

ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



Dear All,

It's been so good to get a bit more out and about now that lockdowns have eased. We are very lucky in the North that we have had some shows to go to. Cheshire, Bury and the Great Yorkshire were a fantastic return to normality for those of us that show! It was lovely to see some familiar faces and meet some new people too.

We have also met up for some testing, again good to see people. We are hoping that some more events will open up now restrictions have eased, fingers crossed they stay that way!

Please don't forget to keep sending us what you have been up to with your donkeys, even if you don't think it's been extraordinary, it's still nice to hear from our members! Please send pictures of your rambling too!

Best regards, Liz. (Liz Brown, Chairman, DBS Northern Region)

**Welcome to New DBS Members in Derbyshire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and
Lancashire and Cumbria!**

IN THE NEWS . . .

Worms and a Facelift! News of two interesting DBS channels of communication! Nationally, we are in the process of launching a YouTube channel and amongst other items of interest, there are two fascinating videos about worms and worming, check them out, you can never know too much about this subject! And, from 1st September the DBS national website home page will have undergone a facelift! We will remind you again nearer the time, but in the meantime why not enjoy a bit of searching and see what Youtube and our website, have to offer.

Your responses to the Region's Questionnaire please keep them coming in and thank you to the 12 who have sent them in already! I have taken the liberty of attaching it again, to this edition of *Asspire*, for those of you that might have mislaid it! This is *your* DBS and we want to make sure we are providing you with value for membership and, if not, we will endeavour to sort it!

A reminder about the Regional Ramble from our Treasurer, Sarah Pennell

Hello fellow ramblers, I hope you are all well and enjoying the sunshine. I would like to encourage you all to get out and have a ramble before the end of July. As we come out of lockdown you could use your walk to meet with friends once again or someone who lives in your area that you haven't met with before. Maybe this is a time to discover a new place to explore or stay local, whatever suits you best.

I hope you enjoy your ramble, do let us know what you get up to and send some photos of your day to Sarah Booth at northerndonks@gmail.com, to receive a gorgeous rosette as a reminder of your walk!

Remember, here's how you can do it . . .



Enjoy your great outdoors!

When: any time during July 2021 (okay, and some of August!!)

Where: at home, in your local park or village, or anywhere else you choose – on the flat, in the rough – it's up to you!

How long: aim for an hour, if possible

Who with: your donkey(s) or somebody else's, your dog(s), friends, family whatever suits you best. You may also 'ramble' on a variety of wheels!

If you would like to use it as a sponsored walk, then forms are available from Sarah Pennell (thepennells@btinternet.com) . Proceeds will go to the Northern Region of the DBS.

Just for Juniors

Colin's Column . . .

Hello Juniors,

Here I am again, I hope you have all kept well and busy. At last I have been to a show where I met four junior members. It was lovely to be in the show ring with them. More about the show later.

First of all I will tell you my sad news. Do you remember how excited I was when I told you I was taking Casey to the church to get married? Well, because of Covid-19 her wedding has been postponed. That means it didn't happen and I hope it will next year.

Now my good news. I have a new friend. Jenny has given birth to a little colt. He is very cute but also very naughty. I can't wait to play with him but he is too small at the moment.

We donkeys are very happy that the grass is growing so we can fill our tummies (I am always thinking about food)!

I have been to a show! I was extra excited because I hadn't been to one for over a year. I had a bath and my mane and tail trimmed before I went.

My friend Hannah showed me in two classes and I was with the Juniors in the Young Handler, Ridden and Pet. I was very well behaved and got some rosettes. Olwen drove me in the Driving class and Liz drove me in the main ring to show me to the spectators. I was a bit scared at first because there were lots of motorbikes and motor bike jumps waiting to give a display. Liz told me not to be silly so I felt braver with her hands on the reins. (I didn't know motorbikes could jump, did you?)

It was lovely to see my human and donkey friends again and meet new juniors.

