East Region Report – September 2024

There were Summer show representations by many competitors from the East, these enthusiastic, dedicated members travelled far and wide to exhibit donkeys in wonderful condition.  Co-communication with Show Organisers has resulted in notable improvements in the facilities offered by shows such as Herts County and Tendring, the latter now provide a private, safe collecting ring/ring and a safe parking area.

Eastern Region members did well at the recent National Championship Show with Caroline Tween's 2 year old filly Anna taking Filly Champion, Youngstock Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion.  Janet Lee's yearling colt Blue Manor Humphrey Bogart took Colt Champion with Carole Travell's 2 year old Trinitas Tarly taking Reserve.  Reserve Stallion Champion was Carole's veteran Trinitas 'Enry 'Iggins, Best Condition for (human) aged 3-8 was Ollie Bunker with Justa Huggermugger and Best Pet was Annette Staveley's Dusty.

Participation in parades with commentaries and manned information stands at shows offer information and goods and continue to raise DBS awareness to a wider public.

Pleasure carriage drives included Sandringham Trials in June, a 6km route through beautiful woodland, fields of lavender, wild flowers and sheep.  In the same month Wisbech Rose Fair took place, it involved two parades with donkeys, owners and handlers bedecked in gorgeous flowers.  Watched by a huge crowd, the donkeys behaved impeccably, again great PR for the breed.  It was later reported the donkeys stole the show!

We repeated the postcard mail-out to all members detailing the remaining 2024 calendar events in an effort to encourage wider participation.

Our future events include a fun day at Blandings near Newmarket, ERADS - a great 'end of term' show, monthly Thursday Club with Annette, a training day at Milton College, just north of Cambridge, an Art Day - depict your donkey in pen and watercolour wash, attendance at Your Horse Live, a Winter photo show, Hee-haw Hiker donkey walks and festive wreath-making.

Joss Goodchild

Regional Delegate