

ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



It's the Festive Edition! Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and very best wishes for a fabulous 2022!

Dear All,

A very happy Christmas to you and your families and friends!

It has been such a strange year for many and for so many different reasons. We were sad to learn of the death of DBS member Josie Mackenzie and send our love to her daughter Fliss. Josie was a real character and Terri Morris has written a fitting Obituary, see p4.

It has been good to get back to some shows and other events too and good to meet up with people we haven't seen for ages. Well done to those that managed to get out to some shows and thank you for sending in your points. We hope you enjoy the celebratory pictures that we were able to take. Some of you have your rosettes and certificates but unfortunately it was the weather that prevented us from getting together for an official 'prizegiving'! Do send us your pictures however, and we will feature them in our next issue.

We're hoping to be out and about in the Region, supporting Area Reps as they host Area events this year, so it will be good to see everyone and find out about the sorts of things you would like us to be organising for you in the future. In fact, why wait until then, get in touch with your Area Rep and make some suggestions!

In January there will be a Calendar of Regional Events winging its way to you. In the meantime, stay safe and have a really good festive season.

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

In the News this Festive Season . . .



A huge well done to all those who have put the Northern Region on the map through participation in local, regional and national events, flying the flag for the DBS this year!

Whether out in your local communities, participating in DBS Awards, ADA (the Active Donkey Awards), PRA (Pleasure Riding Awards), driving, showing, socialising or contributing your stories and pictures of donkeys to a wider audience through magazines and newsletters, or just simply telling your friends about the DBS and how donkeys should be celebrated for their differences, we THANK YOU!



National and Regional Accolades – Well done Northern Region!!

It's a further well done to Northern Region members that have attained National Awards this year. **Pictures of showing points Champions, certificate holders and rosette winners later in this copy of *Asspire!***

Well done to our Secretary, Sarah Booth who scooped up the Marjorie Dunkels' Award for 'bringing the donkey into the wider public domain'. Sarah said, 'this Award is really for *everyone* out there doing marvellous things with their donkeys! I absolutely love telling people about the work of the Donkey Breed Society. However, I can't be a useful PR person if I don't have something to relate to the public and I can't relay it if people aren't doing it, so yes, this Award is for all those actively spreading the donkey love and, importantly, letting me

know about it!'

More well dones and thank yous . . .

Thank you to local businesses that have helped us to raise money with the **War Horse Memorial** organisation through supporting the Purple Poppy Campaign. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Particular thank yous to:

Hope Valley Saddlery at Somerford Park
www.hopevalleysaddlery.co.uk



The Equestrian Shop at Chelford Farm Supplies
www.chelfordfarmsupplies.co.uk

Thank you also to:

R & E Bamfords, Midge Hall Lane, Leyland founded in 1883 with an amazing history! Now in the hands of a third generation of Bamfords! Check out their website link at www.bamfords.co.uk.



Lymefield Garden Centre, Broadbottom, Hyde.
www.lymefield.com

If you have a local saddlery, pet store or garden centre that might be willing to participate in future Purple Poppy Campaign collections, please let me know: northerndonks@gmail.com. Half of all monies collected goes to the War Horse Memorial Organisation, that supports a range of animal charities, and half to our local Region.

And while we're on the theme of War Horse and Purple Poppies, our Northern Juniors' favourite, Colin, has been chosen as 'February' on the War Horse Memorial Organisation's virtual calendar for 2022! Well done Colin, you were chosen for the part you play and the differences you make to the lives of people in your local community.

<https://thewarhorsememorial.org>



Obituary

Josie Mackenzie



It was with great sorrow that we learned of the recent passing of Josie Mackenzie. She had been ill for some time with Dementia and seemed very frail the last time we saw her at a show some while ago, but it is sad to hear that we have lost another friend from the donkey community.

I can't remember exactly when John and I first met Josie, but I know it was many years ago at an instructional day at the Donkey Sanctuary Holding Station at Buxton. I don't recall the exact details but seem to recollect that Josie and her friend, Julie, were late arriving because Josie had been involved in some sort of accident and turned up in bandages though typically still determined to come and enjoy the day.

