



EAR EAR – MAY 2023

The Newsletter of the Eastern Region of the Donkey Breed Society

Hello!

Welcome to our new members, and we are also welcoming a new Area Rep – Jude Pearce who will cover Essex East, plus ‘Welcome’ to Joss Goodchild who has been voted in to be our new Regional Delegate. Joss will take anything from us at local level, up to National Council so please let her know if you have anything you think should be discussed. She is also the liaison between Council and the Area Reps.

Our new Chairman is Liz Wright, who will keep us in order and chivvy us to get things done!

Exciting news – there’s a Coronation! Even more exciting news is that we are holding a suitably Royal photo show! If you have a camera / camera phone or friend with one, then you can enter and receive a superb commemorative rosette, plus placing rosettes if you are lucky. See below – and contact Joss with any questions

Coronation Photo Show

Open to paid-up members of the DBS, who live in the Eastern Region

£3 per entry, multiple entries per class permitted. All photos to have been taken in 2023 and must have at least one donkey as the main subject.

Placings rosettes to 3rd, plus a stunning commemorative rosette to each entrant

Class 1 – ‘Red, white and blue

Class 2 – Spring

Class 3 Most royally behaved

Class 4 – Court jester

Class 5 – Little Prince /Princess

(Class 5 - Donkey 3 years or less, i.e. born in 2020 or after)

Closing date 31st May (midnight)

Judge – Mrs Liz Barrett

All photos may be published in any DBS publication inc website, magazines, Bray Talk, newsletter and Facebook. Parental permission required for any photo containing a minor.

How to enter -

Email entries to Joss, Jossbmg@icloud.com, or post to Joss Goodchild, 6, Great Lane Reach, Cambs CB25 0JF

Payments via Paypal (Friends and family option please) to caroletravell@btinternet.com

If you prefer Bank Transfer or cheque, please email Joss for details

Good luck!

The HeeHaw Hikers

The Hee Haw Hikers group is up and running (or walking!). Meet up at Annette's (near Bury St Edmunds) on a Saturday running from March to October. Meet at 11am, short walk to start everyone off. Coffee and biscuits offered. Members can come to Annette's and bring their own donkeys or borrow Annette's. If any member in the region has a walking route they'd like to share and would like us to come to them we can arrange that too.

Get in touch with Annette to find out more, find the next date, arrange to join in and / or suggest a route.:

Reminder!

Society subscriptions were due 1st February. If you haven't paid up yet, please renew, either via the website or by contacting the Society Secretary, Carol Morse, on 01732 864414

Latest events calendar (things are added all the time, so check the calendar on the DBS website www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk, and / or Facebook and / or contact a Committee member to find out more. Contact details are at the end of this newsletter. Check out the Eastern Region page on the Society website for up to date reports and photos of our recent activities.

When	What
2 nd Thurs of each month	Thursday club at Annette's nr Bury St Edmunds
Up to 31st May	Photo show – Closing date midnight 31 st May
Sunday 14 th May	South Suffolk Show, north of Bury St Edmunds.
Saturday 20 th May	Hadleigh Farmers Show, near Ipswich
Sunday 27 th May	Herts County Show, Redbourn, just off M1.
Thurs 1 st June	Suffolk County Show, near Ipswich. Donkey classes 3:30 pm
28 th / 29 th June	Royal Norfolk Show, Driving and Inhand donkey classes (different days)
Saturday 8 th July	Tendring Show, near Clacton, Essex
Saturday 29 th July	Heckington Show, Lincs
Monday 28 th Aug	Aylsham Show, Norfolk. Possibly donkey classes but not yet confirmed
Saturday 30 th Sept	Gransden Show, nr Sandy, Beds. DBS display and stand. Helpers and handlers wanted. Contact Carole
Saturday 7 th Oct	ERADS (Eastern region Autumn Donkey Show). Skylark Garden Centre, Wimblington, March, Cambs. Contact Liz for more details
Sunday	A training / have a go day in the indoor school at the College of West Anglia, at Milton,

October 22 nd	just off A14 north of Cambridge CB2 6DB. Current ideas are Agility, Long-reining, Everything you need to know about showing – or whatever else you fancy. Contact Liz with ideas – more details to follow (it will be a morning session).
Friday 10 th to Sunday 12 th Nov	Your Horse Live! event at Stoneleigh, Warks. DBS attend and looking for helpers. Contact Carole
Sometime early Dec	Wreath making at Annette's

Contact details – full details of how to contact the committee members are at the rear of this newsletter, so please do get in touch if you want to come along to anything or ask questions.

