. We have also had representatives at the Pet Show in Birmingham and the usual round of events such as Wallingford Carnival and the many other summer fetes and events. If you add into this busy schedule the table top sales and flea markets and craft fairs, which are the events which consistently keep the money flowing in it becomes apparent that we are a very busy Sanctuary!

More recently the Wolfpack motor cyclists celebrated Christmas in our barn and enjoyed a superb three course Christmas dinner. All of these events have been very successful both financially and in raising the profile of the Sanctuary. None of these events would have been possible without the contribution that you have all made by helping our staff and John, in preparing for the events, attending events, running the various stalls and helping in the yard to free up the staff to take the donkeys outside to events. The staff and the trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support.

### Events

We are entering another busy period, with Christmas Markets and nativity plays and our donkeys are already booked to make personal appearances.

We are all really looking forward to the Carol Service which promises and is a lovely way to get together and start the Christmas celebrations.

### Carol Service December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

We do hope that you will all join us for mince pies and mulled wine and a service led by the Rev Janice Chilton, from Brightwell Cum Sotwell.

This year our carol singing will be accompanied by Benson and Roke Brass Band. They will be playing 'Christmassy' music when we arrive, carols for the service and afterwards. Then we can get into the true Christmas spirit by having mulled wine [alternative available] and mince pies! We will also be drawing the winner of the blanket donated by Rev Janice Chilton and a Christmas Raffle. All the proceeds will go towards looking after our donkeys.

### Annual Party

Because the Carol Service is so near to Christmas we would like to make this our Christmas event and, for a change, invite you all to join us in the spring for our annual get together at a BBQ. The main reason for this change is that apart from the Carol Service being later, the weather is so unpredictable in January and many people have quite a way to travel which they find difficult.

### Equine Hospital Appeal

The hospital appeal has reached £8000+ and we remain grateful to the Lawrence family for their continued efforts, and indeed everybody who is contributing in many different ways. We will be making every effort to get this Appeal into the media after Christmas as it is really important that we get the EH built so that our donkeys have the best care we can give them - more so when they are not well.

### Health and Safety

Thank you for your vigilance in signing in and out. At this time of year there can be ice and so please take care when crossing the site and take notice of any water and ice.

**Please note:** If volunteers want to raise any matter of concern please refer them in the first instance to John McLaren, Sanctuary Manager

## Shop

There are lots of new donkey stock in the shop from children's books, microfleece tea towels and note books, to book markers with three dimensional views and a different range of soft donkey toys too. Please try and support the shop.

## 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.

## Christmas Cards

Our thanks to Nandi Ablett for our new designs which are good sellers. Thanks also to artist Maureen Richardson for her Donkey and Robin card. The cards are all selling well and we need to sell as many as we can to help with the winter feed.

Volunteer news - Well done to Frances Wasey 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 Frances who will be receiving her award, with John, representing the Sanctuary and two members of her family present at Oxford Town Hall in February 2015.

We will be submitting more names this coming 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, you can 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 keep the Sanctuary running we need more volunteers, this lessens the load for everyone. We need people to help at events in the barn and the local area. We also need volunteers to work in the yard. The yard is very rewarding - but hard work as we all know. But we all love the donkeys and realise that their essential care is the core of the work that we do. Obviously, the more help we have the better - the Sanctuary will be looking at ways to encourage more volunteers to join us. Everyone at the Sanctuary knows how hard you all work and John, the staff and the Trustees we would like to say a BIG thank you to you all.

## Recycling

Always remember we are now signed up to recycle old inkjet cartridges, laser & toner cartridges & mobile phones.. There is a box in the office where people can deposit cartridges etc. We get money credited to our account every time we send them cartridges.

## Easyfundraising

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 £320 so please help us to make more.....at least we get something in return for your order and it helps the Sanctuary too.

# Happy Christmas

## TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS



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