

newsletter

MANE CHANCE SANCTUARY



MCS Spring Newsletter - April 2020

Welcome!

Welcome to our Spring newsletter sent to you in the strangest of times...

Even when the whole world seems to have been put on pause for the moment, the days and weeks continue to roll on oblivious and we are sure you have noticed that nature is taking over – birdsong replaces plane noise and traffic and flowers seem brighter and more plentiful than ever before.

The first and most important thing for us is send our very best wishes to you – we hope that you are all safe and well and managing to deal with this worrying and challenging situation.

We sometimes feel that we are living in a bit of a bubble at the Sanctuary – with 37 horses, 12 chickens and Angel to look after, much of what we do is continuing as business as usual.

Of course, the Covid-19 situation doesn't just affect our daily routines on site...

All of our fundraising plans have had to be postponed or cancelled too and the Spring/Summer months are the busiest time for holding events and raising funds for most animal charities. It costs us £26,000 per month to keep Mane Chance going and overnight our income plans were thrown into turmoil – for very good reasons of course, but nevertheless it's now a worrying time for us. As we are not a charity that is on the front line of this emergency, we are not able to benefit from the government funding



The feeds, the health checks, the grooming, exercising and rehabilitation work is all still needed and there is maintenance and site work that also cannot wait for the Covid-19 virus to pass! Our equine staff and manager have been working throughout the period to ensure that Mane Chance remains a safe haven for our animals, albeit with different procedures in place, ensuring that we can maintain social distancing (which isn't difficult when you have a pony in your hands!) and increased hygiene routines! We are grateful to them all for doing so and keeping everything ticking over.

recently announced and as we are still working to look after the horses, we are not able to take up the option of furloughing our staff either. We do completely understand – the government is not able to help everyone and they have to prioritise, but it does mean that there are some of us that are left to fend for ourselves – there simply isn't enough to go around. So, we are trying to come up with plans for how we can cushion the blow ourselves and have launched two Just Giving Appeals that touch on areas of people's lives that have been affected by this situation which we hope will allow them to support us.

But whilst this is all still happening, at the same time, it is eerily quiet on site. It's not only the staff that miss our volunteers and community visitors, but the animals too. It seems much longer than nearly four weeks since we last had company outside of the staffing team and the Sanctuary suddenly feels very big – and empty. We long for the faces, the laughter and the hustle of the daily routine to return – fingers crossed this situation starts to improve soon.

We can't wait to have you all back!

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Mane Coffee Club

Remember the coffees you used to buy...

If you used to buy a takeaway coffee, perhaps on your daily commute or when you shopped, will you donate the price of that coffee (every week this continues if you can) to help keep the Sanctuary running?

Our Mane Coffee Club can be donated to by visiting our just giving page [here](#).



The Horsepower Group

Do you normally drive to work, do the school run or come and see us at the Sanctuary?

If you do, would you donate weekly or one-off, some of the money you are saving on fuel to 'fuel' our horses? It would help us buy hay and feeds to keep us going.....

Our Horsepower Group can be donated to by visiting our just giving page [here](#).



Our Quiet Space

It's important to us to remain in contact with as many of our community visitors and supporters as possible whilst we cannot see them in person.

The rules surrounding the lockdown and social distancing mean that all of our volunteering and community visits have

had to stop, but that doesn't prevent us from being able to share some of the peace and tranquillity that is Mane Chance with you whilst you are at home.

Jenny has recorded some relaxing narrations over shots of our horses calmly grazing in the sun. There are a couple of meditative body scans that you can complete if you wish or shorter relaxations to choose from. For those of you who are experienced

in using relaxation techniques yourselves, we also have some videos of the horses grazing without narration that you can use too.

We appreciate that this is not everyone's cup of tea, but if it is something you think you would enjoy, please visit our quiet space [here](#) and enjoy! We hope that it gives you some peace and respite from the stress of everything that is going on.