Have you been on your Donkey Northern Ramble yet? We, that is Romance and Hannah and Olwen and I are going at the end of July.



Olwen is organizing a Donkey X-Country Quiz in August. I am looking forwards to it because it will go through fields we donkeys aren't allowed in. When we were in there last we ate all the hedges, especially holly, and did a lot of damage so now we are banned. Did you know prickly holly leaves are yummy? (Food again!)

That's all my news juniors, perhaps some of you will write to me and tell me your news. I love getting letters.

Goodbye, I'm just off to have a roll in the dust.

Love
Colin X



Liz and me at Bury Show!



Northern Juniors summer update on Henry and Tiny Tim!

Northern Juniors, with Colley Mill Donkeys, the Club in Cheshire that has just affiliated to the Donkey Breed Society, have just adopted two donkeys, Henry and Tiny Tim, who live at the Donkey Sanctuary in Manchester – this will give all our brilliant juniors an insight into donkey welfare and hopefully it will not be too long before we can all pack up some picnics and go and visit our new friends, on a day out!

Unfortunately, all the Donkey Sanctuaries remain closed at present, so it will be a little while before we go to see our adopted donkeys. However, we have some Club events to look forward to – see ‘What’s On’ for further information!

Our donations and fundraising help to support Henry and Tiny Tim and we believe this is very worthwhile. So, if our junior members come up with some fundraising ideas, we would love to hear from you!
northerndonks@gmail.com.

More Junior News

Spot the Northern Region Juniors in the Ridden class at Bury Show!

There were other classes to enjoy too, such as Junior Handler and Pet Donkey – everyone had lots of rosettes and made lots of happy memories.

We were delighted to welcome Phoebe Smith to the Junior classes too.

For more on Bury Show, see our special report by Hannah Dickinson p.14

Our picture shows: Rueben, Amber and Izzy who all had great fun and so did Millie, Missy and Colin!



A lovely day in June, with donkeys as therapy . . .

As people passionate about donkeys, we know just how they can pick us up when we're feeling down, teach us things about ourselves and how they have an uncanny ability to know just what we're thinking. It is this amazing ability, on their part, that makes some donkeys (not all, as animals in the close public domain must not be unpredictable in their behaviour) absolutely perfect as 'therapy' donkeys.

Sarah Standing's donkeys are a fantastic example and recently played hosts to a visit from Care Home residents, predominantly with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.



Some have been before and know the way!

coo-ed over. There was mutual intrigue and a calm, happy atmosphere prevailed.

So, what is it about 'animal therapy' that is so beneficial to people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia? Visits to the animals give the residents of the Care Home something to look forward to and once there, their attention span is more focused, and their communication skills are improved. The sense of well-being and happiness is very evident.

I was most touched when Sarah brought this visit to my attention, sending me a real time message from the visitors as they enjoyed meeting her donkeys. This was a joyful occasion and I'm sure the donkeys had a brilliant time too!

In spite of the pristine surroundings of Sarah's barn – home to donkeys, llamas and ponies – this was nevertheless a sensory experience. The touch, sound, sight and yes, smell, of the donkeys had the power to recreate memories and to prompt conversation. The donkeys, with their quiet, all-knowing, all-understanding demeanour stood quietly and allowed themselves to be stroked and



The donkeys await their visitors . . .



When undertaking a little research into this topic, all the papers/articles that I came across, cite a reduction in agitation and aggression in patients with dementia when communicating with a range of animals; with patients enjoying a generally positive emotional state in their presence.

It would further appear that people with a broad range of challenges demonstrate improved motor skills and enhanced sensory capacity through regular contact with animals. Patients' interest is aroused, and they demonstrate greater autonomy, wanting to show care towards the animals they are viewing. This is very good news and it is no wonder that visits to and from animals, on both small and larger scales, are now firmly on the agenda in many care homes and being suggested by hospitals, hospices, GPs and other medical practitioners as a very positive, beneficial experience.

