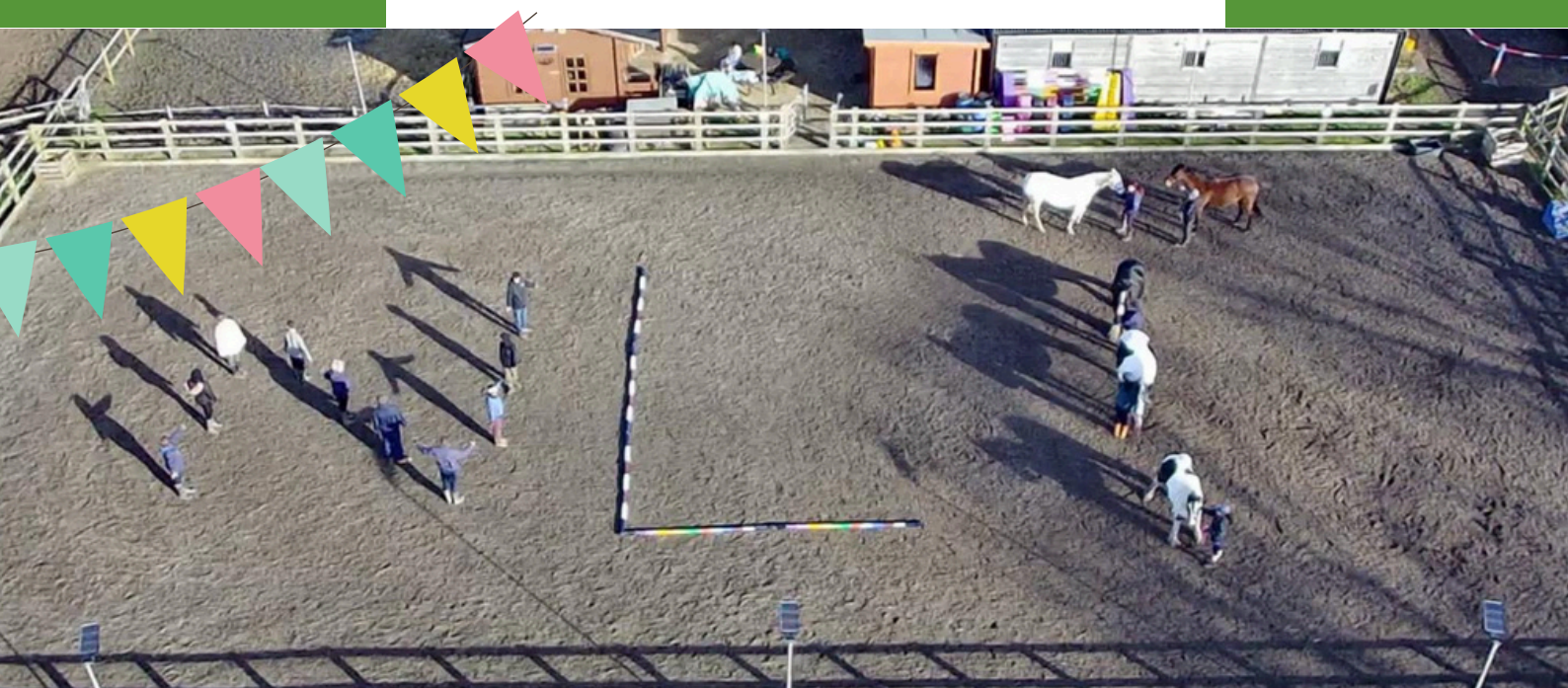




>>> NEW LEAF TRIANGLE CIC <<<

# NEW LEAF'S NEWS

Spring 2024



## TOP NEWS

**IT'S OUR  
10 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY!**

## >>> NLT IS TURNING 10!

This year, New Leaf Triangle is celebrating its 10 year anniversary! We have so many wonderful achievements to celebrate. Students and staff have already been coming up with cool and fun ways to celebrate 10 years of NLT. Find out more on page 14.