After that we often encountered her, either at DBS meetings and AGMS, the fun Christmas dog show and dinner that Jill Coupe used to put on in North Yorkshire or donkey shows around the country where her horsebox bearing the legend 'Mrs M's Donkeys' would often seem to get stuck or lost getting to or off the showground. Lovely person that she was, she was notorious for managing to get into various scrapes!

Each year we would go to her home village of Owston Ferry in North Lincolnshire to take a couple of our smaller donkeys to the All Miniature Show where we would all enter the classes they held for small standard donks; so we were familiar with the land round there. When our William developed a hoof problem which required him to be on lighter soil and flatter pastures than we were able to provide, Josie very kindly offered to take him for his convalescent period, so he travelled to stay with her. As is his happy go lucky personality he immediately made himself at home and Josie laughingly recounted to us how he let the whole village know of his arrival by braying loudly on his first night. She also told us how she found it difficult to believe that he, in his typically good-natured way, was allowed to share a feed bucket with her oldest mare who had never been known to deign to share with anyone before! That's our William for you!

A keen carriage driving enthusiast, participant in the Active Donkey Award Scheme and a Northern Region DBS Area Representative for many years, Josie was a great character and will be much missed. Our deepest condolences go to her daughter, Fliss, who is caring for Josie's two remaining older donkeys while the younger one, Miss Wickham (Aka Missy) is now enjoying an active life with Sarah Booth and her family.

Terri Morris.



Pam Moon and Liz Brown

Well done Northern Region!

Congratulations to all who all those who sent in their Showing Points – we celebrated considerable Northern and National attainment!!

Northern Champions as follows:

In Hand - Joint Champions: Wychbrook Desert Rose and Beechfield Stirling Silver

Reserve: Perehill Alchemilla

Driven Champion: Haggood

Reserve Champion: Toadflax of Brownroad

Juniors Joint Champions: Amber Taylor and Daniel Street

Reserve: Reuben Moon

All those submitting showing points received beautiful certificates for their donkeys!

Some of our members received their Northern and National rosettes and certificates at a Greater Manchester/Lancashire Area gathering/training day recently and also at their Christmas Lunch! Sarah Booth was presented with flowers from the Region, in recognition of her receiving the Marjorie Dunkels Award.

Terri Morris also presented Olwen with the ADA cup, which was gratefully received on behalf of Colin!

Please send in pictures of you and your rosettes for our next issue!!



Mother and daughter, Olwen and Liz Brown



Terri and John Morris with Sarah Booth



Olwen receives the ADA trophies, on behalf of Colin, from Terri Morris



Liz Ross receives her showing points rosette and certificate from Chair, Liz Brown



Liz and Don Ross collect further much-deserved certificates and rosettes from Liz Brown



And well done Northern Juniors!!

Huge well done to Amber Taylor from Holmes Chapel and her donkey Missy who picked up the National Junior Showing Points Trophy this year. And many congratulations to Daniel Street and Amber, who are our Joint Northern Showing Points Junior Champions for 2021.



Congratulations also to our Reserve Junior Champion, Rueben Moon, displaying a very smart rosette and who is developing a great seat on the gorgeous BooBoo.

Very well done Izzy Brewis, who has partnered Colin in showing classes this year and has attained a beautiful ice-blue rosette.

Well done to *all* our Juniors for your enthusiasm and developing donkey skills.



Colin's Column . . .



(The thoughts of a much loved and very versatile Northern donkey!)

Dear Juniors,

Are you getting excited? It is nearly Christmas, I am hoping to get a big bag of carrots to share on Christmas Day!

I expect your donkeys will be busy at Christmas. I am going to be in a Nativity Play outdoors on Christmas Eve.

I was very proud to be told that I had won the ADA (Active Donkeys Award) cup for 2021. ADA is great. You should all join your donkeys so when you do an activity such as a walk, or a church service, or any other activity you can keep a list and when you have done 8 (or this year 6, because of the virus) send it to the ADA organizer. Your donkey will then get a lovely rosette or a shield, or a velvet rosette or a crystal block with its photo on (I have got one) depending on how many years they have done ADA. It is great fun!

I am having an outdoor party on January 2nd at 2.00 pm. All juniors are invited but please let Olwen know if you are coming so she can make enough cakes.

Have a lovely Christmas Juniors and I will see you in 2022!

