

# THE LEADER

The Newsletter of the Banbury & District Dog Training Society

Autumn 2018

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM this year will take place on Thursday 25th October at Chacombe Village Hall and this year's meeting will be a very special one as we shall be celebrating our 40th Anniversary with a glass of bubbly and an Anniversary cake.

Our AGM is always a very social event where people from the different sections of the club have an opportunity to meet, i.e. KC Good Citizen, Rally and Working Trials and we shall again be awarding trophies and cups to the teams who have been successful this year. This year we have invited local dog trainer Sarah McLaren, who will be giving a Talk on 'Games you can Play with your Dog'. Sarah runs TLG Canine Coaching, which uses games to develop key skills enhancing personality traits in dogs. She calls this 'Mindset Magic for Dogs', which sounds very intriguing and we very much look forward to her talk.

We shall also be running a Photo Competition again, so do bring your dogs' favourite pictures along. There will be prizes for the winner and the runner up and the winning photo will be published on the front cover of our 2019 Calendar. If you miss the competition, but have a nice photo of your dog(s), do send a copy to Nicky, no later than 31st October, for publication in the Calendar

To add even more fun to the evening we thought it would be nice if everybody brought a picture along of themselves 40 years ago, and we can have a bit of fun identifying everybody. If you were not around 40 years ago, you might want to bring a photo of one of your



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parents 40 years ago and we might still be able to identify you!!

So do join us for what promises to be a very special evening, and family and friends are very welcome too. **Carla**

**APOLOGIES** No, you have not missed an issue of our newsletter, as sadly we were unable to produce one in the Spring. This was mainly due to the fact that both Nicky Downes and myself have had a very hectic year and domestic circumstances prevented us from putting a newsletter together and publishing the articles you submitted for the spring edition. However, most of the events we organised have had their results put on our website and the other articles will hopefully be in this newsletter. Many apologies if your article has not been published, and we hope to get back on track again soon. I am personally still trying to catch up on some of my own back log after I recently experienced a major computer crash. Still trying to recover some of my data. Here is hoping all will be well in 2019!



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## Team Challenge- 29 September 2018 by Julia Edwards

On a beautiful sunny day 15 teams of four handlers and dogs descended on the National Herb centre to take part in the team challenge to raise money for the Regional Midlands Rally team.

Some in headgear and L plates (perhaps we can try and fit in more next year) some dressed in proper rally obedience clothing. It's just a bit of fun they said but as you all know, it's a little more involved than that.

A day with taster sessions of scentwork, rally obedience and parkour alongside a quiz; dog related of course with some rather difficult anagrams that kept us busy most of the afternoon.

A lot of work had been put in by Karen and Jan and their team of helpers. Faced with a mixed bag of abilities they coped quite well, I think they had less of a fun challenge than us!

First up was the crystal maze scent challenge run by Karen where each team member had to pick a different room to find their scent or food. All the dogs seemed to enjoy searching and our Labrateer team excelled even though Karey, Elaine and Sandra were new to it.

And then to Dog Parkour which was a new activity to everyone. My limited knowledge of parkour is seeing people leap from roof to roof so I had already decided Jade could cope on her own or better still volunteer one of my fellow Labrateers.

So what is Dog Parkour?

"Dog Parkour, sometimes known as urban agility is a challenging, but fun, physical activity in which the dogs learn to interact with their natural environment. Just like in the human version, it works on ways to conquer obstacles, such as climbing, balancing, and jumping giving them confidence. Dog Parkour is a non competitive activity but you can gain qualifications and titles".

In reality, at beginner level, it involved going into the woods



with examiners and completing 5 timed activities at different stations:

1) 2 feet on a log, 2) 4 feet on a branch, 3) Dog walks under a branch, 4) Dog walks between two trees, 5) Dog gets 4 paws inside an obstacle.

We all seemed to enjoy it despite the hazards of catching ourselves on wayward branches. We could have done quite well in the competition if it wasn't for the rally where our timing let us down but The Four Labrateers will be back... "All for one and one for all".

Would I take up Parkour? It seems fun and it is based on canine body awareness which is good for agility but with Jade there are just not enough hours in the day.

Thanks to everyone for arranging it and we wish the Regional Midland Rally Team every success.

<http://scentworkuk.com/>

<https://dogparkouruk.wixsite.com/>

<http://www.rallynews.co.uk/>

## Haribo & Me – Who Knew by Liz Allen

After years of negotiation I finally gave in to my 11 year old son Connor. I'd successfully palmed him off with two goldfish for several years, but Shaggy and Scooby no longer cut it.

