**NORTHERN IRELAND REPORT FOR THE AGM NOVEMBER 2018**

With the dark nights in and the clocks changed the donkey calendar slows down for the winter, however with the agricultural shows finished the DBS NI still managed to hold a few events and the weather was favourable.

The sun shone for our Elementary training day.  A brilliant crowd of enthusiastic folk enjoyed indepth demonstrations from farrier Bruce Carson and also Gareth Bell from Jubilee Veterinary in Newtownards.  Our sincere thanks to both for providing such interesting and useful information!

After a talk on paddocks and a visit out to the fields it was a chance for everyone to get arty!!  We all channelled our inner 5 year olds and came up with some...erm...'interesting' junk art ideal paddocks for donkeys.  We finished on a long reining demo and the promise for loads more training days in the months to come!

A huge thank you to Area Rep Anne Brown for devising the training day.

Biggest thank you to everyone who attended, both DBS members and non.  We made several new friends all while having the craic which makes our wee society so worthwhile!!

A good turnout of members went to Mounthill Fair for which the weather stayed kind, an enjoyable and informal day was had by all.

Massive thank you to Declan Feeney for hosting our DBSNI day out. The sun shone down on a very happy bunch of wanderers enjoying the beauty of the Forde Estate, Seaforde.  Our sincerest thanks to Lady Anthea Forde for inviting us up to the house and also to Lady Dufferin who met the donkeys and has invited us to the Clandeboye estate next!

As always the Carrot Chase at Cultra proved a big hit, Halloween Costumes knew no bounds for donkeys and owners alike, a yearly gathering which always draws a crowd and good fun had by all before the winter truly sets in.

Stephen Cherry

Regional Delegate NI