Love, Colin X

PS I have had some questions sent to me. Here they are, on the next page, along with my answers.



He's wise and he's here to answer your questions!

Ask Colin . . .

Amber, Age 6

Q What is your favourite time of year?

A Thank you for your questions Amber. My favourite time of year is Christmas. I go to churches and carry a little girl dressed as Mary. Sometimes I help Father Christmas carrying presents on my pack saddle. It is very exciting and I love looing at the beautiful decorations (sometimes I have a little nibble, holly is delicious!).

Q How do you keep warm in winter?

A At the end of summer I start to grow a new lot of hair. As it gets colder it grows thicker, so in winter I have a warm hairy coat. It is not waterproof so I go in my stable when it rains.

Izzy, Age 4

Q Who is your best friend?

A Thank you for your questions Izzy. My best friend is called Romance. She is from France and has a posh name – Romance du Bocage. Romance is the same age as me and we live in the same stable.

Q What is your favourite food?

A As you know Izzy, I am very fond of food. I like to spend my time looking for it. In summer I love grass and Olwen's roses and in winter I like carrots and pony nuts when I can sneak in the food store and help myself! (This makes Olwen very cross.)

(Amber's Uncle) Edward, Age 32 yrs and 11 months.

Q How much horse power can a donkey produce?

A This person obviously doesn't know much about donkeys! The question is *the wrong way round*. It should read – *how much donkey power* can a horse produce? Donkeys may be smaller than a horse but they have **STRENGTH**, super strength. They have **ENDURANCE** rather than speed and keep going when horses fail – **DONKEYS RULE!!**

Remember, you can send your questions to Olwen and she will pass them to Colin in time for our next edition of *Asspire!* *Keep them coming, Colin is a very clever donkey!*

What a Journey!

Allison Roberts takes us on a monumental journey of total dedication and triumph over adversity, on many levels . . .

You may not have been able to travel much in the last year or two, so let me take you on a journey, a donkey-journey that is. It all started way back in March when my two boys spent 12 days in a nearby hospital to cure Dougal's sinus problem – or so we thought, for once home it recurred, even worsened. After several treatments of differing antibiotics, some oral, others injected, that made no difference, the boys were booked into the Royal Dick Vet hospital in Edinburgh for another intervention. The date was fixed for 25th August; transport was booked.

But on the 12, the Glorious Twelfth that is, Hamish went lame, so our vet was called out. She dug deep to find an abscess, poulticed and wrapped the foot, prescribed Bute and left me with lots of instructions for dressing changes. At breakfast on the 14th I could see little Hamish was poorly; suspecting colic I called for another vet visit. Indeed, it was colic - more meds and more instructions. On the 15th Hamish was worse, so out came one of the vets again, more meds, more instructions. You'll be familiar with how this goes . . . in the middle of the night I popped out to check on my patient; guess what.... the vet had to come again in the wee small hours; this time Hamish was tubed in an effort to get things moving; that is not a pleasant intervention!

Such was his concern that the vet came three times in the next 24 hours. Stress-related colic caused by the abscess was the diagnosis by now. The boys were separated in their roomy stable so that I could monitor what went in and came out of the patient! (There was almost nothing to report on that front by the way). That meant a pretty constant presence in the stable, reassuring both boys, fetching lots of buckets with fresh warm water to tempt Hamish to drink, and changing dressings too. Two vet visits were needed the next day, the second again during the night. I'd found Hamish lying flat out with his head thrown back, not moving; that was a real moment of panic. If you've ever found one of your donkeys like that you'll know that each second it takes the vet to appear feels like an aeon, and you'll know too that you dash in and out of the stable, torn between reassuring, even encouraging your beloved donkey and checking for signs of an approaching vehicle. Another tubing session was called for, this time with countless litres of medicines and salts.

And just when you think it couldn't get worse it did; for while I was holding Hamish's head for the vet as he inserted the tube deep into his patient's tummy, Hamish jerked his head – "Ping" went something in my chest but I held on grimly till the deed was done. What matter my pain if we were making Hamish better? Hmmm, I could scarcely move or breathe next morning, though there was evidence of the medicine working at last for little Hamish!

