

NEWSLETTER 2015

From the Chief Training Instructor . . .



2015 has been a great year for enjoyable events, starting with the AGM in March. The evening included a cheese and wine social, during which the trophies which had been won in

the previous months were awarded. A new award, the Dunham Trophy, for the handler and dog who have worked hard and are now in Class 2, was presented for the first time.

The summer Fun Days started in June when the Dogs' Day Out was held at the Denzell Gardens, as usual this was excellent. In July it was our own club Fun Day, followed very quickly by a new event for us, the Dogs' Delight at John Leigh Park. Then in September the club was involved in a Dog Extravaganza, another new event, held at Lavender Barn in Dunham. Unfortunately I was away so I missed it but I believe this was very good afternoon, very well attended and held in beautiful weather. At all these events we have dog shows and games and our display team always puts on a good show. Do try to support us when we do the outside events, we really like to see club members getting involved and having a good time.

Early in September we had a talk on Canine First Aid given by Dr. Dominique Anstis, one of our club members, when we all learnt so much. Another first for us was a K9 Quiz Night in October, where we had refreshments (loads of cakes), a raffle and prizes for the winners. Listening to the comments of everyone who came, we will certainly repeat it.

Children in Need will benefit from the last extra event of the year, on Sunday November 15th, with the dogs and handlers taking part in fun challenges.

So socially this has been a very full year. All the instructors and committee members have been involved in the organisation, helping to make these events possible. We couldn't do these things without such a committed team.

As for ongoing training, the class assessments have been taken and the cups and certificates awarded. Also this autumn we have held the Kennel Club Good Citizens Bronze Award tests.

I hope you are enjoying being members of the club, it's your club and we value all handlers and their dogs. We want you to enjoy your training and if you have any ideas for talks/social evenings etc., please let your instructor or me know. Do try to come to your classes regularly, this way you will keep up with your training and be able to progress. You will enjoy it, as your dogs certainly do. It is good to see so many of you bringing your families to the classes, as it is so important for you all to be involved with your pets' training so that you have a happy extra member of the family.

Our last training day of the year is on Sunday December 13th when we will be holding the Christmas Fun Day. The club re-opens on January 10th 2016.

My thanks to all the instructors, committee members and helpers for all the time and hard work they put into making the club what it is and I wish all our members and their families and dogs a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Sylvia Davenport

Club Awards 2015

Plumley Trophy

Winner - Gill Newman *with* Tess
Runner up - Eugenia Christian *with* Maggie

Stanier Shield

Diane Buchanan *with* Dillon

Dringhoe Trophy

Tara Stubbs *with* Rosie

CTI Special Award

David Stubbs *with* Buster

Dunham Trophy

Winner - Debbie Walton *with* Isla
Runner up - Barbara Baker *with* Ludo

Certificates

For progress through the classes

Dominique Anstis *with* Byron

Bill Robinson *with* Barney

For perseverance through the classes

Christine Roberts

Recognition Award for hard work and commitment

Rikkie Davenport

Kennel Club Good Citizens Bronze Award

Dorothy Bennett *with* Archie

Martha Roberts *with* Cashew

Isabella Shores *with* Darcy

Paul Hunt *with* Gino



Fiona Clucas *with* Flaura

Robin Muirhead *with* Hannah

Paul Hill *with* May

Tara Stubbs *with* Rosie

Isla's Story



Hi, my name is Isla. I'm 3 years old and I'm told I'm a Golden Retriever. At Easter last year, when I was 18 months old, the people from my second home took me to meet a lady who gave me to Debbie, Chris and Jessica, another Golden Retriever, and I came to live with them. It was very strange at first, I was scared and I didn't know how to behave. I was taken for lots of walks and met lots of new doggy friends and I wanted to play with all of them.

Unfortunately, before I came to live with Debbie, Chris and Jessica I hadn't been taught how to play nicely and ask new friends if they wanted to play, I just assumed they all did. I pulled on my lead and jumped up and down and barked in excitement. The people with some of my new friends were worried I would jump on them and bite them, but all I wanted to do was play.

I had never run around a field and played with new friends because the people in my first two homes were scared I wouldn't come back to them, but if they'd made it fun to come back I'm sure I would have.

