

ASSPIRE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE
DONKEY BREED SOCIETY



Time to get cosy!

Dear All,

Driving home to Cumbria today along the shores of Loch Fyne through avenues of beech, birch and sycamore trees resplendent in their autumn glory all lit by the warm sun, a quotation uttered by Anne of Green Gables came into my mind – “I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.” This time of year can be just perfect, indeed that’s why we chose this season for a short holiday on Islay in the Inner Hebrides.

Tomorrow we must change the clocks, a signal that winter is inevitably soon to arrive. For me that’s not a reason to be gloomy – each season has its own joys, winter included. Here’s another one to add to your list – the region’s Christmas lunch and AGM – find out about that as you read on (see page 21).

The end of a holiday can be a moment of sadness but for all of us in the DBS the journey home has a special attraction – the welcome home our donkeys give us. So, once we had passed the glories of the highland scenery I found myself speeding up to reach home. Anne of Green Gables quote morphed into this – “I’m so glad I live in a world where there are donkeys!” Enjoy yours as much as I do mine

Best regards,
Allison.

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

In the News . . .

Purple poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday

There is, after all, a supplier of purple poppy wreaths for commemorating the millions of animals who served in world wars. Purple pin badges you can find at our partner Charity War Horse Memorial [The War Horse Memorial](https://www.thewarhorsememorial.org.uk/), you can even find all sorts of crafty wreaths on sites like Etsy but I've tracked down a supplier of purple poppy wreaths that resemble the red ones laid at war memorials.



If you are planning to be involved with your donkeys this year you might like to investigate this website – [Lady Haig's Poppy Factory – Lady Haig's Poppy Factory \(ladyhaigspoppyfactory.org.uk\)](https://www.ladyhaigspoppyfactory.org.uk/) on the search bar search for No2 Wreath Animal in War and that will take you to a page displaying “No 2 Wreath Animal in War (17”) and an image of a red wreath. Don't worry about this. Once you have added this to your basket you should type in the 'Order Special Instructions' box – 'Purple Petals' and then select 'Checkout'. In the 'Contact' section, where you are asked for your email, please DO NOT COMPLETE THE TICK BOXES, this will ensure your order instructions flow through to the order system. The centre of this wreath has a horse head and pigeon in silhouette but you can even upload your own image if you want it donkey-specific; here's how: use this link to begin with

<https://www.ladyhaigspoppyfactory.org.uk/collections/upload-your-own-image>

Then, as above, once you have added this to your basket you should type in the 'Order Special Instructions' box – 'Purple Petals' and select 'Checkout'. In the 'Contact' section, where you are asked for your email, please DO NOT COMPLETE THE TICK BOXES, this will ensure your order instructions flow through to the order system.

Allison Roberts

Do send pictures of you and your animals observing the part that animals have played in conflicts, we will publish them in the next issue of *Asspire* and forward to our friends at War Horse Memorial. Thank you.



Discounts for DBS Northern Region Members . . .

We are delighted to announce that **Hillview Equine and Supplies Ltd** of Hollin Lane, Macclesfield, SK11 0NL, Macclesfield and **Eskdale Saddlery** of 4 High Street, Longtown, Carlisle, CA6 5UE are joining **Quattro the rubber stable flooring specialist** in offering DBS members in our region a **10% discount**.

Hillview are generously offering this to customers in store, while Eskdale will send parcels anywhere in the UK and will source specialist donkey kit and have experience of sourcing specialist bits for donkeys. Eskdale ask that first time you make a purchase you show them your DBS membership card.

To contact Quattro email colin@quattro rubberandresin.co.uk

Phone Hillview on 07835 433747 or find them on Facebook.

Phone Eskdale on 10228 794020.

Quote the code DBS10 when making a purchase.

Would you like to see your donkey(s) on a postcard?

Now you can!

