

PLEASE VOTE FOR US!

We are thrilled to have been chosen as one of the five finalists in the Meridian West Region for the People's Projects. This collaboration between the National Lottery Community Fund and ITV enables five charities in each ITV region, who have been through a rigorous application process (!) to compete for up to £50,000.

The three projects with the highest votes receive this amazing amount of funding. For us, it would not only enable us to run a year of Chance2Be courses, but we would also be able to purchase a minibus for the Sanctuary.

Our Chance2Be programme is proving to have a significant effect on the health and wellbeing of young people in our area. We are working with those who are struggling a little with the ups and downs of their lives – to increase their confidence and self-esteem and to reduce their anxiety, self-criticism and anger. This is all done with the help of our wonderful horses, who themselves know how tough life can be.

In addition to the sessions, we would be really excited to have the prospect of purchasing a minibus for the Sanctuary as a whole. As many of you who have visited us will know, we are a little out of the way and we know that for some of our community groups that do not have access to transport, the cost of hiring a vehicle to get their members to us is just simply out of their budget and prevents them visiting. We hope to be able to buy our own bus so that we can offer transport ourselves and enable many



more people to come to share our horses with us – an all-round service!

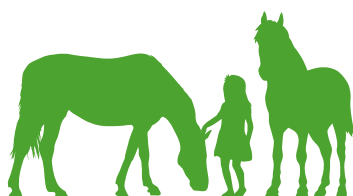
To win the money, it's very simple – we need the votes! And we need your help! We would love it if you would consider voting for Mane Chance, but also if you could encourage your family, friends and work colleagues to do so too.

The four other projects we are up against, rightly so, are also strong candidates and compared to a few of them, we are a small charity. We know that the voting will be tight.

Small we may be, but we have a huge heart and an even bigger desire to help horses, humans, hens (and one hound) be the very best that they can be, whatever their background or previous situation!

Please [click here](#) to place your vote for us!

Thank you so much!



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

(Read more on Page 5)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PLEASE VOTE
OUR HORSES
THE SHETLAND PROJECT
FOR EARTHS SAKE
EVENTS
EASTER EGG TRAIL
MEET THE TEAM
AND FINALLY

OUR HORSES

The winter months are challenging for any sanctuary as the constant cold...

(Page 1)

THE SHETLAND PROJECT

It is all in the preparation, as they say, and my goodness, we prepared!

(Page 2)

FOR EARTHS SAKE PROJECT

We don't normally include these items in our newsletters, but...

(Page 3)

EASTER EGG TRAIL

This super event is getting bigger and better each year...

(Page 4)

MEET THE TEAM

We would like to introduce you to Martin, one of our regular volunteers who has been with us for a couple of years now...

(Page 7)

OUR HORSES.

The winter months are challenging for any sanctuary as the constant cold and wet lead to mud and hungry horses who have to work so much harder just to keep warm if they live outside- as ours do. We rug those that need them so they are nice and cosy and feed them hay three times a day to keep their bellies full!

Before Christmas our focus was on reminding the Shetlands that go to our carol concert in Godalming that the trailer isn't a scary beast, but rather a vehicle with treats and hay and accompanied by lots of scratches! They soon got the hang of it and behaved like the pros that they are, loading and unloading and doing their meet and greet at the church with two of them walking up the aisle and seemingly enjoying the attention. We never force our horses to do anything, but we always find that most of them

love the interaction with the people who visit us and usually step forward to investigate any visitor or new experience. Horses are naturally curious and if they are treated kindly, and trust us humans, they will normally want to be involved – unless of course eating takes priority!!!!

We are very proud of the fact that two thirds of our herd have a zero worm count and those that do have some worms are low on the scale. This is almost entirely due to the daily poo pick by our team of staff and wonderful volunteers who turn up come rain, wind or snow. And trust me, it can be brutal out there! We really couldn't do without them. Another big job that we have had to do- with the help of all of our volunteers and Community groups- is picking up sycamore seedlings. A sycamore tree sheds thousands of 'helicopters' every year and any that aren't collected in the Autumn, show their heads in the Spring. For some reason, sycamore seeds and saplings can be benign for years

and then all of a sudden become totally toxic and lethal. So we don't take the chance and rigorously pick out seedlings on a daily basis. It is a labour of love!

