

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust



Fighting Poverty – Feeding Families
Registered Charity No: 1096814
Spring Newsletter 2013



Educating cart owners throughout The Gambia
Page 2



Well deserved recognition for Jen White's voluntary work
Page 2



Animals in need receiving support at the GHDT centre
Page 4

A Message from Heather Armstrong, Charity Director

I find it difficult now to recall the start of The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust. It all began nearly 11 years ago with our wonderful Lazarus, who has developed into a truly beautiful little horse in both looks and spirit. His quiet determination to recover and enjoy life was a real inspiration to my sister Stella and me.

When I walk across from the very large volunteer accommodation, past the mares paddocks to the stallion yard which is always busy with horses and donkeys, both in patients and out patients, being tended to by our dedicated staff, I find it hard to recall that it began with Lazarus and two loose boxes and one staff member using a bicycle for transport.

Little by little we grew and expanded in response to the demand. From simply providing veterinary treatments and advice we graduated to participating in training farriers, harness makers and paravets and providing workshops for farmers and extension workers. We hope that what we call the holistic approach will provide the Gambian animal health workers with the knowledge and training to be able to assist their own countrymen and be able to earn a living out of it without having to rely on external support.

Our volunteers and staff quite deservedly receive a great deal of praise for the fantastic work that they do **BUT** they would not be able to do it without the best supporters that any charity could ever wish for. We have a group of stalwarts who have been with us from the beginning who are extraordinary people in their own right. Ros Harris who is doing the Cheltenham Challenge for the third time and who is famous for her fantastic fundraising parties seems to have endless energy as she not only runs our sister charity, Stella's School Scheme, but does all this on top of her job and running a small holding. There is also Vicki Miller who is a regular out in The Gambia at the shows and who is worrying me to death by taking part in the gruelling Tough Mudder Challenge. Sally McSorely is aiming to cycle 3000 miles over the summer to raise funds for us, Jen Jameson is swimming the channel, Linda Jones holds dog walks, dog shows and quizzes to help us and little Joseph the donkey did a sponsored walk for us. There are so many more and please forgive me for not mentioning everyone but every single one of you has made a difference with your wonderful support. We love to hear your lovely kind comments about our work, but I do feel that we owe you all a huge debt of gratitude for the part that you play in our team.



Lazarus in March 2013



Some of our fantastic supporters

Our volunteers and staff quite deservedly receive a great deal of praise for the fantastic work that they do **BUT** they would not be able to do it without the best supporters that any charity could ever wish for. We have a group of stalwarts who have been with us from the beginning who are extraordinary people in their own right. Ros Harris who is doing the Cheltenham Challenge for the third time and who is famous for her fantastic fundraising parties seems to have endless energy as she not only runs our sister charity, Stella's School Scheme, but does all this on top of her job and running a small holding. There is also Vicki Miller who is a regular out in The Gambia at the shows and who is worrying me to death by taking part in the gruelling Tough Mudder Challenge. Sally McSorely is aiming to cycle 3000 miles over the summer to raise funds for us, Jen Jameson is swimming the channel, Linda Jones holds dog walks, dog shows and quizzes to help us and little Joseph the donkey did a sponsored walk for us. There are so many more and please forgive me for not mentioning everyone but every single one of you has made a difference with your wonderful support. We love to hear your lovely kind comments about our work, but I do feel that we owe you all a huge debt of gratitude for the part that you play in our team.

We all have bad days and on those days I console myself that if nothing else, Lazarus has had a better life than he otherwise would have had for the past eleven plus years, but when I looked at the You Tube clip that was put together to celebrate our tenth anniversary (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lhs4_DDg0) I realise just how much has been achieved. I would urge you to take a look at it and see just how much difference **YOUR** support has made to the lives of both animals and people.

THANK YOU all very much, we really couldn't do it without you!

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare

We are incredibly proud of our long term volunteer in The Gambia, Jen White, who recently won the prestigious

‘Ceva International Animal Welfare Volunteer of the Year’ award.

