



# The Donkey Breed Society

Northern Ireland Region

Issue 23

February 2022

*Hello my dears. As the days draw out it's time to polish up the harness, dig out the showing gear and remind your Longears how to walk and trot nicely. We are looking forward to a full programme of events that will offer something for everyone.*

## AGM 2021

We changed things up a bit for this year's AGM, but it seemed to go down well with the members who turned out in good numbers on a less than balmy evening. Thank you to Ann Brown for hosting the annual gathering in her shed and supplying copious quantities of tea and coffee.

The meeting heard Dr Yvonne Canavan's retirement address in which she apologised for not appearing in person but reminded us of the quality of life that our own donkey's enjoy when compared to those in other parts of the world. She praised the work of The Brooke Charity for Working Horses and Donkeys; and asked us to remember their work.

The meeting voted in the new officers to the committee; Sinead Doran takes the Chair and Lorna Shannon replaces Ann Brown as Secretary. The other existing committee members were all re-elected. Thank you to Paul Trimble for facilitating the election.

Our Regional Delegate, Steven Cherry thanked the membership for standing by the DBS NI throughout the pandemic and praised the committee for having managed to arrange at least a few gatherings. He highlighted the on-going problems with donkey neglect and abuse, as well as the sale of animals by unscrupulous dealers and asked us all to be vigilant in these areas.

Paul Trimble addressed the meeting and praised the close relationship between the DBSNI and the Whip and Collar Club and expressed hopes that this would continue.

Due to the restrictions and lack of events of the previous year we were unable to present the usual raft of prizes but we were honoured to be able to present one special new trophy. In 2020 we lost a wonderful friend and long time member, Julie Donnell; and in her memory, her parents have presented a trophy to be given annually to the member who has done the most during the year to promote the donkey. In the committee's opinion this year, that person was Jill Castles. Jill posted continually throughout lockdowns and periods of restriction alike, pictures of her travels with Percy, Dec and Dave.

The business concluded, Peter and Norman organised the ordering and distribution of the food, courtesy of the local Chippy. The raffle followed, raising a fantastic £150 for The Brooke Charity, not least due to the donation of a plough by John McDermott.

Dancing rounded off the evening with the old'uns showing the youngsters a few moves.

Sinead Doran with members  
Leah Rafferty, Caragh Cochrane and Kathryn McKeag



## Events 2022

As you can see, shows and events are back! For up to date information on all of these, please make sure that you contact us with your mobile number so that we can add you to the WhatsApp group. More details will also be available on our Facebook page.

Walk, Ride or Drive, Portview Farm, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Confirmed

Listooder Ploughing Match, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March

First Aid for Donkeys, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March – tbc

Portmore Show, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – tbc

Horse skills day, Cultra, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May – tbc

Lurgan, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Confirmed

Armagh, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Confirmed

Saintfield, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Confirmed

Irish Game Fair, 25th and 26th June - Confirmed

Castlewellan, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Confirmed

DBSNI Championship Show 6th & 7th August

Harvest Festival, Cultra, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Confirmed

Also to be arranged

Anne Brown will be running an education day later in the year where you will be able to complete your Introductory or Elementary training. You will receive a DBS certificate and this will go towards the members Bronze Awards.

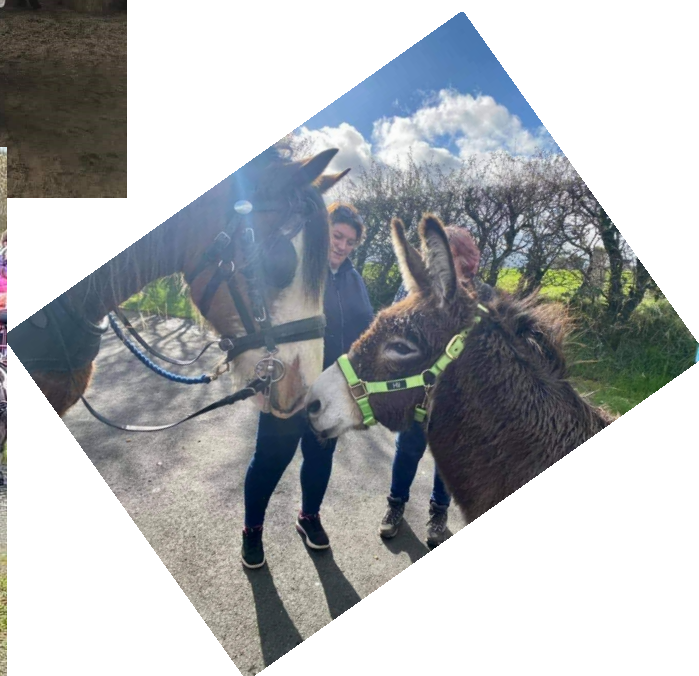
If you know of any other events that would suit our members, please let us know.

And, if there are events/training that you would like to see us provide, let us know and we will try to arrange something.



## Walk, Ride or Drive, Portview Farm

On Sunday 24th October 2022 a good number of members headed to Mr John McDermott's Portview Farm near Carrickfergus for an afternoon of donkey fun. Donkeys, Shetland ponies and a Clydesdale walked and drove to the Knockagh monument in glorious sunshine before returning to the indoor school for coffee and lunch. Once in the school long-reining and driving training continued until it was time to load up and head home. A great day was had by all and hearty thanks were given to Saskia and John for their wonderful hospitality.



Members old and new enjoying the sunshine and donkey fun at Portview Farm



## Jill Castles The Julie Donnell Memorial Trophy

Julie's parents wanted the trophy to be awarded to the DBSNI member who did most to promote the aims of the DBS. Jill has not only been out and about with her donkeys throughout the past year, but has shared pictures through social media that have amused and amazed us...but more importantly have reminded people that donkeys don't want to be left alone in a field, they want and need to be out and about gaining experience and enjoying our company.

Here Caragh Cochrane teaches Jill's donkey Dave to how to limbo dance.



Percy, Camilla, Winter and Coco out and about at Christmas.



Mr Carl Hester recently accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Member of the Donkey Breed Society. DBS President Mr John Porter said "this is splendid news and we are very grateful to Mr Hester for his interest and support"

Carl Hester pictured with member Claire Humphries' Equine Assisted Learning Donkey, Dandy



And Jill Castles making an appearance as Elf!

Please note that membership is now due. Look out for the paperwork coming through the door with the winter Bray Talk or go to the Donkey Breed Society website and you can renew online.

### Contacts

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