

DBS NORTHERN REGION - THE THURSDAY BULLETIN . . .

Thursday 7th May, 2020

Issue 4



Good morning!

Welcome to another issue of *The Thursday Bulletin* and I do hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and well and perhaps, at last, considering the possibility of a 'new normal' in the not too distant future. Who knows what this will entail, although I believe we will have more of an inkling by the end of today, at the Government Briefing, or from an address by the PM on Sunday.

Tomorrow is the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Considering what was endured by those who lived and lost during the War, the tremendous disappointment that we are all feeling at having *our* usual way of life disrupted is, perhaps, brought into some sort of perspective. Those lost then and now however, will *never* be forgotten. I can't help but feel for all those who had planned street parties and other commemorative events. Looking at pictures of all the happy, smiling faces from that day must, nevertheless, give us a sense of hope, that good times will roll once again.



Stay safe, take care, Sarah x

The Region's news, this Thursday . . .

✚ *Countryfile* Sunday 10th May – apparently Helen visits a Donkey Sanctuary in lockdown. Has anyone any prior knowledge of this? Pics? Were you involved? Let us know if you were!

✚ According to Colin, super donkey from Brown Road Farm, owner Olwen had a nasty fall last week whilst helping a ewe and her lambs (see Colin's Column in this Bulletin). *Use your donkeys* to shift the lambs Olwen, you know it makes sense!!! And, feel better soon!



✚ Northern Region Secretary, Sarah Booth, has taken on the role of PR Officer for the Donkey Breed Society: 'This is a real honour and I will do my utmost to bring the ethos and interests of our much-treasured Society, further into the public domain. The friendship and support received from the Northern Region, has given me the confidence to get involved with the Society as a whole.'

And now it is time to say hello to gorgeous donks, lovely humans, and other animals . . . !



Auditioning for the donkey version of *Oliver* perhaps? Sarah Standing's lovely donks feature again but we just love seeing what they've been up to, in fact we can't get enough of them!



Meanwhile, far away, in gorgeous Northumberland live quite a few of our members, including Karen and Tom. Blessed with fabulous countryside and a sense of wild and beautiful remoteness, they share this haven of loveliness with their two donkey

rescues and many other animals.

I had a lovely email from Karen – above is Freddie and right are Freddie and his human Tom. Karen said: *'We're a long way up North and often feel a bit apart from the rest of the donkey community so your newsletter is super! We've two rescue donkeys; it's taken a while to get them to trust us and I'm sure we blunder through bits of our donkey work... but we try.'*



Here's a couple of pictures to show you what we've been up to during lock down; our donkey Freddie out for a picnic with us last week (we filled the basket panniers with pinecones for kindling as part of his active donkey awards) and on our way home after doing our essential shopping at our local village'.

It's so good to hear from you guys and just know we are all only a click of the mouse away!



Karen and Tom take a trek through the woods . . .



and across vast, beautiful spaces.

Lockdown logic: if these pictures have got *you* desperate to be out, don't despair, make a list of the places you would like to visit as soon as you are able (decorate with pictures and uplifting words/phrases). Stick your list somewhere prominent and make sure you relish in adorning it with great big ticks just as soon as you can!!



I love you to the moon and back! Tinker, a little Parson's Jack Russell, belongs to my daughter Sophie. Tinker's close friend is Freddie Booth! He loves having his cheeks and chin nuzzled and she is happy to oblige – ahhh! Her garden borders on his field and they always look out for one another and enjoy sharing carrots. A true and touching tale!

We love taking a look at inter-species friendships, if you have any similarly endearing tales, with pics, please share:

northerndonks@gmail.com.

It's that time again – Juniors, grab a juice and settle down for your favourite column: Hello Juniors!!

It's Colin's Special Bulletin Column!

Hello everyone,

I hope you are finding lots to do during the lockdown. We donkeys haven't been anywhere except our play field but I had an exciting time last week.