SAVE THE DATE: 24TH AUGUST 2024!

## NLT STUDENTS TAKE PART IN A BHS DRESSAGE COMPETITION!

Six NLT students took three of the New Leaf horses to Pickering Grange to compete in the British Horse Society (BHS) National Riding School Championships! This was after months of hard work and competing in inhouse qualifiers! Find out how they got on on page 4.



**BHS  
DRESSAGE  
COMPETITION!**



[WWW.NEWLEAFTRIANGLECIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.NEWLEAFTRIANGLECIC.CO.UK)



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWLEAFTRIANGLE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEWLEAFTRIANGLE)

# A MESSAGE FROM LORRAINE AND TROY



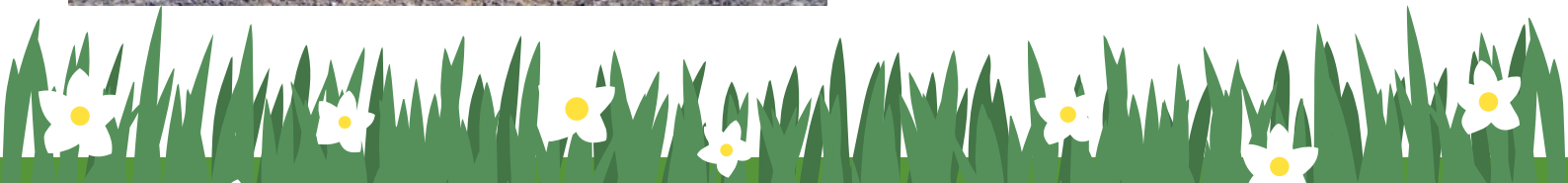
Hello everyone,

We have been enjoying the better weather at New Leaf recently after a long wet winter! It has been great to see that the staff and students have still got stuck in, despite the rain, and have been having fun and learning lots along the way.

We can't believe it's our 10 year anniversary this year. We started back on 9th September 2014 where we just had a couple of families with children with autism who came every other weekend for a couple of hours. It was just us two doing everything in those days and Troy worked with families and built all the cabins, animal housing, fencing and set up all the equipment around a demanding full time job!

In 2015 we had our first education student and the business grew steadily over the next two years and then started to snowball and we now have 55 students, a permanent waiting list, 18 staff and 39 animals. The first horses were Star, Tyler and Finley and Holly was the only dog! We had the two goats, Rex and Woody, one rabbit, Angel, and 2 rats, Tom and Jerry! It's been an incredible journey with lots of fun, especially in the first few years of family camps in the tipi tents, where we spent many a night singing around the campfire with families. We have seen a lot of students make some amazing, and, in some cases, life changing progress, and move on to the next chapter of their lives. We have had some great staff over the years, and we still have Laura, Emily and Jeanette (voluntary Director) who have been with us for much of that time and been part of the journey!

We have had some great furry and feathered team members over the years all of whom have contributed to the success of New Leaf over the last 10 years!





# Student Showcase

## WHAT HAVE OUR STUDENTS BEEN UP TO?

### >>> AMAZING GWW PROJECTS

There have been some amazing green wood-working projects recently. One of which was this incredible fairy garden made by one of our students. They came up with a design on paper, thought about what materials they would need to create it and then put it all together. There were some design issues along the way but through problem solving and perseverance, they succeeded and created this amazing piece of work!



### >>> ANIMAL ENRICHMENT

Students have been getting creative with finding ways to enrich our animals environments whilst they have been inside for the colder months. This is a treat puzzle made by one of the students which encourages the rabbit to forage through the different elements of the puzzle in order to find the treats.



### >>> FOREST SCHOOL

Despite the weather, students have still been enjoying taking part in Forest School activities. They have played a variety of woodland games like capture the flag, man hunt and sardines. They have also been learning how to tie Forest School knots in order to build shelters and put up hammocks. Not only this, but students have also made some incredible dens in the woods like the one in the photo!



