**Northern Region Report – September 2024**

Summer time for us in the Northern Region centres on two things - enjoying donkeys at home and showing. Our region is huge so it’s no surprise that members can enter our donkeys into something like 18 shows, though, obviously, no one will be able to do every single one! And it’s pleasing to record here just how successful northern region members have been at both local and national shows. Congratulations to them all! Special mention must go to all our juniors who have flown the flag for the north most admirably and foreshadow an exciting future! They are a credit to their families and great ambassadors for the DBS.

Raising money for fellow charities is important to the Region and we continue to support Anna Harrison’s wonderful charity, Safe Haven and also the War Horse Memorial’s Purple Poppy fund. DBS members and members of the public, continue to be most generous, for which we are grateful.

We have been touring the region with the Richmond Poppies, gifted to the Northern Region and they have attracted lots of interest and media coverage too. Viewed by over 7,000 people to date, in York and Carlisle, they are currently being refreshed and the display expanded into a full exhibition that will take up a room at Chester Castle and the Cheshire Museum of Military life, at the end of October. The museum is planning two special events for the launch – a private reception for local dignitaries and in mid-November a special day of commemoration that will include ‘donkeys at the Castle’. Local schools will be involved, with members supporting a range of appropriately linked craft activities.

We have recently extended ‘hooves across the borders’ to our friends in Scotland and now share our regional magazine, *Asspire*, with them – we are looking forward to including news and articles with a truly northern flavour in the future!

In essence our year seems to start again each autumn - now we can start planning what the region will do over the next year; indeed, our first planning meeting is this week. As always, we will look to maintaining our successful activities together with adding innovations into the mix, all with the aim of providing members with what they can perceive as good value for their subscription (which is no mean feat) and tempting new members into the DBS.