

ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



**It's the Festive Edition! Wishing
you all a very Happy Christmas and very best
wishes for a fabulous 2023!**

Dear All,

Happy Christmas and have a lovely New Year!

I just want to say a big thank you to all Northern region members, it has been a pleasure to serve as your Chair for the past 6 years. It has been fun but I think you are all ready for a change! Allison Roberts from Cumbria will be taking over the role and I ask that you give her the welcome and support you all gave me. I will still be around and fulfilling the Vice Chair role to help as much as is needed.

It has been a busy and successful year in our region. Looking back at our achievements has made me proud of the region. Not just the achievements in the show ring (and they have been many!) but the social meetups and the way in which the region has worked together.

I hope you and your donkeys are not too chilly in this cold weather.

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

In the News this Festive Season . . .

Welcome!



A very warm welcome to members who have joined us this year – thank you for swelling the ranks of lovers of the long ears! You will find us more than happy to support, help, offer advice and have a chat, a laugh, share a picnic, a walk and, importantly, share friendship.

We enjoyed meeting new members at *Your Horse Live* at Stoneleigh in November and were pleased to be able to send a strong Northern contingent down on the Friday. Why not come with us next year? Details nearer the time!

Some very special news indeed - The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and our Spring Show!

Our Northern Region's Spring Show will take place on the day following the Coronation. We could not let such an historic, memorable and prestigious event go unmarked and it will therefore be a very **special Northern Region Coronation Spring Show!** Further details to follow but there will be extra classes and, rumour has it, a 'Royal Parade'!

Please put the date in your diary, bring family and friends and join us at Whitestake, Preston on Sunday 7th May. This promises to be an unforgettable occasion.

In addition . . . a book to commemorate the DBS in the Northern Region past and present, by the Region, for the Region, on the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III is being planned! If we have enough interest this will be a lovely reminder of what has been achieved to date, in the Region – a chance to celebrate donkeys and characters who have done so much to ensure its success over the years – and to give every donkey currently in the Region a place within its covers! We will publish a picture of your donkey(s) in what will be a very stylish edition!

We cannot do this however without your pictures and anecdotes from the very beginning of the DBS in the Northern Region to present day. We are relying on you to help us fill this book. Further details will follow but, in the meantime, start searching through your photos, jot down reminiscences - perhaps get together with folks in your Area and relive some lovely memories over a mince pie or two! Let's make it a very special occasion. Start sending in your contributions to northerndonks@gmail.com **Thank you.**

Well done Northern Region!

We have lots of congratulations to pass on to members of the Region and their wonderful donkeys this year . . .

In addition to the amazing successes seen at the DBS Championship Show, we have to recognise our Northern Autumn Show Champion who then went on to clinch the Region's Champion of Champions, Pehill Promise me That owned by Pam Moon, and also National DBS Champion Donkey, Frontier Legends

Diplomat owned by Lorraine and John Rae. These incredible donkeys are a credit to the total dedication, time and brilliant turnout of their owners and we offer them a heartfelt 'well done'!



Left: Frontier Legends Diplomat, owned by Lorraine & John Rae



Right: Perehill Promise me That, owned by Pam Moon



Congratulations to all who all those who sent in their Showing Points – we celebrate considerable Northern and National attainment!! Further details accompany the Minutes of the AGM for 2022, sent out with this edition of *Asspire*. To third place however:

In-hand: 1st Wychbrook Desert Rose; 2nd Brownroad Kingcup; 3rd Brownroad Desert Cassia

Driven: 1st Brownroad Kingcup; 2nd Toadflax of Brownroad; 3rd (joint) Jo Jo and Gary & Eeyore

Senior Junior Champion: Carys Aspey (& Calpurnia Cup winner); Reserve Senior: Charlotte Oxley (& the National Barnabus Cup winner). Junior Champion: Eva Potter (& National Points Shield)



Clockwise from top left: John Morris and Liz Brown, Olwen Brown and Liz, Carys Aspey and Pam Moon, Eva Potter and mum Adele.

