

# ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE  
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



*Nothing nicer than a ramble in the country with a donkey - you share your Regional Rambles (left)*

**It's the Autumn  
Rambling and Packing  
edition!**

**Enjoy!**

*Bertie, Packing in the Peak District  
Olwen tells us how to get started  
(right)*



Dear All,

**Sit back and enjoy this autumn edition of *Asspire!*** Not only is this the Rambling and Packing edition, but it also contains a round-up of the Northern Region Show that we were delighted to be able to hold in September. Thank you to Pam and her family for making this possible. We had a brilliant day; the weather was kind, and it was great to be joined by lots of friends and first-time visitors too! We raised over £400 to be shared between Bury Hospice, The War Horse Memorial Organisation and the Region.

Our AGM in the North will take place, via Zoom, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 am – please see the paperwork for this that accompanies this magazine. We will need to know who is able to join us, so please make sure that you RSVP to Sarah Booth at [northerndonks@gmail.com](mailto:northerndonks@gmail.com) so that she can send you a zoom invite. If you are unable to attend but would still like us to discuss something under Any Other Business, please let Sarah know and we will do our best to include it.

I hope you all have a lovely autumn – you can still enjoy a bit of 'Regional Rambling' (see Sarah Pennell's, Olwen's and Hannah's accounts of their walks) send us your pictures and tell us a bit about your walk and we will print them in the next edition.

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

**Welcome to all New DBS Members in the North!**

## IN THE NEWS

### Ragwort alert . . .

There seems to be more about than ever at present. Check out Rosemary Clarke's excellent article in the next edition of *Bray Talk*. Here's an extract:

*'It is a proven fact that an equine eating this plant suffers irreparable and accumulative liver damage as a result, and that death when it comes is both unavoidable and distressing. Whilst we are probably all aware that we humans can and do survive with reduced liver function, it is probably hard to accept that for an equine 25% one day means life – 24% a day later means death . . . But toxicity doesn't end there; the human too is susceptible to the effects; coming into direct contact, if pulling the weed without protective gloves, or that bouquet of yellow flowers innocently picked with bare hands by your child or grandchild in the local park, will lead to reduced liver function, as documented by the Professor giving the presentation, who had done tests on himself.'*

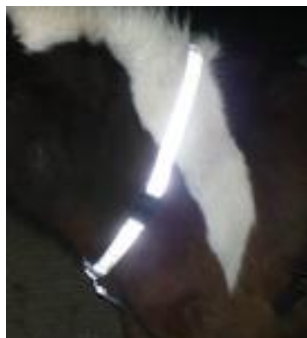


### They came, they saw, they sculpted . . .



Would-be sculptors from the Northern Region travelled far and wide to take part in a brilliant sculpture workshop in September. The results were fantastic, and a great day was had by all. *Full report by Allison Roberts p.15.*

**Be Seen!** Now that the nights are drawing in, if you are out and about in the dusk make sure you are seen. Not long until early mornings are dark too! Without wishing to be a bringer of doom and gloom, make sure you have a range of high vis products at your disposal. Top tip: always keep a high vis tabard in your car/box just in case you break down.



Dinky Donkey rugs, for donkeys and small ponies have a great selection of luminescent cotton and fleece lined exercise sheets and fluorescent mesh sheets, reflective headcollars, neck straps (*left*), brushing boots and leg wraps. Many other online sites allow you to purchase Shires' Equi-flector waistcoats, Equi-safety gilets, hat bands and Weatherbeeta do reflective tail bands. If the latter prove too big, why not make your own – reflective material is easy to find on Amazon and with a little imagination you could craft some very important items that allow you and your donkeys to be seen this winter. Don't forget to send us your pics of your donkeys, mules, ponies looking highly visible and, if you make your own items, share your instructions!