Thanks to the generosity of Ceva, Jen was able to fly back from The Gambia to attend the glitzy awards ceremony in Birmingham where she received her award. Jen really does put her heart and soul into her work for the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust, working tirelessly day and night and always putting animal welfare first. Jen’s dedication is second to none and we are incredibly proud and delighted that she is a member of our fantastic team. Despite being up against some other very worthy volunteers who are also working tirelessly for fantastic animal welfare causes, there is no doubt that Jen deserved to receive this honour. Our long term volunteers take on a position of huge responsibility when working with us, managing all aspects of the charity’s operations within The Gambia and this is no mean feat!



Reaching Further Afield with Education



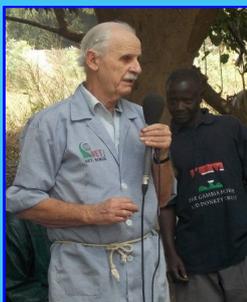
Over recent months we have been carrying out harnessing workshops in areas throughout The Gambia.

Most of the places where we have held the workshops are places we have previously not been to, or where we have had a very limited presence. For this reason, the animal owners have limited knowledge about correct harnessing practises and many animals suffer from serious harness related wounds and injuries.



Donkey awarded for fantastic condition

We were especially pleased to have had the honour of Professor Ramsay Hovell of the World Association of Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWAS) coming to The Gambia to teach at the first of the workshops, and to ensure that our staff were suitably trained to enable them to teach the further workshops. Professor Hovell also starred in our television programmes on correct harnessing and cart balance, which have been aired throughout The Gambia. This information will be far reaching, even into areas of The Gambia where we have not yet been able to travel to.



Prof. Ramsay Hovell

The workshops have all been very well attended with more than 50 attendees at each one. Most attendees turn up with their working equines, and our staff are able to offer one to one advice on how to improve their harness and fit it correctly. Any physical issues are also looked at by our team, with treatments provided where necessary.

Travelling to new areas highlights the extreme need for our work to reach further afield. Not only do we see much higher incidences of animals in need, but their owners are simply desperate to gain further knowledge on how to improve the health and welfare of their working animals. The thirst for education is very encouraging, it is just frustrating that we simply don’t have the resources to reach all corners of the country on a regular basis!



Poorly donkey at one of the workshops

These workshops have been met with enthusiasm from the horse and donkey owners, and all have requested for us to go back to provide further education at a later date, which we do hope to do when the necessary financial resources are available.

Education really is the key to improving the lives of working animals and their owners – prevention is **ALWAYS** better than cure!

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

Give a Brick!



**£1 =
1 Brick**

As you will already know, a short time ago we launched a new fundraising initiative called **The 333 Club**, to help to fund our new centre. We have become aware that lots of people would love to be involved with helping to fund the new centre, but that not everyone feels that they would be able to raise the £333 needed to join the club. To allow people in this situation an opportunity to become involved in fundraising for the new centre, we are now also launching the 'Give a Brick' campaign!

To erect a stable block with 10 stables, we require **8000 bricks**. Gambian bricks are similar to what we would call breeze blocks in the UK. The cost of labour and materials to make one brick is **£1**, so we are asking people to collect up their loose change and donate it to 'Give a Brick'. This is the equivalent cost of a large bag of crisps, or a small snack – perhaps you could consider forgoing these things for one day, and instead using the money to purchase a brick for our new centre.

To 'Give a Brick' (or several bricks!), please go to our fundraising page online

<http://www.justgiving.com/GHDTNewCentre>

or send a cheque to our usual address. **Thanking you in anticipation!**

Your Support Means we Can Help People as well as Animals

As many of you will already know, we are not only a place where animals are brought for help, but sometimes we are presented with humans also needing our assistance. This young boy had badly injured his fingers, and had been to a local medical facility to have them stitched. Due to limited resources the fingers were not dressed and he was unable to afford to get back to the medical



centre for the stitches to be removed. These stitches had been in for more than three weeks, and due to exposure to dirt and dust they had become infected and incredibly painful. Thankfully we were able to offer to redress the fingers daily, and were also able to remove the stitches. The fingers are gradually improving, but this is just one example that highlights how much we are relied upon, not only for the working animals, but for their owners too.

Donations of unwanted First Aid Kits are always gratefully received and put to great use!

**Treat a Friend
&
Help Working
Equines**

horsology.

