

This Annual Report is a résumé of SPEAR's work throughout the year. The Directors and Trustees extend their most sincere and grateful thanks to all those Charitable Trusts and their Administrators, to all our generous donors and to the many people who support our work in these difficult times. It is due only to their kindness and generosity that we can fulfil the aims and objectives of this Charity.

The recession continues to affect SPEAR, a small charity with three permanent members of staff. Again last winter we found ourselves in the position of providing emergency help to horses and ponies not owned by SPEAR. Despite the heavy daily work of caring for our own animals during the worst winter in living memory, our task was made even harder by having to travel twice every day through the snow and ice to reach those horses and ponies that had nothing. In the deeply frozen conditions, water was the main problem. Thankfully we had enough hay for all due to the kind and generous donations we received prior to the onset of winter. Taps and hoses froze; hence we needed gallons of water daily which had to be carried to our own animals and kept ice-free from early morning to evening feeds. The same applied in the case of the horses and ponies who appeared to have been abandoned by their owners, perhaps due to the inclement weather and left to fend for themselves. It was a formidable challenge to meet each day but we succeeded and no animal went without or suffered because of the extreme weather conditions.

### **UPDATE FROM 2010**

#### **Horses and Ponies rehomed**

Bryony, Freddie and Sammy.

#### **Rupert - aged 11 hh Grey Pony Gelding**

This kind old pony was an emergency admission in February 2010 c/o the RSPCA. He was suffering from infected malignant melanomas which covered the root of his tail, dock and perineal region. During the short time he was with us, Rupert was kept as comfortable as possible by making sure his tail area was kept clean, removing in stages the layers of faeces which covered the melanomas. We fed him warm soft food so that he could pass droppings easily. Because of the extent of his condition and the fact that it would be impossible to prevent fly and maggot infection, Rupert was humanely destroyed to prevent further suffering.

### **ADMISSIONS 2010/2011**

#### **August 2010**

Helen Bantam X chicken found in an inner city area. Helen was unclaimed by her owner and brought to SPEAR by the RSPCA. She was in good condition and quickly settled in with our small flock of hens.

#### **September 2010 – no admissions**

#### **October 2010**

##### **Three Jack Donkeys**

Bobby – Grey Donkey 10 months old

Joseph – Coloured Donkey 18 months old

Ben – Brown Donkey 2 years old

All three donkeys are privately owned, bought out of pity from a farm sale in Wales. SPEAR admitted the donkeys at the owner's request because of their poor condition due to neglect. Months of Veterinary and nursing care followed. On admission, blood and dung samples confirmed anaemia and tapeworm burden. A heavy louse infestation was present in all three which had caused skin infections. Rain scald scabs were present on their faces, noses, ears, neck and body. Bobby suffered mud rash on all four legs. All three donkeys were weak, hungry and thirsty; none of them had been handled.

It took six weeks to improve their health. The skin infections were cleared with daily treatment and antibiotics given in feed followed by regular delousing. A worming programme dealt with the internal parasites. Iron and multivitamin supplements were given once daily in feed to treat the anaemia. Their bodily condition gradually

improved with ad lib hay and three small daily feeds. Their feet were trimmed for the first time and surprisingly they all coped well with an entirely new experience.

Joseph and Ben were gelded 8 weeks later. Both suffered post-operative complications caused by a reaction at the site of operation which was treated vigorously by our Veterinary Surgeons. By early February the donkeys were discharged home, healthy happy friendly animals in total contrast to the three miserable creatures admitted in October.

Pearl – Chestnut Arabian Mare

Tufty – Bay Part Bred Arabian Gelding

Pearl and her companion Tufty were admitted to SPEAR at their owner's request so that Pearl's nursing care could be continued whilst they went on holiday. Pearl had suffered front leg lameness and had been referred to Newmarket where she was hospitalised whilst undergoing Veterinary investigations before admittance to SPEAR. She settled well during her time with us, accepting her box rest and being walked out in hand twice daily. Tufty went to our fields at Claverdon and happily joined the other horses grazing there, both returning to their owner 10 days later. They were supported by their owner whilst in our care.