Sarah's visitors had the most marvellous time and on their return to their Care Home, found time to take a trip in the bus, out to see the llamas! This little safari was thoroughly enjoyed, with lots of exciting and animated pointing out of the windows!

It had been a wonderful day for all concerned. I know that Sarah hosts many similar visits, some of you will remember the ecumenical Easter visits featured in the Spring edition of *Asspire*. Thank you to all the Standings, human and otherwise, for working so hard to forge important links between people and animals. Your work is valuable and very much appreciated.



Time to return but not before a safari to see the llamas!

Driving's Coming Home!

Where: Helen Naden's gorgeous home in Cheshire.

When: first weekend in July.

What: a weekend of driving for all abilities, donkeys and small ponies.

On the weekend that football looked even more likely to be coming home, I joined the annual driving weekend at Helen Naden's and felt that driving would be coming home to my neck of the woods in Cheshire too! To say it cranked up my enthusiasm, was an understatement and I have now joined with other newbie enthusiasts, who attend Brown Road Training Days, and persuaded Olwen to teach us over the coming months! It's a good job she's long suffering!

As if the lure of Helen's amazing log chalets, complete with hot tubs, wasn't enough, the promise of actually meeting Phillip and Janet Reeves, who have driven at the highest standard possible in this country, was very tempting and proved to be incredibly interesting. On the Saturday, interspersed with anecdotes from Phillip's competitive carriage driving days, Phillip took us through a driven dressage course; I found this fascinating.

Now it has been a long time since I have had to memorise anything, let alone quite a complex course *and* trying to do it whilst driving a pony, after only one proper lesson! Give him his due, Teddy is the most wonderful schoolmaster, extremely long suffering, and gave me a lovely journey, for the bits that I could remember. I started off reasonably well, tried to remember to keep my knees together, and was able to recall about half of it! We did attempt to trot as I gained confidence, but it really didn't matter that I was a complete beginner; everyone was so nice about it. Equally, those that knew their stuff were able to crack out

Our Regional Delegate and Chair, Liz Brown



Walking the dressage course . . .

an extended trot when required, keep close to the boards without running aground on them and talk with one another in knowledgeable carriage-speak! So, there was something for everybody, irrespective of their skills level!

My chalet-mate was from Newbury and although we had never met before, we had a mutual love of the long-ears and bonded instantly as we stuffed our provisions for the weekend in the fridge. She was also extremely kind in allowing me to drive her donkeys as a pair on the Sunday! More of that in a minute.

On Saturday night Helen and her partner had arranged a super barbeque for us all and, after



a super soak in the hot tub, looking out on the most gorgeous countryside and a field full of donkeys - what could be more relaxing? – the gorgeous and varied spread was much enjoyed! (And then a few of us got stuck into the match! At that stage it was a great result and everyone was in good spirits!)

Next morning it was breakfast out on the terrace, again overlooking the aforementioned glorious views, before harnessing up, ready for a ride out in the countryside.

Lottie and Nigel - what a team! Seen here with their mum!



So here are Lottie and Nigel, my roomie’s donks being terribly good and resisting all the lovely grass as we trekked through the surrounding fields. We followed this with some more fun back in the menage with a cones and balls course. Yours truly had a go with my new-found



friends and had a great time – we didn’t demolish the whole course so that was indeed an achievement!

Huge thank yous to Phillip and Janet and all the wonderful people who participated and particularly to Helen and Steve who always make the weekend so very special.

If you’ve never attended an event of this nature, DBS or otherwise, do give it a go, it could be that a new skill set could be coming home to your neck of the woods before too long!

Sarah Booth.



Liz trots on with her tandem



Fancy a Pimms, anyone?

Phew! What a hot spell, even way up here on the Scottish border. My boys have gone into cope mode; rather than wanting to set off to explore their surroundings they mooch in and out of their stable to avoid the heat and flies. So out come iced lollies made at home to tease their palates.

