

West Region Report to Council Meeting – 5th September 2018

Regional Delegate: Claire Harper

On 19th May the Equine Dental Technicians from the Donkey Sanctuary again gave us a full day of discussions and demonstrations covering donkeys' dental care. This is a regular yearly event and many donkeys and people have been helped and hopefully dental problems have been prevented.

On the 20th May and the 3rd June the Hereford branch of the British Driving Society held events to which donkeys and their owners had been invited. The first day was a Fun Show with a variety of classes including In-hand and driving classes, Handy Pony/Donkey and Fancy Dress. The second day was an Agility Day for ponies and donkeys with several 'challenges' being set up in an outdoor school, giving the handlers the chance to practice working the animals over them with instruction from an experienced trainer. Both days were a great success and greatly enjoyed by those who attended. It is hoped that future dates can be arranged in conjunction with the Hereford branch of the BDS who have been very welcoming to people with donkeys.

We have had several Sponsored Webster Walks raising money for the Flicker Foundation Donkey Sanctuary in Cornwall – the final one will take place on the 9th September.

Sheila Bell again hosted a very enjoyable Summer Luncheon at her home in Hereford. Sheila and Sue Farr have attended several Fetes and the Hereford Country Fair with their donkeys, even though it has been such a hot summer. The search for shade for the donkeys and the DBS PR stand was a constant challenge.

Janet Parsons, Assistant Area Representative for Gloucestershire, held a very successful Fete in her garden raising over £1000 for various charities including a Donkey Charity and Rescue Centre in India.

The Three Counties Show was held at Malvern Showgrounds in June with an increased number of entrants giving hope that the donkey classes will be continued. Sadly the very low entrants at the King's Heath Show near Birmingham may mean that we will no longer be able to have donkey classes included. The Island Farm Donkey Show was postponed to the 30th September because of floods.

John McClaren, Area Representative for Oxfordshire, has announced that the official opening of the Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary's Donkey Hospital will take place on Sunday 14th October.

During the remainder of the year we have a few events planned: a Reiki Demonstration for Donkeys and People, the two day Malvern Autumn Show, a DBS Test Day, a Sanctuary Talk on the Brick Kiln donkeys in India and our Annual Regional Meeting and Christmas Get-together and Lunch.

Two Regional Newsletters have been sent out this year, mostly by email, with the third currently being prepared.

Claire Harper.