### **November, December and January – no admissions**

#### **February 2011**

Harvey 16.2 hh 26 year old Dark Bay Thoroughbred Gelding

Truffles aged Brown Jenny Donkey

Harvey and Truffles were admitted when their owner, through illness, could no longer look after them. A pony, Beau - bay gelding 13 hh, from the same home was successfully rehomed by SPEAR going directly to his foster home. Harvey and Truffles had been companions for 21 years. Harvey did not travel well the short distance to SPEAR so SPEAR agreed to accept him as a permanent resident in the hope that he would choose new friends before Truffles was admitted to the Donkey Sanctuary in Devon. On admission, SPEAR followed the Donkey Sanctuary's criteria for Harvey and Truffles by carrying out various procedures under Veterinary care, i.e. a 3 week isolation period during which blood samples were taken for a full blood picture and tapeworm test, nasal swabs, dung samples for egg worm counts and liver fluke. They also had anti-tetanus and flu vaccinations and a dental assessment followed by work done under sedation for both. Their feet were trimmed, Truffles requiring x-rays on both front feet before her Farrier's visit.

It was a difficult situation to deal with because Harvey when upset is a problem. He suffers stress very easily which if left precipitates colic. We had to sedate him on several occasions but as time progressed he gradually settled making friends with our two small Shetland ponies Ollie and Brian and is now very happily settled with them, sharing a field shelter and surprisingly enjoying Barney Goat's company as well.

Truffles on the other hand coped much better and is now happily settled at the Donkey Sanctuary in Devon.

#### **March 2011**

LETTICE Bay Mare impounded c/o Warwickshire Police

BUFFY 11 hh Grey Pony Mare aged approx 17 years

Buffy's owner could no longer keep her. She had been found to have a high blood insulin level which was being treated with daily medication prior to admission. There was also the suspicion that she could be losing her sight and humane destruction was a distinct possibility. SPEAR was contacted by Buffy's Veterinary Surgeons when her owner requested admission and it was agreed to sign her over. On admission, Buffy was wormed, vaccinated

against tetanus, passported, had her teeth rasped and feet trimmed. We found her to be a kind quiet pony settling in to her new surroundings very quickly. Blood samples were taken at 3 week intervals which showed her insulin levels decreasing to normal levels and her medication was adjusted accordingly.

Happily there was no indication that she was losing her sight. Once her blood levels had stabilised we decided to find out if she had ever been ridden as we knew little of her past life. Gradually introduced to lungeing etc, it became obvious that she had and with her quiet temperament she seemed to be an ideal small child's pony. Fortunately Buffy was offered a loving foster home very quickly and is now happily settled with her new family as a lead rein pony for a small child and companion to their aged thoroughbred mare.

#### **April 2011 – no admissions**

#### **May 2011**

6 Ex-Battery Chickens. These were admitted when rescued. All were in fairly good condition and quickly adapted to their new way of life. Initially we housed them separately from our own chickens until they settled in and now are part of our small flock that are truly free range.

Wilfred - young Light Sussex Cockerel. This splendid large cockerel was offered to us when we lost Harold, our Buff Orpington X cockerel this year. Wilfred had been kept on his own but when he realised that this was his flock of hens he became quite protective of them all. If we need to attend to an individual chicken it is better not to do it when he's nearby!

#### **June 2011**

#### **Two female Mallard ducklings**

SPEAR managed to capture a distressed mother with her two newly-hatched ducklings in a Trustee's garden. A search was made of neighbouring gardens for any more ducklings but none were found. We made them comfortable in a stable with food and water and all seemed well – however at dusk the mother managed to escape through the high top window leaving her two tiny ducklings cold and distressed. They were brought into the house immediately and put into a large box under a heat lamp with a mop head suspended in the corner for them to shelter under as they would their mother's wings. Fortunately the ducklings ate their chick crumbs and drank nicely. We didn't allow them to get into water until their feathers had oiled in about 7 days. Then we filled a shallow container and let them swim for a few minutes, drying them well afterwards with a towel and putting them back under their heat lamp. We did this daily, gradually increasing the length of time and depth of water.

They grew rapidly, escaping from their box on a regular basis, so they were moved outside onto the grass in a specially constructed small house and run, progressing to a much larger run with a large shallow container to swim in. Now that they are almost fully grown and able to fly they spend their days happily with all our poultry only being shut in at night. They may well choose to join the many wild mallard ducks that come from a neighbour's pond two fields away to feed here. Already, for the third year, a mallard duck and her eleven ducklings have arrived from that pond to spend the day in the goose pen and more recently a second mallard and her thirteen newly-hatched ducklings have joined us. We're rapidly running out of space!

