

DBS NORTHERN REGION - THE THURSDAY BULLETIN . . .

Issue No.8

Good morning!



We're half way through the 'lockdown-but-not-as-we-knew-it' and the promise of vaccines is perhaps making the future look a little bit more optimistic. That said, the here and now continues to challenge. I am very aware that the virus has gripped the Northern Region hard and that quite a few of our members or their relatives have been affected in one way or another. I write on behalf of *all* of us, as we send you heartfelt good wishes, strength and our thoughts at this time. Those involved on the front line, in whatever way, we send you our thanks and continued respect. For those worried, troubled in any way, don't forget that you can get in touch with your Area Reps if you need to have a chat with someone. Never feel that you have to try and make sense of all this, on your own.

We have quite a bit of news from the DBS Northern Region this week, and lots of lovely pictures of your donkeys, friends and other animals. So, make a brew, sit back and . . .

Enjoy the Bulletin! Stay safe, Sarah x



The Region's news, this Thursday . . .

Don't forget: Zoom in on a 'Ned Talk' with our Chair and super-Vet! Sunday 29th November at 7.30 pm. 'When to call the vet?' this is the title of a zoom session with Liz which will be both interesting and reassuring. Liz plans to pilot this talk, with a Q&A session, and further talks on subjects that you would like to cover, before launching a national DBS programme. Your support would be great, and we know you will find it very useful. To participate, email Sarah at northerndonks@gmail.com to register your interest. If you would like to submit questions prior to the event too, if you don't fancy speaking live, then please pop them down in your email and Liz will answer them. A few days prior to the event you will be sent a log in for the Zoom meeting and we look forward to seeing you there!

Have you got any amazing videos of donkeys racing around your field?

Request from Susan Osbourne from the War Horse Memorial Organisation, they have a huge virtual Concert happening at Christmas: 'I have a special piece of music and want to illustrate it with video images of horses and donkeys racing round fields, grazing and generally looking happy and content. The music is five minutes so the more video I can get the better.' Let us rise to the occasion DBS members!

Please send your videos to Susan at susan@thewarhorsememorial.org and remember to say that you heard about the request through the Donkey Breed Society!

Northern Region AGM this will now take place early next year and probably via Zoom.



Also in the news, it's those FAB FARRIERS!!

As we reported last time, Fab Farriers are in the *Forge*! The *Forge* magazine, is the publication of the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Society, and as the Northern Region spearheads the 'fab farriers' awards, the first recipients are honoured!

Graham from Grantham is the first Fab Farrier to receive his certificate – well done Graham!

Sarah Standing presents her lovely farrier with his certificate – there is actually a little video of this, which I might attach to the Festive edition of *Asspire*. Graham is very touched, and Sarah and her donkeys very much enjoyed the occasion!



I have also had the pleasure of sending a certificate to Sally Lowe – her farrier, Tom Dyson is a further worthy winner. Sally writes:

'I would like to nominate my wonderful farrier Tom Dyson for a DBS Northern Region Certificate.

I am a newby donkey owner having owned and competed my own horses for 30years. I became a Donkey Guardian to two OAP donkeys from the Donkey Sanctuary in November 2018. Pam Moon was my amazing donkey sanctuary inspector and after 3years trying to find suitable premises I now rent 2 acres just a 3-minute drive from my home, on which I have put stables and hard standing.

Pam found me the perfect two donkeys for a beginner and Murphy and Magil arrived on 1st November 2018. She also recommended two farriers and a dentist. I struggled to contact the first farrier but spoke to Tom who was more than happy to come and look after my boys. Although Magil is very wary of strangers, especially men, Tom was so naturally calm and non-invasive in treating my boys. He is quiet and gentle at all times, never hurries and takes the time to stroke and tickle my boys, he has said that he loves doing them as they are a change from horses as they are so different in anatomy, personality and needs. He truly understands the vast difference between horses and donkeys

Tom's knowledge is incredible, he really enjoys studying and taking exams. He has written papers on seedy toe in donkeys and I can ask him anything regarding my boys' feet and he will always know the answer. One example of his total commitment to his career and the care of his client's animals was shown when Magil came down with the dreaded Laminitis in May 2020. In all my years of horses I never had a horse suffer with this and I was distraught seeing my old boy in pain. It was a Saturday morning, quite early and I phoned Tom immediately, he was in the bath but came as soon as he could. He calmly assessed Magil, treated his feet and recommended Imprint Shoes from Andrew Poynton and explained how they would help and how they are applied. He ordered these and came to put them on a few days later. Now both Magil and Murphy are very well behaved for Tom, and all was going well when Tom was putting the imprint shoes on until just a crucial moment Magil decided he'd had enough and he didn't think the Donkey equivalent of Jimmy Choo's would suit him. For some reason he became very unhappy and Tom advised that it was not right to continue, and we would re-arrange and recommended the vet come and slightly sedate Magil for the next attempt. The imprint shoe was ruined but Tom did not want to wait for another postal order of a new set to be delivered so he drove down to Andrew's the next day and purchased Magil another pair. He came to fit them the very next day as he knew how these amazing shoes relieve the pain of Laminitis almost instantly. My vet was wonderful with Magil and Tom worked so hard fitting the imprints. The aftercare Tom gave Magil was first class, as has been his monitoring of Magil's feet since. Tom's attention to detail when checking both my boys feet is wonderful to see.'

