**SOUTH REGION REPOR FOR THE AGM NOVEMBER 2018**

It has been a strange year; the first part was so wet many events were cancelled and then along came the sun and as you all know we had a very hot summer.

Well the events started with a cones fun day in **January** which went down well, normally our first event is at Wilton RDA centre but with the weather we had to cancel this.

A couple of events in **April** were also cancelled due to rain and mud !

**May** We had an in hand Donkey Trec at Goring on Thames near Reading.

**June** We had a lovely walk (new venue) at Malshanger Estate near Basingstoke, where 17 donkeys attended. This was a good day. After the walk we had our picnics in the field so we shut the gates and let the donkeys roam around, they all seemed happy to meet each other!!

Another **June** event was at Peppard Common near Reading where 10 donkeys attended and a ploughman’s lunch was provided.

**July** A walk in the New Forest near Lyndhurst.

**August** We had a Fun day at Wash Common near Newbury. We had cones and agility courses followed by a BBQ which was a wonderful day with 15 donkeys !

**September** We had a walk in the New Forest near Linwood followed by a pub Lunch which always goes down well. The Pub let us put the donkeys in their pens and they reserved a table for us next to them.

**October** Unfortunately we had to cancel our cones event at Trowbridge due to heavy rain but the following week we had a walk at Bucklebury Common near Thatcham Berks. Followed by another pub lunch !

We were going to go to the Isle of White (without donkeys) to visit the Donkey Sanctuary and Carisbrooke Castle but this too was cancelled as not enough interest.

Apart from the above events some of us in the South have probably attended about 10 shows all over. What does surprise me at all the events it is normally the same faces; it’s a shame we can’t attract different members - maybe its lack of transport ?

I did a quick calculation and it’s interesting that in the Southern Region we have approx the following members,

Berks 8

Channel Isle 4

Dorset 13

Hant & I-O-W 37

Somerset 10

Wilts 18

As you can see Hampshire have 40% of the total members and next Wiltshire with 20%, and yet at the events I would say there are only a couple from Hants and Wilts who attend! I think we may have to try and see if we can encourage more of the Hants and Wilts members to take part , or to find out their reasons for not. Maybe have more venues in Hants and Wilts too.

Anyway we have had a good year, even if it is the same people. We will be doing an event planning in February for 2019 so see what we come up with.

Maureen Thorne

Regional Delegate