#### **PERMANENT RESIDENTS**

Sergeant Lemon – 22 year old 16.2hh Thoroughbred Gelding	)
Teddy – 11 year old Leopard Spotted Pony Gelding	)
Pansy – 30 year old Brown Jenny Donkey	) see Adoption Report
Barney Goat	)
4 sheep	)

Nettles 11hh 4 year old Black Pony Gelding (orphan foal admitted at 24 hrs old)

Nettles was turned away for the winter and brought back into work again as a 4 year old. He loves his work and can now lunge and long rein well. He's been backed and is ready to be ridden away. This intelligent eye-catching pony would make an ideal driving pony. He's fearless and loves to do new things, always in the lead when being walked round the village coping well with traffic etc. He does suffer from sweet itch but this is kept well under control by a most effective lotion which is applied regularly and he wears a rug especially manufactured to help prevent this condition.

Raffles 12hh 13 year old Grey Pony Gelding

Raffles is maintained on a low daily dose of medication for Equine Metabolic Syndrome, which has kept him in good health all year. In August 2010 Raffles was found to have a cut above his right eye which needed stitching. This was done under sedation followed by a course of antibiotics. The wound healed well and Raffles was an excellent patient.

Poppy 17 year old Welsh Section D Cob Mare

Poppy can still be difficult at times but in general she's kind and quiet to handle with people she knows. Having done very little in her past life it was pleasing to find that with Teddy, she could cope with walking out on the road to new grazing in the village. We have been very careful with her diet by not allowing her to become overweight as when she's stabled she does become stiff in her knees and hocks. Poppy wintered living out, well-rugged which suited her because she came out of winter sound and in good condition.

Brian 33 year old Black Shetland Gelding

Brian appears to have a new lease of life despite his advancing years. His sweet itch and Cushings Syndrome are well under control and he is happily settled with Harvey – his huge new best friend and Ollie. Brian is devotedly cared for by Manda, our part-time groom.

Charlie 9 year old 14hh Chestnut Cob Gelding

Charlie has remained sound, occasionally ridden by Manda, and when he is he behaves beautifully. He lives out with a field shelter and despite the weather wintered well. We struggle to keep his weight down as he is an exceptionally "good doer". Lunging him helps and also restricting his grazing during the grass growing season.

Lucy 19+ years old 13hh Bay Pony Mare

Lucy's teeth have caused problems and she is undergoing regular dental treatment from our Veterinary Surgeon. Prior to admission Lucy's teeth had been neglected. Some are now loose so she is fed an appropriate soft diet. Her weight is good and she is calm and happy sharing her field with her beloved donkey, Pansy.

Pied Piper 15 year old 13hh Skewbald Gelding

Pie is in good health, devotedly cared for by Dawn, our Yard Manager. He has had a quiet winter but now escorts Nettles out on the road as Nettles' work progresses. They share restricted grazing as both tend to put on weight given too much grass. Pie also keeps Nettles in check, reminding him of his place but never hurting him. Nettles has a tendency to be bossy and this we've found is the best way of dealing with bad pony manners!

Ollie 19 year old 9hh Appaloosa pony

Ollie's general health is good. His teeth however have needed frequent attention because of the slight abnormality in his jaw which is a result of his genetic abnormalities – the only problem we have encountered so far in his life. Ollie is happily settled with Harvey (see Admissions) and Brian. All three share their field shelter, happily standing in together. Ollie is an intelligent little chap and not the slightest bit concerned at having such a huge new best friend in Harvey. He keeps this big horse calm and settled and for that we are very grateful!

**Goats**

Barney – see Adoption Report

### Harry and Henry

Over the years, these two horned goats have become devoted to Barney. They are naughty, using their horns as battering rams but we are now quite skilled at avoiding their unpleasant advances. This is the first year we have been able to contain them because they no longer jump from field to field. Currently all three are living out with access to field shelters, coming inside in the morning for their feeds allowing the horses and ponies that share their field to eat theirs in peace.

### Poultry

#### Bill Mark II and Joyce (Geese)

Joyce is now quite old. She came to us in August 1999 having been rescued from a pond where she was being attacked constantly by a pair of cygnets. She suffered injuries to her head, eyes and one wing. Although slightly stiff now in one leg she manages well. Bill protects her from what he perceives to be a possibly dangerous situation and cannot bear to have her out of his sight. They roam freely during the day but are shut in at night for safety from the many foxes that regularly come across our fields.

