



Bulletin

No. 6



Here at Liberté des Anes in south west France we haven't seen any proper rain since the middle of July when it rained for a few weeks. Our fields look like the desert, our farm is situated high up on a hill and the only thing growing on the bare ground is a type of weed that we've never seen before and the donkeys aren't interested in eating it. Every blade of grass has disappeared and we wonder what will happen when it does rain again and the grass is meant to reappear, perhaps we will need to rest our fields and reseed with grass, but this is a very expensive operation. I remember the last time we did this in the spring and because it was unusually dry that year we wasted our money and had to reseed again in the autumn, we won't make that mistake again. We are feeding enormous amounts of hay and straw and therefore the donkeys are drinking very large quantities of water. They always drink so much more when they are eating hay. However our large family of donkeys, mules and ponies seem oblivious to our concerns and are very happy with our lovely sunny days and warm evenings.

HOMING DONKEYS

We were approached by a French couple who live near to Agen and keep six donkeys. Due to ill health they were hoping we could take in two of their beloved Poitou donkeys to cut down their work load for next winter. At the same time some Dutch supporters were asking us about giving a home to some donkeys so we put these people in touch and the happy ending to this story is that the two donkeys moved across to their new home where their old owners can visit them when they wish. This was good for us too as we didn't have to take in the donkeys first before rehoming them.

HUNGER LUNCH

For our fundraising activities recently Shelagh and Colin held a Hunger Lunch at their lovely home in Montaigu de Quercy. They had stalls for a 'bring and buy' with books and clothes. It was a beautiful sunny day, we all enjoyed our hearty home made soup, cheese, fruit and wine and that together with a little sing song made it a very happy afternoon.

FIN DE SAISON REPAS

Amanda and John held a Fin de Saison Repas at Belvèze on September 10th. We started with drinks around the pool to get to know everyone. Luckily there was a bar built in next to the pool which made it the perfect setting. Then we enjoyed roasted lamb on the spit and tasty vegetable dishes in abundance followed by wonderful deserts. Some 35 people came along to their beautiful house and it was a wonderful balmy evening sitting on their terrace with views down the valley to Belvèze.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Shelagh and Colin and Amanda and John and all friends for their cooking, hard work and donations of raffle prizes which enabled them to raise this money for our donkeys.

CAKE SALE

Another friend of the donkeys, Sue held a cake sale in her local town several hours from here and has sent in a cheque for over 200 euros. Can't believe we raised that much money just from calories. Thanks Sue very much for all your efforts on our behalf. If you live a distance away and still want to help you can contact us for ideas for fundraising.

SAVANNE AND BABOUCHE

Here are Savanne and Babouche. These two donkeys came to us after last winter and we have been feeding them up ever since. They had been sent to a horse market where the horses and donkeys are bought by Italian buyers to be transported down to the south of Italy and then kept in fields around the town of Bari which has an abundance of abattoirs, then to be killed when fatter and the meat sold in southern Italy and sent over by boat to Greece.

Savanne is a part Poitou donkey and I have spent hours combing out her coat so this winter her coat can start to regrow. These Poitou donkeys are often seen with very knotted coats but how lovely for her to be free of it all this summer. As her





coat is much thicker than all the other donkeys some days she can be seen to be sweating even though she is standing inside the barn in the shade! The dentist has visited twice now to work on their teeth. The dentist said that the uneven teeth of Babouche were the worst he had ever seen and that she had probably never had all those sharp edges filed down before. Savanne has hardly any teeth in the top front of her mouth but after her dental visits and her back teeth have been rasped she eats quite well. The dentist costs us 45 euros each visit for each donkey so this is an expensive but very necessary visit we need to budget for with all our animals.

Savanne and Babouche are the quietest natured pair of donkeys and love to be hugged and stroked. Please come and visit them when we have our Open Days. Please look on our website to see the next dates.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We hope to have some new Christmas Cards made for this coming year but in the meantime are still selling our cards with last years' design at 3 euros for 5. If anyone can come up with an interesting design for this years' cards we would like to hear from you. We also always have brand new cuddly toys for sale with several different types of donkeys so if you know any children with birthdays coming up please think of us



DONATIONS FOR RESALE

Remember we take in any unwanted books, clothes, shoes, handbags and 'bric a brac' for resale on our open days and stalls around the area. We can also take old clothes and old books etc as we can get a salvage price for these items which are then sent off to Heathrow airport to be sorted and washed and end up in third world countries, so your donations, whatever condition, will be helping children in Africa, India as well as the donkeys here at Lavolvène.

Please email us with your fundraising ideas as we always need more help with this, looking after the donkeys takes so much time each day, 7 days a week that there is little time and energy left over. Do you have items you wish to donate? We are happy to hear from everyone.

Do you know of any premises suitable for us as a shop, if you have any ideas please get in touch? This would give us a steady little income and a place to meet up and talk donks. We can't afford to rent any premises but surely somewhere there is a place suitable for our needs?

Each and every day we have to groom and look after, feed and muck out all our donkeys so thank you all so much for thinking of us here and supporting our work. Would you be able to make a small standing order each month to help us?

Help Us Give Donkeys A Happy, Healthy Life

Please help us by becoming a "Friend of the Donkeys" for a year by making a donation of 25€ (only 5€ for children).

Or become a member of "Liberté des Anes" by making a monthly donation of a minimum of 10€ (120€ a year).

I would like to donate 25€ to become a "Friend of the Donkeys" (5€ for child)

I would like to donate to be a member of "Liberté des Anes"

Name (Block letters, please):

Address:

..... Code Postale:

Tel. No. E-mail:

Return to : Liberté des Anes, Lavolvène, 82150 Belveze.

libertedesanes@gmail.com Tel: 0563943847

http://www.libertedesanes.com

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