Liz (as you may know), is a vet and she was asked by her boss to do a short video for the Practice' Facebook page! Well, we have all become stars because she decided to talk about us! We were fairly well behaved (apart from escaping the first time she tried to video us!) but it took a long time to do. The second take a plane flew over, the third Eddie started braying and the dogs started barking! Finally, we got it on the 4th take! If you want to watch it, it will be shared on the Northern Region Facebook page or on the Wright and Morten Equine Clinic Facebook page. *[Take a look guys, it's fab! SB]*



I'm looking forward to going back into our field, but I've noticed the pesky sheep are back! Olwen got mugged by a ewe (lady sheep) last week so we had to rely on Liz for our rations. She was trying to bring the ewe and her lambs in out of the rain but the silly sheep, instead of being grateful, jumped at her and knocked her flat on her back! It was late at night, so she was lucky she was only bruised! I noticed that it took her a long time to muck

out our stables the next day! I gave her a nuzzle the next day to say I hope you feel better soon!

Not much news this time but the grass is growing - yummy!

Love Colin X

Various Superstitions

Imagine a time when we went showing, when the alarm clock of possibility sounded its claxon to wake our reveries of rosettes and regalia won, when in a pre-covid dawn we boxed our long-ears and trundled the breadth of the Region and beyond to wind-swept fields, wriggling into smart apparel and setting forth . . .



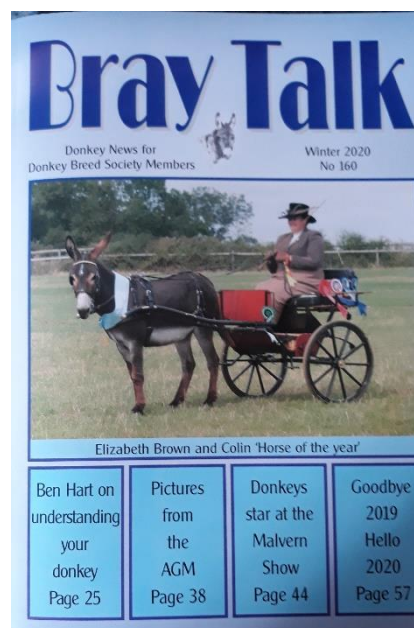
but wait, you've forgotten to carry out those essentials, those tiny little things that could be the difference between win or lose – the superstitious acts, the pulling on the right sock first, and then the clover in the heel of said sock . . . we asked our illustrious Chair, Liz Brown, who has graced the front page of Bray Talk and is the winner of many a sash, to share *her* superstitions . . .

It's all about the Nails!

Anyone who has ever come across me on show days knows that I like things done my own way! That includes getting ready the day before. I like to bath the donks myself but am quite happy to delegate the cleaning of bridles! I also like to pack the horsebox myself (I'm very good at Tetris). Even if we don't have to leave early, I like everything to be packed the night before and the show rugs out and ready. The last thing I do is to paint my nails . . . this has become a ritual whenever I'm showing, the colour varies but if I'm riding my horse then at least 1 nail has to be red. Even if it's 2am when I'm finished, I still do my nails.

Passports and numbers go in a wallet in the front of the box along with an assortment of sweets (but MUST include Werther's Originals.) I also like to have an energy drink 'just in case' as I can't eat before my classes, although I try not to drink it! I always need a wee on arriving, so that's my first port of call!

When we arrive at a show, we like to have a look at the ring and how to get there if we aren't parked nearby, as well as checking that things are running to time. The donks are then unloaded and offered a drink whilst we unload the equipment. We then give them all a groom and do feet. Personally, I like to use black hoof paint rather than hoof oil but that is



Ben Hart on understanding your donkey Page 25	Pictures from the AGM Page 38	Donkeys star at the Malvern Show Page 44	Goodbye 2019 Hello 2020 Page 57
---	---	--	---

personal preference. Feet are always done before we change into our show gear in case of spills.

Getting ourselves ready - I always wear makeup (more than I do on a normal day!), hair in a bun, hat on last. Mum ALWAYS asks me if she should wear a hairnet, I ALWAYS answer yes! I like to use plaiting thread to hold my number on - looks neater to me! I like to have a pat down before I leave the box - check I've got everything - number on, gloves, polos, qualifying card just in case, show cane, hat, quick glance over the donk then off we go! If we are parked a distance from the ring and are driving, everything (harness, bridles, saddles, grooming kit) is loaded into the carriage and muggins here often has the task of pulling it to the ring! This is so we don't spook any precious horses!

The day always ends with a wander round the show, usually some food is involved before the drive home!

Liz.

Why not share *your* pre-show rituals! We would love to learn about your superstitions! Send them to northerndonks@gmail.com.

