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|  | * + - 1. Donkey Breed Society
			2. Eastern Region
			3. Events Calendar 2018
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Many of these events are organised by the Eastern Region Committee, in which case, please use the contact details below. We have also listed other events of interest to donkey lovers, together with the contact details where relevant. Any shows listed will include various donkey classes so please check the show schedule (usually available via website). Contact details for shows can be found in the DBS Shows Calendar which will be posted out with magazine / Bray Talk. Don’t forget that if you go to a show or other event to spectate, please say hello to the donkey owners there – they’d usually love to have a chat!

* + - 1. If in doubt, get in touch with any of the committee and we will do our best to help! Keep an eye on the DBS website ([www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk)) or Facebook page and group to catch the latest updates.
			2. And what if you don’t see anything here you fancy? What would you like to come to or help arrange?
			3. Get in touch with any of the committee and let us know!

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| Area Reps (all committee members)Bedfordshire: Diana Dunstan, 01462 713796 dianadunstan@yahoo.co.ukCambridgeshire: Liz Wright, 01354 741538 ewright757@btinternet.comEssex: West - Carole Travell, 07889 162715 caroletravell@btinternet.com, East Essex- Alan Larner, 01206 241697Hertfordshire/Bucks Maggie Taylor 01582 768746 Maggie.taylor3@hotmail.co.ukNorthants: Sarah Hemmings, 01327 341507 hemmule@aol.com  | Lincs / Notts: vacantSuffolk / Norfolk: Annette Staveley, 01284 830240 astaveley1@hotmail.com Additional committee members / contacts Jane Brind - janebrind@gmail.comJo Cordell – 01480 869486 Jo.cordell@btinternet.com Clare Winter-Bysouth - 01442 825879 clare.bysouth@gmail.com David Poole david.ds.poole@talk21.com |

As ever, if you would like some sort of event held, please get in touch and we can try to get something organised between us, with donkeys or without, social or training or a visit somewhere. You may not think there are many donkey enthusiasts in your area, but there may be more than you think with donkeys ‘hidden away’ in fields and just waiting for the chance to find each other and come out and have fun!

**Forthcoming events**

Contact details for all committee members are as above – others given by the event details below

Second Thursday of every month, Informal donkey get-together at Annette’s nr Bury St Edmunds.Suffolk.

Annette will be hosting a donkey get-together / chat / coffee / whatever! Venue – Gate & West Farm, Lawshall near Bury St. Edmunds. IP29 4PT. Get in touch with Annette if you are interested.

Sunday 4th March - Indoor School at Annette’s

We are holding a ‘do whatever you like’ day using Annette’s indoor school. Gate & West Farm, Lawshall near Bury St. Edmunds. IP29 4PT. 10:00 am ‘ til 3:00 pm. Please contact Annette in advance to let her know if you are coming, and what you would like to do (with your, or other people’s, donkeys). We will try and fit everything in! Bring your own lunch – tea / coffee available, Raffle. Contact Annette

Sunday 18th March – Long-reining and intro to driving day, Aylesbury

Quainton Stud (indoor school), nr Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4AG. This is a follow-on to our very successful ‘day 1’ held in October last year, and will build on that day BUT will also start with the very basics again for those wishing to come along for the first time. Intro to long-reining and key points before starting driving. Demo and hands on. 10:00 am til 1:00am. £10 per person, non-members welcome. Please contact Clare for further info and to book your place. Clare’s details on page 1.

Sunday 25th March - Palm Sunday

Just a reminder to everyone that this is the date! Do you do a church parade? If so, send us a photo or a report. If you don’t, but fancy taking your donkey to one, why not contact your local church or school and see if they are interested? Activities like this count towards our EARS scheme! Please make sure you have adequate insurance cover!

