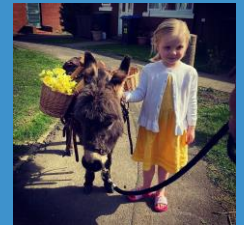


ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



It's the Spring Edition!

Dear All,

I hope this finds you enjoying warmer weather and longer evenings. We are pleased to bring you another packed edition of *Asspire* and would like to thank everyone who has contributed stories and pictures - it's good to see that the Region's donkeys are out and about again!

It's not long until our Region's Show on 8th May – WORLD DONKEY DAY!! - and still time to enter. Thank you to Pam and family for hosting this. You don't even have to bring a donkey, come along and meet up with everyone, lend a hand or just enjoy a great day out! Importantly, we're raising money for the Charities the DBS has chosen to support that send aid to Ukraine too, see p29 of this edition; so please bring along a bottle of anything from sauce to Sauvignon for the bottle stall! Cakes are also welcome for the DBS Northern funds Cake Stall! And, of course, there will be a raffle too!

Whatever you are doing this Spring and Summer, I do hope that we meet up at some point. There's so much happening, let's keep sharing our love of donkeys with everyone we meet! Check out the 'Postcard Challenge' that the DBS is running this summer! Another first from the Northern Region!

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

Welcome to all our new members!

In the News this Spring

Shows update . . .

Our Own Northern Region Show

Sunday 8th May

Countdown to getting your entries in!!! Get on to Pam NOW!!

Entries close 1st May.

Schedules from: Pam Moon, 07842 535993 email: pam.moon@talktalk.net

There is something for everybody and if showing isn't your thing, come along and lend a hand or a bit of moral support! If there is something specific you would like to help with, give Pam a ring. Enjoy a picnic, catching up with old friends, making new ones and generally sharing the donkey love!!

As well as our usual cake and raffle stalls we will be having a bottle stall to raise money for the charities the DBS is supporting that are providing help in Ukraine to both people and donkeys/horses. So, please bring some bottles (from sauce to Sauternes - we're not fussy!) along for the stall!

Your help is needed to ensure donkey showing and driving classes happen at the Honley Show on Saturday 23rd July!

Entries close 16th July.

We have had a plea from the organisers! I make no apologies for attaching Donkey and Light Horse Schedules and an Entry Form to this edition of *Asspire*. **Honley Show is a one day Agricultural Show which has been running for over 100 years!** Traditionally held on the second Saturday in June, this year however, it is all change! The show will be held on the 23rd July on a new site at Australia Farm, Wilshaw Road, Meltham, HD9 4EB. Hopefully, we can all get behind the donkey classes to ensure they continue to be a part of this super show! It looks like being a fabulous day out, please do come along.

Get better soon Jane!

We're all sending lots of love to Jane Bramwell. Get better soon! Following your recent accident, we expect you will be hobbling around for a little while, so if there is anything any of us can do, do let us know. X

Also . . . Take the 'postcard challenge' this Summer!

Could you take up the 'Postcard Challenge' and let someone know about the Donkey Breed Society?!

When was the last time that you sent a postcard? I know, I haven't sent one for ages either. It's not just because our movements have been restricted, although that is certainly one very good reason. And it's not because stamps are so very expensive these days. Perhaps it's down to a general malaise – would anyone want to wish their lot on anyone, given what we've all been through the past eighteen months or so? Perhaps it's time to make a change, to reinvent and yes, enjoy the act of sending someone a postcard!



Recently, the Postal Museum in London, chose to celebrate the 'iconic role the postcard has played in connecting people for over 150 years.' Entitled, 'Wish You Were Here: 151 Years of the British Postcard' it was a fascinating delve into a huge variety of cards. With a history that began in 1870 the British postcard was a brilliant innovation of its time. It certainly took off as travel was enjoyed and cards were bought to be sent or to keep and grace a holiday scrapbook. Nowadays some of these cards are worthy collectors' items and there are folk in the Society with a lot more knowledge than I in these matters.



Last year, prior to Your Horse Live and in possession of some very useful donkey facts (thanks to Liz Brown), I decided to create a DBS 'Wish you were Here' postcard that we could hand out to visitors to our stand. We all know how much donkeys love getting out and about, so it seemed appropriate. The cards were enjoyed for the interesting pictures of donkeys being active: on the fells of Cumbria, enjoying a walk on the beach, under an arch of rainbow flags, being expertly long reined by a Junior DBS member and

winning a Championship sash, and for the donkey facts and information about the Society and useful reminders of respiratory rates, heart rates and temperature, compared with horses. We now send these cards out in membership packs to new members.

How many people who are not yet members however, might be interested in seeing what one can get up to with a donkey and might indeed be interested in some donkey info.? Which is why, **this year, we would like to issue a challenge to everyone, to send a postcard, perhaps with a picture of a donkey, to someone you know who is not a DBS member - yet - telling them a little bit about what you get up to with your donkeys or what the donkeys that you help to look after or sponsor are getting up to. Ask them to check out the DBS website or invite them along to an Area or Regional event!**

Then, take a picture of you, and perhaps your donkey(s) as well, posting your postcard – perhaps there is something interesting about the location and type of post-box that you would like to share with us? Perhaps you think you have sent the most in your Area/Region?! Perhaps you were miles from home when you sent it?! Perhaps you are very young! Perhaps you have a picture of the recipient reading it and enjoying a day out at a local DBS event?!

Send your pictures and anecdotes as 'proof of posting' to northerndonks@gmail.com and those that really reach out and share the donkey love in interesting ways, will receive a lovely rosette.

Okay so you could just drop someone an email or message but is it as much fun? In these days of swift, direct messaging it is so nice to receive something through the post that has taken some thought – why not give it a whirl?

Make the effort to say, 'Wish you were here . . .' and do your bit to spread the donkey love!

SB.

<https://www.postalmuseum.org/wish-you-were-here>

It's Colin's Column!!