The birds are sweeping around the fields and nesting and you can almost hear the audible sighs of relief from the horses as the sun's rays warm their backs and the sweet new grass grows up through the earth. But oh my, do the horses want a scratch as those winter coats start to shed. Trees, field shelters, people- they don't care as long as scratching is involved! The weather is doing its best to confuse us all with hot sun some days and, as I type, hail stones the size of golf balls, falling and with minus temperatures at night....

What will the oncoming Summer bring? Who knows, but whatever happens, we will make sure that each and every horse has what it needs.

OUR SITE

The horses are enjoying the new grass, a sign that Spring has definitely sprung – the indicators are there – our herds enjoy snoozing after breakfast in the warm sun, and the team often stop to lie in the fields with them before they get to sit in the orchard and yard after the poo pick, enjoying their well-earned coffee break!

The daffodils had a bit of a false start with the unseasonably warm few days that we had earlier in the year, but they have lasted well and are still brightening up the orchard.

And we are able to start our programme of field work now which leads to the movement of the horses onto their summer pastures. Harrowing, slitting and



rolling is already underway and each year we seem to take a step forward in the quality of the grazing and the nurturing of good old Doctor Grass, which as we all know, is so much better than dull, boring hay! Everything always feels so much easier when the sun shows its face and more quality time is able to be spent with the herds as the hay feeding time quickens and stops. We owe a huge

thanks to the staffing and volunteer team, who have restricted the vehicle access in the tracks and fields all winter (meaning that the wheelbarrows have had to be pushed further!) and who have repeatedly moved the areas of feeding – both to prevent poaching of the land. We have therefore survived the winter with very little damage to the fields and already everything is looking very, very green!!

THE SHETLAND PROJECT

After months of mud, mud and more mud, suddenly the Shetland Project is really starting to take shape! It is all in the preparation, as they say, and my goodness, we prepared!

But because of all of that time spent on the groundwork, everything we do now seems to make a real difference. We have sprayed the lush, Surrey grass and it has died back nicely – now we are looking forward to sowing less succulent grass and planting our heathers that have been nurtured over the past few months. The woodland has been opened up to allow foraging and we have planted new hedgerow plants (with anti-nibbling protection) along the new fences, to encourage the wildlife to share our home! All of this should enable our Shetland ponies to have a much more compatible pasture to their breed and they will have to work a little harder for their food - with the added enrichment of woodland to poke about in and therefore a variation to the environment to keep them interested too! At the bottom of the area, we have created a meet and greet zone where some of the Shetlands can come in and meet our visitors or be pampered with a groom from one of our community groups – all within sight (and smell) of the rest of the herd. As you probably know, we try to engage with our horses as much as possible in their own fields and tracks, rather than bring them out to the 'human' part of the site – they are more relaxed and calm if they are close to their herd pals and it leads to much more enjoyable, relaxed interaction. By creating a meet and greet zone within the Shetland project itself, we will have a safe and more natural space for our visitors to meet the horses and spend



time with them – and don't worry, it includes a covered viewing area so that there is protection from the sun and rain! Lastly, within the Shetland project, we are creating a laminitis paddock – an area for when our laminitic-prone or slightly rotund horses need a little rest from the grass and can spend some time with a strict food regime to prevent the laminitis taking hold – or to lose a few pounds!

This project is hugely exciting and could prove a really good example to show others who too struggle with the

overweight and laminitic tendencies of the Shetland breed. What is particularly nice about this project is that we are prioritising the welfare of the horses (of course) but also really underpinning this with facilities for our community – thereby totalling embracing the ethos of the Charity.

Our plan is to have the project completed and opened at the Big Summer Open Day – you are all most welcome to come and see it (and try it out!) for yourselves!

FOR EARTH'S SAKE

We don't normally include these items in our newsletters, but the couple involved are huge supporters of Mane Chance and are a total inspiration to us all here as they are not only a force of nature but a friend of nature too!