### >>> GOAT PLAYGROUND



The students have had great fun designing new play equipment for the goats. Our goats love to climb and explore and so the students have created some new stools for them to climb on in their field.



# BHS DRESSAGE COMPETITION

## >>> NEW LEAF STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY'S (BHS) NATIONAL RIDING SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS!

The students at New Leaf had the opportunity to take part in in-house qualifiers for the BHS' National Riding School Championships. All the students worked extremely hard for weeks practicing and learning their dressage tests in preparation for their qualifiers. Ben very kindly judged each students test and 6 of our students qualified to compete at Pickering Grange, Ellistown, in the Championships!

Beauty, Mary and Jasmine were the 3 New Leaf horses selected for the competition. This was a new and exciting opportunity for them all as they don't often go out to competitions. Emily, Kelly and Tilly put in an enormous amount of effort behind the scenes preparing the mares for their big moment. They took them to various local shows to get them used to the atmosphere and to help reduce their separation anxiety.



It was a big busy event with lots of eager competitors. Our students all did extremely well, all coming home with rosettes and being great ambassadors for New Leaf throughout the day, working as a team and supporting each other. The horses did us proud; it was a big deal for them as they stayed the night before at Pickering Grange and they aren't used to being away from home or in a busy competition environment.



A very big thank you to B for arranging it all and to Emily, Kelly, Tilly and Clair for helping the students and horses prepare for the day, for their help on the day and to Alika for helping to get the horses and their tack ready. Great teamwork all round! A very successful event. We are so proud of our students and the horses and we hope it will become an annual event!



# WHAT HAVE OUR STAFF BEEN UP TO?

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## >>> TRAINING DAYS

Staff have had a lot of training this year so far! Training has included first aid, health and safety, animal care, horse handling and safety, education, safeguarding, green wood-working, Attachment, Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) and some staff have started an Award in Education and Training with Carly.



Troy taught some of our horse care staff how to do classical in hand work

with the horses. This will help the staff and the students improve our horses' way of going from the ground, whilst developing good coordination and a sense of connection between the horse and rider. Lorraine and Emily also ran training on Parelli and liberty, teaching staff more skills that will be useful in sessions with students.



B ran an EFL session, teaching staff about the 'window of tolerance' and how understanding this can help staff understand their students better, as well as help staff to help their students understand themselves too.



Staff enjoyed role-playing ready for our Family Sessions in the Easter holidays! They took it in turns to pretend to be students and great fun was had by all!

## >>> AWARD IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING WITH OPEN AWARDS

As expectations and standards in education rise, especially for alternative provisions like ourselves, we are running this course for our staff through Open Awards, to ensure that we are delivering the highest standard of services possible to our students.

It is a very well recognised professional qualification, making it a great opportunity for our staff! The course is being delivered by Carly Steel, former Director and Head of Education at New Leaf.

# WHAT HAVE OUR STAFF BEEN UP TO?

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## >>> NEW STAFF



**JENNIFER**



**HANNAH**



**KATIE**

Read more about our new staff members on our website!

## >>> GREEN WOODWORKING

New staff completed green wood-working training with Ian Varley, The Rustic Carpenter.



## >>> FOREST SCHOOL

Some of our staff have now achieved their Level 2 Forest School qualification through Open Awards. Kelly, Laura and Lauren completed several training days learning how to tie a variety of knots, build different types of shelters, the names and uses of different Forest School tools and learned how to start and maintain fires. They also completed portfolios based on the theory behind Forest School and the benefits Forest School can have for our students. They then planned and led several Forest School sessions which they were assessed on how they put all the theory and training into practice.



A number of our staff have also recently completed their Level 1 Forest School Qualification. Charlotte, Freya and Jack have been learning different Forest School knots, the principles of Forest School as well as different ways to incorporate Forest School into their sessions with students at New Leaf.





# ANIMAL UPDATES

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## >>> NEW ADDITIONS

This year we have welcomed 3 new rescue hens from Fresh Start For Hens! Meet Hermione, Bellatrix and Ginny! These girlies have joined Bubbles in Albus' flock. They have settled in really well and are getting more confident and comfortable every day! The students have been enjoying getting to know them as well as making them special treats to help gain the girls trust.



