

# The Donkey

2021



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# **DONKEY**



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### **WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING LEAFLETS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO OUR MEMBERS:**

*The Donkey*  
*How to Look After Your Donkey Correctly*  
*The Aims of the Society*  
*The History of the Society*  
*Worming Your Donkey*  
*How to Help Your Farrier*  
*Dental Care Information for Owners*  
(those leaflets above are included as part of the new members' joining pack)

### **OTHER LEAFLETS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

*Riding Your Donkey*  
*Long Reining Your Donkey*  
*Driving Your Donkey*  
*Donkey Conformation Guidelines*  
*First Aid for Donkeys*  
*Travelling Your Donkey*  
*Showing Your Donkey*

These leaflets are also available to non members for a £2 donation per leaflet including postage

*Talking about death – the death of a donkey is very sad. Friends at the End can help all owners.*

Many members will have BHS Gold membership, although the service is open to all. If you feel that you might benefit from talking to someone through the Friends at the End scheme, contact BHS Welfare on 02476 840517 or [friendsattheend@bhs.org.uk](mailto:friendsattheend@bhs.org.uk) and they'll put you in touch with your nearest Friend.

## Welcome to the Donkey

The pages of this magazine reflect the love and respect that members have for donkeys. They also show the resilience of members during lock down, carrying on having fun with their donkeys, learning about donkey care and keeping in touch with each other as a Society. Again I am humbled by all the activities members enjoy and by their care for the donkey. This year the Donkey Breed Society gave a substantial donation to six charities and what this means to them and how it was spent, is to be found within the magazine. With the loss of the summer Breed Show again, we decided to look to the future and have news and photos of members' foals who have no idea what world they have come into, simply one to play in, sunbathe and be with their constantly caring mothers.

## So where for this year?

It's still a bit up in the air although we are cautiously optimistic. At the time of going to print, the show list is correct and some are still going ahead. There will be guidelines for those attending and these will be sent out to exhibitors and can also be found on the Donkey Breed website. These too change, are reviewed and updated, so do keep up to date if you plan to go to a show.

Check Bray Talk and your local newsletter for details of events in your area. Our area (Eastern) has some walks and some training pencilled in and we hope that will all go ahead.

We now have a You Tube channel as well to show our webinars which we are developing to cover the entire range of donkey care and activities – if there is anything you really want to know



about then do tell us. So far we have covered feeding, worming, vaccinations and skin care. These will be a reference point for years to come.

Enjoy your donkeys and hope we can all meet in person this year

*Liz Wright*

### MAIN FRONT COVER PICTURE:

Jade Weaver has taken the photo of her donkey, Secret, wearing the rainbow outfit, which was worn for clap for carers providing joy and cheering up the neighbourhood in such uncertain times.

**Editor:** Liz Wright

**Design:** Paul Silk paulsilkdesign@gmail.com

**Printing:** East Coast Grafex Lincolnshire

With thanks to all those who have taken time to send photos and stories of their donkeys and their experiences. Without you all there would be no magazine.

All contributions can be emailed to ewright757@btinternet.com or sent to Hook House, Hook Road, Wimblington, March, Cambs PE15 0QL. Liz always replies to emails promptly so if you don't get a reply, please check that the email has been received by phoning. Ideas and comments plus readers letters are also welcomed. Please contact the Editor before sending your news and articles for guidelines on submission so that the team can do the best design possible on your piece. It is really important to put the title of your article and your name in the subject of your email.

### THE DONKEY AND THE DBS

The Donkey is the annual magazine of the Donkey Breed Society and is distributed free to its members. Additional copies are available at £3 each from the Secretary, Carol Morse, The Hermitage, Pootings, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6SD.

The Editor welcomes articles, letters and contributions for publication in The Donkey so long as they are signed by the writer and include the writer's name and address.

- Deadline is 10th January 2022, but your articles and photos are welcome all year round.
- Any material written anonymously will be rejected.
- Furthermore, any contribution with the exception of reports from the Chairman and Secretary, whether or not it bears the author's name, initials or a pseudonym, is only accepted on the understanding that its author is responsible for the opinions expressed and that its publication does not necessarily imply such opinions are in agreement with DBS Council policy. The Society also publishes the Bray Talk news journal three times a year. Details of how to join the Society or how to submit copy are included on page 58 of this magazine.

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

### AND THE MAJORIE DUNKELLS AWARD GOES TO

Our Chair, Carole Travell. The Marjorie Dunkells Award is given each year to the person who has done the most to bring the Donkey Breed Society to the attention of the public. It is not an award for work done within the Society, it is the external facing focus which is the important aspect. Carole Travell is the recipient for 2020 for the work she has done to raise awareness of the Society through holding online photo-shows and encouraging all donkey owners to enter – many for the first time, thereby introducing

them to, and promoting the DBS. Several have since become members.

### COULD YOU BENEFIT FROM THE DBS BURSARY FUND?

The DBS Educational Bursary Fund is open to students of any age, to assist with the acquisition of books and publications or tools and equipment that would enable the student to improve the welfare of donkeys particularly in the United Kingdom but also throughout the World. Additionally requests of financial support towards the cost of publications of

theses on the donkey will be considered. Bursaries are not available to fund travel costs. To apply for a bursary, please complete an application form (available from the Society Secretary) and attach a personal statement detailing how you meet the criteria, and demonstrating what you can bring to improving the welfare of the donkey.

Applications can be made any time of the year, however the panel making the decisions will only meet twice a year after the Society Finance Meetings in April and October

# THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

*Carole Travell welcomes you to this issue of The Donkey*

**A** year like no other! Who would have thought that we would still be living in a world of lockdowns and facemasks, but at least we now have vaccinations and (hopefully) a way out of this.



It has been such a strange year with only the occasional chance to get out and about and meet up in the gaps between lockdowns. There have been very few social events, training days, group walks or shows. However on a positive note there has been a great deal going on in individual yards and via social media. I know many people avoid social media, but it has been a breath of fresh air for others to enable them to chat and share good ideas. Many of the photos and videos have been inspiring, seeing cautious donkeys building in confidence as they have learnt to enjoy new experiences, going for walks and generally building better relationships between the owner and their animals. This is all a great basis for having more fun, once restrictions lift.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Various online photo shows, activity challenges and online educational talks have been held and several of these ideas are being taken forward as excellent ways of spreading information. Check out the website to see the latest news on what is planned and what is already available.

Our Society meetings, including our AGM, have been held by online means. It is very odd at first, and there is a bit less 'tea and chat' but we have managed to 'meet', keep the admin side of the Society functioning and also to plan for how best we can interact during lockdowns, as well as look forward to bigger and better



things as soon as we can. Again, there has been a positive side to this. People who may otherwise have felt unable to attend a physical meeting can happily join from their armchair and even those who can make the journey to a meeting are much happier not spending several hours on the road. Meetings can (and have been) far more inclusive, and the wider range of people who join in, the better the Society should be able to reflect the interests of all members. If you have never thought of joining a committee, maybe now is the time to think again? You do not need to be an expert in whatever the topic is, quite the reverse! If you are someone who doesn't think they get what is needed from

perhaps Championship Show or Stud Book or Education & Youth, then we need your input to improve things!

## ROLL ON GETTING OUT TO 'PLAY' AGAIN

I am writing this on a cold and windy day, with the promise of a few days of real warmth ahead followed by the threat of snow showers! The winter has been so wet, and I know many, me included, have struggled with mud and worse. Roll on 'proper spring' and warm, dry days where we can get out to play and meet up with our family and friends again!

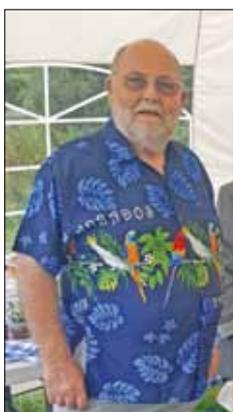
Let's hope the Chairman's report next year is looking back on a brighter year.

*Carole Travell*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**I**t was a great surprise to receive a call from Carole Travell inviting me to become the President for the Donkey Breed Society. I was honoured and humbled and I accepted.

I assure all of the members; I will do my best to represent all of you in



any way that I can and to further the aims of the Society.

On reflection, we have kept donkeys for over 40 years - our first donkey, Cassy, for twelve years before Rosemary joined the Society. We then started to meet so many lovely people and their donkeys and I became a joint member, so I have been a member now for 31 years and we were invited at about that time to become Area Representatives for Surrey and

Greater London, South of the Thames, which we still are.

We and our family have had some wonderful experiences in our time, working both for the society and all its members in so many ways. Our involvement has given us so many friends and so much pleasure over the years. We look forward to meeting up again at events particularly after this pandemic year and sharing with you our mutual love of donkeys.

Thank you all.

*John Porter*

# SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE DONKEY 2021

Welcome to the 2021 issue of The Donkey magazine. Since the last issue we have all had to adjust to a different way of life, and all our planned shows and events in 2020 were cancelled with many more this year also destined not to take place. But, instead, creativity and new ideas came to life, with our online shows and competitions which so many took part in, enjoying donkeys virtually.

In spite of these adjustments, the Society continued to operate successfully, with many new members joining, so a big welcome to them and we hope you will continue enjoying your membership of the Donkey Breed Society. Governing meetings have taken place by Zoom, including our AGM in December and this has opened up the potential for offering this method in future to enable members to attend who might otherwise have practical difficulties in doing so.

Membership renewals were due in February and we are very grateful to everyone who renewed promptly; if you know anyone who hasn't yet renewed and therefore hasn't received this magazine, your efforts to remind them would be greatly appreciated.

Our Council of Trustees/Directors has some new members this year and we offer a big welcome to: Trudy Affleck, Regional Delegate for the South; Liz Barrett, Regional Delegate for the South West; Tom Bysouth, Regional Delegate for the East; Lucy Evans, Regional Delegate for the West; Barbara Roger,



Regional Delegate for the South East, and Opal Weaver who has filled the vacancy for a National Member. The Regional Delegates oversee their regions, and are the link between the members and Council, so if you have any queries please do contact them; all their details are in the back of this magazine.

We also welcome a new President this year, John Porter. Many of you will know John, as he has been a huge stalwart and friend of the Society for many years, having successfully shown his and Rosemary's donkeys, been a member of Council and the Finance Committee, stewarded at the Championship Show and together with his family runs the South East Donkey Show.

## DBS AGM 2021

The date of the AGM this year will be Saturday 20 November 2021. We have to wait until we know more about what Covid restrictions might apply before we can decide whether it is possible to hold a physical meeting and further information will be published in the summer issue of Bray Talk. We are looking at the possibility of amending our Articles to allow members to attend future AGMs by Zoom. This was possible in 2020 as the Government made allowance for companies to do this but it was for a limited period only.

*Carol*

## CLARE BYSOUTH - BUCKS REP

Looking forward to being an Area Representative for the Donkey Breed Society. Happy to share my knowledge and experience of having donkeys with you. We have two five year old geldings who are looking forward to getting out and about again. Do get in touch if you need any help or advice and do come along to any of our activity days they're great fun! Look forward to meeting/hearing from you.

## TOM BYSOUTH - EASTERN REGIONAL DELEGATE

Many of you will know me from various events, training days and "gatherings" (oh to be able to "gather" again!) over the last few years. I'm Tom and I have just taken on the role a Regional Delegate to Council and then another new role as chair of the Eastern Region following the AGM. I'm from near Tring in Hertfordshire and by day work as a dog behaviourist both independently and with a number of national and international dog welfare charities.

I first became involved in donkeys 5 years ago when we got our then foals, quite accidentally! As they have grown into now rising 6 year olds I have become

more and more active with them and in the society. As a teenager I became involved in carriage driving and it's my aim to get "the boys" driving by the summer! I have great plans for them both driving locally and perhaps something a bit more formal at a later date."

Tom Bysouth BSc (CBT) NDAM TagTeach Dog Trainer and Behaviourist  
[www.progressivedogs.co.uk](http://www.progressivedogs.co.uk)  
07596167314

## CHRIS VOIGT Lincs AND LEICS

As the new DBS area rep for Lincolnshire and Leicestershire I thought I best introduce my donkeys and myself. I am owned by 3 donkeys, Despacito (mammoth 14.2hh), Rioja (large standard 13.5hh) and Hechizo (12hh). Both Rioja and Despacito are ridden while Hechizo, being the newbie to the herd last year, is currently still in training and is only happy to be ponied when we go hacking.

I look forward to meeting (virtually or otherwise) everyone in the Lincolnshire/Leicestershire area and hope to find some great reasons for us to get together (again, virtually or otherwise) for basics, training, talks from experts, problem solving or whatever people are interested in or want



to know more about. I would love to find out about you, your donkeys and your interests to get everyone involved in some fun as there hasn't been a rep in this area for some time.

In the meantime if you have questions, requests or would just like to talk donkey, you can find my profile on the Facebook groups for both the DBS and DBS Eastern Region pages. Feel free to message me any time

# THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES

The impact of Covid-19 on the Society's finances cannot be understated, as 2020 was a world in torment. This resulted in a reduction in the value of its investments from £115,418 at the end of 2019, which represented approximately 50% of the Society's total funds at that time, of over £20,000 by the end of 2020. Despite this large investment loss, which has partially recovered in 2021 to date, we took the opportunity in 2020 to support other donkey charities who were clearly going to struggle without public support. Six UK based charities received £1,000 each which we know has been particularly welcome.

The operation of the Society as a whole continued all year, even though meetings for the majority of the year, including our Annual General Meeting in December, took place virtually on Zoom; we took out a paid licence to allow meetings to continue without restriction. Whilst face to face contact is important there are times when

holding meetings on Zoom or some other similar product will continue once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted as the cost savings in terms of both time spent travelling to and from physical meetings at a central location and the costs associated with meeting rooms are substantial, plus we expect their convenience will ensure a greater level of attendance in the future.

The finance committee is still a very small group of members, who continue to look for new blood to join them. Formal financial qualifications are definitely not necessary, members with business interests or other experience of financial matters are encouraged to get in touch. Future committee meetings may also be held virtually, to the benefit of members.

Annual member subscriptions are our main source of regular income and we are always grateful for your financial support to the Society. Importantly they allow us to cover our main operating costs. We hope you will continue to be a member of

the Society whether you just love hearing about donkeys through print or online, or are a more active member coming along to various Society events either as a participant or a worker.

The financial statements for 2020 are in the process of being completed, unfortunately not having as many transactions to process due to Covid-19 restrictions doesn't mean the year end process is any quicker as we have to await returns from the Regions and the committees, all of whom rely on volunteers to complete the tasks.

All members are sent an abbreviated set of accounts each year and any member who requires a set of full financial statements is entitled to request a copy from the Society Secretary or they can download a copy from Companies House or the Charity Commission websites.

*Neil Glaver,*  
**Finance Committee Chairman, & Barbara Whale, Honorary Treasurer**

## CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW SUPPORTERS CLUB

### RESULTS FOR 2020

#### FEBRUARY DRAW

£30 Linda Impey  
£20 Wendy Andrews  
£10 Alan Lavender

#### MAY DRAW

£30 Clare Humphries  
£20 Pam Moon  
£10 Heather Linfield

#### SEPTEMBER DRAW

£30 Tiggy Lavender  
£20 Tiggy Lavender  
£10 Linda Impey

#### CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW DRAW

£60 Clare Humphries  
£35 Linda Impey  
£25 Rosemary Clarke  
£15 Clare Humphries  
£10 Barbara Whale  
£10 John Porter

#### AGM DRAW

£60 Brian White  
£35 Annette Staveley  
£25 Carol Travell  
£15 Rosemary Porter  
£10 Rosemary Clarke  
£10 Sue Young

### The Supporters Club exists to make money to support the DBS Championship Show

- Tickets are sold at £5 each. No limit to how many one person can hold.
- Between 50% and 80% of ticket sales to be paid out in cash prizes.
- Tickets may be bought by members and non members of the DBS
- Tickets may be bought for the current year at any time of the year but it is advantageous to buy them near the beginning of the year so that they are included in all the draws.
- Tickets bought after the last draw in any year will be valid for the next year's draws.
- Ticket holders will be notified by mail or email in early February that their renewal is due.
- There will be 5 draws this year . February (Council meeting), May (Council Meeting), August (Championship Show), September (Council Meeting) November (AGM)
- Your ticket/s will go into each draw even if it has won a prize.

If you want to be a new member of this supporters club please contact me [barbara24@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbara24@fastmail.fm) or phone 01342 312746



**Caragh Cochrane - Champion Young Handler & Champion Young Rider in 2019**

# DONKEY PASSPORTS

**The same old 'boring bureaucracy' and yes you have read and heard it before  
But, says Rosemary Clarke Passport Administrator, please do give it a look!**

I make no apology for being boring; I spend time every day trying to unpick indecipherable forms, trace payments for which the requested receipt has not been included, and wondering why the last three owners have failed to record ownership.

## **Every equine in the United Kingdom must have a passport.**

Not because they are about to go on holiday, but because you are required to have an identity document unique to them for the recording of veterinary procedures and medications and with a page signed to show whether or not they are excluded from the 'Human Food Chain'.

## **When you are applying for a passport for any donkey or pony you MUST use the latest forms.**

At the present time that is a form which you download and print yourself from the Donkey Breed Society website or one you have asked me for and I have sent a paper copy. Please destroy any previous versions of the application form which you may have saved on your computer or like me have squirreled away in a folder in your desk drawer, they do not meet current legislative requirements; their only purpose now is for lighting the fire !! Please do not mix pages from a previous version of the application form, as it will be returned to you. The application has to be scanned to create a page within the final document so I cannot use earlier versions to produce a passport which meets current legislation, nor can I use another Passport Issuing Organisation's form

## **To complete your application you will need to arrange a visit from your Veterinary Surgeon.**

They will need to microchip your donkey, draw whorls and markings on the silhouette diagram, mark the location of the microchip and the code it transmits, sign the page and apply their Practice stamp to verify that everything is correct.

## **Please do use capital letters when completing the personal owners details.**

You know where you live and your telephone number and email address, I do not and frequently have to resort to Directories to decipher post codes and house names.

## **You cannot add a 'Prefix' to your donkey's name unless it has been registered with the Central Prefix Register for use by The Donkey Breed Society.**

## **The fee for a passport application from a member, for a donkey owned by them is currently £20; £25 for non members.**

## **It is not a competition to see how small an envelope you can fold your passport forms into.**

The application says on it 'Please do not Fold' and needs to remain as smooth as possible for it to scan clearly. On arrival your envelope is currently quarantined for three days for Covid 19 infection control, so do not anticipate having your passport by return post, allow at least seven days.

## **If you relinquish a donkey to any Donkey Sanctuary, you must find the passport before departure day arrives as the original passport must accompany the donkey.**

## **You cannot change the names – your donkey only has the one passport.**

I appreciate that you may have bought a donkey whose passport refers to it as Peppercorn William, a name you didn't like and never used as you decided your new donkey looked much more like a Stanley, and Stanley is the name you put on the relinquishment form, but your donkey can only ever have one passport, and it is the one you either applied for yourself or was transferred into your name after purchase, so the original document must go with them.

## **The Equine passport is not in itself a stud book registration document.**

Although where breeding is known

and recorded in the Donkey Breed Society Stud Book a separate page of a different colour will be added to show parentage and ancestry. Registration with any other Stud Book Registry must be verified through the appropriate registry for the breed and a copy of the pedigree sent with the passport application.

## **When you sell a donkey, the passport must accompany the donkey to its new home.**

You cannot keep it is a memento, photographs are much better. It is essential that the new owner records a transfer of ownership for the document; there is a blue form in the back pocket of the passport, make sure you sign it before you hand the passport and form over, and make sure the new owner is made aware of their responsibilities; if the blue form is missing please contact me and I will print another and send it to you. There is a fee for transferring ownership which is currently £15.

## **If a donkey you own dies of natural causes or has to be put to sleep on health grounds, you must return the passport to the Donkey Breed Society within 28 days, so that the document can be cancelled.**

You may have the passport returned to you for sentimental reasons, but the document does have to be removed from circulation by having the pages marked and clipped and the entry updated on the database. There is no fee for this but if you would like the passport returned to you, a stamped self addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Passport fees can be paid by cheque made payable to the Donkey Breed Society, by Bacs payment from your bank account to the Donkey Breed Society's or online through the Donkey Breed Society website, just go to 'Passports' select transfer or new passport in the payment options and then pay by credit or debit card via PayPal.

**If you have any questions, need a donkey chat, or a copy of the most recent application form, you can email me at [ros11e@btinternet.com](mailto:ros11e@btinternet.com) or telephone 01691648168**

# A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SHOW ACTIVITY THIS YEAR:

This list is compiled from information gathered at the time we went to print. Of course everything can change, please keep your eye on Individual show websites for up to date information. We partly wanted to publish this to publicise the number of shows we normally have and to hope they will be on the list in 2022. Most have said they certainly plan to be!