Dear Juniors,

I have been having a good time since I last wrote to you. My best friend Romance is in foal and getting rather large so I have been moved from her stable into the large stable. We have a great time together and have 4 haynets!

I went to a super Palm Sunday Church Breakfast and Service. The congregation had sandwiches and I had carrots and mints. We all enjoyed ourselves and Olwen explained how important donkeys were in the Holy Land and showed the cross on my back.

Just before Easter I had an Easter Hunt for Juniors. They had clues to follow and took it in turns to lead each one. The Juniors had an egg or toy at each clue and I had a carrot or mint! Sadly, it was a cold, rainy day so we didn't go in the field and stayed in the yards and stables. We ended up with donkey-shaped biscuits and a drink.

The show season will start soon and I look forward to meeting you and wish you all success in your classes. Don't forget, it is meant to be fun!

I will be looking for your smiles!

Lots of love,

Colin X



Ask Colin . . .

What do you like eating out of hedgerows?

Beth

Yummy, hedgerows – well, everything! My favourite is Hazel and young Hawthorn. Holly and Briar Rose is very tasty but prickly. Olwen gets cross if we eat the hedgerow too much so she puts sheep netting in front of them so we can nibble the new growth but not all the hedge. Some bushes make us ill so we don't have them in our hedge (see next question).

Is there anything that makes you poorly?

Ali

Luckily, I haven't been poorly because Olwen clears away anything that cause it. Poisonous plants such as Ragwort and Foxglove are removed from the field before we go in it. In Autumn if there has been a wind acorns fly off the oak tree, so Olwen picks them all up – sometimes in the bucket there are loads of them. Of course, donkeys then go and search for any she has missed. We love them but they are not good for us and cause colic. Fortunately, I suppose, for us, almost all of them are removed from our field. There are no Privet or Rhododendron in our field, so we feel safe.

How often do you have your feet trimmed?

Joy

Some donkeys who live on soft ground have their feet trimmed every six weeks. Our field has patches of shade and bare rock which wear our feet down so our farrier comes every 8-10 weeks. Sometimes our hooves only need re-shaping and not cut back. The farrier asks how much work I will be doing in the next few months, if I am going to be doing a lot of driving he leaves my feet a bit longer than normal so I won't wear my hooves down with work and they become sore. It's common sense really!

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



It's the Juniors' Gallery!



Here are some Northern Juniors enjoying their Spring Party courtesy of Colin, in the most un-spring like of weather! But who cares about a bit of rain when you are with an A-list donkey?!

Huge thanks to Olwen who had made lovely little bags for the Juniors to collect their prizes in and had also set some super challenges.



Thank you Colin and thank you Olwen!



The all-absorbing Art of Felting

In February Sarah Pennell, our Northern Region Treasurer, shared with us her amazing felting skills. Holding two Workshops, one hosted by Sarah at her home, near Ashbourne, and the other held at the home of Liz Ross in Lancashire, those attending had a totally absorbing time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of crafting with friends. Huge thanks to Sarah for her patience!



The Lancashire Felters display their donkeys.

The process is quite a tricky one and requires much concentration if one is not to stab one's fingers!



Derbyshire, Cheshire, Gtr Manchester and High Peak felters in action!

More pics from the Felting Workshops...



History in our Region

We continue our new series of interesting moments and/or places in time that link in some way to horses, mules, donkeys and ponies, and have their roots in our Region. If you would like to contribute a little bit of local history, do get in touch northerndonks@gmail.com.

This edition, we bring you a couple of pubs associated with the word 'donkey' and muse on Crompton's Spinning Jenny and Spinning Mule!

There's the 'Three-Legged Mare' in York. We understand that the name refers to a form of gallows that presumably was located nearby. The pub is known locally as the 'Wonky Donkey' and boasts a unique brew of the same name. Other brews to be found here include Centurion's Ghost, Yorkshire Terrier and Guzzler! It's not a family pub but a recent revamp has apparently made it a favourite with ale enthusiasts!

The York Museums Trust Project tells us: 'On 31 March 1379 Edward Hewison was executed for rape on the new gallows at the York Tyburn - an area to the south of the city now part of York Racecourse.'

The Tyburn was one of four execution sites in the city at the time. Remarkably, the other three were run by the great church institutions - the Minster, the Abbey and the Hospital - each of which had their own systems of justice.

The Tyburn site was used by the Crown's justice, administered at York Castle. Its gallows consisted of a wooden triangle standing on three wooden pillars - it was known as the 'Three-Legged Mare'. The site was the scene of executions for more than 400 years.'

Find out more: <http://www.historyofyork.org.uk/themes/executions-in-york>

It's quite hard to find pubs with Donkey in the title – do let northerndonks@gmail.com know if you know of one near you. There is not such a shortage of Mules! There's the Smiling Mule in Bradford and the Spinning Mule and The Old Mule both in Bolton. I guess this links to the cotton industry and Samuel Crompton's Spinning Mule and Spinning Jenny, were they one and the same? Let our DBS researchers throw a little light.

Trouble at Mill . . .

'Samuel Crompton was born in 1753 in Lancashire, England. After his father passed away, he helped support his family by spinning yarn. Soon enough, Crompton became all too familiar with the limitations of the industrial textile technology currently in use. He began to think of ways he could improve the process to make it faster and more efficient. Crompton supported his research and development working as a violinist at the Bolton Theatre for pennies a show, plowing all his wages into his realizing his invention.



In 1779, Crompton was rewarded with an invention he called the spinning mule. The machine combined the moving carriage of the spinning jenny with the rollers of a water frame. The name "mule" was derived from the fact that like a mule—which is a cross between a horse and a donkey—his invention was also a hybrid. In the operation of a spinning mule, during the draw stroke, the roving (a long, narrow bunch of carded fibers) is pulled through and twisted; on the return, it is wrapped onto the spindle. Once perfected, the spinning mule gave the spinner great control over the weaving process, and many different types of yarn could be produced. In 1813, the mule was upgraded with the addition of a variable speed control invented by William Horrocks.

