Region 9. South East. Report from Regional Delegate

For May Council meeting 2021.

Covid and all its regulations persist and regional events have still been curtailed.

However I did take the opportunity send a questionnaire to each DBS member in the region to ask about their donkeys and what they do with them. I also asked about their thoughts on the DBS and asked how they might be able to help the society. And I asked them what they thought the DBS could do to help them and their donkeys.

I didn’t expect a huge response, but was pleased with replies from 25% of our members. This of course doesn’t give an accurate picture but here’s a summary of the 27 replies that may help us to plan future events.

* A third of people who replied would like communications to be by post.
* Just over half look at the DBS Facebook page
* Over half say they have no computer skills.
* Two thirds look at the DBS website and most of these find it very useful
* There is confusion over local events and national events.
* Most of the people who replied own donkeys. Those who don’t, used to. Popular activities are walking with them. A few take them to local nativities etc
* Only 2 have been ridden. No-one has children involved with their donkeys.
* When asked if they would be interested in helping with an event they said they were either too old or had no time due to other commitments. But almost everyone was happy to help with the refreshments at events. There were 2 offers of venues for an event and 3 offers to give talks.

So, nothing new there, but it gave everyone a chance to communicate with the DBS and tell us how much they love their donkeys and how they wouldn’t be without them. Apparently, they are great pets, loving and sweet natured animals, good companions, therapeutic and get us away from the busy world, and beautiful animals and they keep the grass down.

Another highlight was our brilliant Spring newsletter created by Donna Newstead. Plenty of competitions and puzzles to entertain members while ‘staying at home’.

The whole region has been hit by cancelled shows. SEDS and the Surrey County Show didn’t happen. Cranleigh is cancelled and Chertsey doesn’t look promising. Edenbridge and Oxted is still aiming to take place. Perhaps we should aim to have ‘How to Show’ your Donkey training days so that more members are ready to hit the shows as soon as we are able.

Barbara Roger