



# *Ear Ear – February 2020*

## **The newsletter of the Eastern Region of the Donkey Breed Society**

Well at last there are signs of spring, snowdrops peeping out, daffodils thinking about it and a few brave primroses..... but still plenty of mud, mud, mud (or is that just my place?). We seem to have had a long, very wet, and not yet cold winter and I can't help thinking that we may have some nasty cold stuff heading our way before we can truly say Spring has arrived. Unless they are very young, very old or unwell, donkeys usually cope well with cold (it can get very cold in a desert) but obviously hate the rain and damp so a good shelter is essential. Some of mine have turnout rugs as they like to wander around and graze despite the weather but most donkeys have more sense and shouldn't need rugging at all.

Your committee have, like most of you I assume, been busy over the winter months, getting on with our jobs, home life, family and of course donkeys. Several donkeys have been out and about delivering assorted pregnant 'Marys' to nativity services, visiting all sorts of delighted members of the public, going for walks (between showers) and even taking part in the London New Year's Day Parade. Pics below



## **Annual Awards presented at Christmas Lunch.**

Our very friendly and chatty Christmas lunch was a great success. We had new people attending for the first time and I am sure they would attest that it is a brilliant social occasion, lots of chat, making new friends, good food, time to swap donkey stories and share successes or ask for advice, and lots of awards and raffle prizes to go home with! Our thanks to Liz Wright for master-minding the occasion. We have already booked again for this year,

We award rosettes for highest number of inhand showing points, driving points, junior showing points, plus junior activity points ( in 2 age groups) plus our EARS rosettes for anyone who does any sort of activity with their donkey This can be as simple as grooming, teaching to lead, or more adventurous things such as going out for a walk or trying some simple agility in your own paddock.

### **Qualifying Shows:**

South Suffolk, Redwings, Hadleigh, Herts County, Suffolk County, Royal Norfolk, Tendring, Shuttleworth Park Donkey Show, Heckington, East Anglian Donkey Show, Driving Addington, Eastern Region Autumn Show

### **In Hand Showing:**

First - Trinitas Jimmy Choo, Second - Perehill Tia, Third - East Lodge Daisy

### **Driving:**

First - Trinitas Tintinnabula, = Second - Burnbank Bart & Burnbank Penny / Toadflax of Brownroad

### **Juniors:**

First	Jessica Barnett
Second	Harley Teale
Third	Daniel Street
=Fourth	Lucy Fudge

=Fourth Lexie Willis

### **Junior Activity Points**

#### **Older Juniors:**

- 1st Jessica Barnett 23pts
- 2nd Lucy Fudge 14 pts
- 3rd Aimee Teale 8 pts

#### **Younger Juniors:**

- 1st Harley Teale 7 pts
- 2nd Lexie Willis 1pt



## **Can you help?**

- 1) The South Suffolk Show, held at Ampton Racecourse, near Bury St. Edmunds, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, desperately needs a steward for the donkey showing classes. Experience is NOT necessary! (you will be talked through what is needed). Can you spare a couple of hours? Lunch provided and it is a great opportunity to be part of the show and also get to see the rest of it for free!!!! Contact Annette if you can help please.
- 2) The East Anglian Donkey Show has been running for many, many years but is now looking for a new site, as central as possible in the region. Do you know of anywhere we can hire, arena or just a field, somewhere not too far from the A1 / M11 corridor? If so please let Carole or Annette know.  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

## **Junior Awards for 2020**

**(open to ALL regional Juniors – donkeys not essential!)**

We really want to encourage all Juniors to have fun with donkeys, learn more about them – and get rewarded for doing so! This is not about showing, or necessarily attending any events, but just about doing ‘stuff’ to do with donkeys. Owning one is not essential!

Points are awarded for a very wide range of things to do with donkeys, from mucking out, taking a donkey for a walk, taking part in a parade or training day, taking a donkey to a club or church or school, writing an article for Bray Talk or The Donkey magazine to attending a show (as an exhibitor or spectator!). We award certificates to all, and a voucher to the winner in each of 2 age groups. For more details and to get your log book to record your activities in, contact Diana Dunstan.

## **New Facebook Group.**

For those that do Facebook (and we know many prefer paper!), there is a new Facebook group, administered by Jane, for all members of the DBS in (or near) the Eastern Region. This is for chat, advice, sharing what you are doing, getting ideas, selling donkey related items and generally just sharing enjoying our donkeys with each other.