Carrot, chopped parsley, chopped mint, chopped carrot tops, frozen strawberries, even frozen banana have all been served. I try to avoid too much fruit because of the sugars therein so have majored on veggie lollies. It's so easy to chop up the fruit or veg, mix with water, then freeze. My boys love to sniff the blocks, push them around then lick and, better still, take cooling bites from the icy treat. And, do you know, I can almost feel the cooling relief they get as they noisily polish it off.

The competition has a clear favourite. The chopped carrot tops win every time, although I must confess to scoffing most of the frozen banana! Try it - it tastes like posh ice cream. A close second (for me, that is), was the donkey-Pimms made using strawberries, raspberries, cucumber and borage from the garden. Fancy a Pimms, anyone?



Allison Roberts.



The Long Wait and 7 worries

Jenny, our donkey was put with Eddie, our stallion, because of Covid-19. With everything cancelled Eddie and Jenny paired up to keep each other company.

As expected, in Spring, Jenny got bigger and bigger. One month before her due date she returned to her own stable for a bit of pampering. Jenny is an experienced mum and usually has a 1 year and 10 days gestation.

The birth date came and went, days went by, weeks went by, Jenny got wider and wider. Running with the stallion meant that we had no definite date of conception. I was



getting really worried, Liz was calm, “she’ll have it when she’s ready” she remarked. Many times at the late night check when I thought she was restless I got up in the middle of the night to find her calmly eating hay. In the end I gave up. Jenny, unlike a lot of mares has always been a daytime foaler and I hoped she would oblige this time. She did.

On 18th May Liz arrived home and said Jenny looked restless. I brought her from the little paddock next to the drive into the deeply bedded foaling box. Jenny sighed deeply, had a wander round, lay down, foaled with no difficulty, stood up and cleansed, all within half an hour. My first worry was over.

In the past Jenny has, several times, tried to foal with her hindquarters next to the wall, leaving little room for the foal's appearance and we have had to move her, but not this time.



The next worry (for me, not Liz) was will the foal stand and then suckle. Jenny is experience, she wants her foal upright and feeding with no nonsense. To achieve this she paws at the foal with her hoof and I am always scared she will damage a delicate leg or tail. The foal was very alert, with its long ears drooping like a Disney Eeyore and the absurdly long legs of a newborn. It struggled to stand again and again. I was getting anxious, should I intervene? Jenny was starting to get a tiny bit upset at our presence. This is the hardest part of watching a foaling – when to stay and when to leave well alone. If you are present at a birth, you must watch the behaviour of the mare very carefully and take your cue from her. We did, and although I was reluctant to leave, common sense prevailed and we left mother and baby.

A quick look an hour later showed an upright baby running round the stable with a full belly. He, it was a colt, has not stopped running since.

Most colts we have bred have been rather shy, Gorse, as we named him is the opposite, not worried to leave his mother, to explore, even out of her sight. He was led, from a foal slip at 2 weeks old, to prevent him

disappearing up the drive! Gorse loves children and is gentle with them. Not so with his mother, lacking another foal to play with he plays with her, rearing over her back and dragging her around by her headcollar.

Foaling is a very worrying time for me, despite having bred several.

The first worry is – is she in foal?

2nd worry – 3-6 months on, has she reabsorbed the foal (more common in horses)?

3rd worry – signs of foaling, so individual to each mare – uddergrowth/no uddergrowth, milk/no milk. This is difficult to know at a first foaling. It's a good idea to keep notes for each individual mare for next time.

4th worry - ease of foaling and cleansing.

5th worry – foal upright and sucking.

6th worry – foal passing meconium (gut contents from when it was in the womb). When the bright yellow milk dung appears, all is well.

7th worry – has the mare got enough milk?

After all these worries, I can enjoy the foal.

Is it worth it – YES, OF COURSE!

Olwen Brown.



Bury Show

A Report by Hannah Dickinson

What an honour it was to have been invited to Bury Agricultural Show on the last Sunday in June; its first in two years, and my first as a rookie competitor, in the fine company of donkey enthusiasts from all over the North West. Being a newer member of the Society, it was a joy to finally put faces to so many of the names that I see frequenting the bulletins, Asspire, and Bray Talk, accompanied of course by their famous donkey companions.