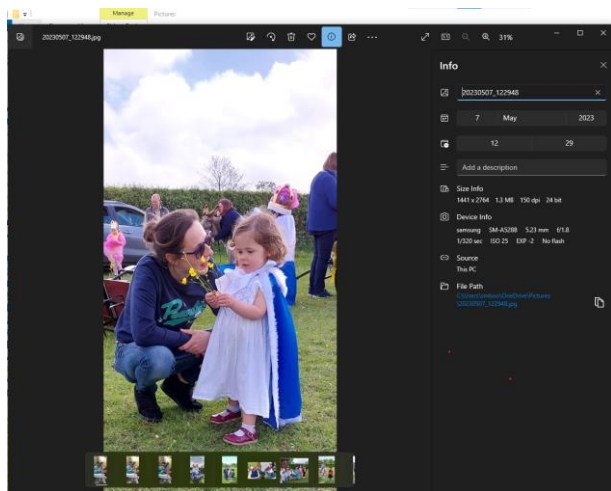
What a brilliant idea – read on . . .

We've all seen old postcards of donkeys at the seaside but they don't look a bit like our own donkeys, so here's an opportunity for you to have 100 personalised postcards with a picture of your donkey(s) emblazoned on the front for a mere £25 per 100; that's only 25 pence per card! The format is A6 which is the standard postcard size, full colour image on the front, printed on 350 gsm silk (from sustainable sources and carbon captured as part of the Woodland Trust carbon capture scheme to boot).



Here's how it can work. The printing process needs eight of us – or eight different images that will make up a printing plate so once eight of us sign up we are ready to press the start button and of course if 16 of us or whatever number want to take part that's not a problem. I, for example, might want two different postcards (well I do have two donkeys) so I could bag two slots out of a page of eight so that if seven of us, or 15 of us want to take part that'll be fine. **Book your slot by emailing allisonroberts254@outlook.com by Monday 6th November. Then you'll be asked to pay and send your image to the printer. Your batch of cards will be with you by the end of November.**

It's worth knowing that the quality of your picture is acceptable so here's how to check what the print process requires. Here's the technical bit from the printer – “We would advise that images are taken with a good quality camera rather than a phone, but if a phone is used it is best to download the full-size image to a PC or laptop (not a tablet or phone) and for this full size image to be sent to us from that machine.



The image you supply needs to be 300dpi ideally, but around 150 and above should be acceptable”.

You can check the dpi rating of your picture once it's on your PC or laptop. You can either simply click on your pic and then click on the little i (usually in a circle) icon, which will bring up an info box to the right (see pic on left and the little blue i) or click on your pic, select information and up comes the info box. Or, depending on your type of computer, right click on the photograph. At the bottom of the pop-up box that appears when you've done that is the word “Properties”.

Left click on the word “Properties”. Along the top of the resulting next pop-up box you'll see four words starting with “General”, then “Security” then “Details” and lastly “Previous Versions”. Left click on “Details”. Scroll down on that pop-up box past “Description” and then “Origin” till you come to “Image” where on lines 5 and 6 you'll see the dpi - **sorted! Failing all that . . . send your pic to Sarah B and she will check it out for you, northerndonks@gmail.com. Once she's given you the okay, you do the rest!!**

Allison Roberts.



Me leading the way at the Rivington Walk! More pics on pages 19 and 20!

It's Colin's Column!!

Colin's concerned about going down a zip wire and the donkeys' escape plan is discovered!

Dear Juniors,

Are you all tired from your donkey activities this summer? I have enjoyed meeting you at shows but I'm glad they're over because I hate having a bath before them, I prefer to be dusty!

A few weeks ago I was very worried, I heard Olwen say that a donkey was going to go down a zip wire from the top of the church tower, it was going to be pulled up to the top of the tower in a basket attached to a rope, the basket and donkey were then to be sent down the zip wire! (A zip wire is a strong wire fixed to a high point at one end and the ground at the other end.)

I told my friends, instead of being scared the young colts all wanted to be the zip wire donkey, they discussed the size of the basket and how strong the rope and wire would have to be. I was worried it would be me as I go to that church at Christmas and Easter. It turned out that I needn't have been, the donkey Olwen chose was a knitted one! He fitted in the basket and when he reached the ground he got a lovely certificate. What a relief!