SEDS	Cancelled	Castlewellan	Cancelled
South Suffolk	Cancelled	Shuttleworth	Cancelled
Hadleigh	cancelled	Heckington	No donkeys
Royal Welsh	Cancelled	Perth	Cancelled
Northern Region Spring Show	TBC may be later in year	Border Union	Cancelled
Devon County	from May to 2 – 4 <sup>th</sup> July	New Forest	Cancelled
Herts	29 – 30 May (No public)	Brecon	Cancelled
Surrey	Cancelled	Turriff	Cancelled
Suffolk	Cancelled	Emley	Cancelled
Royal Cornwall	Cancelled	Halifax	14 August
Island Farm	Cancelled	Ellingham	14 <sup>th</sup> August
Cumberland	Postponed	Sedgefield	14 <sup>th</sup> August
Honley	No equines	Chertsey	7 <sup>th</sup> August
Three Counties	No donkeys	Poynton	Cancelled
BDS Annual Show	Moved to 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Edenbridge & Oxted	29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> August
MHCGH Hants area	Not known	Aylsham, Norfolk inc East Anglian Donkey Show	Cancelled
Cheshire	21 – 23 June (No public)	Chatsworth Country	5 <sup>th</sup> September
Bury	27 <sup>th</sup> June	Romiley	TBC
Royal Highland	Cancelled	Wiltshire	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept (TBC June)
Cranleigh	from 4 July now to 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Romsey	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Royal Norfolk	Cancelled	Stanhope	11/12 Sept
Liskeard	Cancelled	Penistone	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Tendring	Cancelled	Bowes	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Redwings	Not Known	Eggleston	18 September
Great Yorkshire	13 – 15 July	Northern Region Autumn show	TBC
Aldborough & Boroughbridge	25th July	Eastern Region Autumn show	2 <sup>nd</sup> October

## SHOW AND STUD BOOK NEWS

### SHOWS AND JUDGES

Well this roller coaster is still running! Northern Ireland managed to get a show under their belts last year but that was it for donkeys getting out and about to shows and whilst 2021 is still going to be all over the place, things are looking a bit more promising and some shows might be able to run – fingers crossed that everything stays on track and we can get out of this horrid time for us all. I am fairly certain the shows that do run will have strict guidelines in place and it is up to us to adhere to any restrictions they impose to safeguard all.

We may have to revise some of our own procedures for judges/stewards and obviously exhibitors. We are holding a Shows and Judges meeting in March so these points will be discussed and decisions dispersed via our website and Bray Talk.

Again, if all stays on track we will reschedule our Judges/Trainee Judge Seminars.

The major success for 2020 shows was the online shows run by Carole Travell, they created enormous interest and entry levels resulting in generous donations to the Donkey

Breed Society, lots of new members and great interest in everything donkeys can do. Lots of people are also entering donkeys onto other online events, flying that flag for donkeys – thank you all.

### THE SHOWING COUNCIL

The Donkey Breed Society is proud to be a member of "The Showing Council. The Showing Council represents an amalgamation of 18 showing bodies. The main aims of The Showing Council is to discuss and advise the various bodies with the best options for key aims ensuring best practice for welfare, safety and all personnel involved. Any information that is relevant to their members is relayed to them to be filtered down to all groups. The current major issue is obviously the resumption of events, with the Showing Council producing a Blueprint offering guidelines for organisers to follow whilst ensuring Covid-19 safety is adhered to.

### STUD BOOK

Whilst lots of things have been postponed we still find ourselves with donkey foals planned

and being born, please ensure if you are a stallion owner you issue a "Covering Certificate" to the mare owner, keep a copy for yourself and submit a copy should be submitted with the foals Passport application. I can email blank certificates for you to print and complete – pam.moon@talktalk.net

Whilst on the subject of bringing new foals into the world, please consider the whole lifetime for that foal – donkeys have a longevity and lots of Sanctuaries are already at bursting point.

I am still compiling a list of available stallions, please send me details and photos of your stallion, his breeding, temperament, size, colour, conformation strengths (and weaknesses), anything that will enhance his qualities to pass on and whereabouts you are in the country if you are prepared to take in visiting mares (and potentially their companions).

Back copies of every stud book is available, if your Passport was issued by the Donkey Breed Society your donkey will be listed in the appropriate section. Pam Moon, Acting Chairman, Shows and Judges

# THE DIGITAL DONKEY



## Going on-line to find out the latest information

**A**s you know, we have three editions of Bray Talk, this The Donkey magazine plus at least two newsletters a year in each Region. They are always full of interesting articles, news and events, but (especially given these rapidly changing Covid-times) they can't keep up with last minute changes and are not big enough to hold all of the wide range of donkey-knowledge.

So where else can you find info?

**The Website –**

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

This is a great source of information relating to welfare matters, education, training and awards, activities, 'who's who' and a great deal more. Latest national news is here as well as events, either on the main news page or the various regional pages.

The website also enables you to join or renew your membership online, download Passport Forms, check out passport fees and check out contact details for National matters. One other major offering is the shop! Online ordering is available for donkey specific books as well as DBS t-shirts and jackets and other donkey-centric items. We stock hi-viz wear to help you keep safe when out walking or driving on the roads. You will also find links to our recent but ever-increasing library of welfare videos available via Youtube.

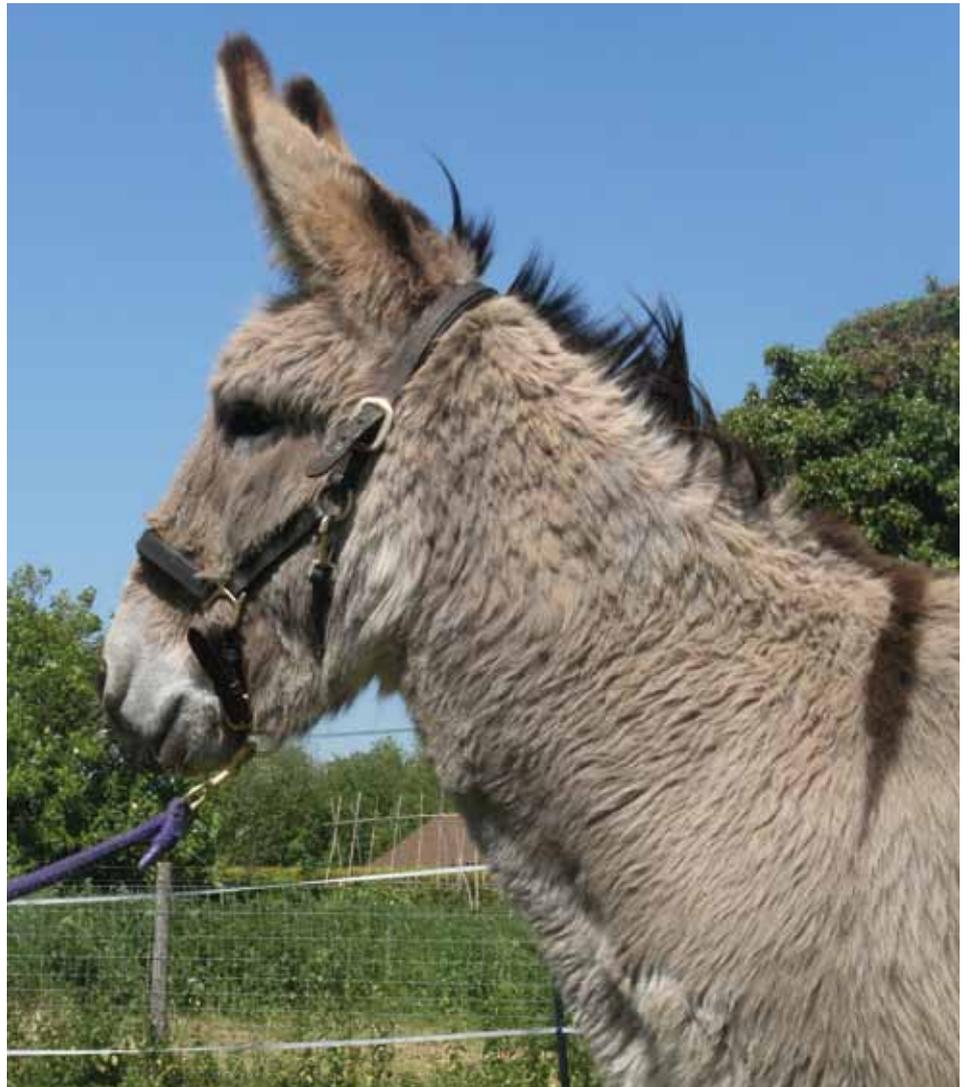
**Facebook – [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)**

**Love it or hate it, but for those that use it, there is a wealth of the latest news.**

The Donkey Breed Society has an official PAGE, with latest national news, reports of events etc.

The Donkey Breed Society also has several unofficial GROUPS. These are a good place for chat, seeing what is happening and asking questions. Local events, either online or actual physical sessions are usually published here. The main group is aimed at UK-wide matters and there are also several Regional groups. Just search for Donkey Breed Society and you will be spoilt for choice. Please note – these groups are moderated as regards content and membership to the best that the various administrators can manage – however they don't spend 24 hours a day online and do need to do other things, so they may miss something, or there may be a delay in getting inappropriate comments removed. These administrators are all volunteers so deserve thanks and not criticism if they do not react to any issue immediately.

**Youtube – [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)**



The Donkey Breed Society now has a dedicated Youtube channel. This is hosting the webinars that we promoted during lockdown and will continue to add to even after we come out of lockdown, building up an on line library of donkey care and management from experts. We are initially posting videos which cover welfare matters. There are currently recordings covering feeding, worming, vaccinations, skin parasites and conditions and more are in the pipeline to cover teeth and feet. Many more are planned and we hope to expand into 'activity' focussed videos too.

To find the videos, search for #donkeybreedsociety and then select which you want to watch (you could also add a specific search hashtag such as #worms or #feeding)

**But there are always 'Humans'!**

You can always contact your Area Rep or Regional Delegate, a committee Chairman or member or the Society Secretary. Full details are in The Donkey magazine,

and most can be found in your Regional newsletter and / or Bray Talk or the website.

**Why not go for Gold? – but start with Bronze first**

The Education & Youth Committee have available awards, from beginners to advanced, for all members and club members. They start at Introductory and progress to Gold, the highest level.

There is an age limit for junior members, and only one test can be taken per year.

The tests are available on the website or from myself and can be taken in groups or individually.

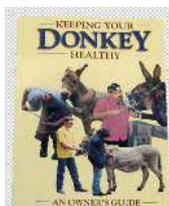
Anyone wishing to take an award, please contact your Regional Delegate or myself.

The Committee also has the Barnabas Trophy, which is awarded annually to a young person (aged 12 to 18 years) who has shown a big improvement in their 'donkey knowledge'. This year's winner was Kathryn McKeag from Co Gown Northern Ireland.

ONLY AVAILABLE FROM THE DBS ...

### Keeping Your Donkey Healthy – An Owner's Guide

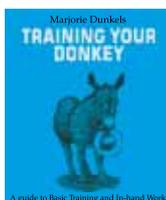
*As well as a really useful reference book, it's invaluable for every donkey owner to ensure their donkey stays well and healthy*



£9.95 plus £2.50 postage  
by Janet Eley BVSc MRCVS

### Training Your Donkey

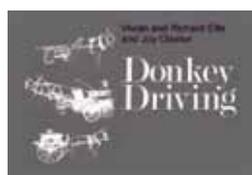
*This little book is perfect for new donkey owners but is equally informative for everyone*



£2.50 plus £1.50 postage  
by Marjorie Dunkels

### Donkey Driving (reprinted 2010)

*The donkey driver's 'bible' – for both beginners and the more experienced Whip*



£14.99 plus £3.50 postage  
by Vivian and Richard Ellis  
& Joy Claxton

.....OTHER ITEMS ALSO AVAILABLE  
FROM THE DBS SHOP INCLUDE POLO  
SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS – SEE OUR  
WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

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

ALL ITEMS CAN BE ORDERED ONLINE

enquiries please to Coral Weaver

01293 885080

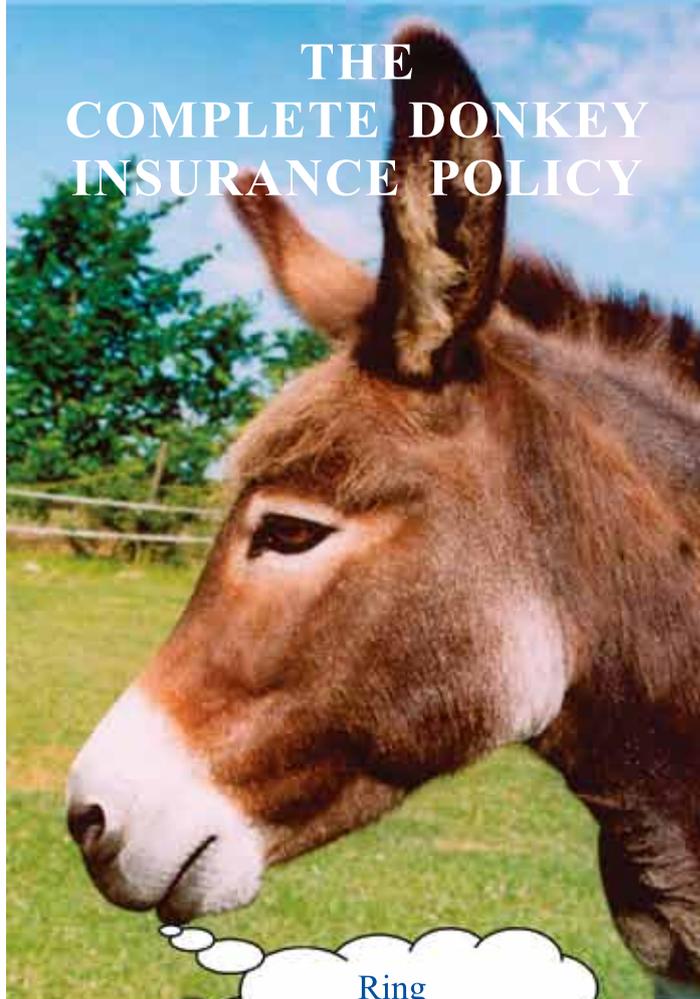
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policy

# DONKATHON 2021

Polly Vacher takes the drive into this year and hopes to meet supporters enroute



Carriage driving



Driving with Blackie

Every cloud has a silver lining even one as black as the Corona Virus which stopped Wizard and Muffin setting out on a 200 mile drive from North Moreton in Oxfordshire to the remote church of St. Melangell in North Wales. The Donkathon which would have raised much needed funds for MS Research could not go ahead but it has only been postponed and will now begin on 25th June 2021 which is a silver lining indeed.

Disappointments can spur you on of course just as the unexpected loss of sight in my right eye following an operation that went horribly wrong had led to the Donkathon in the first place. Our wonderful committee set to work, our website [www.donkathon.org](http://www.donkathon.org) with its planned route and dates was updated and to my joy every single, generous person who had offered stabling for my 'boys' and accommodation for humans as well and all those generous sponsors listed on our website kindly agreed to the new dates. Now we have more precious time to train Wizard and Muffin and build up their stamina to walk 8 to 10 miles a day.

## No hoof no donkey as Shakespeare didn't say but should have done

On such a trek the condition of their hooves is paramount which is why Colin Goldsworthy, possibly the most experienced donkey farrier in the world and now retired from The Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth, paid us a visit and met with our farrier, Tom Goddard, who was keen to learn more about managing donkey hooves and Colin taught us how donkey hooves need to be trimmed like a 'pudding bowl'. With this specialist trimming Colin and Tom came to the conclusion that 'the boys' could easily do ten miles a day without being shod. Colin was not keen on shoes for donkeys as there is little space to nail the shoe to and they

## Raincoats for all



very easily come off which would create a lot of trouble en-route.

## Looking after their mouths

The condition of their mouths are of equal importance and because I use bits as I am not happy with the control from bitless bridles, I am meticulous about having their teeth checked annually. Steve Osborne is a marvellous equine dentist. He doesn't even have to tie 'the boys' up, just whistles to them and, mesmerized the boys just stand there and let him file away and poke around their mouths. In fact they love the visits from Steve and it is a wonder to watch him work.

Training itself is ongoing and most importantly they are now very confident going through water. There are two fords on our route which wherever possible follows country roads. Our initial training was at Shilton near Burford where there is a lovely wide ford not more than a few inches deep. Having mastered that we have taken the boys to the ford at Bucklebury (the village where The Duchess of Cambridge comes from). This ford is 1ft 9inches deep and it

is impossible to see the bottom. With gentle coaxing and lots of carrots the boys went through this ford three times on our first visit and five times on our second visit. They are very proud of themselves and we are enormously proud of them!

## On the donkeys' terms

All donkeys have a mind of their own. If they don't feel like proceeding they will stop! They have taught me more about 'patience' in the 12 years they have been with me than I have ever learnt before! We have trained 'the boys' to proceed under most circumstances but trotting is definitely still at the stage of being their choice! However, we have started going for drives with a friend, Tracy and her pony, Blackie. 'The boys' follow Blackie and stick to him like limpets! If Blackie trots they trot and if Blackie walks they walk. It is amazing how far they can trot when they are behind Blackie!

## More time to raise money

Finally, we have had more time to raise funds for research into Multiple Sclerosis



**Blewbury Calender Bernard Mattimore**

(MS) and again we have had amazing support for this very worthwhile cause. My nephew was diagnosed with this progressive debilitating disease when he was just 26 so this is the reason we have chosen to support MS Research. If only the cause could be established then a cure would surely follow and this would be an amazing break through. So please support us in whatever way you feel able – come and join us for part of the journey and drive or ride along beside us – the boys always go faster when they are with others. Please support MS Research, either through our 'Just Giving' page on the website or by buying one of our limited edition prints (details also on the website) – for £25 you can have a numbered and signed print of an oil painting of our two donkeys - the numbers will go into a raffle and the winner will win the original framed painting. The famous artist, Mandy Shepherd

– daughter of David Shepherd – has painted the original and organised and signed each print. All proceeds go for research through the MS Society. AND/OR buy one or more of our polo shirts - and become a real 'Donkathon Groupie'!

**Please join us for one of the sections – check out the website to see where we are** Whichever way you choose to support the Donkathon please know that we are extremely grateful for any help you are able to give and our team and especially me send a huge thank you in anticipation! More importantly why not join us for one of the sections or more – above all else this will be a 'fun' drive and the more people the merrier so why not choose a section of the route and come and join us with donkey(s) – pony, bicycle, or on foot. All are so welcome!



**Drive in the woods**



**Christmas deliveries**



**Bucklebury Ford August 2020**

# AND WE MANAGED ALL THIS, EVEN IN 2020!

Sarah Booth reflects on a year like no other



Missy, pretty in pink!



Umbrella Challenge, Izzy and Fi with Missy

What a difference a year makes. When I was pondering advancement of junior membership in the Northern Region at the beginning of 2020, in these very pages, I was blissfully unaware of the various obstacles that we would soon, along with the rest of the world, encounter. Two weeks before lockdown we had collected the sweetest little mare, called Missy, who adores children and picks up her little hooves a treat when driven, and brought her back here to join Barney and Freddie. She would be a donkey for Amber, the granddaughter, and would spend happy days encouraging small people within the area to learn about and fall in love with donkeys and join the DBS! Barney and Freddie thought all their Christmases had come at once and Missy 'flirted', yes really and a lot, with them in turn. Granddaughter overcame the fact that Missy wasn't a unicorn, and everyone was very happy!

As the first lockdown dawned however, best laid plans of visits to schools, junior activity groups and the supporting of a plethora of local events that would all hopefully stimulate the interest of young people began to fold in on us. The granddaughter was unable to visit her donkey as we are a twenty-minute drive away. The camera on my phone came in useful: pictures of Missy exploring, videos

of Missy getting to know Barney and Freddie, Missy having her feet done, Missy undertaking early 'Boris Challenges' and an entertaining recording of her somewhat spooky and wavering first-thing-in-the-morning bray were all shared with her little owner and little owner's 'next-door-but-one' friend who is also a fan!

## JUST FOR JUNIORS

Then came the 'Just for Juniors' mag for Northern Juniors – a junior version of the Bulletins that we've put together in each lockdown. By the Northern Region, for the Northern Region! In it there were lots of activities and some of our juniors enjoyed participating – some were probably still trying to get to grips with the joys of 'home schooling' so this probably wasn't on their list of priorities, but it didn't matter, some of the activities were shared with non-members and enjoyed. As we welcomed a limited number of folk back into our gardens, and although as a Region we couldn't hold bigger gatherings like our training days which we have missed so much, the sun did shine down, and we began to think about how we could engage the juniors that were local to us, once again. We ramped up participation in the Eastern Region's brilliant 'Boris Challenge' and we held some very small, socially distanced, heavily anti-bacc'd mornings and afternoons for some very

small people, about looking after donkeys, mucking out and grooming. These included picnics (they brought their own) together with art and craft workshops.

Amber was extremely pleased to be reunited with her donkey and was able to enjoy a lot of riding and spending time with her 'best friend in the world'! Amber and Izzy attended the Region's ride/walk out and picnic at Hartington in September. This was great fun and a brilliant way for young people to enjoy being out and about with donkeys, dogs and friends in the Region. They still talk about it and cherish the memories and the rosettes that Olwen gave them for taking part.

We squeezed in an autumnal workshop for four of our juniors, it rained as if it would never cease and although the children were totally soaked, they had a great time mucking out. Splashing through the mud and getting totally filthy was their idea of heaven and their fascination for 'donkey poo' had them in hysterics! Barney, Freddie and Missy loved watching them!

## THE NATIVITY CAME ALIVE

Missy featured in the War Horse Memorial Purple Poppies campaign in 2020, promoting the inaugural National Animal Day and flagging up the partnership between the WHMO and the DBS. It was such a privilege to be involved and all her



**Amber and her donkey, Missy**



**Jasmine, our brilliant fundraiser**



**Our very special Nativity**

little fans are very proud of her. Little did they know that at that point, that come Christmas, through some very careful arrangements and amazing photography and videoing, some of them would have the opportunity to take part in the War Horse Memorial Organisation's Christmas Concert.