Nik and Vanessa added all the finishing touches for us to our barn extension and then a couple of years ago, we approached them and asked them to help us with our developing pond project. Whilst we were actually building a balancing pond to help with the drainage across the site; we knew that we also wanted it to be a peaceful area of the Sanctuary for our visitors to spend time, where they could sit alongside the water and watch the horses relaxing around them. We came up with the idea of putting a bridge across the pond to make it a more attractive feature and we asked Nik and Vanessa for help. In our minds, we were expecting a quite standard flat bridge to span the water, but Nik and Vanessa had other ideas. They designed and built a beautiful construction that flows across the pond with a gentle

rise and fall to ensure it is wheelchair accessible too. It is a joy to look at. The work took a huge amount of skill and time to individually carve all of the components and we are thrilled with the results. Two years on, it is still a real centrepiece of our Sanctuary and we are so grateful to them.

A little while ago, we learnt of Nik and Vanessa's new venture and it could not be more akin to the values that we hold at Mane Chance and are sure that many of you have too! So we wish to share their news with you and publicly wish them a huge amount of good luck for a successful and zero carbon footprint future as they open their new shop a few miles away – and our very own Jenny did the honours for them too!

Cranleigh's For Earth's Sake is a shop that puts the planet, people and provenance before profit, and is a significant addition to Surrey's zero waste, zero single-use plastics shopping experience. Its aim is to provide shoppers with the opportunity to purchase many of their daily needs including local produce, dried goods, chilled foods, and everyday household items using the most environmentally-friendly methods possible, with strong provenance and without costing the earth. Every aspect of the business



is dedicated to reducing our Carbon Footprint on the environment and shifting the way we consume products in a more sustainable direction.

Packaging is a key issue and For Earth's Sake encourages its customers to bring their own clean containers to refill, and bags and baskets.

If you are ever in the Cranleigh area, please pop in and see for yourself – they are at 73 High Street, Cranleigh, GU6 8AU.

You can follow their story on their facebook page [here](#)

Good Luck Nik and Vanessa!

EVENTS

Easter Egg Trail

Saturday 20th April – 10am

This super event is getting bigger and better each year and is proving to be a wonderful family activity for young and old alike! We open the gates and welcome you to enjoy a trail around the Sanctuary, meeting many of our horses along the way. An entertaining quiz along the route will enable those taking part to earn an Easter Egg prize at the end in the barn. More fun and games will be in the barn too and refreshments will be available to purchase to reward you for

your efforts – including hot cross buns of course! This is a really lovely way to spend a couple of hours exploring our Sanctuary – dogs are welcome too on leads.

Entrance for the quiz is just £3 with any accompanying adults and dogs going free!

Our team and horses would love to welcome you to the Sanctuary – we can show you the progress with the Shetland Project and also it will be a chance to show our new promotional video too! Come and spend some time with us on Easter Saturday and have a relaxing stroll in the process!

Please email us at:

tickets@manechancesanctuary.org to let us know you are coming – we look forward to seeing you!

Save the Date:

Please pop Sunday 18th August in your diary as we announce the day of our annual family fun day. It looks set to be a really great day again – with the opening of the Shetland Project too! We would love to see you all here – the Sanctuary is constantly evolving and we have lots to tell and show you!



Mane Chance Sanctuary

help us help them

EASTER EGG TRAIL

Saturday 20th April 2019

10am - 3pm

at **Mane Chance Sanctuary**

off Down Lane, Compton, Surrey GU3 1DL

£3.00 per trail (*accompanying adults go free!*).

Please let us know you're coming by booking at
tickets@manechancesanctuary.org

See the horses and Shetland ponies, enjoy the walk, solve the clues along the way, to win an Easter egg prize. Refreshments, hot cross buns and fun and games in the barn.

Dogs on leads very welcome!

Please support our work at the Sanctuary rescuing and caring for abandoned and elderly horses and promoting mutually beneficial relationships with people who need them.

www.manechancesanctuary.org



WAR HORSE MEMORIAL PURPLE POPPY BALL

We are very excited to share that we will be the major beneficiary of the War Horse Memorial Anniversary Charity Ball.

The Ball is being held at The Pavilions, Ascot Racecourse on the evening of June 8th and promises to be a very elegant and spectacular night. It is a celebration of the first Anniversary of the War Horse Memorial's unveiling and also the launch of the 2019 Purple Poppy Appeal and the principle sponsor is Mr. Paul Powers.

