

## West Ashton Magazine Article – February 2022

We're back!

I would like to apologise for our absence in the last edition. It has been very busy here on the Farm, due to staff absences, we have had a couple of staff off with Covid, but luckily we've been able to keep the steady flow of students coming in. Some have finished their placements with us but being replaced with new students, we seem to have a healthy waiting list which is very positive. Along with new students we have on trial a couple of new ponies, to enable us to restart the Riding for Disabled group we have had to put out adverts for horses and ponies as we have sadly lost two of our most popular ponies to retirement.

Tilley and Flossie have been returned to their owners after both being with us on loan for six years helping many children achieve their goals, they are already being missed! On trial at the moment we have with us 'Pepsy,' a Piebald cob and a little chap named 'Bing' for the smaller riders, (see attached photo of Bing] at the moment they are both going through the assessment stage which can take up to 4 weeks, I will keep you posted on their progress.

Since October you may be aware with Avian Flu spreading across the country as well as Covid! We have had to keep all our Poultry shut inside, I can tell you it's certainly noisy when you open the Barn door at Ashton Meadows, luckily, we have stables inside to keep them in and they are let to roam the rest of the Barn during the day, all birds seem to be holding up well in their confinement including dear old Henrietta our peahen.

We are gradually replacing some of our fencing that has seen better days, and an area for the pigs and goats in the summer has now new fencing and gates, we hope to carry on with more projects for fencing as grants allow.

Over the winter we have been housing four Hereford heifers in our open barn in the yard for a local farmer, they will stay with us until they can be let out in the spring back onto his fields. To the amusement of our horses that reside next to them during the day, we have even caught them grooming each other!

Its good to be back!

Wendy