Just when we thought that it would be impossible to run our Nativity, there was a little glimmer of opportunity and, with that and the last minute super-brilliant creative co-operation of parents, a couple of willing young people to narrate and read a poem, together with a little plea from Susan

Osbourne of the WHMO (who you just can't refuse!) the date was set and it was a goer! Thanks to an amazing videographer, certain bits were shot separately and then the whole piece was edited together to make the most lovely Nativity. We wanted the audience to feel that they were a part of bringing the piece together (as we had all had to necessarily remain distant from

one another for so long) and I think this is reflected in the final piece.

The children all attended the same school. Izzy as Mary was quite surprised to see her baby sister, Anna, in the manger. 'Joseph' was brilliantly laid back, in his dinosaur wellies - so many lovely memories were created. The donkeys and the children are the definite stars of the piece and I am so very proud of them all. If you wish to view our Nativity, search for War Horse Christmas Concert 2020 on YouTube. It is a truly lovely Concert and full of the feel-good factor!

#### **THE 'FEEL-GOOD FACTOR'**

Finally, continuing the theme of the 'feel-good factor', let me tell you about our latest Junior Member in the Northern Region. Meet Jasmine who adores donkeys and, helped by her sister, made dog treat cones and sold them over the Christmas period to raise money for the DBS in the North. Jasmine certainly gave us the feel-good

factor! We were hoping that Jasmine would be able to join us for the Nativity, but unfortunately, with one of the family testing positive for covid-19, they had to isolate. However, Jasmine and her family continued to raise funds. Mum Rachael told me, 'the cones are isolated in the boot of my car . . . people come, and I remotely open the boot. They collect, then leave the money in the boot! All non-contact! Covid won't stop us!' We thought this was fantastic. Jasmine has raised, £155.00!!! Funds raised will go to support the work of the DBS in the Northern Region and for our Northern Junior Members to sponsor a donkey at Buxton for The Donkey Sanctuary!!

Hopefully, when we can have visits out the children will be able to take a trip to visit their sponsored donkey and connect with the importance of Sanctuaries. We can't wait until Jasmine can join us, and the donkeys, and we would like to say a heartfelt, 'thank you Jasmine' for your kindness.

So, roll on times when we can all get together again. The Northern Region Juniors have plans! Whether we have donkeys or not, we all enjoy being together and being closer to our 'long-eared friends'. We enjoy learning about donkeys and can't wait to start taking our tests! Some of us have already gained, 'I can tell you how awesome donkeys are' certificates and, certificates for mucking out! Bring on 2021!

Please note: this article features, due to location, those living near each other and therefore able to connect when there were opportunities to do so. We send out lots of positive vibes to all our Juniors around the Region. We have had news that Rueben has been growing in confidence with his riding in Lancashire and is a true 'chip off the old block' and that Luke has been driving in Yorkshire, where his technical ability to tweak all things mechanical has been much appreciated. We look forward to bringing you news of all our brilliant Juniors and almost seniors, in future editions. ■



**Colley Mill Donkey Club Juniors in the Mini Ménage**

# CELEBRATING 'FAB FARRIERS' THROUGHOUT THE UK!



Tom and Betsy

The other day someone asked me what the 'Fab' stood for?! 'It's a short form of 'fabulous'', I replied, with a sort of 'durr' look on my face. 'Oh, I see, not 'flipping awesome blacksmiths' then?' Well, I hadn't thought of it quite that way, but now you mention it . . .

Yes of course, such an acronym would make sense! We're celebrating, through our Award, farriers brilliant in their recognition of donkeys as different and with associated farriery that reflects this. Making sure that they know how much we value them is exceptionally important, and yes, they are indeed, 'flipping awesome blacksmiths'! I am delighted to inform you that although having originated in the Northern Region, these Awards are now being extended throughout the UK!

## Heart warming stories of farriers

The stories that we are receiving, from across the country, of how your farriers are going the extra mile for your donkeys are heart-warming. Check out some of the most recent accolades; thank you to Claire Harper from the Western Region for forwarding these to me.

Good morning Claire, I'm putting my farrier Brad Brett up for recognition. He's been looking after my donkeys for 5 years now. He responds to my



Jasper Smart with Storm, dozing'

requests for visits promptly; he handles the donkeys gently and talks to them and gives them a scratch and so on while he's working on their feet. He has taught me things about donkeys' feet, compared with horses and ponies, for example about the tendency to develop holes and also the distinctive shape of their feet compared with other equines.

In addition, we asked if he'd do

a demonstration at our village Show and he jumped at the idea and simply wouldn't take any payment; he likes bringing the tradition and skills of a farrier to the public, which he also does at the Moreton Show. I attach a photo of him with Ramsay and Bourneville at our village show in 2019 (happy days). It says it all. He's done it twice now. Best regards, Eric.

### And then there's Tom Heath . . .

Hello Claire, I would like to nominate Tom Heath our farrier who looks after Betsy, Daisy, Heidi and Martha. He is always very patient and kind with the gals and deserves special recognition for looking after Daisy who gave him some "challenges" with her problem hoof which he sorted out. His gentle and professional approach has enabled Martha to gain his trust from when she was very young. If I need his advice or to check something between appointments he will always call in to put my mind at rest. We don't know what we would do without Tom ! Kind regards, Vanessa.

### Daley Johnson . . .

Dear Claire, I would like to nominate my farrier, Daley Johnson from Oxfordshire for a DBS award. I first had him to do my miniature donkeys' feet on the recommendation of Island

Farm Donkey Sanctuary some five years ago and he has been doing them ever since. Not only is he a first rate farrier technically, he completely understands that miniature donkeys are not small horses or ponies. In spite of being very busy he always gives the impression that he has all the time in the world to do the donkeys, never hurrying them, taking time to talk to them (and me), not holding their legs too high, and generally giving them the best experience possible, even when they are not on their best behaviour! We have had a few foals that have had their feet done by him, a very positive start for them, and they have learned that having their feet done is just routine. He does all this with a wide smile too!

I think he would be very surprised to know that what he appears to take for granted is in fact a really positive experience for the donkeys and me, and I should like him to have a "pat on the back". Best wishes, Amanda.

### And Jasper Smart . . .

Hi Claire, Following up on the information in your newsletter, and the excellent criteria set out by the Northern region, here is my feedback on my farrier, Jasper Smart, who I would like to nominate for a certificate and appropriate mention in the relevant promotional magazines. Here is my input and I've attached a few photos of Storm dozing while he had his hooves trimmed yesterday: This farrier has a very real and distinct knowledge of donkey farriery. Jasper has always been interested in donkey farriery and told me that he visited the Donkey Sanctuary whilst training, so that he could learn about donkey handling and hoof care. Jasper is well informed and on point regarding all things 'donkey'. He has considerable knowledge of donkeys,



Daley Johnson and Beauty

Tom and Betsy



including their temperaments, which has enabled him to successfully calm and work with my two rescue donkeys.

He knows that donkeys are different from horses and ponies. Without a doubt! He goes out of his way to practise with empathy. Jasper has a great relationship with my boys which he worked on from the start, and as a result they welcome him when they see his van and stand quietly for him while he trims and rasps their feet. One of the donkeys falls asleep during the work and calls to be treated when he is second to have his hooves worked on! He has gone the extra mile for members' donkeys. Jasper initially found that one of our donkeys was quite nervous having his feet trimmed and rasped, and he jumped around quite a lot. Treating the donkey patiently and calmly, over time that

donkey has changed to being completely calm and able to stand still during the work. Jasper's patience and time paid off as it is now an efficient and enjoyable process working with both donkeys. He has also provided lots of advice when seedy toe has been a problem and ensured that the donkeys get the right care improving their hooves. Thank you. Liz.

Finally, a top tip from Julie Broadhurst's Fab Farrier, David van den Broek, that helped with her new donkeys' reluctance to have their feet picked out. David suggested not getting into a fight by hanging onto the leg, pick it up but let it go immediately when the donkey snatches it back. So, just pick the legs up in the same order each time and regularly. 'It's not an overnight fix, but not bad' says Julie.

We have received five nominations

in recent weeks from the Eastern Region, including: Steven Rust, Barry Richards, Mark Evans, Stephen Hill and John Vry. Certificates are currently being distributed and we look forward to bringing you pictures of these 'fab farriers' and their certificates in due course. We currently stand at 23 Fab Farriers Award recipients across the East, West, South and Northern Regions!

It is not too late to nominate your farrier! For further details check out your most recent Regional Newsletter and/or contact your Regional Delegate. If successful, your farrier will receive a DBS Fab Farrier Award Certificate and will be recognised in Forge the magazine of the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association.

Just what our 'flipping awesome blacksmiths' deserve.

Yes of course, such an acronym would make sense! Although, strictly speaking blacksmiths work with metal and our fab farriers don't need to with our donkeys. However, we celebrate farriers that recognise donkeys as different. Making sure that they know how much we value them is exceptionally important, they are indeed, 'flipping awesome blacksmiths' and although having originated in the Northern Region, these Awards are now being extended throughout the whole of the UK!

Farriers are governed and registered by the Farrier Registration Council. If you need to find a farrier in your area, look on the Farrier Registration, find a farrier site. <https://www.farrier-reg.gov.uk/find-a-farrier>



Brad Brett at Moreton Show

# BUT WHAT DO FARRIERS NEED FROM US?

Claire Harper finds out

To find a farrier who actually likes donkeys and is happy to regularly visit your home to attend to your animals, is truly a wonderful thing. I've heard stories of farriers who perhaps feel donkeys are a little beneath their dignity, are not worth the bother, are not worth it financially, or simply are not as important as the thoroughbreds and other valuable horses he attends. Well ... maybe they've got a point! Over the years I've had many a talk with farriers who have told me of situations where I really wouldn't blame them if they had refused to handle donkeys again. My own father was a blacksmith many years ago and he often used to say the plough horses were the easiest to handle, whereas donkeys were the trickiest. He put this down to the horses having been regularly handled and trained in regards to having their feet attended to, whereas the donkeys were only seen by a blacksmith once a year, if needed!

Well, times have changed and now people who own donkeys have access to much more information about their care and welfare. Owners know that the donkeys need to have their feet trimmed by a farrier on a regular basis, preferably at 8 – 10 week intervals. They are aware of possible problems, for example seedy toe, thrush, laminitis, foot abscesses, thin soles and stone bruises and if they need more information, help can be sought from several sources including the Donkey Breed Society and the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth, Devon.

But what does the farrier who agrees to come to see our donkeys really need from us?

- The donkey should be trained by the owner to allow its feet to be picked up and cleaned out. It is not the job of the farrier to train him.

- The donkey should be contained in some way, preferably on hard-standing – either in a clean yard or stable, not loose in the field. (I have even heard of a farrier having to collect a headcollar from the gate and then trying to try to catch the donkey who inevitably knew what was coming and proved impossible to get near – a huge time-wasting fiasco for a very busy farrier. The owner was nowhere in sight).

- The owner, or some other competent person that the donkey is familiar with, should be present, prepared to halter and reassure the donkey if required.



- The donkey's feet and legs should be dry, free of mud and with the feet cleaned out if possible. (I always feel that if a farrier has to first clean out the feet it is a little like asking your dentist to clean and floss your teeth before treatment).

- The farrier should be informed of any medical condition the donkey may have which could affect its reaction to having its feet picked up, for example osteoarthritis, so that he can ensure the foot is held as low as possible. Frequently, reluctance to allow anyone to lift a donkey's feet is wrongly blamed on bad behaviour, but may actually be a result of arthritic pain.

- The donkeys should remain together until the last one has been attended to – chaos can occur if a donkey is still having treatment but can see his friends being fed or let out into the paddock.

- Payment for the farrier should always be available at the time of his visit and a booking for the next visit arranged., which enables the farrier to plan ahead.

- Any advice the farrier gives regarding the care of the donkey's feet should be listened to and acted upon if possible.

- And, of course, the offer of a cup of tea and a hobnob is often welcome!

With apologies to Equine Behaviour Training Centres ... and farriers!!

## HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FARRIER TRAINING DAYS

### AT THE NATURAL FARRIER CENTRE

(location not known!)

#### 1. FEEDING AND NUTRITION AND THE FARRIER AS AN ATHLETE

#### 2. FARRIER PSYCHOLOGY WEEKEND

*Covers the finer points of 'phoning-up', how tea, hobnobs and bacon butties can be used in positive reinforcement, and how to approach problems with farriers.*

#### 3. FIVE DAY FARRIER FOUNDATION COURSE

- *Essential farrier psychology*
- *The importance of body language*
- *Achieving phone-up and follow-up*
- *The importance of 'Advance and Retreat' training*
- *Clicker Training your farrier*
- *Handling the young farrier*
- *Useful rope work*
- *Problem farriers.*
  
- *'Phone-up' can be practiced under supervision with trained farriers*
- *You are welcome to bring your own farrier\**
- *Opportunity to watch re-training*

#### 4. APPRENTICE FARRIER HANDLING

*Imprinting your farrier. Most correct and humane way to handle an apprentice. Growth, hair and grooming (including corrective trimming)*

*\*Please note: if bringing your own farrier please provide your own hobnobs and teabags.*



## Two donkeys found rescued – and a new foal is on the way!

A potential disaster was averted after abandoned donkeys were rescued near to a major road by The Donkey Sanctuary.

Following reports of a donkey mare and foal running loose in a field next to the busy A47 in Norfolk, The Donkey Sanctuary stepped in to rescue them and provide them with a safe, loving home. Abbie and Timmy could have found themselves in a very dangerous situation if they ventured onto the busy dual carriageway, as they posed a real risk to drivers who could have crashed into them, causing a fatal incident.

With only a thin hedge separating five-year-old Abbie and five-month-old Timmy from cars and lorries hurtling down the busy road at speeds of 70 miles per hour, their situation was dire.

### RESCUE CALL

Following a call from the owner of the land on which Abbie and Timmy were found, Donkey Welfare Adviser Sue Field coordinated Abbie and Timmy's rescue on 7 September 2020. Sue says: "It was imperative to move very quickly, both for the sake of Abbie and Timmy and to reduce the potential of a major incident on what is a very busy arterial road."

Sue made enquiries with the RSPCA and local police in case the donkeys had been reported missing but none had been recorded. By working with the landowner and with the help of a local holding base the donkeys were found in nearby woodland. Sue continues: "It was very difficult to catch Abbie and Timmy in such a large open space. They were already naturally cautious, so they had to be approached with a calm and relaxed mindset." Three hours later Abbie and Timmy were safely loaded and transported to our local holding base.

### USE OF CONTROL OF HORSES ACT

As the donkeys had been found on private land the landowner was able to follow the process set out in the Control of Horses Act to legally take possession of the donkeys in the absence of any contact from the owner.



This process takes four working days and requires landowners to serve notices where the donkeys were found and to report the actions to the police.

Sue says: "Once the four days pass, the landowner becomes the legal owner of the donkeys and is able to make arrangements for their future care or sale as they wish. The landowner was unable to keep the donkeys and it was agreed for them to pass into our permanent care. This rescue was unusual as the donkeys were found in reasonable condition, they were both generally healthy with no signs of illness. It is still a mystery as to why and how they ended up in this situation." Abbie and Timmy have since been welcomed to The Donkey Sanctuary's New Arrivals unit, where it was discovered that Abbie is in the early stages of pregnancy.

### FOAL DUE THIS YEAR

Sara Blair-Salter, New Arrivals Manager, says: "On arrival we ensure all our donkeys are checked over by our vets. This helps us to understand any individual care needs they may have, which includes checking if mares are in foal. We estimated that Abbie was approximately three months

into her pregnancy. Since arriving with us, Timmy will come over to say hello and have a scratch. He is a very inquisitive foal, and very comfortable being handled, whereas Abbie is quite shy.

She will approach, but is quite nervous so we will have to do a lot of work with that ahead of her foaling. It is important that she is comfortable with us handling her newborn foal in the future."

Going forward, Abbie and Timmy will be placed on one of our sanctuary sites until Abbie is ready to foal. Timmy will then be introduced to some other young donkeys while Abbie focuses on her foal, which is expected to arrive in the autumn this year.

■ **Why not check out The Donkey Sanctuary's website for a range of regularly updated advice sheets on a range of topics, webinars on handling and donkey care by experts and lot of news on donkey welfare campaigns? Or if you prefer to have post then sign up for the supporters' newsletter packed with news from the UK and further afield. Welcome to our donkey family! [www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/what-we-do/knowledge-and-advice-for-owners](http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/what-we-do/knowledge-and-advice-for-owners)**

# OUR DONKEY WELFARE ADVISERS



THE DONKEY  
SANCTUARY

## HERE FOR DONKEYS, THERE FOR OWNERS

Wherever a donkey is in need, our team of Welfare Advisers will always be there for them. It's our expert advice and practical support that's helping owners to keep their donkeys in happy homes all over the UK.

And when we are called upon to help donkeys in serious distress, our Donkey Welfare Advisers are on the front line, teaming up with emergency response agencies to offer sanctuary and care for those animals that need it most.

Find out more at [thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk](https://thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk)

# NEWS FROM THE CHARITIES

Near the beginning of the Covid Pandemic, the Donkey Breed Society Council took the decision to help out six smaller sanctuaries who would lose income through a lack of summer income whilst still facing winter feed bills. The six charities all passport their donkeys with the DBS and are spread throughout the UK. They each received £1000. They are Bleakholt, Flicka, Island Farm, Isle of Wight, Scottish (Melrose) and Wonkey Donkey. We asked them to send some info on how the year has been for them.

## BLEAKHOLT ANIMAL SANCTUARY

"Caring for those who have no-one"

Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary is a large mixed animal rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming centre. The Charity provides care and shelter for stray, neglected and unwanted animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, donkeys, horses, ponies and mules, goats, sheep, pigs and chickens. We became a Registered Charity in 1969 and occupy a 55 acre site in Edenfield near Ramsbottom in Lancashire and proudly celebrated our 60th Anniversary in 2017.

Our aim is to find happy, loving forever



homes for our dogs, cats, rabbits and other small animals. Every animal deserves a chance of a good life in a happy home and we successfully rehome more than 1,300 animals per year. Those that cannot be rehomed will spend the rest of their days in our care. We provide a loving and safe environment for the rehabilitation and retirement of a large number of Equine and Farm animals. Our vision is that every animal that comes into our care should have the best life possible and the opportunity to be rehomed in a safe, loving environment.

With no government or private funding, the Sanctuary relies solely on donations and legacies, without which we could not



continue to help our animals. We are forever grateful to our Supporters and Volunteers as it is they who make it happen.

Bleakholt is under constant development, funds permitting, to enable the best possible animal care facilities and we constantly strive to improve the lives of our residents through enrichment and plenty of TLC (which of course is the easy bit!).

We are usually open to the public every day (coronavirus aside) and even for those not wanting to adopt, it's a fantastic family day out which is fun and educational, particularly for children. We also have a Café which is run by some of our amazing Volunteers at weekends and Bank Holidays, a Bleakholt Shop and Bookshop. We have two Charity Shops at Ramsbottom and Bury.

You can visit our website at: [www.bleakholt.org](http://www.bleakholt.org) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



## THE FLICKA FOUNDATION

The Flicka Foundation is a registered charity based in South Cornwall, UK. It was founded by Mary Berryman in 1995, following the rescue and care of a neglected pony named 'Flicka'.

Mary's daughter, Judy Giles, and Laurie Stephenson continue with the Flicka legacy as Directors. Their sanctuary site provides a safe home for over 100 donkeys and horses, all of whom have been rescued from situations of neglect, abuse and abandonment. The charity has rescued and rehabilitated over 1000 animals since its inception, 25 years ago, and its equine residents are free to live out their days in peaceful retirement, with their specialised needs catered for by an experienced team.

Members of the public are welcome to visit year-round and the charity also provides donkey therapy sessions for people from all walks of life, who feel the benefits of being close to a donkey and forming a close relationship of trust and affection. Donkeys are sensitive creatures and their affection is boundless, which, in itself, is amazing considering all they have endured.

The charity relies on the generosity of the general public to fund its vital work protecting and caring for these beautiful animals. Over the past few years, it has seen an unprecedented number of rescues, vet, farrier and dental visits and receives regular requests to rescue more donkeys in desperate need. The initial transport and veterinary care for one new arrival can eas-

ily exceed £3000, as many donkeys arrive in very poor physical condition. This does not include ongoing care and the charity spends over £60,000 a year on feeding its sanctuary residents, so donations are always greatly appreciated.

Despite being forced to close the sanctuary's gates to visitors back in March due to the ongoing situation, it's been business as usual as far as the charity's work rescuing and caring for donkeys is concerned.

Director, Judy Giles, said: "We still do not have clarity on when we may be able to re-open to visitors, so this remains an incredibly worrying time for us, but our vital rescue work must continue. We regularly receive calls to help donkeys in desperate need and we just simply cannot turn them away."



You can find out more about the work of The Flicka Foundation and details of how to donate or Adopt a Donkey by visiting their website: [www.flickafoundation.org.uk](http://www.flickafoundation.org.uk)

**The DBS also received this letter**

"I am writing to say a huge thank you for your kind and generous donation of £1000 towards our charity's work, which we are

delighted to receive; it is greatly appreciated and we very much value your support, especially during these difficult and worrying times we are facing.

Having been forced to close our sanctuary gates to visitors until further notice due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and with a lack of clarity on when we may be able to re-open, we are anxious at the prospect of what the future may hold for our charity and the donkeys. We rely heavily on visitors coming through our gates as a source of income to feed and care for our precious residents, so the extra funding you have provided really means a lot to us.

Winter is always the most expensive time of year for our charity. When the grass stops growing, the fields become bare of nourishment and the donkeys and horses have to be provided with extra feed, which doubles our feed expenses for many months. As you are quite aware, the cost of nutritious, high-calorie, equine feed and health supplements for our elderly and special needs animals is high, so your donation really does mean a lot to our work and will help us a great deal at a time when our funds are stretched.