Gradually I have made new friends and I run round fields and play with some of them. Jessica has tried to teach me how to behave and ask nicely, although I do forget sometimes. Debbie brings me to school every week and I am making friends here too, although I still want to play with everyone and can't help getting excited and barking. I try very hard not to get too excited and I think I'm getting better, but it's very hard work.

Thank you to everyone at school who is helping me and I'm sorry if my excitement gets a bit noisy at time, but I am trying – VERY HARD.

Lots of love,

Isla

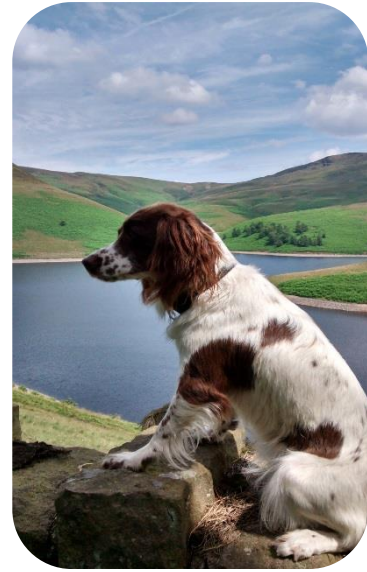
Suki's Limerick

There is a young puppy called Suki
Who has started Dog School as a rookie
She stays and she sits and tries other tricks
And it's all for the taste of a cookie

Kath Ryder

The Herriot Way...the ADDTS way!

In September, a friend and I did the Herriot Way, a 55-mile circular walk in the Yorkshire Dales, over four days. I've done a few long-distance trails in the U.K. but this was the first one I've done with Tess, my 2½-year-old English springer spaniel. We've done a number of one-day day hikes together in the Peak district, the Lakes and Wales but what would it be like walking four consecutive days? Tess doesn't know the meaning of 'walk' (she comes with two settings: 'gallop' and 'sprint'), so would she cope with 13 miles every day for four days? And how would I feel having Tess sleep in the same room as me in B&Bs and hotels when she's only ever slept downstairs at home? Fret not, Gill: Sunday dog-training week after week at Manor High School with ADDTS paid dividends!



Setting off on our first day along the valley from Hawes, I realised most of the day would be through fields of sheep so I put Tess on an extending lead. But what a pain she is constrained by a lead out in the country; she just pulls and wants to run! Blow this for a laugh: why not apply "Leave!" dog-training to sheep? So it was "Sheep...leave!" in my fiercest voice as we came near them and "Good girl!" cooingly as she walked past them. Within a few fields she was ignoring the sheep and I was able to have her off-lead amongst them from then on. What a relief! It was also very comforting to know that when she came to the occasional road way ahead of us, I could just shout "Sit! Stay!" or give the hand signals, knowing she would just wait for us to catch her up.

The stay command was also very useful at our overnight stops. At Keld Lodge, dogs were, quite understandably, allowed in one dining room but not the other. At breakfast, our waiter very apologetically told us that the cereals, juice, fruit, tea, coffee etc. were in the dining room where dogs were not allowed, and did I want him to hold the dog while I went through to help myself? "No, it's fine, thanks," I said. "I'll just tell her to lie down and stay." Off I went for my food and drink selection, and came back a couple of minutes later to find Tess lying where I'd left her, with guests at the surrounding tables smiling indulgently at her. So, Liz and Sylvia, class 4 and 5 requirement for a sit- or down-stay out of sight for a few minutes certainly has its uses! It proved its usefulness when we got lost on top of a fell one morning in low, heavy mist and, as the mist cleared slightly, we saw a gamekeeper climbing up to us with a gun slung over his shoulder...gulp! Fortunately he was *not* about to shoot us; he was out rabbit-hunting. He guided us through thick bracken and gorse to a 2m high wall which he said he'd help us climb over...GULP! Scaling the wall in seconds, at the top he said, "What about t'dog?" "No problem," I said. "If I pass her up to you and tell her to sit and stay on top of the wall while you get down the other side, she will." And she did.

"Make a good gun dog, that 'un," grunted the gamekeeper as he pointed us on our way from the other side of the wall.

So, all of my initial concerns were unfounded. I reckon Tess covered at least three times the distance we did, most of it at an elated, tail-wagging run. She slept soundly in a corner of our room and we didn't hear a peep from her overnight. All those hours of training on Sundays made for a relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable walking holiday with a dog.