#### Chickens

We sadly lost Harold our huge Buff Orpington X cockerel and he was replaced by Wilfred (see Admissions). Our ex battery chickens are all doing well, laying eggs every day. They too roam freely like the geese, going much further afield during the day and so far they have avoided being taken by foxes or birds of prey. They are well trained and come to call which helps getting them in to their house at night.

## **ANIMALS THAT ARE NO LONGER WITH US**

#### **November 2010:** Buttons 41 year old Grey Pony Mare

Buttons had been diagnosed with liver failure in her 30s but she had managed well given Veterinary treatment when needed and small feeds at least five times a day. When she became uninterested in her feeds and life in general, we arrived at the sad decision to put her to sleep rather than take an extremely old pony through the rigours of what turned out to be the harshest winter in living memory.

#### **December 2010:** Jake 14 year old Dark Bay Part Thoroughbred Gelding

As a 2 year old, Jake had suffered an injury to his off foreleg and bulb of his heel which had been left untreated; this became infected and had caused the ligaments and tendons to contract. He remained sound over the years, latterly as a field companion to Lemon when he returned to us from his foster home. Lameness in his off foreleg due to arthritis in his knee and fetlock joint, set in during the last few weeks of his life. We tried to keep him comfortable by giving him pain relief but without success so sadly the decision had to be made to put him to sleep at home.

#### **July 2011:** Bertie 17 year old Black Shetland Gelding

Bertie, with Ollie and Freddie returned to us in July last year from their foster home of 13 years due to illness in the family. Bertie had been diagnosed with Cushings Syndrome. We tried to keep him comfortable and had succeeded for a while but latterly he did not respond to treatment and as his quality of life diminished we had to make the sad decision to put him to sleep.

## **FOSTERED HORSES AND PONIES**

Beau	Bluey	Bramble	Bryony	Buffy	Freddie	Henry	Little Jim	
Molly	Nutmeg	Pepper	Peter	Polly	Posie	Pumpkin	Riki	
Robin	Rosie	Rupert	Sammy	Sparkle	Susie	Tilly	William	Wurzel

We are deeply grateful to the Foster Carers of all our horses and ponies named above. Without exception these animals have all suffered in the past, some more than others. Once nursed back to health, which in some cases can take many months as they recover physically and mentally, they are then assessed as to whether we keep

them as permanent residents or decide to rehome them; each is assessed individually over a period of time. For some, we have little knowledge of their past lives and it is up to us to find out if they have ever been ridden, etc. The best part of this work is to find the right long-term foster home with knowledgeable Foster Carers who provide the much valued individual daily care and attention for these horses and ponies, in strict contrast to their past bad experiences.

### **JASPER OF SPEAR UPDATE – Karen Gray**

Jasper is still a very happy, bossy little pony who doesn't look or act his 15 years. He has now retired from showing mainly because I broke my ankle at the beginning of May and he has been turned out in the field with his friends Stan and Danny while my non-horsey husband has kept an eye on them!

Jasper was very intrigued and suspicious to see me hobbling around the yard with my leg in plaster and on crutches! Anyway we have all survived!

Jasper enjoys meeting people and loves to come to Open Days where he consumes many ginger biscuits (his favourites) brought to him by his admirers.

### **JASPER OF SPEAR FUND – Karen Gray**

The Jasper of SPEAR Fund was set up by Jasper as a thank you to SPEAR for saving his life and has raised many thousands of pounds during the last nine years thanks to ourselves and other helpful fundraisers. John and I together with Dawn, Manda, Maxine, Sue and relatives attended many fetes and Christmas fairs with our Tombola stall and merchandise to raise funds and promote awareness of SPEAR's work.

We have attended car boots to sell the bric-a-brac etc which has been donated to us. Thanks also to Tesco for allowing us to hold collections at their Warwick and Solihull stores and thanks to all our collectors who took turns to stand and collect. Thanks also to my grandson Chris, his girlfriend Laura and her parents Lynn and Chris and sister Amber who have helped whenever needed, even in torrential rain!