Once again, on behalf of the donkeys and The Flicka Foundation Team, thank you so very much for your fantastic sup-



port - it really does mean so much to our work. It goes without saying that, if anyone associated with Donkey Breed Society is ever in Cornwall and would like to drop in for a visit to meet the donkeys when some normality returns, please do get in touch to let us know. We would be delighted to have the opportunity to thank you in person!"



**THE ISLE OF WIGHT DONKEY SANCTUARY**

The position for all charities has been perilous during Covid . It has been particularly tough for equine charities . This was absolutely the case here at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary . Donkeys have still needed to be found homes , have still needed food and medicines, and have needed farriery and dentistry – Covid or no Covid ! Meanwhile our sanctuary was closed to the public , meaning that we had little or no visitor income. We planned carefully, prioritized donkeys according to their needs, and were supported by a kind donation from the Donkey Breed



## NEWS FROM THE CHARITIES

Society . This meant that through lockdown our donkeys lived in the luxury they were used to , although of course they missed that additional fuss and attention that our visitors bring.

The donation from the DBS also meant that we could continue to provide a permanent home for those donkeys who were in immediate need. Shortly after we received our DBS donation, we took

in five beautiful donkeys who had been originally abandoned in Ireland , where they were found malnourished and they had several medical issues that were in need of professional care. ( The donkeys' previous owners in Ireland had seen fit to try carrying out their own version of a castration on the donkeys ,with the inevitable negative consequences). The donkeys were rescued to a home in

England, where their owner involved the Royal Veterinary College to work on their medical issues. After lots of loving and tender care we were contacted to see if we could provide a home for the donkeys, and our newly named 'Famous Five' –or the Gaelic Gang – of Tim, Larry, Bear, Womble and Colin arrived at Christmas to begin their lives at the IOW Donkey Sanctuary . Thank you for help Donkey Breed Society !

### ISLAND FARM DONKEY SANCTUARY

Who would have believed for a moment that Great Britain and indeed most of the world, would come to an almost complete standstill for more than a year? When it became clear that the coronavirus (Covid-19) had reached pandemic proportions we had no option but to close the sanctuary to visitors. This decision by the trustees was taken after careful consideration and remains in effect at the time of writing, although we are hopeful that we will be able to reopen from mid April. Very sadly we have had to cancel our Donkey Show which was to be on on Sunday 6th June. We'll look forward to the Donkey Show in 2022.

Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary operates with a minimum number of staff. If anyone became infected, we would have to isolate any colleagues they had been in contact with which could seriously affect the running of the sanctuary. We have been very careful about who has been allowed on site and could not jeopardise that by reopening too soon. The safety of the staff and welfare of the donkeys must always be our main concerns.

Of course, not having the Sanctuary

open has meant that all our usual sales, shows and other fundraising activities have not taken place resulting in a drastic fall of income. The last time we had to close the sanctuary to visitors was back in 2001. Then it was the foot and mouth crisis that caused the shutdown of much of the British countryside. Although donkeys, like other equines, are not affected by foot and mouth, it was in the interest of containing the spread that we decided to close that time.

A question we have been asked is how the sanctuary has coped with a reduced income due to being closed. Following the hit to our finances caused by the foot and mouth outbreak the staff and trustees worked very hard to build up enough reserves that would sustain the sanctuary should another wave occur. Thanks to this financial planning, together with the generosity of our supporters, the sanctuary has been able to continue caring for the donkeys as usual during the Covid-19 pandemic. Of course, there is a limit to how long this can go on for which is why we are keen to reopen and reinstate our sales and other events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Several projects were put on hold but

one that did have to go ahead was the replacement of some old wooden stables that had reached the end of the useful life. The concrete base was laid in late Autumn and the new stables were installed between December 2020 and February this year. The final stage will be the outdoor yards and this is where the generous donation of £1,000 from the Donkey Breed Society will be spent buying the metal rails and gates.

We are very grateful to have the support of the DBS. They have helped to purchase equipment for our Donkey Hospital which has proved to be a great asset to the sanctuary. Throughout the pandemic we have had donkey owners contact us for advice and assistance and we continue to take in donkeys in need of a home.

Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for the latest updates and we look forward to welcoming you all back soon. In the meantime you can be assured that life goes on looking after our wonderful donkeys, they are all fit and well and like ourselves, are missing you all.

The new stables (above) will have a concrete yard extending out in front. The £1,000 donation from the Donkey Breed Society will purchase the steel rails and gates around the outside.





**WONKEY DONKEY**

**The Wonkey Donkey Visitors Centre  
Our year in lockdown 2020**

If anyone would have told us that in 2020 we would be hit by a pandemic that changed the way everything we do, we'd have never have believed it.

We (my family and I) run an extremely busy Donkey Sanctuary in West Yorkshire.

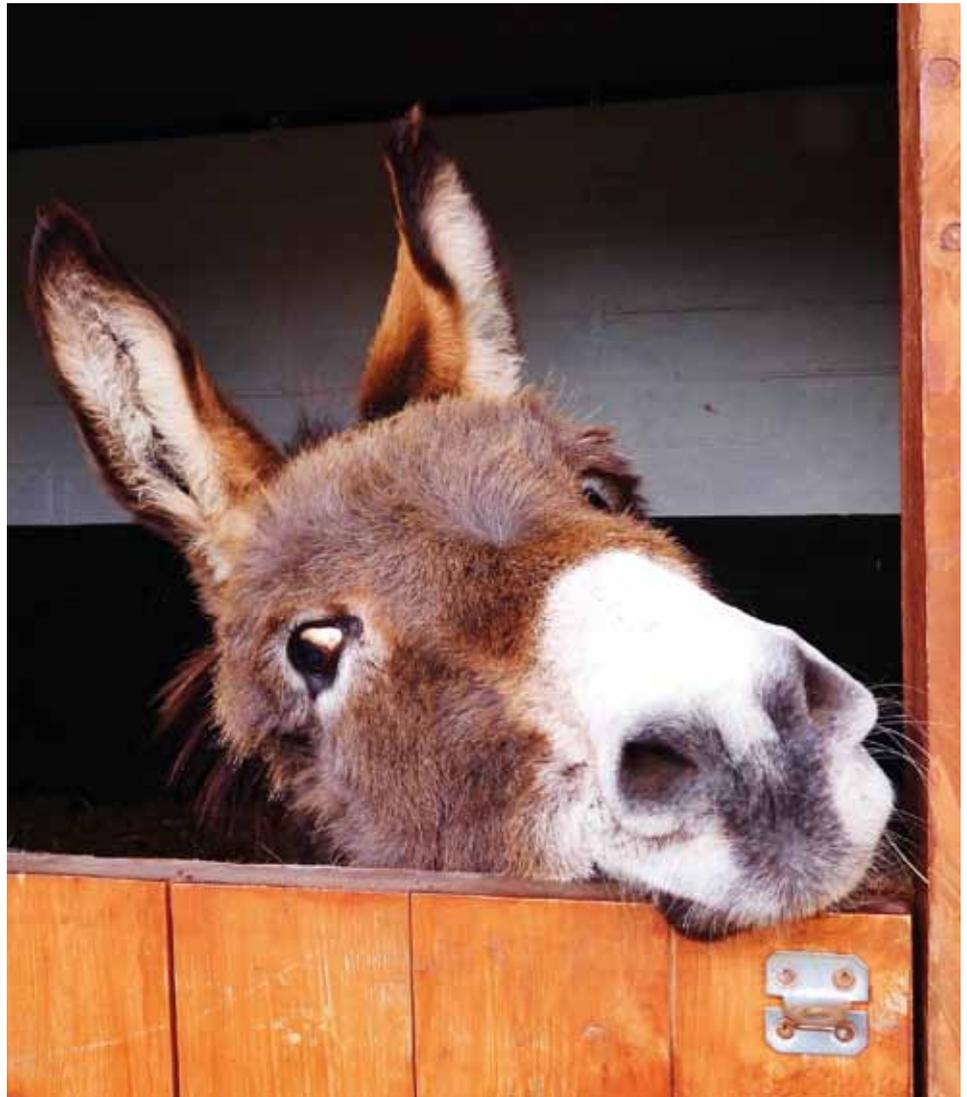
We have 31 Donkeys, five ponies, one horse and five goats and we had to close our doors to our supporters which is almost coming up to 12 months now.

We had to make the decision to close on March the 17th 2020 and never knew how we would cope.

We put a video appeal out to our supporters and i can honestly say without them we would have never have survived this, the sanctuary fell quiet and everybody needed care, feed and attention and veterinary attention when Fred lost his eye, Toby had a tumour that needed chemo and a new donkey arrived in December, Robbie.

The donations of our supporters have ranged from carrots to hay, bedding, feed and general supplies and funds.

Thank you to the Donkey Breed Society for your kind Donation of £1000. With this and other donations we have survived 2020. We are looking forward to reopening in the coming months and are hoping for a promising 2021.



# WHY DO I NEVER WIN A RED ROSETTE?

Barbara Roger says its all about the taking part

**W**hen I first met my husband I was living in Peckham and working in Bermondsey. So not much of a country girl! And there I was, about to marry a man who lived in Sussex and owned a horse and a donkey! We settled in rural Surrey and my life took a new direction.

We would go to local Shows and while Norman was jumping his horse in Foxhunter classes I was left with his friends and their donkeys parked by the Donkey Ring. People would lead a donkey into the ring and walk round the edge of the ring and then make a line side by side in the middle of the ring. A posh man would look at the donkeys one by one, which took ages, and then they would walk around again for a long time and then the posh man's assistant would tell the competitors where to stand next. Some people were given rosettes and then they came out of the ring and back to the lorry. Pretty pointless don't you think?

## I BEGIN SHOWING

It was suggested that I should take our donkey Annabel into Class 2. Mares. I didn't really know what to do or why I was doing it and just followed everyone else or did as I was told by the posh man's assistant. I was persuaded to do this on a number of occasions but I was never given a rosette and always seemed to be last.

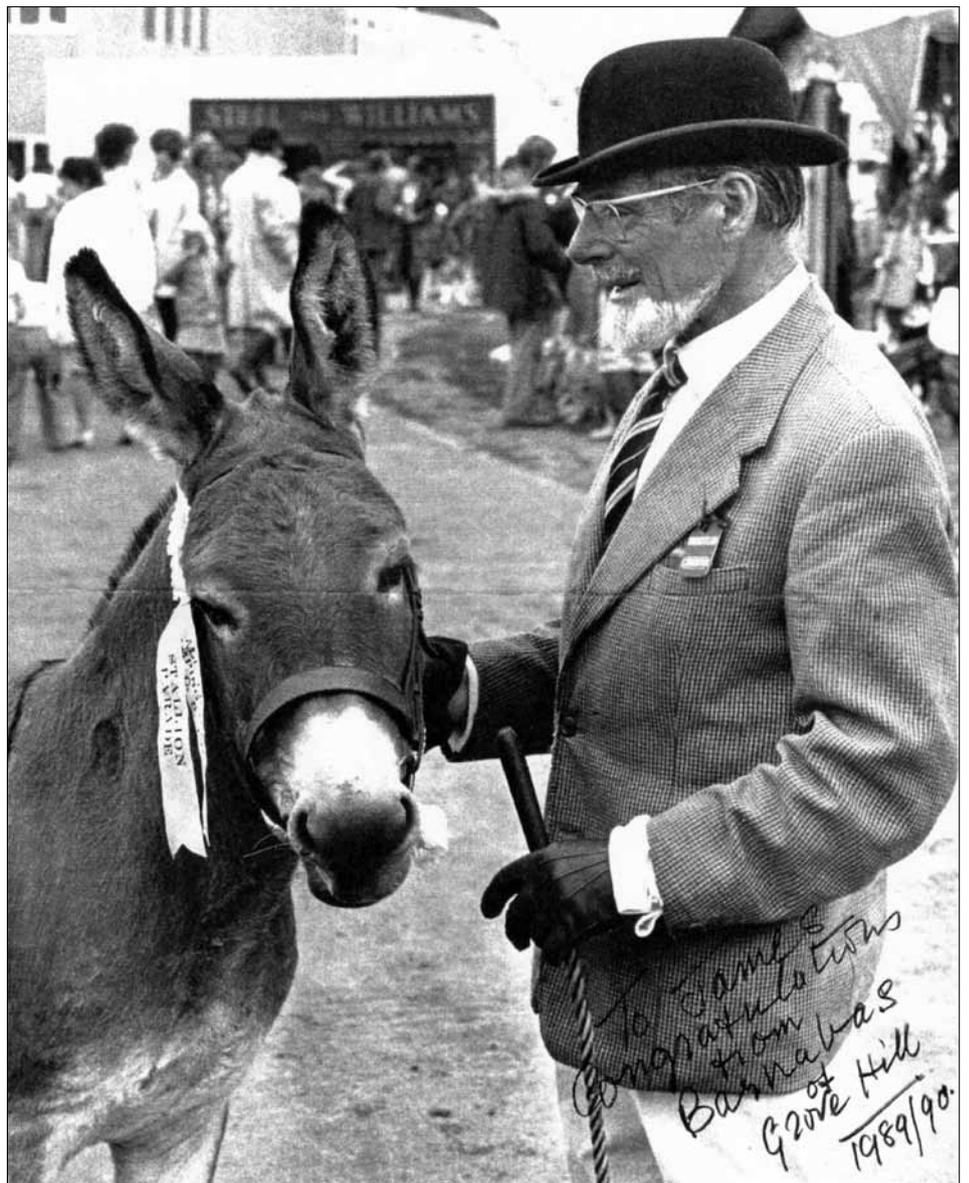
I had a theory that the reason I didn't do well was because I wasn't a man and I didn't wear a bowler hat, and in fact I didn't dress up smart at all. The fact that my donkey was a bit fluffier and had a longer mane than the others, I thought, made it look more cute.

However, I had enjoyed a great day out. The other competitors were very sociable and I made many good friends. The shows were always interesting with many exciting displays of various animals and always unusual happenings in the main arena.

Life went on and we had children, the horse was retired so we didn't go to shows any more. Jenny and Anna learned to ride the donkeys. The number of donkeys we owned increased and if we did go to a show we would be making for the young handler/rider, family donkey, veteran and fancy dress classes. There was usually a few tantrums and tears but we always came home with rosettes. So showing wasn't so bad after all.

## ENTER THE RIGHT CLASS FOR YOUR DONKEY

It took me about twenty years to suss out this rosette situation, and I hope the winners of the red rosettes and trophies in the breed classes at The Supreme Championship



**This is a photo of Mr Lewis Wolfe Morris with his winning stallion Barnabas. He was one of the men in a bowler hat. The other one was Mr Austin Knibb. Thank you to Valerie Newton for the picture.**

Show wont mind me explaining to novice exhibitors what I have discovered over the years. It is important to enter the classes which are suitable for your donkey.

I hope I'm right in saying that the breed classes for Mares, Stallions and Geldings and Youngstock are there to find the 'best' animal on the day for their class. And from the winners of these classes the Champion will be judged to be the best donkey at the show on the day. The judge will be looking for the donkey with the best conformation. So what is conformation? The rules for judging conformation in the show ring set out by the Donkey Breed Society are based entirely on what a donkey needs to be healthy and active. These days it generally means the donkeys suitability to be ridden or driven rather than worked. If you are breeding from a donkey conformation

really does matter because the shape of the donkey affects its fitness, and you don't want to pass on bad conformation if you breed from it. (Which gives me an idea. I think we will have an article about 'What is the judge looking for?' in the next edition of Braytalk.)

So when you go to your next show, there is nothing to stop anyone entering any donkey in any class as long as it is the right sex and age and meets the criteria for the class. But in my opinion there are now so many classes for the novice and, what I would call, family donkeys that everyone at the show can come home with a rosette, and maybe, a Red Rosette. A guaranteed day of pure fun, even the tears and tantrums are funny when you look back at them.

**Barbara Roger**



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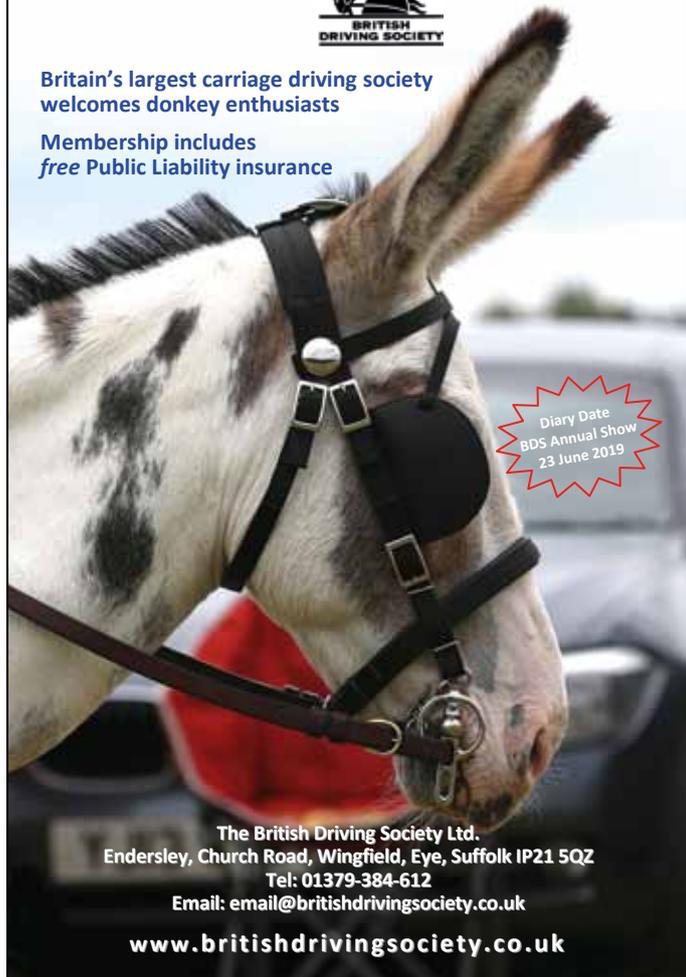
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# THREE DIFFERENT FOALING EXPERIENCES

## Terri Morris introduces her donkey family members



**M**onths of enforced Covid isolation during which I have spoken to hardly anyone and seen very few people has at least given me plenty of time to think back over the 33 years since Sue, our first ever donkey, came into the lives of my husband, John, and me. She came to us from a beach operator for the winter and ended up staying for the next 25 years until her death in her early thirties.

Since then donkeys have introduced us to a whole new world and taken over our lives. We have met many like-minded folk (equally as mad as us!), travelled all over the country, competed in all manner of shows and had a variety of adventures – both good and bad – that we would never otherwise have experienced. Our enthusiasm for these addictive long eared creatures has meant that our stables were at one time bulging with 13 although we are now down to a more manageable(!) ten as we and they grow older. They have come to us from various different sources but we have only bred three foals ourselves.

### BREED YOUR OWN DRIVING DONKEY – OR NOT

Our initial venture into donkey breeding was prompted by our acquisition of our big mare, Hetty, who we planned to drive. At that time, early in our donkey owning career, suitable driving animals seemed to be hard to find so we decided to put Hetty into foal and breed another of our own. The auspices were not entirely wonderful for the outcome of the enterprise when we broke down on a motorway on a busy Bank Holiday Monday while transporting her to the stallion but, apart from that mishap, all went well and just over 12 months later, on a bright spring afternoon in the middle of the paddock with a film crew from next door's studio filming it all, our very first foal entered the world with no obvious complications.

He seemed fine and was duly named

Wychbrook – the prefix I'd chosen as the Wych Brook flowed past our fields separating us from Wales on the other side – Just William (because I knew instinctively that, as Hetty's son, he was going to be naughty!) Thrilled by this gorgeous baby we watched him galloping round his mum and playing and, in our ignorance, were quite happy until the farrier came a few days later to see to the adults and noticed that William suffered from contracted tendons.

Three operations and several thousand pounds in vet's bills later, William was thankfully back rushing around like the hooligan he has been ever since! He never did become a driving animal but he is a good riding donkey and you really wouldn't know that there had ever been anything wrong with him. 22 years later he is now our main Active Donkey, adept at church services, visits to care homes and events too numerous to mention. And, even at his age, he is still his 33 year old mum Hetty's boy!

### BREED YOUR OWN SHOW DONKEY - SUCCESS

The years passed, we moved to a property with more land and, after entering the world of showing with limited success although a great deal of enjoyment from the opportunity to meet people who were as keen on donkeys as we were, we decided to risk having another foray into breeding a foal. We had bought Pepita, a pretty little mare, from Trevor and Valerie Matthews when they had retired from breeding and again ventured south to take her to see Tom Boy, the last of Tom and Trinette Hindle's Happy Valley stallions. Once again the pregnancy progressed well until that early morning when John, who had been checking on Peps at intervals during the night, came rushing in to call the vet. The foal had been born but couldn't get out of the bag. Foal was weak and



Nell at the Halifax show

exhausted, mum was getting stressed and pawing at her baby – we needed some expert help!

Having surely broken every speed limit on the journey across Halifax the vet was with us in an unbelievably short time – even if it did seem like hours! The foal was soon freed but still so frail - and then the miracle I'd prayed for happened before our eyes. The tiny filly was held up so she could take a first drink from her mother's teats and it was quite literally possible to see the strength flowing into her. Wychbrook Petronella was going to be all right.

Once over that hurdle Nell, as she came to be called, grew into a sturdy and confident donkey who has had her share of triumphs in the show ring, most notably in 2008 when, as a yearling, she was put up as Filly Champion and Youngstock Reserve Champion at the DBS Championship Show, an especially wonderful moment for John and me.