After having Ollie from Dogs for Good to stay evenings and weekends during his 3 final months of training, I knew black Labradors were obviously easy. With little thought about the year of intense training he'd been through to get him to that state, Connor and I set off on our journey to Aylesbury to collect our beautiful little puppy.

Connor had promised he would help with the dog, as I worked full time, "yes mum of course I will walk him, feed him, play with him, train him .....".

We arrived home and after a long sleep, Harry woke, life would never be the same again, this cute little black puppy was nothing short of a terrorist, who tore round the house, destroying everything in his sight whilst biting your ankles along the way for good measure.

I started to realise I was no Caesar Milan and this was not going to be the walk in the park with the wind blowing through my hair I'd envisaged!

Even though he was crated, only 5 seconds of eyes turned was long enough for Harry to leave a trail of devastation in his wake. From chewed headphones, skirting boards in pieces,



television wires chewed through, countless pairs of shoes, including my bridesmaids shoes on the morning of my best friends wedding and dug up sofa's.

Worst still walks were incredibly stressful, with him disappearing, growling at other dogs and the worst of all, the food stealing. His stealth like moves in order to steal food are something incredible. I can never walk without cash just in case a picnic is stolen. The shame when he's taken

biscuits from homeless people. On one occasion I noticed him carefully watching a boy carrying a KFC through the park, before I knew it he'd swiped the KFC whilst running past, eaten the chicken burger in one gulp and proceeding to bolt round the park with two corn on the cobs hanging out of his mouth. What should have been a quick 20 minute walk cost £10.

I was at the point of defeat when I joined B&DDTS, I thought there was no hope and only joined to placate two nagging friends and to prove them wrong. I can only say no one is more surprised that 3 years later we've achieved our Gold Award and I genuinely enjoy training my Haribo.

Haribo has been my best friend for a long time, but I'm proud to say, I think he's the best dog he can be. He'll always be a food stealer, no amount of training is going to change him in that way, but I can live with that.

# Thursday Nighters



We have had a busy year with good numbers of dogs and handlers coming up from the very successful puppy classes. It is so nice to watch our members progress and develop as they graduate from Bronze to Silver then Gold, passing their respective Kennel Club Good Citizen Tests along the way.

We hold our tests twice a year, in February and July. We've had wonderful successes this year, but it is important to remember it's not all about what happens on the test day, it's what happens on a day to day basis with our dogs and the enjoyment we have with them.

During the summer term we had an unfortunate event when a flash flood caused considerable damage to Chacombe Village Hall floor. This didn't disrupt classes too much as we were able to be outside at Wroxton Cricket Field for some of the sessions. The outside classes are always fun and often a bit more challenging for the dog, we rounded off these sessions for the summer with an end of term games night. It's always interesting to see who are the more competitive teams of handlers and dogs! The floor in the village hall has now been relaid and the surrounding tiles just have to be finished off.

A big thank you must go to all our instructors and helpers who give their time freely and so enthusiastically, Carla, Steph, Michelle, Cindy, Rae and to Terry for organising the KC Tests. Thanks also to Carole for coming along each week to keep us refreshed with tea and coffee. A special mention for Karen Sheppard, the Silver/Gold class instructor, who has been unwell for some months now with severe back pain. She is disappointed not to be able to teach at the moment and is really missing her class. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her return soon.

## Ann



### HEALTH TIP

Fleas are the culprit if you see tiny black spots on your dog's coat, this is the dried blood from flea bites. Your dog will also be scratching although this may not always be the case. A very effective way of ridding your dog of fleas is to rinse them off with a cider vinegar rinse (1 part vinegar to 2 parts water) after bathing. This will kill fleas and leave no smell. For day to day protection, keep a cider vinegar solution handy in a spray bottle and spray your dog's coat daily. Cider vinegar may also help with dry or irritated skin and bladder infections, to name a few of its legendary benefits it has strong antioxidant and antibacterial qualities.

*Taken from Old Wives & Dog Tails by Linda Adam*



*"I'm not going to ask him to move, because when he refuses my authority will be weakened"*

## 2018 KC GOOD CITIZEN TESTS RESULTS

Congratulations to:

### FEBRUARY

**BRONZE:** Sandra & Zephyr, Marie & Alfie, Peter & Rosie, Sheila & Forti, Cindy & Hetty, Vicky & Bess, Vicki & Jet and Terry & Tori

