**Donkey Breed Society**

Newsletter for the Southern Region

Autumn 2020

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| j0304677 | **Regional Delegate**:  Maureen Thorne - 02380 860876  Email: mothorne24@gmail.com  **Area Representatives**:  Berkshire – Clare Strang  Hampshire – Maureen Thorne  Isle of Wight – Hannah Brewer  Wiltshire – Clare Humphries  Somerset - Dizzie Maltin  Dorset - Jackie Rose  Channel Islands Vacant  Secretary Trudy Affleck |

Welcome to the autumn edition of the DBS Southern Region newsletter and a big welcome to any new members.

Sadly, our planned events and donkey shows have not happened this year meaning that many DBS awards that were dependent on attendance at Shows cannot be awarded. We are also not able to hold a Christmas lunch but look forward to hopefully next year being able to all get together again.

A reminder to everyone that we do have an unofficial DBS Southern Region Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2541384922545089>) where we can keep in touch and share what we are all up to across the Region. Please take a look at the Southern Region DBS Facebook page and use it to share what you are doing with your donkeys, its always interesting to see what others are up to!

Two new Awards have been created by the DBS this year for you all to get involved in:

**The DBS Donkey Partnership Award**

To complete the Donkey Partnership Award, you need to produce a diary for 6 months - October to March recording your interactions with your donkeys during those months through pictures and/or words. This could involve training your donkey to learn a new skill or just become more confident in everyday situations or just observing how your donkeys interact with each other.

Whatever you decide to do, just keep a diary of your activities for 6 months. This should be both rewarding for you and your donkey. A certificate will be issued to everyone taking part.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please send your finished diaries to:  Annette Staveley  Gate and West Farm  Golden lane  Lawshall  Bury St Edmunds  Suffolk  IP29 4PT  Or email them to:  [astaveley1@hotmail.com](mailto:astaveley1@hotmail.com) |  |

**Maureen Thorne has hidden talents!**

As a special bonus, with this newsletter comes a crossword that Maureen Thorne has created just for fun. No prizes just see if you can solve it! Thanks Maureen.

**The “Fab Farrier Award”**

The DBS feels that it is only right and proper that acknowledgement is given to the work of the fab farriers that are out there who you feel really know what is required to work with your 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 chosen farriers. All you need to do is write to us, perhaps enclosing a pic 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!

Get singing the praises of your favourite farrier! Send nominations to Trudy Affleck (trudyaffleck@gmail.com)

**Regional Delegate vacancy**

Maureen Thorne has kindly been representing the Southern Region at the DBS Council meetings for the past 3 years, and we are grateful to Maureen for all that she has done. For personal reasons, Maureen now wishes to stand down from that role. The Regional Delegate is the link between the Region and the DBS Council and involves attending 3 meetings a year, receiving and giving information on behalf of the Region. If anyone is interested in taking on this role or wants more information, please get in touch with Maureen (02380 860876) or email: [mothorne24@gmail.com](mailto:mothorne24@gmail.com). Nominations are required please by the end of November 2020.

Just what have the Southern Region Area Reps been doing over the Summer?

**Clare Strang writes**

Although we have not been able to hold any of the events we so carefully planned in February, the members in Berkshire have not been totally idle. I have been out for a lovely drive with Judith (which turned into a Marathon!), and she has been working really hard with her donkeys and been out with a number of different people. Her Nigel is much fitter than my Bobby! Also Julie, Jane, Vernon and myself have met up a number of times, with our donkeys for lovely leisurely ambles through the countryside, followed by social distanced cups of tea and a chat.

Photo of Jane, Julie and myself (Vernon took the photo) with donkeys Solo, Buffy, Daisy, George and Bobby on the Thames Path, opposite the Goring on Thames Rowing Club, from under the Brunel railway bridge.

A child that is standing in the dirt

Description automatically generated

A group of people standing next to a horse

Description automatically generatedAlso, for everyone who remembers my niece Emily coming to shows with me as a Young Handler, here is a cute photo of her daughter getting to know my donkey Mina.