A huge well done to *all* those who have put the Northern Region on the map through participation in local, regional and national events, volunteering, fund-raising and flying the flag for the DBS this year! Your participation is much valued. Thank you.

And look who won the Christmas Quiz after the AGM! Our very own Liz! As you can see in the background of this picture, she does have an 'ology (she's actually got two!) and a very nice rosette, so it probably helped!!

If you would like to try the very same quiz, courtesy of Ali and Graham Sargeant, you will find it towards the end of this edition of *Asspire*.



Also this year . . .



Northern Region Special Rosette for services to the Region

In September we were invited to the home of Alison and Graham Sargeant to meet their gorgeous donkeys and to enjoy a Wildlife Walk and Nature Ramble, with donks of course! It was a beautiful day and we were made so very welcome. So much hard work had gone into preparing the ramble, a gorgeous lunch and fun

quiz – the donkeys had a brilliant time and so did we! For this and for all their support throughout the year, Olwen presented Ali and Gray with a Northern Region Special Rosette in recognition of their work for The DBS.



Thank you A&G!



The Northern Region's Autumn Show 2022



Steve, Rueben and a very large cup!

Held in Ripon this year, the Show was a great success. The weather was kind and it was brilliant to see friends and families that had travelled from across the region to join us. Grateful thanks to everyone that supported this event.



Didn't they scrub up well?! Pam and Olwen.

We remember them . . .

Olwen and I had planned to commemorate Remembrance Day this year by laying a purple wreath for War Horse down by the Broadbottom memorial, with myself riding Romance while she led Colin in hand, however due to a late electrician, this plan had to be slightly altered on the morning to Lucy accompanying me instead with Finn the Labrador.

Both our four legged friends were dressed for the occasion; in Romance's case, a purple poppy attachment over her browband, and in Finn's, a matching one for his collar. It was fairly warm for a mid-November morning, and rather quiet too, which made for a very pleasant trip down Gorsey Brow and the winding Hill End Lane. Joining the main road was a tad less relaxing as traffic did pick up a little, but we enjoyed a nice reprieve once we'd rounded the hill and reached our destination.



After a quick phone call to Olwen so she could bring down the wreath and take some pictures, Romance was a little reluctant to stand, although fortunately by then I had two people ready to grab her bridle if she seemed inclined to bolt. I was honoured to have the opportunity to pay my respects to the animals who gave so much to the UK, the Commonwealth and their Allies throughout the First World War, as well as raise awareness of the incredible work that War Horse does by way of The Animal Purple Poppy Fund to support equine and military welfare charities today. I wore my pin with pride.

Wishing everyone happy holidays,

Hannah Dickinson

Also taking part in an Armistice Day Service, Hamish and Dougal, at Bewcastle in Cumbria . . .



Colin's Column . . .



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

Dear Juniors,

I'm writing this whilst I catch my breath. We donkeys have been allowed into one of the horses' fields that has been shut for the winter. The reason is that our winter field has become very muddy because of all the rain. Olwen got stuck in the mud this morning and decided that we were in danger of getting stuck too, so she went round and opened the connecting gate. We were so excited. First of all, we went round the whole field to see if there were any gaps that might lead to the next farm's hay fields. There weren't, so Diccon and I had a lovely play and galloped and galloped.

I have so much news for you. Promise had her foal in September, it is a colt called Bobby and he is the same colour as me! We can't play with him yet as he is too young but we talk to him through the fence. He likes galloping too so we shall have a good play when he is old enough.

I have made some new friends, they are called Amy, Vicky, Matt, Chris, Qamer and Kyle and they live in a house called 463. I visited in October; they were very kind and gave me lots of carrots. I have such fun with them, if I got hold of the knob on the arm of their wheelchairs it made them go faster, it was fun but Olwen stopped me because my teeth were too big! I hope to go to visit them again, they gave me lots of pats (and carrots).