**SILVER:** Vicki & Jet, Terry & Tori, Amy & Doug and Selina & Teddy

**GOLD:** Liz & Harry and Marcella & Tia

### JULY

**BRONZE:** Jan & Stetson, Kate & Finn, Angela & Duke, Cenwynn & Bear

**SILVER:** Cindy & Hetty, Marie & Alfie, Kate & Finn, Philip & Mercy, Sandra & Zeffy

**GOLD:** Terry & Tori, Sandra & Zeffy

For photos of the successful teams go to [www.banburyanddistrictdogtrainingsociety.org/lkc-good-citizen](http://www.banburyanddistrictdogtrainingsociety.org/lkc-good-citizen)



## CANINE QUIZ

by John Braybrook



- 1) What was the name of Dennis the Menace's dog?
- 2) What was the name of the Russian dog fired into space on Sputnik 2 in November 1957?
- 3) Which breed of dog is named after a Nottinghamshire estate?
- 4) Which is the longest name in the breed book?
- 5) What breed of dog was known as The Carriage Dog in the nineteenth century?
- 6) How many teeth does a dog have?
- 7) What was the name of the dog-headed God that was sacred to the Ancient Egyptians?

Answers: 1) Gnasher, 2) Laila, 3) Clumber Spaniel, 4) Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, 5) Dalmatian, 6) 42, 7) Anubis.

"PERSEVERANCE IS FAILING 19 TIMES AND SUCCEEDING THE 20TH."

- Julie Andrews

# EXERCISE AND DOGS –

## Why less is most definitely more! By Caroline Spencer

With our dogs we are advised and told many times that our puppies and dogs need lots of stimulation and exercise or they will get bored, destructive and hyper, so that's what you do, but then your puppies mature into an adult dog and becomes or continues to be destructive and hyper and you're told that he's only 2 yrs old and will calm with age. It's not his age that's the issue, it's too much physical exercise generally and not enough rest and relaxation in your company or brain and nose exercises. So when you're advised to give more and more exercise to your destructive, hyper dog, please think twice.

So many times I have been told by dog owners, that they have issues with their dogs being overactive, high energy and destructive, even though they take them for long and energetic walks. They give them; chews and games at home to distract them from unwanted behaviours like chewing furniture, howling and so and so forth. There are owners who can't do anything without involving their dogs, I even had a call from one gentleman who couldn't even find time to read my book because his dog always butted in and wanted him to interact with his day.

The more exercise you do the more you need, same for your dogs, the brain can't switch off, you're not allowing it to ... the buzz becomes a drug and you can't get off it. You're loaded with too much of the flight, flee fight hormone adrenaline and ready for action all the time. I used to be a fanatic when it came to the game of squash, a full-on, high impact fast game. I couldn't survive without my twice daily fix of 2 hours morning and evening. I was pinged off the walls, literally, if I didn't play and everything else I did was full on. I didn't sit still either at work and home. When I was ill, I didn't get a sniffle, I got full blown, in bed for a week colds, I was pushing my body too much, it couldn't do everything. I didn't have an off switch.

So, you take your dog for a long high stimulation walk or repetitive ball throwing, Frisbee throwing bonanza, flyball or fast furious agility regularly, some come back even more full of energy than before, others sleep for a while then ready for the off again before you are. You create an animal with an obsessive-compulsive disorder and it's distressing for the dog. A dog racing about with tongue hanging out, panting furiously, barking excessively is a dog with no ability to self-control. However, if your dog does this and in the next breath can stop and chill and have chill days, relaxed lead walks with gentle calm, pottering about sniffy times then you've got balance.

Everyone should have an off switch and if they don't then they need to be guided towards a more balanced way of life and way of thinking. Domestic dogs are not dissimilar. Wild dogs have it, wolves have it, any wild animal has it, they live uncomplicated lives (not necessarily easy, but they don't complicate their lives with guilt and over thinking and does my bum look big in this? Type of thing) Conserving energy and living a balanced life is what they do. They don't run about like headless chickens totally out of self-control.

Dogs need balance in their lives as much as we do. We teach them to be full on and then micromanage the behavioural issues with " Sit on that Mat!" Life needs to slow down, take your time to do anything and do it well, there should be no rush, there is no time or age limit to getting it right for you or your dog.

Take your dog for lovely walks on the lead and off lead, make every day different, whether that be location or activity or both. The walk should be enjoyable for both of you from the get-go, on lead in the house and beyond. On lead seems to be a swear word these days and people only believing that their dogs have fun off lead racing round agility and open fields. The truth is if your dog is in the moment with you and you with him, then fun is where ever you are and whatever you are doing together. That includes sitting and resting at home and resting out and about, playing mindful gentle games at home and on your outside adventures , like find the toy rather than endlessly chase the thrown ball and retrieve, which results in a visually reactive dog not a mindful thinking dog using the best sense he has and that's his nose.

