**South East Regional Report AGM 2018**

2018 has been a very varied year, we started off with a friendly get together at our local leisure centre for a light lunch, game of bowls and the opportunity to sit down and put together plans for the forthcoming year.

Then the weather changed and everyone was kept very busy having to cope with the extreme weather that we were experiencing, meaning no time to get to planned events or, in some cases, impossible to get to anyway, leading to many events being cancelled. April was our beach walk which was enjoyed by all who attended, even with the delights of the rain, but it will be on the events list once again for 2019 with a nice lunch purchased from the café, and if the weather is better can even be eaten on the beach.

May is the start of the show season with SEDS, swiftly followed by Surrey County, and then Cranleigh, Chertsey and Edenbridge and Oxted. Sadly we lost our classes at Ardingly this year, however we are hoping to run this ourselves if the show will not reinstate them directly. All the south eastern shows had good if not reasonable attendance and we hope to keep it that way in 2019.

The region hosted a long reining day and fabulous walk which was held at the home of Carol and Barry Morse where we were joined by some new members which was lovely to see, all of whom took home a wide array of knowledge and were able to practice with their own donkeys as well as using more experienced ones.

This was shortly followed by one of our committee members, Gloria Newstead, holding an open day and welcoming all DBS members and public alike to meet her miniature donkeys and other animals. This brought in a variety of different people many of whom wanting to gain knowledge about donkeys, even a lady, who had noticed and questioned Gloria as to why she was buying so many carrots at the local shop, came to actually meet the lucky recipient of those carrots. Donkey Day Out an annual event in the SE calendar, was well attended, many people coming again to meet the donkeys they had met in previous years. We recently held our Regional AGM and are now looking forward to our local Christmas lunch.

In general I am concerned that we are short of junior members in our area and regardless of what we arrange we only get a handful of our members turning up; we always ask what people would like to learn or do, maybe a social event with or without donkey etc, but do not get large responses, hence we have come to the conclusion that people prefer getting their newsletters, Bray Talk and The Donkey to keep up to date with what is going on in the region and beyond. Unfortunately it seems they are just so busy with general everyday things and family that they don’t have time to join in, but we will keep trying to encourage them and will endeavour and strive to find new ideas to entice them - I think it is a general theme across other areas. But there are always the regulars who support events loyal to the end.

On a completely separate note if anyone would like to write a few lines to Anne Mccaig then I will be happy to pass them on to her as she is now being cared for in a home and I am sure she would be most pleased to hear from those of you who have had many a good time with her over the years.

Wishing you all the best for 2019.

Coral Weaver, Regional Delegate