

ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



DBS



It's the Spring Edition!



Dear All,

Now, how do you react each time *Asspire* arrives? Do you stop everything and read it, there and then? Do you save it up for later so that you have lots of time to look forward to reading it? Or are you like me – I can't resist delving right in there and then for a rapid scan no matter what I should be doing, but I also have to admit to planning a more leisurely return to it when, armed with a steaming and fragrant cuppa, I can take my time to savour it properly.

There's no antidote to being smitten by donkeys, a fact that makes *Asspire* such a celebration. The variety of its content seems endless. I never tire of reading more "donkey stuff" as my husband calls it. And our region seems to do lots of donkey stuff....

May I make a suggestion? If you're going to put the kettle on before rereading this *Asspire* be sure to come back to it armed with your diary and a pen, for there are lots and lots of

activities listed that you can join in. If I highlight only one event out of the list it'd be the Spring Show, on the day after the Coronation because the organising team have made it bigger and better than any other show in ages with lots for everyone to enjoy. Oh, by the way, if you've an idea for a donkey-centred activity please let me know.

I look forward to meeting you at the show (or at any donkey event on the calendar for that matter).

Best regards,

Allison. (Allison Roberts, Chair & Regional Delegate, DBS Northern Region)

Don't forget the Chair's Challenge this Easter! A cracking good idea!

Spend a total of five hours doing things with a donkey focus in the Easter holidays, then tell us about it and we will award you with a rosette! You don't even need to have a donkey of your own to enter.

You might be in a stable, or a paddock with a donkey, you might be walking with a donkey, or riding one on a beach, or just drawing pictures, making paintings or other crafty activities with a donkey theme. It's up to you how you spend the five hours **between the 2nd and 14th of April.**

Simply tell us how you clocked up your five hours. You might like to keep a diary, so we've given you one here that you might like to use, but you can make your own record in any way you want to. Then send us your description of what you did, the date and times you were busy doing it and the name of your donkey(s) together with some photos. If you are under 16 please tell us your age too. **Entry is free for DBS members and their families.**

You can **send your entry by 16 April** by emailing it to northerndonks@gmail.com or posting your entry to Donkey Lovers' Easter Challenge, High Grains, Bewcastle, Cumbria, CA6 6PT. We look forward to hearing from you. SB.



Welcome to all our new members and returning members this
Spring!

In the News this Spring

Show update . . .

Our Own Northern Region Show

Sunday 7th May

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

Entries close 1st May.

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



At the Show we will be raising money for our Charity, DBS Northern Region, and for our chosen, additional Charity this year, The Great North Air Ambulance. DBS Member Deborah Usher is a volunteer for this charity and we're happy to say she will be joining us at the Show. Deborah takes up her story:

I'm Deborah Usher a member of the Northern Donkey Breed Society and a volunteer in Cumbria for The Great North Air Ambulance, during the month of May I am taking part in a sponsored event called Race To The Base, which means I'm walking 130 miles in 31 days (that's the distance from the region's major trauma Centre to base in Langwathby and back). I'll be walking 4.2 miles per day around Carlisle which doesn't sound far but as I suffer from Rheumatoid Arthritis it's a personal challenge too. I just hope May has good walking weather. Thank you, Deborah.



Deborah and the Air Ambulance

That's a lot of walking, we wish Deborah all the very best and we're very happy to be supporting this brilliant cause. And, if you can't make the Show but would like to donate: justgiving.com/fundraising/DeborahUsher . Thank you.



This is Pumpkin who belongs to Derbyshire Area Rep., Janet Thornhill

Many foals a frolicking . . .

Thank you to those of you with foals that responded to our plea for pics for the DBS' national partner organisation, War Horse Memorial. What gorgeous pictures! War Horse asked us for foal pics for a special feature that you can find on their website <https://www.thewarhorsememorial.org> , that first appeared on Good Friday. They wanted an alternative to chicks and lambs and asked us to help! Foal pics were received from across the country, including our Region. Further foals a frolicking can also be found on the DBS website: [Donkey foals and young animals - Easter 2023 - The Donkey Breed Society](#).

Also responsible for raising a staggering £1,000 for the Air Ambulance in December last year, are Gary and Eeyore Mather! They have been involved in all sorts of activities, in all weathers, as Pat's pictures show. They also went to York Minster on Palm Sunday (see pics on p 20) huge well done you two.