Your Gift Horse and Horsology have teamed up to create a beautiful friendship bracelet with a quaint Snaffle design, to help us to raise both profile and funds. For every bracelet sold a **REAL** snaffle bit will be provided for us to send out to The Gambia!

These stylish and fashionable bracelets retail at £40 and make a perfect present for any horse loving woman. A comfortable, elegant and stylish sterling silver design on a silk/nylon blend cord, which has been specially commissioned for durability in the horsey environment.

your gift horse

To keep up with the trend, or to give a friend a thoughtful gift whilst also helping a charity at the same time, you can purchase a bracelet via our website, or from

www.yourgifthorse.co.uk

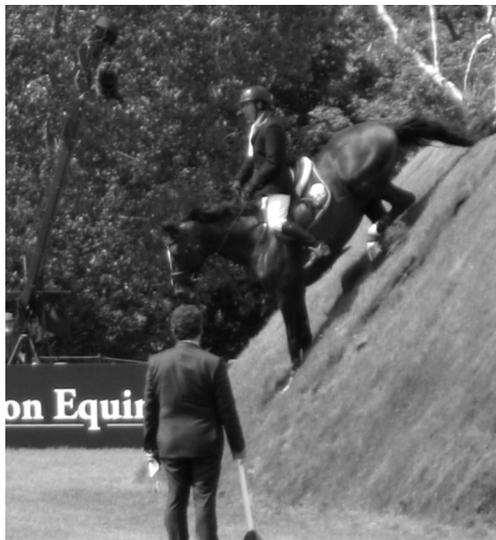


The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

See us at Hickstead!



Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Bunn family who do so much to support us and other charities, we will be in attendance at The All England Showground at Hickstead this year, at both the **British Jumping Derby Meeting (19th to 23rd June)** and the **Longines Royal International Horse Show (30th July to 4th August)**. Both of these events are fabulous days out for all the family, with amazing competitions to watch and great shopping stalls!

We love the opportunity to meet our supporters, so we would be really pleased for you to come and introduce yourselves to us on our stand. If anyone has any **tack donations** that they would like to get to us, Hickstead is an ideal opportunity to do this. Just come and find us on the stand and we can take tack donations off your hands.

Let's just hope the weather holds out for us this year!

A mASSive effort

“We had been discussing to do a walk for charity for some time and when we saw the Gambia Horse and Donkey trusts advert to join **The 333 Club** in **Carriage Driving Magazine** we decided that this was the charity we wanted to support.

To set ourselves a challenge we decided to walk the full 17 miles of the Cornish Camel Trail. The Camel Trail runs from Bodmin to Padstow in, Cornwall and is a disused railway line running along the Camel estuary. As we were raising money for a donkey charity, we decided to add some excitement to our walk and take Joseph, Lizzie's donkey, along with us. Joseph was very well behaved and a real crowd puller, enabling us to spread the word about the work GHDT does.

The day of our walk, the weather was fantastic and all three of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We raised a total of **£416**.

We are also planning to do a cake sale in the spring, and weather permitting, Joseph will come along too!”

From Hannah, Lizzie and Joseph the donkey



Joseph enjoying some down time



Hannah, Lizzie and Joseph at the Camel Trail in Cornwall

Your Support Makes a REAL Difference



Ani is just one of our recent admissions at the GHDT centre. She had a small wound on her face which developed a serious fungal infection, causing extensive damage to her face. This irritating and uncomfortable condition was affecting her quality of life and thankfully her owner brought her in for treatment. With a foal at foot, her health is extremely important. Thankfully this is a condition we have successfully treated before, so we are hopeful that Ani will make a full recovery, although it will take time.

It is thanks to YOUR support that we are able to offer treatment and support to animals in need, like Ani.



The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support helps us to provide training to owners and professionals to prevent hoof problems such as this very over grown donkey hoof.



Seeing Things in Black and White?

You may have noticed that much of this newsletter is in black and white. We sincerely hope that this does not interfere with your enjoyment of our news, but during these difficult times we really are having to minimise on costs as much as possible, and this is just one way to do that. Many charities (including us) are currently having a very hard time and now, more than ever, we really are truly grateful for all of your wonderful support. Together we will make it through to better times! Thank you for understanding.