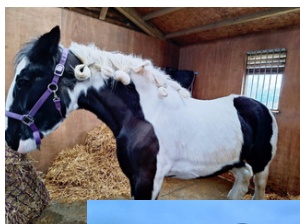
## >>> CONFIDENCE BUILDING WITH THE GOATS

Two of our goats, Woody & Rex, are generally very shy compared to our bigger goat, Buzz. Students and staff have been making amazing progress with the boys



confidence by giving them lots of fuss and attention as well as doing food preference tests to see which treats they like the most. Recently, the goats have all taken part in an 'EFL' type activity whereby students had to work as a team to navigate the goats through an obstacle course. Not only was this a great activity for students to work on communicating with each other, but it was also a great way for the goats to build up trust in the students.

## >>> BEAUTY HAD A MAKEOVER!



After coming back from our site in Old Dalby, which has lots of tree branches for horses to rub on, Beauty's mane was all over the place and all different lengths. The decision was made to chop it all off and let it regrow to even it back out - she looks so much smarter!



## >>> SMALL ANIMAL PREFERENCE TESTS



Students have been carrying out preference tests with our small animals to see which herbs they would choose if they had the choice. The most popular choices are now being grown in our allotment!

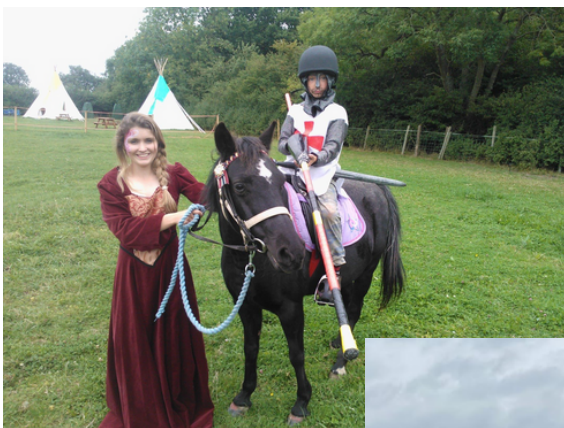




## >>> SAD NEWS ABOUT STAR



Sadly we lost our very special 'Star' on Saturday 13th April aged 29. Star, aka Nightly or Noodles, was the most amazing pony, belonging to Lorraine and Troy's daughter, Tilly, for the last 12 years and working for New Leaf as the first pony in 2014 until she retired a couple of years ago. She was a super 'Star' in all the family camps and fun days, always a favourite, with her gentle loving nature. She loved to hack out, do the games (very enthusiastically!), take children on adventures as knights in combat or magical fairy princesses, being totally fearless and accepting of any props we used. In 2020 she represented the UK in the World Horseback Archery Championships with Tilly, storming down the archery range at a great pace! She gave such a lot and will leave a very big hole in all our hearts.





# ANIMAL UPDATES

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## >>> VELVET UPDATE

Velvet has recently had back x-rays due to ongoing issues with bringing her back into work after having her foal, Marengo, 2 years ago. This was interesting learning for horse care students. Sadly, this revealed extensive damage to the spinous processes of the vertebrae in the withers area from a historic traumatic accident that could be giving her ongoing pain. She will therefore no longer be a riding horse, but will have a part to play in New Leaf as a groundwork horse and will take part in our Equine Facilitated Learning sessions and be groomed and pampered and much loved.



## QUALIFICATION UPDATE

Over the last term, students have been working hard towards their horse and animal care qualifications, completing written work towards their theoretical assessments and developing their practical skills to enable them to complete their practical observations. Students have then been observed by their assessors, Emily and Clair, to ensure their practical skills have been taught to the correct standard. Lorraine, our IQA (internal quality assurance), also observes some of the assessments to ensure the assessors are consistent and fair in their judgments. This includes topics such as loading and unloading horses for travel, mucking out, feeding horses and completing health checks. Over the remaining term, the students will complete their remaining practical and theoretical assessments to ensure they have completed all the work towards their qualifications by the end of the academic year. Qualifications at New Leaf are run through City and Guilds (horse care only) and Open Awards (animal care and combined horse & animal care).