Ring up a Rep!! Your Reps are here for advice/support/a friendly chat:

Area Rep – Lancashire – Pam Moon

Pam: 07842 535993 pam.moon@talktalk.net

Area Rep – North & East Yorkshire/Cleveland – Pat Mather

Pat: 07850 584785 pat_mather@msn.com

Area Rep – Cheshire/Greater Manchester – Olwen Brown

Olwen: 01457 762336

Area Reps – West Yorkshire – John & Terri Morris

John & Terri: 01274 835520 throstlenest@hotmail.com

Area Rep – Derbyshire – Sarah Hudgins

Sarah: 07971 996817 derbyextracer@hotmail.co.uk

Area Rep – Cumbria - Ann Marie Harrison

Ann Marie: harrison.anm@hotmail.co.uk

Area Rep – South Yorkshire - Jane Bramwell

Jane: 01433 620110 l.jane.bramwell@gmail.com

Area Rep – Northumberland – Geraldine Burton

Geraldine: 01434 681335 gadburton@yahoo.co.uk

Did you know . . . ?

Stun your friends with three fruit facts:

Figs - can you guess the first fruit cultivated in the world? It was a fig. The history states that the fruit was farmed for the first time between 6000 till 3000 BC.

Apples - apples are a popular fruit across the world. The biggest producers of apples are China, United States, and Iran, Turkey, Russia and Italy. There are at least 6000 varieties of apples produced in the world.

The most popular fruit crop? - can you guess the most popular fruit crop? It is bananas. In the overall crops, bananas are in fourth position after wheat, rice and corn.

Puzzles Puzzles Puzzles Puzzles Puzzles Puzzles Puzzles Puzzles

Solution to Northern Scramble 3

1. LPITELIC SGRPNI – elliptic spring
2. DTENEN SRSINGP – dennet springs
3. LIGSEWTERN - swingletree
4. TTUIEEEQT - etiquette
5. ETRRET - terret
6. AIRTOK - troika
7. RQIAAUDG - quadriga
8. UROINNC - unicorn

9. RLCIUECR ARNESSH – curricl harness

10. RTLNGAIEMA - martingale

11. HSMEA - hames

12. NSIWLO EAFNFLS – Wilson snaffle

13. LRCALO - collar

14. RUPPECR – crupper

Northern Wordsearch 3

Locate the words/terms from Northern Scramble 3, once unscrambled, in the word search grid below:

Northern Wordsearch 3

g	i	e	t	t	e	u	q	i	t	e	s	g	w	m	o	l
k	t	q	w	h	g	c	q	r	d	h	s	w	s	a	p	m
l	e	k	a	e	n	c	f	g	a	l	g	i	s	r	o	g
u	d	m	s	w	q	m	m	t	c	g	n	l	e	t	o	n
m	e	n	i	h	g	a	a	k	r	n	i	s	n	i	k	i
s	e	r	q	u	a	d	r	i	g	a	r	o	r	n	d	r
d	r	o	g	o	e	r	c	n	i	f	p	n	a	g	m	p
r	t	c	w	f	r	i	o	o	a	e	s	s	h	a	m	s
o	e	i	r	l	c	p	n	i	h	c	t	n	e	l	i	c
c	l	n	e	u	t	h	d	r	r	o	e	a	l	e	a	i
f	g	u	e	o	e	h	f	u	o	c	n	f	c	g	d	t
e	n	d	n	l	r	g	p	p	g	s	n	f	i	e	w	p
c	i	g	f	k	r	p	d	f	h	p	e	l	r	a	d	i
a	w	c	r	l	e	k	u	f	a	g	d	e	r	g	n	l
l	s	m	k	r	t	a	k	i	o	r	t	k	u	e	l	l
q	c	s	w	s	w	k	w	w	a	t	o	q	c	e	e	e
q	e	d	s	a	t	r	o	r	a	l	l	o	c	h	h	n

Next time, there will be more puzzles, more news, more pics and hopefully lots more contributions from *you*!! Don't forget to get in touch, northerndonks@gmail.com – let us know, what have you and yours been up to?

And finally . . . Send in a 'shout out' to your peers in the Region! A short message of encouragement to everyone as we hit Issue 5 (I think we will have been in lockdown for around 9 weeks by then!!) Just a 'keep on going from all in Southport (or wherever)! ' would be lovely – let's see how many reassuring, stimulating and uplifting messages we can get!!

Stay safe everyone.

