

# DONKEY BREED SOCIETY

## *Scottish Region*



Christmas Edition

December 2019



Compliments of SOL STRAUSS,  
The Leading Donkey

# Seasons Greetings from DBS Scotland

**Welcome to the Autumn Winter Newsletter of our area, Scotland. The introduction is customarily written by the Chairman but, as many of you will know, Elma Cunningham is currently indisposed having suffered a stroke in September and is working hard to overcome the consequences. We all wish her well.**

The year's activities with donkeys started in April at Morris Equestrian, Fenwick where a class of three driven donkeys impressed the judge. A scenic walk on Palm Sunday at Kincardine O'Neil was hosted by Diana & Mike Milligan. They live in a beautiful part of our country where three donkeys, a mule and a small pony enjoyed a bracing walk and a delicious tea. Meanwhile, 100 miles south, Sydney was leading the singing at Dunfermline Abbey in his regular Easter role. Lothians & Borders area held a hike and activity day for 6 donkeys in early May when we had good weather and great fun. The in-hand show season starts at the Grass Sickness show in Blairgowrie although this year being its 10<sup>th</sup> is also probably the last. It has raised a huge sum for research into this pernicious killer disease and DBSS thanks Jean Oudney the organiser for the enormous effort she has put in over those years and for the warm welcome donkeys received at each of those shows.



A Deeside view

Elma and 'Mist'



Champion Donkey at the Highland, the Border Union and Perth show this year was Elma with Mist. Gamlingay Love-in-a-Mist to give her formal title swept all before her rendering the points championship a walk over.



Hettie at Perth Show

The Scottish Donkey Show in Perth was a great day, in stark contrast to the torrential rain at the Border Union. Thanks are due to Robert Crawford who put on a strong donkey section for Robert Sims the judge who travelled from his home in France to scrutinise the Perth entry. He mentored a trainee judge from Northern Ireland, Robert Wallace; the ring was efficiently stewarded by Robert Cunningham. One sees a pattern here – if you are not called Robert and do not own a bowler hat, do not apply for a position!



Hamish's adventure

Beyond the showing world there are other activities going on. In Aberdeenshire Sylvia Kirby, an enhanced provision teacher, has been putting pupils through their proficiency tests. Her husband David transports their donkeys to the school for the club to practise with. In her area Elma planned Bronze & Silver award training and testing after the show season, which of course had to be cancelled. Kendall Young Regional Delegate for Scotland has been making interesting contact with the Help for Heroes charity who held equine therapy taster days at Dumfries House in Ayrshire this summer. The Charity plan to build an equestrian centre there to continue this work and they were delighted when Kendall volunteered her donkeys to participate in future days. DBSS annual regional meeting took place in Perth at the end of October. Numbers attending were low this year which was disappointing. Conversation over lunch following the meeting was extremely lively and I believe some new initiatives planned and friendships were forged which may help to stimulate activity and interest next year. Watch out on the Area

Facebook page for a new group Deeside Donkeys which will be actively donkeying next season. I hope to be allowed to join some of the activity although I suspect I will have to run fast to keep up.

I think you will be interested to read the articles in this issue and like the accompanying photos. I am grateful to the authors Julie Harvey and Sydney (with help from Sheena McConnel-Ferrie). Your challenge for the next newsletter is to send me news of adventures with your donkeys. I look forward to more contributions.

**Alison Robertson**



## Also in this issue

- \* Scottish Championship Show Results
- \* Becoming a Donkey Guardian
- \* Sydney's Blog
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## Prize-winners - Scottish Championship Show 2019

Trophy	Recipient
The Toby Memorial Quaich (awarded by Perth Show)	Elma Cunningham, Gamlingay Love in a Mist
DBS Scotland Supreme Champion Salver	Elma Cunningham, Gamlingay Love in a Mist
Kirkbuddo Trophy for Best Overall Female	Elma Cunningham, Gamlingay Love in a Mist
Blackford Shield for winner of Mare Class	Elma Cunningham, Gamlingay Love in a Mist
DBS Scotland Trophy for Best Male	Elma Cunningham, Gamlingay Micky Me
Strathtay Trophy for Young Stock Champion	Alison Wiseman, Inca D'Hamerton
Kinmonth Trophy for Best Foal	Ailene Charlton
Jubilee Shield for Young Handler	Tristan Wallace
Thompson Quaich for Best Condition and Turnout	Pamela Charles, Boris
Crumpet Trophy for Best Veteran Donkey	Not Awarded
Kirkbuddo Shield for Best Driven Donkey/Mule	Sheena McConnell-Ferrie, Sydney
Yieldshields Trophy for Novice Handler	Julie Norrie
Robert Bell Memorial Salver for overall Scottish Points Champion	Elma Cunningham, Gamlingay Love in a Mist



Photos show Diana Milligan accepting a trophy on behalf of an absent recipient and Sheena McConnell-Ferrie receiving the Kirkbuddo Shield for the Best Driven Donkey/Mule, presented by Jean Flint, former Chairperson.

# BECOMING A DONKEY GUARDIAN

By Julie Harvey

It was always my dream as a child to have a donkey “when I grow up”...