The mule was a game changer for the textile industry: It could spin thread of much finer gauge, better quality, and at a higher volume than thread spun by hand—and the better the thread, the higher the profit in the marketplace. The fine threads spun on the mule sold for at least three times the price of coarser threads. In addition, the mule could hold multiple spindles, which greatly increased output.

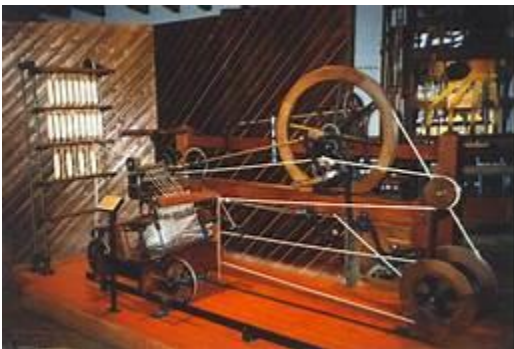
Patent Troubles

Many 18th-century inventors encountered difficulty over their patents and Crompton was no exception. In the more than five years it took Crompton to invent and perfect his spinning mule, he failed to obtain a patent. Seizing on the opportunity, famed industrialist Richard Arkwright took out his own patent on the spinning mule, even though he hadn't had anything to do with its creation.

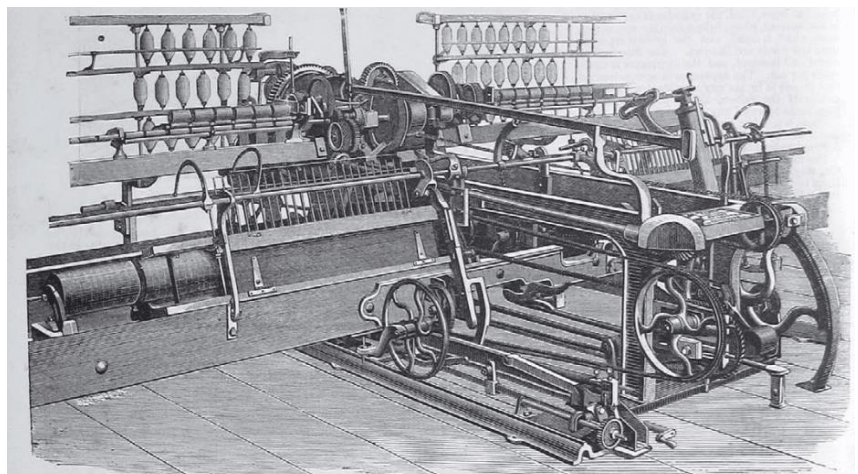
Crompton filed a complaint regarding his patent claim with the British Commons Committee in 1812. The committee concluded that "the method of reward to an inventor, as generally accepted in the eighteenth century, was that the machine, etc., should be made public and that a subscription should be raised by those interested, as a reward to the inventor."

Such a philosophy may have been practical in the days when inventions required little capital to develop, however, it was decidedly inadequate once the industrial revolution got underway and investment capital became crucial to the development and production of any substantial technical improvement. Unfortunately for Crompton, British law lagged far behind the new paradigm of industrial progress.

Crompton was eventually able to prove the financial harm he'd suffered by gathering evidence of all the factories that relied on his invention—more than four million spinning mules were in use at the time—for which he'd received no compensation. Parliament agreed to a settlement of £5,000 pounds. Crompton attempted to go into business with the funds he was finally awarded but his efforts were unsuccessful. He died in 1827.' (From *All about Samuel Crompton* <https://www.thoughtco.com/spinning-mule-samuel-crompton-1991498>.)



Spinning Jenny



Spinning Mule

It's the Region's Spring Gallery . . .

Thank you for sending in your pictures.



This is Pippa leading her first Palm Sunday parade, being led by my daughter. Pippa will be one year old on Easter Sunday and this was her first ever outing. She did two parades that day and she was amazing! She's so bold and forward going.

Janet, Derbyshire.

Well done Pippa!



Well done Megan!

Our little donkey, Megan, was invited to attend the Palm Sunday Service at St Ambrose Church in Leyland, Lancashire, as stand-in for Carol Limmer's donkeys.

After a few hiccups involving transport we arrived at the church in good time to welcome the families as they went into church. At the start of the service Megan led the procession around the outer perimeter of the church and along the road followed by the cross and then the choir singing to the accompaniment of the organist playing a small recorder. Once back at the church everyone returned to their places and to our surprise we were also invited to enter the church. Megan walked calmly along beside me down the red carpet on the centre aisle to the front of the chancel steps to be blessed by The Reverend Paul. Megan was very popular with the young children and thankfully never put a "hoof" wrong throughout.

Thanks for help from daughter, Kate, and also to Carol who followed in our tracks, armed with a pooped-scoop!
Liz, Leyland.





Clever Megan outside and inside the Church.

Well done to Pat and her donkeys . . .

*Attached are some pictures of my driving rosettes and a still from the **Mr Private Driving weekend**. It was amazing, the donkeys were amazing. In this large arena with 6 more horses and carriages, they had a ball I had a ball. Pat Mather.*





Well done Booboo and Tilly Moon!

Stepping out on Palm Sunday.



And in Cumbria, we find Dougal and Hamish recovered from their various long-term ailments (see *Winter Asspire*) and back to good health, stepping out on their beloved Cumbrian fells . . .



We never know how our animals might react when we are unexpectedly separated from them. Sue Stead shares her experiences of . . .

One fortnight last summer

Last summer we were faced with a dilemma. I had to go into hospital for a major operation which all came about quite suddenly. Help, what about the animals, two horses, three donkeys and an over active dog? My husband and I share the care of these four-legged friends so it would mean double work for him. I had to go into hospital six days before the operation which meant that I would be away for about fourteen days. How would he cope but more importantly how would I cope being away from my beloved donkeys?

