

DONKEY BREED SOCIETY
Newsletter for the Western Region

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Orchard View, West Side, North Littleton, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 8QP.

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Secretary/Treasurer: **Eileen Parker** **07500 754265** eileenparker26@gmail.com

September 2018

Hello Everyone,

We have had quite a busy summer in the West Region, even though it has proved difficult at times with the heat-wave. The donkeys appear to have come through it very well – they can certainly cope with the heat far better than I can!

News from the Areas:

Gloucestershire:

On 24th June, Janet Parsons, Assistant Area Representative for Gloucestershire and Nth Somerset, held an incredible Summer Fete at her home near Bristol, raising over £1000 for various Charities including the Donkey Charity in India.

Judy Lane is arranging two Donkey events: 1. Saturday, 17th November – **Donkey Ramble**. Starting from Duntisbourne Abbots Village Hall, hopefully off-road but the route may change to lanes and bridle tracks if conditions are muddy/wet. 11.00am start. Bring your own picnics. (Any donations to our Western DBS) Well behaved dogs welcome. Please let Judy know if you are intending to participate so that arrangements can be made for the parking of cars and trailers. Please also contact Judy (contact details above) for further information and directions to the starting point.

2. Sunday 3rd March 2019 Judy is also organising a **Fun Day with Donkeys**, for those who would like experience with in-hand, long-reining and/or driving at Brook Stud, Grittenham, Wiltshire SN15 4JY. Covered school and plenty of parking for cars and trailers etc. Bring your own donkeys if you wish. Please let Judy know if you are interested in participating in this day so that she can discover what you are interested

in and will be able to plan the activities. Please also contact Judy (contact details above) for further information and directions to venue.

Herefordshire:

On the 8th July Sheila Bell held another lovely Hereford Luncheon at her home in Little Dewchurch when 38 people attended and shared delicious food and much donkey talk. Over £100 was raised on the bric a brac table for the Webster Fund (this year supporting the Flicker Foundation Donkey Sanctuary), and £372.00 was raised through donations and proceeds of the raffle which has been sent by Sheila to SHADH (Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land).

There have been several events in Herefordshire, including Fetes and the Hereford Country Fair which have been attended by local members of the DBS including Sheila Bell and Sue Farr, both taking their donkeys and therefore spreading the word about what lovely animals donkeys are.

On 9th September Sheila will be hosting a **Webster Walk** in support of the Flicker Foundation. For information please contact Sheila (contact details above).

Oxfordshire:

On the 23rd June Angela and Peter Scales organised a very enjoyable Webster Walk in Great Coxwell. Twelve people participated with 3 donkeys, a mule, a Shetland pony and several dogs and over £317 was collected for the Flicker Foundation.

20th September – **Thame Horse and Country Show**, Oxfordshire. Information from the Secretary of the Show – Mrs K. Thorpe: kjt080561@aol.com

Sunday 23rd September – **Reiki Demonstration** and Discussion with Sarah Coppin at the home of Stephanie Clark (Assistant Area Rep for Oxfordshire), Crofts Barn, Epwell, Banbury, Oxon OX15 6LR. For details and to book a place please contact Stephanie - details above.

John McLaren's show at Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary was postponed earlier in the summer because of flash flooding of the Showground. **The new date for the Show is the 30th September.** Please contact John for details and information.

The new **Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary Donkey Hospital** is to be officially opened on the 14th October. Members of the DBS are very welcome to attend. Please phone John for information for the time of the ceremony etc. (Contact details above).

Shropshire and Staffordshire:

Sadly I have received no news from Shropshire and Staffordshire. I am sure there are lots of donkeys out there giving a great deal of pleasure to many people but I'm just not hearing about it. Please contact your Area Representatives, Deirdre in Shropshire and Rochelle and Shoshana in Staffordshire and let them know what you have been doing. They would also like to hear of the sort of activities you would like to see happening in these two counties – for example a getting-to-know-people coffee morning type event, a Donkey Walk (it doesn't have to be a sponsored Walk), an equine dentist, veterinary or farrier Talk or anything else donkey related. There is a

great deal of fun and friendship and support to be had when a few people get together, and invariably donkeys will benefit. Please support your Area Representatives – it's very hard to get things going but all it needs is one enthusiastic person and it's surprising what can happen!

Worcestershire, Warwickshire and West Midlands:

The Three Counties Show was held at Malvern with donkey classes on the Sunday 17th June. We had a really good showing of donkeys at this important Show which was lovely to see, even though the classes were so early in the morning!