The vet appeared next morning to check on his patient and to puzzle over the lack of discharge on the hoof poultice. But as Hamish was standing, the vet advised me to let the boys out into the paddock to browse –



Doctor Green was what he prescribed! And indeed that worked for 48 hours. By this time I had been diagnosed with cracked ribs – I couldn't do much in terms of lifting feed, water, changing dressings or stable cleaning.

Two days later the vet had to come again! Hamish had all the classic signs of laminitis now on all four feet. Huge quantities of meds were the order of the day now, a deep, deep bed of straw was prepared and back to the constant monitoring we went. With Hamish too unwell to travel the hospital trip was postponed.

You may have gathered a small team of three vets was involved, with much three-way discussion of "their donkey's" issues. They came up with stress-induced lami that was to be treated with yet more pain relief and additionally with Styrofoam pads taped on all four feet. Try keeping these in place for days on end.

A tiny temporary paddock was created by the stable door so Hamish could lie on grass in the sun while Dougal could use the full paddock. (I must confess to sitting in the sun with Hamish – the two of us recovering together!). Days passed with no improvement followed by a gradual return towards more normal behaviour so that we dared plan the Edinburgh hospital visit again, but I asked the vets to book in Hamish as a patient too – we needed to know what was going on.

On 21st September off they went. On the very day they arrived, the specialists started work, speedily diagnosing a keratoma as the Hamish problem. (A keratoma is a benign tumour growing inside the hoof that can be surgically removed.).



What wonderful people were looking after the boys and me – they were sure both boys' conditions were operable, offering heaps of reassurance many times a day. The boys had different teams looking after them so I had frequent updates, all upbeat. Both boys were anaesthetised for their interventions the very next day and recovered quickly – I know because the hospital team kept me posted all the way. Dougal seemingly had bits of dead bone in his sinus that were removed and then his sinus repeatedly flushed out. (Had he been hit before the Donkey Sanctuary rescued him?).

Home they came on the 30th of September, happier than when they departed! They left a fan club behind in Edinburgh.

To help them down the ramp into their stable was wonderful. Of course, they came with meds and instructions. Now, Dougal seems cured. In Hamish's case, even today he sports two rubber boots, one covering the dressings on the wound, the other as a counterbalance. Imagine - five separate layers of dressing inside that boot that had to be changed every two,

then three days which made for a steep learning curve, especially with painful ribs to contend with at the start. What a slick operation it is now, with a compliant patient what's more. Daily excursions out of the stable, in hand started mid-October, with a limit of five minutes to start with.

It's now December. Now we can do several kilometers daily, with plenty of browsing stops along the way and no more vet visits as follow-up; we've even started half hour sessions in the paddock at liberty. The boots will

come off once the cavity has filled in with solid hoof tissue in the next month or two, then it's back to the former expeditions over the fells. We can't wait! I started this saga saying travel for holidays had not been possible since the start of the pandemic – in our case, thank goodness, for what we saved on travel went towards the monumental vet and hospital bills!

Why do we do it? It's because you're worth it boys!
(Ed.)



A very Merry Christmas
and a wonderfully Happy
New Year
to all our Vets and their Practice Staff,
and all our Region's amazing Fab Farriers!!

(Just three of which are pictured here. Don't forget you can still nominate your farrier in 2022!)

History in our Region

The beginning of a new series of interesting moments and/or places in time that link in some way to horses, mules, donkeys and ponies, and have their roots in our Region.

Thank you to Liz Ross for telling us about . . .

The Training of Horses and Mules for Service during the First World War

At Lathom Park near Ormskirk

Lathom House and Park dates to the 11th century. In the 15th century, the lordship passed through marriage from the Lathoms to the Stanley family. In the mid-17th century, the Stanley family enriched and enhanced Lathom Park. In 1714 the estate was transferred by the marriage of the ninth earl of Derby's daughter to Lord Ashburnham. Ashburnham subsequently sold the estate to Henry Furnesse. In 1724 Lathom Park became the property of Thomas Bootle of Melling. Bootle commissioned the fashionable Italian architect, Giacomo Leoni, to re-build Lathom House in the neo-classical style. Currently, only one wing of the house survives. The main block of Lathom House was demolished in 1925, with the remaining west wing converted into apartments. The chapel is still in use today.