I would be shut inside a hospital ward when I usually spend a great deal of my time outdoors.



Jacko and Coco missing their mummy

The dreaded day came and Alan took me to hospital and dropped me off. We did not realise at the time but there was no visiting allowed due to covid so I stayed and hubby went home to care for himself and the animals. This is where we give a shout out for social media. I had my iPad and my iPhone with me so Alan sent me daily updates and lots of photos of the donkeys, the dog and the horses to brighten my days.

Fortunately, everything seemed to go okay and I was soon back home, rather sore and not allowed to do anything much so hubby still had a great deal to do while I sat at home. Eventually I became stronger and I could manage to walk onto our stables for donkey cuddles and hugs and eventually brushing and beginning to take care of them again.



Winnie and Jacko



One of the happiest days post operation was getting back on the carriage and driving Jacko once more. The donkeys of course carried on as though nothing was different and they had obviously been well looked after in my absence.

I am pleased to say that I am just about back to normal and really appreciating my good fortune relishing the time spent with all our animals and the great outdoors even though it is the middle of winter as I write.

The donkeys sunbathing while I was in hospital

Back in the driving seat



Emergency plan for your animals!

Donkeys and other equines require full time care, however there may be occasions where you are unable to attend to your donkeys, perhaps due to work commitments, going on holiday or illness. Whatever the circumstance may be, it is important to plan ahead and have steps in place to ensure that you have pre-agreed with someone else that they will be able to care for your animals. Having written guidance prepared, that someone else can easily follow will give them all the information they need to meet their specific welfare needs. You should add as much information as you can, to make sure that your horse's routine is kept as close to normal as possible. Download the BHS emergency plan template at: <https://test.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/horse-care/equine-care-and-emergency-plan>.

Sing while you're Swingling -



The Region's trip to Bennington Carriages!

How a brilliant day out at Bennington progressed from wonderful gems from the workshops to diamond advice to calm the nerves when challenges arise . . .

On a very cold day at the beginning of March, as icy winds swept across the lowlands of Nottinghamshire, keen carriage drivers from the Northern Region of the Donkey Breed Society assembled at Bennington Carriages. Sue Mart, Managing Director and CEO had kindly agreed to host the day. Having led teach-ins during the Charity's involvement in Your Horse Live last year, Sue is keen to provide continued support to its members and this is much appreciated by the Society.

It is pertinent at this time of the year to turn one's attention to carriage maintenance, either a full-on service from an establishment such as Bennington, or if one is adept at these things and has time to do the job properly – ever mindful of welfare and safety during the processes and the consequences of your labours going forward – in one's own yard.

Not being particularly mechanically minded, I would certainly leave any servicing to the professionals. That said, I did glean some golden gobbets of good advice and after a trip to the Workshops I came away knowing how to repair scratches and abrasions to my paintwork and fill stone pitted rubber. I also know how to manipulate a number of Autoglym products to excellent effect! Fellow visitors with a penchant for developing and perfecting their own carriage maintenance skills, no doubt came away with enhanced knowledge as they were able to question the amazing guys in the Workshop, in considerable depth.

Olwen and Liz had brought their 'Bucaneer' for a service. Apparently, the shafts needed balancing out, there was a spring that needed tightening and a few other things that would benefit from attention. It was

interesting to hear how the work would be carried out and I discovered that bearings need attention once a year to establish whether or not replacements are necessary. If they are rusty and gritty they will need replacing, similarly if a vehicle is in use every day. If you use your vehicle on the beach, make sure you wash the whole vehicle down, sand and sandy soil-type areas are not conducive to happy bearings! So, clean thoroughly after a session in the sand school too. Avoiding Norfolk was also a suggestion!!

I was fascinated to learn how to fix aforementioned pits in a tyre. There are two possible approaches depending on the depth of the pit. If it is a small, stone hole: clean it out and then fill with superglue and squeeze shut. If on poking it out and cleaning it appears deeper, then fill with Polyflex HM Mastick, gradually building it up. I am looking forward to tackling my tyres with a certain degree of confidence! Other useful tips that I picked up during this session were: listen to your breaks, although breakpads appear to have durability, you never know unless it's time to do something about them, so a little foresight is useful and can be provided during your service.



Then there's moving the pin your axle – personally, I'm not sure what this means but I did make a note to tell you that if you are 'heavy on' your axle should be forward and 'light on' your axle should be back – I am assuming that all driving aficionados know what this is about and if you don't, ask a professional.

I also picked up some great advice about products! At the risk of becoming an Autoglym bore (other products of this ilk are available), I picked out a little collection that will be taking up residence in my shed! Autoglym Renovator for Paint, their super Resin Polish, and their Vinyl and Rubber Care! As Simon pointed out to us, they all have HRH approval . . . !



Sue's talk on Carriages was fascinating. As she quite rightly says, 'you want to be safe, comfortable and enjoying your driving'. I learnt so much and came away wanting to learn even more – always a sign of time well spent. Sue's take on balance was interesting – is your carriage level? This is so important for balance; shafts should be floating in the tugs and buckles might need tweaking to avoid pressure on the back. Once your setting is correct, put a marker on so you know where it is should you have to move the seat.



Colin eyes up the latest catalogue

A good driving position is vital – think of seeing, 'the whole picture in harmony', in other words, balanced and pleasing. Hips should be higher than your knees, engage your core (oh dear, the 'c' word again!) and feel that you are channelling your weight through your feet. If you are short, it might be that your seat needs moving forward perhaps? My advice would be to ask a DBS pal with lots of driving experience to help with this. Thicker padding on the seat back, might also be useful.

There then followed a discussion as to what to put in your 'Spares Kit' – and this does not mean a full picnic with the best crocs, cutlery and a bottle of something fizzy! Rather we are talking spare traces, hoof pick, hole punch, spanners, bale twine, first aid kit, candles and matches if you have lamps, headcollar, lead rope, water, phone, a towel on top to stop spares from rattling! This list is by no means definitive and I dare say you can come up with additional items too. Remember, judges could ask to see your spares kit when showing.