We donkeys have been tricked! We found a weak spot in the fence and had been secretly eating away the removing rail. Olwen found it and tied it up with baler twine. Nothing happened until today. We had been planning our escape and discussing which farmer's field we would hide in when I heard my name being called, then I heard a bucket of food being rattled. FOOD, FOOD, food, it sounded like a bucket of Pony Nuts. We were all at the top of the hill, I led the way down, we galloped and bucked then trotted up the hill to the open gate.

The donkey yard had been scattered with pony nuts, we all put our heads down to eat the delicious treat. It was a trick!! The gate was shut behind us. Later that day we were let back into our field, we galloped back to our secret hole, it wasn't there, instead were new rails and sheer netting. The fence had been mended; we couldn't escape, we had to stay in our field, we had been tricked!

I'm looking forward to Christmas and lots of carrots but I don't like Bonfire Night which will be soon. We stay in our stable with the top door shut so we are cosy and safe, we also have lots of hay to eat to keep us happy, so perhaps it's not so bad after all.

Take care,

Love,

Colin X

In a new series, much-respected judge, Graham Steeden writes of his blossoming friendship with a very special donkey, Marion, and Heidi (age two and a half!) . . .

The Diary of Marion & Heidi (age 2 ½)

I am a 72 year old person who has ridden all his life and judged horses for the past 50 years. About 25 years ago a good friend of mine, Beryl Brooks, asked me if I would be interested in judging donkeys. I certainly was interested, so here I am 25 years later thoroughly enjoying judging lovely, clever, cuddly donkeys.

Earlier this year, a friend of mine who has a farm up our lane, asked me if I would back one of her donkeys for her 2 ½ year old granddaughter to ride. So, a few days later I went off to meet Marion, a young donkey who my friend bred from a donkey she rescued from, 'the consumption chain'. Marion was very friendly and I spent time making a fuss of her to enable us to get to know each other. I do believe that mutual respect is essential if Marion and I are to trust each other and work together. When working with Marion I would also like to point out that I physically go down to her level, by either crouching or kneeling (the same with children) as I feel it puts them at ease.

Marion was extremely co-operative throughout the whole following process, head collar, then bridle were readily accepted as she had regularly been led around the yard by gran, mum and Heidi. I attached a lead rein with double couplings to the bit and Marion, my friend and I set out for a walk along our village's lanes. When we arrived back at the farm, I introduced Marion to her saddle which she accepted quite readily. Then off we all went for another walk down the quiet lanes close by.

During our walk Marion was instructed to, 'walk on Marion – stand Marion' and seemed to enjoy the experience of being out and about, even trotting when we turned for home (encouraged by, 'trot on Marion'). My friend and I were overjoyed, even though a little out of breath, at Marion's progress and also how I had bonded with my new friend. Back in the stable Marion was untacked and rubbed down with straw. Then brushed, and made a fuss of before joining her friend Poppy (another donkey rescued with Marion's mother) in the meadow.



Marion



Find out what Graham, Marion and Heidi did next, in our Christmas Special!

Double Trouble?

Hamish and Dougal

When you reach a certain age, you are called by your optician for an annual eye sight test funded by the NHS; I've just had mine for 2023 where all was judged to be good, but am I seeing double?

How many donkeys can you see in these two pictures?



Now then, my boys are called Hamish and Dougal, chosen for several reasons but mostly because the names are Scottish but also because there was for decades a famous sketch on the old classic Radio 4 programme called Sorry, I haven't a Clue that Humphrey Littleton compered. Graeme Garden and Barry Cryer frequently played the characters of two Scots, rejoicing in the names Hamish and Dougal, whose skits usually began with the emphatic phrase "You'll have had your tea?", based on the myth, I hasten to point out, that Scots receiving guests never offer them anything to eat or drink!

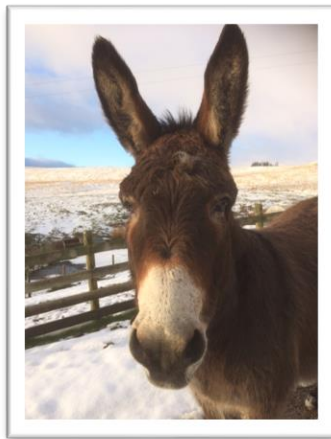


Hamish and Dougal have lived here with me in the remote, rural fells of north east Cumberland so there are few donkeys nearby. I know this because over the years I've developed an ability to spot other donkeys even if they are in a field behind a dense hedge, an ability I suspect you have developed too. There were two about seven miles away on the route of Hadrian's Wall, one dark brown and the other dun brown, just like my two. I thought no more about them till a friend arrived here breathless one



day, exclaiming that she'd met the owners of that pair and learned that these two are also called Hamish and Dougal!