The Purple Poppy is the symbol of remembrance for all of the horses, donkeys and mules that gave their lives

in WW1 and is being sold globally to raise money for a number of equine charities, including Mane Chance.

There are front row tables available for 10 guests at £1500. These include a few little extras including champagne! Also, tables of 10 guests at £1000 are still available and a table of 8 guests can be reserved at £100 per head. They will also accept smaller numbers for shared tables. If you fancy a fun evening of good food and world class entertainment to raise money for Mane Chance and the work we do with children in the Community, then please do email



alan@thewarhorsememorial.org
or call Alan on 07770 800511

You can visit their website [here](http://www.thewarhorsememorial.org)

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our annual, festive events proved to be the best yet and we thank everyone that came to support us. The Church for the Christmas Carols evening was packed and we had four of our Shetland ponies outside the door at the beginning of the evening to welcome all of our guests.

Teddy and Finlay took the role of walking down the aisle at the start of the service and for the first time we can remember, they did not leave any deposit in the aisle as they passed! Phew – pooper scoopers were at the ready, but were not deployed this time! We were so lucky to have some fantastic readers and performers too – Jenny was hugely supported by our patrons Martin Shaw and Sara Crowe and our young Patron, Beau Dermott, brought a tear to the eye with her versions of 'O Holy Night' and 'Winter Wonderland'. The wonderful Damien Edwards and two



of our young volunteers also performed for us and the Junior Choir of St Hilary's topped off the evening too! It really was a wonderful, community event and the atmosphere was lovely and set the festive season off with a smile!

Our Christmas lunch was at a new venue this year – the Doubletree by Hilton

hotel in Woking. We had a terrific meal, the room was full and we were treated to a talk and even a story telling session by Sir Michael Morpurgo, the author of War Horse. The silent auction was packed with lovely items too! Who could ask for more – good food and good company all wrapped up in one event!

MEET THE TEAM

We would like to introduce you to Martin, one of our regular volunteers who has been with us for a couple of years now.

He has a lot to put up with as the team is largely comprised of females – but Martin (and the couple of other male volunteers) seem to cope with us all admirably! We are so lucky to have him – as an ex-retained firefighter who also has a passion for running and cycling; he brings wonderful strength and endurance to the team. In fact, Martin has just completed the construction of a new, large, storage area that has been built in our wood pile area – almost single handedly. It allows us to store some of the donated wood and fencing that we are given periodically so that it is not piled and left to get wet and rot away – thank you Martin for that labour of love! And that was in between completing necessary tree work for us too, as Martin has the licence and experience



to wield a chainsaw! In the recent storm, we lost a huge oak tree overnight that fell across the road, blocking the route round to the entrance - Martin dropped everything to come and help clear the track, even though he had other plans that day and was sawing away before 9am! We

don't know what we would do without him – and no, you can't have him – we have lots more on the list for him to do here!

Thank you Martin for all that you do and for being part of our Mane Chance family!

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OUR HORSES BY BECOMING A SPONSOR.

Packages cost £2 or £5 per month. Please email our sponsorship team, Jackie and Maria, on office@manechancesanctuary.org for more information.

AND FINALLY....

I just wanted to quote some lines from William Wordsworth:

'The best portion of a good man's life
His little, nameless, unremembered
acts Of kindness and of love.'

We at Mane Chance are blessed with many of these acts of kindness and of love on a daily basis and are very grateful for them. (And they don't just come from humans, they come from our horses, dogs and

hens too.) We are so lucky. Thank you all. Have a happy kindness filled Spring!!!!

Don't forget to check out our website for all latest information and, if you can, please do vote for us in the People's Project

[Click here](#) to place your support for us!

THANK YOU!!

You are what enable us to help them...



GET IN TOUCH

Head Office

Mane Chance Sanctuary
BKL House
1 Venice Walk
London, W2 1RR
T: +44 (0)20 7446 6200

The Sanctuary

Mane Chance Sanctuary
Monkshatch Garden Farm
Down Lane, GU3 1DL
T: +44 (0)1483 351526

Find us online at:

www.manechancesanctuary.org
For general enquiries please email us at:
office@manechancesanctuary.org

To become a Friend of MCS:

Please email us at:
friends@manechancesanctuary.org
or call us on +44 (0)1483 351526