In June, thanks to The Donkey Sanctuary, that dream became a four-legged reality (times two), as my partner and I became donkey guardians, welcoming a pair of rescue donkeys into our life; Monty and Pedro (aka Hobbs). In February 2018 I attended a course through the UK charity The Donkey Sanctuary.

The Donkey Sanctuary's Paccombe-based training centre coordinates and provides courses to various locations in the UK. The 'Introduction to Donkey Care and Donkey Health Care' course was delivered by Elma Cunningham, DS welfare adviser for South Scotland. The course, was excellent; informative, fun and practical. Although I had learnt a lot by the end, I realised how much more I had to learn about these intelligent and often underrated animals.

As a complete novice, my stable management, yard and handling skills were non-existent, so I asked Elma if she needed a volunteer. Elma very generously gave me opportunities to observe the donkeys and her amazing work with them and to develop my skills and confidence. I mucked in with mucking out, practised basic grooming and handling and was lucky enough to observe highly skilled veterinary practice and farriery in the treatment and rehabilitation of donkeys and mules.

Sadly, for some of the rescue donkeys, a consistent daily routine of food, water, clean stabling and good health care is a new experience. To observe these animals recover in health and wellbeing and to regain their trust in people is truly wonderful.

Whilst I was volunteering, Monty and Pedro arrived from different locations within weeks of each other. Pedro, only 34 years old had been abandoned in a field and was very underweight. Monty aged 7 was, incredibly fearful and nervous of people and has a rather prominent scar on his left flank.

Over weeks and months, they both settled into the daily routine and responded to Elma's excellent care. Monty in particular needed slow, gentle and patient approaches and they both now are comfortable with basic handling. In June this year, they passed their health checks with flying colours and were deemed ready to be rehomed. Having already applied to be Donkey Guardians with The Donkey Sanctuary, we were hopeful (and then delighted) that they would be directly rehomed with us.

Over the past 10 weeks, we have been fortunate in that we have had plenty of time to settle them into their new home, (in fact we have spent nearly as much time in their field as they have), building mutual trust and confidence and we enjoy every aspect of their care – yes even mucking out! My local community garden team are over the moon to receive donkey dung for their compost.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Donkey Sanctuary for the opportunity to rehome Monty and Pedro, Elma Cunningham for her never ending support, knowledge and good humour and my partner Mark. As a new member of the Donkey Breed Society, I read Bray Talk eagerly looking forward to the day when Monty and Hobbs (Pedro) may meet some of you on a donkey adventure!



# Sydney's Blog

Hi Folks, it's Sydney here.

Yeah, another busy year over and its relaxation time now. No more meticulous grooming, and shampooing legs, shiny hooves and increasing my exercise routine to try and get me fitter. Its chill out time.

My outings started in May this year. I was again invited to participate in Palm Sunday Service at Dunfermline Abbey. The day started off when I got ticked off from the police, who were overseeing the parade, for going up a one way street the wrong way. I thought I was going to get a ticket, but with a



chuckle they said they would turn a blind eye. It wasn't my fault I was following the minister who had the carrots. I've got it down to a fine art now, if I stride out I get to the Abbey quicker, up the steps and in I go to the lovely service. Everybody is so nice to me, they seem to like me, though has nobody told them its rude to stare. I just love watching the choir, though I can't understand a word they are singing. They love to take pictures of me and I am happy to oblige with smiles and cuddles and I have never left any presents yet.



Over the season I have been working towards my Active Donkey Award, any more active and I will be running a marathon and I have strutted my stuff at six carriage driving shows meeting up with my donkey buddies and horsey pals, and have been told that I have accumulated points in the Chairman's cup in the British Driving Society Scotland and I am in third equal position. That's amazing, how clever am I? Does that mean more carrots?

My mum said I have missed two shows this year. Yippee, two less to go to. I was happy with that, more time at home relaxing with my pal Seamus.



# CHRISTMAS GOODIES!



Personalised donkey sweatshirts  
[CafePress.co.uk](http://CafePress.co.uk)



Christmas cards  
[spana.org](http://spana.org)



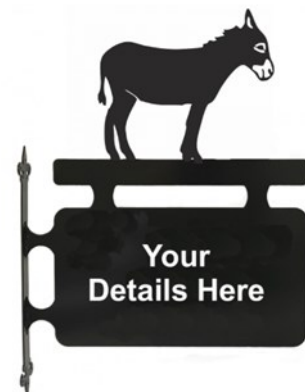
2020 Donkey Sanctuary Calendar  
[thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/shop](http://thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/shop)



Mollichaff Donkey - especially designed for donkeys - from your local feed merchant



Donkey cushions  
[etsy.com](http://etsy.com)



Customised metal sign  
[steelimages.co.uk](http://steelimages.co.uk)



**Seasons Greetings and  
a Happy New Year to all  
donkeys and their owners**



## Your local Area Representatives

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**Find us on Facebook**

### Contacts

If you would like advice or help about any aspect of donkey care, please feel free to contact your local Donkey Breed Society Area Representative. They are experienced donkey people from a variety of backgrounds including showing, breeding and welfare.

Visit us on the web at  
[www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk)