I am looking forward to Christmas. I am doing two Nativities as is Diccon, as well as going to the Garden Centre to help Father Christmas.

Don't forget your donkeys at Christmas. We love carrots and apples and also a nice new bucket and haynet (both full of course) would be welcome.

Wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Lots of love, Colin X

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



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

Ask Colin . . .

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!*

Colin, we know that you met the Duchess of Devonshire this year. What would you give her for Christmas?

I have given this question a lot of thought. Perhaps she would like to stroke my ears again, I would like that. Or, have a signed photo of me for her mantelpiece. Then I had a great idea . . . in the courtyard at Chatsworth House, where she lives, is a huge sculpture (ask your mum what that is) of a horse. It is called War Horse and was sculpted by a lady called Dame Elisabeth Frink. I think a sculpture of a donkey would look lovely next to it (perhaps modelled by me?).

Happy Christmas Duchess.

What do you think Olwen would like for Christmas? This is very difficult. Maybe a bag of carrots which she would share with us all. She doesn't like chocolate very much; perhaps she thinks carrots taste better – I do. I think most of all she would like her donkeys to behave and go into the right stables at night, so saving her a lot of time sorting us out!

Happy Christmas Olwen!

PS Would you still like a bag of carrots to share?

Very well done to all our Juniors this year !

You have all been excellent ambassadors for the Donkey Breed Society and the Northern Region in particular. Thank you. Practice hard over the winter and we look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Happy Christmas to: Amber, Anna, Bluebell, Carys, Charlotte, Daniel, Eva, Izzy and Ruben and their families!



Fun days out in
2022 with the
Region's
juniors . . . looking
forward to
lots more in
2023!!



Sycamore seeds alert and one woman's quest to banish them . . .

There's been lots and lots online about the problems this year with a super-abundance of sycamore seeds and their link to sycamore-related atypical myopathy so a visit to the Donkey Sanctuary website was a must when I first noticed the monumental quantities in our yard one morning.



Here's a summary of what I found – "In Europe, the cause is a toxin found in seeds of the sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The toxin 'hypoglycin A' destroys muscles of the skeletal system, respiratory system and heart. The damage caused to muscles leads to severe illness and can be fatal. In recent years there has been a sharp increase in UK cases, thought to be due to extreme weather changes."

They suggested that owners should fence off sycamore trees and be aware that seeds may travel further than expected, and, are you ready for this – that they should inspect fields daily and remove seeds or leaves.

Our in-by, winter paddock is 0.4 of an acre and is over 100 ft from any sycamore trees while the out-by fell is just over the dry-stone wall from several. So, keeping the boys in the paddock made sense, taking them out in-hand beyond trees daily would just be our normal daily excursion. And inspecting the paddock daily surely wouldn't be too onerous.

Well! Let me tell you right now how this works in reality. The list that follows is the daily total of these wretched seeds lifted diligently on our 0.4-acre paddock from 26 Oct onwards – 1000+, 271, 23, 351, 63, 103, 65, 73, 909, 111, 54, 127, 55, 504, 60, 293. The collecting is done while the boys are breakfasting, having been shut in overnight. Even on days when the numbers are low the whole paddock has to be searched. When there has been a strong wind obviously the volume increases dramatically. Today, for example, the wind is gusting over 50 mph, a fact that made standing up difficult, never mind quartering a sloping paddock, bending down to pick up each of the 293 seeds. Some days have been wet as well as windy. Thankfully donkeys won't venture out in the rain, so I've started my search between showers, (not that the task has ever fitted neatly into the rain-free breaks, and once I've started I've kept on going). You'll know how this goes – the rain runs down a long jacket dripping off the hem onto that gap between hem and welly tops, then soaking wet jeans have to be peeled off when the job is done. It's horrid, it's time consuming and, possibly even worse, it's addictive!