Nell posing with red rosette



**BREED YOUR OWN LOCKDOWN FOAL**

During the years that followed we debated about having another foal but, for various reasons, put off making a decision until 2019 when we came to the conclusion that it was now or never. Would we have gone ahead if we'd known what was about to happen? Hmm, that's debatable but, without the gift of being able to see into the future, we sent our beautiful mare, Brownroad Desert Cassia, off to spend her Club 18-30 holiday with Liz and Olwen Brown's handsome stallion, Eddie and she was just starting to grow extremely round when – you've guessed it – we began to hear about this disease called Covid.

Do I regret ending up with a lockdown foal? This may sound irresponsible but not a bit! Increasing age and health concerns that made me extremely wary of catching such a horrible illness have meant that I have been stuck at home feeling very lonely and forgotten for the past year and, without this precious gift, I really don't know how I would have got through it. Cassie having grown to the size of a barrage balloon, was obviously as keen as we were to see her baby enter the world because it was at least 2 weeks before her due date that John went out to the stables one morning in early May to let the donkeys out and discovered a small wet creature tottering around on spindly legs and starting to feed from her mum. Clever Cassie, a first time mother, had managed the birth all on her own and done a perfect job.

It's been such a joy to watch Wychbrook Desert Rose, Rosie to her friends, grow and thrive. I've spent wonderful hours just gazing at her as she explores her surroundings and learns how to be a donkey and I don't know how many photos and videos I've taken of her since she was born! I've missed the fun of introducing her to the outside world by taking her to one or two local shows for the mare and foal classes as we did with Nell but, thanks to the wonderful photographic shows set up by Carole Travell, Rosie has still had an opportunity to win her first couple of red rosettes.

Life is starting to look a little brighter at last with the roll out of vaccines and perhaps there is a chance that we may get back to some sort of normality one day not too far distant. By the time you are reading this it's even possible that many of the current restrictions will have been lifted. None of us can prophecy what the future will hold but I do know that our wonderful donkeys are helping to get me through a very difficult time, I love them dearly and I wouldn't want to be without them – even when they will insist on going out and rolling in the nearest mud patch as soon as they've had a good groom! ■



Rosie



# Argh - I have a new mare and I think she's pregnant - what do I do??

Carole Travell says don't panic!



**Left: Secret (Jade Weaver) Right: Trinitas Jorah and mum Cherry, Trinitas Miss Marple and mum Amazon (Carole Travell)**

**T**his piece is partly a few very high level 'unexpected foal management' tips, and partly just an excuse to have some 'cheer us up' pics of a few 2020 babies. After last year, I think we could all do with something to put a smile on our faces and donkey foals are very good at doing that!

Back to the unexpected pregnancy - Firstly, don't panic. Mares have been happily producing foals very successfully for millennia. Nature has designed them well, so chances are that your mare will do fine on her own.

Secondly, the tips below are high level only, for those last few days. If you have more notice, then there is a lot more you can do to ensure your mare is in the best condition to give birth and that you have made the best possible arrangements for her. If you need advice, contact your local Area Rep, or the office or any member of the Stud Book Committee and they will find you

someone to give you more info.

When will she foal? Mares can foal with none of the following signs, but the more that are present, then the closer she is.

Does she have a bag? They can produce a 'glandular swelling' in their impending udder 6 weeks in advance of foaling, but if it is actually a bag of milk, possibly with full teats 'sticking out' then she is close. If she is dripping milk, then it is usually within 24 hours.

Are the ligaments round her tail relaxed? - if both sides of her tail have 'collapsed' and are like a jelly bag, then she is close (Sounds an odd description but you'll know it when you see / feel it).

Does she want to be on her own? (but some mares want company). Is she off her food? (but I had one that would eat between contractions!) Is she repeatedly dunging with the dung increasingly sloppy? These are all signs of foaling in the next few hours. If you

know your mare and her behaviour changes, then that is perhaps the best sign of all.

Mares can foal indoors or out. If the weather is bad, try and get her indoors. If the weather is good then many owners prefer to have them in a place with light and where it is easy to see what is going on - but they are unlikely to come to any harm outside if the weather is dry. If the mare has field companions, ideally separate them but not if it causes her to be stressed. If they can be an adjacent stables r where they can see each other thru a fence or over a door this is good. If you try and separate and the mare gets stressed, then I personally would leave them together and be very vigilant in case the companion tries to interfere with the new born. In a mixed field the mare will often take themselves off to a corner and their friends are close but not too close. If the mare is inside, keep a eye on her but don't intrude - you may put her off starting to foal.



**Gift (Joss Goodchild)**



**Bruno (Madeline Newson)**



**Bruno**



Trinitas Miss Marple - still wet



Trinitas Cers with mum Rianna



Rosie (Terri Morris)



Rosie

If nothing is happening, go and make a cup of tea and you'll come back and she'll have got on with it!

What does labour look like? It's quick! If you don't see slow but constant progress then something is wrong and you should call your vet. Usually, from first signs to birth is about an hour or so - anything much longer or any long pauses with nothing changing, then call the vet. Remove anything that is risk from the stable e.g. water buckets with handles, haynets etc. Make a note of when she started so you are not guessing. Labour starts with a small pinky white 'bubble gum' bubble protruding from the vagina. This will get bigger with each push and you should soon see the first foot. The usual presentation is one front hoof, with the other following perhaps 6 inches / 25 cms behind. This will then be followed by a nose. These 3 signs are good as it means your foal is in the correct position. If nothing shows, or you get a back foot, call the vet quickly as the foal may be backwards or have a leg or a head caught up. Providing the 2 front hooves and nose appear, then the rest will probably just follow. The foal will be in a bag which may be full of liquid or may tear and the liquid be released (the 'waters breaking'). The mare may stand up, walk around, or lay down, or keep changing position, she is just trying to get in the best position for her so don't worry. Even if the foal is part born, and the mare gets up or lays down, this will not harm

the foal. The mare has to make quite an effort to get the head out, and then an even bigger one to deliver the shoulders and may then rest of a short while before pushing out the back legs. All this is perfectly normal. The mare may be lying down, with an alert foal that still has the back legs inside mum. If the mare is tired, you can help pull but always make sure you are pulling the front legs down towards her heels. Foals are born in an arc shape, curving downwards. Only pull when she pushes. A towel can help you grip wet slippery front legs.

Once the foal is born, tear the bag quickly if necessary and clear any bag from the nose so it can breathe. Foals can drown if the bag does not break or get torn. After this - leave them alone! This is not the time to fuss the foal and do not pick it up to cuddle it (yes - some idiots do!). Let mum and foal have time together.

The foal will probably try and stand after 15 mins, and I would expect them to manage it in under an hour. Once the foal moves, the umbilical cord will naturally break and, if you can, without worrying the mare, give the foal's navel a quick squirt of antiseptic.

Once up (but looking like Bambi) the foal will look for the milk bar. Instinct tells them to suck (so they suck the air, the side of mum, anything they can find!) and also to look in shadow for the teat. They will look between mum's front legs, under the throat,

but eventually they find the right spot 'though they may nuzzle around for ages until they get the actual teat properly in their mouth. This may take another hour. I would not leave a foal until I saw it suckle. If the mare will let you, you could milk just a couple of drops s the smell is in the right spot.

The mare needs to pass the afterbirth. She should do this within 3 hours - if not, call the vet as leaving it until tomorrow could be too late. A retained placenta is serious and needs urgent attention. When she does pass it, collect it up as someone knowledgeable needs to check that it is all there. If anything has been torn off (which is rare) then you need the vet to flush the mare out to remove the left behind pieces.

### Know your one, two, three

Remember (as a rough guide) 1 hour to stand, 2 to suckle, 3 to pass placenta

Then what? Make sure the mare has water - but not in any receptacle that has a handle a tiny foal could get caught up in, give her some hay (no haynet!) and leave them in peace Also recognise that from now on, all stable tasks will take 5 times as long as you will need to stand and adore your new baby and congratulate the new mum!

P.S, The mare will come into season about 5-7 days after foaling and it is usual that the change in her milk causes the foal to have sloppy droppings. This is normal, but if the foal is at all listless, call your vet to check.



Apsley Amber (Diana Dunstan)



Secret



Gift



## Have fun with donkeys!

- ❖ Do you want to spend a day or two with fellow donkey lovers?
- ❖ Can you get to Warwickshire for mid August?
- ❖ Can you bring a donkey (or 2) or just yourself?
- ❖ Do you want to camp, sleep in student accommodation or a hotel? (donkeys get stables!)
- ❖ Do you fancy taking part in a light hearted social evening with quiz and chip supper?



*It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to work out the best place to be to have a weekend of donkey fun*

## Classes for ALL donkeys!

Agility, Juniors, Ridden, Inhand, Long reined, Driven, Novice, Pairs, Condition & Turnout, Working donkey, Best Pet, ... and the all-important Fancy Dress!

(and don't forget the mules!)

# Donkey Breed Society Championship Show

**Sadly cancelled for 2021 but back with a vengeance for 2022!**

Warwickshire College,  
Moreton Morrell Centre  
Warwick CV35 9BL

**Schedules available next year**

Contact Show Secretary,  
Barbara Whale  
01889 504424  
donkeybreedsocietytreasurer@gmail.com

**Make 2022 the year you come and have fun!**

# ACTIVE DONKEY AWARD

It takes more than an international pandemic to keep us Active Donkeys 'Locked Down' in our stables!



Lucy and Shadow with Beavers

**D**eafening virtual brays of greeting to you all! Well, where do I start? This has been an incredibly difficult year for every one of us and even we donkeys have been aware of the restrictions placed on us by the terrible pandemic that has affected the lives of our humans so much. We may not understand all these new phrases that seem to pepper their conversations with such mind-numbing regularity – lock down, social distancing, tiers, quarantining – but we have noticed that, suddenly, all those trips out to various shows and events that we enjoyed so much have been curtailed and we're not having the opportunity to show off in front of our adoring public.

With so few chances to be as ACTIVE as we are in normal times it was a great surprise and, I must say, an extremely heartening one to receive such a huge amount of successful entries for the Active Donkey Award for the year Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to Jul 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Despite the fact that this period included several pre Covid months (hard to remember a world without this dreadful disease!) when many ADA participants had already managed to complete a number of activities and the decision that was made



Dec and Dave the Rave out for a walk in Gosford Forest



Lucy at Childrens' Hospice



Daisy at school Palm Sunday



Nigel practising crossing over his pyramid

to decrease the figure of 8 to 6 mandatory activities, we here at HQ fully expected far fewer donkeys to complete ADA's 21<sup>st</sup> year than had done so in our record breaking 20<sup>th</sup> just a year before (and a very different world!).

How wonderful then to discover that we had still succeeded in reaching that once seemingly unattainable number of 100! Break out the celebratory carrots as, to be precise, we ended up with 101 donkeys earning their rosettes, certificates and various other awards – a real tribute to the determination and ingenuity of our wonderful Active Donkeys right across the country and over the water.

On the subject of awards I would like to explain our thinking behind which ones we have given out for 2019/20. Of course

the 3 year shields, 5 year special rosettes, 10 year and 15 year awards have all remained the same, but we deliberated long and hard about whether to present the coveted ADA Cup and finally decided that we would not do so this year. As you know the Cup is awarded to the donkey who, in the impartial estimation of our panel of 3 judges, has done the most during that 12 months to be considered a true ambassador for our Noble Breed. And, quite honestly, I and my loyal minions found it impossible even to decide on a short list because – each and every one of my long eared pals deserves that accolade for the wonderful way that you have helped to keep up the spirits of all the humans with whom you've come into contact during such a dark time.

As we therefore have no Cup winner

to tell you about I thought you might like to see a couple of pictures of the donkey whose name was the very first to be engraved on the ADA trophy back in 2005, Wyeknot Lousille (or Lucy to her many friends) who was the proud recipient at the inaugural presentation all those years ago. Lucy, who lives in Cumbria with her equally industrious miniature mates and owner, Janice Brown, has been carrying on the proud tradition of the Active Donkey ever since and has even found time to produce a daughter, Shadow, to follow in her twinkling hoof prints. I'm including a beautiful picture of Lucy visiting a Children's Hospice in December 2019 and an equally lovely photo of Lucy and Shadow helping the members of their local Beavers group to get their Animal Care Badges. A big

## ACTIVE DONKEY AWARDS



Percy and Dave the Rave go for a paddle at the seaside



Inky flying the flag on VE Memorial Day



Winifred and Jenny (Snowdonia Donks) meet the BBC Children in Need Challenge Rickshaw Team

thank you, Wyeknot Donks, for the joy you must have brought to so many people and all your hard work 'flying the flag' for The Donkey!

You'll also find in this article a selection of photos that people have been kind enough to send me to show how it's still possible for us donkeys to get out and about and have FUN with our humans even in these times of rigid restrictions. I'm sure everyone would like to join me in a loud cheer of CONGRATULATIONS to all those listed below who have each demonstrated just what remarkable animals we long ears truly are:

### FIRST YEAR

Henry entered by Liz Barrett, Sweet Pea entered by Mrs Sheila Bell,

Barney and Freddie entered by Sarah Booth, Elliot, Peter and Rusty entered by Jane Brind, Dickon entered Mrs O Brown, Dave the Rave entered by Jill Castles,

Donkan entered by Debbie Hornby, Sam entered by Sue Jones,

Jimmy Choo entered by Mrs C. Travell, Secret entered by Miss Jade Weaver,

Priceless and Prosecco entered by Miss Opal Weaver, Dennis and Eric entered by Judith Williams

### SECOND YEAR

Toby entered by Sophie Gray, Miss Wickham of Kinnards entered by Sarah Booth, Bluey entered by Mrs O Brown, Percy, Jake and Dec entered by Jill Castles, Shankydd and Joey entered by Wendy Gray, Freddy and Jamie entered by Hunting Hall Farm, Dwynwen, Jenny, Norman, Nutmeg, Walter and Winifred entered by Snowdonia Donkeys,

Teddy and Ned entered by Sue Jones, Aria entered by Miss Jade Weaver,

Fingle entered by Nicki Wight, Stanley and Rodney entered by Briony Wild



**William at the Grassington Dickensian Weekend**



**Hamish and Dougal on Remembrance Day**

### THIRD YEAR (Shield)

Tinkerbelle entered by Jill Housley, 'Enry 'Iggins entered by Mrs C Travell, Danceabray Harmony in the Breeze entered by Miss Jade Weaver, Nigel and Lottie entered by Judith Williams

### FOURTH YEAR

Puzzle entered by Mrs Sue Bowden, Daegan entered by Jane Brind, Prince George and Daisy entered by J Broadhurst, Sydney entered by Ms Sheena Mconnell-Ferrie, Wychbrook Just William entered by Mrs T. A. Morris, Cole and Danjoe entered by Sarah Pennell, Dougal entered by Allison Roberts, Molly entered by Snowdonia Donkeys.

### FIFTH YEAR (Special Rosette)

Edward entered by Jane Brind, East Lodge Daisy entered by Diana Dunstan, Bonnie entered by Miss Jessica Greenaway, Hamish entered by Allison Roberts

### SIXTH YEAR

Dolly entered by Jane Brind, Romance du Bocage entered by Mrs O Brown, Malcolm entered by Caroline&Rebecca Giles-Lee, Buffalo and Solomon entered by Jane Lewis, Danceabray Whispa on the Wind, Pehill Be Mine and East Lodge Ollie entered by Miss Jade Weaver, Teddy entered by Miss Opal Weaver, Oliver and Patrick entered by Briony Wild

### SEVENTH YEAR

Alfie entered by Mrs S Bell, Oakley entered by Miss Opal Weaver, Isaac of Blakes Wood entered by Briony Wild

### EIGHTH YEAR

Dusky and Shadow entered by Mrs Janice Brown, Rupert entered by Miss Jade Weaver



**Henry out for walk with panniers**

### NINTH YEAR

Bluey entered by Mrs Sheila Bell, Wyeknot Inkspots Too entered by Mrs J Brown, Poppy entered by Mrs Cheryl Browning, Apsley Solace and Trinitas Forzanda entered by Mrs D Dunstan

### TENTH YEAR (Crystal Block)

Amadea entered by Mrs Sheila Bell, Colin entered by Mrs O Brown, Duke entered by Mrs Rhonda Fry Cracker, Holly, Mr Jingles and Nollaig entered by Caroline&Rebecca Giles-Lee, Scarlet entered by Miss Opal Weaver

### TWELFTH YEAR

Peter entered by Mrs Sheila Bell, Wyeknot Lousille entered by Mrs J Brown, Amos entered by Mrs D. Dunstan, Denis of Kinedale entered by Robert & Tristan Wallace Pehill Echo entered by Miss Jade Weaver and Daisy entered by Ms. E Wright.

### THIRTEENTH YEAR

Annabel entered by Miss C Browning, Trinitas Tintinnabula entered by Mrs C Travell, Pehill Sir Bart entered by Miss Jade Weaver, Violet entered by Miss Opal Weaver

### FIFTEENTH YEAR (

Special Rosette)  
Irish Coffee and Jackador William entered by Miss Opal Weaver

### SIXTEENTH YEARS

Westra Stella entered by Mrs S Bell, Pehill Snowie entered by Miss Jade Weaver

### NINETEENTH YEAR

Son of Jacob entered by Vivienne, Mark Carleton-Andrews in memory of Sarah  
If YOU think you might like to become a part of ADA's growing army of intrepid donkeys then can I suggest that you give that human of yours a 'gentle' nudge and urge him/her to send off for more information and an enrolment form to:

**ADA Administrator, Mrs Terri Morris, Throstle Nest Farm, Alderscholes Lane, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD13 3SY.Tel: 01274835520 Email: throstlenest@hotmail.co.uk**

Forms can be sent by email or post and the enrolment fee remains at £2 per donkey per year which can be paid EITHER to The Administrator OR PREFERABLY (if possible) to the DBS by online banking using the following details:  
Account 31968768  
Branch 306497  
Ref ADA nnnn (nnnn being your DBS membership number)

For the present the amount of activities you have to take part in to qualify for your Active Donkey Awards will remain at 6 during the course of an ADA year (Aug 1<sup>st</sup> to the following Jul 31<sup>st</sup>). This will be reviewed as and when (fingers, toes, hooves and everything else crossed!) the situation improves. In the meantime my loyal staff and I are poised just waiting to hear from you like coiled (rather rusty!) springs ready to leap into action here at ADA HQ and would like to wish everyone the Very Best of Health and Endless Sunny Days to enable you all to enjoy some

# SOUTHERN CARRIAGE DRIVING WEEKEND AT TENANTRY FARM

Judith Williams enjoyed a rare event during lock down event

The Southern Carriage Driving Club were unable to run their usual programme of competitions due to Covid restrictions, but instead they organised a fun weekend at Tenantry Farm based near Fordingbridge in Hampshire over an extended August Bank Holiday weekend. The farm has hosted a wide range of equestrian activities for over 30 years with many rideable / driveable tracks, cross country fences and flat areas for arenas to be set up. In order to make the event viable, it was open to non-club members so as soon as a donkey driver became aware, they posted details and very soon there were several of us wanting to attend. The weekend consisted of the opportunity to have private lessons with top teachers, to enter low-key fun competitions and also to drive the miles of tracks. We all opted for a different mix of things to do, but camped together and supported each other throughout the weekend. As ever with donkey folk, we had a great time! We have no idea if the event will run again in 2021, but if it is, I am sure we'll be rushing to book again!

The forecast was dismal for the start of the August bank holiday weekend and the chatter on the group chat was to how many changes of clothes to pack!

Carole, Dave, 'Enry & Tin arrived with many other driving groups on the Thursday and braved the storm overnight. Keira Muffin, Claire, Jake & Dandy, myself with Nigel & Lottie arrived Friday afternoon as the weather was starting to calm. On arrival Kayti the organiser for the Southern Carriage driving club made us all feel so welcome.

The stables lined the outside of the field



Clare Humphries and friends

where we would be camping with beautiful groomed horses poking their noses over the stable doors, carriages undercover. I would say there was 30 plus lorries, trailers & tents around the other edges of the field, everyone was busy setting themselves up.

The donkeys had been given VIP accommodation they had stables and a yard all to themselves, after settling them in it was the huge task of setting up our accommodation for the weekend, I'd never camped before, the thought crossed my mind that if the tent failed home was only 38 miles away! In the evening a few of us decided to stretch our legs along with our donkeys and go for a walk around the cross country course. Carole & Dave with their two donkeys drove, Jake & Dandy decided to have a go at the cross country jumps in hand, Claire in total calm control, the donkeys clearing

the jumps with masses to spare. Muffin had a view of that perhaps he could take himself around the course by himself eventually very calmly he came to a halt, for Keira to gather the lead rope and the walk carried on. My two just looked on as if to say walking fine, jumping NO! Back at camp we all gathered under the canopy of Carole's trailer and chatted until dark, it was lovely to get to know others a bit better.

## SATURDAY

The sun was out, the sky was blue people bustling about with wheelbarrows, cups of tea, harnesses and uncovering the array of carriages. People who were not camping but just coming for the day arrived. A team of white ponies went off for their drive, Friesians being harnessed up to their fabulous (huge) carriage & off do their activity. What



Clare and Dandy at trot



Clare driving Jake



**Muffin saying hello to Lottie and Nigel**



**Judith plus Lottie and Nigel**

was noticeable was the amount of "hellos" and smiles we got. Kayti & her team had organised this event so well. We were told that the aim of this informal weekend was to relax, enjoy, learn and have fun.