In order to help SPEAR continue its excellent nursing care, Jasper's Fund needs YOUR HELP to raise more money in these difficult times. Last year I suggested some of you may like to hold a coffee morning and raffle to raise money for us but unfortunately no one took up the challenge which was very disappointing. If anyone can help with fundraising, Jasper would be very grateful. Every penny counts and neither Jasper nor I take out any money for administration. Any fundraising ideas please phone 01527 62198 or email [karengg@fsmail.net](mailto:karengg@fsmail.net). We would love to hear from you.

Regards Karen and Jasper

### **ADOPTION PROGRAMME UPDATE – Karen Gray**

I have been running the Adoption Programme for the past twelve months and have met (or made contact with by phone or email) many of our Adopters. The number of paid-up adopters has risen to 191 so it's almost a full-time job sending out the newsletters twice a year, birthday and Christmas cards and renewal forms and I feel very lucky to have made contact with so many lovely people. I hope you have enjoyed reading the Newsletters about all the adopted animals and I feel I must thank the anonymous donor of postage stamps which makes this possible.

Little Pumpkin and Jasper have become popular additions to the Adoption Programme. Our Adopters' Open Day in July was blessed with beautiful weather and it was great to see so many Adopters visiting their adopted animals and helping Pansy celebrate her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On behalf of Sergeant Lemon, Barney, Pansy, Teddy, Jasper, Little Pumpkin and Jilly, Jaz, Joy and Jelly Bean, may I take this opportunity to thank all our generous Adopters and we look forward to seeing you at the next Open Day. If you wish to get in touch with me regarding the Adoption Programme, please phone 01527 62198

or email [karengg@fsmail.net](mailto:karengg@fsmail.net). I would love to hear from you. All the animals send their love and grateful thanks. Regards, Karen.

### **SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011 FROM ALL OUR ADOPTED ANIMALS**

Despite the exceptionally long hard winter, all our animals coped well with the extremely hard conditions. Thick waterproof rugs kept them warm and dry and with ad lib hay, warm feeds and shelter, they were comfortable and happy. Water had to be carried daily and ice broken and removed from troughs and buckets several times a day. It was a considerable daily challenge but we managed to keep to our routine making sure that all our animals' needs were met.

Little Pumpkin - Pumpkin wintered well. He enjoyed playing in the snow with his two Shetland companions Earl and Hamish. He still doesn't like puddles and has become very good at jumping over them and for a very small pony he does some spectacular leaps! Pumpkin has become a well seasoned travelling companion when Zoe takes her horse to shows. He is a huge help in this respect and also, to his credit, he has become a quiet, kind companion to the elderly horses and ponies in the yard because they all seem to like him. However he can still be very mischievous when let loose to wander around, visiting places he shouldn't, picking up things in his mouth and carrying them, if he can, to be then chewed and stamped on! It's very hard to be cross with Pumpkin because his happy, cheeky personality makes it very easy to forgive his naughtiness.

Barney – Barney's winter rug was a little tight on him this year which is really no surprise considering his rather large tummy and immense appetite! He and his companions Harry and Henry spent most of the winter in their stable, only going out when the weather permitted. Barney had another foot infection just after Christmas which needed topical treatment and antibiotics given by injection. He was much braver this time and took his treatment well, distracted as always by being fed his favourite treats. His feet still need trimming regularly by our Farrier as they are so hard and grow so quickly. Barney will do anything for food and will seize the earliest opportunity to go and find it in the feed room should the door be left open when he's being turned out into the field. Once in there he creates havoc and is very difficult to extract being so strong and heavy. Now the weather has improved all three goats are out in the field using the back stables for shelter. It is pleasing to report that Barney's appearance has improved because with exercise his tummy doesn't look so large! We shall attempt to parade him at Open Day in the hope that this year he will have enough courage to stop in the ring for a little longer than last year!

Sergeant Lemon – The saga of Lemon's hind leg continued long after Christmas. The lesions below his hock and on his heel failed to heal despite multiple veterinary visits, daily sterile dressings, antibiotics, ointments and lotions. Photographs of his leg were sent by our Vet to Professor Knottenbelt at Liverpool University seeking advice on treatment. We were instructed to use aluminium based sterile dressings and also an aluminium based aerosol spray which thankfully over several weeks had a good effect and the lesions started to heal at long last. More information was gained through our Vet by means of a Veterinary Paper recently published on the effect on the skin of some horses due to exposure to buttercup pollen. Sunlight affects this sensitivity and at the time of writing we are keeping on top of the problem by bandaging his leg on sunny days and only allowing him to graze in buttercup-free pasture. His stringhalt can be troublesome at times, more so when he's stabled. Lemon has a very good selection of rugs that keep him warm and dry so he is able to live out as much as possible. Despite his problems, Lemon is well in himself and looks magnificent, nicely rounded with a beautiful gleaming summer coat.