My mood swings from gleefully pouncing on the next seed, to resenting the hours it takes daily, to fear of the consequences should one (of both) of the boys take ill.

I needed to know how many ingested seeds would induce this sycamore-related atypical myopathy; could I find anything online? Not a chance! I rang the vet who had to do some research to find out how to advise me. It seems an adult horse could become ill having eaten 20 grams of seed. But what does an adult horse weigh? And over what period of time would it have had to munch its way through 20 grams of sycamore seeds? An online search did address the first question - a horse from the main breeds in the UK weighs between 500 and 600 kg so I did some sums. And here is what I worked out being cautious - my donkeys would need to eat 4

grams which is around 18 seeds. The answer to the second question was, to say the best, unclear. "Fairly quickly" was the vet's answer. So, I stick to the task....

The trees have now nearly shed all their seeds but they are still dropping in my paddock. Let me leave you with this thought. What will happen when any seeds I didn't find sprout in the spring? According to the Donkey Sanctuary I need to uproot all seedlings in the spring! Guess what? I've added up the total no of seeds to date and divided that by 18 so I've potentially saved 178.5 donkey lives! I still hope my two stay safe though.

Allison Roberts.

A Baltic Blast!

A Baltic blast can make caring for your donkeys even harder than when the ground is muddy and wet.



There is nothing nicer to look at than snow on the ground when you are tucked inside with your hot brew and a mince pie, however packed ice for days on end is not so appealing and whilst you can let the donkeys out to stretch their legs it is not wise for them to charge around on it, especially if the ground is rutted from previous ventures. Ensure they have sufficient hay and straw to keep them occupied, monitor closely their fluid intake, if their buckets and troughs are frozen take off the surface ice and fill with hot water to take the chill off the water – they love a tepid drink this encourages them to drink – the water might still freeze overnight, but so long as they have had chance to drink before bed and again as early as possible in the morning. Another way to encourage fluid intake is to make a pony nut mash – soak pony nuts or fibre beet in warm water, make it quite sloppy and they will love you even more for it.

Rugging donkeys is always a contentious subject, healthy donkeys with access to a shelter (with a roof and sides) should not need a rug, their coats fluff up when it is cold. Elderly or infirm donkeys with health issues will benefit from an extra layer – but as always with rugs, these must be removed and the donkeys skin checked on a frequent basis. Some youngsters that cannot risk losing condition may also appreciate a rug.

Pam Moon.

History in our Region

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

Thank you to Don and Liz Ross for sharing this picture of a pub near them, in Leyland. The pub is called *The Kicking Donkey* but nobody is quite sure how it got its name.

I did a little delving and whilst I cannot say how this hostelry came by its name, it would seem that it was the quality of the ale served that might 'kick like a mule' or indeed, 'kick like a donkey'.



The Kicking Donkey, Leyland, Lancashire



A little wander around the internet and I also came across some interesting donkey/mule named beverages – whether they contain the necessary kick, I am not sure! 'Punching Mule' looks interesting! Anyone tried it, or similar?

Then, I discovered some more 'Kicking Donkey' pubs! These (below right) are in Ireland I believe.



Browsing a little further, I came across a very large willow donkey in the garden of a 'Kicking Donkey' pub! Those who came to our willow workshop will



appreciate the hard work that went into this fine fellow (left)!

Last, but not least, this little 'kicking donkey' (below left) caught my attention – one would assume that in some way the bell is rung

but how and why? If you know its purpose, or indeed how it works, do share!
(northerndonks@gmail.com).



If you have a little donkey related history on your northern doorstep, do let us know about it in 2023! Contributions to northerndonks@gmail.com.

Wish you were here - and I'll tell you why....



Do you recall the challenge in the most recent *Asspire*? Sarah B told us to send a postcard with a donkey in the picture to a non-DBS person. That seemed easy – I found a pile of DBS postcards on the society stand at the regional championship show and there were eight donkeys on it. Perfect. Even more perfect – two of them were my boys! That's when I remembered the challenge. So, a card came home with me from the show.