Congratulations to Amber, and her parents Becca and Mark, on the safe arrival of her little brother Sebastian just before Christmas! Another little rider for Missy!

Thank you.



It's Colin's Column!!



Dear Juniors,

It doesn't seem very long since I last wrote to you - here is my news.

We donkeys go out to play during the winter days and come into our stable for the nights. I live with Romance, we like to share our haynet but we don't get a feed because Olwen says we will get too fat, only the growing boys get a balancer feed.

I looked forwards to Easter because there are Easter Bunnies and CARROTS. We didn't have Easter eggs but Olwen gave us Easter carrots – yum-yum.

On Palm Sunday I went to our local church, I was given a palm cross and carried a little boy dressed in a robe down the aisle. Everyone was watching and I felt very proud.

On Good Friday I went on the horse-box to another church. It was a lovely sunny day, there were lots of children looking for Easter Eggs in the church grounds. A lot of the children took turns sitting on my back whilst their parents took photos. I smiled my best smile all the time. I love children and I love having my photo taken. When I got home

Olwen gave me some pony nuts for being good. I really enjoyed them because I was hungry. I couldn't eat grass in the church grounds because there were baby sycamore trees growing in the grass. **If you see them growing in your grass pull them up. DO NOT let your donkey eat them.**

The grass is growing so I hope we can go out in the big field soon. I am looking forwards to meeting Juniors in the summer.

Love,

Colin X



If you spot Sycamore seedlings - PULL THEM UP!

Ask Colin . . .

Q: Colin, have you any tips for 'Child Handler' classes please? What is the Judge

looking for? 1. You and your donkey must be neat and tidy. Wear a riding hat and gloves, also clean boots or sensible shoes.

2. Always stand up straight whilst waiting your turn to handle. You never know when the judge is watching.
3. Answer the judge politely and clearly if asked a question, don't be shy. DO NOT shrug your shoulders if you don't know an answer.
4. Give your donkey clear commands, we cannot know what to do unless you tell us. Do not whisper, the judge should be able to hear you as well as your donkey.
5. Listen to the judge, do what you are asked to do.
6. Learn how to lead your donkey properly. Walk at its shoulder, not in front of it. If you walk very slowly, so will your donkey, so walk at a sensible speed.
7. Don't get upset if your donkey doesn't follow your instructions, even though you have tried your best.
8. When you have done your show, stop, stand up straight, say thank you to the judge and pat your donkey. We will try hard to please you.
9. When the rosettes are given out remember – not everyone can win, you can only do your best. Be pleased when you get a rosette and say thank you. The more shows you go to the better you will get. This is called 'learning by experience'.
10. This is the most important rule ENJOY YOURSELF!

Q Colin, my donkey looks as if he could stand at his salt lick all day – a glazed expression comes over his face and he looks mesmerised! Can he work out how much salt he needs or is he likely to have too much? I asked Liz the Vet about this. She said some donkeys get so fond of their salt-licks that they spend a long time licking them. It is sometimes best to remove the lick in the day if they get too fond and put it back during the night.

Q Colin, what are you looking forward to this summer? This summer I am looking forwards to Casey-Blue's wedding. I am taking her to the church in my carriage. Olwen is going to decorate it with flowers, I promised her I won't nibble them.

Most of all I am looking forwards to seeing all Juniors at the shows, I know that some of you will be handling and riding me.

Don't forget the Junior Activity Day on Sunday 21st May and check out the 'Just for Juniors' section on the Region's Calendar for more details of that and other events. I hope some older Juniors will come and help the younger ones.

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!*



Reports from our Students!

In this edition of 'Asspire' we are delighted to include contributions from two hardworking students: Molly Southward, on long-distance donkey ownership as she tackles a Masters Degree in Wales and from Carys Aspey, on the Greater Manchester Area Training Day at Brown Road Farm in February. It's great to hear from our student members.

Donkeys and University



Harriet



Milly

I am currently studying for my Masters in History at university in Wales, nearly 200 miles away from home in the South lakes. I also have two donkeys, Milly and Harriet, they are mother and daughter born in 2009 and 2011 and I have owned them since 2013. Harriet loves opening gates and Milly always enjoys jumping everything she can, and they are the most well behaved and funny pair. At University people are often interested to learn more about an animal they often don't know much about, or often ever seen in real life before.