## The Northern Region's Autumn Show

*Pam Moon*



*Show Champion: Perehill Tiffany - O & E Brown*

sunshine adding an extra gleam to Megan (Amelie)'s dark brown coat to get her the red rosette – immaculately turned out by her owner Liz Ross. The next class the boys – 8 geldings in all shapes and sizes – hotly contested at the top of the line with the top award going to a gorgeous boy called Sage, owned by Debbie Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> place going to Jane Bramwell's Gamlingay the Evangelist (Luke), then the mares – all lovely donkeys and this again could have gone in any direction – winner was Olwen and Liz



We are very fortunate in our region that several shows have gone ahead. It was originally planned for us to have a Northern Region Spring Show in Preston and a Northern Region Autumn Show in North Yorkshire, however Covid pulled the plug on early shows so the Spring show was cancelled. Bill and Carol Tetlow decided against having the autumn show this year, so I agreed to host the Autumn show at home in Preston. Anybody organising a show will know it has its challenges, I had a judge booked for the Spring but he was not available for the Autumn show, so we took on the services of Graham Steeden to oversee the order of awards. Graham is recovering from major surgery and asked for a £10 donation to Bury Hospice to cover his fees, I told him, "we can do better than that and will raise funds on the day for the Hospice", more of that later.

Entries were coming in and with good numbers in a lot of the classes we knew competition would be good. The condition and turnout had 9 donkeys forward, with the



*Wychbrook Desert Rose - T & J Morris*

Brown's Perehill Tiffany, a very pretty 4 year old mare. Youngsters were a less supported class but John and Terri Morris Wychbrook Desert Rose looked a picture on the day.

Next to the Championship, Perehill Tiffany took the top accolade, with Sage picking up reserve – both very well deserved.

*Reserve Champion: Sage - D Street*



After lunch the first class of the afternoon was Driven – 5 turnouts, including some very novice and green turnouts – all went very well enjoying the lovely flat area to excel at their paces. The clear winner was Debbie Street with Hapgood, an amazing turnout that stood out on the day, other turnouts tried their absolute best and with respect to the drivers did not ask more of their donkeys than they knew they were not trained to do yet – all have amazing potential. The long reining followed and again a strong line-up of 6 contenders – the judge set up a short course for exhibitors to complete, this presented steering challenges for some but



*Debbie Street with Hapgood*



*Liz Ross with Megan*

all taken on with enthusiasm – top of the line up were Megan and Jacob from the Ross household, but again this could have been juggled in a different order with Daniel Street showing his skills with the very experienced Hapgood and Hannah Dickinson and Colin long reining for the first time in the ring.

Newcomers class saw Sarah Booth get the red one with her lovely donkey Miss Wickham, a lovely versatile donkey.

Rescue class once again saw

Sage, with his history of being bought out of a horse sale at 3 months old and housed with goats, his anxiety was quelled by Debbie inspiring his confidence levels. The Young Handlers class had 4 children forward with Daniel Street taking the top ribbons – so lovely to see him developing into a confident and competent donkey handler – the next generation for sure. Ridden had 3 entries forward – Amber the clear best rider on Miss Wickham with Izzy and Rueben hot on their heels.

Handy donkey was hotly contested against the clock – into the roadworks, through the park, into the country, through the poles and gate and dash for the finish – well some dashed! Winner was Booboo with Philip Moon and earlier supreme champion Tiffany taking a close 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

**Thank you Graham Steeden for all your hard work ensuring the classes were judged with such patience and enthusiasm.**



*Amber Taylor with Miss Wickham*





*Daniel Street with Hapgood*



*Carefully does it! John Morris with the wonderful William tackles the Handy Donkey Course.*

Elsewhere to fund raise we had a cake stall with some yummy treats with the Northern Region logo on a large carrot cake (what else!), a raffle with a huge selection of brilliant prizes, pin badges for War Horse and Donkey Breed Society Christmas cards – we raised over £400 – wow just wow – **thank you to EVERYONE that helped out before and on the day, to the weather for staying so kind, to the audience for their applause but most of all to the Exhibitors – the show was such a success because you came and supported it – THANK YOU.**



*Joy, Julie and Sarah – fantastic fund raisers!!*

## Regional Rambling . . .

Earlier this year our treasurer, Sarah Pennell, set a challenge for members to enjoy a spot of rambling to celebrate getting out and about once more. In this issue of *Asspire*, Sarah tells us about her own Ramble and some of our members share their experiences of hoofing it in their special locations.