New East Essex Area Rep - An intro from Jude –

A little about me - I'm relatively new to donkey ownership but I've been obsessed with donkeys since I was little. I owned an ex race horse called Risky from 1995 until 2020, when he died, aged 30. He was a crazy nut bar who was absolutely petrified of donkeys! He didn't need to even see a donkey, the bray alone would send him flat out in the opposite direction. So there was no way I could entertain the idea of owning or adopting a donkey (x2!)

When I lost Risky in August 2020 I knew I had to have a new purpose, after a lifetime of early mornings, mucking out before work, mud, finding horses by torch light after work, there was no way I could suddenly lie in!

Having left teaching after 25 years, due to injuries and endless complications, I wanted to combine my two passions, teaching and donkeys.

I wanted to learn as much as possible about donkey ownership, so I spent a week volunteering at Miller's Ark in Hook, and looked after 40+, miniature donkey, mums and babies. I enjoyed it so much I stayed for a second week!! It was then the November lockdown, so to help the farm I took home 8 mums and babies and fostered them for 4 months. The babies were 3 months old and were due to be weaned and go to their new homes when they turned 6 months and the mums returned to the farm. Definitely thrown in at the deep end! I ended up with two minis, Thumbelina and Tinkerbell! Aged 2 and 3, there is never a dull moment!!

I joined the DBS and the Facebook pages and found a mass of information and a group of people who were incredibly knowledgeable and happy to help, not always the case in the equine world! Jane Brind found me a donkey friendly farrier after my own farrier exclaimed 'he didn't do donkeys!' Annette Staverley has shared her boundless donkey knowledge and filled me with confidence at 'Donkey Thursdays'! Carole Travell's help and support at shows, where I literally knew nothing. These are just a few examples of the community spirit that is the DBS.

Their support is why I wanted to help within the DBS and become the area rep!

Joss Goodchild 2023 new Eastern Region Delegate position.

For the past 3 years I have been owned by 2 donkeys, a small 8 y.o. grey gelding, Dante and a 3 y.o. chestnut filly, Gift. We try to keep active, I'm learning to drive Dante and both donkeys completed the 100 mile walking challenge last year.

I compile the Bray Talk Donkey In Art articles, distribute the Ear Ear Newsletter and share Minute taking at meetings. I try and run a biennial event (23rd April this year) for those wishing to walk, long-rein, ride or drive their donkeys through the unique Cambridgeshire fens.

In addition to the pleasure of owning two affectionate and humorous donkeys, I've enjoyed joining the DBS, meeting friendly, like-minded people, learning new skills and taking part in various activities. Additionally, I feel supported within an experienced group environment.

A rosette (or two). (Shameless repetition of info on the 'Walking Challenge' scheme!)

There are some fantastic rosettes on offer if you fancy joining in the Walking Challenge. All you have to do is just take a donkey for a walk, and clock up the miles! Keep a record of your walks and the mileage covered and let Annette know when you manage 25 miles, then 50, then 100. The challenge year runs from 1st Oct to 30th Sept

Don't forget!

Second Thursday of every month

Informal donkey get-together at Annette's nr Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Who's Who

– please make contact if you need any help or have any ideas or suggestions.

Regional Chairman Liz Wright 01354 741538 ewright757@btinternet.com

Regional delegate to National Council Joss Goodchild jossbmg@icloud.com or 07788 810090

Eastern Treasurer David Poole c/o Carole

Eastern Secretary Carole Travell 07889 162715 caroletravell@btinternet.com

Committee members Tom Bysouth Thomas_Bysouth@hotmail.com 07596 167314

Area Reps (all committee members)

Bedfordshire: Diana Dunstan, 01462 713796 dianadunstan@yahoo.co.uk

Bucks – Clare Bysouth 01442 825879 clarefrances33@gmail.com

Cambridgeshire: Liz Wright, 01354 741538 ewright757@btinternet.com

Essex East - Jude Pearce 07814 738408 jude303@btinternet.com

Essex West : Carole Travell, 07889 162715 caroletravell@btinternet.com,

Hertfordshire Maggie Taylor 01582 768746 Maggie.taylor3@hotmail.co.uk

Lincs / Leics – Chris Voight, silvetouch@btinternet.com 01406540874 / 07515 632472

Northants: Currently vacant

Suffolk/Norfolk: Annette Staveley, 01284 830240 astaveley1@hotmail.com