Although I get my equestrian fix riding with the university group, of course during term time I miss the donkeys. However as much I would like to, I can't take them with me, though I'm very lucky that they get looked after (and spoilt rotten) by my parents, who also send daily photos and videos of what they're up to while I'm in Wales. Without them I would quite simply not be able to keep Milly and Harriet. When I do get home during the holidays, I always make sure to bring the donkeys a treat and while I have some free time we enjoy taking them on walks around the moors and trails we're lucky to have in the south lakes.

Some of the things I've learnt from having donkeys while at university full time include time management when balancing doing work at home and looking after them as well as organisation (thank goodness for online shopping and being able to send stuff for them to home when I'm away). As much as I enjoy university, the donkeys are also an escape from reading and writing when it gets busy, helping me to keep a work life balance. When mucking out or grooming it often helps to give me time to think about what I've been doing and expand on my ideas for essays and coursework away from the laptop, sometimes even talking through my ideas with them. I feel very lucky to have Milly and Harriet and I hope my work at university will pay off and allow me to get a good job in a field that I love and to support them in the future.



Molly Southward

Training Day Fun

On Sunday 26th February, I went to Olwen and Liz Brown's farm for a donkey training day. I really enjoy these days not just because of the tea and biscuits, but I love meeting all the amazing animals. I don't even mind Pam (Moon) singing in the car on the way there!

I learnt lots of new things like how to look after donkeys' feet and some problems that donkeys can get with their feet such as a foot abscess.

I also practiced showing a donkey including how to stand and how to handle donkeys in walk and trot.

Poor Colin had a sore foot on the day and although it wasn't good for Colin, it meant that Olwen could show us all how to make Colin's foot better by making a poultice with a baby's nappy! Colin was very brave and I'm sure his foot is much better now.



Me with Romance

After I have been to a training day, I always take photographs into my school and college to show them. They know much more about donkeys now and I think that this is a really good thing!

Thank you to everyone for being kind and always helping me.

From, Carys Aspey – Student Member DBS

We are delighted that Carys has agreed to regularly report on Training Days for Asspire.

Asspire welcomes contributions from juniors, students and adult members – pictures, a little anecdote, a golden bit of advice, absolutely anything! Join our wonderful contributors to this edition and the many that have gone before and have your say! Flag up your favourite!

Check out a VERY special opportunity

to put a donkey that you know, on the Northern map! Read on . . .



The Northern Region of the Donkey Breed Society
Special Commemorative Booklet – to be published in the year of
The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Please help us to create, for the Region, a special commemorative booklet, celebrating your own donkeys, or those with whom you come into contact. We want to pay tribute to the donkeys that have filled, and continue to fill, lives in the Region with so much joy.

Let your donkeys be part of the celebration!

HOW: Send *good quality* pictures (up to 4) together with a short piece telling us about your donkey(s) (max. 175 words, not to worry if you go over we can edit it) to:

email northerndonks@gmail.com OR post to Sarah Booth Colley Mill House, North Rode, Nr Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2PL.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 28th July, 2023

THE PLAN IS: to create a gorgeous commemorative booklet that will go on sale in time for Christmas, raising funds for our Charity and creating a lot of smiles along the way! A brilliant present for family and friends and featuring donkeys that you know!



Let me tell you about . . .

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

[Please note that we reserve the right to edit copy and pictures in order to create a clear, professional finish.]

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

In this feature, Allison Roberts and Sarah Standing say a heartfelt 'thank you' to their DWAs . . .

Having a DWA in your life

Were you to key these three letters into a search engine, you'd come up with Dangerous Wild Animals Act, legislation dating way back to 1976 but that's not what we guardians/foster homes of Donkey Sanctuary donkeys take these very significant letters to mean – to us they stand for Donkey Welfare Advisor, our key contact with the sanctuary who are the true owners of our foster donkeys.

Although I claim to have two donkey boys, in truth I only own little Hamish while big, dark Dougal really belongs to the Donkey Sanctuary. To all intents and purposes he is my everyday responsibility so I normally meet all the costs associated with his keep and welfare – more of that a little later. In thinking through this guardianship/ownership issue I have to say that I've even signed an agreement with the Donkey Sanctuary that I'll never separate the two boys, and that should Dougal need to go back into their care I will allow Hamish to go with him.

