SCOTLAND ANNUAL REGIONAL REPORT, NOVEMBER 2019

It is a year now since I became Scotland Regional Delegate and time has passed so quickly, that of course could be an age thing along with forgetting names and mislaying things.

Jean Flint retired as Scottish chairman last October at our ARM held in Perth and we have to thank her for all her hard work.  Jean was succeeded by Elma Cunningham.  I have been to two Council meetings which I enjoyed immensely despite the long drive to Stoneleigh.  It has been lovely to meet with other Council members and see the myriad ways in which people interact with their donkeys.

The donkey population is spread all over Scotland as is the membership which causes numerous logistical problems when trying to arrange donkey get-togethers.

Our Scottish Donkey Show is held at Perth Show by kind permission of Perthshire Agricultural Society in August and this year attracted a very respectable entry.  Rob Sims came over from France to judge and we were very grateful for him taking the trouble to travel to Scotland.  Our other DBS championship show qualifying class was held at the Royal Highland Show in late June which again had respectable entries.  There is also a specified donkey and mule driving class here run under British Driving Society rules.  I would like to thank all Agricultural Societies who put on donkey showing classes and the British Driving Society who make donkeys welcome at all events.

In Aberdeenshire Sylvia Kirby, an enhanced provision teacher, has been doing sterling work at Portlethen Primary School putting pupils through their DBS awards and winning Club of the Year. Sylvia uses her own donkeys who are transported to the school for the club by her husband David.

Donkey walks and activities have been organised by members in Aberdeenshire and the Lothian and Borders areas.  Donkeys have also been to Christmas and Easter and Palm Sunday events throughout Scotland.

Help for Heroes charity held equine therapy taster days at Dumfries House in Ayrshire and it is hoped that they will build an equestrian centre there to continue this work.  I have made contact with them and they were delighted that I have offered to take my donkeys to any future days.  I will keep Council informed of any progress to see if we can help any other groups.

Elma Cunningham took ill at our last Council meeting and had to be rushed to hospital in Coventry and was then transferred to hospital in Birmingham for surgery.  Elma is now happily maintaining good progress and has been moved to a hospital close to her home.  We wish her a good recovery and look forward to seeing her out and about next year.

The Scottish ARM is being held on Sunday 20 October at the Murray Hall Hotel at Scone in Perthshire.  I am sorry that I am unable to attend the AGM.  I hope that everyone has an enjoyable time.

Kendall Young

Regional Delegate