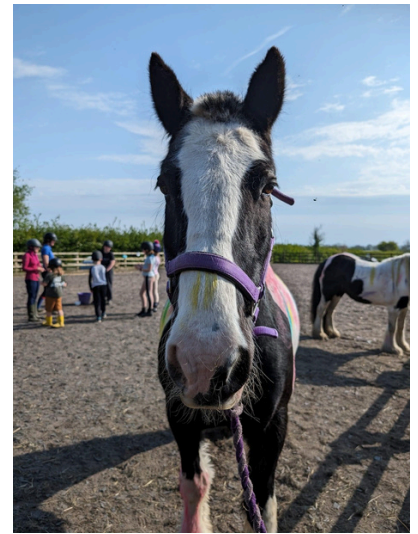
# NEW EQUINE FACILITATED LEARNING PROGRAMME

Our new EFL programme started a few weeks ago and the young people are enjoying the booklet and horse based activities. So far they've learnt about healthy boundaries, recognising messages within their bodies, emotions and horse communication/behaviour.

We're also now taking bookings for our next set of dates for September/October and a short programme over the summer. See our page on 'Holiday Sessions' for more information.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"I just wanted to say that the EFL classes have been absolutely amazing for C's mental health and wellbeing. I can see the calmness in his body language, and the way he talks about it after the session you can hear that his thoughts are organised and you can see him relax. He is excited for Thursdays each week and very happy attending the sessions and this is amazing for him. I can confidently say that the EFL has improved both of our lives and can't thank you enough for that. Thank you so much for all your help, time and effort you have put into this."





# NATWEST VOLUNTEER DAY

## >>> SITE 2 HAS HAD A MAKEOVER

We would like to say a massive thank you to the amazing volunteers from NatWest Bank who painted the barn and manege fence at site 2 for us this week. It looks fabulous and is a job we would have really struggled to have time to get done ourselves! Thanks to Darren for arranging. This group have been volunteering for many years now, putting up tipi tents, digging a pond and planting trees. We are very grateful for your support, it really is a great help. Thank you!





# EASTER HOLIDAY SESSIONS

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We had another very busy Easter holiday full of family sessions, respite sessions, Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) days as well as a new Easter family fun day!

Children and families were able to take part in a range of activities including horse riding, green woodworking, archery, small animal handling, arts & crafts, Forest School and farm animal handling.





## >>> EDUCATION FEEDBACK

“New Leaf has offered such a valuable and appreciated provision for H in school time and in the holiday sessions. In a time of significant stress and challenge for H in a mainstream environment, the provision provided H a safe space to recover and to find himself and his passion for animals - and his passion for learning again. New Leaf staff have been amazing in navigating regulation with H and allowing him to develop his coping mechanisms while pushing his boundaries and broadening his experiences and confidence in situations in a safe space; along with navigating tricky situations and responses from H in a student centred and a compassionate manner. He looks forward to every session and cannot wait to return to New Leaf for the holiday sessions now he is in a new school. Could not recommend New Leaf enough. The staff are compassionate, friendly and give great feedback on the sessions; working collaboratively with us as parents to provide consistency and allow H to flourish.”



## >>> HOLIDAY SESSION FEEDBACK

“Hi there. Just wanted to say thank you so much for having F and me today. We both really enjoyed it. It took F a few attempts to get in and a while to settle but your staff were just amazing with him. So understanding, calm and low demand but also just seemed to pitch suggestions to get F to do an activity just right. It was amazing and they really got F to get stuck in. Having had F tell me that he had been panicking about this trip for a long time and him shouting to go home before we’d even got out the car, he is now planning what activities he wants to do next time and which animals he is going to see first (Toast the Guinea pig!!). Thanks so much and please say a MASSIVE thank you to your staff for making it such a success!”