Lots of people believe that the Donkey Sanctuary will only rehome donkeys in pairs; that's patently not true. When Hamish lost his Shetland pony pal I contacted Donkey Sanctuary hoping they would offer me a foster donkey to be his forever, bonded chum. Happily, they did. So, I must have passed the inspection visit from the DWA for the north of England.

The picture here is of Hamish and Dougal being introduced, straight after Dougal came down the ramp off the wagon in our yard. The hawk-eyed of you will immediately have recognised our DWA in the person of Pam Moon!



Cheekily on the day Pam's initial inspection visit I dared to ask for a chocolate coloured donkey. Sure enough one arrived. That was in 2015. The Donkey Sanctuary take great care to match their donkeys to the guardian's situation, a fact that can involve a longer wait than perhaps I'd have liked because little Hamish spent several months on his own, waiting for the right (lucky) donkey from the 7,000 in the Donkey Sanctuary's care to be ready to join us. Dougal and Hamish very quickly became inseparable.



While Dougal was the same height as Hamish when he arrived, he being younger, continued to grow; now he's a whole hand taller than his older chum.

A guardian's relationship with their DWA involves two check-up visits a year plus the offer of contact by phone/email throughout the whole year. What an inexhaustable fund of knowledge my DWA had to share and how easily she passed on suggestions and solutions when I had first-time issues to address. Nothing seemed to flap or nonplus my DWA.

Pam, after several years of these visits, decided to start her own business and resigned from the Sidmouth team so while a replacement was recruited we had visits from other DWAs. They all had one thing in common with their illustrious predecessor – they were always available if needed and were always willing to help, even during lockdowns when visits were done by telephone and emailed photographs.

Here is our new DWA – I say "new", although Sally Bamforth has been with us now for three years.



It was she who sought approval from senior members of the welfare team to part-fund Dougal's second and third trips to hospital. You might recall the saga of Dougal's tooth and sinus problems that endured for a good twelvemonth, requiring two operations to resolve it. Prior to that he'd had lazer surgery to remove a sarcoid on his sheath. The Donkey Sanctuary thankfully recognised that three operations were a rather big outlay for a guardian to carry for their donkey. That was a co-operation I very much valued!

Jokingly I call the twice yealy visits from the DWA "visits from the donkey police" but that title is not anywhere near the truth (I do however, ensure the stable and everything therein is shining clean, as are the boys and their tack). Sally has brought several of her colleagues to visit us, some newly joined and serving their probation, others her managers – all have come out exploring with Hamish and Dougal on the fells and through the forests; we represent, I suspect, a positive experience which is often the antithesis of the rescue and abuse visits they must do. Sally has also put other guardians in touch with us so they can visit to gain confidence and do more with their donkeys.

The collaboration does not end there, for Sally shares our regional bulletins, our challenges and calendar of activities with guardian homes on her extensive, north of England patch, encouraging them to make contact with us in the DBS. Maybe we can encourage them to become members too.

How did I end up as a member of the DBS? My DWA of course; Pam suggested it would be a "good idea" and added that there was an active donkey award which might be just the thing for my two boys. And now eight years on? Well, we work together on the DBS regional committee; while I know I am older than Pam, I know she is the wiser donkey person!

Allison Roberts.

My relationship with Buxton Donkey Sanctuary began when I became a proud guardian owner for two donkeys. Prior to this, I have always owned my donkeys, ponies and llamas, so I was slightly concerned about being a guardian, the fact that I couldn't buy them, have full control, or the animals could be taken away from me. The only reason the animals could be removed would be a change in my circumstances, or the donkeys would not be suited with my other animals.

The welfare officer provides a package of information, including a CD on how to care for the donkeys, as well as their website, which are all incredibly helpful. I enjoy watching their live webcams, reading their latest news, reading about wonderful rescues and following the updates about the donkeys' welfare.





The main benefit of being a guardian is helping the Sanctuary find suitable loving homes for their donkeys. I have a wonderful welfare officer, we have a strong friendship, I'm visited twice a year. This visit shows her how the donkeys behave naturally in front of her. She can handle them, my forms are completed with information about their feet, wormers, weights, teeth etc, and these are then copied onto their headed paper. I can call her anytime; I send her pictures of the donkeys. The visit is not to find fault, nothing is a threat, it's simply to check the welfare of my donkeys. I have been taught how to use the weight tape, taught how to check their bodies, skin, ears, hooves, eyes for any injury or lumps. This is their expertise where I can learn, listen to, not take any information as a criticism, instead a learning

experience.