It's so important to measure up correctly

Adjourning to the indoor school, Sue imparted valuable advice about measuring up for harness. Dickon and Colin were great models and although we were feeling the cold somewhat, it was fascinating to hear the exchanges of those 'in the know' and learn from their broad range of experiences. Talking of showing and judging, Liz Brown shared her song that she sings to dispel nerves in the ring: 'Yellow Submarine'. I was so pleased to hear this, I thought I was the only one daft enough to do this! Mine is: *Do you know the way to San José! Why? I haven't a clue! Do let us know your song of choice!*

Back to the indoor school, and it must be said that Sue's knowledge is tremendous. You might be

interested to learn that she provides an excellent advice line: 01400 281280 on many aspects of Carriage Driving, measuring up and so on. You can also go to www.benningtoncarriages.co.uk for all sorts of advice and useful information. You can also book tuition and view their wide range of new and used Bennington Carriages. And, there's a shop!!

We had a splendid time. Here are some comments from just some that attended:

'Great little tips . . . useful hints for fitting your harness'

'Really enjoyed it'

'Really comprehensive. We learnt a lot about how carriages are built – different types too – it was good to see how everything is measured and accustomed to the animal'

'Excellent, I learnt lots. Now to shop . . . !'

'I feel enthused! I want to get driving again!'

'Great seeing friends again'.

A huge thank you to Sue Mart and all at Bennington, what a super visit. We will definitely be back!

Sarah Booth.



Sarah Standing on Teeth . . .



My new year obviously 🤔 started with bills, 8 wormers, 2 vaccines, 8 teeth, none of which can be avoided. This year, I was particularly interested in learning more about the insides of the donkeys' mouths, I've never put my hands inside the donkeys' mouths, feeling their teeth, feeling sharp points, seeing so far back inside. I must say the texture, including the length of the tongue, was unusual, so much saliva. Especially, seeing the muscle from the tongue wriggling about. In-fact I was

squeamish, it looked like a thick snake inside to me! 😬 More importantly, I learnt about EOTRH*.

The vet told me to do the 'carrot test': the donkey must bite through the carrot length ways, using their incisors. If they are unable to do this, or even drop the carrot, then you know they have a problem with their teeth, indicating problems within their mouth.

I noticed when the vet approached my donkeys, they became nervous, I think it's because they never wear bridles, so to have such an uncomfortable piece of equipment around their heads, then a gag placed inside their mouths to keep them open, this is totally unnatural for them. The noise coming from the equipment sounds high pitched; the grinding must have been so uncomfortable. Tickles who is 25, has started to show signs that his teeth are coming to an end My vet explained that within the next year he'll start to lose some teeth, so therefore I have to watch his weight, also look for signs of clumps of hay or barley straw that he hasn't been able to chew properly. This made me sad, as last year he was not showing any signs, so I'm pleased I have my donkeys checked every year. Some donkeys can be so nervous that they must be sedated, avoiding unnecessary stress and pain. The vet explained how many people ignore the fact that animals need their teeth checking and their weight. Behaviour can change, so that by the time the problem is found inside their mouths, their mouths are so sore, their gums are sore and potentially ulcerated, bleeding, and with teeth that are also damaged.



I also discovered that wolf teeth in donkeys are on the lower jaw and in the upper jaw in horses. Furthermore, male incisors are often subject to more decay than in mares, as they produce more saliva.

DENTAL EXAMINATION			
FULL NAME	EXAMINER	12 months	6 months
AGE	DATE	9 months	3 months
A = ABSENT	D = DISPLACED (M = medial, L = lateral)	O = OPEN	C = CLOSED
E = EXTRACTED	M = MODERATE	V = VALVE	SV = SUTURE
COMMENTS			
SHEAR			
WAVE			
TO			
BRACHYGNATHIA			
OVERSHOT			
PRONGNATHIA			
UNDERSHOT			
DIASTEMA			
MOUTH GRADE (1-5)			
REVIEW FEEDING			
FIT FOR REHOMING			
YES			
NO			
FUTURE			
RIGHT			
LEFT			

So, I had a valuable lesson with the vet. She also filled out dental examination sheets for me, her patience around the donkeys was incredible, so kind, loving and gentle.

What was totally remarkable and which I must bring to your attention, is the fact that there are actually people out there who think they can do DIY donkey dentistry at home. YOU MUST NOT! Apparently, according to my vet, there are people who think they can use a hoof pick, screwdriver or other tool to clean their donkey's/horse's teeth. YOU CANNOT! These horror stories frequently lead to mouth

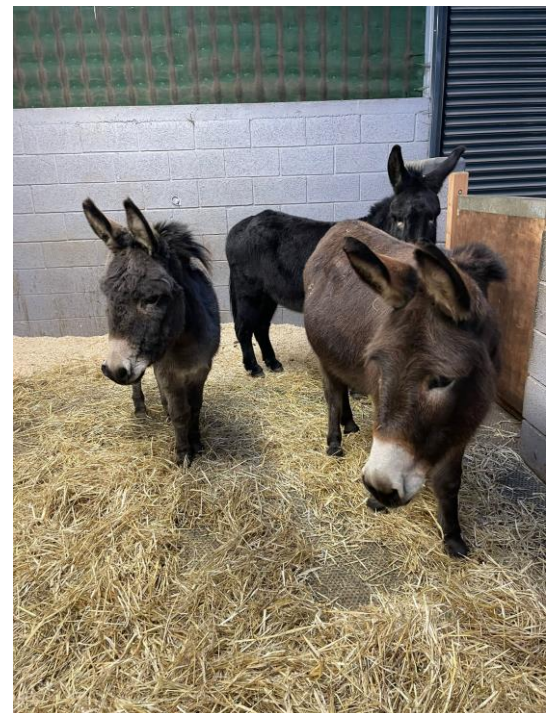
infections. Leave it to the professionals, they know what they are doing.

