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3RANSRY
— HORSES—

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Little Bert was severely unwell – he was painfully thin with pressure sores over his body. Bert's untreated wounds had been attacked by flies and there were hundreds of burrowing maggots inside. He was also suffering from a highly contagious respiratory disease called strangles.

Despite the horrific ordeal little Bert has been through, he has an inspirational determination to survive.



Will gou remember us?

Help us relieve suffering and provide a safe and secure future for horses, ponies, donkeys and mules like Bert.

Contact us on 01427 788 464 or visit. BransbyHorses.co.uk/legacies

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Welcome to the latest issue of Bransby Life

In our last issue, I shared the financial challenges we faced and the difficult decisions made to reduce costs. Over the past six months, our team has worked tirelessly to adapt, ensuring we continue to care for equines in their darkest hour. Thanks to the incredible support from both new and existing fosterers, we've been able to rehome rescued equines through our Perfect Partner scheme—freeing up space to help even more horses in need.

This issue highlights the ongoing impact of our welfare work, including the journeys of Misty and **Ginge.** who have received expert care from our dedicated teams (read their stories on pages 10 and 18). You'll also find updates on Stig, Cobalt, and **Rusty**—rescued in difficult circumstances but now thriving in loving foster homes.

Your continued support makes all this possible. From our first encounter with an equine in need to providing treatment, rehabilitation, and rehoming, we are committed to offering lifelong care.

A huge thank you from me and the team at Bransby Horses. Enjoy the Spring sunshine!

With very best wishes To Snell. CHO



ISSUE 31

Spring/Summer 2025

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Peter Hunt

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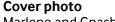
Find us on social media @BransbyHorses











Marlene and Gnasha

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Remembering HOVIS

In late February, we received the sad news of Hovis' passing, who was a truly wonderful horse.

Hovis became well known for his weekly 'Friday Diaries' in Horse & Hound, which were later turned into a popular series of books. His charming and witty nature brought smiles and laughter to many within the equine community, Fridays won't be the same without him.

The team at Bransby Horses worked closely with Hovis and owner Karen Thompson for many years, attending events alongside the pair like Your Horse Live and the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Members of the Bransby Horses team got to know Hovis very well over the course of his life, he now holds a very special place in their hearts and they will miss him greatly.

Hovis was a great ambassador for the charity's work, raising vital funds, from the profits of books to organising raffles and attending events. We will be forever grateful for the support from both Hovis and Karen.

"My sympathy and thoughts are with Karen and her family at this very sad time.

We are truly grateful to Hovis for all he has done for the charity over the years"

Jo Snell, Bransby Horses CEO

Browse the Hovis Collection at Bransby Horses, featuring the iconic Friday Diaries and other merchandise.

Hovis' Friday Diary

Remember Hovis through his series of books, written by Karen Thompson.

From the Beginning £5.99 - Code: 20700000 The Year of the Destroyer £5.99 - Code: 20700001

Fifty Tastes of Hay £5.99 - Code: 20700002

The Fast and the Feathery £5.99 - Code: 20700003

The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread

£5.99 - Code: 20700004 Going Hell for Feather

£5.99 - Code: 20700005 Parties. Piaffes and Pandemics

£8.95 - Code: 20700007 Laughter, Lameness and Lockdowns

£8.95 - Code: 20700019 What's the Story, Medal Glory £8.95 - Code: 20700051





Hovis Keyring Featuring a lovely photo of Hovis. £2.50

Code: 20600035



Hovis Mug One colour earthenware mug. 330ml capacity. £9.00 Code: 20500226



Hovis Tote Bag.

Recycled cotton bag

with Hovis branding.

£4.95

Code: 20300147

Natural Code: 21000151 Blue Code: 21000151 Raspberry

Code: 21000151



Hovis Notebook & Pen

Made from 100% recyclable paper. £5.00

Raspberry Code: 21000152

Blue Code: 21000152



Hovis Fridge Magnet Brighten up your fridge with this lovely photo of Hovis. £2.50 Code: 20600034







Some of you may remember the story of a pony found abandoned on a landfill site in Gainsborough, our first rescue of 2022. The young piebald cob was aptly named Stig, from the children's book 'Stig of the Dump' and with no traceable owner, he was taken into the care of Bransby Horses.

Nine months later, Stig was preparing for life in his new home with fosterer Victoria, who loved him from the moment they met. "I feel so lucky to be able to give him a new start where he will be pampered and loved forever."

Two years on and 'Stiggy' or 'Stiggy the tank', as Victoria fondly calls him, is simply part of the family. He was a quiet pony when they were first introduced, but it didn't take long for Stig to truly settle in.

