SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT FOR AGM 2021

Another year of restrictions and keeping your distance hasn't made life easy for any of us.  However here in the South West we have still managed, when rules were relaxed enough, to have a few get togethers.

We have mainly met at Briony Wild's as her home is a fairly central location and she has had enough donkeys to go round anyone who could come!  We had Christmas and Easter Rug making days.  Always wonderful to see what people can come up with for the donkeys!

Meanwhile down in Cornwall Tessa Farthing, her friends and her donkeys set off on a five day trek from Mabe to St Michaels Mount raising funds for The Brooke.  I remember her telling me how generous people had been who she met along the route.  Fortunately she was mainly blessed with good weather and raised an amazing amount of money.

Much more recently Briony hosted a DBS Awards Day and by the end six people obtained a Bronze and one a Silver.

The biggest event of the year was the Donkeyfest again held at Brionys.  Thirty one people attended which was an amazing turnout.  Some people came and brought their own donkeys whilst others again borrowed a donkey for the day.  Sue and Bart from Clovelly were kind enough to bring some new obstacles for an agility course and scored all those taking part.  Although Briony already has an agility course set up, it was great for the donkeys to see new and scary things they had not come across before!  The afternoon was devoted to driving.  Sadly the event was rather curtailed due to the weather but I think it is safe to say that everyone enjoyed the event and there were many calls for it to be held again next year!!

The region has gained quite a few new members and I have managed to get around and visit those that live reasonably locally.  It is lovely to meet so many enthusiastic people and of course their donkeys, which are a mixture of donkeys from The Donkey Sanctuary and also privately purchased.

We have plans in the offing to get together again for Halloween and possibly a Christmas social somewhere.  Also we are hopeful that Gemma from The Donkey Sanctuary may be able to come sometime and give us a talk on Donkey Dentistry.

All in all considering the restrictions we have all had to face I think we have had a pretty good year!

Liz Barrett

Regional Delegate, South West Region

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