Back to my donkeys. Well, they were all together, watching each other having their teeth done, they gathered around and were

probably thinking 🤔 I'm not having that done!! 😬 But I am very glad they did.

Sarah Standing.

**EOTRH – a condition of equine incisors that is now being recognised much more frequently. It can cause significant pain and is often only picked up at a dental examination. EOTRH stands for equine odontoclastic tooth resorption and hypercementosis. It results in resorptive lesions of the incisors and sometimes canine teeth. It is usually gradual in onset, though often isn't diagnosed until quite extensive lesions are present. Do contact your vet if you have any concerns.*



Enrichment Workshop

Northern Region members got together in February to discuss ways in which we might provide enrichment for our donkeys.

This was a very worthwhile and positive exchange of ideas – there are very many ideas for keeping donkeys challenged, amused and yes, enriched either in the training paddock, out at grass or when stabled for whatever reason. Those attending all volunteered to try out a range of ideas, hitherto unused and we will follow up on their efficacy in future editions of *Asspire!* If you are also using enrichment ideas, please do

share with the Region. We're looking at enrichment both in and out of the stable (any tips for helping to entertain donkeys confined to a stable for any reason would also be useful), and of course, any pics are always welcome too!

In the meantime, you might like to try:

- ✚ Old towels (great for playing tug)
- ✚ Bath mats/mats tied to a sturdy fence
- ✚ Old wellingtons (remove any buckles) – could be stuffed with treats in the toes!
- ✚ Applewood logs
- ✚ Strong, rope tugs (sold for very large dogs!)
- ✚ Tyres – a range of sizes (my boys love small trailer/barrow tyres)
- ✚ Hay balls
- ✚ Treat balls
- ✚ Tubular haynet stuffed with straw
- ✚ Flip up pots/small tubs (pop carrots etc beneath)
- ✚ Put treats beneath a tarpaulin or sack with cones placed at the corners
- ✚ Stuff empty feed bags with a mix of straw and tasty, natural treats



the list is endless and we'd like *you* to add to it! northerndonks@gmail.com



Showing Masterclass

What a fabulous day! Over twenty folk from the Northern Region got together on a bright (in the afternoon) and blustery (all day) St George's Day and Olwen's Birthday, for a wonderfully illuminating Masterclass on all aspects of Showing, led by Karen Logan.



Olwen welcomed us all and set anyone who might be feeling rather new to the world of showing, at ease, 'you don't have to have everything spotless to start with . . .' she told us and emphasised the fact that the majority of DBS members value the 'friendship' that getting together brings, and a desire to 'help each other out'. She then introduced Karen who kindly commented on our, 'wonderful Society'.

Karen began by saying, quite simply: 'showing starts at home' and was very adamant that the aim of today's Masterclass was to help and not lecture! She talked many times of the need to 'learn your donkey' and to 'learn your donkey's mood'. It might be that one day, you just know that it's not a day for taking your donkey to a show – respect that, respect your donkey. So, lots of practice at home is vital. As far as possible simulate the experiences that your donkey will come across at a show.

Smart dress is the order of the day when showing your donkey. No fancy hats and scarves, gloves are a must, so too a show cane and not a whip. Canes are for guiding and should not be used on your donkey – we enjoyed some very valuable practice of cane skills later that morning. Back to show attire, as you can see and

have seen, Olwen always cuts a dash. Liz demonstrated what is not acceptable in the ring (see left)! Hair must be tied back and preferably in a net. Sort your collar and tie out Liz! Put the mobile away, lose the jeans in favour of appropriate coloured smart trousers and smart footwear. Jewelry is also unacceptable. Men, again the emphasis is on smart. The show ring is no place for human flamboyance, it is your donkey that you are showing off, not you!

A quick word about cost – buying everything from new can be extremely costly. Good quality jackets for children can be borrowed, passed down and last for many, many years – Olwen has some prime examples of this! Don't be afraid to ask around the Region – you can always flag up wanted items or items for loan/sale in *Asspire* too! A search through e-bay can also be fruitful.

And now to 'donkey wear'. Olwen talked us through the types of bridles and so on required in different classes. Again, if you are not sure, chat to someone like Olwen and ask for advice – we all have to start somewhere, and donkey people are only too happy to help and will not be condescending in any way whatsoever.

Briefly, in-hand bridles are a little bit of a challenge to source for donkeys and often need to be made up of different sized components and it is absolutely vital that you get the right fit, again do ask if you are unsure – your donkey's welfare is of paramount importance. The metal on your bridle should match the metal on your bit. The bits used on the bridles of stallions are different and purposefully so to give greater control – so too the use of reins that provide extra control.

Entire youngsters must always have a bit too. It was interesting to hear that youngsters of 4, 5, 6 years can still be experiencing changes in their mouths and so it is acceptable to show



Oh dear Liz, we hope this is a momentary glitch!



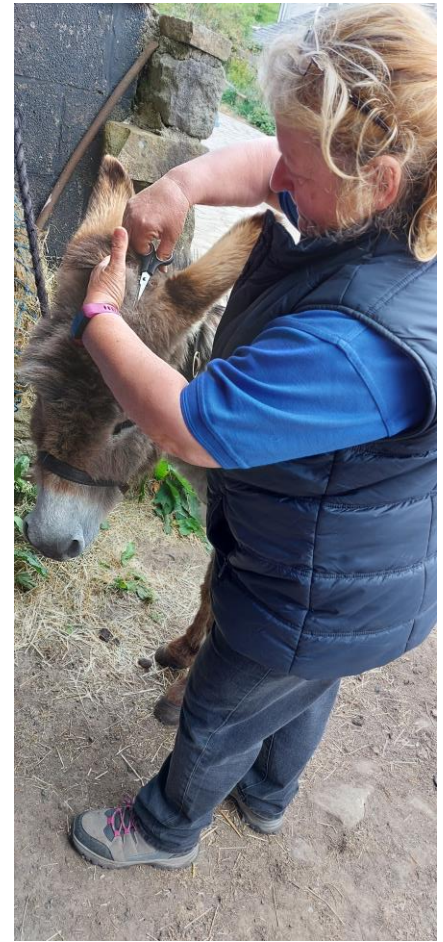
Very smart Olwen, as ever.

them without a bit and in a leather headcollar for example (not entire young stock however). A word about biting, make sure you use the right size bit and at the right height. You are also better off with a straight bit rather than a jointed bit.

So, to preparing your donkey for the ring . . . You want to show your donkey off and come home feeling that whatever the result, as Karen so rightly put it, 'you all go home with the best donkey'! Pam led us through her great advice for achieving a smart look. Start the day before and when wet from a bath, trim the mane, eliminating white hairs, using sharp scissors to trim to about 2" should your donkey have a fat neck— although the length does depend on the conformation of your donkey – stand back and try to see it as a pleasing overall picture. Neaten your donkey's tail beneath the hock level and trim the sides. Note, donkeys do not and should not be clipped – only with some working donkeys and on welfare grounds is this ever acceptable.

Pop a towel under their rug after a bath and later on, when the towel is removed, if it is cold, keep the rug on.

Tack & Turnout . . .given that your judge is likely to turn your tack over, or ask you to do so, make sure your tack is spotless. You will also be asked to 'gently' open your donkey's mouth and also to pick your donkey's foot up – practice this at home to keep it a smooth, gentle operation!



Trimming off the extra woolly bits!



Neaten external ear hairs BUT NOT internal ear hairs or whiskers.

When you arrive at the showground you will probably want to use hoof oil, make sure your donkey's heels are clean too. Baby oil on muzzles is also sometimes used – muzzles and eyes and bottoms should also be nice and clean. Baby wipes says Liz, 'are a marvellous invention!'.

Remember that judges *know* donkeys, so don't stress unduly if your donkey enters the ring and has splatted down a back leg on the way – sometimes, things just happen. Get on with enjoying showing off your donkey because you love him/her and want to have a good, positive time together.

Ringcraft, sticks and other useful information. Be polite! Time to enter the ring and take excellent manners in with you! Manners still matter in the ring and you must show respect for your Judge, stewards, fellow competitors and of course, your donkey.

No expecting the judge to wait for you, make sure you are organized! Greet your Judge with formality, even if you know them, it is 'Good morning/afternoon' and pleases and thank yous – excellent for our young riders to see/hear and use as well and remember, now the public are back at the shows, they will be listening to you too! Put your donkey *and* yourself in a good light. Listen carefully to all instructions – watch others with keen interest and pick up some tips (or make a mental note not to replicate something that doesn't look right!!)

Karen was absolutely adamant that you should never, 'humiliate the donkey' or let anyone else do so. Don't laugh at other people's donkeys if they suddenly stop, don't expect others to laugh at your donkey. If a situation arises, calmly take your donkey back into line and accept that these things happen. Do not ever admonish your donkey. These are very wise words. We spent lots of time in the menage learning how to guide our show donkeys around corners, presenting them correctly and talking about a range of skills both in-hand, lead rein, ridden, and later in the afternoon, driven. Huge thanks to Chloe and Cerys our young riders who acted as models for us and to Olwen and Liz's ponies and donkeys, that our judges present would not be judging this year, who allowed us to practice with them.

Olwen talked us through carriages and ringcraft when driving. Again, be polite, don't overtake others, be courteous. It was good to see the Buccaneer that had gone to Bennington (see the Bennington article in this edition of Asspire) back on the yard and in fine fettle. Liz provided us with a super demonstration.

It had been a truly excellent day and, as always, a chance to learn so much, much more than I am able to include in this article. It was a day for meeting up with friends old and new in a lovely atmosphere. I have returned home enthused and I'm pretty sure everyone else did too!



Good to see the Buccaneer back on the yard!

Karen kindly emailed me later in the evening to say, could I include the following in this article and I am very happy to do so: *'a little note from me saying how much I enjoyed meeting everyone at the showing clinic and that I hope they have every success with showing donkeys. Would you also thank Olwen and Liz, they do so much for the DBS newcomers. Hope you enjoyed it (I can rabbit on a bit but it's meant with a love of donkeys). Kind regards Karen.'* A big thank you, and we enjoyed every minute (not rabbiting in the slightest!), to Karen for such a great day and we wholeheartedly agree with you, a big thank you must go to Olwen and Liz too.

SB.



What's on:

**JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS WE ARE GOING TO IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!
MORE TO FOLLOW!**

Please note that all members, from all over the Region, are warmly invited to attend events across the Region – you don't have to stick to events in your area – travel a little and enjoy a lot! We will keep you posted on a variety of events/activities in the Region this Summer.

Sunday 8th May

DBS Northern Region Show

at Pam's!

Entries close 1st May. Just time to enter on line/by phone!!!

Schedules from: Pam Moon, 07842 535993 email: pam.moon@talktalk.net

Monday 6th June**Willow Sculpting in Lancashire****SOLD OUT!**

If you are still interested in having a go at this brilliant art form, do call Allison Roberts and express your interest, there is a possibility that we can arrange further classes.

Sunday 26 Jun 2022**Bury Show****ENTER ONLINE**

Classes for in hand, ridden & driven. Venue: Burrs Country Park, Woodhill Road Bury

Contacts: 28 Greenhill Road Bury, Lancashire, BL8 2LL 0161 764 7845 07808 777860

Donkeys@buryagricultural.org.uk

Notes: All exhibits need to have had their annual booster equine influenza jab 10 days prior to the show.

Entries close: 20 Jun 2022

Saturday 23rd July**Honley Show****Entries close 16th July.**

All details attached to the email that brought you this edition of *Asspire!*

For further details/information relating to all forthcoming events and if you are wanting to organize an event of any sort in your areas, please ring Olwen on: 01457 762336 we can then provide support if needed and help to let everyone know about it!