"He was so quiet when I went to meet him, it was like we were on a date and then we got married and I saw the real him. And he has got such a personality." Explained his fosterer. "He just wants to know what's going on, he's not scared of anything. And he's just the nicest pony, such a sweetheart."

While Victoria was talking, Stig was trying to chew on his lead rope, a characteristic that dates back to his initial rescue, when handlers gave him a lead rope to carry to keep him entertained.

One aspect of fostering Stig that proved challenging, was managing the weight of both him and companion Cyril, as the two equines have vastly different nutritional needs. But Victoria had a solution to this.

"So, my brilliant idea, which I raised with my husband and he instantly said no and yet still Padus is here, was get another [pony] with the same nutritional needs as [Stig]."

She saw Padus' advert on the Bransby Horses website, put in her application and was soon welcoming another addition to the herd.

Stig's life has changed drastically since his rescue and whilst he's 'forever safe' under the ownership of Bransby Horses, his true home is with Victoria.

"The support we've had since we've had him from Bransby has been amazing, so I think if anyone is ever unsure about whether to rehome or not, do it. There's no question. He's got a home for life."





If you are interested in fostering a Bransby Horses equine through our Perfect Partner Rehoming Scheme, please scan the QR code to browse available equines on our website.



Safeguarding Horses Together:

Bransby Horses Partners with Lincolnshire Police



In a significant step towards improving the welfare and safety of loose horses across the county. Lincolnshire Police and Bransby Horses have partnered. Following 130 incidents of loose horses in the past 12 months. Lincolnshire Police's Rural Crime Unit are now better equipped to manage such situations thanks to donated headcollars and lead ropes from Bransby Horses.

The essential equipment – 20 headcollars and lead ropes – were initially donated by Cobbs Country Store to Bransby Horses. Recognising the critical role the police play in responding to loose horse incidents. Bransby Horses passed the equipment on to Lincolnshire Police's Rural Crime Unit to ensure officers are prepared when they encounter horses in need.

This equipment is now available in police stations across the county and every rural crime team response vehicle. Officers can now act swiftly and safely when managing loose horses, ensuring the welfare of the animals and the safety of the public and officers.

The headcollars are fitted with QR codes,

which when scanned with a smartphone, provide officers with information on how to approach, catch, and lead an equine. as well as contact details for Bransby Horses and other charities.

Bransby Horses, with its expertise in horse rescue and welfare, has long worked with local authorities to assist in situations involving loose or abandoned horses. This collaboration with Lincolnshire Police's Rural Crime Unit further strengthens the charity's efforts to protect horses in the community.

A spokesperson from Bransby Horses said, "We are delighted to

ropes. It's important that those on the front line are equipped to handle situations involving horses safely and this donation will help ensure horses are brought to safety quickly."

This collaboration highlights the importance of developing relationships between animal welfare organisations and law enforcement to address issues impacting rural communities. Together, Bransby Horses and Lincolnshire Police are making Lincolnshire a safer place for horses and those who care for them.



Tricky Rescues and Tough Decisions

Back in June 2024, Misty, a 19-year-old, semi-feral and partially blind Welsh pony, was in desperate need of help.

Misty was originally rescued from the

Welsh mountains as a semi-feral pony with an unknown history. She ended up in the care of Lorna Seal when her previous rescue home hoped she would settle as a companion to Lorna's other pony — but sadly Misty did not cope as well as everyone had hoped.

She managed to escape from the safety of her field and was running free across

the Lincolnshire Fens. Her new owners couldn't catch her and were becoming increasingly aware of the danger she posed.

A friend suggested she call Bransby Horses and soon our Rescue Support Team (RST) was sent out to help, including handler Jane Dunn who has vast experience of working with feral ponies.

Jane was the first person to get near Misty and managed to clip a lead rope onto her headcollar, holding on as Misty attempted to gallop off. Jane knew if she let go, there would be no more second chances as the authorities would not allow Misty to run free for much longer.

After a successful capture, Misty was taken back to Bransby Horses and Lorna

made the difficult choice to sign the pony into our care.

The team at the Animal Reception Centre (ARC) tried their best to get Misty settled, introducing her to a potential companion and seeing how she handled life in her new surroundings. The Welsh pony was incredibly nervous and upon further examination, it became

clear that Misty's vision in her remaining eye was limited.

The team tried to accommodate the type of care that Misty would need, but the distress she was experiencing, not only due to her mistrust of humans but also her lack of vision, significantly affected her quality of life; she was afraid much of the time and this would not improve. It was decided that the kindest option for this pony would be euthanasia.

It was a tough decision, and we were glad we could give her the best possible care while she was with us.

Though Misty's story came to an end, her rescue was only possible due to the kind donations and legacies left by our wonderful supporters. To help more ponies like Misty, consider leaving us a gift in your will.