The day began with all of us entering the "Fun Cones" long reining course - First round was to remember the course from one to 10, second round was to do the course backwards and if I remember correctly the third round was to match your time. Claire & Dandy looked like the master at work, all very balanced, striding out, listening and managing the course with ease. Keria & Muffin dressed in his fine gleaming leather harness took to the course, this little mule I think won everyone's hearts (lots of compliments being made). Keira & Muffin completed the course like champions. People clapping cheering from the side made the course so relaxed and enjoyable. Horses stood for their turn, not really bothering with the long ears standing around them. There was so much help on hand from stewards, competitors giving advice on the next turn or in my case Trudy Affleck walking behind me, helping and giving me advice on which way to go. Left and rights are a nightmare for me.

Time for the donkeys to rest and for us

to grab a bit of lunch. A few hours later we were back this time most of us driving, I think if I remember rightly the cones course had slightly changed with big loops to the left and sharp turns to the right, this would keep your mind at work!

Rosemary & Keith arrived for the afternoon with Emily & Freddie, beautiful donkeys harnessed to their Hartland carriage, Rosemary looking ahead, Keith being the groom and giving advice on the next set of cones to take. Meanwhile the 2 stallions donkeys were asleep outside the ring with Carole & Dave chatting and watching the course. It was their turn next and with a little "wake up boys" they were off in their Bennington pairs carriage. Lots of gentle voice commands coming from Carole and Dave looking ahead, 'Enry & Tin being so steady going through the cones at a walk and a trot. Jacquie with Setley Plain Henry & Stanley also arrived for the day, her boys couldn't believe their eyes seeing horses, ponies and donkeys all doing different courses side by side but they are pros and just took to the course, long reining with steadiness. Nigel & Lottie took to the course trying to take care of their driver who nearly lost her way, dropped a rein I heard a little whisper from my groom saying "don't

worry the donkeys haven't noticed" rein collected back up and not a stride broken. After everyone had completed this marathon course I think only 1 person managed to not knock the tennis balls of the cones. After this had finished everyone went back to their pitch for a well earned rest.

Donkeys, horses & ponies tucked up for the night the wheelbarrow challenge took place. This was a great game for team work, the idea was not for speed but for steadiness, lots of laughter when things went wrong and lots of cheering when people had finished. The evening finished with a fish & chip supper and a lovely warm summers evening....bliss.

#### **SUNDAY**

Carole, Dave, Keria & Clare went onto do the treasure hunt skills task or dressage with their donkeys/mules in the morning. Muffin making the rein back look so easy was a delight to watch. 'Enry & Tin walking in a straight line so the carriage wheel followed the course between two sets of markers, that looked quite a challenge.

In the afternoon we all decided to do great seven mile drive all off road, either on the edge of fields or tracks it was pure heaven. The weather was warm with a



**Kiera driving Muffin the Mule**



**Clare plus Dandy behind her and Jake beside her**



Kiera and Muffin the Mule



Carole and Dave with Enry and Tin

gentle breeze Claire lead the way with Jake, followed by me with Nigel & Lottie & Trudy as my groom then Carole, Dave with their two donkeys. Jacquie decided to come along for a walk. Horses & ponies passing, everyone be considerate, leaving enough room for their horses to digest that donkeys were on their drive!!! I decided to take a short cut as this was my first outing with my two and I think it was a relief for Jacquie. We left Claire, Carole & Dave to enjoy the whole route taking in some stunning scenery on the way.

Sunday evening Kayti & her team put on a delicious buffet which was followed by the presentation of rosettes. Muffin was adorned with red ribbons. Everyone who had entered received a well-deserved rosette.

I asked for some comments from people who attended to sum up the weekend, here are a few.

- **Brilliant fun, fantastic place, no pressure, learned new skills and had a go at cones & dressage.**
- **Getting to know other donkey drivers better.**
- **Very well organised, welcoming & friendly**

- **Typical donkey weekend very relaxed with everybody enjoying themselves, helping each other too.**

#### A MULE'S EYE VIEW

Kiera Bentley and Muffin The Mule Muffin and I arrived on the Thursday after a very wet drive from Oxfordshire. I was relieved to find some friendly long ears in the brick stables that we had been allocated. Everyone was friendly and welcoming which was reassuring as this was my first camp with Muffin. The rain continued on and off and my carriage was accommodated by a kind donkey owning neighbour who had a spare awning which meant I could lay my bed out in the lorry!

Friday morning the sun shone and I woke to find a happy mule and more donkey neighbours.

I had a brilliant driving lesson with James Rooney and that set us up well for the weekend.

I really enjoyed spending time with other more experienced drivers who were generous with their time by assisting me (I was on my own) whether keeping me company on the lovely cross country

tracks or keeping a watchful eye during my long-reining cone competitions.

We proved to be the Queen of long-reining winning all the (very low key) competitions and I was delighted to go home with a handful of rosettes, tired and proud of my little mule who behaved impeccably and spread the word about long-ear's versatility.

I would definitely recommend the camp to anyone whether novice or experienced.

The opportunity to partake in lessons, competitions and the beautiful traffic free drives was a real treat.

It was definitely one of my highlights for 2020.

#### HENRY AND STANLEY

It was great to be able to do drop in sessions as we weren't able to camp for the weekend, and also great that the horsey community let the donkey folk join their weekend too. I took Henry & Stanley along for some long reining practice as we'd not done much over the year and not been to any shows with them all being cancelled. We had a great time and really hope we can do it again this year. Jackie Rose



Henry and Stanley



Henry and Stanley

# DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MUD?

## Mudcontrol say they have the solution

**M**udcontrol say that their Mudcontrol slabs are a simple D.I.Y. way to create instant, removable hard-standing for people, animals and vehicles.

If you need to create solid pathways, haying areas, gateways, grass-free or grassy loafing areas, 'patios' in front of field shelters, paths for wheelbarrows or people (or animals!) or even a mini track system for your donkeys and their people to use, these are the answer.

Used by leading donkey sanctuaries, they can be driven over by farm traffic (they're rated to 60 tonnes), mown over (as long as the blades are set high enough) or grazed.

They say they are the perfect alternative to concrete, but with the added benefits that they are free-draining, will allow grass to grow through if installed without a membrane, and can be lifted and moved - they are as temporary or permanent as you want them to be.

### USE AGAIN AND AGAIN

Don't bury your investment in the ground - these slabs are removable and reusable again and again, or can be left in place indefinitely.

Each slab measures 50cm x 50cm x 5.3cm and weighs 7kg (1 stone), with tabs and spaces on every side, which interlink with the spaces and tabs on adjacent slabs. They are rock solid, self-supporting, and won't sink, even on terrible mud, and are covered by a comprehensive

manufacturer's warranty for 20 years.

Minimal ground preparation is required - just remove any big lumps or stones, so the slabs can lie flat and interlink easily, and lay them straight down on the mud/grass/soil.

The slabs are made from solid, very strong 100% recycled plastic material which is Playground Certified (no nasties leaching into your ground), rated to over 60 tonnes, and doesn't go brittle in the cold, or soften in hot weather.

### HOW DO THEY WORK?

There is a strong grid on the underneath of the slabs which stabilises them in the soil/mud. The holes on top of the slabs are 5cm (2") in diameter. Once the slabs are down the slabs should be overtopped generously with sand, so that the holes and any voids underneath the slabs are completely filled. Around feed and hay areas holey rubber grass mats make a good alternative topping. The top of the slabs is moulded with a slip-resistant double nub pattern, which is enough grip for foot traffic, vehicles, and unshod animals.

They are £7.20 per slab (£28.80 per square metre of 4 slabs) including VAT. Plus delivery, which depends on the postcode area. There is no minimum order. We use a national pallet delivery network and can deliver to anywhere in the U.K. within a few working days.

The MUDCONTROL fence posts are made from 100% recycled plastic HANIT®



material, just like the slabs, are rot-proof, and unpalatable. You can use them just like a wooden post and then forget about them for decades. Over 15 million sold worldwide. They can be installed by hand or by machine, then stapled, drilled, screwed into or nailed into just like wood, but they will never rot. They're the solution we've all been looking for!

As sole U.K. distributors for the MUDCONTROL slabs we can deliver to anywhere in the U.K. and pride ourselves on our personal customer service and reliability.

Please have a look at [www.mudcontrol.co.uk](http://www.mudcontrol.co.uk) and at our @mudcontrol YouTube channel and @mudcontrol Facebook page for countless customer testimonials, photos & videos. We have jaw-dropping Before and After photos sent in by customers, and so many of our customers have described the slabs as "a gamechanger for mud", "a lifesaver in winter" and "the best thing I've ever bought for my animals". ■

# FEET AND FUR



Jenny picking up feet

**A**nna Harrison is a donkey vet whose career has included being a field welfare vet at The Donkey Sanctuary and is currently involved with Safe Haven for Donkeys in The Holy Land. She is passionate about donkeys and can be seen on the Donkey Breed Webinars on their YouTube Channel, talking about worms, vaccinations and skin issues – more to come!

The trouble with evolution is that it happens very slowly. The donkey has only been living in our temperate climates for about 2000 years and we have to thank the Romans that they are here at all. 2000 years is a mere heartbeat of evolutionary time so it's little wonder that donkeys are not yet adapted to our climate which is so different to that of their natural home – the hot and arid areas of Africa and the Middle East. The implications of this are significant in terms of donkey health and welfare and we'll have a look at two fundamental characteristics of donkeys which put them at risk because they are living outside their environmental comfort zone in the UK.

## HOOVES

The moisture content of donkey hoof horn is around 30% and higher than that of the horse in the UK. The moisture gives the horn its pliability and helps to prevent brittle cracks. Now, if you are a desert animal you never know when you are next going to come across water. So, when you do, it's best to make full use of it. Donkeys can be seen standing in water in the desert and it is believed that they are taking the opportunity to absorb water into the hoof horn while they can to maintain vital moisture content. An efficient absorption mechanism is therefore a perfect adaptation to desert life. Now put that hoof in the UK and what we see as a green and pleasant land is more akin to a bog as far as that hoof is concerned. In the moist or frankly wet green, green grass of home that hoof will still be really efficient at absorbing water which is

in a pretty unlimited supply. This is a recipe for soft, waterlogged hooves and leaves the donkey vulnerable to diseases such as white line disease (aka seedy toe), abscesses and thrush. None of these diseases is nice but abscesses in particular can be so intensively painful that a donkey may just lie down and stop eating and that is life threatening. Do you know why? (see the answer at the end of this article). Early treatment for all foot disease is vital and whilst the farrier can be very helpful do bear in mind that a vet is needed to prescribe pain killing medication.

We cannot stop the rain and we cannot stop our fields getting wet and muddy. However, we can provide hard standing for our donkeys so that they can choose to get off the wet pasture. A concrete area by the field shelter or stable is all that is needed but it really is needed – it's not an optional extra. If you have the benefit of a choice of paddocks determine if one drains more efficiently than others and use this one when the weather is wet.

## SHELTER

This too is an essential not a luxury. We're back to the fact that the donkey is a desert animal not yet adapted to the UK climate. Horses and ponies grow a thick, luxuriant, waterproof coat to get them through the winter, but donkeys simply do not. Donkey keepers have always known that donkeys don't tend to like the rain, especially when it's cold, and head for shelter at the first opportunity. But now we have scientific evidence that this is a fact and why. Two recent studies have clearly shown that donkeys do not significantly alter their coats between winter and summer in terms of the weight, length and width of the hair and seek shelter in cold, windy and wet weather. This is hugely significant in terms of donkey welfare. I have seen many shivering donkeys in the winter and we all know how miserable it is to be chronically cold and even worse if we are unable



Larry

to do anything about it. Our donkeys are completely reliant on us as keepers to provide for their needs. Wild animals roaming free can seek shelter but donkeys in fields do not have any choice. The shelter can be a simple construction but make sure it is situated appropriately taking into account the prevailing wind.

One of the commonest calls of concern to animal welfare organizations regarding donkeys is that they are seen in the winter with no shelter. Armed with peer reviewed scientific study it strengthens the hand of welfare advisers to guide donkey owners towards better welfare and, as a last resort, accredited evidence can make all the difference should matters end up with legal proceedings. Just have a look at Section 9 of The Animal Welfare Act 2006 which applies to England and Wales (there is equivalent legislation for Scotland and Northern Ireland):

9. Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare

(1) A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, an animal's needs shall be taken to include—

- (a) its need for a suitable environment,
- (b) its need for a suitable diet,
- (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
- (e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

Keeping a donkey outside with no shelter contravenes (a), (c) and probably leads to suffering, so (e). So, not only against good welfare but against the law!

If you want to read about the studies I've included references below – just google the titles and that should get you to the papers.



# Donkey Rugs by Ruggles

Horse, Shetland and Miniature Rugs – Outstanding Quality at Affordable Prices



Combo mesh fly rug with belly band, tail flap and waterproof top line. £55.00

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For more information please contact: Ruggles Equestrian Limited, Loddington House, Main Street, Loddington, Leicestershire LE17 9XE  
Tel: 01572 717 447 E-mail: [sales@rugglesequestrian.co.uk](mailto:sales@rugglesequestrian.co.uk)

Providing shelter sounds easy but it may not always be straightforward or even possible. Many situations will require planning permission and if you cannot find a field that can be equipped with shelter then the harsh truth is – you should not have donkeys. There are several avenues to explore regarding obtaining permission, or workarounds such as mobile shelters, and here's just one website that you may find useful: <https://www.nationalstables.co.uk/blog/do-you-need-planning-permission-for-a-mobile-field-shelter>. But do bear in mind that hardstanding is essential and a concrete pad may not be allowed and would certainly not be feasible if a mobile shelter has to be moved regularly. You may want to have a look at 'paddock grid' <https://www.recycledplasticbuildingmaterials.co.uk/equestrian/recycled-plastic-paddock-reinforcement-grid.html>. (These two websites are just examples of options out there – they are not personal recommendations). Sand, slabs, road planings/scalplings and woodchip have all been tried with varying degrees of success (and failure!) but you could find you spend more time maintaining the hard standing than enjoying your donkeys!

If we revisit this in a few millenia we may find that the donkey has evolved to develop hooves that don't soak up every drop of water they find and that they grow a thick, waterproof winter coat but, in the meantime, remember they are a desert animal having

to live in a cool, wet climate. It's like putting a polar bear in the Caribbean!

And why is a donkey not eating a veterinary emergency? Donkeys are very prone to the frequently fatal disease – hyperlipaemia (too much fat in the blood in plain English!). Not eating for just a few hours can precipitate a cascade of catastrophic events whereby the release of stored bodyfat leads to them circulating in the bloodstream and clogging up every organ they meet (and that is every organ in the body). The disease is nearly always secondary to a primary stressor such as pain, bereavement, transport. Because, as a prey animal, donkeys have evolved to hide the signs of pain and weakness you may only notice that your donkey is 'dull' and not eating. Call your vet – every hour counts in the chances of treatment being successful.

### Hair coat properties of donkeys, mules and horses in a temperate climate

B. Osthaus L. Proops S. Long N. Bell K. Hayday F. Burden

Equine Veterinary Journal, 2018. Volume 50, Issue 3, pages 339-342

(<https://doi.org/10.1111/evj.12775>)

### Shelter-seeking behavior of donkeys and horses in a temperate climate.

Leanne Proops, Britta Osthaus, Nikki Bell, Sarah Long, Kristin Hayday, Faith Burden. Journal of Veterinary Behavior 32 (2019) 16e23 ■



Jenny and Larry in the woods



Not all overweight donkeys are as obviously fat as this one.

## PREPARING YOUR DONKEY FOR A VET CHECK

Understand Change to Change your donkey's behaviour says Ben Hart, well known to donkey owners' for his behaviour work.

**H**ow to change your donkey's behaviour by understanding how change works

In a recent training about human behaviour change, one of the participants pointed out that if changing behaviour was simple, you could simply tell people what to do, and they would change their behaviour. Sometimes change is that simple, and sometimes it is infuriatingly difficult, but why is it so hard to change?

Experience has taught me that I need to focus my efforts on changing human behaviour to improve donkeys and mules' welfare. Let us look at why changing behaviour can sometimes seem easy and sometimes feel infuriatingly tricky.

I like to say that behaviour is in everything that we do. Behaviour is not just the big things like training, farrier work or being safe and calm for the vet. Behaviour is in the food that we feed, how we feed our donkeys, where we feed, the amount of feeding space, the temperature of the water we use. All of these things can change the

behaviour of our donkeys. We vary our own behaviour depending on our moods, blood sugar levels, and the time of year or weather. These mood swings will affect our donkey's behaviour. As behaviour is in everything that we do, then changing behaviour becomes the key to success when we want to improve our donkeys' quality of life.

Through my work with human behaviour change, I have learned that the best way to change behaviour is to understand the cycle of change. Numerous models of change can be found with an internet search. However, I want to focus on the transtheoretical model of change, which has five stages, pre-contemplation, contemplation, planning, action, and maintenance. The Transtheoretical model is often applied to human health care changes but can be equally well used for animal welfare interventions.

Understanding where someone is within these stages or understanding where we are in these stages of change can help

determine what we should be doing to make change practices more successful. Mismatching our efforts to encourage change with someone's stage of change will make change harder.

People can be at different stages of the change process in various elements of their donkey's behaviour and well-being. Let us take the overweight donkey and a donkey with the fear of veterinary treatment as examples and follow them through these stages of change.

### PRE-CONTEMPLATION

At this stage, the need for change has not been recognised. When we are in pre-contemplation, we are not aware that change may be required. We are not considering change, thinking of making a change. We may have previously thought about our situation but have dismissed the need for any change.

Unfortunately, if we are trying to change someone else's behaviour, we may suffer from the "Curse of knowledge". This curse



**Preparing your donkey for a vet check**

simply refers to the fact that once we learn something, it is almost impossible to remember what it was like before we had that awareness. Once you know what an overweight donkey looks like and the damage that can do to the donkey's health and well-being, it is impossible to unlearn those facts. Knowing what "needs to be done" while someone else does not recognise the need for change can be the most frustrating part of changing behaviour.

### **OVERWEIGHT DONKEY**

We may not be aware our donkey is overweight. We may be justifying why our donkey is overweight and cannot change. We may have tried dieting our donkeys, but it was too challenging, so we have given up trying. We know our donkey is overweight but justify the extra pounds and convince ourselves that our donkey is happy being overweight; therefore, there is no need for change.

### **VETERINARY TREATMENT**

The donkeys' owner does not view this behaviour as a problem and accepts that is how donkeys are with vets and cannot be changed. The next veterinary treatment is not due for at least 11 months, so no need to think about it now. The donkey's behaviour is so extreme that we have no idea how we might change the behaviour, and therefore we give up contemplating change is possible.

Telling people to change when they are in this stage of the change process seldom works. We may become defensive or even aggressive towards the person suggesting changes are required. When someone is in this phase of change, without being judgemental, we have to; explore the reasons for their thinking, acknowledge the good things that they are doing, and ask them for their opinions on their donkey's behaviour and well-being. Allowing people



**Straw feeder and hay balls**

to develop their awareness of the situation leads to the next stage of our change model. During the pre-contemplation phase, people are not aware of the positive aspects of change.

### **CONTEMPLATION**

During this phase, people have recognised that change might be required but have not actually started the physical process of change. This part of the cycle can last from several weeks to many years. On a personal level, you may experience this stage if you know you need to lose weight, exercise more, or have a healthier diet, but you have not made those changes yet when we contemplate change. We may be hesitant to start because the challenge seems too great. We are not sure how to create the change. At this stage of change, the negatives of changing and the efforts involved may still outweigh the potential benefits and positives.

### **OVERWEIGHT DONKEY**

"Ok, so he is a little overweight, but..." The owner recognises the need and even some benefits of change but is considering the reality of making those changes. Is it possible to diet the overweight donkey while their friend is already a perfect condition score three? We will be thinking about how much work it will be, how long it will take and the potential for failure.

### **VETERINARY TREATMENT**

"Ok, it would be great if she wasn't so fearful, but ..." Here, the owner is contemplating the challenges involved with changing the donkey's behaviour. We may weigh up the potential risks and consider if a change is vital. After all, "the vet is very patient, and as long as we've got a couple of strong helpers, we can get the job done."

Unfortunately, awareness of the need

for change does not mean change will happen. At this stage, we can easily slip back into the pre-contemplation phase. We have considered a change but believe it is too difficult or unlikely to succeed, so we give up. During this contemplation stage, we require support, encouragement and examples of the benefits of change and to hear stories of other people's change efforts and successes. We need to continue to motivate our change efforts, helping to keep us in the change cycle and prepares us for the next stage.

### **Planning**

At this stage of the change process, we have decided change is possible and even likely to succeed. We have reasoned that the benefits of change outweigh the negatives of changing, and we start planning the change process. On a personal level, this stage is represented by searching for healthy eating cookbooks, researching the best diet options, finding the local gym or considering which exercise classes might best suit us. However, there is still no actual change.

### **OVERWEIGHT DONKEY.**

We are researching how we might diet our donkeys, the safe levels of weight loss, what foods we can feed, and how we might keep our donkey entertained and even source new feedstuffs.

### **VETERINARY TREATMENT**

We are considering how to make our donkey's experience of the vet treatment more positive. We might be asking our vet for their help and advice. We may even be looking online for behaviour resources or seeking recommendations for a trainer or behaviourist who can help us.

This stage in the change process allows us to map our path to success mentally. We can also consider the likely challenges we will face and ensure we have everything



**Getting donkey used to being touched**

we need to succeed. Depending on individual personality, we may rush through this phase and not do enough preparation, or we may spend a very long time trying to get everything in order before we begin the actual process of change. Recognising an individual's needs and traits is essential if you are trying to support somebody in this phase of the change process. Depending on the individuals involved, we might be encouraging a little more planning or reassurance that enough planning has been done.