Jasper – Jasper wintered well. He loved playing in the snow on the days that we managed to dig a path through the snow to reach the field! He and his friends, Stan and Danny, were quite content to stay in their warm stables and eat hay when the weather was really bad. Jasper has completely chilled out this summer by being turned out in the field every day and coming into the stable at night. Jasper is 15 years old now and has retired from showing. He has earned his retirement after travelling to shows around the country winning so much and flying the flag for SPEAR at the same time. He is a truly remarkable pony who loves meeting people and is a popular addition to the Adoption Programme.

Teddy - Teddy is very well indeed, happily grazing with Poppy, Raffles and Nettles. We are closely monitoring all four so they don't put on too much weight with the grass and be at risk from laminitis. Teddy had his usual Vet's visit to check his teeth recently and remembering last year's performance, we dealt with the situation by giving him oral sedation in a little feed prior to the visit and then a top-up by injection from the vet when she arrived. His teeth were rasped and all went well – very different from last year! To help pass the time, Teddy plays racing games with Raffles and Nettles and he is always last! Having strained one of his front fetlock joints playing last year he now knows when to stop. Poppy rarely bothers to join in, so Teddy has a quiet companion to be with when he's had enough of tearing around.

Jilly, Joy, Jaz and Jelly Bean – Our little flock of sheep all wintered well outside, their thick warm fleeces protecting them from the intense cold. With snow on their backs and in the snow they looked like mobile snowmen as they moved! Even though they were fed ad lib hay, they would still nose their way through the snow to get to the grass. During their rest periods they laid up under a sheltered hedge, not the least bothered by the awful conditions. Over time all four have become more friendly making it much easier for us to handle them when brought in for routine care. Jelly Bean is the bravest, he's always first when it comes to treat time and leads the others when it's time to move them. They are waiting to be shorn now, having had their fleeces tidied around their tail area in preparation and their feet trimmed. We don't turn them over to do this because now they are fully grown they are rather heavy. Instead we hold them still and pick up each foot, like a horse, and trim their feet this way – very much easier for us and them!

Pansy – Pansy is 30 this year and will celebrate her birthday on Adopters' Day. With increasing old age Pansy's teeth have needed extra attention. Her lower incisors are a little loose and the sharp edges of her molars have to be rasped regularly by our Vet so that she is comfortable in her mouth when she eats. Pansy was sedated to have this most necessary work done. During this process our Vet noticed she had recurring gum infection that needed antibiotic treatment. Cushings Syndrome was suspected in the past but fortunately Pansy did not suffer from any unpleasant symptoms. However, a blood test confirmed this suspicion which was the reason for her gum infections due to her depressed immune system. She is receiving daily medication now with good effect. However, in herself she is well and happily settled with her pony friend Lucy who cannot bear to be parted from her. Pansy's personality hasn't changed – she likes to do things her way and in her own good time. She has certainly earned her nickname Princess Pansy!

Dear Adopters,

I hope you have enjoyed reading the latest update on our Adopted Animals and I would like to thank you all very much for your continued support. The animals look forward to Open Days when they know that special treats will be brought for them, their favourites being carrots, apples, bread and polos! Kind Regards, Karen

### **FUNDRAISING REPORT 2010/11 – Maxine Bonnell**

Firstly "THANK YOU ALL" for donating your time – gifts – cuddly toys – raffle prizes – tea making skills – smiley faces in the rain – coming to our events (come rain, shine, frost, snow) and supporting SPEAR through yet another difficult financial year. Without you all we couldn't make a difference to help all the horses and other animals in our care.