Cobalt and Rusty's Happy Endings

Cobalt and Rusty are two ponies whose stories we have shared with supporters from the very start, before they were even born.

Back in 2021, our final rescue of the year was a large-scale operation involving 40 ponies and several leading equine

charities, with five equines ending up in our care. It wasn't long before two of these ponies gave birth and we welcomed Cobalt and Rusty into the world.

Growing up together, they formed a close bond and were experiencing everything life had to offer. As yearlings

they were both very independent and it wasn't long before they were ready for a brand-new adventure, not just away from their mums but away from Bransby Horses altogether. In 2024, both Cobalt and Rusty found their Perfect Partners through our rehoming scheme and went their separate ways to start a new life with their fosterers.

"Cobalt is an absolute delight and everyone who meets him instantly falls in love with him." Says Marie, Cobalt's fosterer, "He loves his brothers and is often the instigator for playtime in the field."

In the upcoming months, Marie is planning to do some in-hand showing, an introduction to bridles and walks around the village with Cobalt, all of which will help his education as a young pony and keep him healthy.

Marie's daughter has been taking charge of Cobalt's care, providing him with one-on-one attention, which he loves, and putting herself on 'tooth watch' as Cobalt starts to lose his baby teeth.

Arriving last summer, Rusty has settled in very well to his new home. "He is so inquisitive, always enthusiastic to play games with targets, balls, flags and tarps." Says Rusty's fosterer.

"He has become more confident over the winter, exploring different places on in-hand walks and playing with his field mate. We can't wait to develop his life experiences over the spring and summer this year, he is such a special pony."

Rusty and Cobalt's happy endings were only made possible by supporters like you. Your generous donations allowed us to not only rescue their mums back in 2021, but also provide them with a safe environment to grow up in before they were ready to move on.





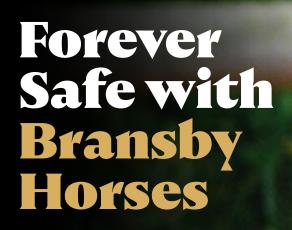
12



Did you know you can make a donation through our Amazon Wish List? Just choose a gift from our list of equine care items to suit your budget and know you've made a difference to our rescued residents.







Phantom was found abandoned on Bodmin Moor in need of urgent veterinary care. As an emaciated foal, he had limited chances of survival.

Never in our 54-year history has your support been more needed. A regular donation of just £3 a month will help us continue to rescue and support more horses, ponies, donkeys and mules, just like Phantom.

Follow his journey as a Regular Giver by calling 01427 788 464 or visiting BransbyHorses.co.uk/Phantom



You help us to help them stay safe, forever



Donkey Diaries

We know that our donkey residents are a firm favourite with supporters, so we thought you might like to know what some of them have been up to, with snippets from their very own diaries.

Dear Diary

05/02/2025

Today was a great day. It started off well with a lovely breakfast but then got much better once we realised there was a Donkey talk happening. Donkey talks are the best because we meet lots of new visitors and get plenty of attention from them too. It's great to experience these events while we're still at Bransby

Horses, it may not be too much longer till we find our Perfect Partner and start life in a new home.





My friends and I spent the morning relaxing in the barn before our handlers took us on a walk to the outdoor school. I got to run around and stretch my legs; I was so excited I even let out a few kicks and bucks which is very unlike me. I also saw some ponies over the fence and tried to say hello, but they were busy grazing.

Marlene







Dear Diary

There's been a few storms lately and I've never been more grateful that we have our cosy barn to protect us from this awful British weather. Today I spent most of my time dozing on the huge straw beds our handlers make for us. They're very comfy and even turn into a perfect midday snack once I've finished napping. I also got to try some fruit tea, which I've decided is my new favourite drink.



28/11/2024

Dear Diary

Something rather funny happened today. It was time for our regular check up with the farrier and I convinced my friends that it would be hilarious if we all ran away from him. It's very unlike us to do this so our farrier was very surprised, the look on his face was brilliant. My handlers tried to seem unimpressed, but I could tell they were enjoying it as much as we were.

Gnasha

Step Behind the Stable Doors! View our full calendar of events and step behind the stable doors with us!







PONY HAS LIFE CHANGING EYE OPERATION

A rescue pony is adjusting to a new way of life after having his eye removed following an accident.

Back in February 2024, Welsh cob Ginge severely injured his eye in his field; it's not known how the injury happened, but it's thought he may have come into contact with a sharp twig while foraging in the hedgerow.

The injury was causing him significant pain and after not responding to treatment, the Bransby Horses' veterinary team decided the best course of action would be to remove the eye under general

anaesthetic to prevent him suffering further

The team that looked after Ginge were unsure how he would respond to the treatment, as he can be a challenging pony to handle due to his life before rescue, particularly when injections are involved.