RECYCLE

Your old ink cartridges, toners and mobile phones.
Contact anna_ghdt@hotmail.co.uk to have a box or envelope sent to you to send them in free of charge.

FUNDRAISE!

We are always extremely grateful for any fundraising efforts on our behalf, particularly during these difficult times. For any help with ideas, to get a fundraising pack or to let us know what you are doing to raise funds, please contact anna_ghdt@hotmail.co.uk

GIVEACAR

Have you been wondering what to do with the scrap car on the drive? By contacting www.giveacar.co.uk you can organise for your scrap vehicle to be collected for free, and if you nominate us as your charity, Giveacar will give us a donation in return for your scrap car!

GIVE STAMPS

Stamps received through the post can be ripped off their envelopes with 1/4" paper around the stamp, and sent to: **The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust, Fords Farm, Horsey, Norfolk. NR29 4EP** We get paid £6 per kilo, so every little helps!

SHOP ONLINE!

Simply do your online shopping by going to www.thegivingmachine.co.uk before then clicking through to the online shop you wish to shop from. A percentage of your sale will be donated to us as your chosen charity.

LEAVE A LEGACY

By leaving a legacy for the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust, you enable us to continue our work into the future. Please contact us if you would like further information. Thank you!



Please help us to keep helping working equines and their owners

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

Staff Focus—Samba Baldeh

Samba is 28 years old and as he has been working for us for almost 7 years, he is one of the longer serving members of staff. Samba lives in a very small village called Wellingara, which is approximately 1km away from our centre so he can easily walk to work. He lives in a compound, which is made up of a few individual mud huts, along with 7 other adults including his mother, father, and father's second wife, brother and his wife and one further brother. There are also 13 children living in the always busy compound, and Samba has a total of 15 siblings, 7 from the same mother and father as him and 8 from his father's second wife. Samba is a very valued staff member and is a trained **Veterinary Assistant** and **Farrier**. On the yard he is Phoenix's caretaker and he has helped to take care of Phoenix since he first arrived with us with



Samba with Phoenix

his severe burns. Samba's favourite part of the job at GHDT is the veterinary care because he **"likes treating animals and wants to make them healthy"**. He also plays a pivotal role in the children's educational programmes and feels that his biggest achievement so far is **"educating people and children about keeping their animals healthy, because it is very important"**. He is well known for being in charge of Donkey Ball training sessions and is liked and respected by the children who attend. Samba's hard working and friendly, smiling approach to life makes him a great team member and he has nursed some incredibly sick and injured animals back to health since working with us. When he isn't working, Samba can often be found on the football field, making the most of his favourite sport!

Are YOU a

Budding Artist?

We would like our supporters to design our new Christmas Cards for us this year. You can design any type of Christmas Card that you would like, but if possible for it to have a horse or donkey theme that would be an added bonus!

CATEGORIES:

A—Open to children 10 years old or under

B—Open to children from 11 to 16 years old

C—Open to anyone 17 years old or over

The winner of each category will win their own supply of Christmas Cards (50 cards per winner) and will be eligible for a discount on further orders of their designed card. Winning designs will be printed and sold in aid of the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust, with the winners details printed on the back of the cards.



TO ENTER:

Your design can be a drawing, painting or photograph

Email a picture of your design to

anna_ghdt@hotmail.co.uk or send it to us as a message

via our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/gambiahorseanddonkey) along with your Name,

Address, Email Address and Contact Telephone Number

CLOSING DATE: Entries must be received before 5pm on 31st May 2013



ANNUAL HORSE & DONKEY SHOW

The Annual Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust Show will be held in December 2013. The show is a fantastic opportunity for owners to show off their well cared for animals and it gives us a great opportunity to monitor the over all condition of working horses and donkeys in the local area. As well as there being the chance for owners to win prizes, the show also provides an excellent platform for us to educate a wide audience about equine care, welfare, health and management.

Year after year we see improvements in both the condition and numbers of animals attending. We offer veterinary and farriery treatments to attendees, and provide bits, head collars, hi-vis vests and advice to owners too. It is a wonderful time for supporters to come and see our work first hand, as long as you don't mind getting stuck in and helping with the various jobs that are required! If anyone would like to support this year's Annual Show, we would be most grateful.

