

# Ali Visits Birchfields School To Talk Rabbits

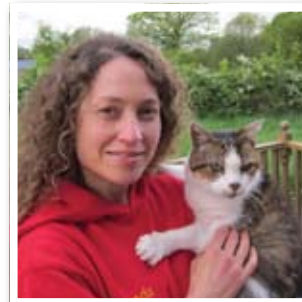
On Friday 4th April, Ali our Small Animal Co-ordinator visited Birchfields School to join in with their Easter Assembly which was all about rabbits!

This had been organised in conjunction with Chrys, our charity partner, from Jollyes Petfood Superstore in Fallowfield which is next door to the school. Jollyes have the Sanctuary as their chosen instore charity and have a food collection bin for donations to our animals. Ali was delighted to go along and see the accommodation the school have for their own pet rabbits. She was pleased to see they had an inner quadrangle which was totally enclosed for the rabbits to roam around in, gardens and borders for them to rummage about in, as well as some very well proportioned sheds for them to sleep in at night.

The children were really interested in hearing about Ali's job at the Sanctuary and all her advice about caring for rabbits. Many of them took notes and promised to come along and visit the Sanctuary in their holidays. So, it was a great visit from an educational perspective and hopefully we will have some new visitors down at the Sanctuary this Summer. Nice one Ali!



# Volunteer 'Pawtrait'



The Sanctuary is very fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteers who choose to give their time freely to help in its day to day running, whether that is behind the scenes or being its public face, promoting and fundraising.

Amanda Williams has been a volunteer at the Sanctuary for 2 years; initially coming in on Sundays to clean the Kitty Corridor. As keen cyclist's, she and her husband Simon, would cycle up early each week in all weathers to make sure the pens were clean and also to tend to the hens outside. Seeing a need for more fundraisers, Amanda decided to take on an active role, at the many events organised to raise money and awareness.

In October 2013, Amanda took over the responsibility of Treasurer and also became a Trustee. As a qualified FCCA, her accountancy background has proven invaluable. Keeping an eye on the charity's income and expenditure, is a full time job in itself, but Amanda has the talent to balance all this with her part time role as a Finance Director with a PR company in Prestwich.

Fortunately, Simon is also a Qualified ACA accountant and can step in to share the load when needed. When she has spare time, Amanda indulges her passion for fitness, either running or cycling round the many paths that Wilmslow offers. A keen gardener, Amanda would like to spend more time in her garden but there never seems to be enough time! Her priority is the other man in her life, her 18 1/2 year old cat Robbie who is just as much a celebrity as his famous namesake. Although he has suffered with renal failure for 8 years, he is still very much a kitten at heart who enjoys playing with his collection of toys and a game of 'Paw tennis' when the mood takes him. At the end of a long day, they both like to unwind in each other's company, with Robbie happily ensconced on Amanda's lap.

## Become a Volunteer

Do you love animals, have time to spare, and would like to make a difference in your community? Then why not become a volunteer at the Animal Sanctuary?

We rely on the dedication and support of our volunteers to provide a service for those animals most in need in the Wilmslow area. If you feel you could help, please contact the Animal Sanctuary for further details. Alternatively, you can download, print and complete a Volunteer Application form from our website. [www.humaneeducationsociety.co.uk](http://www.humaneeducationsociety.co.uk)

## Please buy our Summer Draw Raffle Tickets

Now on sale only £1 each!

Please support us by selling tickets to friends, family and colleagues.

Some great prizes are on offer -

**1ST PRIZE £150 SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS.**

2nd prize a Kindle Paperwhite and 3rd prize is a luxury beauty hamper with many other great prizes to be won.



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Look for [animalswilmslow](https://twitter.com/animalswilmslow) and find out the latest news

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# The ANIMAL SANCTUARY

## NEWSLETTER

Formerly *Friend of animals*



[www.humaneeducationsociety.co.uk](http://www.humaneeducationsociety.co.uk)

WILMSLOW

SUMMER 2014

Fun In The Sun-Day!  
Our first ever family fun-day raises over £3000!

HUMANE EDUCATION SOCIETY

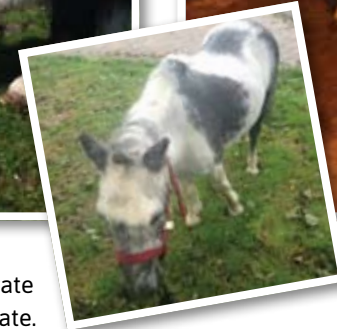
Founded in 1927

## RIP Louis

It was with great sadness that we report that Louis, our little Shetland pony, passed away on Monday 7th April aged 48 years.

Louis had been rehomed by the Sanctuary many years ago, but as with all our ponies, he was only on 'permanent loan'. This means that at any given time down the line, if the new 'owner' cannot care for their pony anymore or their circumstances change, we can take the animal back to the Sanctuary to safety and a loving home - rather than not knowing where they have ended up. (Ponies and horses all have Passports so we can easily identify which ones are 'ours'.) Louis had come back to us 3 years ago because his elderly 'owner' had become poorly and could no longer look after him. Louis then was in his mid 40's - quite exceptional for a Shetland. When he reappeared at the Sanctuary his coat wasn't in great condition, and he looked sad and bewildered. He also didn't like being separated from his coat so he must have really felt the cold too.

When he first arrived at the Sanctuary, Jen our Equine Co-ordinator gently took him for a walk around the sanctuary estate, past the ducks and chickens, the barn and



down to the office and gate and headed off down Newgate. Louis couldn't see very much and was deaf but he put his trust in Jen and let her lead him carefully and slowly round his new home. The love and time that was spent on Louis paid dividends. In time his coat was miraculously transformed into a soft and smooth layer and he was happy to show it off - no need for a security blanket anymore! After hours of grooming the staff ended up with more hair over them than Louis! As he had no teeth, Louis needed a special liquid meal that didn't look very appealing; more like one of those green sludgy cleanses that

you have on a detox but it obviously did the trick with Louis and helped him with his recuperation back to health.

Louis also had a 'cheeky twinkle in his eye' and had a particular trick of surprising those working in the barn by head butting bottoms when least expected; a right little rogue, but an immensely lovable one. Louis will be missed by everyone at the Sanctuary, none more so than the team who had the joy of working with and around him every day. He was a true character, a lovely soul with a rascal streak. God bless little Louis.



## Animal A-Team!

At the Sanctuary we rely heavily on volunteers to support the staff in helping to look after the growing number of animals in our care. Volunteers help with cleaning, emptying litter trays, feeding, socialising the more timid cats, mucking out stables, cleaning out the rabbits... the list is endless.

Now, four of our volunteers have gone one step further – catapulting the Sanctuary into the 21st Century with their knowledge of technology! Laura Beynon, Nicola Foster, Emma Garvey and Clare Jones, all regular weekend volunteers, found that collectively they had a wealth of skills from their day jobs that they could use to help the Sanctuary in another way. Together, they have harnessed the power of online Social Media to boost the profile of our charity and hugely increase the mailing list and therefore the number of people who are interested in seeing our work. Nicola is a qualified Graphic Designer and now designs all the literature we need, as well as taking responsibility for managing our Facebook site – which now has over 1600 'Likes'. If you follow the Sanctuary on Facebook (The Animal Sanctuary, Wilmslow) you will see regular updates of stories and photos of animals at the site, as well as progress reports on the ones who have been adopted. Laura, who has her own marketing company, Dot-to-Dot Marketing, has brought in a new email management system which



(L to R) Emma, Clare, Laura and Nicola - experts in cat cuddling and media!

allows us to send out a regular electronic monthly newsletter, many of you may have seen, called 'Flea-mail'. She also manages our Twitter account, which now has over 1800 followers. Emma, working as a Conversion and Optimisation Manager has single handedly built from scratch (yikes!) our brand new website - launching imminently. This refreshing new site will allow staff and trustees to update and make changes to any page themselves, without incurring the cost of a host company any more. She has also successfully applied for a Google grant which allows the Sanctuary to appear higher up in the search listings for free! Last, but certainly

not least, is Clare who is an Operations Co-ordinator & Aviation Market Analyst in her day job. Clare has taken charge of writing the huge number of refreshing and heart-warming articles that appear on all these sites, as well as in this newsletter. She chooses the stories that will appeal to readers as well as working on educational articles that cover pet/animal welfare. We are all so very grateful to this group of fantastic volunteers for all their hard work and expertise. So, on behalf of everyone at the Sanctuary we want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to them for all their kindness and help.

## Local Community Help Rescue 'Car Park Kittens'



Anita & Liz

Last Autumn, Liz from Viyella Wilmslow, realised that a cat and three kittens were living in a hole behind the shop. She and her colleague, Anita, started feeding the family, every day even coming back to feed them on Sundays when the shop is closed.

In December the Sanctuary received a call from one of our supporters Sue Moore at Sainsbury's, to say that a number of shoppers had reported seeing kittens running around in the car park. Several of the Sainsbury's staff had also started putting out food in various places for them. At that time the Sanctuary sadly had no space available but we asked everyone to continue to feed them until we had room. On Boxing Day we placed a humane

trap near the hole and food was placed inside it. The trap was checked every couple of hours and first the mother and then two of the kittens were trapped. The mother (named Freda) was taken to the Sanctuary while the two kittens (Lizzie and Ginger) were taken home by Celia, one of our Trustees, who works intensively with semi feral cats and kittens to socialise them.



Ginger & Lizzie

We learnt from Sue Moore that one of the kittens had been reported dragging its back legs and had seemed very weak. It had not been seen for some time and everyone thought that it must have died. However, Liz was not prepared to give up on this kitten and continued to put out food. When the food disappeared several nights in a row, we set the trap up again and little Lucky was



Lucky

trapped and reunited with her siblings. After a few weeks of intensive care the kittens had come on well enough to move to a foster home where they stayed for over a month before coming to the Sanctuary. Freda and her kittens have now all been rehomed, and despite their shaky start in life are all settling well into their new families.



Dexter (Ginger) very happy in his new home

## Sponsored Dog Walk

A huge THANK YOU and congratulations are in order for Gail Bagshaw-Wright, from Woodcroft Vets, for organising the most brilliant sponsored Dog Walk to raise funds for the Sanctuary this May.

Despite the inclement weather, around 60 people and over 40 dogs all arrived to take part in the 6 mile round-trip walk, which left The Ship Inn, Styal at 11am. As they departed there was a deluge of rain, however they were not to be thwarted (quite hardened these dog-owners you know!) as everyone was kitted out in wellies and waterproofs. The walk involved a Refreshment Break at the Sanctuary, where the smell of Celia's scones, Colette's muffins, and Jocelyn's cookies was beckoning!

At around 12.15, the Sanctuary site cat and 'look-out', Wobbly Woody, sent up a signal to the cat barn that their canine friends were about to arrive. Cue 20 site cats all scarping to high up places where they could 'observe' these visitors without fear!

Everyone arrived in good spirits, no one got lost along the way, and just as the first cuppa was poured out came the sun! All of those doggies looked like they'd taken part in a mud-running event, not a dog walk, and were definitely in need of baths later on. However all were marvelously behaved and many were keen to hand over their sponsorship money directly to the site cats! One dog (Alfie-Bone



from Bramhall) commented that he'd brought two slices of bread, a bottle of ketchup and was hoping for a moggie-sandwich at the Sanctuary, however he was only joking! After a quick refreshment break we waved goodbye to all our canine friends and owners and Gail led them back along the circular walk to The Ship Inn. The Sanctuary animals heaved a big sigh of relief, the humans had much washing up to do, and the last we heard was that Gail was being treated to a slap-up Sunday dinner for her efforts – hopefully she had a large glass of wine too! This kind of event is the life-blood of the Sanctuary. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment and we are sure Gail didn't sleep much the night before. But it's been really wonderful and turned our beautifully. Gail, you are a star!

## Fundraising Family Fun Day!

With guided tours of the Sanctuary, face-painting, bouncy castles, candy floss, Peppa Pig, Pimms and cakes aplenty, our first ever Family Fun Day raised more than £3,000 for the Sanctuary!

Over 400 people flocked to the site to join in the fun on Sunday 29th June. The weather was kind and stayed sunny and dry and sun dresses and shorts were aplenty. A huge team of dedicated volunteers rallied round for the day and worked tirelessly setting up, manning the stalls and packing it all up again at the end. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand to help us, we are indebted to you. We were all exhausted at the end, but it was all worth it to boost the 'coffers' and to help us continue our work caring for animals in our community. A fabulous time was had by all. If you have any pictures from our fun day that you would like to share with us you can share them now on our facebook page.