When we arrange a visit, I'm so excited to see her, we share the same passion about the donkeys, I ask her what's going on with the donkeys at Buxton, it's wonderful to feel secure having additional support, combined with the Donkey Breed Society. To me, both organisations are incredibly supportive, a wealth of knowledge including veterinary advice, behaviour management etc. I really appreciate being involved with all

aspects of the donkeys, it's unconditional love



I'm always eager to learn more, I want to do better, my donkeys are my life, so I feel incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement from the Donkey Sanctuary. There have been occasions in the past when I have unfortunately witnessed and reported welfare concerns locally and these I have done through my welfare officer.

Sarah Standing.

As for the Donkey Breed Society, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pam Moon, also Sarah Booth. Both ladies are so passionate, always available to advise and support me, I'm truly grateful




CRAFTERS' CORNER



Members have been busy crafting this Spring. At the beginning of the year some of us learnt how to make bags and cushion covers. There was nothing nicer than being inside, in the warm, when it was bitter outside, doing something creative. Thank you to Olwen for teaching us some new skills.

Over in Cumbria, Appleby to be precise, the crafting involved glass! A Workshop organized and hosted by new Cumbria Area Rep., Julie Connelly, was well attended and much fun was had by all as they acquired new skills . . .





When I took on the role as area rep for Cumbria my dream was to be able to host workshops, where like-minded donkey fans could meet to enjoy each other's company, exchange experiences and learn a new skill (incorporating donkeys) of course!

My first venture, a workshop, was to make a donkey sun catcher in glass with Eddie Scott, from Simply Smallholding as our tutor.

I have to admit to thinking that it couldn't be in any way difficult! That's the great thing about learning a new skill; we are often taken out of our comfort zone. I certainly was taken out of mine while my brain tried to comprehend how to cut glass without shattering it! But perseverance, patience and a sense of humour (all skills needed to work with our donkeys!) resulted in producing something lovely. They are there hanging in my window as a reminder of a fantastic day. I'm really looking forward to our next workshop. Watch this space!

Julie Connolly (Area Rep Cumbria)

For me the drive to Julie's was exhilarating across miles of amazing moorland in rather 'inclement' weather, to arrive, and be welcomed into a beautiful work/craft barn, log-burner blazing away, and a group of very friendly ladies already beaver away at drawing their design for a donkey sun-catcher! The tutor ran through the process. It seemed easy enough, I thought! Cutting a straight line in glass is one thing but cutting shapes is quite another!

Luckily Eddie was very helpful and patient, certainly with me! Lots of chat and laughter went on, and at the end of the afternoon there were all sorts of fab donkey shaped sun catchers, and proud owners! I found the course challenging but understanding the process now, would I do it again? Definitely!

Derry Lowe

So, what is it about having a love for donkeys? Well one thing is for sure, it isn't just about having donkeys, the social side to being a member of the Donkey Breed Society has its advantages as well. Within the Northern Region we have done a few craft days so far – donkeys from willow, and of ceramics, plus obelisk making, sown donkeys, felted ones and most recent stained glass sun catcher donkeys.

We had the opportunity to make two items, so with the expert tuition we set to accurately cutting and grinding glass, soldering it all together and putting a handle on to put in an appropriate place to catch the light - whilst I didn't have a natural ability I was pleased with the end results, now hanging in the window of our porch. Thanks Julie and Martin for the use of your amazing studio and for a brilliant day socialising with other members.

Pam Moon

When Allison Roberts invites me to join her on a jaunt, I always say yes as it generally turns into a bit of an adventure. And so it was when we found ourselves at a beautiful studio, somewhere to the south of the A66. I knew the medium was glass and the subject donkeys, but apart from that I was in the dark.

There followed a fascinating, instructive and highly enjoyable day learning how to work with stained glass, copper tape and solder which I shall remember for a long time. In the capable hands of Eddie, a clear and patient tutor, we learned to cut and shape the glass to fit the chosen template, to apply the copper tape to the edges and then solder the pieces together. And everyone succeeded royally at this new task, taking away two delightful pieces of stained glass at the end of the day.

