**SOUTH**

Report from Maureen Thorne Regional Delegate for the South. May 2019

Well the season has started we have had another cones do which once again was good fun and well attended. We had a long reining training day in April.

The high light of the last couple of months must be our trip to the Isle-of-White to visit Carisbrooke Castle! & of course seeing the donkeys there.

We had a private tour with Hannah Brewer who is the Stable Manager she very kindly showed us round all the sites within the castle grounds which included the well house.

Donkey Jack gave us a demonstration on how he worked the treadwheel to bring up the water from a 49 metre deep well! He walked on the wheel which did 2 turns & then he stepped off (He had done his bit!) It was quite amusing to see .They have four donkeys Jack, Jill, Juno & Jigsaw who do shifts of two hours a day doing their demonstrations, they are very well trained they know exactly what they are doing.

I think the four J’s could show our donkeys a thing or to! Apparently all the donkeys names began with a ‘J’( I hope I heard correctly) that this is because Charles 1 used to sign his name ‘J’ Charles 1 was a prisoner back in 1647 at the castle.

They have had donkeys working at the castle since 1669 they were used to draw water up from the well which was sunk in 1136. They use a wooden wheel (the wheel we saw is 431 years old and was installed by Sir George Carey cousin of Elizabeth 1.)

There is a lot of history at Carisbrooke Castle which I do not think I am qualified to report!! but we hope to have Hannah as our Isle of White Area Representative & maybe in time she could give us her expert knowledge of the castle & working the donkeys.

Maureen Thorne.