So, there are four different characters in these pictures, two called Hamish and two called Dougal! My Hamish is the smaller dun brown boy with the horse-like forelock, the other Hamish is the dark brown lad.



One day the other boys' owners might be tempted to join us in the DBS - I'm going to try recruiting them.

Allison Roberts

Catching up with Area Reps around the Regions . . .

In this edition, we meet Julie Connolly, Area Rep for Cumbria:

Hi, I'm Julie, I've been in the role since early this year, taking over from the great work that Ann-Marie Harrison did for the DBS and the Cumbria members.



I have two Donkey Sanctuary donkeys, Jake and Spike, this is me with Jake. Spike was helping my husband Martin take some photos following a 1/2 mile saunter down our lane to collect the post, other retailers are available!

So far we've had a glass donkey sun catcher workshop, which was great fun and on the 1st November I've arranged a social get together, at my house near Appleby, combined with a talk from Sally Bamforth and Adele Crompton, Welfare Advisors for the Donkey Sanctuary. I love doing crafty things with a donkey theme, so will be thinking up and arranging other workshops for next year, any suggestions will be gratefully received! Don't hesitate to contact me if there's something you would love to see happening in our area.

Julie Connolly 07501331014

After the Poynton Show was over . . . I had a strong G&T! (But not until I got home!)

WE GOT WET

After a lovely sunny morning we tied our donkeys to the horse boxes for the lunch break. The heavens opened, suddenly and with violence. No time to put the donkeys in the boxes. The saddles and bridles for the afternoon classes were ready, neatly in a row on the grass, the harness for the next class displayed on the exercise vehicle! Rugs were hastily dropped over all the leather but it was no use against the downpour, everything was SOAKED.

So – after the show was over I started to dry everything out. Show jackets were hung in the boiler room, all leather articles were distributed around the house to dry slowly. Leather must be dried naturally or it will stiffen and maybe crack.



The judges had sensibly brought their macs!

I was using my leather harness which unlike one made of synthetic material cannot be put in the dishwasher to be cleaned and dried. The house looked like a saddlers with in hand bridles, riding bridles, saddles, harness and leather headcollars dotted around. I discovered that it takes three days to dry out sodden cotton lead ropes hung from the boiler house washing line!

Once all the leather was dry the work began. Leather loses its natural oils when wet and becomes less supple, these oils must be replaced.



I prefer to use the old-fashioned solid bar of glycerine and Neatsfoot oil saddle soap (as used by Susie on the TV's Repair Shop). It is amazing how a pair of stiff reins responds to an application of it, colour and suppleness return.

Solid saddle soap can be tricky to apply, the sponge used must not be dry, only very slightly damp, too wet and a lather forms. (I've heard that old grooms used to spit on the soap to give it the correct dampness!) I use a very small sponge, wet it, squeeze it out then roll it in a towel, resulting in the magic 'slightly damp sponge'.



Leather articles must then be stripped into parts, NOT forgetting to note down which buckle hole is in use. Most soap should be applied to the underside of the leather; this is more absorbent and the leather is fed. A quick wipe on the smooth side is all that is required.

All this sounds very simple but takes ages. It took me all day to do four of each and one harness.

Once my harness is clean, I give the smooth side a coat of black shoe polish rubbing it in with a finger covered in a duster rather than a shoe brush. This I leave until the day before the next show when it will be buffed up after the brass has been cleaned.

This all seems to be a lot of hard work but leather is very expensive and looked after, lasts for years. My harness is 30 years old, once saddle is 40, another 50, some of the leather headcollars are even older. It also gives me a sense of pride to see my donkeys turned out in clean, shiny leather.