In 1914 however, at the start of the First World War, Edward Bootle-Wilbraham, the 3rd Lord Lathom, offered the War Department the use of Lathom Park for the training of horses and mules for war. Lathom Park was one of the three remounting centres set up in the United Kingdom. Some horses were trained for mounted cavalry while others were put to harness to pull wagons and artillery guns. It is thought that the animals were well cared for while in training at Lathom, with good veterinary and farriery facilities.

- Over 200,000 animals were trained on the park between 1914 and 1917 before being sent for active service along with the soldiers.
- Horses and mules came from South Africa, Argentina and Ireland by sea arriving at the Port of Liverpool to be transported by rail to Ormskirk and on to Lathom Park, approximately 4 miles away.



- Some of the mules brought over from Canada could be up to 16hh.
- Many animals were lost during transport when the ships were attacked by U-boats before arriving in Liverpool. Some of this is a very hard read indeed.

- However, horses deemed to be unfit or lame could be treated at a veterinary centre based at Scarisbrick Hall which is now a school. Some were retained for local farm work and not sent to war.
- Mares acquired for training but were found to be in foal on arrival, were fostered out to local farmers who were able to keep the foal after it was weaned, and the mother later went into training. A local coal merchant from Apply Bridge acquired a Canadian mare who had a colt foal that the family named Prince. The mare went off to be trained but was found to be temperamentally unsuitable. The coal merchant eventually broke Prince to harness and he lived with the family for many years.



North America.

The depot provided work for many local people who, in 1915, were all militarised as it was cheaper to employ them than civilians. 250-300 men were permanent staff at Lathom Park but a total of 5,649 men passed through with infantry training and equine skills before going to the Western Front. Fred Ginnett, owner of a Derbyshire Circus, donated shelter tents to protect the animals from bad weather. He also brought his Mexican trick riders, from the circus, to deal with the difficult wild horses from

It is sad to think that the average life of a cavalry horse was 5 years and an army draught horse, 7 years. It is important to remember, and as a Society this is why we have partnered up with the War Horse Memorial Organisation, that **an estimated 484,000 horses and mules were either killed in action or died through disease during the Great War of 1914 – 1918.**

During 1916-1919 unfit horses and mules were being sold in countries around the world but with concern for their welfare brought to the notice of Lord Derby, the RSPCA and the Blue Cross Fund raised money to return the British animals back to England. They also provided shelters, blankets and bandages for use at the front.

Finally, as many of you probably know, the novel by Michael Morpurgo – *War Horse* – made into a film and a stage play, depicts the story of Albert Narracott and his horse, Joey, during World War One.

References

- War Horses in West Lancashire – www.imyurarea.co.uk
- Real World War One Horses . . . www.liverpoolecho.co.uk – Michael Byrne.
- Lathom House and Park Wikipedia
- Local Historian, Richard Houghton.

If you have some history on your doorstep that would be interesting to share, do get in touch. If you don't fancy writing an article, send us some details and we will research and do the rest!!
northerndonks@gmail.com.

Olwen's Top Tips for Winter



Allow **access to hard standing** wherever possible.



Keep off mud!



Prevent boredom – get creative, tie old towels or bathmats to the fence; provide wellingtons for play too. You might also try: logs (most love apple!), tyres, hay balls, treat balls (although perhaps not around horses as they tend to startle them).



If spending some **time in a sand paddock, bed on shavings** to absorb moisture from hooves.



Check your donkeys' body condition score every month to check they're not losing weight or gaining it and becoming too fat.



Make sure they have a **constant supply of fresh water** – donkeys drink more than you would think in winter.



Rugging – think: your location, the age and health status of your donkey, the condition of your donkey's stabling/shelter, prevailing weather. If your donkeys are old, in poor health and the weather poses a problem, then rug; particularly those who cannot easily maintain body weight (perhaps they have poor teeth). Young, healthy donkeys with thick coats do not need rugging (if the snow's not melting on their backs, they are well insulated!). It's common sense really!

At the end of the day, you know your donkeys. You want the very best for them. If you are still not sure and you have a question, do contact your Area Rep or one of the Regional Committee. Don't worry that your question might seem daft, nobody will ever think this, we're here to support one another in doing the very best for *all* our donkeys.



