

CAROLE'S CHIT CHAT

Christmas and the New Year came and went amid the 'flu outbreak and a nasty tummy bug one or other of which seems to have affected most households, animals still had to be fed and walked albeit a gesture of a walk. Now we have the snow which my dogs have thoroughly enjoyed especially as my horses have been playing chase with them, noses in the snow sniffing and snorting. The recession is giving families and the rescue centres headaches, with pets being abandoned as families try to pay essential bills, **WHAT A START TO 2009.** Over the winter I have been picking up with Larry on a local shoot. Sometimes the fields have been so waterlogged my wellies have been like lead weights as the soil clings to them, making walking over acres of fields a nightmare. The game cover grew so tall, at times I couldn't see my fellow beaters, [I've only got little legs], so I could only hear them calling to each other. Twice I got myself into tricky situations. The game keeper asked me to cross a small brook into another field to cover any falling birds, no problem I said. Larry and I left the group and clambered down into the brook but that's where my problems started, I couldn't get out. The bank was so steep and slippery and being a little stiff in the hips I **COULD NOT GET UP THE**

BANK. Amid laughter one of the guns hauled me out. The second incident was when I was beating in an overgrown chestnut copse on a steep incline, because of the dense cover I could not see the rest of the beaters. I stepped over some fallen chestnut not realizing there was a drop the other side hidden by brambles and debris. Down I went amid brambles and wet slippery soil, on my backside. When I eventually picked myself up brushed myself down I rejoined the guns and beaters who burst into laughter, again because all they had heard was me blaspheming **STRONGLY.** We have now ended the shooting season safe but not unscathed. Neil Short's Saturday training in January was well supported by 12 handlers and several spectators. Neil is a very jolly, knowledgeable, young man who works his 2 Golden Retrievers in championship obedience shows all over the country, also teaching handlers and dogs with behavioural problems. He has won many tickets qualifying him to compete at Crufts. He will be at Crufts on Saturday 7th March. Neil first went to Sandy Wadhams with Jimmy his first Goldie and that is where we met, me with Sugar and Saffi and Neil with Jimmy. Great fun and we learnt a lot from Sandy. In came clicker training which Neil has adapted into his own training meth-

ods based on stress free training, toys and food also come into use. Neil has also published a book on his training methods [I've got the telephone number if anyone is interested] The Thursday evening classes are well supported with a waiting list. The agility has undergone a slight tweaking in the class structure and trainers but it will now be staying at the Priory as Len Davis negotiated a deal with the owners whereby we pay the rent 6 monthly and in advance for a slight discount. The classes are full at the moment and there is a waiting list. The Club submitted a wonderful portfolio of all our activities over the last year to the Kennel Club for their annual awards, bit like the OSCARs on television, but unfortunately we were not short listed. This was the first time the Club had entered these awards so it was a big learning curve as we had no idea what the Kennel Club was looking for. May be next year? A huge thank you to Richard Pendrill and Patricia Bland for gathering all the data, photos etc and then compiling the portfolio. Good luck to Ray Hardie in the gundog section with Golden Retriever Kirby and CC Guard, doing heelwork to music with Labrador Retriever Bertie at Crufts on the Saturday. Please read the Club's Diary on the back page of this

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newsletter as we have a Sponsored Walk, Dog Show as well as the club evenings listed. The Hampshire Rally is on the 4th May at Basingstoke. This obedience competition between several clubs based in the county is run for charity and is a good starting block for anyone interested in obedience. I am aiming to enter a junior team which consists of 3 dogs per class, starter, primary, elementary and intermediate, if anyone is interested in being considered for the team please talk to me at club or email me. There will be outside training and selection days nearer the time. E-mail: carols.west@virgin.net

Carole

The Ubiquitous 'little bag'

Almost immediately after the arrival of our puppy or re-homed adult dog come the all important 'poo-sized' plastic bags - with handles. Certainly, after joining HDDTC these little bags come our way thick and fast. We must have one about our person at all times or else we are firmly admonished! With two dogs I find I have these 'little bags' in every pocket of almost every piece of clothing that I possess. I frequently, when not with doggy friends, whisk out a 'little bag' instead of a tissue and only realise the mistake when it gets to my nose!