We are looking for:

- ◆ Class Sponsorship
- ◆ Rosettes and Trophies
- ◆ Medals for winning Donkey Ball team
- ◆ Prizes



If you would like to support the show or any further information about the show, please contact Heather on 01306 627568.

The Annual Show has become quite a prestigious event in The Gambia and is televised throughout the country. With your support we can make this years Annual Show another great success.

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

All or Nothing

It often seems to be all or nothing in Gambia, and at the moment it is one of those 'all' times! We have recently had an influx of new patients which has stretched us almost to bursting point! Two of the new arrivals at our centre are orphaned foals whose mothers sadly died. The third new arrival's foal sadly died, but at least this time there was a silver lining.

Thanks to the fortuitous timing of these arrivals, Red Sue (the mare) has been able and thankfully also very willing, to be a foster mother to the two foals, Yannick and Maggie. Hand rearing foals is fraught with difficulty at the best of times, so if at all possible we try our best to find a foster mare but often it just isn't possible. Red Sue has taken fabulously well to her role as foster mother to the two foals, and as a result is eating



First introductions—When Red Sue met Maggie



Yannick (Left) meets his new sister, Maggie

us out of house and home! The foals will be carefully monitored by our staff to ensure that they continue to thrive, but so far, so good. We hope the three of them have great futures ahead of them. As well as these three, we have also recently admitted an emaciated mare, Megan, who had a premature foal—the foal sadly didn't make it, but Megan will remain in our care until her condition has improved and her owner will be provided with education about appropriate care. These are just a few of the recent additions to our centre, but we literally are running out of space for any more!