Tess, where did we go wrong on the loose lead training?

Gill Newman

A hard decision

Until last Sunday, I have been attending Altrincham Dogs' Society puppy classes with my Border Collie, Jasper.

Jasper has proven very difficult due to his nervous disposition. This has manifested itself in aggressiveness towards other dogs when on the lead and refusal to come near anyone beyond the immediate family. Inside the house, Jasper was also very sensitive to loud noises, whether from the Hoover or hairdryer and he would 'attack' the source of the noise.

We have also had serious problems with walking Jasper due to his fear of cars and reluctance to come out of the house. Over the last ten days, however, this became increasingly worse, with Jasper refusing to walk, trying to get back home and bolting if a car came anywhere near us or if he came across anyone. One day he was approached by a little lad and he growled. I felt I could not be sure of what he might do, out of fear.

As far as his quality of life was concerned, Jasper was certainly not enjoying himself. As he got older he would need more and more exercise but it was abundantly clear that we would be unable to give him this.



I therefore decided to contact Jasper's breeder in Cumbria, initially to try to understand his behaviour better. Jasper comes from a fine line of pedigree sheepdogs and the dogs from this breeder are sold across Europe and the Americas. When I discussed the situation with him, the breeder did not want Jasper to end up in a rescue home or be unhappy and nor did I. We agreed that, because of his disposition, Jasper was not suited to 'city life' and so, with a heavy heart we agreed to return him.

I have since heard that the dog trainer introduced Jasper to sheep and he took to them immediately. He was described as a 'star', so much so that the breeder will keep him and train him as a working sheepdog.

I am pleased that Jasper has found a life better suited to his temperament, away from traffic, where he will be worked and have a fulfilling life somewhere on a farm doing what he was bred to do. A sad end for our family but the right one for Jasper.

Thank you for the help the Society provided for us.

Ian Pickford

Display Team Shenanigans!

Hello! It's Scrabble here, and I'm pleased to report that my first season as a member of the display team is complete! I have to say that I really enjoyed it (despite being a bit shy at first)! I love training, but those of you who know me will know that I am a bit nervous and can be skittish at times, so joining the display team was a really big deal for me. My Mum thought that it would be good for me to mix a bit more with the other dogs on the team, some of whom I was already friends with, and also with more humans too – I am definitely getting more and more brave, as I even go up to say hello to some of the other display team handlers now all by myself!

We meet to practise once a week at Denzell Gardens, where we also presented our first display (which was *almost* spot on)! We were very busy this season, and also did displays at John Leigh Park, our own training club Fun Day and Lavender Barn. We are not quite up to the standard of those super obedient dogs at Crufts yet, but we definitely have more fun! We make the odd mistake here and there, but it's clearly always our handlers' fault – we know exactly what we're doing, so much so that our handlers complain that we anticipate our recalls too much! They don't realise that we are just so clever that we know exactly what our next move is and are eager to keep the routine moving! Our handlers are always walking left instead of right, or getting all muddled up in their lines! Besides, we dogs have to consider the entertainment of the crowds as well – if any of us run off it's just a deliberate trick to make them laugh.

I can't wait for the new season to start – we even have a brand new indoor training area so that we can practise over the winter too! I'll be so excited to see all my friends again! If there are any dogs in class three or above that want to get involved, I would definitely recommend it – you don't have to be perfect, just willing to give it a go!

Scrabble Fowler



Here is a photo of me and my Mum before our first display at Denzell Gardens

'I wish we could train indoors,' I wailed one evening when it looked inevitable that the display team practice would come to an abrupt end because of the weather (but thought no more about it). Then, some weeks later, one of the members told us about a hall, in the Community Centre on Mainwood Road, Timperley, that might be available for us to practise in. Soon after, a group of us visited the hall, liked what we saw and signed up for fortnightly sessions on Monday evenings between January and April 2016.

Now all we need is some new members. Do have a think about it. We're a friendly bunch and have a lot of fun in the midst of the (for me) daunting job of putting routines together. Hope to see you in January.