I knew straight away who the recipient would be: my donkeys' biggest fan (after me, of course) is a close friend who had moved to Australia, so she has had to forfeit cuddles and fell walks till she next wings her way back.

Now, to achieve the challenge I had to walk my two boys for two miles down our oft-gated farm track (and obviously the two miles back again), armed with the DBS postcard and an SAE so that was two pieces of printed material, to be kept uncrumpled all the way to the post box. Along the way we had eight gates to manage, each to be opened and closed two times.

Thankfully the post box is at the road end on the tarmac. There I had the task of securing the boys with a lead rope each, normally a two-handed task to keep the pair secure but I had also to extricate the two items of print, and to prove that I'd fulfilled the challenge, out had to come my phone-cum-camera. I only have two hands.



Adding to the saga were two racing white van men followed by two cars - one even slowed down and stopped to watch our little show. I endeavoured to position two donkeys round the red pillar box, hold the card and envelope, (trying carefully to mask the addressee's name and address, but still allowing the word "Australia" and the stamps to show) and get them all in shot. It all got a bit too much.

You can see from the scrabbled results why I wished you were there too.



Ed: However, Allison's card eventually found its way to Australia - result!!

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

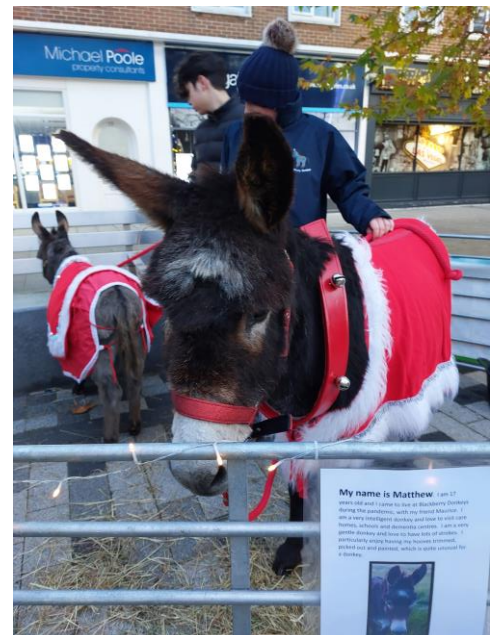
Thank you for sending in your pictures.



Blackberry Donkeys at Beamish



Billingham Christmas Market



and . . .

out in the community and in local schools



Marie, Blackberry Donkeys.



'Jo Jo at the live nativity at Wadsley church in Sheffield.

The attendance roughly doubled compared to last year. The Vicar attributed this to the presence of little Jo. We did 2 services. Good job we didn't have to do a 3rd as Jo Jo was eating his way through the bale Mary and Joseph were sitting on!

He then met a small child dressed as a donkey...'



Jane Bramwell.

"Now I'm a believer" part ii.

Scene setting – ten days ago the boys would not come into the stable for breakfast – they are usually in and calling for room service at 08.00 every day – and nothing I could do would tempt them across the threshold, nor would they approach their wall-mounted black feed buckets, even when I held them: breakfast was served from my hand to each of them outdoors. Straw was left by the door, inside, so they had to put their heads in to reach it.

This palaver carried on for days, though gradually little Hamish would come in to eat from my hand, then Dougal consented to edge his head and front feet into the stable. Slowly, but not every feed time, they accepted to eat breakfast and supper from their buckets as long as I held them, while straw had to be served near the door.

Clearly something horrid had happened in their stable. While I couldn't see any evidence of physical harm to the boys, nor was there anything untoward in the stable perhaps the whisperer could find out what was so troubling. She offered to do a telephone consultation after I had sent her some recent photographs of my boys.