### **ACTION**

The action stage is the phase where physical efforts to change take place. We begin putting our plans into action. The action phase is the phase that we tend to think of as the only part of the change process, just doing something. Hopefully, we can now see the contemplation and planning stages are essential processes to ensure our actions succeed.

### **OVERWEIGHT DONKEY**

We start restricting their diet, increasing exercise, developing enrichment and stimulation programs. Weighing them and monitoring changes

### **VETERINARY TREATMENT**

We talk to a behaviourist. We develop a shaping plan for training and begin to put that plan into action. We are using small steps to build a foundation of confidence. Practise training to stand still and shape acceptance of treatments while we pretend to be the vet.

When we are in this phase of change, we need to see evidence of our progress;

we are looking for signs that our change efforts are working. If we are engaged in personal change, we look at the scales to see if our efforts to diminish our weight are working. We are looking for compliments from people who recognise that we are looking healthier or slimmer; perhaps we feel fitter or sense we have more energy.

When we support somebody who is taking action, we need to encourage them by recognising their efforts rather than focusing on the outcome. We may have to acknowledge that sometimes change can be slow to start with and remind them of the benefits and reasons they started the change process in the first place.

### **MAINTENANCE**

This stage is perhaps the most challenging stage of all. Changing behaviour, especially in our two examples, can take many months and sometimes years of committed action. During this phase, we need the incredible resolve to keep going. We may need to keep trying and adapting to the process of change. We need to continually remind ourselves why we started the process and the benefits of maintaining our behaviour.

### **OVERWEIGHT DONKEY**

This phase also represents when we achieved the success of getting our donkey to a condition score three. However, we have to avoid the weight creeping back on again. We have to maintain our donkeys' diet and exercise plans at just a moment when we feel we can relax and take it easy.

### **VETERINARY TREATMENT**

We complete the training to a reasonable level, the vet arrives, and our donkey is less fearful than before. However, there

may well be another 12 months before the next vet visit; we cannot cross our fingers and hope it will be ok again next time. We have to keep up with our training. We need to continue to extend our donkey's confidence levels and generalise the process of vet treatments to different areas, times of the day, weather conditions, and ensure the next vet visit will be even calm than the one we've just had.

It is easy to slip out of the maintenance phase and return to contemplation or planning phases. It is easy to drop out of any phase and end up back in a previous stage. These setbacks are the nature of trying to change ourselves and other people. It might take repeated efforts, several attempts and a change of strategy to keep moving through the phases and ultimately succeed.

Merely telling people to change or informing them how to change has a limited chance of success because change is complex. The key to successful change is recognising that change is a process and then matching our actions and interventions with the right stage of change. To increase our chances of success, we have to recognise the correct stage of change and encourage people to find their own reasons for change, identify their own obstacles to change and support them in their change journey.

In our efforts to help our donkeys, we have to be aware of this cycle of change and accept our struggles and human failings in this complex process. However, the one thing we cannot do is to give up trying.

As Tony Robbins, world-renowned self-help expert, says, "change only takes a second. It's the preparation for change that takes a lot longer." ■



**Members of DBS discussing condition scoring**



# FEEDING DONKEYS

Anna Welch, BVSc, BSc, MRCVS. Veterinary Nutrition Director, of Top Spec gives an overview of donkey nutrition

**D**onkeys have evolved to live in arid, mountainous environments where they browse for food whilst roaming over long distances. The food they obtain is usually low in calories but rich in minerals and vitamins. Donkeys have superior digestive efficiency compared to horses and ponies, which means they can extract more energy from poor quality fibrous material. Consequently, they can thrive on rations a horse would not.

With good grazing generally available in the UK, donkeys are extremely prone to obesity and conditions such as laminitis. This means that careful management is required to keep them in good health.

## Forage Straw

For most donkeys in the UK, straw should form much of their diet. It is a low energy but high fibre forage which satisfies their appetite whilst avoiding weight gain. The average intake for a donkey should be between 1.3 and 1.8% of their bodyweight (on a dry matter basis); roughly 2.5kg to 3.5kg of straw (as fed) for an average 180kg donkey.

Although very stoical, donkeys can suffer from problems such as colic and gastric ulcers when receiving insufficient forage, but the signs may not be as obvious as with a horse or pony. To ensure their intake is sufficient, most donkeys should be offered ad-lib access to straw.

## Hay

Hay supplies more calories and protein than straw and can be useful in certain situations e.g. during the winter, for underweight donkeys and breeding stock. Most donkeys would need no more than 25 to 50% of their forage to be comprised of hay (with the other 50 to 75% being straw) but ad-lib hay is usually necessary during late pregnancy and lactation.

Early-cut hay with a high nutritional value, will be too much for many donkeys and can increase the risk of digestive upset and laminitis. If hay is required, late-cut meadow hay is usually the best option. Less commonly, a high fibre haylage may be used.

## Grass

Due to the evolutionary adaptations of a donkey, and increased efficiency of their digestive system, grazing needs to be strictly controlled especially during spring/summer. However, turnout time is beneficial for both exercise and socialisation.

There are various ways in which grass intake can be limited, including strip grazing, small paddocks, co-grazing with e.g. sheep or dry lot turnout with suitable alternative forage.

Whilst out, donkeys should still have access to straw. This will help to satisfy their need for indigestible fibre and avoid them chewing wooden fences or shelters.

## Forage Replacer

As donkeys get older and their dental function declines, they will find it more difficult to chew straw and hay effectively. Grazing might even become a challenge when their incisors are worn.

It is important that donkeys still receive sufficient fibre to maintain good digestive health. A chopped straw may be easier for them to manage for a short period of time, but pre-ground fibre will soon be needed and can be supplied by soaked high fibre cubes.

## Enrichment

As donkeys are browsers, enriching their environment with access to appropriate hedgerows, shrubs and branches will provide mental satisfaction. It will also supply further indigestible fibre, again, helping to preserve the fencing!

## Hard feed

With a diet based largely on straw and restricted grazing, donkeys receive little in the way of micronutrients, so it is important that their diet is supplemented.

Using a top specification pelleted balancer, which is formulated specifically for donkeys and recommended by The Donkey Sanctuary, is an ideal way of providing all the vitamins and minerals needed to balance the diet and support their general health. The feeding rate

of a product like this is very low (just 100g/100kg ideal bodyweight/day), whilst the levels of protein, calories, sugar, and starch are limited. The balancer will not promote weight gain, so can be used as part of a calorie-controlled regime or weight loss diet.

An unmolassed, chopped straw can be mixed with the pelleted balancer and is particularly useful for donkeys that might bolt their feeds, as it slows their consumption.

Hard feeds can be adapted to suit individual circumstances, for example, a top specification conditioning feed balancer may be necessary for unwell, elderly, and young donkeys. If a donkey goes off food, they should be seen by a vet as an emergency due to the high risk of hyperlipaemia (fat flooding the blood vessels then vital organs).

For advice tailored to your own donkeys' needs, it is best to contact an experienced nutritionist.

*TopSpec can be contacted, free of charge, on their Multiple Award-Winning Helpline Tel: 01845-565030*

*Anna gave the DBS a webinar this year on feeding donkeys and this can be accessed on Feeding your donkey - [https://youtu.be/ei7ooGRLm\\_U](https://youtu.be/ei7ooGRLm_U)*

**Win one of two sacks of Top Spec – just answer this question and send your answer on a postcard (or similar) to**

**Liz Wright, Editor, The Donkey, Hook House, Hook Road, Wimblington Cambs PE15 0QL by 31 July 2021**

**Q** If your donkey needs hay, rather than a predominantly straw-based diet, what would usually be the most suitable type of hay to source if you have a choice?



# INTERNATIONAL CHARITIES

## SPANA (the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad) – a lifeline for the world's working donkeys



In 1923, British mother and daughter, Kate and Nina Hosali, set off for North Africa as tourists. It was a journey that would last a lifetime.

As they travelled through the countryside, passing bustling souks, remote communities and rural farms, they were inspired by much of what they saw. But they were also struck by the awful sight of donkeys and other working animals who were malnourished, weak, buckling under the weight of huge loads and suffering with wounds inflicted by poorly fitting harnesses.

Kate and Nina decided that these noble, hardworking animals deserved better than a life of suffering and, once back home in London, founded SPANA (the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad) – the first step in creating a more compassionate world for working animals.

Almost a century later, SPANA is transforming the lives of working animals, including donkeys and mules, in 28 developing countries. The charity improves the welfare of working animals

by providing free veterinary treatment, training local animal owners and teaching children about animal welfare.

Last year, SPANA provided vital veterinary care to 283,552 sick and injured working animals around the world, including more than 180,000 donkeys.

One example of the charity's lifesaving work can be seen at the rubbish dumps of Bamako in Mali, West Africa.

In this harsh and dangerous environment, poverty-stricken young men and women make a meagre living by using their donkeys to bring the city's waste to these towering piles of rubbish.

The donkeys pull heavy loads up steep slopes in average temperatures of up to 40°C. Most harnesses are homemade, with ropes that rub and cause painful wounds. Sharp pieces of metal, glass and plastic are a constant threat for these animals, with cuts and injuries leaving them extremely vulnerable to tetanus and other infectious diseases, which can be fatal if untreated.

But, in this bleak place, as well as so many others, SPANA offers hope. The

SPANA team helps as many sick and injured donkeys as they can, regularly visiting in the mobile veterinary clinic.

For these rubbish dump donkeys, life remains tough. But each day, thanks to SPANA's intervention, they now finish work in the early afternoon, retiring to a purpose-built shelter that keeps them out of the intense sun. Here they receive feed and water, and SPANA vets are on hand to treat any injuries, while vaccinating against tetanus and other deadly diseases. Old, worn saddle pads can be exchanged and owners receive instruction on how to care for their animals humanely.

Across Mali, SPANA provided free veterinary treatments to more than 18,000 donkeys last year.

Thanks to the kindness of SPANA supporters, the charity is making it possible for thousands of working donkeys and other animals – in Bamako and across the world – to have happier and healthier lives, free from suffering.

To find out more about SPANA's work, please visit: [www.spana.org](http://www.spana.org)

## A TALE FROM THE WEST BANK

Our exceptional vet, Dr Rakan Salous, covers almost all the West Bank with his mobile clinic, visiting a different area each day. He is the very lifeline for owners of donkeys (not to mention horses, camels, sheep, cattle and dogs!) – many too poor to pay for a vet even if they could find one that would visit to offer treatment. Meet 'Beauty' a loyal and hardworking donkey whose job was to carry goods for her owner and act as shepherd for his sheep flock. This she could do in relative safety in the mountains but when her owner moved the sheep to a different area nearer a town, stray

dogs attacked the flock despite her heroic efforts to defend them. The sheep ran, Beauty ran and she fell into a deep gully sustaining painful injuries. The farmer contacted Dr Rakan who immediately visited and found the donkey suffering shock as well as the physical wounds. Thankfully he was able to save her with necessary medication and his healing hands. Essential first aid, yes, but Dr Rakan also visited a month later to check on Beauty who was by now well enough to undergo much needed dental work and treatment for worms and talk to the farmer about the importance of this sort of routine

care. One happy donkey, one happy and better informed owner. In Dr Rakan's own words 'Nobody can ever evaluate the happiness of that farmer except us when we saw him wrap his arms around her neck with a big smile'.

Whether by deliberate cruelty or terrifying accidents like this, the suffering for a donkey is the same – Dr Rakan treats all cases with his calm and compassionate brilliance – bringing relief to the animals and some timely education for their owners. This is what Safe Haven for Donkeys is all about – changing the country donkey by donkey.



Meet beauty from the WQest Bank

# Hello remember me...

Katie Reed former Donkey Welfare Adviser from The Donkey Sanctuary Ireland. How are you all, it's been a while...

**W**ell I've been away for a while out in Zimbabwe where myself and my Partner have been working with the donkeys in rural areas out there. 90% self funded we traveled around working with communities and teaching basic skills of hoof trimming and donkey care. We headed up a pilot for SPANA/AWARE TRUST Zimbabwe training the community workers to trim hooves and understand the vital need for caring properly for the Donkey's hooves. Along with this we organised tools for each group. We attended workshops and Vet Clinics working along side the Vets also promoting the necessity for dental care to be done at each Vet Clinic to enable the donkeys to get as much nutrition as possible out of the sparse vegetation during the droughts.

Raising funds was fairly difficult as we were not a known Charity but a few friends, family and Foster Home Support Groups in Ireland were wonderful with their donations that enabled us to start a whole new program with mineral blocks for the pregnant, lactating mares and weaker donkeys. We bought the mineral blocks in South Africa and smuggled them through the borders into Zimbabwe. These blocks were handed out to Donkey Owners who were attending the various workshops in the areas we visited. This was not just random handouts but to a core group so we could monitor the donkeys. This was a very successful program and really helped these donkeys get through one of the worst droughts Zimbabwe has experienced.

Through our time in Zimbabwe we came across so many different scenarios and tragedies that put together we have started a Blog about the life of a particular donkey that we rescued out of a riverbed



well where he nearly died. This Donkey we named Lucky, for obvious reasons, and he recuperated with us in our camp before going home to his owner.

We would love you to have a look and follow our Blogs and share them with friends and family. These Blogs are to help raise awareness for the lives that donkeys live in Zimbabwe and other African countries.

All the stories are true so as to give the right perspective of how life really is out

there. How hard the donkeys work for their owners and how necessary they are to the every day living of the people of Zimbabwe and Africa.

Please follow us and register on the Blog and share it with your friends and family. Here's to the donkey and here's to better lives for them all.

Sending Donkey hugs to everyone...

You can find the blog on [www.voiceofadonkey.org](http://www.voiceofadonkey.org)

# DONKEYS AND PEOPLE

## What YOU have been doing with your donkeys in 2020

### CLUB OF THE YEAR AND THE BARNABAS CUP

This year the Barnabas Cup has been awarded to one of our junior members, Kathryn McKeag from County Down Northern Ireland. Kathryn's enthusiasm and knowledge has developed and grown within the society promoting the welfare

and well-being of the donkey wherever she goes. Well done Kathryn, very well deserved and keep up the good work.

This year 'The Club of the Year' trophy was awarded to 'Killinchy Primary School' based in County Down Northern Ireland. Killinchy Primary school have implemented

the topic, 'Make Way for the Donkey' as part of the P2 Curriculum. This has been an amazing success and has now been implemented in schools across the region and in the South of Ireland. Well done Killinchy Primary School, keep up the good work.



Children of P2 taking part in an obstacle course that they designed using their hand-made hobby donkeys!! **Right:** Rosie the donkey receiving 'a little bit of love' from one of the P2 pupils.

### THE BORIS CHALLENGE

Jane Brind writes

The Eastern Region were looking forward to a full calendar of events in 2020, we had already launched the "EARS 4 Fun" and the "Walking Challenge" and were encouraging our members to come to the monthly "Donkey Thursday" at Gate & West Farm.

When lockdown was announced it soon became apparent that most of the shows and donkey get togethers for the foreseeable future were going to be

cancelled. Continuing the theme of "an active donkey is a happy donkey", we posted on our Facebook page that we were proposing to set up a new challenge that was easy to do in the confines of your own field or yard, with equipment that could be generally found around and about. The response was enthusiastic and "The Boris Challenge" was launched in the last week of March. A simple task was set at intervals with a demonstration photo. Participants were asked to post photos of their own donkeys under the

challenge heading. It wasn't long before we extended the invitation across the whole of the Donkey Breed Society, not just the Eastern Region. We had members from as far as Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Devon joining in with the challenges and having fun with their donkeys. The challenges were agility based in the main but adapted for our long-eared friends. It was lovely to watch our members have fun and gain confidence in the handling of their donkeys and building a relationship based on trust.

### FEEDING DONKEYS IN AUSTRALIA

The donkey shelter was founded 23 years ago and is based in Northern Victoria in Australia. They currently have over 200 donkeys in residence. There is no admission criteria other than being a donkey or mule. DBS Member Sue Field visited when she was in Australia and was interested in their feeding and grazing, (which is so very different to the UK green paddocks). They have 300 days a year of sunshine but the temperatures vary greatly with the seasons and this affects the quality of the grass. In the spring the grass can be lush and has to be managed but in midwinter and summer the donkeys receive oaten chaff supplementation as the grass has little nourishment and the paddocks can be bare. As well as oaten chaff and supplementation pellets, the donkeys in poorer condition also need the addition of pollard. They also have vitamin and mineral supplementation.

'It is hard work but the reward from these beautiful creatures is wonderful' say the Charity".

To find out more or maybe to visit when we can travel contact Facebook Page 'Donkey Shelter Tongala'

Email is donkeyin@tpg.com.au and our mailing address is Po Box 71 Tongala 3621



## A DAY OUT WITH SYDNEY

Young Emily McEntee age 11 spent the day with Sydney whilst on holiday with her family in Scotland. After meticulously grooming, Emily assisted in preparing Sydney for an off road drive out through some quiet country tracks.

Emily has her own ponies at home in Ireland and competes them at her local riding club, but has not tried carriage driving.

We had a fabulous time and she was quite a natural. Who knows, a new young carriage driver in the future. Watch this space.

## THE "DONKEY LEAN"

Joss Goodchild sends in some information about the role donkeys have in a new therapy technique

A little-known bit of donkey lore is that the Donkey is the "power animal" for the wonderful hands-on therapy called Zero Balancing (also little-known, but well worth exploring). And the reason for this is handed down to students of Zero Balancing through a story.

Apparently, in the mountainous regions of Mexico, heavily laden donkeys being used as pack animals on the steep narrow paths go up and down in pairs. We all know that donkeys like to lean, sometimes very hard. Well, picture this. On that narrow path, the two donkeys side by side, making their treacherous way on uneven ground. One donkey has the steep drop on one side and quite naturally would lean away from the drop to get support from the partner donkey. So far, so logical. But picture this too. If only the 'outside' donkey leaned, there'd be a high chance that the 'inside' donkey would be pushed over, leaving them both vulnerable to disaster. It's not hard to imagine how helpful it would be for the inside donkey to lean right back, thereby creating a much more stable form (like a moving A-Board, donkey style). Both donkeys are off balance, off centre – but together they are flexibly and responsively more secure. They make their way up and down the mountains, together, mutually supported, interdependent. If one donkey were to disappear by magic, the other would inevitably fall.

It's not too big a leap, is it, to understand how that image might work for humans? In Zero Balancing, the "donkey lean" is shorthand for understanding a form of touch where the practitioner offers a touch that the receiver can lean back against.

We have a lot to learn from donkeys.

For more information about Zero Balancing – [www.zerobalancinguk.org](http://www.zerobalancinguk.org)



Emily McEntee with Sydney

## OUR DRIVING EXPERIENCES

Our Donkey journey started out with being given a young pet donkey called Ebony. After couple of years with Ebony, my wife and I decided to have a go at driving donkeys after meeting up with Debbie Street at the Peterborough Autumn Show. Debbie gave us lots of friendly advice and a ride in her carriage.

We started looking for driving donkeys suitable for complete novices on all the relevant websites with little success. Eventually, we decided to bite the bullet and get some training with Debbie, even though we still had not bought a driving donkey yet.

Our first training session was learning donkey behaviour, how to hold the reins, long reining, harnessing and basic driving techniques. We felt, Debbie fully utilises her skills from her former profession as a school teacher in being very patient and encouraging throughout the course.

During the training, we explained our predicament in not being able to find a suitable donkey for driving and we only had a pet donkey. To our surprise, Debbie suggested that we should consider training our pet donkey Ebony to drive.

After much discussion, Debbie decided to take on the challenge and give our Ebony a go. We took Ebony to Debbie and thought "Good luck" with that one! Debbie did explain that she would know quite early on if she was indeed trainable and only had a couple of donkeys in her career that were not suitable for driving because of safety reasons.

In the meantime, we asked Debbie to source another donkey to join Ebony in case she did not graduate from donkey school. Fortunately, Debbie found us a lovely quiet and amenable young donkey called Adele who she thought would almost certainly make a driving donkey and make an ideal companion for Ebony. So now we had both in training – fingers crossed!

Debbie gave us regular updates by phone, supplemented by video clips on our donkeys training progress. The clips were always welcome and proved essential as we live over 3 hours away in South Lincolnshire.

Our donkeys under training were doing well. Our final lesson with Debbie ensured that we fully understood how to harness properly with safety always in mind and competent enough to begin driving our newly trained donks.

Graduation day finally arrived, even though Ebony took a little longer than Adele – Yippee!

Our donks were delivered and "YES" it was a bit scary at first, but Debbie was always at the end of a phone to give us advice and encouragement.

Many thanks Debbie, we look forward to further training in the future. Tom and Debs – Spalding

## WEBSTER FUND 2021

They will again be supporting The Flicka Foundation Donkey Sanctuary to help them recoup some of the £3,500 they have had to spend on Covid 19 safety equipment.

From 2022 onwards we intend to fund raise for West Region's Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary.

For information on the origins of the Webster Fund please refer to the 2021 Winter Bray Talk or email-pjsca@gmail.com



Pam Moon sent this photo of Rueben and his noble steed Boo Boo

## MAGNIFICENT MEMBERS MILES CHALLENGE

After a few conversations with people, it was conveyed to me that people would like to have some sort of challenge and a positive way of remembering the year 2020, that will forever be known for one word hence why I am not mentioning it. However, with the continuing pandemic this is going to run throughout 2021 as well.