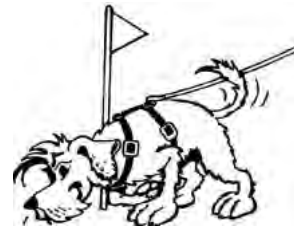
Learning to just be, is one of the most important lessons they can learn from us as youngsters. Start off how you mean to go on and there is absolutely nothing wrong, in fact, everything right in my opinion about having a chill day once a week with your dog, whether that be sitting on a beach or by the river or at home simply being and not doing. My Dad used to call these days "Recharging battery days", days when you could just stare at the clouds and blue skies through the canopy of a tree in full leaf or those cold days wrapped up under that same tree on a cold frosty morning. Not a care in the world and time to just do absolutely nothing and not feel bad about it. For me being outside is the place I find most relaxing, no phone distractions, no computer to sit and write at and no housework to feel the need to get on top of.

Remember with your dog, you don't have to go full steam ahead all the time on your walk, sit and be mindful of the world around you, massage your dog and just be still with your dog, you don't have to talk, in fact it's better to be quiet for you and your dog, close your eyes and concentrate on your breathing. Play quiet finding games that actually tax them mentally and get them using their noses not eyes, working with you as part of a team. Like children, if you play with them all the time they do not learn to just be or occupy themselves effectively and rely on you too much to be their provider of entertainment. I also love to be able to go for a walk and let the dogs just sniff and gather information about who, what and when on the way. Just stopping to spend that time in places where they can route through the undergrowth and dig and snort and sniff is so beneficial to their wellbeing.

Exercise is as important as good food within a balanced life. Rest and relaxation is equally important and if you do have an overactive dog (and don't put this down to breed please, all dogs whatever breed you have can be over the top and demanding if we let them) then please do take time to educate them in the art of chilling. They and you will live longer and happier lives, guaranteed.

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★ "I ATTRIBUTE MY SUCCESS TO THIS -  
★ I NEVER GAVE OR TOOK ANY EXCUSE."  
★ - Florence Nightingale  
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# Working Trials News



## TRAINING DAYS

As it is the beginning of the autumn trials season we organised 2 training days for the competing members and the first one was a training day with Mike Williams on the Sunday following the progress tests. Mike has trained 4 dogs for Working Trials, two of whom he made up to WT Champions. We had a wonderful day listening to Mike who is an extremely methodical trainer and does not leave anything to chance, keeping meticulous records of all training sessions and competitions. We learnt a lot and enjoyed watching Mike demonstrate with his 2 dogs, Labrador Tara and Springador Marina. As Mike was staying at my house I had the pleasure of doing some gundog training with Olive whilst walking our dogs. Thank you, Mike, from all of us for giving up your time so generously and sharing your training philosophies. Michelle has written more about this super day on page 9.

Our second training day was an NLP seminar with former member, Clive Griffiths, who is an NLP Master Practitioner. NLP stands for Neuro Linguistic Programming and is used by many top sports personalities in the world. It gives you coping and focussing skills whilst in competition. Clive also used to work his Border Collie, Chilli in Working Trials and is very familiar with how our nerves can affect our dogs' performance in competition. So he designed this course especially for working triallists. It would take a lot longer than one day to learn all the ins and outs of NLP, but Clive taught us a few basic principals to help us change our thought patterns, and to make us feel more in control when being directed by a judge and steward. He also gave us quite a few exercises to practise and told us that like with all other training, it would take regular practice to become good at this. It was another very interesting and motivational day and we came away with lots of good ideas for our next competition. Huge thank you to Clive for giving up your time again so generously.

## TRACKING DAYS

The beginner tracking day will be held on Saturday 3rd November and by then I shall hopefully have found a suitable field as our regular grass fields at Pimlico farm have been dug up and replanted. If you are interested in attending, please contact me for further information. In the meantime, if anybody knows of a 20 acre grass field we can use, please let me know.

Our competition tracking day will be held on Saturday 1st December at Pimlico farm. Entry form will be posted on the website and places will again be limited to 8. If you are available to help with the judging, tracklaying or videoing, please let me know.

**HAPPY TRAINING! Carla**

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★ "THERE IS NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE  
★ TO HIM WHO WILL TRY."  
★ - Alexander the Great  
★  
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2018 will be remembered for a very wet spring, heavy snow in March, which was followed by a very hot summer. This meant that for a long period over the summer we all had to put serious dog training on hold. The Saturday group at Hinton seem to be able to carry on regardless (not sure if they were keen or desperate?!), but the Wednesday sessions ended with the final session in the swimming pool (humans only allowed)!