### Sarah's Ramble in the Derbyshire countryside



*View from the top*

It was a bright morning on 23<sup>rd</sup> July when a friend and I set off with Cole and Dan on our ramble in southern Derbyshire. We were heading for a newly discovered bridle path that is only 3 miles away from home and after a short trip along the lane, we headed up the path. What started as a wide grassy path soon became overgrown and it was a bit of a fight to get through at times, however it was full of birds and wildflowers and the boys enjoyed the odd mouthful along the way.

We emerged at the top of the hill with great views over the Derbyshire countryside and the village church. We met a few locals on the way back down to the start and the boys were pretty patient while we stopped for a chat.

We had a great morning; it was lovely to share the walk with a friend and meet some new faces along the way. Dan and Cole seemed to really enjoy a new adventure and then, of course, it was home for a cup of tea. We hope you managed to get out and that you enjoyed your walk too.

Sarah, Cole and Dan



*The going got a bit tough!*



## Olwen's and Hannah's Northern Ramble

It was a lovely morning for our Ramble, sun shining but not too hot. Hannah and I set off, Hannah riding Romance and I in the lead with Colin. I was puffing when we reached the turning to the little lane, uphill I am not as fit as I would like and Colin was eager to go. In the past, on our donkey treks we found that donkeys, unlike horses, walk at the same pace as humans. I have either slowed down or Colin has speeded up, but I don't think it is Colin!

As we rounded the first bend in the lane with a dry-stone wall to our right and a holly hedge on our left, it HAPPENED.

Colin gave an almighty leap on the spot, back legs stretched out in a Capriole a Lipizzaner would be proud of. This knocked me flat on my back into the base of a holly bush. Hannah dismounted and came to my aid. The only way I could get up was by rolling onto my front, then my knees, gritting my teeth at the prickles from the holly and brambles, as I struggled to my feet.



Although shaken, I am quite used to falling (old age), I decided to carry on. The lane is lovely, fields either side and trees meeting overhead but I didn't feel like completing our planned route so we turned down a narrow cobbled track which led to the village. I gave poor Hannah a history lesson on its origins (to get mill workers from the outlying cottages to the mills down by the river). It was beautifully quiet, tree-lined and deserted. At the bottom I had had enough and we decided to retrace our steps, uphill all the way.

I put my arms around Colin's neck and he helped me haul myself to the top.

I've no idea why he leapt so high, perhaps a fly bit him but he was calm again when his feet touched the ground.

It was another example of how exciting and predictable is our life with donkeys.

Olwen Brown.

## And here's Hannah's side of the story . . .

It's safe to say my latest hack went far better than the first, when ten minutes in Romance decided she'd had enough fun for one day and sparked an impromptu wrestling match as I struggled to convince her not to

bolt back to the farm. She was a changed donkey this time around, attentive to every word said and rein tugged, perhaps because for the Ramble Olwen and I had had the foresight to bring Colin along, which seemed to do the trick as far as moral support was concerned (not to mention distraction from the stallion). Our little convoy ventured north in the direction of Mottram, taking a sharp left through the old manor gates down Hill End Lane, at which point we think Colin must have been either bitten or stung, because amid the most serene summer's day he suddenly bucked and sent Olwen into a holly bush!

Well, after giving him a stern talking to, we were back on our feet again, and the journey resumed. We passed Home Farm Avenue, then veered south down Braemore Drive, where we stumbled on a piece of preserved history; an old cobbled lane that mill workers would have climbed back in the day. It being quite a slope, I had some butterflies about slipping, but I needn't have worried with the surefooted Romance. Then it was a quick U-turn to head back the way we came, maneuvering round the odd patient driver until we were home safe and could reward our dynamic duo with a generous handful of mints!



*Uncovering history on the hoof: how it would have looked in the past . . .  
Broadbottom viaduct.*

Country roads are a big step up from the arena; you have to be in sync with your donkey and mind the aforementioned cars, as well as dogs and that most mortal of enemies, the manhole cover. Given that we encountered all three, I was so impressed with how Romance handled herself. Literally and figuratively, she's made great strides!

Yours as ever,  
Hannah

***Well done Olwen, Hannah, Romance and Colin!***

***We are delighted to send Sarah, Olwen and Hannah some beautiful rosettes in recognition of their Regional Rambles.***



## Focus on . . . Packing

### Packing is Fun! by Olwen Brown

Packing is walking with a donkey carrying the load. It is NOT walking with a donkey with the leader carrying a rucksack (seen frequently)!

Donkeys are ideal for packing as they walk at the same rate as a human – approximately 3 miles an hour.

Donkeys are obliging pack carriers but if you are going to do more than a stroll to the shops they do need some training and a fitness programme.

#### Equipment

A donkey (essential)  
Pack saddle or riding saddle  
Wide girth  
Panniers, saddlebags or log-roll  
Crupper or breeching  
Breast collar  
Headcollar and lead rope  
Bridle (for road work).



*Bertie in the Peak District - log roll on 'Cub' saddle. Note: crupper, breast collar hidden by map holder.*

#### How to start

Assuming that your donkey will lead well in a headcollar or bridle, practice walking on a fairly loose rein making sure it is familiar with the usual commands – walk on, whoa and stand (no need to trot out packing). You haven't got a posh pack saddle and panniers? No worries. They can come later if you become an addicted packer.

To start you will need:-

A pony saddle – synthetic 'cub' saddles are good, ask around pony people.

A girth – hard to find small enough to fit a donkey, I use a dressage girth as they are short – look in horsey shops or online [ Ed: such as: <https://www.tackandturnout.co.uk/dinky-shop>]. Measure before you buy.

A folded bath towel – to act as a saddle pad or ask a horsey friend for an old dressage numnah.

A crupper – look in horsey shops or online.

A breast collar – 3-fold a hand towel lengthways, tie a length of baler twine on each end.

A log roll – a pillow case folded lengthways will do plus straps to attach it to the saddle.

All the above are important.

The saddle pad protects the donkey's back and helps spread the load.

The saddle prevents pressure on the spine.

The girth secures the saddle.

The crupper prevents the saddle from slipping forwards.

The breast collar prevents the saddle slipping backwards.

The log roll holds your belongings.



*Celandine showing home-made breast collar and saddle bag.  
North York Moors.*

### Ready for the Road

Refine the breast collar with a bit of sewing and nylon straps. You can even make a smart log roll.

Remember, you should always lead your donkey from a bridle on the road, it's no good thinking 'my donkey is quiet, it won't bolt'. They are live animals and get scared just as we do, of the unexpected.

Don't forget 'High Vis' for yourself and your donkey. [Ed: available from the DBS Online Shop [Shop - The Donkey Breed Society](#) .]

My first trek of 40 miles (10 miles a day) was with such home-made equipment. It was a wonderful 4 days in the Peak District.

More about fitness, route planning and posh pack saddles next time.

**Get packing, enjoy yourself!**



*Bertie realises there is still a long way to go. Pennine Bridleway.*



## Just for Juniors

### Colin's Column . . .

Dear Juniors,

I am feeling sorry for myself because Olwen is very cross with me. I have been naughty. I'm usually well behaved at shows but last week I wasn't. You see, my girlfriend Romance was there and I started to show off. I wouldn't stand still, I spun around and jumped about. I knocked my young handler, 4 year old Bobby over, he was very upset. Luckily for him Olwen was there and made me walk properly.

I was very sorry to hurt Bobby and I behaved when he rode me. I know he forgave me because he giggled every time I trotted.

I've promised to be good at the next show. Romance is not going so I can concentrate on what I am doing instead of showing off.

I will tell you all about the last show of the season next time.

Much love from a Naughty Donkey,  
**Colin X**

**PS** I have decided to start a question and answer section. If any JUNIORS wish to ask me a question, about me or my friends, please write to or email me, care of Olwen and I will answer it. Colin.



Colin, you behaved brilliantly at our Region's Show. Here you are with Izzy and Olwen, talking to Mr Steeden the judge! You kept your mind on the job!! Well done on the successes that you and Hannah had too. (Ed.)



## More Junior News

### Daniel demonstrates super skills at the Northern Region's Show

Daniel Street's mature skills in long reining and in ring craft in general, really caught my eye at our Region's Show. Thoroughly nice and very sporting, Daniel is a great role model for all our Juniors.