These little bags came green and free from the local Council (but not any longer we hear). They can also be purchased in black, grey, brown, blue and peach - some are even scented to disguise the odour of their ultimate contents - I guess.

If you are a responsible dog owner your 'little bag' secretly hidden about your person becomes a very useful piece of equipment. Recently I was lucky enough to on a shoot with Patricia - I was watching and learning. After about 10 minutes I realised I had a split in my boots. With the rest of the day ahead of me, and on very boggy terrain, I decided I would have to try to do something to remedy this. I reached into my coat pocket, and yes, it was theremy 'little bag'. I removed my boot and sock, tied the bag onto my bare foot - with its useful handles - replaced the wet sock and boot and my foot remained fairly dry for the rest of the day. This incident started me wondering what other dog owners had used the 'little bag' for. I came up with the following from various friends:

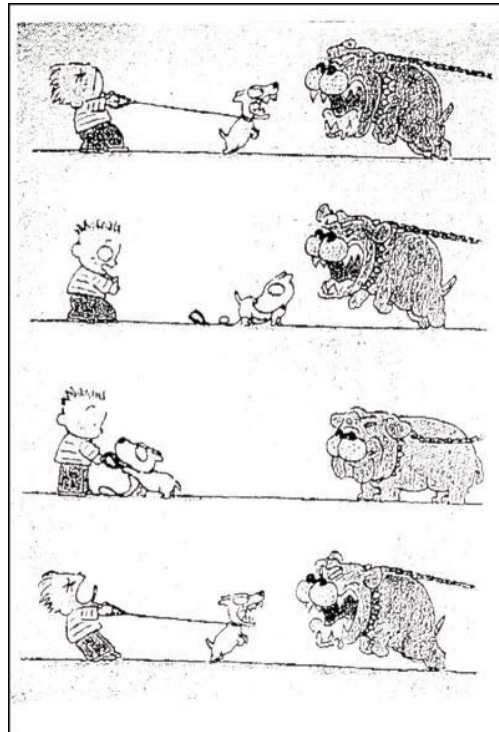
- carrying the soggy tennis ball home from a walk
- carrying wet 'dummies' back from gundog training
- collecting lost golf-balls or anything else while out walking
- carrying tit-bits at the beginning of a walk
- putting purses and mobile in if left in a car - a good disguise
- carrying home toddling grand-children's wet socks or pants! Or even nappies!

Any other ideas? Please send them to the newsletter editor on r.pendrill@btconnect.com

Sue Thornton



Training Your Adopted Dog!



GOOD CITIZEN RESULTS

The members who passed the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Bronze award on 4th December 2008 with examiner Graham Everett were as follows:

Margaret Wood with Amber
Lizzie Atkins with Biscuit
Sam Woods with Daisy
Marguerite Wills with Merlin

Margaret White with Star
Barbara Renshaw with Carter
Mitchell Christie with Tango
Patricia Bland with Syrah



Regrettably we did not give the results for the Good Citizen Gold held on 31st July 2008 (my apologies) which were as follows:

Examiner Jane Wood
Sylvia Gamble with Buddy
Pat Hawkins with Willow

Jan Kiley with Kerry
Susan Player with Bertie

To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door – pet nose height

Dear Dogs,

The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by Formula 1 and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximise space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time there is no secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door

shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years – canine attendance is not required.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's backside. I cannot stress this enough!

From Agility Voice 2008

Christmas Party December 2008

I was told that we young pups were not allowed to go the Christmas Party as it would be too overwhelming for us. However, She Who Must Be Obeyed snuck me in to the hall in a shopping bag and I watched the proceedings peering over the top of it. There seemed to be much laughing which I heard along with some lovely Christmas music - I'm sure I recognised the lady playing a guitar and singing - I think she may have bred some of my cousins. Suddenly it was my turn to join in. SWMBO demonstrated my skill at heel work (not very good) and my sit stay (brilliant) to show how the hoop game worked. I really did try hard to impress especially as SWMBO threatened to send me to Labrador Lifeline Trust if I misbehaved and there were dog catchers there waiting for me to put a paw wrong.

Luckily I did what was asked and then the party people had a go. There seemed to be a lot of dog treats being handed out but not in my direction. With my special nose I could have easily found the sausage under the flower pot - my Flatcoat friends had told me about this game which they played at Syrah's first birthday party - wonder what we will do at mine? I'm going to invite Ceepeepon and Ceepeetoo from Canine Partners as they look so smart with their purple neck ties. Apparently SWMBO won a class in the photo competition - OAP naturally and I'm still not sure if the OAP was SWMBO or my house mate Chablis. He Who Must Occasionally Be Obeyed also won some photo prizes for pictures of Syrah's brothers beating up a bloke as Mischief Makers and another one where

the brothers were kissing each other - Just Good Friends? The food vanished quicker than even my mate Medoc can eat - so that's where she gets her greedy manners from. The raffle (thanks for the dog meat) raised £80; the auction of the pretty floral display by Beryl raised £15 and the Photo Comp run by Penny and judged by Debbie raised £13 once they had paid for the prizes (thanks for more dog treats). All in all a successful evening and SWMBO nearly lost her voice - shame about that - I mean not losing it completely so we had a quiet time!

Love and sticky licks -

Thoco

(Labrador Retriever PentonFin
Chocoholic)



Christmas Festivities (or another's view)

Both sections of the club had highly enjoyable Christmas parties in December, with an excellent turn-out for each event. Some 22 dogs with handlers and spouses attended the Agility fun and games, and nearly 30 dogs with their hangers-on (literally in some cases) came to the Grayshott party. Sam and Harvey came to both events!

Becky Layphries organised some great relays and a speed circuit at the Priory; the relays proved very exciting with all grades of dog mixed together in teams. The 'smaller' dog team (who mostly comprised beginner dogs) were very creditable runners up to the winning

'Loonies' team, made up mostly of the more senior dogs but with newcomers Brandy (with Giles) more than keeping his end up. In the speed circuit Nicky's Cascara was the clear winner. Judy proved once again that women can successfully do several things at once - holding pen, paper, stop watch and whistle, with Bonio prizes tucked into her hat! Afterwards the group retired to the (much warmer) bar at the Frensham Pond Hotel for drinks and the raffle, well organised by Penny.

The Obedience party was held later in the same week, with the fun and games ably run by Patricia and her Santa-hatted help-

ers. The Hoop Race and Find the Sausage proved to be uproarious and the band gave valiant backing to Musical Mats, although they were almost drowned by the sound of excited dogs and confused handlers. Gaye & Sue did sterling work in the kitchen organising the food, which must have been good as it all disappeared in minutes! Pat ran another raffle whilst Beryl conducted a Christmas quiz, won by the table with the oldest members! Who says schooling is better nowadays? The two raffles raised a total of £93 for our charity 'Labrador Lifeline' and Richard raised a further £15 in his auction of stuff that nobody wanted!

Message from Tango - Woof woof woof woof, wag, wag, wag. Our interpretation of this is, I enjoyed the party especially all the games. As a family we think this is a great idea for humans and dogs. Please thank everyone who worked so hard. We nearly persuaded our daughter to come along but she wasn't well and so she missed all the fun. My husband also mentioned it was lovely to enjoy all the fun for once without having had to organise it. (He often organises all the games for the children at church events. he loves games of all sorts)

The Spring is sprung - the grass is riz, I wonder where the doggy is?

Sponsored Walk. Well in **April** the doggy will be pounding the beat in aid of our Charity of the Year, *Labrador Lifeline Trust*. **Sunday 19th April** will see us walking in aid of this Charity in the Mil-land valley - so pretty at that time of year with Spring flowers. Please note that as the distance will be about 6 miles be sensible and bring only your fit dogs - and certainly no dogs under a year old. Regrettably there is no suitable half way joining place as we will have only one guide. We hope to be adjourning to a suitable hostelry at lunch time should you wish to join us in this and your sponsorship forms will be available in due course. I'll send them out by email to all those connected by this electronic umbilical cord and they will also be available for collection at both the agility and obedience club nights. Please contact Carole West on 01428 723572 or email carols.west@virgin.net for further details.