The Hinton Trial this year was a special one for me, as it was my last one as Trial's Manager after 30 years at the helm. Despite the muddy conditions we all had a great time thanks to our fantastic team of helpers, and for the first time ever, all the beginner stakes were won by our own members. So celebrations all round. Thank you all again for the beautiful portrait of my dogs which gets much admired by all and sundry who visit our house. My full report and photos can be found on the WT News page on our website.

Next year's trial will be run by Shirley & John Simpson, and I know they will have everybody's full support and will run a great trial. I am now looking forward to being part of their team.

## PROGRESS TESTS

Our recent progress tests on Saturday 8th September were well attended and a big success thanks to our wonderful judges & helpers. Mike Williams came down from Lincolnshire to judge the Control & Agility for the Levels Two to Five, and member Di Ashbow judged the Search Squares. John Simpson judged the Elementaries and Level One entries again. Their reports are published on page 6. Big thank you to all our judges and of course their stewards: Lynn Bricknell, Pip Nason and Diana Stephens and our wonderful scorer Colin Bricknell, who kept up pace with the judges and finished writing all the certificates by the end of the stays. This was the first time we had invited the members of Three Counties WT Society to take part, which added a bit of extra competition flavour to the day, and they were all made very welcome by our members. All participants joined in for lunch at the pub which was as always very well organised by Nicky Downes. Thank you all.



# Progress Tests

## JUDGES REPORTS

### LEVEL TWO TO FIVE - CONTROL & AGILITY

by Mike Williams

Thank you to Carla for the invitation, and hospitality, to judge Banbury DTS Working Trials Progress Tests. My weekend visit was split into two, judging the tests on the Saturday and a Working Trials Seminar on the Sunday.

Saturday started with light drizzle for the levels 2 and 4 but had stopped by the time the level 5 came on. To assist my very capable steward, Lyn Bricknell and I kept the running order of exercises as similar as possible.

Heelwork throughout was generally completed very well, just a couple of comments. Heel on lead, keep the lead loose, if you are allowed commands and encouragement, then use them. When you start your heel work look in front, if you see a pole, it is there to help you walk in a straight line. Recalls were all satisfactory with one or two minor anticipations and the odd crooked sit.

The sendaway was straight out 50 paces to a blue pole in front of bales of straw. We had some excellent 10's along with some good attempts, no one really failed the S/A. The redirect was 75 paces left, to a space between two pine trees in the hedge, again quite well executed by the level 5's.

The speak for the level 5's was: leave your dog in any position and then from 10 paces stand sideways on. 5 barks were required with 5 seconds of silence followed by 5 more barks. We had a 50% success rate.

Overall the agility was performed very well. Second attempts were allowed on all jumps but very few were required. For those competitors who were unsuccessful whilst competing, we had a little "special" session with them afterwards to ensure everyone finished the day with success.

Sit stays and down stays combined the appropriate levels, again we had a very high success rate with only a few minor misdemeanours!

Results and scores were all collated and processed by Colin Bricknell, who also was responsible for writing all of the qualifying certificates which were duly presented back at the Fox Inn pub where we had a lovely afternoon lunch to finish off the day.

Thank you, Banbury, I had a most enjoyable day judging you all. You are great bunch of enthusiastic Trialists, it is training groups like yours which are the backbone of our Sport.

### LEVEL TWO TO FIVE - NOSEWORK

by Di Assheton-Bowtle

I spent an enjoyable Saturday morning judging the nosework levels 2 to 5 at our progress test September 8th. Finishing off at the pub for a tasty lunch and presentations rounded off nicely.

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★ "THE SECRET OF SUCCESS IS TO BE ★  
★ READY WHEN YOUR OPPORTUNITY ★  
★ COMES." - Benjamin Disraeli ★  
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Thank you for asking me Carla, thank you Pip for being an excellent steward, Colin for score keeping and all the others involved behind the scenes. Lastly thank you to Upper Aynho Grounds for the use of their big field.

We are so lucky at Banbury to have these tests. So good for experienced and newbies, dogs and handlers, for the chance to monitor performance under test like conditions but able to train.

Some light rain to start but nothing to put us off. The land was quite gamey and after such a long dry period the grass and animal droppings were a bit 'moreish' for some of the dogs.

13 dogs down to run 2 scratches meant 5 dogs level 2, 3 each levels 4 & 5.

As is usual there were some 'if onlys' but most of the dogs had a good try and got at least 2 articles. It was good to see some enthusiastic youngsters coming on and improvements in the ones who have been before. Thank you for letting me judge your dogs, they all looked happy, even the odd one who just didn't feel like playing today!

