



# EAR EAR – MARCH 2024

## The Newsletter of the Eastern Region of the Donkey Breed Society

It has been a busy year already and we have some great things lined up. We are a very friendly, social bunch, so please take a look and see if there is anything there that takes your fancy. Some are to learn new skills, some are to help promote donkeys and the DBS to the public and some are just plain social! The contact details are either on the individual advert, or included in the full calendar (with names and numbers at the back of this newsletter).

So what have we done?

We laid a wreath of purple poppies at the grave of WW1 donkey, Jimmy, in Central Park, Peterborough. This was to help celebrate the first IWAD (International War Animals Day) and to remember all those animals who suffered or died - and continue to do so – in war. Some poems from our local members were read out and we also saw the picture our own local artist Joss Goodchild painted.



What are we doing next?

Organised by the Eastern Region of the Donkey Breed Society, Registered charity 292268

## Donkey Training Day

Basic training, Picking up feet, Agility,  
Long reining, Feeding, Worming, Teeth,  
Vaccinations and general maintenance.

**Lets us know any specific interest and we will aim to cover it –  
Prospective owners, first time owners and the experienced  
who want to do more - all welcome**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 10:30 – 3:00pm**  
Earwig Farm, Pavenham, Bedford  
MK43 7PR

Come and meet up with fellow donkey enthusiasts

Come with or without your donkeys? **Open to all!**  
**Hands-on training with our donkeys**  
£5 per person if Donkey Breed Society member, £10 per  
person if non-member. Tea / coffee available  
Please bring your own packed lunch.

Contact Tracey 07594657760 [doofydan6@gmail.com](mailto:doofydan6@gmail.com) to book in or if  
you have any questions.

Free, fun,  
donkey & general  
knowledge quiz

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Via Zoom

Go on, have a laugh and maybe  
learn something useful / amusing  
All welcome, totally free!

Email to be sent the link -  
[caroletravell@btinternet.com](mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com)

**DONKEY BREED SOCIETY**  
The Charity Working For All Donkeys  
Organised by the Eastern Region of the Donkey Breed Society

If you need the link to the Zoom quiz, either contact Carole for it to be emailed, or copy / click on this

Topic: Quiz - Donkey Breed Society Eastern Region

Time: Apr 12, 2024 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81418433462?pwd=Mpym1DBg9KgJQBoxEibSjk2tW71i3G.1>

Meeting ID: 814 1843 3462

Passcode: 329339

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81418433462?pwd=Mpym1DBg9KgJQBoxEibSjk2tW71i3G.1>

Also –

#### Herts Show, Redbourne (just off M1) 25<sup>th</sup> May

We will be having a small charity stall here and could do with more helpers on the day. Please contact Maggie Taylor if you could volunteer.

#### Wisbech Rose Fair. 29<sup>th</sup> June

This is an ancient fair, being revised after a break due to Covid. We have been asked to take part (Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>).

Wisbech is further north than we usually hold events (only because we are not asked to go further north!), so we hope people from the north of the region will be able to come along. Donkeys will need to be used to noisy parades. We have some that are, but we have insufficient handlers – so would you like to come and lead one? Or could you come and walk with the rest of us – carrying a banner or acting as a steward? We do the parade twice, with a nice social lunch in the middle so it should be a lovely day. Please contact Tom or Debbi McKay for more details.

#### Gransden Show (Parade), near Sandy. 28<sup>th</sup> Sept

We have a small stand and do a parade / display. Could you help? Help man the stand or bring your own donkey(s) if you wish. Please contact Carole

#### ERADS 'end of term' show Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, Wimblington, near March

This is a lovely friendly show, so please consider coming along. If you don't want to show, then we would really, really, like some help to sort rosettes, run the raffle etc. Please contact Liz Wright for more info.

### **SUBSCRIPTION REMINDERS**

Society subscriptions were due 1<sup>st</sup> February. Whilst we will continue to send out local newsletters, the main Society publications (The Donkey magazine and Bray Talk) will stop being sent to you unless you renew.