I wanted to bring his achievements to the fore and asked his mother,

accomplished carriage driver Debbie Street, what she put her son's success down to. Debbie told me: "he is developing correctly using English Coachman's hand which is the proper way to drive." From my humble observations, I know that sometimes people might think that Hapgood was easy, being such an experienced donkey, but Debbie explained: "It is very difficult to drive someone else's advanced schoolmaster, Hapgood is very sensitive and used to everything done just right. Daniel has learnt with a variety of less advanced schoolmasters



and novice donkeys over a long period of time. Hapgood looked easy because Daniel had sensitive hands, movements, and has spent a lot of time learning what not to do. Yes, then Hapgood did flow effortlessly; that is the ultimate classical goal; relational harmony."

I find this fascinating, as I am just beginning to drive.

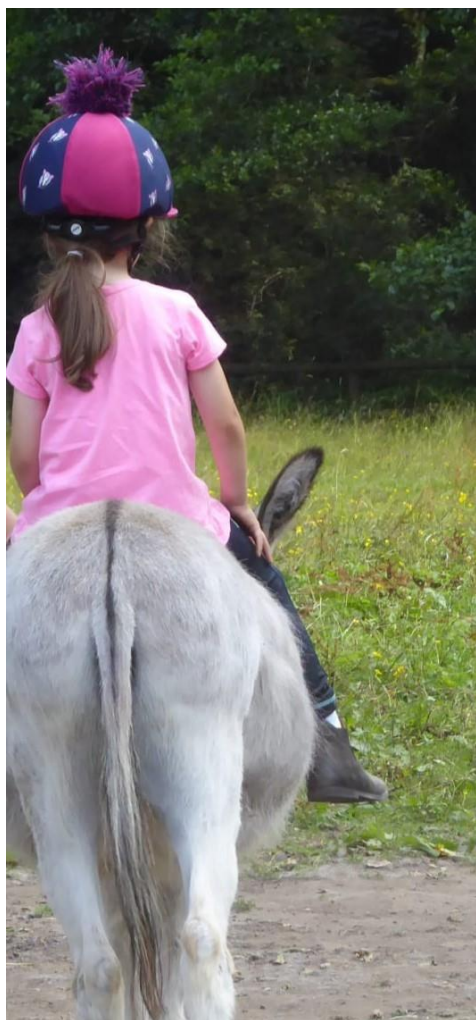


Daniel is clearly going in the right direction and we wish him all the very best for the future. Watch this space, I predict great things!



Sarah Booth.





## **PRAS: Amber and Izzy clock up 75 hours in the saddle between them!!**

Junior and Colley Mill Donkeys Club members, Amber Taylor (5) and Izzy Brewis (4) have recently attained their 50- and 25-hours Pleasure Riding Awards PRAs respectively!

Amber says that she loves her donkey very much even though she can be naughty about going in the horsebox! She is also enjoying, 'learning how to do a rising trit trot!'.

Izzy, who has just started school, tells me that she enjoys going to shows and talking to the judges!

We wish all our PRA riders all the best as they, 'keeeeeeep riding'!



*Izzy and Colin at this year's Northern Region Show*



*Rueben, Amber and Izzy and their 'I know why donkeys are so awesome' certificates, at Colley Mill Donkeys earlier in the year. Rueben is also clocking up his PRA hours!*



## Just Look What a Difference A Year Can Make!

Terri Morris

Last year, when we were unable to go to shows because they were all cancelled, this photo of Rosie as a foal won her a very first red rosette in the DBS Fun Photo Competition. She's grown just a bit since then – and is entering another growth spurt right now – as you can see in the second picture which shows her proudly displaying the red rosette she was awarded at Penistone Show this September when she was also Reserve Champion.

We are so very proud of our not so little



star – even though she can still drive us mad when she decides she doesn't want to go into the trailer or she doesn't feel like trotting in the ring! It will certainly be interesting to see what happens next year when she becomes a 2-year-old. We can only hope that she doesn't succumb to the curse of the 'terrible twos'!





## They came, they saw, they sculpted!

Allison Roberts



No matter how much we donkey owners may want to increase the size of our herd we can't just make donkeys – or can we?

Well nine of us tried to do just that and, believe me, when you round up a determined team of DBS members drawn from all over the north west they will not be easily thwarted!