All the above is repeated after the last show of the season, everything is put into its own cotton bags for storage, making sure it is kept in a dry place, the slightest damp will cause mould.

Roll on next season, and please can we have a Poynton Show without the rain?!

Olwen Brown



Above Izzy Brewis with Miss Wickham, a little damp round the ears and right, led by Olivia Mingham, sensibly attired.



OFF TO THE SHOW!

So why do we do it?!

Liz Ross explains how she got into showing . . .

I acquired my little donkey, Anelie, known at home as Megan, in December, ten years ago, to be company for a horse I had following the loss of an old mare I had bred thirty years before.

I planned to have her as a family pet and be able to take her on walks. However, things don't always go to plan! As the weather improved in the new year, I bought a small saddle for her but was puzzled as to why the girth wouldn't fasten. My suspicions were confirmed by the vet and within six weeks we had two donkeys! Enter Jacob, a rather larger donkey, both in build and character.



Our little surprise!

A few months later we joined the North West Branch of the DBS to learn more about donkeys. I now look back over the past ten years and am astonished at what my donkeys have achieved in that time. Thanks to Olwyn, Liz and Pam's help and guidance we have taken part in so many activities as well as learning about donkey welfare.

Megan was only two years old when I bought her and so had a lot to learn about the world and how we humans tick. Training started with simple accepting a bridle and leading quietly, to trotting when asked. This simple exercise takes a bit of practice but if problems arise in the show ring there is always a willing steward to help. Megan required some assistance at our first show and we were in extended trot eventually heading out of the arena to the amusement of the audience and, I think, the judge!

Of course, the first hurdle to overcome when showing is to get your donkey to load and travel quietly. I am fortunate that Megan will travel alone but some donkeys need company. I managed to achieve this by parking my trailer in the donkeys' field and leaving the ramp down. I then placed hay and water in the trailer and placed the odd carrot or apple on the ramp each evening gradually moving into the trailer itself. They were using it as a shelter within a week. We then moved onto closing the ramp and taking them on short journeys.

Thanks to Olwyn's and Liz's hands-on training we moved onto long reining our donkeys. This was something new for us but after some help our two donkeys soon understood what was required. Jacob now does a great job harrowing the sand arena with a homemade wooden harrow. The shows often include a long reining class to take part in.

Learning to long rein your donkey led to greater things and I never dreamed in a million years that I would be driving my little donkey, Megan.

I can remember being mesmerized watching Olwyn driving her donkeys and ponies around her arena and then allowing me to have a go – wow!

I wondered if I could do this with Megan. I went to see a local driving trainer to see if he would be able to break my little donkey to driving. Although he admitted he had never worked with a donkey before he did a great job and we acquired a carriage. I then continued to have lessons and was able to enter the driving classes at the shows.

As the show date nears some tack cleaning is required, hooves and manes to be trimmed and on the eve of the show bath night is always fun if it isn't too cold.

If, like me, you find your donkeys have then rolled in the shavings during the night they are soon brushed out. Everything and everyone loaded and you're off. It was said several years ago that a family arrived at our local riding club only to find that someone had forgotten to load the pony!

The showing opportunities for your donkeys are endless and your donkey doesn't have to be "pretty". If you have small children to hand there are riding classes, young handler classes and handy donkey classes.

There is always a fun element to the shows and there is usually someone available to give help or advice especially then your donkey decides he has enjoyed himself so much he doesn't want to go home!



Megan also enjoys Palm Sundays and showing the way at the Rivington Walk and picnic!



And how has Panda faired in her first year of showing?

We catch up with Eileen Barnes to find out more . . .

Rosslyn Pandora alias Panda's adventures part 2 .

In the first article I wrote about Panda, my last words were dare I challenge Panda to another goal in 2023 ? the answer was YES....in fact we achieved another 3 goals!!