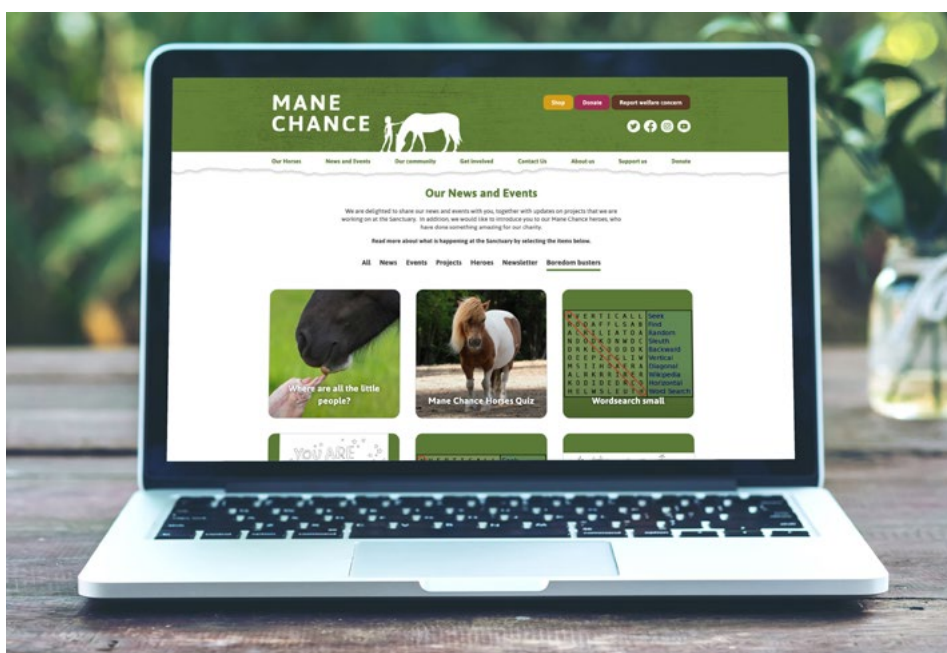
Boredom Busters

We also have created a Boredom Busters page on our website.

For those of you that have children, we have a few equine based colouring pages and for everyone, there are a couple of wordsearches and quizzes – all horse or Mane Chance themed, of course!

We plan to add more as time goes on (as soon as we can make them up!) and hope they go a little way to relieve some of those empty moments whilst you are at home!

Please visit our website [here](#) to download our Boredom Busters!



Our Horses

Delighted to finally see some of the summer sun, the horses are enjoying a period of rest and relaxation.

Gently grazing with the warmth of the sun on their backs, they are shedding their winter coats in anticipation of continued good weather. We have tweaked a couple of herd groupings so that horses of similar feeding regimes are together, so it means that we can use the grass wisely – those who need a few extra calories graze on the lush areas and those who need to keep a little eye on their weight, have the not so good fields. They don't mind though as it keeps them busy nibbling anyhow and it often means that they get a little balancer supplement to ensure that



they are getting all the nutrients and vitamins that they need too – as a treat!

At the start of the year, we received a call to the Sanctuary about Pudding – a 22 year old horse that had been part of the original herd that Jenny rescued in 2011 but had then been rehomed as a companion pony to another horse. Pudding had remained in that foster home for a number of years, but sadly, her foster mother had become terminally ill. A couple of years ago, the horse that she had been a companion to had passed away and Pudding was living with a couple of horses owned by other families. But obviously as her own foster mother had become increasingly poorly, her long-term future needed to be secured. As per our promise to all our horses to ensure that they have a safe home for life, we were delighted to welcome her back to the Sanctuary and she returned to us a couple of months ago. Wonderfully, she has seamlessly fitted back into the herd, forming new friendships and remembering others that were also there at the beginning – it's been lovely to see her back within our herds.

Around the same time, we became aware of another horse charity that had been forced to make the heart-breaking decision to close. Unable to financially sustain the care of the number of horses they had on site, they issued a request for other charities to help. We offered



a home to two Shetland mares, Anna and Poppet, as we knew that not only could our Shetland Project area with a couple more residents, but also our male dominated Shetland herd could benefit from a couple more ladies to redress the balance! Luckily, as it turned out, we were able to accept the two ponies just prior to the lockdown situation and they have already completed their quarantine period and are being integrated gradually with the rest of the Shetland herd.

We can't wait for you to meet them – Anna is the oldest at 22 years and Poppet (the palomino) is 15 years old. They are very sweet ponies (although Anna sometimes gives us the run around if we wish to head collar her!!) and we look forward to them being a part of our community work.

So please can we introduce you to our three new residents – Pudding, Anna and Poppet.

