



Behind the Stable Door Spring 2018

LLUEST

Welcome to our Spring 2018 newsletter. It has been a long, tough winter for us and, with the late arrival of spring after the snowfall we had in March, we have faced quite a few challenges. That said, we've lots of news to share with you and hope you enjoy reading about it.

Since October until the time of writing we have had fourteen ponies returned to us from their guardian homes, but we have also found wonderful homes for another fourteen. The cost of hay, feed and bedding has skyrocketed and we are still over capacity with twenty-eight equines on site and another 130 in loan homes. Despite the challenges, we have been able to rescue a further seven ponies that needed our help.

On behalf of all the staff and trustees, thank you to all our friends, supporters and guardian homes, without whom we couldn't exist.

Dionne Schuurman
Equine Manager

Blizzards Blast Beili Bedw

The cold weather in late February presented a challenge to the staff at Lluest. Not only did the sub-zero temperatures freeze the pipes to the stables and the house, but the cold easterly wind and blizzard conditions filled the lane with deep snow so that it was only accessible using four-wheel drive vehicles. Because of that the staff spent several days snowed in on the farm with the horses.

Our wonderful neighbours checked up on us and one brought up a 1000-litre container of water for the horses by tractor. A thousand litres may sound like a lot of water, but it only lasted the horses just over 24 hours. Another neighbour delivered small containers of drinking water for the staff to make tea. We are very grateful to them all for helping us out and for checking that we were all right.



Lluest Ponies in Pastures New

Gertie

In January, after nearly two years at the Trust Gertie, the last of our Storm Ponies, went to her new Guardian home.

Gertie was rescued with three other ponies from the Black Mountain in February 2016 following a desperate call from concerned local people.

The ponies had been abandoned on the mountain some eighteen months to two years earlier and had been struggling to survive the winter storms. They were found in a very poor state and were all due to be destroyed because their owners could not be traced. Gertie was in the worst condition as she had a little filly foal at foot who the staff named Eva. All four ponies were given names after the relentless storms they had endured on the mountain that winter. Gertie now enjoys a warm stable and a sheltered field with only a view of the Black Mountain she was rescued from.



Gertie on her way out to the field

Rocky

Our 'tiny but mighty' miniature Shetland, Rocky, has gone to a new home as a companion. He arrived at Lluest just days before Christmas having been rescued from a small and very muddy field in Pembrokeshire.

After a vet check, a small operation to be gelded, a few lessons in being taught to lead nicely and a spot of socialising with our Shetland herd, Rocky was ready for his own guardian home. We are happy to report that he has settled in well.



Rocky is much more relaxed in his new home

Pie

Pie, a cute piebald Shetland mare, was fostered out for the winter and came back to us on Good Friday. After only two nights here she went to her new guardian home on Easter Monday.



The Three Rs. How you can help us Rescue, Rehabilitate & Rehome

We are always grateful for donations. You can text a donation quoting PONY20 and the amount of your donation to 70070. You can donate at www.justgiving.com/lluesthorseandpony or via PayPal.

Setting up a direct debit and giving us a regular donation is easy via our website or you can fundraise for us.

We would not have been able to help so many horses and ponies without our volunteers so, if you are over 16, we'd love hear from you. All forms are available in the downloads section of our website. Finally if you can offer a secure and loving home to one of our ponies, take a look at the rehoming section of our website or give us a call.

Thirty Years Young

Elderly Dillon came to us in early February. He had been living outside and had several health issues, including a lice infestation, rain scald and Cushings syndrome. We were not sure whether he would be fit to travel as he was very weak, so



Dillon in the office being fed carrots

we padded out the lorry with straw and drove very slowly to help him keep his balance. When we arrived back at the yard Dillon wobbled down the ramp and across the yard into the isolation stables where he was to spend the next two weeks. Only a month later Dillon had grown in stature. Having been carefully fed concentrates and supplements he has had his scurfy skin treated with regular brushing and special oils. A new lease of life, he can now be seen trotting past the office window on his way out to the field and, if he gets the chance, in the office asking for carrots. Dillon will soon off to his new guardian home.



Dillon in February (left) and three months later at the beginning of May

Easter Egg Hunt

In the first week of the Easter holidays we organised an egg hunt. A route was set up through the yard and our woodland walk, culminating in a visit to the stables. Despite the cold and rainy weather we were delighted to see quite a few people brave the elements to claim their chocolate Easter bunnies.



Some of the Easter Egg Hunters stayed on and helped out on the yard!

New Equine Facilitated Learning Courses

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) courses this summer. EFL is an effective way to encourage individuals, particularly those with learning difficulties, to become more self aware and to get more out of life generally. It is very moving to see how people interact with the ponies and hearing them describe how they feel afterwards is a wonderful thing. The courses will be run over June and July with children and young adults from the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, based at Glangwili.

Horse Care at Hoof Camp

On Easter Monday, we held our first-ever Hoof Camp. It was aimed at children keen to learn how to care for a horse or pony. After a yard safety briefing there was a short talk on the theory of horse behaviour. Then followed a discussion on welfare and the five freedoms. After that it was out on the yard for a practical lesson in stable management, including a little bit of muck shovelling! There were also meetings with different ponies and learning about grooming, handling and leading. Fun was had by all and, given the success of the day, we plan to put on some more over the summer.



Grooming at Hoof Camp

Little Beatrix Makes Herself at Home

The end of April saw the rescue of beautiful little Beatrix, a grey Welsh Mountain type pony, believed to be in her 20s. We were made aware of her plight during the March snows when we were contacted by a person worried about some ponies who appeared to have no one caring for them. We went to have a look and found four ponies in good body condition, but with severely overgrown feet, lice and matted manes and tails. Enquiries led us to believe they had been abandoned so we enlisted the help of World Horse Welfare and the RSPCA who later seized all four. Sadly we didn't have the room to take them all, but we made space for little Beatrix and the others are safely with another charity. Beatrix is a very sweet pony and will be available as a companion once she has received the necessary treatment and come out of quarantine.



Beatrix settling into the isolation unit here at Lluest