Bransby Horses' vet, Emma Tune, said: "Ginge's operation took a couple of hours and all went well. He was a very good patient and it was so lovely to see how much more comfortable he was as soon as his damaged eye was removed.

"I've been monitoring him regularly while he has been treated with pain relief and antibiotics and I'm happy to report that his surgical wound has healed really well. Ginge has definitely taken it all in his stride and is back to being his cheeky self with his group of adoring mares."

The gelding has been at Bransby Horses since 2007 and the charity's equine handlers have worked hard to help him overcome his fears.

One year on since his surgery and Ginge has adapted very well to life with one eye. Laura Adams, Equine Welfare Team Leader, said "He was much more accepting of the procedure and aftercare than we ever thought he would be and has adjusted really well afterwards. If anything, he is more confident than he was before.

"We are really pleased with how well he's done."

It is important to give all equines a good quality of life and for us at Bransby Horses this means living outdoors with a



herd as much as possible. Unfortunately, despite checking all the horses twice daily and keeping all the fencing and shelters in good condition, accidents do happen and we are prepared to respond quickly to deal with any of these.



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Last year, West
Pinchbeck residents
called the police after
repeatedly spotting a loose
pony wandering around
the village after he had
escaped from his tether.
He was seen walking along
busy roads and had even
broken into a few gardens,
including the garden of a
children's home.

Bransby Horses were asked to assist with catching the pony and transporting him to a safe place until his abandonment notice expired.

Welfare Manager, Rachel Jenkinson, said: "When we arrived the pony was relaxed and munching on some flowers in the school playground. He was very straight forward to catch and happily loaded onto our trailer. As we are not allowed by law to take any animal without the owner's consent the police placed an Abandonment Notice where he was found, and he boarded with us for the duration."

With no one coming forward to claim ownership of the pony within the necessary timeframe, Spitfire was brought into the care of Bransby Horses.

The manager of a children's home in the village said: "The children loved Spitfire and are sad he's gone but we were so worried about him. He was tethered to a post where he had no shelter and would be there in all weathers.

"We were so pleased when Bransby Horses came to help. We were sad to see him go but glad he is not on his own anymore and in a field rather than just being tied to a post."

Spitfire is doing well with his handling training and the team are working to understand his needs in his herd companions, as he makes it quite clear when he isn't happy. His



personality hasn't changed much as he's still a cheeky chap who loves to play, only this time he's not ruining any flower beds.

Spitfire's handlers have found that he loves a groom and going for walks around site, meeting people and equines along the way, with the donkeys being his clear favourite.



Spitfire is now forever safe and it's thanks to our wonderful supporters, and those involved in his rescue, that he can now enjoy life at Bransby Horses.

Spring/Summer GIFT GUIDE



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A delicious buttery treat, with soft fudge pieces individually wrapped. 200g £7.50



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Mint Selection Code: 21100236 **Fruit Selection**

Code: 21100237 **Barley Sugars**

Code: 21100238



Sugar Free Sweets Selection

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Olde English Toffee

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All profits from your purchases help us provide rescue, rehabilitation, and lifelong homes for those in desperate need, so you can be confident that you are helping to make a difference to so many lives.





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M000

Cattitude

Notebook

Equine Crossword

All of the

answers can be found in this issue of

Bransby Life!

- 2) Number of equines rescued along with Cobalt and Rusty's mums (5)
- 4) What breed of pony is Misty? (5)
- 5) Handler who finally caught Misty (4,4)
- **6)** What we've provided Lincolnshire police with (11)
- 8) You can visit Mario & Luigi by attending a... (6,4)
- 9) How many times a day are our equines checked? (5)
- 10) Consider leaving us this in your will (4)
- **11)** Enter this to win up to £2000 (6)
- 13) You can treat our equines with this wish list (6)



- 3) Who Gnasha ran away from (7)
- 7) Where Stig was abandoned (8)
- 10) Spitfire broke into a few of these (7)
- 12) Number of

Sponsorship Stars (3)



Across: 5) Fireworks, 7) Berry, 8) Snowflake,

10) Polly, 12) Gift Guide, 14) Evan Down: 1) Duchess. 2) Gnasha. 3) Warmth.

4) Highway Code, 6) Obesity, 9) Mule, 11) Rug, 13) Foal

Become a member, become my friend



We love to welcome new friends into our herd!

By becoming a Friend of Bransby Horses you will receive:

- ✓ Invites to exclusive VIP events to meet our residents and the team
- Exclusive product offers from our online shop
- Updates throughout the year about our four-legged friends
- Our biannual magazine Bransby Life, packed with heart-warming stories and updates
- A dedicated area on the website to access exclusive content just for you!



Join us by scanning the QR code or adding to your order form.

