



Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary

Annual Report 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name	Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary
Registered Charity Number	1122891
Charity's principal address	Buckley Hill Lane Liverpool Merseyside
Postcode	L29 1YB

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Bernadette Langfield	Chair	
Eric Langfield		
Michelle Irving		
Patricia Sheridan		
Kellie O'Shea		
Elouise Jones		
Nanette Cox		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the Charity's Trusts

Type of governing document: **Trust Deed**

How the Charity is constituted: **Trust**

Trustee selection methods: **Appointed by The Board of Trustees** the charity operates with a Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy and Trustees, staff and adult volunteers are DBS (CRB) checked every three years.

The Charity works closely with Carla Lane's Animals In Need, military veteran charity Tom Harrison House and local education providers

The trustees recognize that public interest in the riding establishment activities and the plans for nature trails, wellbeing zones and easier access are key to improving the future sustainability of this charity to support the equine rescue work at its heart. The future sustainability will be dependant upon improvements to the infrastructure. As a result of us engaging property specialist solicitor Stephen Breen in September 2022 as outlined in our report for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 agreement with the land owner Sefton Council. The lease was completed on 28th March 2024. This provided the security required to complete the site upgrades we have long had in our plans which were brought into sharp focus during this financial year which was dedicated to commencing the site improvements required for the future sustainability, both environmental and financial, of this charity.

Objectives and Activities

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF ANIMALS (IN PARTICULAR EQUINES) IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION AND TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN RESCUE HOMES OR OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE RECEPTION, CARE AND TREATMENT OF SUCH ANIMALS.

TO PROMOTE HUMANE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS ANIMALS BY PROVIDING APPROPRIATE CARE, PROTECTION, TREATMENT AND SECURITY FOR ANIMALS WHICH ARE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION BY REASON OF SICKNESS, MALTREATMENT, POOR CIRCUMSTANCES OR ILL USAGE.

TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO ANIMAL WELFARE IN GENERAL AND THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY AND SUFFERING AMONG ANIMALS.

TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES TO ENJOY AND RESPECT NATURE AND WILDLIFE.

TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH THE USE OF HOLISTIC THERAPIES.

TO PROVIDE INCLUSIVE AND AFFORDABLE ETHICAL EQUESTRIAN RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE PURSUITS FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Whilst organising and arranging activities and events the trustees had regard for the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

- © We were able to host seven open days this year. All of open days were all well supported with the music festival event in July being most lucrative for fundraising and the August event with the women's world cup being commemorated by volunteers on horseback was great fun for the local community.
- © We are very grateful to all our dedicated staff and volunteers who ensure that the charity remains healthy and operates in accordance with the ethics and mission we strive to achieve. We also thank the following people and organisations for their contributions in supporting and funding this charity Without their help we would not survive.

Monty Roberts
Kelly Marks
Roger Lyon
Mike Badger
Joyce Lund Trust
Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust
Sefton MBC Discretionary
LCR Cares
Petplan Charitable Trust
Royal Sun Alliance
Ravensdale Trust
Sylvia Waddilove Trust
Marchig Animal Welfare Trust
Marchig Foundation
CAF Resilience Fund
Hilda Holmes Charitable Trust
Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust
The Armed Forces Covenant Fund
Diana Startin Charitable Trust
Sefton CVS
Community Foundation for Merseyside
Blue Sky Foundation
Crosby Rotary Club
Hemby Charitable Trust
Liverpool One Foundation
Pets At Home Foundation
Merseyside Police Commissioner Youth Diversion Fund
Anne Duchess Of Westminster's Fund
The Pilkington Family Trust
Jamie Carragher 23 Foundation

Shy Lowen: What We Do and Why It Matters

Horses and ponies arrive at Shy Lowen for many reasons: owners facing redundancy or financial hardship, illness, behavioural challenges, age or infirmity, or abandonment. Every equine that comes to us is guaranteed a home for life. Those who can be re-homed are placed on permanent loan adoption contracts, remaining the property of Shy Lowen to ensure their long-term welfare.

Prospective homes are carefully inspected, and adopters agree to strict care standards, including a commitment not to sell or pass the animal on. Each adopter becomes a Friend of Shy Lowen, donating a minimum of £10 per month to support ongoing care. Much of our success in rehoming is due to the dedication and skill of our volunteers.