Announcing New Patrons

At the end of last year, at the Christmas lunch, we were lucky enough to have Lauren St John as our guest speaker.

She was a huge part of the event and gave us a wonderfully entertaining talk which we all loved. Lauren is an award-winning author for both adults and children. Having grown up on a farm and game reserve in Zimbabwe, animals have always been part of her life and she totally understands the challenges of the work that we do. But more than that, her relationships with animals and her approach to their care mirrors what we do at the Sanctuary. We were thrilled not only to have had Lauren at our lunch, but also to then have her accept our invitation to join Mane Chance as a Patron! Welcome Lauren.



And if that isn't enough – we are also delighted to announce that Mark Curry, the well-known actor, presenter and broadcaster, has joined us as Patron too. Mark has been a friend of Mane Chance for several years now, has spent time at the Sanctuary and shares much of our ethos - with a diploma in life coaching, he has a real understanding of

our work in the community and how we can help others with the programmes that we run. We are so proud to have Mark as our patron and look forward to working with him in the future.



Events

Sadly, the current situation has meant that we have had to cancel all planned Open Sundays and sponsor events for the foreseeable future.

In addition, whilst we had already started the preparation, we had to cancel the Easter Egg Trail on Saturday 11th April. We were so sad as it is always a lovely family event and really signifies the start of the Spring and Summer fundraising season for us. We had already purchased 150 Easter Eggs for the event prior to the start of the lockdown so as soon as we realised that they would not have a home to go to, we wanted to find a way to share them with others. We are so proud to say that our volunteers and many of our supporters that had pre-booked tickets for the event, donated to pay the costs of the eggs that we had bought, allowing us to then give them to those who would benefit, without losing any money ourselves. So just before Easter, we dropped half the eggs to our friends at Queen Elizabeth Care Home so that each of their residents could

have a present on Easter morning – they have been without visitors for a few weeks now due to the lockdown so it seemed a fitting decision! And we donated half the eggs to the Eagle Radio Easter Egg Appeal so that they could be distributed to local children's charities and groups. It was a lovely way to turn something positive out of the sadness of our cancellation and

we thank everyone that contributed to this idea – and hope that the recipients enjoyed their Easter treat from us!

We still hope to resume our programme of events later in the summer but for now, it is too early to know when that might be. Watch this space – we will be in touch as soon as we know we are able to welcome visitors again!



Our Community

Our work in the community continues to thrive and we have been reaching more young people than ever before.