Lady "Hamish has decided to talk first because he's braver than big Dougal. He has several little stories he wants you to know, and indeed he wants to tell you about a frightening incident. But he's bursting to tell you the happy stuff first. Since you have started giving him more and more work to do, rather than just walking them on the fell daily he's so happy; he has a purpose. He sleeps better after a working session!"

Note Since the first whisperer intervention when he asked to work – with a bridle and reins, sometimes with panniers - I've made sure we kit him in his working gear as often as possible and set off purposefully to different places. Dougal too has saddle bags fixed to a surcingle, a fact that seems to help him relax and walk gently in-hand (a huge improvement by the way).

Lady "Have you had lots of visitors staying with you? Hamish loves to show them how good he is; he is saying he likes to "nanny" them (his word) and show them just how wonderful donkeys can be. He's telling me some of them lead him in-hand and others long rein him. But you've had some strange people too – they amused him."

Me "Yes all that is true and we did have friends to stay who were of a unique mould who insisted on walking with the boys."

Lady "Hamish is worrying that he heard you tell a visitor that another animal is coming to stay and really doesn't want you to have another donkey."

Me "Please tell him it'll be a lamb in the spring and I promise I won't have another donkey."

Lady "Now he's telling about being very frightened one dark night. He's talking about a noisy kerfuffle, then screeching sounds followed by a sudden loud noise. He's wondering if it was bats or birds fighting, but Dougal has a different version, so stand by. Hamish wants to be big and brave and able to relax in the stable again."

"Dougal is keen to take over now. And like Hamish, he wants to talk about other things before he gets to the scary bit.

"He's asking that you tell him everything over and over and over again 'coz it takes him time to process information and to grow in confidence.

"Please can he have more radio? He loves music."

Me "My husband has Radio 3 playing when he's in his workshop right next door."

Lady "When other people are leading/working with Hamish, Dougal is loving being one-to-one with you.

"He claims to be much more aware of the environment around him than little Hamish - he loves clocking other animals, different trees, even different varieties of grass and the sky. And yesterday he noticed you carrying pumpkins from the veg garden – he loves them and sweet potatoes too.

"He wants you to know he was sad the other day because a wee mouse that used to scurry around the door has died. He prefers animals to humans, especially the ones he meets on the fell."

Me "Does he even like foxes and badgers? They abound here; badgers snuffle at the foot of the muck heap for worms."

Lady "Well, here is Dougal's version of the frightening night. It sounds like the boys were play-fighting as they went into their stable, Hamish in the lead, so were not aware of another presence in the dark space, till all of a sudden something big screeched, or snarled, as it tried to get past them; in its panic it bashed their feed buckets to the ground before escaping into the night. He thinks it was a badger I'm not sure why Hamish thought the commotion was in the air, while Dougal perceived it to be on the ground. He is not scared of badgers in the paddock!



"And strangely Dougal wants to be seen as little Hamish's protector so he is trying to be brave about overcoming his terror."

Note This afternoon both boys seemed more alert and engaged; Radio 3 is now playing in the stable; Dougal had pumpkin as a starter at tea time (Hamish spat his out); both boys are in and have eaten from their buckets, if Dougal still had to be coaxed fully in, as I hand held his bucket; one overhead light shines in the stable while two donkeys tuck into their straw supper. They happily feed now from those reconstituted tyre buckets on the floor. We have a way forward.

Allison Roberts.

Joy's Joyous Festive Fare!

Smoked Salmon Palmiers

If you prefer, swap the salmon for Parma ham, using just enough to cover the cream cheese.

Hands-on time: 15 min plus chilling and cooling.

Cooking time about 25 min.