Olwen, Liz and I arrived with plenty of time to give Colin and Diccon a good brush and dab of hoof oil, then before I knew it we were off to class, where Colin was up for Best Conditioned and Turnout, and soon proved to all of us just how much he'd missed his time away from the ring. He was raring to go, so much so that I had to stop him from breaking into canter, eager as he was to prove that lockdown hadn't thrown him off his stride. Following in Liz and Diccon's expert footsteps, I put my training to the test, and when the judge announced that I'd earned third place, I couldn't believe my ears! Talk about beginner's luck! Then mere moments later, and some excellent trotting on Colin's part, we did even better, coming second in Best Gelding and qualifying for the Championship!

Three rosettes prouder, I took to the stage once more as the grand finale beckoned. The Open Driving Class drew great excitement from the public as we assembled our cart and put the multitalented Colin to harness, with myself donning the mantle of groom. Though some confusion with the schedule saw our debut in the main arena delayed, a few laps of the donkey ring served as an ample warm up until it was our time to shine. Colin, of course, was a natural showman throughout; a testament to Olwen and Liz's proficiency and hard work. Perhaps one day it'll be me in that seat entertaining the crowd!

I've never had the pleasure of visiting Burrs Country Park before, so to see an event of this scale after the past eighteen months was nothing short of miraculous, and I am in awe of what the organisers were able to accomplish. Show season has suffered terribly this year, much like the last, however if all goes well, there's a chance we still have one or two to look forward to in September. I do hope Bury's example provides a measure of reassurance in that regard; I can't tell you how refreshing it was to be amongst so many people having a day out with their friends and families!

Until we meet again,

Hannah Dickinson



Hannah did a brilliant job with Colin - read her super report, what a great time was had by all.

More pictures from Bury Show . . .



Well done everyone, for sharing your donkeys with the general public. It is so lovely for people to see our donkeys in all their glory, entering the lovely range of classes that shows, like Bury, put on for us – particularly this year, when things have been so difficult.



The Joys of Taking Your Yearling to Her First Shows!

Well, it was our own fault of course. Both of the other foals that we've bred ourselves, William and Nell, went out in the trailer with their mums several times when they were very young, so we've never had any trouble loading them. However, because of the covid lockdown, Rosie never did this as a baby. Nevertheless, as she was going to be travelling with mum, Cassie, we didn't expect any problems so practice with loading had been minimal. How we regretted this on the morning of the Royal Cheshire Show a few weeks ago when Rosie decided that no matter what we did to encourage her, this time she was NOT GOING INTO THAT BIG METAL BOX!

In the end, in desperation, we decided to leave Rosie at home with her other mates and just take Cassie to the show but the gods were definitely not on our side that day. Due to the fact that all the promised signs for the showground from our direction had mysteriously disappeared we didn't find the entrance until the donkey classes would have been nearly over and came home tired and frustrated.

The Bury Show was just a few days later so, to avoid a repetition of this fiasco, we enlisted the help of our horse expert friend, Caroline, to give Rosie some lessons in loading and this time we managed to get her there. To our amazement she proceeded to behave beautifully for a youngster who had never left home before, taking everything in her stride and seeming to enjoy all the new sights and sounds (including some very LOUD music) and the attention from an adoring public. Olwen Brown kindly showed her for us and we were thrilled when she was awarded her very first red rosette at a show, standing at the top of the line in the Youngstock class. She even walked happily back into the trailer to go home.



This happy experience obviously lulled us into a false sense of security! The day of the Great Yorkshire Show arrived and once again Rosie loaded fairly easily – with the incentive of some donkey nuts in a bucket wafted in front of her nose! And her good behaviour lasted until it came time for Liz Brown to take her into the ring for her class. The sun was shining, Rosie's dark coat gleamed but – would she trot when asked? No, of course she wouldn't!