Why not take this opportunity to wear your new blue Club shirt just to show you belong!

Also in **April**, we will be running a **Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze** test - see Beryl Greenslade for details and put your name down for the test which will be on **Thursday 16th April** - last day of that 'term' - at Grayshott Village Hall. Your trainers will let you know if they feel you are not yet ready for the test and if you are in doubt, please just ask your class trainer.

May also brings exciting Club events at which you can also show off your fetching shirts - that royal blue suits everyone!

Hampshire Rally is on Bank Holiday **Monday 4th May** and will be held in Basingstoke with Canine Partners (our last year's Charity of the Year) being the beneficiary. Carole West will be looking for people to run in the Junior Team which consists of three dogs in each of these levels: starter (like Good Citizen Bronze), primary, elementary and intermediate. Many of us have entered these before and much to our surprise we even enjoyed it! (With one of my Flatcoated Retrievers, Medoc, I even managed to come 3rd in my class - not bad for a working gundog!) So why not speak to Carole

about it, have some practice sessions at an outdoor venue with her and see if you can be selected.

Companion Dog Show will be held in aid of Labrador Lifeline Trust on **Sunday 17th May** (provisional date at present) at the Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club. This has proved to be a popular annual event at which we have various classes including Showing and Obedience at various levels. If you have never entered either of these types of competitions, now's the time to have a go. It's not too serious and you've got to be in it to win it. Prettiest Bitch and Handsomest Dog? No skill required for classes such as these, so do come along and support the Show. We will also be running the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme at Bronze level - have a go? Get details from Beryl Greenslade about what you have to do for this. Schedules will be available by email and again at Club nights and as always your help on Saturday 16th to set up rings (why are they called rings when they are square?) and the judges' little tents and of course help on the big day itself - no you don't need to be a qualified judge but can be a runner providing refreshments for judges and stewards, rush back and forth with bits of paper (you look impressive that way!) and the very

important task of car park stewards which gives you to opportunity to tell people where to go! Need any further details on the Show? Ask Carole West on 01428 723572 or email carols.west@virgin.net.

Formation Display Team. You may recall that we ran a Formation Display Team last year and performed at our Companion Dog Show as well as at many local fetes and fairs which raised a laugh as well as a considerable amount of money for Canine Partners. If you would like to join the team, please speak to Carole West (she's a busy woman again this year) but be prepared to give up a fair amount of time for rehearsals - after all we want the display to be slick. First display will be at the Companion Dog Show in May so practice sessions need to start fairly soon. Don't think you need to be at an exceptionally high level of obedience - enthusiasm is just as important as you will be given loads of help and encouragement and it looks so good with lots of different kinds of dogs - not just Collies (sorry BC owners!) and Heinz 57's are just as welcome.

CLUB SHIRTS SALE

Your last chance to be one of the BEST DRESSED

Club Polo Shirts £14
Club Sweat Shirts £15

Or

One of each for the amazing price of £27

Contact Patricia Bland

Tel: 01428 685154
Email: p.bland@btconnect.com





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Monday 23rd Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 26th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall

MARCH

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

APRIL

Thursday 2nd Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 6th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 9th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 13th **Easter Monday No Classes**
Thursday 16th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall - **Good Citizen Bronze**
Sunday 19th **Sponsored Walk in Aid of Labrador Lifeline - Forms nearer date**
Monday 20th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 23rd **No Classes Hall in use**
Monday 27th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 30th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall

MAY

Monday 4th **Bank Holiday No Classes — Hampshire Rally**
Thursday 7th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 11th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 14th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Sunday 17th **Companion Dog Show at Bordon & Oakhanger Sports Club provisional date**
Monday 18th Agility Training Priory Equestrian Centre
Thursday 21st Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall
Monday 25th **Bank Holiday No Classes**
Thursday 28th Obedience Training Grayshott Village Hall