As this year comes to a close – what a busy year this has been – we have been invited to so many outside events and have attended where possible. As always the Fundraising Committee have a wish-list: tombola items, plants, raffle items, home-made cakes for Open Days, bottles, bric-a-brac, old plates (for 'smash a plate'), old clothes, unwanted horse tack, soft toys. Also if you have a couple of hours to run a stall at Open Days, attend a Collection Day at a supermarket or have any ideas or would like to hold a coffee morning, do a sponsored walk/ride etc, please ring Maxine on 077323 75521.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2010/2011

<u>September 2010:</u>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day at Cotswold House
	18 <sup>th</sup>	St John's Church Hall Sale, Kenilworth
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Tudor Grange fete; Solihull and Rowington Game Fair
<u>October 2010:</u>	15 <sup>th</sup>	Black Country Night
<u>November 2010:</u>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Norton Lindsey Village Hall, Charity Christmas card sale
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Alvechurch Village Hall, Christmas stall
	18 <sup>th</sup>	St Augustine's School, Studley, Christmas fair
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Studley High School, Christmas fair
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Alvechurch Middle School, Christmas fair
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day at Cotswold House
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Buck and Bell pub, Long Itchington, Christmas sale
<u>December 2010:</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Southam Primary School, Christmas fair; Blackwell First School, Christmas fair
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Aveston Primary School, Christmas fair
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Studley Village Hall, Christmas fair
<u>January 2011:</u>	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tesco charity collection, Warwick
<u>March 2011:</u>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night, Mappleborough Green Village Hall
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Jasper of SPEAR Open Day, Cotswold House
<u>April 2011:</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tesco charity collection, Solihull
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Shire Horse Show, Studley
<u>May 2011:</u>	8 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day at Cotswold House
<u>June 2011:</u>	11 <sup>th</sup>	Kenilworth Show
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Snitterfield Fete
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Skittles Night, Cotswold House
<u>July 2011:</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lapworth Fun Day
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Adopters' Day and Open Day, Cotswold House
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Batchley Fete, Redditch
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Whitacre and Shustoke Show

And in addition, attending as many Car Boot sales as possible.

As my report comes to a close – thank you all for your continued support – we couldn't do it without you **ALL**.

## 100 CLUB

The 100 Club has completed another year of successful operation with membership holding steady despite the recession! This year members benefited from two months' free membership as a result of the change in our annual cycle from February-February to April-April. The cost of membership has been maintained for 2011 at just £12 per number for a full year's participation. Many thanks to the members of the Club who have supported us during the last year and congratulations to all the winners of the monthly draw. Winning numbers are now published on the website every month. All the proceeds from the Club go directly towards the care of our animals and provide a valuable and steady contribution to the Charity's funds. If you are not a current member,

you are very welcome to join the 100 Club at any time and if you would like more details or have any queries please contact Sue Kruze on 01926 859848 or visit the website for details and to download an application form.

### **WEBSITE**

Our website at [www.spearcharity.org.uk](http://www.spearcharity.org.uk) continues to be busy with usage growing steadily. It contains lots of useful information about the SPEAR organisation and its aims and objectives. It has also helped to publicise our events and hot news and is regularly updated with the latest information and downloadable forms and documents, reports and photos from our events and Open Days. Occasional and regular browsers can now email us via the site and at [mail@spearcharity.org.uk](mailto:mail@spearcharity.org.uk) Please send us any ideas, photos, news or input to make the site even more interesting and useful.

### **HORSEWATCH**

Don't be a Victim – Act Now and join Warwickshire Horse Watch to receive free crime alerts and protect your tack and property. Warwickshire Police Horse Watch is a scheme to help horse owners be aware of equine related crime in their area enabling them to take preventative action to keep their horses, tack, and vehicles safe. It is a free service provided by Warwickshire Police and supported by the NFU and CLA.

Here at SPEAR we participate fully in the scheme. Our horses and ponies are micro-chipped and in addition those thought to be more at risk of theft than others are freeze-marked for visual identification. Our representatives regularly attend meetings and receive alerts and other communications. If you would like to join the scheme contact Julie Dale by email at [watch@warwickshire.police.co.uk](mailto:watch@warwickshire.police.co.uk) or by post at The Watch Coordinator, Community Protection, Leamington Police Station, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa CV32 4EL.

### **FARRIER**

Ray Walker RSS (Hons) AFCh

Ray continues his excellent work for us keeping our horses, ponies, donkey and goats' feet comfortable, understanding each individual's needs which makes a real difference to the quality of their lives. His work is vital to our cause. We give Ray our special thanks as always.

### **YARD STAFF**

Dawn BA (Hons) Equine Studies, Yard Manager

Dawn has been with us for 6 years now managing the daily running of the yard most efficiently, coping with the daily care of all our animals, especially the nursing cases some of which are quite complex. Dawn has brought Nettles (see permanent residents) into work and we have been able to rehome Sammy as a riding pony to an experienced home through Dawn's reschooling of a complicated older pony from a poor background. Dawn's involvement in all aspects of the Charity's work is invaluable. We greatly appreciate all she does for SPEAR.

