**Northern Region Annual Report 2019**

The year started with the Northern Region Spring show at Errdig Hall in Wrexham. There was a good turnout and following the showing classes the donkeys were invited to walk to the hall to meet the public. Thanks to the power of social media, the donkeys were greeted with a vast crowd eager to meet the donks. Commemorative rosettes were given out.

This was the start of a mixed showing season. The weather meant that some shows were cancelled and that in some instances numbers were reduced.

Helen Naden ran a successful ‘long ears and short legs’ driving weekend, open to donkey and small pony drivers. Lester Dagge provided both individual and group tuition and there was an agility course available to practice over. Members took part in a very informative ‘longrein your friends’ activity. The ‘donkey’ was blindfolded and guided round a field (and through cones and over tarpaulins) by the Whip. It was very interesting to see who could drive in a straight line! (and just how forgiving our donkeys are).

Once again, the Northern region had a very successful Championship show with Supreme In Hand Championship being taken by Helen Naden’s Glendene Tao - the third generation of her donkeys to win the title. Debbie Street with her fantastic tandem took the Driving Championship and the Northern Nutters reigned supreme in the quiz!

Donkeys also went to Tatton Park and Chatsworth on picnic walks.

The season was rounded off with the Autumn Regional Show, this year held at Lamb Hill. The day finished with the regional Champion of Champions class - judged by a different judge than the morning classes. Any donkey that had won a championship through the season was eligible. This was taken by Eddiston Master Matthew. A fantastic trophy was presented by John Haynes-Vickery in memory of his wife Elaine. This was all followed by well earned cake courtesy of Lorraine Rae.

Elizabeth Brown

Regional Delegate