Friday April 13th - Easter Egg Hunt at Annette’s, Bury St. Edmunds

An Easter Egg Hunt and fun day for Juniors is to be held at Annette’s. Free of charge and every Junior can bring a non-member friend if they wish. 10:30 / 11 til 3:00 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Egg decorating competition (bring your own ready –decorated egg to be judged). Please contact Annette to let her know if you are planning to come. (Annette’s details above)

Sunday 15th April – Silver Awards training / testing, at Annette’s Bury St Edmunds

Gate & West Farm, Lawshall near Bury St. Edmunds. IP29 4PT. 10:30 am. Training for, and then testing of Silver Awards. If you are interested in taking any awards please contact Annette

Sunday 29th April – Intro to Long-reining day at Annette’s, near Bury St Edmunds.

Long-reining is not only preparation for driving, it is also fun on its own and a good way of doing more things with your donkeys without the need for expensive equipment. All levels catered for. Bring a packed lunch, tea / coffee available, Raffle. 10:30 – 3pm. Contact Annette for more info. £5 for DBS members, non-members welcome at £10

Sunday 6th May, Grimsthorpe Castle Sponsored Drive, Lincs

Sponsored carriage drive, donkeys welcome, check out the website for more details, [www.bccride.com](http://www.bccride.com) (Note – there’s a sponsored ride version on Monday 7th)

Sunday 13th May – Redwings Show, Topthorn Equestrian Centre near Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Sunday 13th May – South Suffolk how, Ampton Racecourse, near Ingham, Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 19th May, Hadleigh Farmers Show, Hadleigh nr Ipswich

Saturday 26th May, Herts County Show, Redbourne, Herts.

Sunday 27th May, ‘Introduction to nearly everything’ hands on day in Northants

Details yet to be finalised, but will be a ‘start off’ day to introduce donkey lovers to all sorts of things! Experienced handlers and demo donks there so you can learn / ask questions about basic handling, tack fitting, riding, harness fitting, long reining, carriage fitting, driving, inhand showing (serious and fun stuff!). Lots of hands-on opportunities. £10 per head. Times / location to be finalised, bring a packed lunch, raffle, Contact Jo or Sarah to ask for more info. Non-members welcome.

Thursday 31st May, Suffolk County Show, Ipswich

Sunday 17th June - Dinky Driving Day including ‘Webster Walk’ in aid of donkey charity, Ramsey Rural Life Museum, Cambs

A day for all British Driving Society ‘dinky drivers’ (which includes donkeys). Harness checking, Trec and cones course with Claire Bourne LHHI giving expert advice. All those bringing turnouts MUST be British Driving Society members. All others welcome (with donkeys!) to lead inhand, ride or long-rein and take part in the Webster Walk in aid of DBS supported charity. There will be a grand parade at 3.00 and rosettes will be awarded to every donkey/pony taking part. All those taking part must please bring evidence of their own Public Liability Insurance, such as that for British Driving Society or British Horse Society Gold members, or other personal insurance. This will be checked on arrival. For further details contact Linda Swain, Contact Linda Swain 07850 706978 lindaswain10@aol.com

Sometime in June / July! Webster walk in the Northants area.

Contact Sarah Hemmings to express interest and find out the date and more details

Wednesday 27th June – Royal Norfolk Show – donkey driving

Thursday 28th June – Royal Norfolk Show – inhand donkey classes

Saturday / Sunday 7th / 8th July. Witnesham, Nr Ipswich

Fun driving weekend at Emma Young’s. Come and drive out (no roads) on the Saturday, 11:30 am from Sutton near Woodbridge in Suffolk, then a picnic (bring your own) and box back to Emma’s for ‘something’ in the afternoon followed by a social supper (£15). Overnight camping and then more donkey fun on the Sunday morning with driving skills à la Attelage, led by Eunice and Wally Binder. Limited stabling / shelters available and a tepee to camp in or bring your own tent / lorry. Breakfasts available too at small cost to cover expenses. Contact Emma to discuss and book a place BY 30th JUNE LATEST. emma@burnbankhouse.co.uk 01473 785854

Saturday 14h July – Tendring show, nr Clacton, Essex

Saturday 14th July – Shuttleworth Show, near Sandy, Beds.