Please renew if you can – apart from publications and the local stuff we offer, the Society does a huge amount to improve donkey welfare and knowledge of donkeys across the UK. We publicise the differing welfare needs of donkeys vs horse / ponies and encourage people to care for them properly as well as show them respect and value them for the wonderful creatures they are. All this costs money so please, if you can, renew your subscription. You can do this online at [www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk](http://www.donkeybreedsociety.co.uk), or ring the office 01732 864414.

### **ADDERS! (be aware, and know what to do if you, your dog or donkey are bitten) - Jude Pearce**

Adders are the only poisonous snake found in the UK.

On Mersea Island, in Essex, we have the highest concentration of Adders in the UK.

They are a protected species and it is a criminal offence to intentionally kill or injure an Adder.

They very rarely bite but it's good to know what to do if it happens to you, your donkey or your dog.

Most of the time adders stay in the long grass so it's easy to assume they're not there. In the hotter months, (if we have any sunshine) you will see them in the open basking in the sun.



Identifying if your donkey has been bitten by an Adder.

Do not approach or try and move the adder, find an alternative route!

Adder bites occur when the snake is trodden on by accident or approached by an inquisitive muzzle/nose.

If you suspect your donkey has been bitten by an adder do the following:

- 1) CALL YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY and explain the full details of the bite, refer to your passport for your donkeys last tetanus injection.
- 2) Try and keep your donkey still. The less they move the less toxin he'll absorb.
- 3) Do not ice the wound as this may irritate it.
- 4) Do not try and cut out the wound, this will cause the toxins to spread.
- 5) Keep Calm and don't panic, your donkey will pick up on your mood.

If you don't see the bite occur and you find your donkey unwell in the field, look for the following symptoms:

- 1) A wobbly gait and general weakness.
- 2) Laboured breathing
- 3) Colic signs: sweating, pawing, rolling
- 4) Swollen muzzle/leg.
- 5) Dilated pupils.

As we know donkeys are stoic creatures and can hide their pain, so look for any changes your donkey's behaviour. If it has been bitten there will be two obvious puncture wounds.

Remember snake bites are very rare in the UK but it doesn't hurt to be prepared for the unexpected.

- If it is your own field or you're out on a walk, know your 'what3words' location. Emergency services and your vet can pinpoint your location from this.
- It's a good idea if you take a photo of the vaccination page in your donkey's passport with your phone, then you have the details on hand for when the vet arrives.
- With any accident or injury always remember to remain calm and seek professional advice.

:



Look out for warning signs in country parks like this



### **CAUTION**

**ADDERS ARE FOUND  
THROUGHOUT THE  
COUNTRY PARK.**

You may wish to keep your dog on a lead and tell your children not to play in the long grass areas.



**Please Note:**

The Adder is a protected species and it is a criminal offence to intentionally kill or injure one.



## Calendar of events

| When  | What   |
|---|--|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs of each month                   | Thursday Club at Annette's nr Bury St Edmunds  |
| Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> April                            | Quiz night via Zoom, Rob organising. 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, open to all, members and non-members. Carole is contact for Zoom link to be sent out   |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April                         | BCC Charity Drive, Grimsthorpe, Lincs – check out their website  |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May                           | South Suffolk Show   |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May                         | Hadleigh Farmers Show  |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May                           | General training day – Long-reining, other activities as requested. Pavenham, Beds. Contact Tracey. 10:30 am 'til approx. 3 pm, £5 members, £10 non-members  |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> – May                            | Herts County, Saturday. – show and publicity stand. Helpers needed for stand. Contact Maggie Taylor.   |
| Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> May                            | Suffolk County Show Closing date 29 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| Sat / Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> June      | Donkey social / walk / agility / sleepover<br>Arrive Sat am, leave Sun pm, camp. Walk to pub,, social evening, agility. Winesham, near Ipswich. Contact Emma, 07833 767877, <a href="mailto:emma@burnbankhouse.co.uk">emma@burnbankhouse.co.uk</a> or 01473 785854 |
| Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> / Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> June    | Royal Norfolk Show   |
| Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June                             | Wisbech Rose Fair –Tom / Debs organising. We will be taking part in the short parade, once in the morning, pause for a social lunch then parade again in the afternoon   |
| Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> June                             | Sandringham Drive  |
| Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> July                             | Tendring Show  |
| Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> July                             | Heckington Show  |
| Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug                              | National Championship Show, Moreton Morrel, Warks  |
| August Bank Holiday?                                  | Winslow Show (possibly have donkey classes or display / stand. Contact Tracey  |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept                          | Blandings event, contact Joss  |
| Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> / Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept      | Abbey Farm driving weekend (not DBS organised but please contact Carole)   |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept                        | Gransden Show, nr Sandy, Beds. DBS display and stand. Helpers and handlers wanted. Contact Carole  |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct                          | ERADS (Eastern Region Autumn Donkey Show). Skylark Garden Centre, Wimblington, March, Cambs. Contact Liz for more details  |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Your Horse Live! event at Stoneleigh, Warks. DBS attend and looking for helpers. Contact Carole  |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                       | Wreath making at Annette's   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2025                              | London New Year's Day Parade – advertised in Bray Talk, Carole main contact  |