# 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

September 2024 marks 10 years of New Leaf! We are so excited to have reached this milestone and have lots of exciting events planned to celebrate! Our staff, students and horses have already taken part in a drone photoshoot to commemorate the occasion.



Our staff have been busy planning behind the scenes for our celebration weekend which will take place on Saturday 24th August! Save the date and keep your eyes peeled for more details to follow! There will be faces old and new to catch up with, photos from our 10 years in action as well as George of course who will be eyeing up the picnics! We are so excited to celebrate our 10th birthday with you all and hope you can join us for this special event.





## >>> BOOK NOW FOR OUR MAY HALF TERM AND SUMMER SESSIONS!



### MAY HALF TERM - \*NEW\* PONY DAY!

Aimed at all children aged 5 to 15. Spend a day with the horses, learning how to groom, care for, prepare for riding and safely interact with our horses. There will be a chance for horse games and riding too, with a competition and a certificate at the end!

The day will be from 10am until 3pm.

Cost is £60 for one child and £40 for each additional child.

Children will be working in small groups so need to be comfortable with this.

MAY HALF TERM PONY DAY - TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2024



### FAMILY FUN DAYS

These run for set dates over a morning or afternoon. Four or five families attend at the same time and move around a full range of activities at their leisure. Each activity is supervised by an experienced member of staff who can help support all members of the family to take part. Bring a picnic rug and snacks!

Times: 10am-12:30pm or 1pm-3:30pm.

Cost: £48 per family.

Dates: 22nd July (Robin Hood theme), 1st August (King Arthur theme) & 19th August (Wild West theme).



### THEMED GROUP ACTIVITY DAYS

Running on set dates across the summer, these themed days are for all children aged 5 to 15. Drop your child off with us for a fun day of activities. Your child needs to be happy in a group of up to 12 children.

The day will run from 10am to 3pm.

Cost: £40 per child for a half day or £60 for the full day.

Time: 10am-3pm (full day).

Dates: 26th July (Animal Enrichment), 31st July (Own a Pony), 5th August (Survival Skills) & 12th August (Arts & Crafts).



**>>> BOOK NOW FOR OUR MAY HALF TERM AND SUMMER SESSIONS!**



## **\*NEW\* EQUINE EXPERIENCE DAY - SUMMER ONLY**

Our new specialist day for horse lovers! Held at our 2nd site, where we have a working yard with stables and more horses. Come and spend the day improving your riding, groundwork and horse care skills. We can support at beginner, intermediate or advanced level.

Time: 10am-3pm

Dates: 14th & 21st August.



## **EQUINE FACILITATED LEARNING (EFL)**

As well as dates in September (see website for details), we are also running a short course for EFL over the summer - for 4 weeks of 90 minute sessions. The programme is led by our experienced EFL coach, Bryony (B) and supports resilience, confidence and focus through connection with horses. It includes groundwork, grooming and riding.

Dates: 30th July, 6th August, 13th August & 20th August.

Time: 10am-11:30am.



## **FAMILY SESSIONS**

Family Sessions can be booked for 1 or 2 hours. You will have a dedicated member of staff to take you round different activities. Parents can join in with the children as much or as little as they like and there is no restriction on the size of the family. There's no minimum age to take part, and babies can be brought along as long as they are supervised at all times. Costs are £24 per hour.



## **RESPIRE SESSIONS**

Respite Sessions can be booked for a minimum of three hours (or sometimes we can do two hours on request) and allow your child to attend without parents being present. Your child will have dedicated one to one support at all times (or two to one support on request) and will engage in a range of activities according to their interests. Costs are £30 per hour.

**HOLIDAY SESSIONS FILL UP QUICKLY! CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [NEWLEAFTRIANGLE.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-SESSIONS](http://NEWLEAFTRIANGLE.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-SESSIONS) OR EMAIL [KATH@NEWLEAFTRIANGLE.ORG.UK](mailto:KATH@NEWLEAFTRIANGLE.ORG.UK) TO BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!**