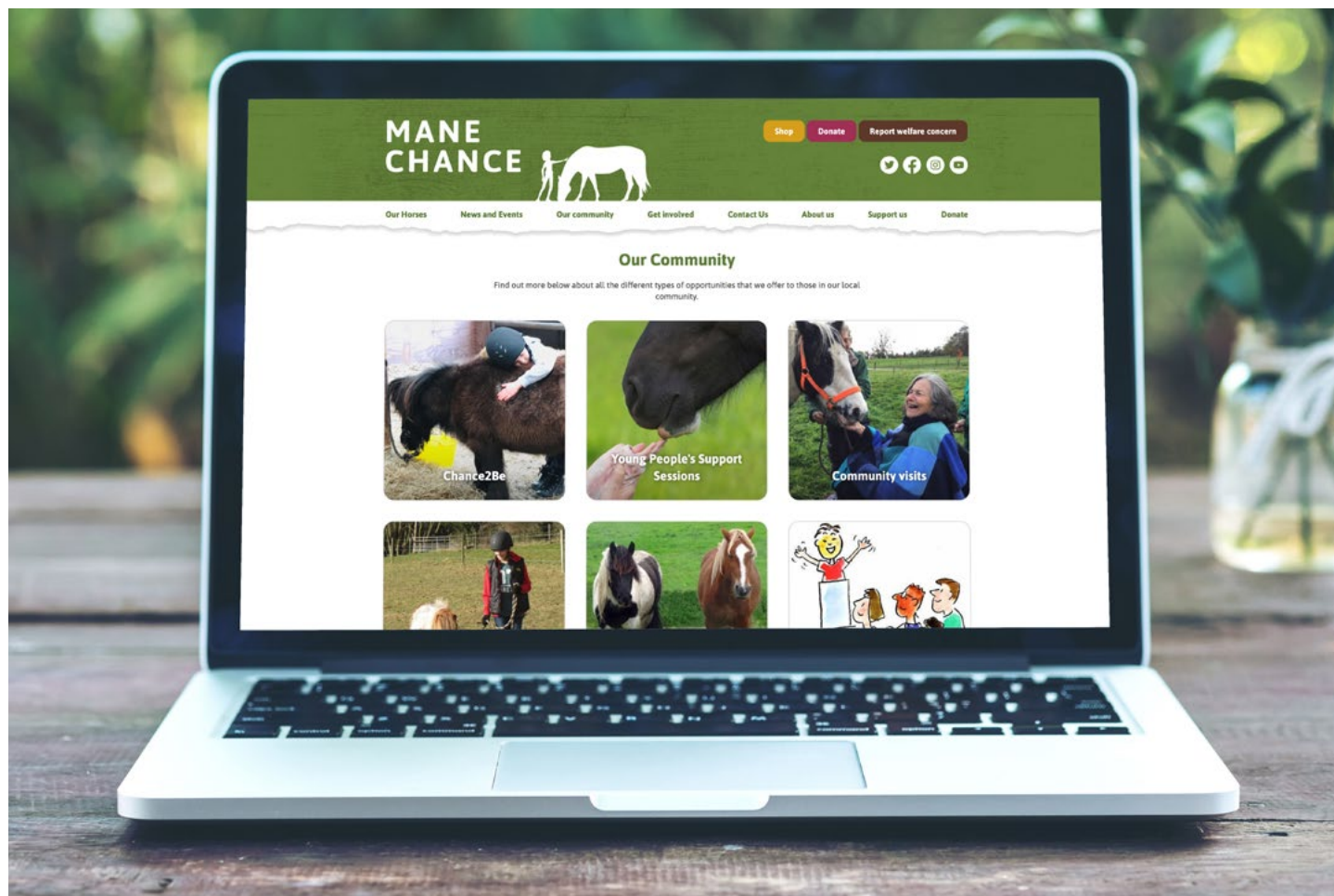
We welcomed Taryn to the community team at the beginning of the year to work alongside Nicky and Frith hosting sessions for our visitors and also assisting with our Chance2Be programme. Unfortunately, as with everything else, we have had to pause this work for a while, but we look forward to getting back up and running as soon as possible. The waiting list for our sessions, including Chance2Be, is as long as it has ever been, but we are working hard to increase the opportunities we can offer to those who attend Mane Chance to address this.

We are proud to share that in the last couple of months we have worked hard to become a centre that can deliver AQA award certificates and

we will commence this initiative at the Sanctuary from September. Used widely in education and charity sectors, the awards are aimed at those who are struggling in life or to function in mainstream education and are unlikely to attain traditional levels of recognised qualifications, such as GCSEs and A Levels; instead it offers recognition of what they are able to achieve. With AQA, Mane Chance will write and provide awards related to equine care and rehabilitation, focussing on developing the children to learn not only practical skills of looking after the horses and their home but also promote the notion of self-kindness, reduced self-criticism and increased self-confidence when working with the horses. It allows them to gain experience and knowledge and then be rewarded for what they have been able to learn. They will be awarded certificates from AQA as and when they progress along our programme to celebrate their

achievements. Recognised across the country, whilst these awards are not qualifications as such, they demonstrate that the young person has a capacity to learn, engage and perform and are something that they can take to interviews etc to support future work and applications for other opportunities. We believe that these will be a great addition to the services that we provide and will allow our young people to work towards a goal and then feel pride at what they have completed. We are using the time of this enforced break in our sessions to complete all our online training for AQA and to design our courses of units including writing the individual awards so that we can get them approved in time for the Autumn. We are hugely excited at being accepted on this scheme and to be able to give our young community visitors something that they can celebrate.

We will let you know how we get on...



A Tale of Two Trees

At Mane Chance, we aim to care for our land as much as our animals.

Only then will we be able to give them the quality of home that they deserve.

It's really important for us to treat our land with respect and kindness as it gives our animals the best possible grazing conditions.

Not only is it paramount to have good quality grass with low sugars yet plenty of nutrients but it's also important to have natural shade and foraging opportunities for our horses too.

We have just planted new mature Beech and Elm trees at the Sanctuary.

Two of these trees have a wonderful story behind them...