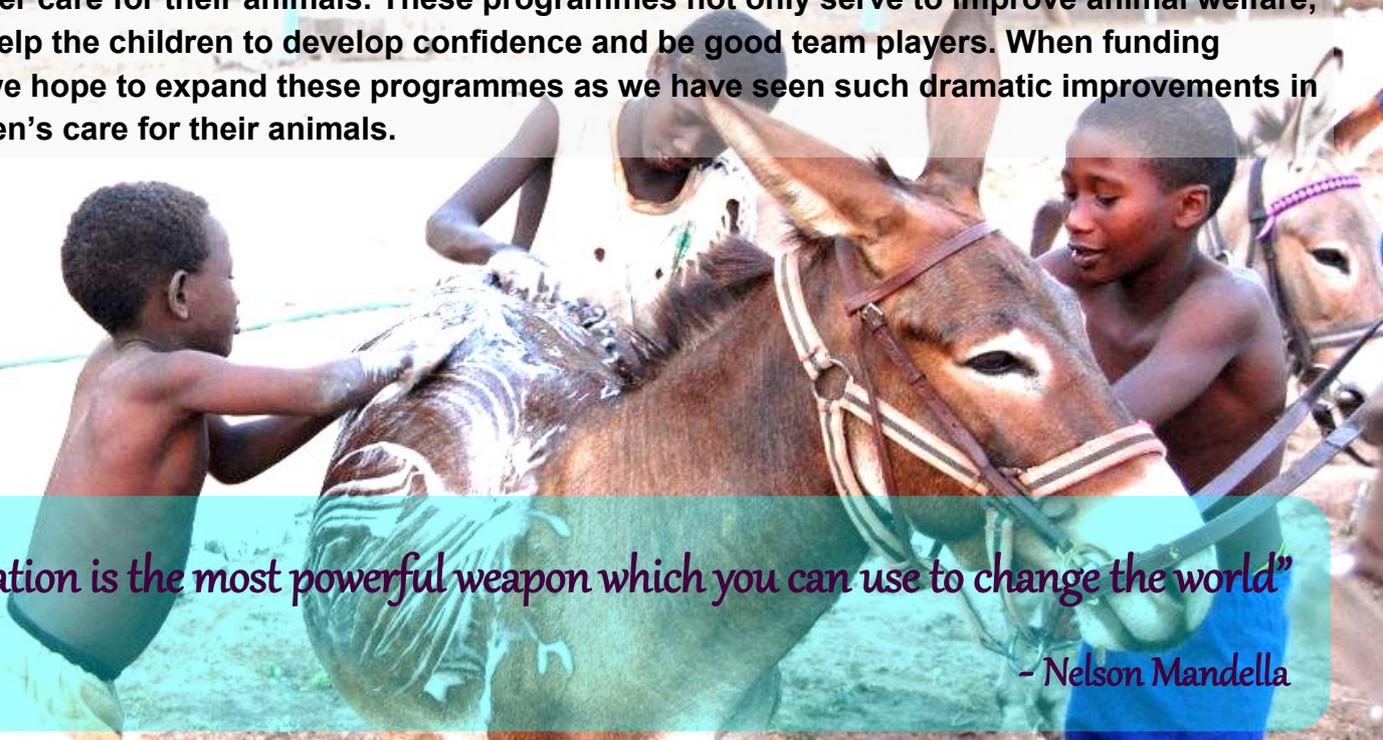


Megan when we first reached her

If there is any way that you could help us with the mounting costs of caring for the influx of patients that we have had in the recent weeks, we would be extremely grateful!

Today's Children Are Tomorrow's Leaders

Our School Education Programme and Donkey Club are a vital aspect of our work. Through encouraging children to develop empathy for animals, their perceptions change resulting in much better care for their animals. These programmes not only serve to improve animal welfare, but also help the children to develop confidence and be good team players. When funding permits, we hope to expand these programmes as we have seen such dramatic improvements in the children's care for their animals.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

- Nelson Mandela

The 333 Club

The **333 Club** is the initiative we launched in 2012 to enable us to fund our new centre in a different area of The Gambia, to reach further afield with our work. We are looking for 300 individuals, groups or organisations to each raise just £333 in any (legal!) way they would like. This will raise a total of £100,000 to fund the building of the new centre.



Wounds like this can be prevented through education

We have had a great response to this initiative but we are still seeking more fundraisers to join The 333 Club to make our dream become a reality.



An inquisitive audience watch our work

Each week new members are joining The 333 Club, thanks to some fantastic fundraising efforts by our wonderful supporters. This is an on-going initiative and we would still LOVE to welcome new members. All you have to do is raise **£333** and send it in to us. In return, your name (or organisation name) will be displayed at the new centre, to thank you for helping us to build it. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has already managed to raise their target £333, and many of you have raised above and beyond that too.

Are you a member of a SCHOOL, PONY CLUB, RIDING CLUB, UNIVERSITY, CHURCH, WORKPLACE, SPORTS CLUB or any other group that you could encourage to take part to make it a collaborative effort?

For further information about joining The 333 Club, please contact anna_ghdt@hotmail.co.uk

FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

- ⇒ Do a Sporting Challenge
 - ⇒ Hold a dog/horse show
 - ⇒ Have a photo competition
 - ⇒ Cake Sales
 - ⇒ Coffee Morning
 - ⇒ Hold a Car Boot sale
 - ⇒ Non-uniform day at school or work
 - ⇒ Do odd jobs for donations
 - ⇒ Hold a Charity Party
 - ⇒ Have a tack sale
 - ⇒ Sponsored Dog Walk
- To request a fundraising pack to help you plan an event, please contact Anna at anna_ghdt@hotmail.co.uk or call us!

HUGE Thanks to our recent members of The 333 Club.

David Marsden, Linda Jones, Sue Silk, June Waring, Sue Ashton, Hart voor Gambia, Alison Bruce, Sue Silk in memory of Marjorie M. Smith, Ruby Grimshaw, Edna Orbell -In memory of Fleur., Barbara Tinto, Lizzie Balls, Dolly Langton, Margaret Brockie, Louise Cornish and the Clyde Veterinary Group, Melanthe, Kathy Sharman and her mother, Mrs. Jill Tyler in memory of Major Wilfred Tyler RCT (Ret), Jane Talbot Smith of Blissland Harness Makers, Chloe Stone, Ali Newton, Wendy Richards, Sue Stage and Anna Braren, Barbara Emery, Hannah Ellis, Neue Schule, Hannah Williams and Joseph.

Will YOU be the next member of The 333 Club?

THANK YOU

FOR HELPING US TO HELP THEM!



The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust

Brewery Arms Cottage, Stane Street, Ockley Surrey RH5 5TH Tel 01306 627568 Email - heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk

www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk