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CAROLE'S CHIT CHAT

Lots has happened since the last newsletter but I suppose Crufts has to be mentioned. I don't know what you all think about the BBC coverage but in my humble opinion it was awful. Too much nattering and not enough of some of the specialities. I know breed is big money and the main item on the agenda but what about Heelwork to Music, Agility, Flyball and the Obedience. A quick glance really isn't good enough. Jan Kiley and I went to Birmingham NEC on the Saturday as Jan was running Kerry in the Pre-Beginner Stakes. The standard was a lot higher than last year and although she didn't get into the awards, Kerry worked her socks off for her Mum. Well done to Judy & Ken Steel with Becky and Gina Pink with Tapper on making it to Crufts 2008. Crufts was so busy on the Saturday, at times it was elbow room only so unfortun-

nately I didn't get to watch any of the ticket handlers in the Obedience Competition. For me, it was emotionally a roller coaster, as lots of people were coming up to me saying how sorry they were to hear of Rookie's death. Thank you to everyone who telephoned, e-mailed or sent cards to us on Rookie's death. My special dog died very suddenly from bloat and a torsion, and to say Roy and I were shell shocked was no exaggeration. A few hours earlier Rookie had been bouncing around. Beware of a couple using the 'distraction' technique to steal dogs. The man had a goatee beard, the woman long hair and they have been seen on Blackdown, Ludshott, Chapel Commons as well as in Elstead, Midhurst and Fittleworth. Report anything strange to the Police and don't be fobbed off by the person who answers the 'phone - insist they take details.

The HDDTC Formation Team has been rehearsing for a few weeks now and slowly the routine that Beryl Green-slade has choreographed for us is taking shape. It's not been easy as the team of ten handlers and dogs has no far only rehearsed together once as a complete team. We have three dates for our displays - the Companion Dog Show, Milland Rural Fair and Dogmersfield Fete - all in aid of Canine Partners. Our Companion Dog Show is on Sunday 18th May at Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club and we need plenty of help, please. We would be very glad to see anyone who can help us put up rings and tents on the Saturday evening at 6pm. On the Sunday, we need volunteers to help with jobs like car parking, stewards, score boarders and general runners for odd jobs, if you can't manage all day, half a day would be fine. Please see me on a Thursday evening at Grayshott.

I hope you are all going to enter your dogs on some of the classes, pedigree or Heinz 57 - have a go - remember all the proceeds are for our Charity of the Year, Canine Partners. Let's hope our English weather is kind to us - unlike last year! See you there,
Carole

Carole

French Flora

Some of you may already know that Jenny McFarlane has now moved to France with her liver Flatcoated Retriever, Flora, and would be delighted to hear from anyone if they are in her vicinity. She gives us details as follows:

We are now living 45k south of Bergerac at La Terrasse, 47290 Monbahus, which is a little farmhouse with an acre of land, a pool and a barn in a very rural, agricul-

tural area. We have been here for 10 days and it's great but we moved in horrendous weather both sides of the Channel and although Flora was so good throughout the whole process, her owner was not so calm! Flora loves the freedom of the land all around the house and has been very good at not running off across the fields as we have no boundaries. We walk the estate of one acre twice a day and I have

just found our first walk which was about an hour in lovely countryside. We have also met up with a couple with four Labrador Retrievers and had a great walk plus swimming in a local lake. Flora was in like a shot and copied everything the others did in the water which was a bit cold though. We have had a local vet recommended to us as well so a good

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ALLEN PARTON AND ENDAL

In 1991, Allen Parton was a Chief Petty Officer serving in the Royal Navy during the Gulf War. He had a very promising military career ahead of him and a wife and two children at home in Portsmouth. Then a tragic war time incident changed his life completely.



Allen suffered a severe head injury which left him with considerable physical and emotional trauma. It wiped out his memories and left him unable to walk, speak or write. He couldn't even remember getting married or the birth of his children. He spent the next five years in hospital, struggling to come to terms with his disabilities. He had lost the ability to feel any emotions, not knowing how to love, laugh or even cry. He became very introverted, his confidence was shattered and he could not see any future. He was so miserable and depressed that he even tried to commit suicide. As a result, his relationship with his wife Sandra and his children became strained

Then ten years ago Allen was partnered with Endal, a yellow Labrador part trained by Canine Partners. Since then, Allen's confidence has returned to such an extent that he cannot stop talking about how much Endal has transformed his life. Endal has helped to save Allen's marriage and to rebuild a relationship with his children. He has become independent and Sandra no longer has to be on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, allowing her the freedom and peace of mind to live her own life

again. Not only can Endal respond to over one hundred commands but he can also problem solve. One day when Allen was struggling to reach up to withdraw money from a cashpoint machine, Endal instinctively jumped up, took the money and card in his mouth and passed it to Allen. On another occasion, Endal demonstrated his ability to react in an emergency. When visiting Crufts in 2001, Allen was knocked out of his wheelchair by a speeding car and left unconscious in a car park. The driver was in a deep state of shock, so Endal took charge and pulled Allen into the recovery position, covered him with a blanket and fetched his mobile phone. Getting no response Endal then left Allen's side and went to a near by hotel and raised the alarm.

Endal can also respond to sign language – when Allen cannot remember the word for items such as hat, gloves and razor, he makes signs with his hands, such as patting his head. Endal instinctively knows that he needs his hat and promptly fetches it!

Allen is now an incredible ambassador for Canine Partners. He is also a Trustee of the charity, working tirelessly to encourage publicity about Endal's skill and the tremendous amount of work and dedication that goes into training other Canine Partners like him. Over two hundred and eighty camera crews from all over the world have filmed Allen and Endal, articles about the duo too numerous to count up. Not being content with being the first dog to fly the London eye, Endal was also the first dog to fly in the cabin of a British Airways plane from Heathrow to Manchester which was filmed for the BBC's Airport programme.

This amazing dog has unsurprisingly



won several major awards for his amazing talents and devotion to duty. He was voted "Dog of the Millennium" by readers of Dogs Today, he was the overall

winner of the Golden Bonio award 2002, voted assistance dog of the year 2001, 2002, 2003 and he has been uniquely given two human life saving awards. He also claims the "UK's Coolest Canine" amongst his titles and a prestigious Golden Bone award. He was awarded



BBC Blue Peter's highest honour, a Gold Blue Peter Badge and in August 2004, at the Wag and Bone show, he was presented with a unique "life time achievement award" previously only given to humans. Though his award of the "PDSA Gold medal", the peace time version of Dicken Medal, for his bravery and devotion to duty(the equivalent of the animal George Cross) has to be is his most significant award and recognition of his working career. Endal was one of five Hero Dogs presented to the world's media at Crufts 2005.

Allen could barely say "hello" a few years ago but now he is an eloquent speaker. His words express just how much Endal has turned his life around. "Endal never judges me or turns away because of my condition. His love is unconditional and he is helping me become more tolerant in life. Every day we learn another way in which we can work together as a team.

There seems to be no limits to what we can achieve together!"

Allen and Endal Parton

www.millenniumdog.freeserve.co.uk

Note: Allen and Endal visited our Club for the Good Citizen's Bronze Test on 3rd April 2008 and presented the awards.

Bertie's Outing to Crufts

This year we did accept the invitation— last year I was playing with two knee replacements. What were we asked to do? Heelwork to Music demonstrations in the Dog Activities area at Crufts over two days.

I have done some competitions with Bertie in the past, in both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music classes, successfully winning four rosettes and leaving Beginners behind us.

Bertie is my black Labrador, who concentrates on Working Trials, having qualified in all the stakes, thereby gaining a full set of letters after his name and his Stud Book number. Luckily if you have a Labrador, you can multi task – it doesn't matter if you have a male dog! Bertie has won a Limited Novice class in Obedience, qualified in his KC gundog work, rosettes for Agility and in his spare time visits the local hospital wards and the Alzheimer's Club once a week as a PAT dog.

Annie Clayton was the organiser for Crufts and supplied us all with Paws n' Music tee shirts plus the standard Dog Activities sweatshirt. Our working uniform was black trousers and shoes – not a good colour when working a black Labrador.

Annie explained the job was not just doing the odd demonstration as a routine, to the prepared music we brought with us. She had a very strict timetable, with our duties for the day set out.

We had two stints of “nanny” duties. This involved watching the benching and belongings, while owners went shopping.

It is worrying if you have to leave a dog alone on the benching, how many of our dogs are used to the hustle and bustle of Crufts? How many will accept being cuddled by strangers?

Two “Pen” duties involved the dog and handler in an 8 x 8 fenced pen for quarter of an hour. In theory this was to allow



the general public to ask questions about HTM, which you then answered and demonstrated with your dog. In practise, Bertie jumped out of the pen until he got the idea that he just had to jump up to the rail so that people could stroke him. Most of the questions were “How do you get such a shiny coat? Do you brush him for hours? What do you feed him?” Other questions were about initial moves,

which I explained as tricks that even a puppy is capable of learning. Mostly it was about basic training and the problems of dogs – my pet subject!

There were two slots for HTM during the day, our discipline had three quarters of an hour to fill in the programme, the rest of the disciplines had half an hour. We paraded round the ring surrounded by spectators, were introduced by Annie, then called forward one by one to do our routines. I couldn't hear the introduction until the DJ turned

the music up, this meant I had to “adapt” the routine at the end. On the second day, I did something I am always telling everyone NOT to do. My name was called early, I whipped off Bertie's lead and threw it under my chair. Yes, into the routine Bertie fetched his lead! There wasn't time to put it in my pocket, my music was playing and yes, he fetched it for a second time. I worked the remaining sequence with my lead in my hand. The glorious thing about HTM is no one knows if you go wrong and several people thought it was part of my routine. His last demo was good and I remembered everything.

It was hard work for two days, but great fun and Bertie enjoyed it. When are we going to have HTM classes at Haslemere?

CC Guard

Snippets

No the boys needn't look so worried but there are a few snippets of information you need to know!

Class Fees Unfortunately, a few of you are getting very slack about paying your class fees on time. As you know, the fees are payable in advance and must be paid by your second week at the latest **or you will lose your place** and this will be given to the next person on the waiting list.

You must have paid your subscription and class fees to be covered by our insurance. We know that sometimes *times is 'ard* so if you are struggling with this, have a word with a committee member.

Trainee Trainers We actively encourage

club members to become trainers themselves and if you would like to take this route, have a word with your trainer or a committee member. You usually start off as an assistant to an existing trainer and we try to put you with a different one each set of classes so that you can see how others work. We also help towards outside course fees to help you become an even better trainer. We need trainers at both Agility and Obedience so please give it some thought.

Trainers' Workshop Apropos of the above - CC Guard is running a workshop for trainers and assistants on Saturday 31st May running from 10am to 4pm at the

Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club. This is free for all trainers and would-be trainers so if you are interested please contact Carole West on 01428 723572 to get more information and book yourselves in. **Electric Collars** As a Club, we do not endorse this very harsh method of training and although these can now be easily hired in our locality we trust that you will not use them. They will not be tolerated within the Club environment.

Fire - Fire What Fire?

I thought you might like to hear about our exciting afternoon; we (my mum Daisy, Auntie Kerry and Grandma Molly) went as usual to our special place while Jan got on with her 'work'. We love going with her – it gives us a ride in the car there and back and we snooze between having fun bouncing on everyone when they come in to make cups of tea – we even try following them to the loo but they don't seem to want our company there for some reason. Sometimes our friend Gwen the labradoodle is there too – Gwen is great fun but she will keep licking my ears (and other bits but I won't embarrass her by talking about that!).

Well, we were trying to do an extra special bounce on one of the vets we don't see very often and somehow (it was an accident – honestly!) we (well probably one of the girls as I'm sure it wasn't me) knocked over the fire extinguisher. It made a very scary whooshing noise, and lots of horrid, smelly white stuff came

out and covered the floor. We tried to jump in it to see what it was, but some-



See, it couldn't have been my fault – I'm much too innocent looking!

one yelled for Jan and she made us lie down instead.

It took them ages to clear it up – lots of towels and panic later they decided they'd better clear us up too in case it hurt our feet. Someone poured water all

over my feet (don't they know how I hate having my feet touched!) but then they decided we would have to have a bath!

We did laugh to watch Jan trying to get all of us bathed in between answering the phone – until it was our turn of course. Don't tell anyone but my mum Daisy got in a panic when she was lifted up and made an Awful Anal Gland Smell to go with our smell of wet dog and fire extinguisher foam! Anyway, I've now found out that it wasn't all our fault; Gwen whispered in my ear that she had eaten the pin out of the fire extinguisher last week – we can't be too cross with her as she was Very Clever recently and passed her Bronze Good Sits (and Very Good Stays) – well done Gwennie.

Love and licks,

Campbell

Dog Days - Our First Certificate

Janice says 'Why don't I take Sam for obedience, leaving you to run about at Agility?' This is a great idea, but I am sure there is a long waiting list for the classes. I will ask at the next Agility session. Janice says not to bother, she has gone straight to the top and spoken to Carole by phone. Suddenly she is being interviewed by Beryl for the 'Good Citizen' bronze class. The 7-week course is virtually finished. Beryl thinks they should have a go anyway, so Janice and Sam do one class and then have a dummy run at the test.

Before we know it we are sitting in the village hall with a dozen nervous owners, a dozen assorted dogs, the examiner and Beryl. It is just like school exams all over again (or so they all say – I can't remember that far). Sue from Agility is there, with her younger dog. They have failed twice before on the one-minute stay – each time other dogs barked or moved. Sue is very pent. A latecomer arrives with a noisy collie. The examiner (the local dog warden) is happy to let Beryl organise everything, it's just like last week's trial run. Things are zipping along. No one gets tangled in the gate. Sam rolls on his back to be groomed, and licks the ex-

aminers feet – is this allowed? – Yes! Tensions rise as the dogs are walked past groups of happy dogs and fraught handlers. There is a minor altercation – is this aggression or horseplay? No one knows. The noisy collie barks loudly. Sue says 'If he does that during the 'stay' I'll kill him'. Everyone is pent. The Labradoodle and the Old English in the back row are doing what everyone does in the back row. There is debate on what the offspring of this union would be. We settle on a 'Woolibra' – comfortable but scratchy. Sue is still determined to kill the barking collie, who is actually a very fine, sensitive, Norman Wisdom type of dog. We finally get to the one-minute stay. An intense hush descends. Other classes are stilled. Traffic is stopped in the High Street. No pins are allowed to drop. There is more restlessness in the handlers than the dogs. The 60 seconds take about 3 hours, but finally it's over. Only one dog has left the stay – a triumph for Beryl.

But the oral test (for handlers, not dogs) remains; one by one the candidates are summoned, quaking, into the side room. You know the sort of thing: 'How do you know your dog is ill?' – 'When he's un-

conscious and vomiting'. 'What are your responsibilities as owner?' – 'Providing tea & biscuits after walks'. 'How do I get back to Godalming?' – 'Avoid the A3.' Everyone passes except the dog that failed the stay. All the dogs get rosettes. A few are left unchewed. A wave of elation engulfs us. Everyone enrolls for the Silver course. Sue is hugging all the dogs, even Norman Wisdom. We all kiss Beryl. We rush home and down several celebratory Sherries. Janice looks up the requirements for the Silver certificate. In our euphoria, the vast list of required tasks is looks a doodle. 'What does he do for the Gold' I ask, 'Cook a three course meal, mow the lawn?' Over dinner and a bottle or two of our best Hungarian rot-gut, Janice announces she will go on to dog-dancing, become a star, and partner Mary Ray on next year's 'Underdogs'. The sky's the limit; I might even achieve an Agility clear round.

Len Davis

Veterinary Advice

As we are all out and about more at this time of year, it is a good time to think about the safety of our pets. Please make sure that your animals are traceable in case they get lost or are involved in an accident – by law dogs must wear a collar and name tag, which should include at least your surname, address and post code. A phone number is optional but it's a good idea to show it. Both dogs and cats can be microchipped at a very reasonable cost – this provides them with permanent identification and you with peace of mind if they are lost.

Please also ensure that your dogs are safe in your car when you travel, either in a



crate or behind a dog guard, or restrained by a specially designed car harness.

If you want to take your dogs on holiday with you, why not mention that your dog has passed the Good Citizen Test (assuming you have of course!) and you may find that hotels are more inclined to accept them! If you are putting them in kennels, remember that most kennels will require them to have a kennel cough vaccination in addition to their annual booster; this needs to be done at least 72 hours before going to kennels.

Mark Scott, MRCVS
Amery Veterinary Group
Alton, Bordon and Grayshott
www.amery-vets.co.uk

Doggie Dictionary

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the

floor, or better yet, on their laps.

SNIFF: A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop.

RUBBISH CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are

rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

Kennel Club Good Citizens Award

Bronze 3rd April 2008 Examiner Carole West

Nicki Welfare with Harley
Donne Scott with Gwendoline

Ruth Gray with Hettie
Romey Christie with Tango

Sheila Smillie with Kalif

Well done to you all. Please look on our web site www.hddtc.co.uk for pictures taken on the evening.

French Flora

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contact there and we hope to walk again with the Labradors.

Meanwhile I am surrounded by boxes which need unpacking and struggling with French administration as I attempt to sort out the car for insurance. The local farmer and his wife, our nearest neighbours, have been so kind and helpful with things to do with the house as I cope with a few problems day by day. My French is extending beyond what I thought I could manage and they seem to understand it. We had our first visitors last weekend and everybody mucked in to

help with jobs. The weather is a mixture but some warm days and some showers. Anyone coming in the Bergerac direction or passing through this area of France do look us up - we would love to see you and if we can't put you up we will recommend a chambre d'hote or hotel relais close by. A big thank you to all in HDDTC who have given us both such good training and support. Flora is such fun, we have great times together and she responds really well to all the training we have done most of the time!! I am looking forward to finding something similar in France, agility and dog training. How-

ever just as my car will have to change to French plates so Flora may have to respond to commands in French. My land line has now been connected at 0033 553 70 59 52, my mobile is 07802 748 772 and email is jenny-mcfarlane@hotmail.co.uk

With best wishes **Jenny and Flora**
(Editors note - I have asked Jenny to give us an update for the next newsletter and perhaps it could be a regular feature)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Monday 21st Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 24th **No Training Hall in use**
Monday 28th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre

MAY

Thursday 1st Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 5th **Bank Holiday No Training**
Thursday 8th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 12th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 15th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Sunday 18th Companion Dog Show at Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club
Monday 19th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 22nd Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 26th **Bank Holiday No Training**
Thursday 29th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Saturday 31st **Trainers Workshop at Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club**

JUNE

Monday 2nd Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 5th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 9th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 12th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 16th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 19th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 23rd Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 26th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 30th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre

JULY

Thursday 3rd Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 7th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 10th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 14th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 17th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 21st Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 24th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 28th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 31st Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1st Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 4th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall