

**DONKEY BREED SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter for the Western Region*

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March 2019

Hello Everyone,

We already have several events arranged for this year in the West Region – everyone is very welcome to attend any of them and please bring family and friends if they would like to participate. We try very hard to suggest activities that all will enjoy for example Walks with Donkeys, Instructional days, driving tuition, Shows – both competitive and with display/stands, church events, simple coffee mornings, lunches, Talks and discussion groups. Please get involved and support our Area Representatives – we need your participation and enthusiasm to keep us going. The whole reason we do all this is in the hope that donkeys and their owners will benefit and we are all volunteers trying to do our bit – but we cannot do it without you. If you have any suggestions on how to improve our Region, the Newsletter or the events, or if you would like to host an event yourself, please contact your local Area Representative or myself – we really would like to hear from you.

**The Webster Walks** are already being arranged for this year. You probably know the story of Webster, a very special donkey owned by Kate, Angela and Peter Scales, and in whose name we have supported several wonderful donkey related charities. This is our 11<sup>th</sup> year of fundraising and this year we will be donating funds to Phase 4 of the Lawrence and McLaren Donkey Hospital at Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 0SW. Phase 4 is to acquire vital pieces of equipment including a sterilising unit and diagnostic equipment in order to enable veterinary surgeons to treat resident and visiting donkeys and small ponies.

Contributing to the Webster Fund does not have to be only from the proceeds of a Sponsored Walk – though this has proved to be a very enjoyable and lovely activity resulting in many happy memories. Donations can be raised for example from selling unwanted donkey gear or bric-a-brac, second hand books, hand-printed cards, collections at coffee mornings and talks, anything at all. Or you may simply prefer to send a donation through the post. For more information about the Webster Fund or to obtain a donation form for this year's collection, please contact Peter Scales on 01367 240163 or email: pjscale@gmail.com

## **Events in 2019:**

**(Please check the dates with the organisers of the events you are interested in – unfortunately things can change. If you have booked in for an event you will be notified of any changes.) Please support the Shows if you are able to do so – at all of them we are in danger of losing the donkey classes if there is not enough support with donkey and mule entries.**

**Equine ‘Flu: Because of the current situation with Equine ‘Flu possibly becoming more widespread, if you intend transporting your donkey or mule to another premises or Show, please check with the owner of the premises or the Show Secretary well in advance of your journey to ensure that your donkey will be covered to the specifications they require. Remember to carry your donkey or mule’s passport.**

**24<sup>th</sup> March** - Open Day at SPEAR (Sue Pike Equine and Animal Rescue) Near Stratford on Avon, Warks. 01926 842129 or email: mail@spearcharity.org.uk

**18<sup>th</sup> April** - Countrytastic at Malvern Autumn Showgrounds. A lovely day designed to give children between the ages of 4 and 12 a taste of life in the country. We have a stand with donkeys for the children to meet. If you would like to assist on the stand selling Donkey Sanctuary gifts and chatting to people about donkeys, please contact Claire Harper on 01386 833524 or cj\_harper@hotmail.com

**5<sup>th</sup> May** - Donkey Dentistry and the Prevention of health problems. Explanations and demonstrations by Donkey Sanctuary Dental Technicians Lee Gosden and Gemma Lilly, plus a talk on how to prevent general health issues, including worming, vaccinations, feeding, foot care etc. by Sanctuary Welfare Officer, Georgia McCormick. Gemma will give a Talk on the care of donkeys’ teeth, the prevention of problems related to the teeth and how to spot the signs your donkey’s teeth may be causing unnecessary pain or discomfort. Lee and Gemma will treat at least four donkeys and two mules, explaining what they are doing and answering any questions and queries. Would you like to bring your own donkey to have a dental examination? There is no charge for a check-up but there is a charge of £50 if you wish to have your donkey treated by Lee or Gemma. The booklet on Donkey Dentistry produced by the Donkey Breed Society and the Donkey Sanctuary will be available.

Location: Claire Harper’s home at Orchard View, West Side, North Littleton, Near Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 8QP. Coffee and registration at 10.00am for a 10.30am start of the first lecture. Please bring your own picnic lunch but tea and coffee will be available at all times. Finishing time approximately 4.00pm. Cost for the day is £5 (children free) but there is no admission charge if you are bringing a donkey. Dental care of the donkey is a really vital, but often ignored, part of keeping donkeys healthy. From early days to old age the teeth can cause huge problems and often owners are not aware of what is happening. Everyone is welcome, membership of the DBS is not necessary, so please do bring friends and relatives, or anyone interested in equine dentistry. Please let Claire Harper know if you are intending to participate, with or without your own donkeys and mules.

**12<sup>th</sup> May** - Webster Walk and Picnic, Colleymore Farm, Farringdon, Oxon. For information please contact Angela and Peter Scales on 01367 240163 or email: pjscal@gmail.com

**27<sup>th</sup> May** - Donkey classes, unaffiliated, at King’s Heath Show, Earlswood, Solihull, West Midlands, B94 5DN. For information contact the Show Secretary – Jane Brook. www.kingsheathhorshow.com Please let Claire Harper know if you are intending to take your donkeys to this show.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** - Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary Donkey Show, Wallingford, Oxon. For information please contact the Secretary Stuart McLaren, on 01491 833938 or email: mail@donkeyrescue.co.uk

**9<sup>th</sup> June** - Donkey Fun Day, Brook Stud, Sodom Lane, Grittenham, Wiltshire, SN15 4JY (postponed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> March) 10.30am – 2.30pm. Picnic refreshments provided. £8 for the day. A perfect opportunity to Long-rein and Drive with expert guidance from Angela Scales and Hazel Woodbridge. Organised by Judy Lane. Please contact Judy for more details on 01285 821444 or email: jml.267@btinternet.com

**16<sup>th</sup> June** - Three Counties Show, Malvern. Donkey classes start at 8.30a.m in the Worcester Ring. For information contact the Show Secretary: Ms Betsy Branyan on 01684 584930 or email: equineteam@threecounties.co.uk

**16<sup>th</sup> June** - Hereford British Driving Society Agility Event for Donkeys and Ponies  
Please contact Kay Walton for details: 01981 540209

**30<sup>th</sup> June** - Webster Walk and Picnic, plus visit to the Percheron heavy horses at Lucy Evans' home, Kinnersley, Herefordshire. For information phone Lucy on 07786 062719 or email: lucy.evans@swissfish.co.uk

**7<sup>th</sup> July** - Webster Walk in North Littleton, Near Evesham, Worcs. Just a simple walk round the village with donkeys, followed by a picnic in the garden. Everyone welcome. Please contact Claire Harper if you would like to attend – contact details above.

**7<sup>th</sup> July** - Hereford British Driving Society – Donkey and Pony Fun Show Day. The Oaks, Laskett Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HZ. Phone Kay Walton for more information on 01981 540209.

**14<sup>th</sup> July** - Hereford Summer Luncheon at the home of Sheila Bell, Balliswood, Little Dewchurch, Hereford, HR2 6PP. Please contact Sheila if you would like to attend: 01432 840226 or email: s.bell20@btinternet.com

**21<sup>st</sup> July** - Donkey Behaviour Training with Sue and John Jones, Old Shawl's Farm, Craswell, Hereford, HR2 0PW. Please contact Sue and John on 01981 510269 or email: siouxdoyle@hotmail.co.uk

**4<sup>th</sup> August** - Webster Walk at Snitterfield, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire. Organised by Anna Turner. 01789 730039 gardenia.soft.furnishings@btinternet.com

**17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August** - Championship Donkey Show, Moreton Morrel, Warwickshire. Help is always needed with the running of the Show – if you feel you could help a little, even if only for an hour or so, please contact the Championship Show Chairman, Carole Travell on 07889 162715 or email: caroletravell@btinternet.com

**8<sup>th</sup> September** - Open Day at SPEAR (Sue Pike Equine and Animal Rescue) Near Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. mail@spearcharity.org.uk 01926 842129

**15<sup>th</sup> September** - Fun Donkey Day, Near Banbury, Oxon. Organised by Stephanie Clark. 07990 517272 or email: stephanie.j.clark@icloud.com Activities to be decided – what would you like to do?

**28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September** - Malvern Autumn Show. Donkeys and helpers on the stand needed – if you would like to attend please contact Claire Harper.

**6<sup>th</sup> October** - Donkey Breed Society Test Day. Please let Claire Harper know if you interested in learning more about the DBS Tests.

**21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> October** - **(date to be decided)** Talk by the staff of the Flicka Foundation Donkey Sanctuary in Cornwall, which the Webster Fund supported in 2018. Duntisbourne Abbots Village Hall, Near Cirencester, Glos. For information please contact Judy Lane on 01285 821445 or email: jml.267@btinternet.com

**1<sup>st</sup> December** - Regional Meeting followed by the Christmas Lunch Get-Together to be held at the home of Liz and Ian Harris, Upper Duckswich Cottage, Welland Road, Upton on Severn, Worcs. WR8 0SN. 01684 591444.

**Wednesday Donkey Days** - Every Wednesday is an open day at Claire Harper's home, near Evesham in Worcestershire. Anyone can join in, membership of the DBS is not necessary, you do not need to actually own a donkey and it doesn't matter where you live – you are welcome to come along and enjoy a relaxed, informal day, or maybe only an hour or so, with Claire's donkeys. We do all sorts of activities, for example grooming, going for a walk, long-reining, discussions about welfare, health or training concerns, or just having a quiet time in the company of donkeys. Very often the group is very small – sometimes only 2 or 3 people. There is no charge and you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and stay for as long as you wish. If you would like to participate, or just find out what happens, please contact Claire on 01386 833524 or email: [cj\\_harper@hotmail.com](mailto:cj_harper@hotmail.com)

**Donkey Breed Society Membership:** If you have not already renewed your membership of the DBS for this year, please do so as soon as possible or there is a very good chance you will not be sent the Donkey Magazine in April.

All of the Area Representatives and Assistant Area Representatives and myself, would love to hear from you. Even if you haven't a problem you need help with, it is lovely to hear how you are getting on and I'm sure there are many stories about your donkeys you would like to share. If you cannot transport your donkeys you are still very welcome to participate in any of the events listed, including the Webster Walks or fun days. Very often there is a donkey you could borrow!

For up-to-date information about the Donkey Breed Society as a whole, please check the DBS Website: [www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk) and go to 'Our Charity' then scroll down to the West Region. If you would like to join the local West Region Facebook site, and add comments or photos, please do so on: [donkeybreedsociety/west region](https://www.facebook.com/donkeybreedsociety/westregion).

Best wishes to everyone for a busy and happy summer with your donkeys and mules,

***Anna, Deirdre, Janet, John, Judy, Lucy, Rochelle,  
Sheila, Shoshana, Stephanie and Claire.***

*Editor of this Newsletter*  
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