## **Walking challenge!**

Get fit / have fun with donkeys. Just take a donkey for a walk, and clock up the miles! Keep a record of your walks and the mileage covered and set a target of 50 miles over the year (That’s less than a mile a week!). Contact Annette to register (and take some photos and share with us). See the training event at Annette’s on 28<sup>th</sup> March if you need any guidance.



## **EARS 4 Fun 2020** - Your Eastern Award Rosette Scheme.

This year we're going to have fun with some challenges

To get your rosette we'd like you to send us four photos of your donkey doing different things! Pick four from the five following categories.

1. Favourite field toy - a photo of your donkey with a field toy. Some ideas are footballs, old feed skips, cones or wellies.
2. Hunt the carrot - or other treat. Place carrots or apples around the field or yard so that your donkey can hunt them out. (Mine love this game)
3. Dressed up donkey - this can be as simple as a hat or some flowers on a head collar. For some more exciting ideas, why not see some of the pictures from the championship shows in The Donkey magazine.
4. Off for a walk.
5. A bit of agility – walk round some cones or buckets, or over some poles or old sacks, or anything to show your donkey getting used to new 'things'

It is FREE! Send your photos in and receive a lovely rosette! You can email them to: -

[janebrind@gmail.com](mailto:janebrind@gmail.com) or post them on our dedicated EARS Facebook page (Eastern Region Donkey Breed Society EARS Group) or send them in the post to EARS, Brook House, Brook Street, Gt Bromley, CO7 7HX.



## **Learning / having fun day. April 25<sup>th</sup>, Wigginton, Herts.**

The day will cover

- Condition scoring
- Riding donkeys
- Agility
- Vet talk by Kathryn Tuckett from Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre, covering worming donkeys and foot care,
- Long reining, Putting to, intro to driving

You will need to have waterproofs and suitable footwear and bring a packed lunch and drink. The venue is Park Farm, The Twist, Wigginton, Herts, HP23 6DU. Time 10.30 - 3.30pm. Bring your own donkey(s) or just yourself!

Please contact Clare for more info and to book a place. 01442 825879 [clare.bysouth@gmail.com](mailto:clare.bysouth@gmail.com)



**Who's Who** – please make contact if you need any help or have any ideas or suggestions.

Regional delegate /	Annette Staveley	See below
Regional Chairman		
Eastern Treasurer	David Poole	c/o Carole
Eastern Secretary	Carole Travell	See below
Committee member	Liz Wright	See below
	Jane Brind	<a href="mailto:janebrind@gmail.com">janebrind@gmail.com</a>
	Diana Dunstan	See below

### **Area Reps (all committee members)**

Essex: West - Carole Travell, 07889 162715 [caroletravell@btinternet.com](mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com), East Alan Lerner, 01206 241697

Cambridgeshire: Liz Wright, 01354 741538 [ewright757@btinternet.com](mailto:ewright757@btinternet.com)

Suffolk/Norfolk: Annette Staveley, 01284 830240 [astaveley1@hotmail.com](mailto:astaveley1@hotmail.com)

Hertfordshire/Bucks Maggie Taylor 01582 768746 [Maggie.taylor3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Maggie.taylor3@hotmail.co.uk)

Lincs / Notts: Vacancy. If you think you could help, please get in touch with Annette. You do NOT have to be an expert, just a first point of contact and someone who has some ideas and is willing to contribute them!

Northants: Sarah Hemmings, 01327 341507 [hemmule@aol.com](mailto:hemmule@aol.com)

Bedfordshire: Diana Dunstan, 01462 713796 [dianadunstan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dianadunstan@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Second Thursday of every month,**

### **Informal donkey get-together at Annette's nr Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.**

Annette hosts a donkey get-together / chat / coffee / training event / walk to the pub / whatever you fancy!  
Venue – Gate & West Farm, Lawshall near Bury St. Edmunds. IP29 4PT. Get in touch with Annette if you are interested.



## **EVENTS CALENDAR (Don't forget the AGM – separate notice included!)**

For several of these events, please contact the committee member listed. Details of how to contact are given above. For all agricultural shows, please contact the Show Secretary as shown.

**MAR 28** DONKEY WALK / TRAINING FOR WALKING. Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds. Bring your own donkey or use one of Annette's and enjoy an on and off road walk, hopefully to the pub! Hard hats for children and gloves to be worn by all handlers. Contact Annette to 'book in';.