Brilliant! Hopefully we can bring you pictures of Tom and the other farriers to receive certificates so far, in our Festive edition of Asspire. Remember, if you feel that your farrier is worthy of a certificate, if he or she has gone the extra mile in terms of really understanding that donkeys are different, then please do send your nomination, giving your reasons, anecdotes, words

of warmth and we will include them in the 'fab farriers' feature in the Winter/Christmas Newsletter. Email to northerndonks@gmail.com. Thank you.



Your donkeys in Lockdown V2 . . .

Left: The road ahead may not be too clear at present, as it was for Hamish and Dougal up there in Cumbria recently, but we will plod on and the sun will come out in the end!

[More from our Cumbrian donkeys later on in the Bulletin – read of Allison's experiences of Remembrance Sunday.]

Oh look, it's our little lockdown lovely, Rosie, and she's in the ribbons again! Well done Rosie, on your recent accolades from the online show. Human parents, John and Terri Morris are very proud and Donkey grandfather Harvey Moon is also very chuffed I hear!



Sue Stead has been in touch, she has been very busy! *'Friday 13th cleaned all three donkeys' teeth. All three had a go at the obstacle course in the arena.'* Thank you so much for sharing these pictures.



These pics are inspirational – I'll be getting the cones out next weekend!!
Thank you Sue! [SB]

Renowned for her brilliant photographs, shared on Facebook, I asked Jane Bramwell if she would mind featuring in a new series, where a Northern member shares recent favourite photographs with the Region.

This fortnight's featured photographer is . . .

Jane Bramwell!!

I would like to say this is Jane cheering with delight at being in the Bulletin (!) but she is actually celebrating attaining Show Champion at the recent online Show to raise money for the DBS!



Such fun taking part in a recent driving weekend! Was the sky really that blue?!!





Look at you, gorgeous
donks!

Thank you for sharing your
gorgeous photographs Jane.



Shout out to our Juniors!! As another week in lockdown has dawned, I am definitely missing my little mucking out helpers! Colley Mill Donkeys' juniors may be five years old but they are mighty useful with a spade. I guess there's quite a lot that folks are missing right now and I don't mean to belittle this – after all, I'm perfectly capable of weilding a spade myself - it's just such a shame that they are not getting their 'extra curricular' diet of donkey fun and I am not enjoying lots of 'bants' with my little chums! Check out that pink spade!!! Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can all get together again to enjoy making obstacle courses, learning together about nature in winter and how to look after a variety of animals in our gardens, fields and in our homes!



Remembrance Sunday, around the Region. Allison Roberts takes us to Bewcastle . . .

2018 was a special Remembrance Sunday to mark 100 years since the end of WW1 and it was coincidentally the boys' first time at the ceremony in our churchyard. There were masses of people who turned out for that special event. Neither the crowds nor the bugle playing seemed to phase the boys who took up position on the fringes just to be safe, dressed appropriately in purple head collars with purple poppies attached and matching lead ropes.

As you'd expect people made a fuss of them after the short ceremony and were interested to learn why the boys were there as well as the significance of purple poppies.

We were invited back in 2019. This time the boys knew the ropes so were allowed to stand much closer in, to the war memorial.

This year, mid lockdown, I dared to join the stalwart few who felt it right to attend the much abbreviated wreath laying ceremony. Hamish and Dougal, along with Midge and Mo who often explore the fells with them, all paid tribute to the animals involved in war. We even laid our own small tribute wreath alongside the red ones. Lockdown meant we had to be creative in devising a wreath but I think we achieved that with an ornamental pin-on brooch and a paper plate!

Somehow the donkeys knew on all three occasions that they were taking part in a solemn event so matched their behaviour accordingly.



<https://thewarhorsememorial.org/>.



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 gadbarton@yahoo.co.uk

And finally,

Your help is requested in order to make the Winter/Christmas edition of *Asspire* a real cracker!! Please send articles, advice, anecdotes and lots of pictures, recipes, quiz questions to northerndonks@gmail.com.





Thank you to Janice from Wyeknot Donkeys for these adorable Nativity pictures – just a little taster of more to come in the Festive Winter edition of *Asspire*.

Stay safe everyone and thank you for supporting the Northern Region's
Thursday Bulletin!