It started as a junior challenge, but we are inviting the adults therefore all society members are welcome to join in too. The challenge is a virtual one, but we are going to travel (virtually) the distance of Lands' End to John of Groat's which are the two furthest points in the United Kingdom, but we are going to do it in Donkey Miles. So, everyone if you're going out walking, riding or driving with your donkeys make a note of the distance you have travelled preferably in miles, but we can do Km too and as a whole society we will see if we can all join together and complete our challenge. There will be a special certificate for everyone who takes part in our members magnificent miles lockdown challenge.

Ps Thank you to those that have entered already. A special mention to Allison Roberts for being the first person to respond and join the magnificent members miles challenge.

Please send your mileage to the following email. snowy\_7002@yahoo.co.uk

## JADE WEAVER SENT THIS INTERESTING ITEM ABOUT LITTLE MO

I was alerted to this by a friend of ours, Frank Stanford, who was at that time in his late 80's, unfortunately he died a couple of years ago now so I couldn't ask him anymore about it but I do know it was told to him by a U.S. air force veteran, as Frank had a lot to do with the RAF and USAF.

Anyway I googled 'Little Mo' just on the chance of finding out anything else and was surprised at what I did find!

So if you go to [americanairmuseum.com](http://americanairmuseum.com) there is quite a lot about it and also a link to YouTube where you can actually see some film footage they have of this donkey.

Also the [100thbg.com](http://100thbg.com) website mentions a little bit about Col. Roane and little mo.

All the anecdotes differ a little bit, but I guess that's what happens when lots of people 'pool' their reminiscences about past events.



## PERFECT PACK SADDLES

Many members ask about Pack Saddles and Briony Wild is a wealth of knowledge about these. We carried a full page article in The Donkey, a few years ago but if you have any questions on using, fitting and getting pack saddles, then do get in touch with Briony [riffhamslittlefield@btinternet.com](mailto:riffhamslittlefield@btinternet.com)

**Caroline Tween remembers Alex Horn**  
01/08/1944 – 01/12/2020

Alec first became involved with the Donkey Breed Society due to his wife Sue's enthusiasm for donkeys and they had the East Lodge donkey stud. Alec entered into what was for him, a new venture, with great enthusiasm and showed the donkeys. He was also the driver and the cook when they stayed overnight on the show ground. Alec cooked a lovely bacon butty.



He was on the Shows & Judges committee, the Stud (Noo) Book and Finance. He was also on Council and he was the Chair from 2001-2003. Foot and Mouth happened during this period and like now, many shows were cancelled. Alec and Sue also ran the Supporters Club.

He also took part in the Fancy dress and one year he was a fairy in a pink dress, bursting out of the cake.

When Alec and Sue stopped showing in 2007, he then trained to become a judge. He then started to become more involved with his sheep and became keenly interested in showing them.

Sadly Sue became ill and died some years later and much of his world died with her. He still went to some shows but stayed in the tent with the sheep.

Alec was like a father to me, after losing my father when I was 19. Alec and Sue were always there for me. He had so much going on himself but he always made time for me. Alec was hard working and a gentleman. He will be sadly missed.

**Mark Kerr remembers Shelagh Steel**  
11/3/47- 15/12/202



Shelagh was born to a farming family and was by all accounts, a lively child. Her career started as a milk recorder and then onto a longer career in promotional work. She was a confident and highly competent driver and whether she was driving a car, horsebox or towing a trailer, she was never phased at tipping up at any location. I have personally seen her back a trailer into gap I could only dream of – always with a big grin on her face – priceless!

However, in the early 1980's Shelagh then made a decision that would shape the rest of her life when she became involved with donkeys and The Donkey Sanctuary. Initially working as a volunteer in the field of welfare, then progressing to a full time job as a Regional welfare Officer, managing a team of welfare officers – of which three of us are here today it could definitely be said she found her forte.

It is said that the mark of a person is how they treat animals. To see the love, patience and dedication that Shelagh has shown over the many years in dealing with literally hundreds of donkeys in all manner of situations really is a testament to her as a person. Shelagh also used to run workshops, host training days and run hundreds of donkey care course in her time. Her sense of humour was always evident and if any of her donkeys would play her up in front of others she would often say – just ignore them they are Essex Girls!

Steel by name and steely by nature, she was nothing if not determined to find the best welfare outcomes for donkeys in need and she never hesitated or shied away from difficult conversations with donkey owners if needed.

They say to have good friends you have to be a good friend and this was never truer than for Shelagh.

Liz Wright adds, she was a member of the Donkey Breed Society and we were lucky to use her premises for events including a judging training seminar. Like Mark, I shall miss her and her extensive knowledge of donkeys so very much. Mark says truthfully that all who knew her were all lucky to have Shelagh in our lives

**Rosemary Clarke remembers Valerie Mathews 1924 - 2020**



It is a fact of life that the donkey owning enthusiasts who were instrumental in setting up and managing the Donkey Breed Society in its earliest days are just names in a battered copy of an ancient society magazine to most current members.

It was my privilege to meet Valerie and her husband Trevor during my very early membership of the Society in 1969; 'gentlefolk' if ever there were.

When I moved to Wales in 1996 Valerie was Chairman of the Stud Book Committee, a quietly spoken lady who knew a good donkey, as well as a good Whisky! She bred many lovely donkeys under the Westra prefix, some of which you may find feature in the pedigree of a donkey you own today,

and it was my privilege to have care of .her stallion Westra Patrick for his twilight years. Valerie loved showing and was always a positive delight to be with in the collecting ring; she had a wonderful sense of humour and when things didn't quite go according to plan in a show class would smile gracefully return to her place in the line up, put her face to a long ear and be heard to utter 'You are a 'bummer' !

The Royal Welsh was Valerie's 'local' show, and she supported it with entries in every class, and never one to miss a luncheon opportunity produced a wondrous array of shared offerings from the horsebox. The Royal Welsh Show ground is unique in being in the bottom of a valley with the lorry parking rising in tiers above it; recognising the potential problems the walk down could present, most people would arrive with time to spare and organise their parking so that the vehicle was as level as possible, not Trevor and Valerie; they would arrive with gusto, parking sideways on so that everything was at a 45 degree angle, difficult to unload calmly and only minutes to spare before they needed to make their way down to the ringside.

During the 25th anniversary year of the Society Valerie and Trevor hosted a luncheon at their home Gelliaraul Farm, it was a lovely social event with lots of chaos, fun and laughter, and the very best Portmeirion china. The farm was a holding base for Donkey Sanctuary at the time so there was a wonderful mix of Society members and Sanctuary Supporters. To this day I have a white climbing rose in my garden which I won in the raffle on that day, donated by Donald Demus a former Society Secretary, it flowers abundantly every year and is a wonderful memory of special times and people past.

**Liz Wright remembers Gillian (Gill) Mary Shaw**  
22.04.1936 - 19.05.2020



Gill was President of The Donkey Breed Society and her autobiography is inspirational to all. You can find it in the 2019 issue of The Donkey together with photos of her lovely donkeys. Gill had the Vizor prefix and owned Sandon Choirboy. In 1949 at 13 she caught polio and I was moved to tears when she gave me the account with no self pity of the harshness of medical treatment at that time. A wheelchair user, she didn't let that stop her showing donkeys. She deservedly received the first Roll of Honour presented by the DBS. I am truly glad to have met her and learnt about her life. She was a remarkable woman.

## Rosemary Clarke remembers Blackford Altar Boy 16th April 1992 – 17th August 2020

Every once in a while a special donkey enters one's life. In my fifty odd years of donkey ownership there have been several, some entrusted into my care to produce for the show ring; but one stands out as almost extraordinary. In one of those throw away conversation moments Mary Sivewright a donkey breeder and owner in Scotland was told by a member in England that her donkey would never win against donkeys south of the Border. Big mistake, I was present at the time and always did like a challenge, so Blackford Altar Boy or Beadle as he was affectionately known came South, turned right onto the A55 just West of Chester and settled down in my stables in Wales.

I have always maintained that it takes a good year for any donkey to settle into a new environment and Beadle was no exception but also a delight; as a stallion he could have been challenging especially as there was another male ego on the premises, but no he minded his Ps and Qs, loved being groomed and titivated and knew when to turn on the charm. His favourite leisure activity came courtesy of a tractor tyre suspended from the rafters in his stable, he spent hours with his head, neck and chest supported by the tyre, front feet clear of the bedding gently swaying to and fro.

Over one summer in 1998 he and David travelled the show circuit, proving without doubt that a Scottish Donkey could succeed down south, by winning eleven DBS Championships.

Two occasions stand out, one being the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show when the donkey classes were held on the same day as the Welsh Cobs so the crowd was huge and buzzing. As each equine breed Champion entered the grand arena to parade, their previous show accolades were read out, and they did a solitary circuit of the arena; Beadle knew a special occasion when it came his way and this was definitely his moment and as his Championship successes were listed he strutted his stuff round the main arena and the crowd roared; the louder they clapped and hollered, the faster he went.

The second occasion was the Great Yorkshire Show. Before the introduction of Health and Safety requirements and dedicated horse walks, entries for the equine classes had to make their way to the ringside through the crowd, Beadle was no exception, he looked sensational with a gleaming coat and he knew it, the greater the 'oohs and aahs', 'look at the donkey', the longer his stride and the more exaggerated his toes flicked; he was the ultimate crowd pleaser.

We even had the nerve to drive him back to Scotland to compete at the Jubilee Scottish Donkey Show to win on home ground, where he once again charmed the audience.



Mary Sivewright with Blackford Altar Boy Photo Bill Tetlow

Beadle was entered for the 1998 Supreme Championship Show at Addington Equestrian Centre and Mary travelled south to show him, he won the Stallion Championship and the Reserve Supreme Championship, and in my humble opinion is the greatest donkey not to have won the ultimate accolade.

Beadle spent several more years in my care before he passed into the ownership of Elizabeth Croskery from Northern Ireland, living out his life in Bonnie Scotland with his loyal guardian Netta Sangster with regular visits from Elizabeth.

Rest in Peace Beadle, you were so special, you left your mark on the stable woodwork, as well as on my heart and will never be forgotten.

### TERRI MORRIS REMEMBERS GUS THE GENTLE DONKEY

It has been only a few days since the sudden and totally unexpected loss of our precious donkey, Gus, and we are still in shock. He had lived with us for 22 years and, in all that time, had not once given us a moment's cause for worry. A strong, healthy animal, he had never needed the vet except for standard treatment like annual jabs and all he ever wanted was to live a quiet life in his peaceful fields with his close mates.

We will never know how it happened that he wandered off on his own and managed to get himself stuck in a boggy patch that had formed in our lower field.

Despite the vet's treatment he slipped away a short while later and we are heart broken.

He first came to us as a two year old – a large donkey that we thought might eventually be good for driving. Sadly he proved not to have the suitably bold temperament, being such a shy creature, but he did immediately form a firm friendship with William, a year younger, whom we had bred. In fact, William, who was and still is – at the advanced age of 22! – devoted to his mother, immediately introduced him to mum, Hetty, who was quite happy to take Gus under her matronly wing too!

Gus and William always loved to play rough games together and my heart was often in my mouth watching them galloping up and down our steep hillsides and rearing up at each other, but there was never a mark on either of them and that was as near as Gus ever got to being brave. I tried to take him into the show ring a few times as a youngster but he just cuddled close against me and obviously hated the whole experience so, from then on, he was simply allowed to do his own thing, gradually settling in to our growing herd and living a peaceful life.

We loved our gentle old boy very much and we will miss him though he was never one to push himself forward. I thought we'd have him around for many years yet and it is devastating to lose him like this. Before his body was taken away for cremation his friends were given the opportunity to wish



**Gus the Gentle Donkey**

him a final farewell and his closest mates, William, Hetty, Max and Nell, all lowered their heads to sniff and bump noses with him which was very moving.

Dear Gus, I hope you are now happily grazing in some celestial meadow with your equally much missed old friends, Sue, Prince, Bells and Ben. It's tragic to have to say goodbye but you will always remain in our thoughts and we will never forget you.

**LIZ WRIGHT REMEMBERS JENNY**

Christmas Eve 2020 will be remembered for the heavy rain and the death of Jenny. Jenny had had a few health problems but the vet thought she was over them. Yet we found her dead on the wet and miserable morning that was this year's Christmas Eve, continuing to never be a trouble to anyone.

Jenny lived a quiet life where she really was never any trouble. A gentle and kind donkey who went willingly to Peterboro Show one year but refused to trot! She helped Daisy out with visiting residential

homes – we could trust her not to bite – and welcomed people who spoke to her.

She did reach a good age despite her health issues and Larry, Daisy and us will miss her.

**BRIDGET REMEMBERED  
BY MARGARET WALLACE**

Many readers of "The Donkey", being animal lovers, will have experienced the grief of the loss of a much-loved animal companion. This happened to us in late February, when we lost Bridget, one of our three donkeys. Bridget had been with us for six years and was 12 when she died. She was the sweetest of donkeys – so gentle and sensitive. Sometimes she was put upon by our other two, but she was infinitely forgiving.

In our donkey assisted therapy sessions for adults with learning difficulties, she was the one most obviously aware of the neediness of our visitors. The loud and flamboyant, inarticulate yet charismatic Johnny just melted when he saw her. For



**Bridget**

her part, she turned into him, and from then on always sought him out among the group.

Her end came mercifully quickly, if it had to come at all at her age. Out of the blue, she staggered, made it to the stable, went down, and died.

We were shocked and devastated. In the days that followed, these few lines were an attempt to sublimate our grief:

**The Day After**

The sun doesn't know, he's still shining;  
The birds don't know, they're still singing;  
The sheep don't know, they're still lambing;  
The hens don't know, they're still laying;  
The spring flowers don't know, they're still bursting;  
Mr Robin doesn't know, he's still flitting;  
Mr Kite doesn't know, he's still gliding.  
But we know -  
That Bridget died last night.  
And the world stopped.

**GLENDENE TABO REMEMBERED  
BY HELEN NADEN**

1981 – 2020

British In Hand Champion 1989

British Driving Champion 1995

A legend, a friend, a much loved and missed part of the family  
Helen Naden



**Jenny**



**Glendene Tabo Happy Birthday**

# DONKEY BREED SOCIETY AREA

## REPRESENTATIVES 2021

### SCOTLAND REGION 1

#### LOTHIAN, BORDERS & EAST DUMFRIESSHIRE (TO DUMFRIES):

**Alison Robertson** 07860 342404  
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#### AYRSHIRE, WEST DUMFRIESSHIRE & GALLOWAY:

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**Ian Thompson** 07747 017655  
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#### TAYSIDE, STIRLING & FIFE:

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#### HIGHLAND/GRAMPIAN:

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#### STRATHCLYDE, ARGYLL & BUTE, GREATER GLASGOW AND FORTH VALLEY:

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### NORTHERN IRELAND REGION 3

**Anne Brown** 07719 270954  
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### WALES REGION 4

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**North: Ruth Stronge** 07817 507413  
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### NORTH REGION 2

#### DERBYSHIRE:

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### WEST REGION 5

#### WARWICK/WEST MIDLANDS/WORCS:

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### EAST REGION 6

#### ESSEX:

**West: Carole Travell** 07889 162715  
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## CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

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## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:

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## SOUTH WEST REGION 7

### CORNWALL(NORTH)/DEVON(NORTH):

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## DEVON (SOUTH):

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## SOUTH REGION 8

### BERKSHIRE:

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### SOMERSET:

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### DORSET:

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### ISLE OF WIGHT:

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## SOUTH EAST REGION 9

### SURREY/ GREATER LONDON (SOUTH OF THE THAMES):

**John & Rosemary Porter** 01252 714242  
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**Tiggy Lavender**, 01306 631882 tiggylavender@gmail.com

### SUSSEX:

**Coral Weaver**, 01293 885080  
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### KENT:

**Kim Weir**, 01304 830238  
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# SOCIETY FEES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport Application forms are available from the Secretary or as downloads from [www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk)  
Credit or Debit card Membership Applications and Renewals may be made online [www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk)

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES (ANNUAL)

Adult Single	£25.00
Adult Joint	£40.00
Family *	£50.00
for up to 2 adults and any number of juniors all residing at the same address	
Juniors (0-15yrs)	£10.00
Student (16-21yrs)	£15.00

### STUD BOOK FEES

Passport - Non Member	£25.00
Passport - Member	£20.00
Transfer of Ownership	£15.00
Inspection for Entry to Stud Book (Group)	£25.00
Private Inspection	at cost
Veterinary Inspection Only	£25.00
Passport Update	£10.00

# DONKEY BREED SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 292268 ( A Private Company Limited by Guarantee )

## Ex Officio Council Member:

**President: John Porter**

## Nationally Elected Council Members:

Retiring 2021:

### Opal Weaver

coffee\_7002@yahoo.co.uk

Retiring 2023:

### Kiera Bentley

kierabentley@hotmail.com

### Rob Sims

rob.f.sims@gmail.com

## Regional Council Members:

Retiring 2021:

NORTHERN IRELAND: (Area 3)

### Stephen Cherry

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SCOTLAND: (Region 1)

### Kendall Young

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WALES: (Region 4)

### Ann Slater

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SOUTH: (Region 8)

### Trudy Affleck

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SOUTH EAST: (Region 9)

### Barbara Roger

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SOUTH WEST: (Region 7)

### Elizabeth Barrett

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Retiring 2023:

WEST: (Region 5)

### Lucy Evans

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EAST: (Region 6)

### Tom Bysouth

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## SOCIETY OFFICERS:

### Legal Adviser to Council:

**Tim Oddy**

### Honorary Treasurer:

**Barbara Whale**

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### Veterinary Adviser to Council:

**Janet Eley, BVSc MRCVS**

### Stud Book Registrar:

**Mrs Pam Moon**

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### Passport Administrator:

**Mrs Rosemary Clarke**

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## STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairman of which are co-opted  
members of Council

## DRIVING:

**Chairman (Caretaker): Chelsey Bailey**

07525 069815 chelsey\_bailey@  
rocketmail.com

**Committee:** suspended temporarily

## EDUCATION & YOUTH:

**Chairman: Trudy Affleck**

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**Committee:** Anne Brown, Diana Dunstan,  
Annette Staveley, Clare Strang, Coral  
Weaver, Jade Weaver

## FINANCE:

**Chairman: Neil Glover**

neiljglover@hotmail.com  
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**Committee:** Rob Sims, Barbara Whale  
plus Society Vice Chairman (if not  
already a committee member)

## SHOWS & JUDGES:

**Acting Chairman: Pam Moon**

01772 316038 pam.moon@talktalk.net

**Committee:** Jane Bramwell, Nicki  
Donaldson, Diana Dunstan, Pam Moon,  
Lorraine Rae, Clare Strang,  
Jade Weaver

## STUD BOOK:

**Acting Chairman: Society Chairman**

**(Carole Travell)**

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**Committee:** Elizabeth Brown,  
Pam Moon (Stud Book Registrar),  
Wendy Sawyer, Kendall Young

## President

Mr John Porter

## Immediate Past President

Mrs Gill Shaw (deceased)

## Life Vice Presidents

Mrs Angela Barrows

Mrs Z Casher-Soffe

Miss Priscilla Kirby

Mrs Ursula Roberts

Mr Norman Roger

Mrs Mary Sivewright

Mr Bill Tetlow

Mr Brian White

## Chairman of the Council

Carole Travell

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## Vice Chairman

Annette Staveley

## Secretary

Carol Morse

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(invited: Chairmen of Driving,  
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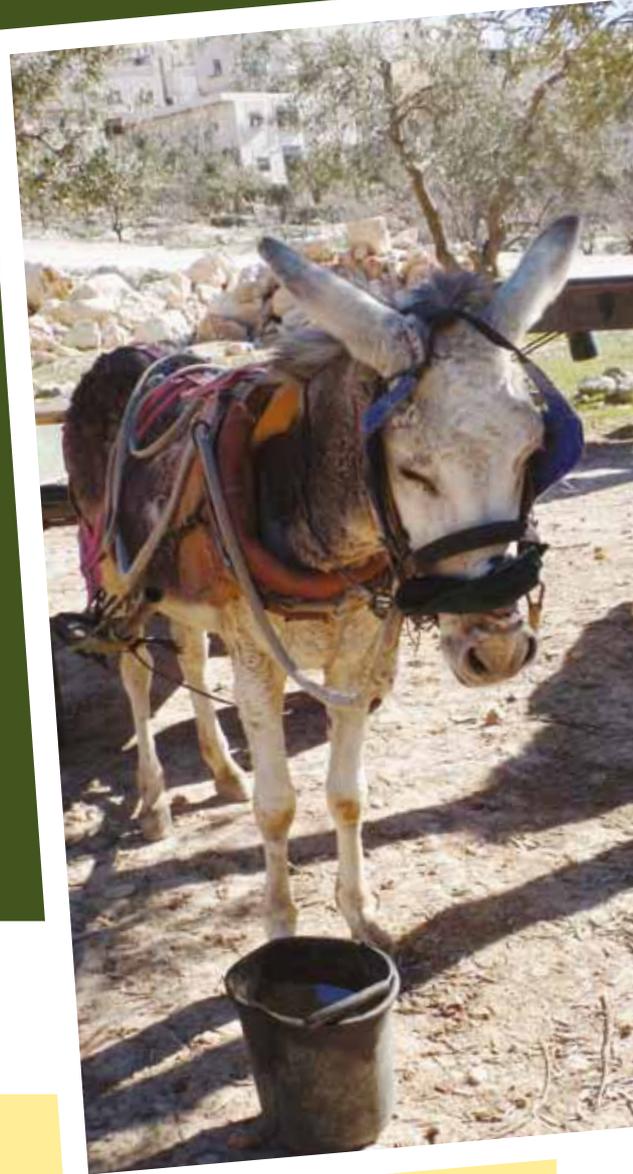
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The Donkey 2020