Without seeing her trot, the judge had no alternative but to place her below the other two



youngsters in her class, both 3 year olds who both trotted. Fair enough you might think – except that, as she followed out of the ring the little horror broke into the most beautiful trot just as if she was poking her tongue out and saying, ‘This is what I could have done if I’d only felt like it – so there!’

Hmm, what will she be like at the next show, whenever that may be? We will have to wait and see – but I think our experiences so far truly illustrate all the ‘joys of taking your yearling to her first shows’ and then some!



Terri Morris.



Share your secret innovations . . .

Allison Roberts invites you take up the challenge of sharing your quirky yet useful devices with a wider public!



Do you like me, avidly scan other people's donkey photos to see how they do things, what tools you can spot so you can learn from them? I'd love to read about what you consider to be your favourite donkey-care tool or your most labour-saving device, and I guess lots of other readers will be just as keen to learn.

Let me start the ball rolling - here are my two innovations that have made life easier.

The small leaf blower is just the job to clear the yard after a delivery of hay or straw; it clears the barn and best of all the stable too - I've even been known to use it on the paddock after a gale has wreaked havoc with the muck heap.

Then the small compression sprayer quickly disinfects the soiled stable mats, making them not just easier to clean but fresher smelling too.

I've shown you mine now you show me yours!



Never mind the Olympics, the Northern Region has just acquired six more Bronze Awards!!



Having returned to 'Brown Road Farm' after 15 months of lockdown, several members of the group were able to get together For the Bronze Award assessments.

It was such a positive and enjoyable day, and even more appreciated due to it being the first group meeting after such trying times.



On arrival cold drinks and homemade Lemon Drizzle cake gave us all the excuse to have a quick catch up before the serious bit of testing started!! Our hosts and assessors, Olwen and Elizabeth Brown had worked hard behind the scenes, and in such hot weather too - producing and setting up practical and identification stations, along with worksheets that were to be completed.

It was great to see Joy again, and she completed the testing team and was on hand to guide everyone to the various areas and keep us all on track.



However, the star of the day was 'Romance', the patient donkey who helped Liz put us members through our paces on one of the practical and verbal parts of the test in the nearby ménage.

The hard work certainly paid off with passes all around!

Well done on achieving the award . . . Sarah, Sarah, Hannah, Beth, Graham and Alison!

A huge THANKYOU again to Olwen, Liz and Joy.

Alison Sergeant

Silver anyone?



We also got to meet Gorse – a great reward for all the hard work!



What's on?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Yes, possibly, hopefully!!

Awards Training sessions

Message to all members who wish to continue their training towards the DBS Bronze or other awards:

If you wish to attend a session, or to find out more about the Awards, contact **Olwen on 01457 762336**. We can suggest ways to prepare for your Awards, in your Area and then how to organize testing.

X-Country Quiz – Sunday 22nd August at Brown Road Farm, SK14 6EB.

A X-Country walk with a donkey around Brown Road Farm – to answer questions about the countryside.

Quiz A Junior

Mounted or led (must be accompanied by an adult).

Quiz B Adult

(May go round in pairs).

Rosette on completion. Prizes for the best answers in Quiz A and B.

Bring your own donkey or borrow one of ours.

Entry fee £3 per round.

Booking essential. Call 01457 762336

Bring a picnic. Hot and cold drinks provided.

Please note: our land is not flat.

Colley Mill Donkeys Junior Club (DBS Affiliated Club) Events:

All CMDJC events are free. However, donations to the Northern Region of the DBS are always welcome. *The events below include some quality time with the donkeys, feeding, grooming, or just having a lovely donkey hug!* Just drop me an email (northerndonks@gmail.com) and let me know which dates you can make!

