

## SCOTTISH DONKEY NEWS WINTER 2020

I joined the Zoom DBS AGM on Saturday and was pleased to succeed in doing so and to recognise many friendly faces of those present. Once everyone joined the meeting and business got underway, I felt the method of delivery was a reasonable compromise which enabled members to have a say and to learn about the organisation. It is not a perfect medium but it certainly saved time and travel expense, it only lasted an hour. There were three of us from Scotland online, what happened to the rest of you? Do give it a shot next time the opportunity comes up.

The business of the meeting confirmed the Chairmanship continues in the competent hands of Carole Travell who incidentally was awarded (virtually) the Marjorie Dunkels trophy for her skill and effort in promoting the Society. Annette Stavely continues as Vice Chair with two new Regional Representatives in the south to be ratified at the next Council meeting in February which keeps Council at capacity. Following the sad loss of DBS President Jill Shaw her successor is John Porter who has 35 active years in DBS. John accepted the role saying he considered it an honour to be asked.

The recent sad deaths of Valerie Mathews and Alec Horn were reported and deep regrets were expressed. Carole remarked that their legacies in the illustrious bloodlines of Westra and East Lodge will continue. Obituaries will appear in the next publication and on the website.

There was some discussion about the DBS website [www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk) which is to undergo another update at significant cost to the Society. It was emphasised that the website is only as useful as the material which is posted on it. It is crucial that all members feel invested in it and send interesting and informative photos and material to keep it fresh and up to date. Contributions should be sent to Liz Reece Harris [lizrharris5@gmail.com](mailto:lizrharris5@gmail.com) or channel via me if that is easier.

The Championship Show 2021 will be held at Moreton Morrel College. It will depend on Covid regulation which will render the show either viable or not and if not, there is a fallback plan for an online show but with luck that will not need to be applied.

The West Region were to host this weekend's AGM in Shrewsbury. These plans are in place now for 2021. Shrewsbury, a bonny town is described as being in the North!

Barbara Whale and Neil Glover jointly presented the accounts stating that they are always historical so the full impact of the Covid year will be reflected in next year's figures but there are sufficient reserves to see DBS through this year. Carole's three online shows have raised significant funds, as well as introducing new members and the balance from this initiative will boost DBS funds.

There was a report of the charitable arm of DBS which had made awards to a group of smaller donkey sanctuaries chosen from those who use DBS as a passport authority. It was pleasing to hear that the Scottish Donkey Sanctuary at St Boswells was among those who have received support [www.donkeyheaven.org](http://www.donkeyheaven.org)

The meeting finished by wishing everyone well with their donkeys and hoping to see everyone back out at events next year.

**Now for a message from Sarah Booth, PR Officer for Donkey Breed Society**

### **FAB FARRIER'S AWARD**

DBS have decided that it is only right and proper to acknowledge the work of the fab farriers that you guys use, farriers who you feel really know what is required to work with donkeys. Farriers who have taken on board the fact that donkeys are different to ponies and horses, that they need to be approached differently, their hooves worked differently and they have clearly gone out of their way to learn as much as possible; this they are practicing with great knowledge and empathy.



We have lovely DBS Regional certificates for you to present to your nominated farriers. All you need to do is write, perhaps enclosing a picture of your farrier working with your donkeys, saying *why* your farrier should receive a coveted certificate and perhaps giving an example of how he or she goes the extra mile. Then, once you have received the certificate you can proudly present it to your farrier, on behalf of your DBS Region! Your farrier will also be flagged up in the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association magazine, *Forge*.



Get singing the praises of your farrier!

Send nominations to include the Farrier's Name, Company & Location to **Kendall Young, Hall Farm, by Ayr KA6 7EE**

or email to [kendallyoung99@ymail.com](mailto:kendallyoung99@ymail.com)

### **Walk for War Horse . . .**

Following our partnership in 2020 with the War Horse Memorial organisation here is a letter from Susan Osbourne it's Co-founder, who has been working with Kendall Young, DBS Scotland Regional Delegate developing the super project that we will all join in April 2021. We are proud to announce that this will now roll out across the UK.

This walk will run alongside the much-loved Webster Walks and other regional walks because now more than ever, it is important to get out and about whenever and wherever we can!



## **WALK FOR WAR HORSE 2021 ... with the Donkeys of Scotland leading the way**

**Walk for War Horse** hopes to encourage animal lovers across the UK to register interest in trekking the hills and valleys near their homes next Spring, with their horses, ponies, donkeys and dogs, while capturing on film the beauty of the British Isles.

But we at War Horse Memorial take no credit for the idea ... it's the brainchild of your colleague, Kendall Young who lives in Ayrshire. The idea is that for £10 people can register their participation and share their route. In return they will be given a purple poppy pin badge and a knitted poppy to pin on the collar of their animals and pets to show their support. And there will be prizes for best photos and most miles travelled during April 2021.

COVID-19 has meant that most animal sanctuaries and rescue centres in the UK have struggled over the past months to keep going. War Horse Memorial, through its Animal Purple Poppy Fund, is trying to help the most vulnerable.

At War Horse Memorial we were delighted to agreed partnership working recently with the Society, to further the cause of donkey welfare through a programme of education and support. With fundraising on hold for many charities because of coronavirus restrictions this is a great way to raise money through sponsorship and, because it's not a group activity it is a great way for individuals and families to keep within government guidelines while enjoying the breath-taking beauty of Britain in the Spring.

### **So how will it work?**

Anyone interested should email [info@thewarhorsememorial.org](mailto:info@thewarhorsememorial.org) to register. For a £10 registration fee War Horse Memorial will send, by post, a metal purple poppy pin badge and a knitted poppy (like these pictured here) to attach to collars and bridles.



Participants are asked, over the month of April 2021, to record their routes, and the number of miles walked – and importantly, take photos en-route. On April 30, 2021 they need to submit their log of miles covered and a selection of three photos that show their countryside at its best. Judges will award prizes for the best entries in a number of categories.

Kind regards, Susan

Susan Osborne, Co-founder War Horse Memorial and The Animal Purple Poppy Fund. Go to [www.thewarhorsememorial.org](http://www.thewarhorsememorial.org) for more information