**APR 25** LEARNING / FUN DAY AT WIGGINGTON, HERTS. More details in article above. Contact Clare 01442 825879 [clare.bysouth@gmail.com](mailto:clare.bysouth@gmail.com)

**MAY 10** SOUTH SUFFOLK AGRICULTURAL SHOW, Ampton Racecourse, Ingham, Bury St Edmunds. C/d: 22 April. Sec: Mr G Bailes, 35 Dalham Road, Moulton, Newmarket CB8 8SB. 01638 750879. Email [geoff@southsuffolkshow.co.uk](mailto:geoff@southsuffolkshow.co.uk). [www.southsuffolkshow.co.uk](http://www.southsuffolkshow.co.uk) Judge: Mrs Patricia Ebrahim

16 HADLEIGH FARMERS SHOW, Holbecks Park, Hadleigh, Suffolk IP7 5PE C/d: 11 April. Sec: Tory Lugsden, HFAA, PO Box 388, Eye, Suffolk IP23 9AQ. 07584 568055. email: [secretary@hadleighshow.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hadleighshow.co.uk) [www.hadleighshow.co.uk](http://www.hadleighshow.co.uk) Judge: Mrs J Etheridge

28 SUFFOLK SHOW, Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich IP3 8UH. C/d: -. Sec: Elizabeth Payne, SAA, Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8UH. 01473 707115 email: [lizpayne@suffolkshow.co.uk](mailto:lizpayne@suffolkshow.co.uk) Judge: Mrs B Evans

**JUNE** Nothing organised – yet!!

**JULY 2** ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW, Norfolk Showground, Norwich NR5 0TT. C/d: 17 April. Sec: Maria Skitmore, Royal Norfolk Show Office, Norfolk Showground, Dereham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR5 0TT. 01603 731963 email: [maria.skitmore@rnaa.org.uk](mailto:maria.skitmore@rnaa.org.uk) website: [rnaa.org.uk](http://rnaa.org.uk) Judge: Mrs H Singleton-Bell

11 TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW, Lawford House Park, Bromley Road, nr Manningtree, CO11 2ND. C/d: 19 June. Sec: Romany Foster, The Oaks, Hunters Chase, Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex CO7 7LN. 01206 231821. Email: [info@tendringshow.co.uk](mailto:info@tendringshow.co.uk) Judge: Mark Kerr

12 REDWINGS SHOW, Trinity Park. Felixstowe Road, Ipswich IP3 8UH Judge: Rob Sims

18 SHUTTLEWORTH DONKEY SHOW, The Showground, Hill Lane, nr Biggleswade, SG18 9BU. C/d: 11 July. Sec: Linda Swain, 15 Woodcock Close, Sandy, Beds SG19 2UW. 07850 706978. Email: [lindaswain10@aol.com](mailto:lindaswain10@aol.com) Judge: Britt Evans

25 HECKINGTON SHOW, Heckington, Lincs. (includes Donkey Driving class) C/d: 7 June. Sec: Mrs S Spencer, 25 George Street, Helpringham, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 0RS. 01529 421446 email: [live\\_music\\_rox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:live_music_rox@hotmail.co.uk) (underline between words) Judge: Mrs Julie Boyce

**AUG \*\*\*\*\***

**22 / 23 AUGUST**

**DBS SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW  
MORETON MORRELL, WARWICKSHIRE**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**SEPT 6** EAST ANGLIAN DONKEY SHOW [We are looking for a venue!](#) See plea above

19/20 DRIVING CAMP (Not organised by DBS, but a weekend of informal donkey driving for those that would like to attend.) West Walton, Kings Lynn. Contact Annette for more info

**OCT 3** EASTERN REGION AUTUMN SHOW, Skylark Garden Centre, Wimblington, March, Cambs. An informal and fun show, with plenty for everyone including classes especially for new comers to showing / those who enjoy the fun aspects of taking a donkey out. Contact Liz for more details.

**DEC 6** CHRISTMAS LUNCH, Huntingdon, Cambs. Contact Liz Wright for more details





Above – walking out in preparation for long-reining and then driving (and just enjoying the walk! Showing at the Eastern Region Autumn Show



Driving at the Eastern Region Autumn Show, enjoying the informal driving of Abbey Farm camp, and taking part in the Pearly Kings and Queens' Harvest Festival Parade in London



Taking part in the driven donkey display at Burghley International Horse Trials!