So, if Allison asks you, say yes – you won't regret it!

Julie Ratcliffe

And I say, if Julie Connolly organises another workshop, say yes – you won't regret it. AR



Many more opportunities to craft, coming to the Northern Region soon!

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.

The Donkey and Cawdor Castle . . .

When one of my students recently told me that he was not looking forward to studying Macbeth, my heart surged for I love teaching this grisly and troubled tragedy and with many of my students' schools opting for Romeo and Julie, which to be honest does not enthral me, a return to Macbeth was most welcome! My student's aversion to the Bard's work had laid down a challenge and I was looking forward to switching him on to this most exciting play! Little did I know that I would, by pure accident, uncover a little donkey legend along the way . . .

Don't worry, before you reach for your 'collected works' or a copy of 'the Scottish play', there isn't a donkey in the text! I discovered it as I searched for Cawdor Castle home to the Cawdor family (you might remember Macbeth as Thane of Cawdor) for hundreds of years.

As I waxed lyrical about the direst qualities of Lady Macbeth, whose ambition would exceed that of any current day WAG, I was Googling said Castle and came across this delightful story:



'The legendary tale goes that the Thane of Cawdor, decided to build a new, stronger tower [at Cawdor Castle]. Following the instructions received in a dream, he loaded a coffer of gold on to the back of a donkey and let it roam about the district for a day: wherever the animal lay down to rest in the evening, there his castle should be sited and it would prosper for evermore. The donkey lay down under a tree, which is now petrified at the base of the old tower at Cawdor.

The tree at Cawdor Castle – location chosen by a donkey

Whatever truth there may be in the story, modern scientific dating of the wood of the tree at the base of Cawdor Castle by radiocarbon measurement gives the approximate date of

*Crataegus Monogyna*

AD1372. For centuries, the tree has been regarded as a hawthorn (*Crataegus Monogyna*), but in this respect the legend has gone adrift, because microscopic analysis of the wood identifies the tree as a holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Perhaps the site of the 'thorn tree' was chosen for religious or superstitious reasons in symbolic connection with Christ's crown. In mythology the

holly was one of the seven sacred trees of the Celtic Grove.' (*Castle History - Cawdor Castle - A five-star visitor attraction near Nairn in the Scottish Highlands.*)

*Ilex Aquifolium*

I was very excited; I love discovering tales with a donkey twist. I relayed the story to my student who was also quite 'gobsmacked' and found himself definitely warming to Shakespeare's Scottish play! He also asked his mother if they could go there on holiday! Success!

So, forgive me for stepping well across the border in pursuit of our 'History' feature but what an interesting find.

*Cawdor Castle*

S. Booth.

The Region's Spring Gallery . . .

Processing from the Parish boundary . . .

A small group of the “younger” members of the congregation actually gathered at the parish boundary to process to the church, where the less adventurous were waiting and watching! Hamish and Dougal were impeccably behaved, seeming to know that when the vicar with



his white robes fluttering in the breeze reached out to blessed each of them on the forehead something special was happening; their meek acceptance and grateful humility (well so it seemed to me) was fitting indeed. AR





Little Missy led the Procession for Palm Sunday from St. Luke's in Holmes Chapel, through the town and down to the Methodist Church, gathering both congregations en route. She was extremely brave as there were big crowds and a lot of traffic.

Sophia (right) in biblical robes and rainbow helmet, from **Colley Donkeys Club** (affiliated to the DBS) supported Missy's journey.



Pat Mather, Eeyore and Gary and friends, went to York and took part in the Palm Sunday service. These clever donkeys went *into* the Minster too!



Elsewhere . . .



Meet Carol . . .

Tilly is very pleased that Carol joined us at *Your Horse Live!* Carol has been helping to groom Pam Moon's donkeys.





These lovely pictures (make up your own captions!!) have been sent in by Sue and Alan Stead. Sue tells us, 'the donkeys were having a run round the arena when Alan took the horse in to do some desensitisation training. The donkeys just stood and watched.'
I wonder what they were thinking. It reminds me of the children's game, 'what's the time Mr Wolf'! (SB)



Thank you for sending in your pictures.



What's on:

JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS WE ARE GOING TO IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS! Check out the Calendar May – September (includes links to schedules + Junior Events/Activities)!