On Wednesday 22nd of September, nine donkey aficionados gathered together at Pam Moon's near Preston, a great central meeting point for the region, as you may know from the recent show, to conjure up a donkey each – and, guess what, we achieved it! As I set off from home my husband was heard to mutter, "Watch out that you don't go and create a graven image to bring home and worship!"



The day went like this... we each took a lump of clay and with great trepidation dressed ourselves in aprons then picked up a rolling pin to make a rectangle no longer than 22 cm and 16 cm wide; the excited chatter that preceded all this quickly gave way to a tense, silent concentration, peppered with occasional nervous, self-deprecating laughs. Nine vaguely similar rectangles resulted. These were to be magiced into donkey bodies – that was easy – chopped up, dampened newspaper was rolled up inside the rectangle – rather like a Cornish pasty. Hmm - a donkey body? Really? Well, yes - after a bit of pushing and bending to

soften the join and to make it look as though the still-headless and limb-less donkey was lying at rest. Our satisfaction with our achievements was suddenly dashed as they had to be ruthlessly slit open along their spines to retrieve the damp newspaper. Thankfully they closed back up leaving no trace of the brutal cut.



You'd scarcely believe that it was lunch time when these shapes were achieved and all the really arty work was still to come. Heads, necks, legs and even tails were fashioned out of various cylinders of clay. Some of us quietly and quickly got on with the job while others spent ages looking over other people's shoulders to see what they'd achieved before each of us

committed to our own creations. Then came the fine tuning, or to be more accurate in my case – fiddling, to create donkey ears, manes, forelocks, eyes, hooves and even coats. By this time we were all relaxing more as our creations started to resemble the real thing. But to be honest it was the expert guidance and creative eye (and unerring corrective hand, in my case if I'm perfectly honest) of Richard, of Twisted Earth Ceramics, our patient tutor, that ensured we all achieved creditable donkeys by the end of the day. Check out Richard's donkey, Pixie here <https://twistedearthceramics.com/shop/ceramic-sculptures/page/2/>.



Our creations were whisked off to be fired at Richard's studio. We can't wait to have them restored to us, their proud creators. In the meantime, we started plotting our next creative day – perhaps it will be creating a donkey out of felt, so stand by for details!

Check out too our masterpieces! Graven images they are certainly not, but the originals who modelled for the ceramic version are revered indeed, perhaps even idolised!





## Ouch 🤔 Vet Bills!

I had two donkeys with unexpected health problems: Cuddles walking rather slowly, Blossom walking with a limp. To my horror, after inspecting Cuddles' whole body, feeling underneath his belly, I was greeted with a huge swollen teste. Now, this was the size of a cantaloupe melon, no wonder he couldn't walk. Carefully, slowly with extreme caution, whispering to him that he



was

such a

*Generalised urticaria*

good boy, he allowed me to feel around the area to see if there was any blood, open wounds or just simply take a photo on my phone to send the vets.

Millie the vet told me to give him a Bute, keep him in, until the next day. He had marked sheath oedema likely secondary to fly bites as he also had generalised urticaria, she spoke to my welfare officer Keira, I wanted her to know too. Fortunately, I had a supply of Bute, I gave Cuddles one Bute inside a banana which he ate. The vet arrived the next day at 6pm, my donkey's body now covered in huge lumps, he was dull, also very lethargic. The



other 5 donkeys stayed with him; it was as though they knew he was poorly. He was not grabbing their necks to play, running around, rolling, or being just a busy

body taking their hay or straw from their mouths 😂. The vet was surprised at the size of his sheath, giving him steroids, antibiotics, and explaining that his body's reaction to the bite was why his coat was full of lumps.

Giving him his medication, he soon recovered, she explained that Decosect would stop these nasty bites, so to spray all my animals every 2 weeks. I was delighted to

see him better 🙌🙏 prior to this. I was then sent a reminder from the vets



that all the animals were due for vaccinations! 🤔



THEN,



THEN the OUCH BILL ARRIVED their envelope has blue type on it, I handed this to Conway my

husband, told him whilst walking away it was correct 😂.

He replied that he should have shares in this practice, grump grump!