Some horses are not suitable for rehoming due to age, health, or temperament. Others remain with us to take part in our 'No Kicks, No Sticks' riding programme. These equines become permanent residents and can be sponsored for as little as £10 a year. Supporters travel from across the country to visit the horses they sponsor.

Shy Lowen sits on the edge of an urban area, surrounded on three sides by social housing estates that rank highly on indices of deprivation. Our volunteers—aged from as young as three to over eighty—come largely from the local community. Many have few other opportunities to interact with horses or spend time in open green space. Through their involvement, they gain access to nature, learn new skills, and become part of a supportive community. Volunteers contribute to every aspect of the organisation: animal care and training, bookkeeping, land management, fundraising, machinery maintenance, and countless other tasks.

Rehoming has slowed as the economic crisis continues to affect families. At the same time, we have seen a sharp rise in requests from owners who can no longer afford to care for their horses. To prevent unnecessary surrender and keep animals in familiar environments, we now offer “in-home” support by providing essentials such as feed and bedding.

The Therapeutic and Educational work done is proving to be more popular as the impact of covid lockdowns in the social and educational development of children becomes more apparent. We have seen an increase in professional approaches for assistance with young people but conversely a decrease in the level of volunteer commitment from this cohort. This appears to have its root in the time spent isolated and being connected via screens which has become the norm and time spent outdoors and in physical company of others a more alien concept. We have taken steps to address this and have increased the time spent supporting our young Care Committee team.

Our work with Tom Harrison House working with military veterans in recovery from addiction has received excellent feedback and is continuing to grow. The veterans pay it forward by providing support as volunteers. A significant effort was co-ordinated by Stuart Mendelson who worked very hard to put a new roof on our stables and education centre. Thank you Stuart and everyone who helped with this effort.

Our horse riding programmes were changed during this financial year with a requirement being implemented that people wishing to access horse riding opportunities must first demonstrate some commitment to the wider work done at Shy Lowen. This was felt to be important because our message of horses being important just for being themselves was being lost as many people were presenting who were demonstrating that they were interested only in their requirement to ride horses with no interest in the wellbeing or otherwise of the animal involved.

Social media

Shy Lowen makes active use of social media through its webpage

<http://www.shylowen.com/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shy-Lowen-Horse-Pony-Sanctuary/105853832819403>

And X (formerly known as Twitter)

<https://twitter.com/shylowen>

Social media continues to be one of the Sanctuary's most effective tools for informing and educating the public about our work, promoting equine welfare, and advertising horses and ponies available for rehoming. These platforms provide free or low-cost outreach to an audience of more than 12,000 followers, giving us a powerful way to share updates and reach potential adopters.

Because social media is the preferred communication channel for many young people, it also supports our focus on youth engagement through the Care Committee. Adapting to the communication styles of younger audiences helps us build stronger relationships, deliver education more effectively, and encourage long-term involvement in equine welfare.

Our Facebook-based fundraising stream remains popular, although recent structural changes mean that donations are now routed through PayPal, which applies fees before funds reach the charity. Despite this, the platform continues to generate valuable income. Regular videos, photographs, and updates about the animals at Shy Lowen help maintain supporter interest, strengthen transparency, and encourage further donations. We are actively exploring additional ways to expand our use of these platforms in the future.

We have also strengthened our rehoming process. In the past, some applications failed because applicants were not fully honest about their experience or ability. To address this, we now require applicants to submit video footage demonstrating their level of expertise. This has significantly reduced the number of unsuitable applications and unnecessary appointments, allowing us to assess suitability in advance and match horses and ponies more effectively with appropriate homes.

Achievements and Performance

Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary HQ Upgrade

Phase 1

Plant 30 additional trees to add to the 150 we've already planted since the site was cleared of 800 tons of rubble. These trees will create some secluded space for peace and meditation as well as increasing habitat for wildlife.



Provide 1000 square metres of impact safe pathways which will allow access to all 8.5 acres of the site. This will also allow Horseback and Horsedrawn Nature trails to safely take place for anybody to take part.