Being so proud and pleased with Panda's performance at the Northern Region Donkey Society Spring show celebrating the coronation of King Charles I decided to take on the challenge of showing Panda at Bury show. This would be another new experience for my young novice jenny as it would be her first agricultural show. I wasn't sure what to expect of Panda because once again she would experience different sounds, smells and species of animals at this event. At home on the farm she grazes happily with our small flock of sheep and says" hello "to the cows over the fence .Panda also has a best friend in one of my old veteran Shetland ponies called Mickey, so hopefully coming across other animals at the show shouldn't cause any problems .I remember the day before the show Pam Moon and Liz posted on face book that the rings were set up and directions of where to park on the show field were given . This was so helpful when you have no idea where you are going. After pamper day number two for Panda, car and trailer sorted, bridle cleaned, show outfit ready and picnic sorted off we went to Pandas first agricultural show.

It was a lovely sunny day just perfect for showing donkeys. I unloaded Panda from the trailer whilst the donkey driving class took place in the main ring. It was a good opportunity to give Panda a little walk around getting her accustomed to the show ground. After the fabulous driving classes had finished the in-hand classes commenced. I was so delighted how Panda performed, trotting when asked and picking her foot up for the judge when required. I really couldn't have asked anymore from her. We were thrilled to receive a 4th place in condition and turnout and 2nd in the youngstock. I was very grateful to Ben my farrier (who I originally acquired Panda from) because he was participating in the farrier competition so was at hand to assist in getting Panda back into the trailer. I think she had such a wonderful time at this show she didn't want to leave!!

The next challenge on our list was Halifax show. The day did not get off to a good start with Panda deciding she did not want to go in the trailer. After much persuasion and plenty of treats she gave in and up the ramp she went." Brilliant" ..I thought ' the day is getting better'how wrong was I !!!!!

After doing the final show preparations for Panda and myself it was time to enter the ring. I really do not know what Panda was thinking but in her head the ring was very scary, so much so that no amount of reassurance from myself and other competitors with their donkeys kindly leading the way so we could follow, would encourage her to walk around the ring. The judge was so nice, giving Panda and myself much needed time, patience and encouragement. Needless to say, we still came away with a 2nd and 4th prize . The day wasn't a disaster after all !!! .

With Panda not going as well as I would have liked and wished for at Halifax show our chance to redeem ourselves miraculously occurred .The Northern Region Donkey Show which was due to be held at Ripon had to be moved to an indoor arena at Chorley because of an adverse weather forecast .Entries were allowed on the day so our goal for this show was to see if Panda would firstly ,go in an indoor arena and secondly, would she like the different surface or would this be scary too !!.

The day started well with Panda walking straight into the trailer. Hurray!! we are off to the final show of the season. On arrival, it was lovely to see some familiar faces and of course their beautiful donkeys. I was very nervous as to whether Panda would cope with an indoor atmosphere. I need not have feared because after a little persuasion (carrots at the ready) and following the more experienced donkeys into the arena we had done it!!! That was my one and only goal for the day. I was so happy with her. Little did I know that the day would get even better!!

First class of the day was the condition and turnout. Panada went around the ring like a duck to water.

Trotting like a professional and picking her foot up with no fuss at all. I was over the moon when the judge placed us in first position winning a lovely red rosette. We also achieved a 2nd place in the youngstock class. We had such a great time at this show, coming away with fantastic raffle prizes and enjoying a slice of cake in the lunch break made by Joy, it was so delicious. Panda also got a lovely treat from Allison Roberts where she was offered her first strawberry!!! Congratulations to all the exhibitors taking part and to the overall champion and reserve. It was very well deserved.

Both Panada and I have enjoyed our first showing adventures together and to add to the excitement we have been encouraged to forward our showing results / points. I would like to say to anyone thinking about showing their donkey to please have a go. I did and I am so happy and proud of what Panda has achieved as a young novice jenny during 2023. It's been a blast!!

Eileen Barnes



The Northern Region's Autumn Show

Huge Congratulations to everyone that took part and particularly to our Champions!



Northern Champion of Champions
Perehill Promise Me That - Pam Moon (above right, exhibited by Philip Moon)

Reserve: Brownroad Kingcup – Olwen Brown (above left)



Northern Region Breed Champion

Eddieston Master Matthew Elizabeth
Brown

Reserve & Best Local Donkey: Perehill
Promise Me That (see above).