It's the Region's Winter Gallery . . .

Thank you for sending in your pictures.



Before the leaves had all fallen, Luke and Charlotte take to their local lanes.



Welcome to Charlotte, who we hear, on good authority, would like to be a vet. Charlotte is enjoying getting some good donkey-handling practice with Luke and Pat. Mum, Suzanne, is also getting involved (below).

Thank you to Annie Dundas for these photographs.



. . . for the RNLI in Hartlepool

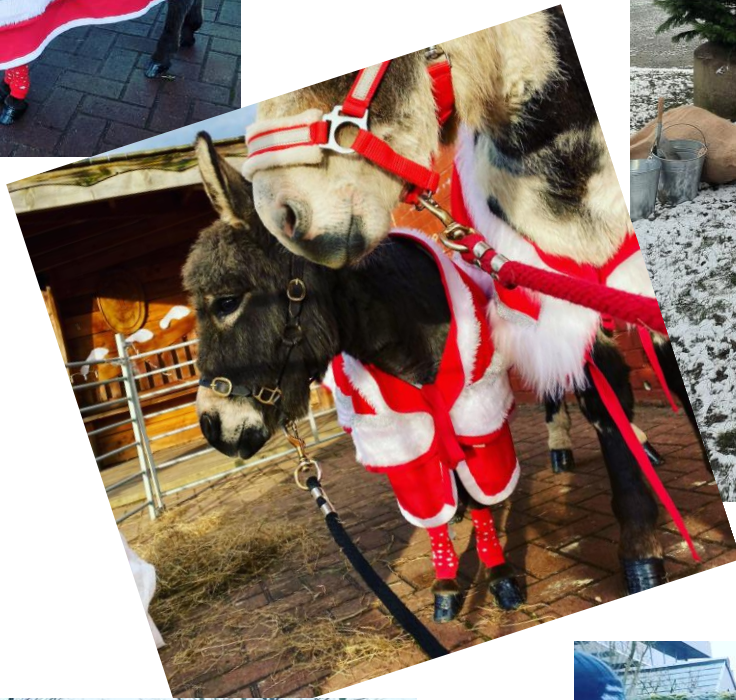
Helping to raise funds for some very worthy causes are Blackberry Donkeys . . .

Thank you to Marie for these pictures and the festive ones that follow on the next page!

P.17 Joseph and Sox are at Middlesborough Central Library and at Beamish and Hobo, Joseph and Bandit, together with mini, Teddy, visit schools for teach-ins and nativities.



. . . for Thornley Village Fun Day, Durham



Joy's Joyous Festive Fare!

Ginger Sponge Squares

Gorgeous ginger flavoured sponge and lemon icing!

3oz butter
2oz demerara sugar
8oz golden syrup
8oz SR Four
Pinch of salt
2 tsp ground ginger
1 large egg
2 ½ fl oz milk
Lemon glacé icing and Crystallised ginger to decorate



Heat oven to 325 F or Mk 3 and grease and line an 8" square baking tin.

- Melt butter, syrup and sugar over a gentle heat and do not allow it to become too hot.
- Sift flour, salt and ginger into a bowl and stir in the syrup mixture.
- Break an egg into the milk and beat together. Add to the mixture and stir well.
- Pour into the tin and spread out. Bake for 45 minutes and then turn out on a wire rack to cool.
- When cold, ice with lemon glacé icing.
- Cut into squares and decorate each square with crystallised ginger.

Yummy! Enjoy!

Pistachio and Cranberry Cookies (makes 22)



175g butter, softened
85g golden caster sugar
½ tsp vanilla extract
225g plain flour
75g pistachios
75g dried cranberries

Heat oven to 180C /160C fan/Gas4 and line a baking tray with baking parchment

- Mix butter, sugar and vanilla extract with a wooden spoon.
- Stir in the flour then tip in the pistachios and cranberries.
- Now get your hands in and mix together as if mixing a dough.
- Halve and then shape each half into a log about 5cm across. Wrap in

cling film and chill for 1hr or, at this point you could freeze it for up to 3 months!

- Slice the logs into 1 cm thick rounds and place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment.

- Bake for 12 – 15 minutes.
- If you can resist them, cool completely!

Enjoy!!



A little bit of a Quiz!

