



The Donkey Breed Society

Northern Ireland Region

Issue 20 December 2020

Hello dear members

Well, what a year it has been. Never again will I complain about too many events or having to travel half way across the country to a show. The weeds are growing up through the trailer and the donkeys are wild.

All the events we have missed; the wonderful Irish Game Fair at Shane's Castle, the RUAS show, Balmoral and our own Championship Show at Cultra we hope will all be there waiting for us next summer. In the meantime, here's a little flavour of some of the online events that have been happening this year and news of new awards for you to be aiming for.

DBS Supporters Fun Show

Carole Travell has organised several online shows which have given us the chance to showcase our Long ears using photographs past and present. Each show has featured a variety of classes enabling everyone to join in. We gave a splendid representation of our region and Jill Castles, Lorna Shannon and Caroline Giles-Lee were all successful in classes of upwards of 25 entries.



Jill Castles driving Anne Brown's Champagne Charlie, 2nd in the Driving



Lorna Shannon and Seamus, 1st in the Working Donkey

Rebecca Giles-Lee with Holly who came 3rd in the Mares



Parkehill Show

Hats off to Linda and Clifford Parke for the (as far as I'm aware) only real life show this summer. The DBS(NI) members were invited to their home for a driving show in September in aid of Newry Hospice. The event raised a staggering £3,595 for the charity in memory of Clifford's father and DBS(NI) stalwart, the late Clifford Parke.

The Donkey Partnership Award

Here's a reminder of a special award that members can do themselves at home.

All you need to do is produce a diary for 6 months; October to March, on how you interact with your donkey. This could be training your donkey to learn a new skill or just becoming more confident in everyday situations. Your entries must be regular but need not be every day. This should be both rewarding for you and your donkey and a certificate will be issued to everyone taking part.

Open to all ages but you must be a paid up member of the Society

Please send your finished diaries to: Annette Staveley, Gate and West Farm, Golden Lane, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 4PT or email to astaveley1@hotmail.com

Virtual Game Fair

Another popular online show was organised by Great Game Fairs of Ireland. Last year was our debut at the Irish Game Fair and our Donkey Village there was so successful that we were unreservedly invited back this year. Of course the even couldn't happen in reality but we are indebted to Albert Titterington for including a competition for us in the Virtual Game Fair. The prizes were generous and the winners were Declan Feeney and Caragh Cochrane.



Declan Feeney with Camilla and Charlie



Caragh Cochrane and Barney

Both pictures were taken at the Trim Haymaking Festival, another event that we look forward to in 2021

Now for a special announcement—The Fab Farriers Award

The Northern Ireland Region feels that it is only right and proper that we acknowledge the work of the fab farriers that we have, 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 chosen farriers. All you need to do is write to us, 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 favourite farrier! Send nominations to our Regional Delegate Steven Cherry by email to steviecherry_69@yahoo.co.uk

And now it only remains for me to wish you, on behalf of the Committee,

A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

And to hope that we can all meet again soon, to celebrate our wonderful Donkeys

Love to all, Lorna x