### LEVEL TWO TO FIVE RESULTS

**1st:** Steph Gordon and Kessie (Lab) Level 5. Q 89/100pts  
A lovely keen young Lab well handled by Steph

**2nd:** Lyndie Lothian with Pixel (BC) Level 2. Q 84/100pts  
A very handsome Collie showing great potential sympathetically handled by Lyndie

**3rd:** Nicky Downes with Poppy (Lab) Level 5. Q 79½ /100pts  
Litter sister to Kessie, another exuberant girl calmly handled by Nicky.

**4th:** Marcella Stephen with Tia (Cocker) Level 2. Q 77/100pt  
A busy Cocker who I had the pleasure of judging her elementary test last year. A definite improvement Marcella, well done.

### ELEMENTARIES & LEVEL ONE

by John Simpson

Although the weather could have been better for us, we all had a good time at the Autumn Progress Test, for the first time inviting another club to join us. I judged the elementary test and most of the teams seemed to know what they were doing, which is the main aim in the early stages.

Most of the dogs gained enough marks to qualify the nosework but a couple went out on stays. The experience of being judged (someone watching) is always nerve racking for the beginner which is why these tests are so valuable.

Thanks for your company. It was fun.

### ELEMENTARIES & LEVEL ONE RESULTS

**1st:** Ann Ferens & Rosie (Cocker) Elementary Q 72/80pts

**2nd:** Heidi Malcolm & Missy (Cocker X) Level One Q 88/100pts

**3rd:** ARO Kate Wilton & Finn (ESS) Elementary Q 65/80pts

**4th:** ARO John Hearn & Whisper (BC) Elementary Q 65/80pts  
Cup for Best Nosework won by Kate & Finn



## ***Finn's intro to Working Trials*** by Kate Wilton

Having always rescued dogs and all that that can bring with it, it was a brand new experience and certainly a 'vertical learning curve', when Finn, an inquisitive English Springer puppy became part of our family life just under two years ago. It quickly became apparent to us that it wasn't so much the physical engagement that Finn was yearning for, but something that made him think. So when Finn and I attended the first Working Trials training session with Carla just under a year ago, I knew that I had found what would make him tick as both Finn and I came home mentally and physically tired and content.

Being new to both formal dog training and working trials, Finn and I were a little bit like scared rabbits in headlights at our first few visits to Ryelands, but with the friendly guidance from Carla, Ann, and the other trainees, Finn and I started to find our feet and relax as these weekly sessions progressed.

I did find, especially in those early months there was so much training information to take in that I had to start jotting down training notes, it is adding these little nuggets of information to Carla's training notes that I have found invaluable in shaping the training Finn and I do in our own time each week. I also find all these evolving notes really helpful to refer back to.

Attending the January progress tests was a really good experience.

Most importantly it was great for Finn to be in this environment with all the other dogs. For me, it helped me understand what

the target was, for all the exercises we were learning, it was also really good to have the chance to meet everyone else in the club, and to see how they, and their dogs, worked together on the day. I was fascinated to see how controlled and capable the dogs were.

It was after this day I knew we were truly hooked – even the freezing horizontal snow didn't put us off! The warm welcome and chat in the local pub after made me feel all the more included and wanting to get involved.

My family do think I have lost the plot at times, all the more now as I declare 'Perfect article' as I retrieve things from their hands as they are heading out to the bin. All sorts of things grab my attention, inner tubes from yet another bike puncture, a broken leather belt, an old ripped jacket, old bits of carpets, corks. It is amazing what you can squirrel away ready for the search square, I'm not obsessed – honest.

Finn really enjoys the 'search square' exercise the most. We were very proud to win the trophy for best 'nosework' at the September progress test. It is said you take something from each session, the last thing I expected Finn to do in his test was to lie down in the sit stay exercise. Walk towards me, yes, with his nervous disposition, but not to lie down.

So it's back to basics at the training sessions, and the journey continues and WE are LOVING IT!

**Kate & Finn.**

### **WORKING TRIALS ACHIEVEMENTS WINTER 2018** by Shirley Simpson

The winter weather took its toll this year, adversely affecting several trials. Some were abandoned, some were almost impossible to get to, even if they were still running and some, even if we could get to them, were so badly affected by conditions that everything was even more challenging than usual.

However, we did have a few successes over the winter.