(Answers in the next edition of *Asspire!*)

Where on earth?

Take a look at these pictures. Can you identify the location?
They are both taken at the same place!



The Eyes Have it!



This is a two-parter: 1. Who are these three? And 2. Do you know where they were? [Clue: it was on the 13th November – lucky for some!]

In which year . . . ?

1. was the Society formed? And what was it originally known as?
2. was the name changed to the Donkey Breed Society?
3. was the Stud Book set up?
4. did the first national DBS Supreme Championship Show take place?
5. did the Society become a registered Charity?



And finally, a 'Caption Competition'!

What is being said? (On the left.) Or what should the caption read?

Send your answers to: northerndonks@gmail.com!

And remember, it's all just for fun!!



What's on in 2022?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL NOTICE:

***Look out for our list of Regional Events
coming to your in-tray in January.***

Lots to interest everyone from Training Days, Driving opportunities, Shows, to Walks, Awards Sessions and Social Events. We're also taking a trip to Bennington Carriages and we will be holding a big training event, central to the Region, with something for everyone! In fact, covid-willing this looks like being a very exciting year!

There will be events for Juniors too, together with Junior workshops within events for all members. Juniors, remember Colin's invite to his New Year Party on 2nd January – see Colin's column – but do remember to ring Olwen to let her know if you are able to come.

Older Juniors and Student members, we would love to hear from you too – how can we enrich your membership of the DBS? Do pop an email to Sarah at northerndonks@gmail.com, with your suggestions.

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!

For details of all forthcoming events, 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.

Useful numbers:

Northern Region Chair and Regional Delegate: Liz Brown, 07517382472

Northern Region Secretary & Hon. PR Officer UK: 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

DBS Awards Regional Link & Training: Olwen Brown 01457 762336

ADA: Terri and John Morris 01274 835520

Colley Mill Donkeys Junior Club (DBS Affiliated Club): Sarah Booth, as above.

AREA REPS:

Introduce yourself to your Area Rep and say 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 – Pat Mather

Pat: 07850 584785 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

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

Area Rep – Cumbria - Ann Marie Harrison

Ann Marie: harrison.anm@hotmail.co.uk

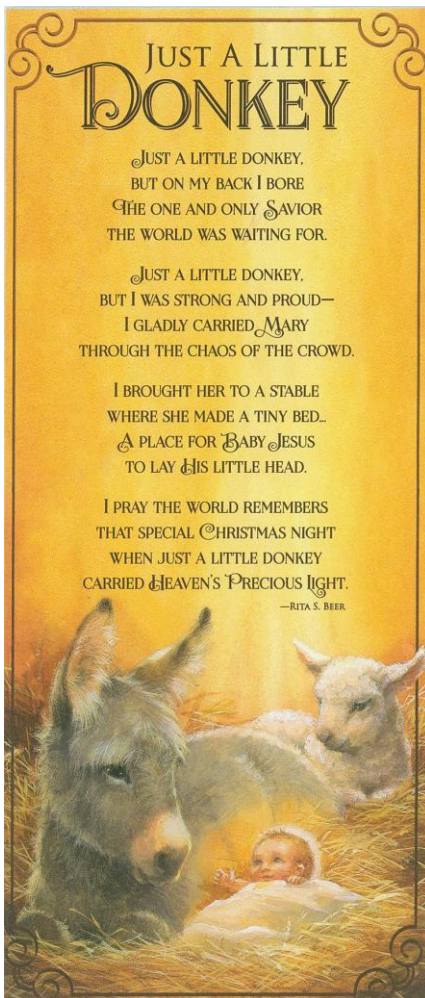
Area Rep – South Yorkshire - Jane Bramwell

Jane: 01433 620110 l.jane.bramwell@gmail.com

Area Rep – Northumberland – Geraldine Burton

Geraldine: 01434 681335 gadburton@yahoo.co.uk

And on reflection . . .



Wherever this finds you this Christmas, we hope you have a peace-filled time. Let us all look forward to 2022 with hope, optimism, and a shared love of our wonderful 'long-ears'!



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. **Deadline for the next issue: 2nd April, 2022.**

We will be continuing our series on pack saddles and panniers, please contribute your tales, pictures and advice. Thank you.

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