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 7th May

Our Own Coronation 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

CHECK OUT THE CRAFT CLASSES TOO!!! Cakes, Crafts and Photography!

Sunday 25 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.

And a quick look at the best of the rest . . .

Cumberland County - Saturday 10th June

A show needing entries otherwise we will lose it, please support this lovely show.

Bury Agricultural Show - Sunday 25th June

Bury is a real family show – ringside parking, good variety of classes, great atmosphere.

Honley Show – Saturday 1st July

Lovely show, we had a super time here last year!

Great Yorkshire - Wednesday 12th July

Midweek – the biggest and best Show in the Country, open to all.

Aldborough & Boroughbridge – Sunday 23rd July

Lovely show, again needing more entries.

Heckington Show - Saturday / Sunday 29th/30th July

Ringside parking, lovely village show, trophies galore, lots going on here.

Emley Show- Saturday 5th August

Lovely show, lots of trade stands to wander round before and after showing.

Halifax Agricultural Show - Saturday 12th August

Definitely the flattest showing you will ever run on, Halifax is a great show.

Donkey Championships Saturday 19th August

*Historically us up North do very well at the donkey championships – watch out for details in
Bray Talk and The Donkey*

Poynton Show - Saturday 26th August

One of the favourites, always good entries and tradition says the Champion gets the cider in!

Chatsworth Country Fair – 1st – 3rd September

Country Fair over 3 days, donkey driving class and donkeys welcome in other driving classes.

Stanhope Show – 9th /10th September

Bowes Show – 9th September

Penistone – Saturday 9th September

Penistone is celebrating its 150th show – let's support them and show them what crowd-pullers donkeys can be!

Eggleston - Saturday 16th September

Entries needed or another we will lose. Lovely little Village show.

Northern Region Autumn Show – held North Yorkshire – date tbc

Pam Moon.

For further details/information relating to all forthcoming events and if you are wanting to organise 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

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

Useful Contacts

Northern Region Chair and Regional Delegate: Allison Roberts allisonroberts254@outlook.com 01697 748311

Vice Chair: 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!) northerndonks@gmail.com

Northern Region Treasurer: Sarah Pennell, 01889 591497

DBS Awards Regional Link & Training: Olwen Brown 01457 762336

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

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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

Caretaker rep Allison Roberts (details as above)

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 & South Yorkshire – Janet Thornhill

Janet: 07976 556649 janet66thornhill@gmail.com

Area Rep – Cumbria - Julie Connolly

Julie: 07501 331014 julieconnolly1@aol.com

Area Rep – Northumberland – Geraldine Burton

Geraldine: 07833 602311 gadburton@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Carrot Cake Cupcakes!



Ingredients

- 175g light muscovado sugar
- 100g wholemeal self-raising flour
- 100g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 orange, zested
- 2 eggs
- 150ml sunflower oil
- 200g carrots, grated
- orange coloured sprinkles, to decorate

For the icing

- 100g butter, softened
- 300g soft cheese
- 100g icing sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract



Method

• STEP 1

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a 12-hole muffin tin with cases. In a large mixing bowl, mix the sugar, flours, bicarbonate of soda, mixed spice and orange zest. Whisk together the eggs and oil, then stir into the dry ingredients with the grated carrot. Divide the mixture between cases and bake for 20-22 mins until a skewer poked in comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack before icing.

• STEP 2

For the icing, beat the butter until really soft, then beat in the soft cheese, icing sugar and vanilla. Use a palette or cutlery knife to swirl the icing on top of the cakes, then decorate with the sprinkles.

BBC Good Food.

Enjoy! Do send us pictures of your bakes! northerndonks@gmail.com

And finally,



"This is the last time I book an Uber!"

Thank you to Bill Tetlow for sending in this wonderful picture. Bill writes:

'I thought that you may like this one, it is my entry for [my] Camera Club Humour competition. It is called "This is the last time I book an Uber". The photo was taken some years ago at Bakewell Show. I cannot remember what the lady's name was or what her role was at the show, maybe Olwen will remember.'

Olwen: 'this was taken over thirty years ago. I am driving Buttercup, who was brilliant and could do anything; Liz even used to ride her side-saddle. We were taking the very kind lady who donated a beautiful glass bowl for the Driving trophy, at Bakewell Show, for a ride in our Well Bottom Gig.'

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 to reach us by the beginning of September.

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