Really friendly donkey-only show with classes for all inc Juniors and minis. Contact Linda Swain 07850 706978 lindaswain10@aol.com

Saturday 28th June, Heckington Show, Near Sleaford, Lincs

Sunday 5th August – East Anglian Donkey Show, Gate & West farm, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds

Sunday 5th August – Audley End Victorian ‘Horses in harness’ weekend (inc donkeys), Audley End House, Near Saffron Walden, Essex

Contact Carole to take part, come and help out or just come and watch. Beautiful house and gardens open to view and great teas!

Sunday 5th August – Wayland Show, Norfolk?

Last year we did a couple of displays in the main ring and were very well-received, We don’t yet know if we will be back this year, but put a note in your diary just in case (and check with Annette for latest news). Come and cheer us on (and say hello!).

Weekend of 18th / 19th August – Championship Show, Moreton Morrel college, Warwickshire

A whole weekend of donkey fun! Classes for all, ‘posh’ inhand donkeys, juniors, gymkhana, fancy dress, driving, agility and fun classes. Come and take part, or come and help – we can always do with more pairs of hands! Contact Carole

Weekend of 15th / 16th September- Abbey Farm Driving (and walking!) camp, Near Kings Lynn.

This is a long way off but you may want to put it in your diaries NOW. Our annual camp (B&B available), with stabling, We have miles and miles of wonderful off-road walking and driving available and also do other fun stuff like agility. Contact Annette to find out more and to book in for the weekend. B&B, camping pitches and stabling available.

Sunday 23rd September, Parsons Drove show, Wisbech, Cambs

Driving, long-reining and fun driving based classes. A really lovely and welcoming show! For schedules please call 01406 420053.  Open to all.  Special rosettes for donkeys.

Saturday 29th September, Gransden Agricultural Show, Cambs / Beds borders SG19 3AN

We will be having a pen with a few donkeys in for the public to see (and ask questions about) and will also be doing a display in the main ring. Come and watch - or better still, come and help or take part! If you visit the show, make sure you find us and come and introduce yourselves. Contact Carole for more details

Saturday 13th October – Eastern Region Autumn Donkey Show, Skylark Garden Centre, nr March, Cambs.

The much-loved Autumn Show at Peterborough is now no more, as the showground is no longer available. This new show is to replace it, with inhand, junior, fun & driving classes with a special classes for those new to showing. Contact Liz for more info

Sometime over the winter! (Nothing to do with donkeys -except chatting about them!)

Indoor carpet bowling sessions, Kempston, near Bedford – try something new - social, and without donkeys! Contact Jo Cordell if you want to know more.

Saturday 17th November - DBS National AGM 2018 – Marks Tey, Near Colchester, Essex

Society AGM to be hosted by the Eastern Region on weekend of Saturday 17th November 2018. Marks Tey Motel (Best Western hotel with spa) at Marks Tey, near Colchester. Dinner / dance on Saturday evening. Why not come along and learn more about your Society, how it works and what all the various committees can offer? Or just come for the chat and a social weekend! We will also be looking for helpers to book people in, sell raffle tickets etc. More details in the next newsletter.

Sunday 2nd December - Xmas Lunch

A VERY long way off, but we had great food in a lovely private venue in Huntingdon, Cambs – just off the A14 junction - so we’ve booked again! No idea of price or menu choices – but it was all delicious and VERY good value! Nearer the time, contact Liz for more info.

Tuesday 1st January 2019, London New Year’s Day Parade

Every year the DBS take part in this great parade, along with approx. 8000 other people, including many marching bands who come over from the USA just to take part. Bring a donkey, or just walk with us. A great way to celebrate the New Year! Contact Carole