Charlie's Beech Tree

We are delighted that this new Beech tree has been sponsored by the Charles Christopher Michael Golder Foundation, which was set up in celebration of the life of Charles Golder. This charitable organisation raises funds to support scientific research into cancer and rare genetic illnesses such as Pompe disease but it also extends its support to other causes which were important to Charlie including respecting, loving and protecting the planet's wildlife. The concept of Charlie's Garden was his expressed wish to have a tree planted in his honour in a quiet and peaceful place near his home in Vienna. Charlie, a British journalist working in Austria, was diagnosed with Pompe disease in 2005 and cancer in 2014. He died in January 2018, aged just 27. This Beech tree, planted at Mane Chance by Charlie's Garden, brings Charlie's wish over to Surrey and will stand as a reminder to all to take care of our environment and enjoy it's beauty. As it grows, it will give valuable shade to our horses as they graze our land and will benefit them for many years to come.

Please visit the Charlie's Garden website [here](#) to learn more about this foundation.

Ulmus 'New Horizon' Elm

A few months ago, through Dame Judi Dench, we became aware of a new variety of Elm that had been developed to be resistant to the destructive Dutch Elm disease. In the late 1960's, when Dutch Elm disease struck Britain, it wiped out over 30 million mature elm trees, almost the entire UK population of elms. Now this new breed of disease-resistant tree is set to return the glorious elm back to our country.

Dame Judi Dench has been a great supporter of this planting programme and it was through her promotion of this species that we learnt about this tree. We were determined to provide a home for one at the Sanctuary and set about raising sponsorship to allow us to plant a New Horizon Elm on our site.

We are now delighted to have this new addition to our Sanctuary - it a wonderful symbol of triumph over disaster which feels very fitting for Mane Chance.

You can read more information on the Ulmus 'New Horizon' tree on the Hillier website [here](#) - not only were they partners in the breeding programme, but they also supplied us with our Elm!

Our Quiz

We mentioned earlier that we have some quizzes and fun on our website for you to enjoy during this 'Stay at Home' time.

Here is our horses' quiz and a little taster of what is there for you to enjoy!

Have a go at identifying our horses from the clues below. You can use the horses section of our website if you need a little help. The answers can be found at the end of the newsletter.



1. If he was a football supporter, his favourite team would be Everton – or Chelsea!
2. A person who used to travel around mending pots, kettles and other metal utensils.
3. Dickens wrote about a tiny one, but ours is a lot bigger!
4. Our Egyptian God of Kingship and the Sky.
5. Does anyone need someone to make new clothes?
6. A girl's best friend.
7. If this horse was a person, he would definitely be a boxer!
8. A little wildflower that you find on your lawn.
9. Two birds that have brightly coloured blue feathers on their wings or tails.
10. This mare is thoroughly modern.
11. Considering this horse's start in life, he is definitely a fighter....
12. We are on formal terms with this horse whose surname is quite a popular one.
13. The English version of this Welsh mare's name is snow.
14. This one was once King of the Scots, but also, he is the grumpy yellow train in 'Thomas, The Tank Engine!'
15. Straw, black, blue or goose perhaps?
16. The name of the lead detective in Midsomer Murders!
17. Most of us have at least one of these toys to cuddle.
18. The first name of one of David Bowie's alter egos.
19. A 'sweet' horse that is particularly popular at Christmas with custard!
20. This horse's name is the Scottish equivalent of the English name James and the Irish name Seamus!

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And finally...

There is little we can say to ease this current situation other than to send our best wishes to you all and to thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

We saw this poem and thought it was an apt way to end this newsletter.

Not Everything is Cancelled

Sunshine is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Naps are not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Dancing is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled



Wishing you all the very best particularly whilst this situation continues.

Please stay safe and well and we look forward to hopefully seeing you all as soon as we can resume normal services!

With very best wishes from the horses, hens, humans and hounds at Mane Chance.

Quiz answers

1. Blueboy 2. Tinker 3. Timmy 4. Horus 5. Tailor 6. Diamond 7. Rocky 8. Daisy 9. Jay-J
10. Millie 11. Soldier 12. Mr Smith 13. Eira 14. Duncan 15. Berry 16. Barnaby 17. Teddy
18. Ziggy 19. Pudding 20. Hamish

TO ALL OUR KEY WORKERS

Thank You

FOR KEEPING US SAFE!
YOU ARE ALL DOING THE MOST AMAZING JOB!