**Jackie Rose writes:**

2020 has been unusual to say the least! We have not been able to meet up with each other on our normally packed calendar of Southern Region Donkey Events and with no shows to attend this year, the donkeys have had some time out from being shaped into show donkeys! But that has not stopped us entering some online shows! A welcome distraction from all the pandemic news.

Here are Henry & Stanley, they won some lovely rosettes from the Donkey Breed Society Online Show and The Mane Show who held a dedicated Donkey class.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A horse is standing in the grass  Description automatically generated  Setley Plain Henry | A horse standing on top of a grass covered field  Description automatically generated  Setley Plain Stanley | We have also spent time walking at home on the New Forest, checking out new tracks and routes that hopefully we will be able to show to other donkeys next year when we can hold DBS events again. |

**Clare Humphries writes**

Is it just me or are fly numbers increasing year on year?

A picture containing outdoor, cup, beverage, food

Description automatically generatedI have got so fed up with flies pestering my donkeys that I now put fly boots on my donkeys from late May until early October ,oddly I don’t need to use fly masks anything like as much. I use fly papers in the stables, which are usually full after 2 weeks, but I find fly repellents are not very effective on the stable flies that bite the legs. So, in desperation I asked for recommendations on a local equestrian Facebook page and so enter The Red Top fly trap costing around £11/12 and available from online stores.

Simply pour in the dry mix and add a litre of water, it is very important to hang it out of reach and at least 10 meters away from the stable. The trap will last about 12 weeks, the contents is totally natural and when full can be used to fertilize the garden.

I put 1 trap out at the end of August and so far, it has at least a depth of 6 inches of dead flies in it. Just a word of warning, the smell is awful as its full of blood-filled flies that are decomposing so you will be glad it’s a long way from the stable.

**Southern Region Foal update**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dizzie Maltin has been busy throughout lockdown one– meet Margot, what a cutey! | And Trudy Affleck now has Smokey and Bandit to entertain her through lockdown two!  A group of brown horses standing on top of a dirt field  Description automatically generated |

For Hannah Brewer, this has been a very different summer season.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hannah Brewer writes**  In April we should have been preparing for our summer season, instead myself and two members of the team were retained to ensure the on-going care of the Carisbrooke donkeys. Usually the opening of a new summer season brings with it a bustle of people and a lively soundscape; instead we were met with silence. In place of the public we found that nature thrived, the donkeys were joined by an array of wildlife, including Jackdaws, Partridges, nesting Kestrels and pheasants. | A close up of a bird  Description automatically generated |
| A bird standing on a rock  Description automatically generated | The Jackdaws of Carisbrooke are historical; they have long enjoyed nesting in the battlements, rooftops and stables. So long have they been at Carisbrooke that they are fearless in the face of people and donkeys alike. They are particularly fond of stealing donkey hair and barley straw for their nests. We often find guttering and down pipes blocked due to nesting Jackdaws, they are particularly fond of hiding from inclement weather in the walls of the castle. |

It was a bittersweet time, lamenting the closure but also enjoying the additional time spent with the donkeys. We enjoyed observing their behaviours and allowing them the run of the grounds, due to the wonderful weather all four of the donkeys thrived – Jigsaw and Jill are particularly fond of sunbathing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Animal on the field  Description automatically generated | A cat lying on top of a dirt field  Description automatically generated |

**Planning meeting for events 2021**

Just to let everyone know that (assuming we can hold events next year), there will be a planning meeting at the beginning of February 2021 (date to be confirmed) to plan events for the Southern Region next year. Please let Trudy Affleck know if you want to come along or if you have ideas for events next year. (trudyaffleck@gmail.com)

**Regional AGM**

As in previous years, each Region is required to hold a local AGM. This will follow on from the Southern Region Planning meeting. Please let Trudy Affleck know (trudyaffleck@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

If you have any items that you want included in the Spring Newsletter, please send them to Trudy Affleck by the beginning of February 2021.

Best wishes from us all

*Maureen, Trudy, Clare S, Clare H, Hannah and Dizzie*

Newsletter contact,

Trudy Affleck, email: [trudyaffleck@gmail.com](mailto:trudyaffleck@gmail.com) or mobile: 07973 224537