



## EAR EAR – MAY 2025

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

Here we are, with an 'odd' warm spring, and now no rain and the grass, fields and gardens are desperate for some moisture. It is all very odd, but still nice to enjoy some warmth and sunshine.

We held a very successful training day near Cambridge – and when I say 'training', what I really mean is a social event where we learnt lots. We have another event on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June where we will have top, donkey loving, farrier Grace Binding giving a talk and demonstrations on donkey feet and how to keep them healthy. This is open to members and non-members, so please bring along a non-dbs friend (or 2, or 3) – anyone who will benefit their donkeys by learning more about the care of their feet. This will be in Lawshall, just south of Bury St Edmunds. It is sure to be an educational and fun event. See the calendar of events below.

### **Renewed your membership?**

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership. You get The Donkey magazine, 3 issues of Bray Talk, 2 of these Regional newsletter, the chance to take part in social and training events, rosettes, certificates – and if you are a Junior – CASH!

### **Showing not for you?**

The local show season has started and we have had some thoroughly enjoyable days out, meeting friends old and new and taking a short while out from the socialising in order to trot round the show and collect some rosettes. If you have ever shown any other equines, (which I haven't) I am assured that donkey showing is far more friendly! Why not pop along to a show, watch, come and meet the donkey handlers and decide for yourself.

### **Juniors and our awards schemes**

Don't forget that Junior members can be earning points for our Regional Awards. Points can be won by attending any event, watching a show, sending in a photo or an article for the next Bray Talk. They may earn themselves a £20 voucher at the end of the year!



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



# Donkey Feet

(Everything you need to know about donkey hoof & feet care)



Talk and demo given by  
**Grace Binding DipWCF**

Farrier of the year finalist 2024  
Recipient of DBS 'Fab Farrier' award

**Saturday 21st June 11am – 1pm**

Gate & West Farm, Golden Lane,  
Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds, IP294PT

Come and learn all about your donkey's hoof care, specialist treatment, corrective farriery & general advice within a friendly environment with demonstration donkeys to hand.

£10 per person if Donkey Breed Society member, £15 per person if non-member. Students £2. Tea / coffee available. Bring a packed lunch if you want to stay on for some chat and fun afterwards.

Raffle – donations very welcome

Please book by Sunday 15th June to secure a place  
Contact Carole 07889 162715 [caroletravell@btinternet.com](mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com)

Take a look at the calendar below – and please contact the relevant person if you want to know more. We always want more helpers to lead donkeys, sell poppies, wave flags and show the public how wonderful donkeys can be!

**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.**

Calendar – last updated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (please note – for most shows, we are letting you know that there are donkey classes and that you can enter, or come and spectate. If the latter, and you would like to find the donkey exhibitors and have a chat, please contact Carole in the first instance. For entries, time of classes etc, please see the show's website.

When	What
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Suffolk County Show, Ipswich
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June.	7pm National online quiz (via Zoom) – featuring our own Eastern Quizmaster Rob Sims. Please contact Carole for link

25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25 <sup>th</sup> driving., 26 <sup>th</sup> inhand)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Talk on farriery, Gate and West Farm, Lawshall, near Bury St Edmunds. Please contact Carole
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Wisbech Rose Fair, Donkey parade. We need ‘walkers and wavers and banner carriers as well as thse with donkeys. Contact Tom or Deb McKay Theme is ‘Circus’
4 <sup>th</sup> July Kent County Show	Donkey classes, returning after several years.
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Tendring Show, near Clacton, Essex. Donkey classes and parade, Contact Carole
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Heckington Show, near Sleaford
Weekend of 9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> August Donkey Doo	Weekend of donkey fun at Emma’s, near Ipswich. Contact Emma – 07833 767877
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	DBS National Show, Moreton Morrel, Warks Contact Carole. We’d love mor help. Please contact Carole
Weekend of 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Abbey Farm weekend, (not a DBS event, but several people will be attending, so not available for anything else) contact Carole
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September Blandings, nr Newmarket	Walk / long-rein / drive and social. Contact Joss
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Gransden Show, near Sandy, Beds. DBS stand and parade. Please contact Carole. We always desperately need helpers!
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	ERADS (Eastern Region Autumn Donkey Show). Skylark Garden Centre, Wimblington, March, Cambs. Contact Liz for more details
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Your Horse Live! event at Stoneleigh, Warks. DBS attend and looking for helpers. Man the shop? Help handle the donkeys? Contact Carole
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Donkey themed Christmas Wreath making (very social!). Gate & West Farm, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds. Contact Annette
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026	London New Year’s Day Parade (Carole)

Other events being investigated –

Training Day, Wisbech area, Tom & Debs

Fun day at Bennington, near Newark. Driving focussed but also social

Poss visit to a rescue centre

Newmarket – gallops (optional), lunch / Racing Museum

Any other ideas?

**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 to National Council	Joss Goodchild	<a href="mailto:jossbmg@icloud.com">jossbmg@icloud.com</a> or 07788 810090
Eastern Treasurer	David Poole	c/o Carole
Eastern Secretary	Carole Travell	07889 162715 <a href="mailto:caroletravell@btinternet.com">caroletravell@btinternet.com</a>

Area Reps (all committee members)

Bedfordshire / Northants - Tracey Robinson [doofydan6@gmail.com](mailto:doofydan6@gmail.com)

Bucks – Currently vacant (Contact the Chairman)

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)

.....