## Society Awards

These are highly informative and great fun to do. Not pressured, just a good few hours learning ‘donkey stuff’ in a relaxed and helpful atmosphere. There are bronze, silver and gold levels and start with simple ‘how to approach a donkey to put a headcollar on’ to poulticing a foot and recognising poisonous plants. You are not expected to know it all before you arrive as the days are usually ‘teaching’ in a friendly and practical way, followed by testing (if you want) to check your knowledge and gain your award. You’ll be surprised at what you know – and what you don’t! If you are interested, or just want to know more before you decide, please contact Annette or Liz.

**Who’s Who** – please make contact if you need any help or have any ideas or suggestions.

|                   |                |   |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Regional Chairman | Liz Wright     | 01354 741538 <a href="mailto:ewright757@btinternet.com">ewright757@btinternet.com</a>       |
| Regional delegate | Joss Goodchild | <a href="mailto:jossbmg@icloud.com">jossbmg@icloud.com</a> or 07788 810090                  |
| National Council  |                |   |
| Eastern Treasurer | David Poole    | c/o Carole  |
| Eastern Secretary | Carole Travell | 07889 162715 <a href="mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com">caroletravell@btinternet.com</a> |
| Committee members | Tom Bysouth    | <a href="mailto:Thomas_Bysouth@hotmail.com">Thomas_Bysouth@hotmail.com</a> 07596 167314     |
|                   | Diana Dunstan  | <a href="mailto:dianadunstan@yahoo.co.uk">dianadunstan@yahoo.co.uk</a> 01462 713796         |

### Area Reps (all committee members)

Bedfordshire / Northants - Tracey Robinson [doofydan6@gmail.com](mailto:doofydan6@gmail.com)  
Bucks – Clare Bysouth 01442 825879 [clarefrances33@gmail.com](mailto:clarefrances33@gmail.com)  
Cambridgeshire: Liz Wright, 01354 741538 [ewright757@btinternet.com](mailto:ewright757@btinternet.com)  
Essex East - Jude Pearce 07814 738408 [jude303@btinternet.com](mailto:jude303@btinternet.com)  
Essex West : Carole Travell, 07889 162715 [caroletravell@btinternet.com](mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com).  
Hertfordshire Maggie Taylor 01582 768746 [Maggie.taylor3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Maggie.taylor3@hotmail.co.uk)  
Lincs / Leics – Tom and Debbie McKay, [tomanddeb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tomanddeb@hotmail.co.uk)  
Nottingham: Currently vacant (Contact the Chairman)  
Suffolk / Norfolk: Annette Staveley, 01284 830240 [astaveley1@hotmail.com](mailto:astaveley1@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Your views

How do you feel about this newsletter, and / or any of the events we run?

What have we included that you think we shouldn’t?

Is there anything of particular interest to you that you’d like more details on?

Is there anything that we don’t cover, and you wish we would?

Is there any sort of event (social or training, with or without donkeys) that you’d like to see? Do you want activities nearer to you?

We genuinely want to hear from you, and try and make the Society work for you. Please ring the Secretary. Carole Travell 07889 162715 or email [caroletravell@btinternet.com](mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com) if you have any comments.



Palm Sunday 2024  
in the Eastern Region  
of the Donkey Breed Society

