***DBS SCOTLAND – REGIONAL REPORT***

Well, where have the last 7 years gone? This is my last report as Regional Delegate for Scotland.

Every show this year was drenched in sunshine which makes a great change. We welcomed southerners to The Royal Highland, Border Union, Turriff; the former having double figures forward in the classes and one foal. The Scottish Donkey Show at Perth was quiet this year due to folk having other commitments. It should be back to normal next season.

Some members have been out and about with their donkeys doing other things. Donkey walks have become popular, not to mention the picnics and ice cream afterwards. Gatherings of donkeys doing all sort of interesting things seem to be taking hold.

In my DS capacity I attended the Grass Sickness Conference at Edinburgh University. The research in to this horrible disease is still going on and more animals are coming through. I had the opportunity to attend Glasgow University Conference chaired by Prof Derek Knottenbelt looking at the task of euthanasia. A topic we do not like to discuss but at the end of the day it could be the best thing for the animal. At the end of September, in conjunction with BEVA, BHS, SSPCA and WHW I was a member of the helper team at the first castration clinic held in Scotland. Twenty colts/stallions were gelded. Eighteen Passports were completed along with the mandatory micro-chip.

Fodder and bedding are commanding a high price at present and it will become even higher as we approach winter. We had a good summer to make hay and haylage but not the same yield due to the dry hot spell. I hope everyone will be able to ‘stock up’ to keep their donkeys through the winter. Please be mindful that not all donkeys lead the lives ours do. Get in touch with those who can help.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being at DBS ‘HQ’ over the past seven years. Here’s hoping the winter won’t last too long.

Slainthe

Elma Cunningham

Regional Delegate, Scotland