Manda BHSAI, Part-time Groom

Manda is a much valued part of our small team. Her consistent care and attention to all our animals is reflected in their well-being. We are very grateful for her hard work throughout the year and for the interest and support she gives to all our fund-raising activities.

### **VOLUNTARY HELP**

Angela is now in her 14<sup>th</sup> year with us, never letting us down by helping in the yard every weekend and on Open Days, regardless of the weather. Angela happily undertakes any job asked of her and this year has been of great help when we attend Car Boot sales to raise funds. She continues to prepare our Annual Report for printing – no small task. We are hugely grateful for all she does for SPEAR.

Jade spent a week with us on work experience from school. She has her own horses and because of this she was a great help and we were very pleased with her work. Jade may choose to follow an equine-based career in the future and we hope that the time she spent with us has helped to increase her knowledge of equine welfare.

Hannah is at University and helps in the yard during the free time she has from her holiday job. Hannah had her own horses and we thank her for the effort she makes to spend her spare time helping us in the yard. Hannah is always willing to do anything that is asked of her which is gratefully appreciated.

Frances is planning to go to University Vet School after 'A' levels. She joined us as one of her varied work experience placements this year. Frances is eminently suited to her chosen profession and we wish her every success in the future.

Warwick University Students We were grateful to have had help with stable duties from a group of Riding Club students. They plan more activities this coming year in the form of fundraising and help in the yard.

### **WIDER NETWORK**

Approximately 250+ telephone calls and emails were received by SPEAR during the year from horse owners seeking advice on welfare matters. These ranged from distressed owners unable to keep their horses because of their poor financial situation and other personal problems, to those who were experiencing great difficulty with horses and ponies suffering from health and behavioural problems. With those who want to rehome a well horse or pony privately, we are able to assist by putting them in touch with someone who has contacted us looking for a certain type of horse or pony that may be suitable.

SPEAR was directly involved, along with Equine Welfare organisations, in attending and dealing with cases of neglect and abandonment away from home. We co-operate with the RSPCA and Police in assisting in emergency situations which may result in providing the specialist hospital care for equine and large animal cases admitted on their behalf.

SPEAR is a member of the National Equine Welfare Council and the National Foaling Bank.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2011/12**

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2011	<b>Quiz Night</b> at Mappleborough Green Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	<b>Open Day</b> at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	<b>Veterinary Lecture</b> , Stratford upon Avon Civic Hall, 7.30 pm Professor D C Knottenbelt OBE; BVM&S; MRCVS - speaking on Skin Problems Dr Cathy McGowan BVSc; Dip Vet Clin Stud; MACVSc; PhD; DEIM; Dip ECEIM; FHEA; MRCVS - speaking on Hormonal Problems ie Cushings, Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Insulin Resistance and their relationship to laminitis. Rachael Conwell BVetMed; Cert E.M. Equine Medicine (Int Med); Dip ECEIM; MRCVS - speaking on Gastric Ulcer Syndrome.
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	<b>Quiz Night</b> at Mappleborough Green Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	<b>Jasper's Open Day</b> at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	<b>Open Day</b> at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2012	<b>Fun Night and BBQ</b> at Cotswold House, 7 pm
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2012	<b>Adopters' and Open Day</b> at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	<b>Open Day</b> at Cotswold House, 11 am – 4 pm
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	<b>Bingo Night</b> at Norton Lindsey Village Hall, 7.30 pm
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	<b>Open Day</b> at Cotswold House, 11 am – 3 pm

## WISH LIST

We would be very grateful to have the following items donated if possible please.

*For horses, ponies, donkey, goats and sheep:*

any make of low protein nuts or herb mix; Vet Rap bandages for nursing cases; plastic garden rakes; electric fence tape and Energiser Box; 6 volt batteries for small electric fence boxes; Hibiscrub anti-bacterial wash.

**Treats:** ginger biscuits are a very special treat for all! Digestive biscuits next, followed by polo mints, carrots and apples.

*For poultry:* mixed corn

*For staff:* medium sized rubber gloves; brooms to sweep the yard.

**A huge thank you from us ALL! We really do appreciate everything that is so kindly given.**