Awards Training sessions**Sunday 15th May****Bronze/Silver Training****Brown Road Farm**

From 11.00 am. Bring a picnic lunch. Please let Olwen know if you are able to attend. You do not need to own/guardian a donkey to train and take your awards. Please do join us, it's great fun learning together.

Message to all members who wish to embark on their training towards DBS Awards: If you wish to attend a session, or to find out more about the Awards, contact **Olwen on 01457 762336**. We can suggest ways to prepare for your Awards, in your Area and then how to organise testing.

Membership!

Don't forget to check your Membership status – have you renewed it?!

You can renew your membership on the National DBS Website:

<https://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk/membership>

Thank you for being a member, your support is much valued.

Joy's Spring Surprise!

A Chocolate Cake with a Difference

6 1/2 oz plain flour
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 teaspoon of Bicarbonate of soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
5oz castor sugar
2 tablespoons syrup
2 eggs
1/4 pt corn oil
1/4 pt milk

1. Sieve flour, cocoa, bicarbonate, and baking powder into a bowl.
2. Make a well in the centre and add sugar and syrup.
3. Stir in the eggs, oil, and milk. Beat well to make a smooth batter.
4. Pour into two 8" tins and bake at 160c fan for 30 minutes.

Enjoy! It is totally gorgeous, as vouched for by everyone who had a piece at the Showing Clinic!



Useful numbers:

Northern Region Chair and Regional Delegate: Liz Brown, 07517382472

Northern Region Secretary & Hon. PR Officer UK: Sarah Booth, 07970375562 (phone signal is awful, so leave a message or text me and I will get back to you!)

Northern Region Treasurer: Sarah Pennell, 01889 591497

DBS Awards Regional Link & Training: Olwen Brown 01457 762336

ADA: Terri and John Morris 01274 835520

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

AREA REPS:

Introduce yourself to your Area Rep and say what you would like to see happening in your Area. Area Reps are always keen to hear your ideas and if you can volunteer some help at any time, that too would be most welcome, although not obligatory!

Area Rep – Lancashire – Pam Moon

Pam: 07842 535993 pam.moon@talktalk.net

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

Pat: 07850 584785 pat_mather@msn.com

Area Rep – Cheshire/Greater Manchester – Olwen Brown

Olwen: 01457 762336

Area Reps – West Yorkshire – John & Terri Morris

John & Terri: 01274 835520 throstlenest@hotmail.co.uk

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

Area Rep – Cumbria - note: Sarah Booth is caretaking Cumbria at the moment.

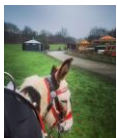
Area Rep – South Yorkshire - Jane Bramwell

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

Area Rep – Northumberland – Geraldine Burton

Geraldine: 01434 681335 gadburton@yahoo.co.uk

Answers to our little bit of a Christmas Quiz!



Where on earth? It was Beamish – *the best Open-Air Museum ever* according to my family, and I heartily agree. We have been visiting since my children were little and recently visited with our granddaughter! Check out www.beamish.org.uk and do visit if you haven't done so already!



The Eyes Have it! Sarah Standing, Sarah Booth, Pam Moon. They were at *Your Horse Live!*

In which year . . . ?

1. was the Society formed? And what was it originally known as? 1967 – the Donkey Show Society.
2. was the name changed to the Donkey Breed Society? 1968
3. was the Stud Book set up? 1969
4. did the first national DBS Supreme Championship Show take place? Hmmm? Anyone know? I've lost my answer to this! Please enlighten us someone!
5. did the Society become a registered Charity? 1985

And finally, a 'Caption Competition'! *'It doesn't matter about the ears, please can we take it home?!'* This was our top contender from an anonymous contributor and reflects Pam's generous spirit!



JUST GIVING



So many need our help . . .

At our meeting of the DBS Council in March we expressed our shock, along with everyone else, at the terrible plight of the citizens in Ukraine and conversation turned also to the plight of animals and, that of equines including the namesake of our charity. We agreed wholeheartedly to become involved in supporting donkey and other equine-associated interests in Ukraine, to which end we have set up a 'Just Giving' campaign page.

Why have we chosen a range of charities? We want to provide support across the board and know that some are uncertain as to which charity to choose. This way, we can make sure a little bit (hopefully quite a lot in the end) can go equally to appropriate and important causes. You might however choose to follow the links to one charity in particular – details are on our Just Giving page – and that's fine. The most important thing is that people can support somewhere, and we are helping you to do just that. As a charity whose primary role is to provide information, we also feel that offering a range of destinations for your donations is in keeping with our ethos. You will find us at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/donkeybreedsocietysupportsukraine>

In just the first three days, members and friends had kindly donated over £300 and the total continues to grow. We have no way of knowing to what extent some members have elected to focus on just one of the named charities, sending donations direct to them, but that is not the point, this is not a competition. The fact is we are raising awareness of some of the options available and that some people have donated to a charity that hitherto they knew nothing about, well that is wonderfully encouraging too.

We know that you need no incentive but as a thank you, you will be entered into a draw for a signed, framed, royal blue polo shirt that Carl Hester, Charlotte Dujardin, Alan Davies, Oliver Townend, Geoff Billington and Ben Atkinson kindly signed for us when they visited the DBS at Your Horse Live in November. [You have the right to anonymity should you be the recipient of this shirt.]

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to consider making a donation and a huge heartfelt thank you if you have done so already.

S. Booth.

*This is part of an article that will appear, in full in the next issue of **The Donkey**.*

And finally,



Someone sneaked into the Showing Clinic!

If you have enjoyed this edition of ASSPIRE, why not have your say in the next one!! Contribute to future copies of ASSPIRE, sharing your knowledge throughout the Region! Send pictures, articles, snippets of news from the late Spring and Summer months, to northerndonks@gmail.com.

Deadline for the next issue: Thursday 1st September, 2022.

Thank you and have a great Summer!

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