5th August – Anna Turner organised a Sponsored Webster walk near Stratford on Avon when twelve people braved the hot weather and enjoyed a lovely walk with three donkeys, followed by a picnic lunch in Anna's huge garden. Over £360 was donated to the Flicker Foundation.

18/19th August – Championship Donkey Show held at Moreton Morrell College. This was a terrific weekend which everyone enjoyed, from the sight of so many beautiful donkeys and mules to the fun of the Fancy Dress, supper and Quiz in the evening. Many thanks to those people who very kindly helped with all the jobs that are required to hold such an event successfully. It was hard work at times but very, very worthwhile.

29/30th September – **Malvern Autumn Show** at Malvern Showgrounds. We will again be attending this lovely 2 day Show with the DBS PR stand, selling Donkey Sanctuary goods and talking to the public about the DBS, the Donkey Sanctuary and donkeys in general. If you would like to spend an hour or so helping us on the stand you would be very welcome. Come and find us in the Stables in the World of Animals section.

7th October – **DBS Tests Preparation Day and International Day of the Donkey Celebration.** It is planned to hold this at the home of Claire Harper, Orchard View, West Side, North Littleton, Near Evesham, Worcs. WR11 8QP but the venue may be changed, for the reason that as most people wanting to take part come from the Hereford area, it may be held at Sheila Bell's home. Therefore please be sure to contact Claire (contact details above) to book a place and to learn of any arrangement changes. We could hold another Test Day in another area if and when required. The day will be an opportunity for members of all ages and experience to gain the Introductory and Elementary Certificates and to learn about the requirements for (and maybe actually gain) the Bronze and Silver Awards.

27th October – **Talk on the donkeys and people of the Brick Kilns in India** – Jan Bollington will be giving another of her Talks, this time at the home of Anna Turner, The Grove, King's Lane, Snitterfield, near Stratford on Avon, Warks CV37 0QA. Please bring your friends – membership of the DBS is not necessary. Please contact Anna to book a place (contact details above.) 10.30am for 11.00am start.

2nd December – **Regional meeting followed by Christmas Lunch and Get-together.** To be held at the home of Anna and Peter Turner, The Grove, King's Lane, Snitterfield, Stratford on Avon, Warks. CV37 0QA. Everyone welcome. Please bring

a contribution to the table. We will be holding a Christmas raffle – donations welcome, particularly if it has a donkey or Christmas theme. For further information and to discuss with Anna what food you would like to contribute, please phone Anna on 01789 730039 or email: gardenia.soft.furnishings@btinternet.com

Diary Dates:

- 09.09.18** Webster Walk, Little Dewchurch, Hereford.
- 20.09.18** Thame Horse Show, Oxfordshire.
- 23.09.18** Reiki Demonstration, Near Banbury, Oxfordshire.
- 30.09.18** Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary Donkey Show, Oxfordshire.
- 29/30.09.18** Malvern Autumn Show, Worcestershire.
- 07.10.18** DBS Test Day Worcestershire or Herefordshire.
- 27.10.18** Talk on the donkeys and people of the Brick Kilns in India, Warks.
- 17.11.18** Gloucestershire Donkey Ramble, Duntisbourne Abbots, Gloucestershire
- 02.12.18** Regional Meeting and Christmas Lunch and Get-together, Worcs.
- 03.03.19** Donkey Fun Day, Grittenham, Wiltshire.

Wednesday Donkey Days at Claire Harper's home in North Littleton, Worcs. will continue throughout the winter, but depending on the weather, of course. Please contact Claire if you wish to participate. Everyone welcome. Membership of the DBS is not necessary.

FOR SALE: For all items please contact Claire Harper.

Set of 8 Dressage markers, metal, perfect condition, hardly used and shed stored. £35

DBS Royal blue Fleece, hardly worn. Size: 7 – 8 years. £12 (to be donated to the Webster Fund.)

Virtually brand new, 2nd Generation BOETT Sweet Itch blanket, made for a 10.5 – 11 hand donkey (Size 1). Perfect and clean condition – used only once. Covering for body and neck. Dark brown/black colour. Original cost £185.25. For sale for £95.00

Best wishes to everyone,

***Anna, Deirdre, Janet, John, Judy, Lucy, Rochelle,
Sheila, Shoshana, Stephanie and Claire.***

Editor of this Newsletter

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