We'll provide 4 picnic areas so you can come along, free of charge, and sit in nature whilst meeting friends and family in a safe space of peace. These areas will have appropriate recycling bins for you to use.



We'll create a meditation zone, beautifully secluded with natural log seating, trees and water for our meditation events with horses and campfire stories.

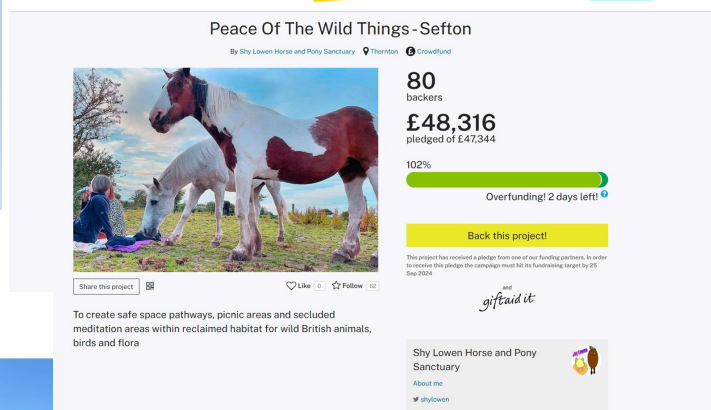


There will be 10 benches placed in secluded areas so you can just be in nature, maybe read a book or bird watch. Just whatever you feel right doing whilst being safe in nature.



We'll have 3 horsedrawn carriages specifically designed for carrying a wheelchair so you will be safe in the knowledge that there is full inclusion for everyone.

The site upgrade entitled 'Peace Of The Wild Things' was launched and a successful crowdfund which brought in a significant grant from Liverpool City Region was launched.



TREE PLANTING



All the work was, and is, being done by volunteers and continues with plans to be completed in 25/26 with the meditation zone due to be first used in Spring 2026

Financial Review

We have had a goal for the past 3 years to achieve a minimum of 6 weeks and an ideal of 3 months of financial reserves and, pre covid, we were making inroads into doing this but the deficits and income challenges over those years meant that we used the funds we had managed to accumulate and we are currently operating very much on a 'hand to mouth' basis which is extremely challenging.

No funds are in deficit.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees.

Signature(s)



Full Name(s) Bernadette Langfield

Position Trustee

Date 25/1/2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

	2025		2024	
	unrestricted	restricted	unrestricted	restricted
Receipts				
loan horses	7780		8320	
fundraising	19458		37711	
sponsor horses	6220		9327	
gift aid	5397		12918	
friends of Shy Lowen	5280		6400	
donations	64189	9429	90426	
grants	11000	54746	40570	3600
silent whispers training courses	24300		23600	
tack sales	2028		1830	
loanfrom clain	15000		0	
legacy donation	17454		15000	
Total Receipts	178106	64175	246102	3600
Payments				
wages	71297	14760	112412	
capital equipment	798	49415	8700	3600
hard feed	14248		15620	
hay	26000		32760	
bedding	4680		3900	
farrier	5720		6150	
rent	1412		1388	
electric	751		789	
manure	4034		4420	
transport	180		0	
tack	370		853	
water	1417		1609	
generator petrol	0		60	
insurance	4988		6186	
tools	3298		2510	
skip hire	1958		1250	
cleaning	6183		5322	
fundraising	4746		2946	
vet	14079		13956	
repairs	1679		9628	
road tax	780		709	
bank	984		974	
stationery	398		258	
website	172		135	
reward and recognition	2247		95	
vehicle fuel	3640		2080	
vehicle repairs and MOT	708		975	
ICO fee	47		40	
Licensing	1080		816	
SAGE Payroll	296		274	
passports	0		0	
loan repayment CLAIN			7000	
Total Payments	178190	64175	243815	3600

	2025		2024	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
Net receipts (payments)	-84	0	2287	0
Cash balances as at 1/4/24	2712	0	425	0
Cash balances as at 31/3/25	2628	0	2712	0

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary – Charity number 1122891

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 01 to 02.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signature

Name: Kari Hansen

Address: Newstead Farm, Quarry Street, Liverpool L25 6DY

Date: 29/01/26