Again, I'm outside, 3 days later, Blossom is limping, the farrier was arriving that day anyway, I told him about her limping, he found her soft sole was split, swollen and probably infected...





oh no, vets again. Conway came outside as he likes Graham the farrier. I quickly nudged him to explain that we needed the vet again, I stood there very quiet, head low looking at Blossom, lips sealed, my expression on my face was Pleaseeeeeeeee! Conway, again gave me that look, it's the look that you give a child when it's taken the last slice of cake before offering it to someone else, he's now adding the cost of the first vets

bill, the farriers' bills (£20 per animal I've got 8) 😂😭

I haven't told him yet about the 8 vaccines 😱😬 so I pay the farrier, quickly make Conway a coffee, sandwich . . . I've become Cinderella with a huge smile, cleaning HIS mess with no complaints, you would have been proud of me!



So, Blossom has Millie the vet, all vaccinations are given for flu or tetanus or BOTH, Blossom had mild cellulitis in her right hind leg with a thrush infection, so again antibiotics in her food, plus antibiotic blue spray on her feet. ANOTHER VET BILL!

Now, I'm delighted to say both are well, running around the paddocks, having a good life. The story is, make some space for unexpected vet bills, they are costly, very. Honestly, the expense is never ending, feed, hay, straw, wormers etc., just the basics are costly.



*Raring to go again!!!*

So, watch out ..... an OUCH IS ABOUT!! **Plan for it!**

### Sarah's TOP TIPS:

**If discussed and agreed with your vet, keep the following products in, just in case:**



I always send videos/pictures to my vet and they find this very helpful. ALWAYS have them out to anything to do with eyes, in fact always ask for advice and don't make decisions about medicating your donkeys yourself, discuss with your vet!

**Sarah Standing.**



## What's on?

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Please note that all members, from all over the Region, are warmly invited to attend events across the Region – you don't have to stick to events in your area – travel a little and enjoy a lot!*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

**An Autumn get Together** at Brown Road, come and meet up with friends and help to plan events for the year ahead! Weather permitting we'll get outside for some surprise activities!

11.00 am. Bring a picnic! Let Owen know if you can come.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**Northern Region AGM via Zoom 11.00 am**

**RSVP essential:** northerndonks@gmail.com

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**Brown Road Group (details tba)** Meet at 11.00 am.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**Brown Road Bring & Share Christmas Lunch – everyone welcome!**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Juniors' Party at Brown Road!** Join Colin and friends from 2.00 pm!

*For details of all of the above, please ring Olwen on: 01457 762336*

### Awards Training sessions

**Message to all members who wish to embark on their training towards DBS 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 organise testing.

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

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**Hibernate, Migrate, Adapt! 2.00 pm** Where do animals and birds go in the winter? How can we help animals that live with us to be safe and warm as winter approaches? How will we be looking after our donkeys in the winter? Lots of activities to get little minds thinking!

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

**Muck in and Muck out! 2.00 pm** The old favourite returns! Enjoy mucking out, finding out what donkeys eat, giving them a good groom and then making Barney, Freddie and Missy cosy stables and settling them down for the night! There will also be some fun winter warmer games in the menage! And, for anyone 6 years and over, a chance to practice for your introductory award.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December****'Twas the Night Before Christmas' 2.00 pm**

A seasonal outdoor drama activity for children (and parents/grandparents/friends!) of all ages, including the donkeys! Led by a Drama Teacher! The children create the drama using the poem as our starting point. Wrap up warm but tinsel-up if you wish! Be creative and bring festive props inspired by the poem! A little magic in your pre-season preparations!

All CMDJC events are free. However, donations to the Northern Region of the DBS are always welcome. *The events include some quality time with the donkeys, feeding, grooming, or just having a lovely donkey hug!* Just drop Sarah Booth an email ([northerndonks@gmail.com](mailto:northerndonks@gmail.com)) and let her know which dates you can make or pop a message on the Group's WhatsApp!