Makes about 16



- 320g sheet puff pastry
 - 100g cream cheese with chives
 - 150g smoked salmon slices
 - 1 medium egg, beaten
 - 1 tsp sesame seeds
1. Preheat oven to 200C (180C fan) mark 6 and line a large baking sheet with baking parchment. Unroll puff pastry and spread cream cheese evenly over the top.
 2. Lay salmon on top of cream cheese in a single layer. Roll up pastry tightly from one long edge until you reach the middle. Repeat, rolling from the other long edge to meet in the middle, pressing the rolls together. Transfer to a board and chill for 20min.
 3. Brush top and sides with beaten egg, then sprinkle over sesame seeds. Trim ends to neaten, then cut across the rolls to make 1.5cm (2/3in) slices. Arrange on the prepared sheet, spacing apart. Chill again for 20 min.
 4. Cook for 20-25 min until golden. Cool for a few min on the tray, then transfer to a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Very much enjoyed by those at the AGM this year! You will not be disappointed if you run up a batch of this Christmas!

Enjoy!!



A little bit of a Quiz from Ali and Graham!

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

- 1) What is the name of the donkey in the Christmas song by Lou Monte ?
- 2) Why do shepherds traditionally have a donkey living within the sheep pack ?
- 3) What type of trees does mistletoe grow in?
- 4) Which Royal was responsible for introducing the first Xmas tree in this country?
- 5) Where does the donkey Eyore live in the story "Winnie the Pooh"?
- 6) Which way do you traditionally stir the Christmas pudding for luck?
- 7) How many gifts are mentioned in the song 12 days of Christmas?
- 8) According to the Christmas song "What is roasting in an open fire?"
- 9) What are the three most common colours of donkeys in order of popularity?
- 10) What are the ingredients in Bubble and squeak?"
- 11) Which country did mulled wine originate?
- 12) Why do donkeys have big ears ?
- 13) In what carol does "The snow lie crisp and even"
- 14) Before turkey what was traditional Christmas Day meal in England?
- 15) Traditionally, how long before Christmas should you start making Christmas cake?
- 16) Name Santa's reindeer ?
- 17) What was traditionally found hidden the Christmas pudding ?
- 18) How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh .all the reindeer! ?
- 19) How many geese are laying in the Christmas song "12 days of Christmas" ?
- 20) where is the little donkey carrying Mary along the dusty road?

Well Done ..you have made it to the end ...



MERRY CHRISTMAS from The Sargeants xxxxxx



What's on in 2023?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – JANUARY 2023

For details of all forthcoming events, please ring Olwen on: 01457 762336

Sunday 15th January **Training Day 'Feet and Foot advice from a specialist donkey vet'** **11.00 am at Olwen's, Brownroad Farm, Gorsey Brow, Broadbottom, Hyde. SK14 6EB** **Bring your lunch.**

Thursday 26th January **Sewing Day – Please note, numbers limited, call Olwen for details and to reserve your place!**

SPECIAL NOTICE:

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



*Make this
gorgeous bag
at the Sewing
Day*

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!

Awards Training sessions

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

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

(Don't forget you can still nominate your farrier in 2023.)

Useful numbers:

Northern Region Chair and Regional Delegate: Liz Brown, 07517382472 + going forward: Allison Roberts
allisonroberts254@outlook.com 01697 748311 - NB new contact – welcome Allison!

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 - Julie Connolly – NB new contact - welcome Julie!

Julie: 07501 331014 julieconnolly1@aol.com

Area Rep – South Yorkshire - Jane Bramwell

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

Area Rep – Northumberland – Geraldine Burton

Geraldine: 01434 681335 gadburton@yahoo.co.uk

And finally . . .



Luke and Jo Jo in the stable with Mary and Joseph at Breedon Works in Hope.

(Photo Jane Bramwell)

Wherever this finds you this Christmas, we hope you have a warm and very happy time. Let us all look forward to 2023 with hope and optimism, looking for further opportunities to share our love of the wonderful 'long-ears'!!

If you have enjoyed this edition of ASSPIRE, why not have your say in the next one!!

Contribute to future copies of ASSPIRE, sharing your knowledge throughout the Region! Send pictures, articles, snippets of news to northerndonks@gmail.com.

Deadline for the next issue: Thursday 23rd March, 2023.

Thank you.



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