Sunday 25th July CMDJC Barbecue from 3.00 pm. Bring something to whack on the barbie and we will provide additional bits. Games in the mini menage and a 'Regional Ramble' with the donkeys, by the river (subject to the weather!). *Children must be accompanied by adults, at all times.* **Book via email to:** northerndonks@gmail.com

Thursday 12th August Donkeys, Nature and Art 11.00 - 3.30 pm (£3.00 per artist to cover materials)

A Sketching and Stone Painting Workshop for Juniors and Adults.

Try your hand at drawing our gorgeous donkeys and/or the beautiful trees by the river at Colley Mill. Collect stones from 'the beach' and working with Yithinc Acrylic Painters, create designs inspired by your observations of nature, to take home.

Venue: Colley Mill House CW12 2PL. Bring a picnic. Hot and cold drinks provided. *Children must be accompanied by an adult as we will be working close to the river.* **Book via email to: northerndonks@gmail.com**



Where would you like to go next? What would you like to be a part of? Perhaps you might wish to lead an event in your area and are not sure how to go about this?

Get in touch with your Area Rep. (contact details on the next page) and offer to help make it happen!

Or email northerndonks@gmail.com!

Ring up your Area Rep!!

Introduce yourself to your Area Rep and let him/her know what you would like to see happening in your Area. Area Reps are always keen to hear your ideas and if you can volunteer some help at any time, that too would be most welcome, although not obligatory!

Area Rep – Lancashire – Pam Moon

Pam: 07842 535993 pam.moon@talktalk.net

Area Rep – North & East Yorkshire/Cleveland

Kindly note that Pat is taking a little break at present, should you require any Area information or support, please contact Olwen (details below).

Area Rep – Cheshire/Greater Manchester – Olwen Brown

Olwen: 01457 762336

Area Reps – West Yorkshire – John & Terri Morris

John & Terri: 01274 835520 throstlenest@hotmail.co.uk

Area Rep – Derbyshire – note: Liz Brown in caretaking Derbyshire at the moment.

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 gadburton@yahoo.co.uk

Other officers:

Northern Region Chair and Regional Delegate: Liz Brown, 07517382472

Northern Region Secretary: Sarah Booth, 07970375562 (phone signal is awful, so leave a message or text me and I will get back to you!)

Northern Region Treasurer: Sarah Pennell, 01889 591497

Before we go . . .

A little donkey dentistry

Check out Tooth number 208!!



Pic. 1



Pic 2

Long in the tooth indeed . . .

Most donkey owners will recognise a donkey baby tooth, (pic) some may know where tooth number 208 is located from the dental charts they get every dentist visit, but few will have seen just how jaw-droopingly massive tooth 208 is. (Pic 2)! And if the dental charts are to scale, teeth numbers 109 and 209 are even bigger.

Its removal involved two sessions each of three hours over two days with the poor victim sedated but standing, with his inseparable chum standing quietly and loyally by his side, in a hospital environment. Both were as good as gold, so I'm told.

As astounding was the bill. The vet may have said, "open wide," but my jaw dropped wide open of its own accord hearing of both the procedure and the cost.

The said victim's mouth healed quickly, his appetite remains undiminished.

Allison Roberts.

And finally . . .

In the autumn edition of *Asspire* we will be running a special feature on 'pack saddles, panniers, and other carriers, and associated harness'.

We want your experiences – good and the not so good – the challenges, advice and where to find appropriate items. Your experiences will help to inform those who are thinking about it, getting started or wanting to upgrade existing kit. Perfect for autumn rambles, cone collecting and carrying one's own carrots perhaps (see pic on right!) ?!

Pictures would be welcome too please!!

Please send your thoughts and other golden nuggets to the usual address: northerndonks@gmail.com.

Thank you.



Teddy being trained to a pack saddle in lockdown.

IF YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF ASSPIRE, WHY NOT HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE NEXT ONE!!

Contribute to future copies of *ASSPIRE*, sharing your knowledge throughout the Region! Send pictures, articles, snippets of news to northerndonks@gmail.com.

Please note that views expressed in this Newsletter are those of contributors and not necessarily representative of the Donkey Breed Society.