*Enjoy getting out and about in the fresh air this autumn.*

*This lovely picture from Karen Burn at Hunting Hall in Northumberland is one of two gorgeous pictures gracing our new home page on the DBS' national website – check it out [www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk) !*



## 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](mailto:pam.moon@talktalk.net)

### Area Rep – North & East Yorkshire/Cleveland – Pat Mather

Pat: 07850 584785 [pat\\_mather@msn.com](mailto:pat_mather@msn.com)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:harrison.anm@hotmail.co.uk)

### Area Rep – South Yorkshire - Jane Bramwell

Jane: 01433 620110 [l.jane.bramwell@gmail.com](mailto:l.jane.bramwell@gmail.com)

### Area Rep – Northumberland – Geraldine Burton

Geraldine: 01434 681335 [gadburton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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

## Christmas Cards!!

DBS Christmas cards are 100% recyclable and plastic free. The greeting inside reads: 'Season's Greetings'. £4.50 per pack of 10 to include postage. The following members have cards for sale:

Olwen 01457 762336; Pam 07842 535993

Sarah B 07970375562 (leave a message please as the signal is terrible and I will get back to you!)

Either send a cheque made payable to the **Northern Region of the DBS** or pay via bank transfer: 'Northern Region of the Donkey Breed Society', ref: Cards, sort code 30-96-26, account number 59780068.

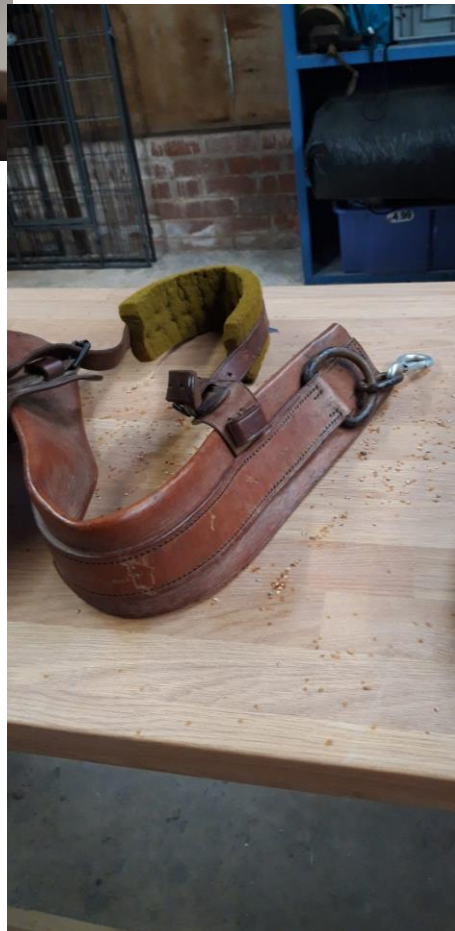


## Let me just collar you for a second . . .



Take a look at these two full split collars and a working breast collar. The lady who very kindly brought them to the Show to pass on to a new home(s) would just like a donation to the DBS Northern Region plus postage if sent; this is a generous gesture, thank you.

If you are interested and would like further details, contact Pam Moon 07842 535993.





## Before we go . . . just time for a totally yummy recipe from Joy!

### Courgette Cake (Serves 8)

200g courgettes	200g sunflower oil, plus extra for greasing the tin
300 g caster sugar	300 g Self raising flour
3 eggs	Zest of 1 large lime
200g mascarpone or cream cheese (you could use half and half)	
1 tbsp icing sugar	3 tbsp lemon curd

Pre heat the oven to 180c/Gas 4. Grease and line a 20cm cake tin.

✚ Grate the courgettes. Beat the sunflower oil and caster sugar together in a bowl until combined. Add the self-raising flour and the eggs and beat again until smooth. Fold in the courgettes along with grated lime zest.

✚ Once fully incorporated pour into the prepared tin and bake for 45-55 mins or until golden and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Set aside to cool.

**For the topping:** beat the mascarpone or cream cheese (or both) with the icing sugar until smooth and spreadable. Spread on top of the cake. Spoon the lemon curd on top and use a round edged knife to swirl into the mascarpone creating little pools of the curd to decorate.



*This was my attempt. It did taste lovely! [Ed.]*

## And finally . . .



Sarah Standing's gorgeous donkeys also appear on the new home page of our National website, singing to their owner!

[www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk)

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### **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](mailto:northerndonks@gmail.com). **Deadline for the Winter/Festive issue: 16.12.21.**

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