Vivienne

Club Miscellany

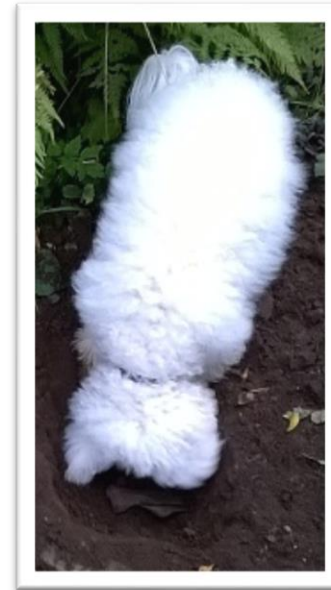
Thank you . . .

to everyone who has contributed to this year's newsletter. Such variety. What talented members we have in our midst!

New Examiners

Several members of the training team have recently taken part in Examiners' Courses for the Kennel Club Good Citizens Award. 'Gruelling' was the description they gave to the initial (Bronze) one. The morning sessions focused on the syllabus, followed by a written test. Then in the afternoons there were the 'practicals' in which local dog owners participated in the required exercises and the trainees acted as examiners, whilst being assessed themselves! Despite being convinced of having failed, all four of the instructors from ADDTS passed and two of those have gone on to undertake (and pass) the Silver level.

The next stage is for them to practise on you!



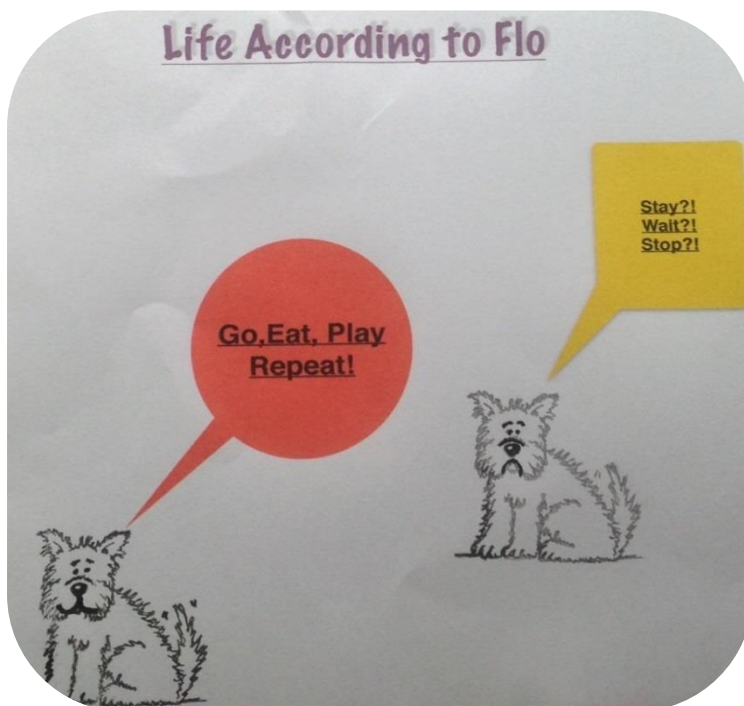
Any idea what Sammie is actually doing?

A Fond Farewell

This October saw the departure of Rikkie Davenport, who has been an enormous help to the club for the last two years. Her unflinching enthusiasm and willingness to help wherever she was needed will be sorely missed.

Originally Rikkie joined ADDTS as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, but having enjoyed her time with us, she stayed on when she completed her service section.

Rikkie is now continuing with her studies at college, and work commitments mean that she unfortunately has had to leave us. We all wish her the very best and send our thanks.



Shirley Watson

NOTICE BOARD

CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

13th December 2015

2pm



... Games ...

... Competitions ...

... Seasonal Refreshments ...

... and much more ...

Dates

Christmas Holidays:

There will be no training after the Christmas Fun Day, 13th December

First training day of the New Year:

10th January 2016

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### **AGM:**

Thursday 17th March 2016

## **Volunteers**

*Without volunteers our club would not exist*

So if you have a skill you could offer

or ... are interested in becoming an instructor

or ... would like to help with the registration of new members

or ... help with refreshments

or ... ??? do tell us!

## **Ideas**



Let us know your suggestions

for dog related activities

social events

charitable causes etc .etc.

Don't forget to catch up with info'

on our Website:

[www.dogclass.co.uk](http://www.dogclass.co.uk)

and

Facebook