**Nicky Downes** and **Poppy** entered another UD at South Beds and qualified again.

**Di Ashetton-Bowtle** and **Inca** also entered South Beds where they gained their first qualification in the WD stake.

**Michelle Mahoney** and **Myah** held it all together at Oxford and qualified CDX with a 4th place.

Also at Oxford, **John Simpson** and **Foster** gained another TDX and 4th place, despite Foster recently having to lose half his tail due to injury.

**Pip Nason** and **George** delighted us all by not only qualifying UD at Claybrook but winning the stake.

**Steph Gordon** and **Kessie** qualified another UD at Hampshire but this time came home with the red rosette.

Some of the Spring and Summer trials were also affected by the weather, this time by either torrential rain or stifling heat.

At Tewkesbury **Julia Edwards** and **Jade** managed to get everything right at the same time and not only qualified CDX but came 2nd as well. They also Qualified CD at our own trial with a first place.

**Sue Lawrie** and **Tia** also got it together at Tewkesbury but the sit stay let them down meaning that they qualified

CD only with 3rd place.

**Michelle** and **Myah** followed on from her earlier success this year by qualifying UDX at Tewkesbury with 2nd place. They also qualified UD in first place at Banbury.

**John Simpson** and **Foster** had us all holding our breath at Tewkesbury for the TD C & A when they were well placed after the nosework. Unfortunately the 2nd ticket still eludes them but they did get the Reserve CC. They qualified TDX again at Surrey and then had us all on edge again at Hampshire where they qualified with a 3rd place.

**Marcella Stephen** had her arm twisted to enter **Tia** in the Intro stake at Banbury, where she not only qualified but won the stake.

**Ann Clarke** and **Ember** qualified TDX at Surrey, again at Wessex where they came 3rd and again at Tow Law

**Steph Gordon** and **Kessie** qualified UDX with the red rosette at Surrey.

**Nicky Downes** and **Poppy** went to Wessex and qualified UDX.

Also at Wessex, **Pip Nason** and **George** qualified CDX in second place AND UDX in 3rd. What an achievement.

Again at Wessex, **Di Assheton Bowtle** and **Inca** qualified their first WDX and then got their second one at Scarborough.

And finally

**Shirley Simpson** and **Clover** ended a two year drought at Tow Law, where Clover finally got everything right and qualified WDX.

The new season is in full swing now so happy competing.



# Oh Dear. Now We've Both Lost Our Tails by John Simpson

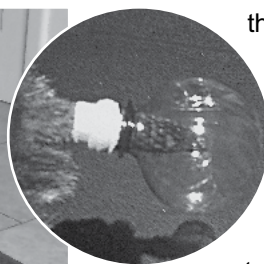
Back in January, whilst watching TV in half light, I noticed Foster worrying at his tail. I joined him on the floor to find out what was troubling him and thought it was probably some debris caught up in the fur. The whole area was sticky and on investigating in full light, I discovered that my hands were covered in blood. He had torn his tail and a long flap was hanging down. It looked like he had snagged it on barbed wire. I bound it up, using the bandage from the first aid course last year, and next morning went to the vets.

The vet tried superglue to keep the flap in place, which only lasted about an hour, and then it was bound and protected using pipe lagging. Foster has a very waggy tail and his tail packs quite a punch so protecting it was a real problem. After a week, it became obvious that it wasn't going to heal and the flap had started to shrivel so I was advised to have the tail removed just above the top end of the wound.

He had the op on the Monday. On Tuesday we took him back because he had reacted badly to the drugs he'd been given. His drugs were changed to ones that were less harsh on his tummy. Wednesday he went back because his wound was inflamed and painful and he'd pulled a stitch out. He was put on more drugs because the drugs that were good for his tummy weren't effective on the wound! We had Thursday off. Friday he went back just for a check. He had several other visits the next week to check that all was ok and by this time I had devised an effective protection system.

I made a tail guard out of a plastic bottle by cutting down a used fizzy water bottle. (Aldi fizzy flavoured water comes in a bottle with the perfect size bulbous top). Most bottles have the same size neck, which fortunately fitted Foster's tail, but other sizes are available. I placed a length of breathable sticking plaster, just enough to go around and stick back on to itself, on his tail about three inches from the end. Then I slid the neck of the bottle over the tail and half over the tape and used more tape to stick the bottle neck to the tape already on the tail. Because of the shape of the bottle, this now meant that when he wagged his tail, the bottle hit the furniture and walls, but his tail was held captive in the middle of the bottle and couldn't damage itself by touching anything. A tad noisy, but effective.