*Graham Steeden with Pam Moon*

Remembering Beryl Brooks
 We were so pleased that Judge Graham Steeden provided us with an opportunity to remember renowned judge, Beryl Brooks. Graham presented personal mementos that Beryl had left to him, in her memory, to the Northern Region Champion of Champions, Northern Region Reserve, Winner of the Open Driving Class, Winner of the Young Handler Class and Winner of the Young Rider Class. Recipients of these Awards were most grateful, and we know that these beautiful mementos have taken pride of place in their homes.

*Beryl Brooks - fondly remembered.**Eva Potter**Olwen Brown**Amber Taylor*



Keeping it in the family!

(Top left and right) Sisters are doing it at the Northern Region's Autumn Show!! Olivia and Amelia Mingham (left and right respectively) had a great day out!

Father and son too – Eddie (Liz's stallion) and Moss (Pam's colt)!! "That's my boy!!" (below).



Northern Results 2023

Champion of Champions: Perehill Promise Me That – Pam Moon

Reserve: Brownroad Kingcup – Olwen Brown

Best Condition and Turnout

- 1st Rosslyn Pandora Eileen Barnes
- 2nd Miss Wickham (S Booth) Amber Taylor
- 3rd Toadflax of Brownroad (O Brown) Olivia Mingham
- 4th Brownroad Desert Cassia (T Morris) Eva Potter

Stallion & Gelding

- 1st Eddiston Master Matthew (O. Brown) Elizabeth Brown
- 2nd Brownroad King Cup Olwen Brown
- 3rd Toadflax of Brownroad (O Brown) Olivia Mingham

Mare

- 1st Perehill Promise Me That Pam Moon
- 2nd Romance du Bocage Elizabeth Brown
- 3rd Brownroad Desert Cassia (T Morris) Eva Potter
- 4th Amelia L Ross

Best Foal

- Beechfield Stirling Moss Pam Moon

Best Youngstock

- 1st Wychbrook Desert Rose (T Morris) John Morris
- 2nd Rosslyn Pandora Eileen Barnes

Breed Champion: Eddieston Master Matthew - Elizabeth Brown

Reserve: Perehill Promise Me That – Pam Moon

Best Local Donkey: Pehill Promise Me That**Open Driving**

1st Toadflax of Brownroad (O Brown) O. Mingham

2nd Brownroad Kingcup Olwen Brown

Young Rider

1st Romance du Bocage (O Brown) Eva Potter

2nd Toadflax of Brownroad (O Brown) Olivia Mingham

3rd Miss Wickham (S Booth) Amber Taylor

4th Brownroad Kingcup (O Brown) Amelia Mingham

Young Handler

1st Miss Wickham (S Booth) Amber Taylor

2nd Brownroad Desert Cassia (T Morris) Eva Potter

3rd Romance du Bocage (O Brown) Olivia Mingham

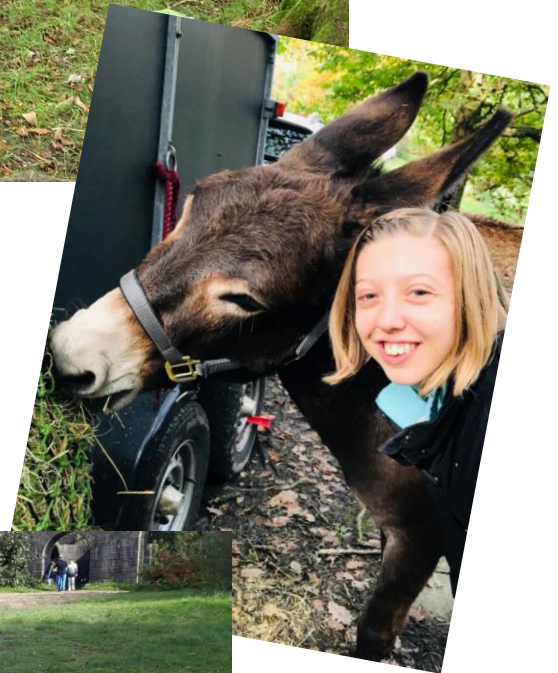
4th Brownroad Kingcup (O Brown) Amelia Mingham

Well done everyone – what a great day! Here's to next Spring!



And then we all wound down with a brilliant walk and picnic at Rivington!

Huge thank you to Don and Liz Ross who organised this super day out. We all had a fantastic time in beautiful surroundings and the weather was extremely kind to us!





It was great!



What is happening during the coming months?

Cracking days out for Regional Members and their friends!

JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS WE ARE GOING TO IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS . . .

Saturday 9th December

NORTHERN REGION AGM & CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Having asked members for their views on this event, we have established that it could be viable to run an AGM and Christmas Lunch from The Bridge in Wetherby on Saturday 9th December with the meeting at 11.00 am (that can be accessed by members who can't get to the lunch, via zoom) followed by a three-course Private Carvery lunch. We are looking at around £26.95 per person. This is a suggestion that we bring before you - and huge thanks to Pam for ringing round and finding such a lovely venue - and we need a quick yes or no please, so that we can make a reservation asap. If you haven't done so already and would like to join us at The Bridge, **please email Sarah Booth** northerndonks@gmail.com **ASAP please!**



And another Christmas Lunch invite from the Derbyshire Area, although the invite is extended throughout the Region . . .

We would like to invite you to a **pre-Christmas Bring and Share lunch on Sunday 26th November at 12.30pm** in the Derbyshire area.

Come and join us for a glass of mulled wine or something fruity and meet other donkey lovers, it would be great to meet friends new and old for a chat and some festive cheer.

The lunch will be at the home of Sarah Pennell in Roston, just south of Ashbourne. Please reply to Sarah at thepennells@btinternet.com or 07747 580783 or Janet at janet66thornhill@gmail.com

before 19th November just so we have an idea of numbers, the full address will be sent out nearer the event.

It will be lovely to see you and all are welcome

Janet Thornhill

Derbyshire Area Rep

And, so far for 2024 why not come and enjoy:

Saturday 20th January

TRAINING DAY

at Brownroad Farm SK14 6EB

Please call Olwen 01457 762336 to let her know that you can attend. Bring a picnic and find out about further events, including DBS Awards training scheduled for this year and much more.

Sunday 11th February

A talk from renowned vet Anna Harrison about colic and a presentation about Safe Haven for Donkeys in Egypt. Please call Olwen for further details 01457 762336.

Sunday 28th April

HANDY DONKEY & FUN DAY at Abram Hall Riding

Centre, WN2 5XA . An exciting handy donkey course and lots of fun classes with the emphasis on fun and trying out something that you and your donkeys might not have experienced before! Again, please call Olwen to express your interest! 01457 762336.

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.

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

While you're deciding what to do . . . why not whip up a nice bit of Parkin? This recipe's from Joy – thanks Joy!

Ingredients: 8oz S R flour	8oz porridge oats	8oz marg
4oz brown sugar	1lb golden syrup	2 teaspoons of ground ginger
Pinch of salt	1 egg	1 cup of milk

Melt marg sugar and syrup. Add to dry ingredients and add egg and milk . Put in a tray bake tin and bake at 160 fan for 35 to 40 min . Loosen round the edges and turn out when cool. Yummy!

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 locally and nationally.

And finally,

There's an exciting
Competition coming next
season:



Some people bag
Wainwrights, can you bag the most picnics at Shows
and other DBS Northern Region events in 2024?

Keep and create a log, diary, scrapbook, collage, piece of embroidery,
montage or however you wish to present your record of DBS Northern
picnics enjoyed with your donkeys or other people's donkeys!

Share it with us and you could win a lovely rosette and prize!

Rosettes too for the most 'unusual' location that you and the lovely
long ears enjoyed a picnic in/at, in 2024!

Get your creative juices flowing and begin to collect the evidence from 1st January 2024!
Perhaps you have a New Year's Day event in mind, a trip to the village and a sandwich on the
village green? Perhaps you will visit some super shows and enjoy a picnic there? A training
day and picnic, a visit to a local school – it's up to you but we will be looking forward to
hearing from you!

Closes 26.10.24.



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 Summer months and early Autumn, to
northerndonks@gmail.com to reach us by the beginning of November.

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