The next problem was stopping him chewing the guard off. I tried the lampshade collars, both hard and soft but they didn't work as Foster is very bendy and could fold himself in half and still get at his tail. I decided that a muzzle was the answer. Trying to get the right size was fun as Fos really didn't want to be muzzled and managed to remove it several times before I'd even paid for it. I finally fitted it so tightly that he gave up and accepted it. For a few nights we kept him with us in the bedroom, still muzzled although looser by now, and



then tried him back downstairs with it on. After a couple of days, he had the muzzle off when he was with us and we could keep an eye on him, but was still muzzled overnight and in the car.

Two months or so later, his tail is healing nicely and he no longer wears the guard. I had to be very firm with him at the beginning but now he pays no attention to his tail at all. Once I was sure that the wound had closed and there was no infection, I left it alone as much as possible and the hair has now started to grow.

Foster and his favourite toy, Eeyore, now have a lot in common.

## MIKE WILLIAM'S TRAINING DAY by Michelle Mahoney

- On a sunny day in September, I was fortunate to be able to attend a Working Trials training day with Mike Williams and his beautiful dogs, Marina and Tara.
- Mike had judged at our Progress Tests the day before and it was nice to meet him away from the Progress Test field.
- Listening to Mike talk about his training methods, and seeing him work with his own dogs, made me appreciate that Judges, behind their clipboards, are kind and caring dog owners too and I will try to remember that when my nerves go into overdrive at my next Trial!
- Mike explained that he would be demonstrating and sharing his own training techniques with us, rather than telling us how to train our dogs, and I'm sure every one of us attending the training day will have come away with lots of valuable training tips. I wrote many pages of notes and have so many new things to try!
- I really appreciate the time Mike spent with us and his generosity in sharing his knowledge that he's built up over the years. Working Trials training is made even better with people like Mike, and our Banbury Club members, who very generously share their time and experience with us all.
- A day talking about dog training, plus a picnic in the sunshine in Carla's lovely garden, is the best way to spend a Sunday!



"FOR SUCCESS, ATTITUDE IS EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS ABILITY."

- Walter Scott

# Noticeboard



**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR 2018/2019 DIARY**

Saturday 3rd November: Beginner Tracking Day  
**Saturday 1st December: Competition Tracking Day**  
 Wednesday 12th December: Rally Christmas Party  
**Thursday 13th December: KC Good Citizen Christmas Party**  
 Saturday 15th December: Working Trials Christmas Party  
**Saturday 5th January: New Year Walk**  
 Wednesday 9th January: New Term starts Working Trials Training  
**Thursday 10th January: New Term starts KC Training**  
 Saturday 12th January: First Working Trials Training session at Hinton  
**Saturday 23rd February: KC Test Day**  
 Saturday 2nd March: WT Progress Test  
**Thursday 7th March: Crufts Dog Show, no training**  
 Friday 12th to Sunday 14th April: Open Working Trial at Hinton

**Visit [www.banburyanddistrictdogtrainingsociety.org](http://www.banburyanddistrictdogtrainingsociety.org) for up-to-date information**



## Banbury & District Dog Training Society Photo competition and Calendar

### Have you got your photos ready?

Please bring along photographs or print outs of your dog/s to the AGM on Thursday 25th October, if you would like to take part in the Photo Competition. The theme is "My dog", there will be prizes for the best pictures and the winner also gets to pick which month their photo has pride of place on, in the calendar. The photographs can be colour or black & white, minimum size A5 (210 x 148mm).

We would like to produce a 2019 Calendar, so if you would like a photo of your dog included, please could you forward a file, as high resolution as possible to [bddtsphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:bddtsphotocomp@gmail.com). The deadline for images is Thursday 25th October. The calendar will be available to purchase before Christmas and the proceeds will go to charity.



## A FEW TIPS TO SURVIVE BONFIRE NIGHT

- Build a safe space or den so your dogs have somewhere to retreat to.
- Check when local displays are being held and sound-proof your house by drawing curtains and shutting all windows and doors.
- Turn on the tv or radio to help mask the sound of the fireworks or play relaxing music.
- Try to act normally as your dog will look to you for reassurance.
- To help manage your pet's anxiety use a pheromone-based or natural calming product such as Borax Phos or Rescue Remedy. Rescue Remedy is easy to get hold of and 10 drops in their drinking water has been known to calm some anxious dogs.

"GOOD, BETTER, BEST. NEVER LET IT REST. 'TIL YOUR GOOD IS BETTER AND YOUR BETTER IS BEST." - St. Jerome

Your Committee	
Carla Nieuwenhuizen	01869 810646
Ann Ferens	01869 277398
John Simpson	01869 346942
Stephanie Gordon	01869 346881
Colin Bricknell	01295 712180
Nicky Downes	01869 346788
Linda Johnston	01327 860080